Aneurin Leisure Trust

England & Wales · Charity number 1159092

Details

Other names	LIFE LEISURE TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	08951503
Registered	2014-11-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bedwellty House Morgan Street Tredegar Gwent NP22 3XN
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Website	www.aneurinleisure.org.uk

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Activities

Objects: 1) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE; AND/OR2) TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN HEALTHY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES; AND/OR3) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO BE AVAILABLE TO ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT DISTINCTION, INCLUDING USE FOR MEETINGS, LECTURES AND CLASSES AND/OR OTHER FORMS OF RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR ALL THOSE WHO USE THE FACILITIES; AND/OR4) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF A THEATRE; AND/OR5) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE ARTS BY THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF AN ART GALLERY AND/OR MUSEUM; AND/OR6) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE PROVISION OF A LIBRARY; AND/OR7) TO PROVIDE, MAINTAIN AND EQUIP PARKS WITH THE OBJECT OF ADVANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO HORTICULTURE, ARBORICULTURE, WILD PLANTS AND WILDLIFE; AND/OR8) TO PRESERVE BUILDINGS OF HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE; AND/OR9) TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY, AND HELP MEET, THEIR NEEDS AND PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN SOCIETY; AND/OR10) TO PURSUE SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES ANALOGOUS TO ANY OF THE ABOVE AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION SHALL DETERMINE (TOGETHER THE "OBJECTS").

Activities: Aneurin Leisure is responsible for the operation, management and development of indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities, sport and arts development, arts venues, country parks, libraries and community learning centres across Blaenau Gwent.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THROUGHOUT WALES
- Blaenau Gwent

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Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£10,591,593	£10,388,707	£765,880	264
2024-03-31	£9,468,278	£18,944,813	£5,131,994	302
2023-03-31	£8,583,208	£10,265,947	£11,593,087	289
2022-03-31	£7,697,234	£8,743,334	£-2,836,174	287
2021-03-31	£7,648,525	£7,829,024	£-6,467,074	238

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ceri Waters		2023-10-18
DONNA HARDMAN		2014-05-12
LYN JAMES EVANS		2014-05-12
Matthew Burkitt		2023-10-18
Nichola Yevette Morden-Tew		2026-04-01
Shaun David Anthony Hughes		2026-04-02
Stephen James Priestnall		2020-01-27
Steven Hughes		2023-08-14

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Aneurin Leisure Trust

England & Wales - Charity number 1159092

Accounts

Company registration number: 08951503
Charity registration number: 1159092

Ymddiriedolaeth Hamdden Aneurin
Gwella Bywyd Cymunedol | Improving Community Life
Aneurin Leisure Trust

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST (FORMERLY LIFE LEISURE TRUST)
(A company limited by guarantee and not having any share capital)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, STRATEGIC REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THURSDAY
AEHP5LHU
A39 18/12/2025 #39
COMPANIES HOUSE

Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST

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Foreword from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is a great pleasure to introduce the annual review for Aneurin Leisure Trust (ALT) now in its eleventh year of operating Leisure and Culture services within Blaenau Gwent (BG). The Trust has continued to deliver services and programs across BG to a high standard with a constant focus on our mission of 'Improving Community Life'.

This has been another excellent year of building and maintaining close partnerships with our key stakeholder BGCBC, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Tai Calon as well as working with a new partner in Cardiff Capital Region as we seek to develop Parc Bryn Bach into a larger scale destination to support BG tourism.

During a tough and challenging financial climate due to the unprecedented rise in energy costs, ALT has delivered service improvements and achieved targets agreed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC).

Key investments have been limited again through this financial year with funding streams being the ideal opportunity to improve the services for our residents. The Trust is pleased to share successful investments such as:

1. Grand opening of Trinity Chapel, Abertillery (Library and Adult Education Centre).
2. Expansion of further Community Kit Rooms in Ebbw Vale and Tredegar Sports Centres.
3. Successfully secured funding to enhance the nature trail at Parc Bryn Bach.
4. Refurbishment of tennis courts at Bedwellty House & Park.

Weddings and functions continue to be popular in Bedwellty House with further year-on-year growth coming from music events in the carriage house courtyard at weekends which have enabled the hospitality arm to grow its business again.

Ebbw Vale Sports Centre continues to run large scale sporting events which increases footfall and secondary spend within the centres whilst Parc Bryn Bach has seen even more growth delivering residential courses to schools from both within Blaenau Gwent and beyond.

The National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) is an established partner on the Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN). The cluster design promotes joint working across practices and the integration of primary care services with key partners such as the Local Health Board, BGCBC and Third Sector. Clusters also have a key role in supporting local health needs assessments, allocating appropriate resources and forecasting the potential future demand on primary care. There have been multiple collaborative projects that have been established in these meetings including Fibromyalgia and Dementia working groups, with the NERS team delivering bespoke classes to contribute to the respective needs.

The successes achieved across the Trust are in no small part due to the commitment of our employees. Once again, the staff have been our greatest resource, working extremely hard to deliver high quality services to our customers in our facilities and the communities of Blaenau Gwent. I would like to thank the entire team and all our partners for their contribution to the delivery of improved services across the area.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the continued success of ALT during the year: our Trustees, staff, volunteers, funders and partners and in particular, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Above all, I would like to thank the local community whose interests we serve, for their support and engagement over the past year.



Lyn Evans
Chair
Board of Trustees

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report which incorporates the strategic report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

- to provide or assist in the provision of both indoor and outdoor facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life;
- to promote community participation in healthy recreational activities;
- to provide or assist in the provision of community facilities to be available to all sections of the community without distinction, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and/or other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for all those who use the facilities;
- to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of a theatre/ arts development;
- to advance education in the arts by the establishment and maintenance of an art gallery and/or museum;
- to advance the education of the public through the provision of a library;
- to provide, maintain and equip parks with the object of advancing public education, with particular regard to horticulture, arboriculture, wild plants and wildlife;
- to preserve buildings of historic or architectural importance;
- to develop the capacity and skills of members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and participate more fully in society; and,
- to pursue such other charitable purposes analogous to any of the above as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall determine (together the "Objects").

To carry out any other charitable activity subject to the prior written consent of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Public benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trust considers how planned activities support its vision of improving community life through Leisure, Learning and Culture which benefits the local population served by the charity. The Trust aims to deliver social outcomes that improve health and wellbeing whilst encouraging staff to strive to improve the quality of service delivery in a commercially sustainable way.

Some of the key activities undertaken in relation to the objects of the charity and to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit are outlined on pages 6 – 71.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- These accounts represent trading for Aneurin Leisure Trust (ALT) for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

- Aneurin Leisure Trust has maintained a strong relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

- The Library Service received an excellent assessment report for the Welsh Public Library Standards for 2023/24, which was received in October 2024 and recently presented to Blaenau Gwent Scrutiny committee. To date, this has been the most positive report received since the start of the framework.

- The Library Service continues to achieve all 12 of the core entitlements of the Welsh Public Library Standards for 2024/25.

- Abertillery Library relocated to Trinity Chapel in October 2024. The refurbishment was a collaboration between the Trust, Blaenau Gwent Council, and Welsh Government. Funding was secured from Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Regeneration Programme, Low Carbon Heat Grant, UK Government Shared Prosperity funding and the Transformational Capital Grant for libraries. It has been a very positive move, with an overwhelming good response from the community. Adult Education is now co-located in the building, providing a multipurpose, shared provision for library services and learning.

- The SPF funded Library Outreach project has had an instrumental, positive impact on all areas of library performance. Over the year there was a total reach of 15,088 people engaged, and 531 activities delivered. The funding and project ended on the 31 March 2025.

Who used and benefited from our services?

The Charitable Trust provides leisure, learning and cultural activities to the residents of Blaenau Gwent. Whilst some sections of the community are affluent, many are not and some 21 per cent of areas fall in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales and overall, the majority of its areas are more deprived than the Wales average.

The Charitable Trust is responsible for the operation, management and development of the following:

- Three Sports Centres (including Sports Development and NERS Facilitators)
- Four Learning Action Centres
- Six Libraries and two home delivery vans
- Bedwellty House & Park
- Parc Bryn Bach

Getting Young People and Communities Active

Sports Development - Inclusive, Engaging and Community-Driven Opportunities for All

The Aneurin Leisure Sports Development Team continues to play a pivotal role in promoting sport and physical activity across Blaenau Gwent, aligned with Sport Wales' vision for "a lifetime enjoyment of sport." Their work ensures children, young people and families have equitable access to high-quality, inclusive opportunities that enhance health, confidence and community wellbeing.

- **Programmes Across Education and Inclusion**

  Throughout 2024/25, the team has delivered a diverse range of interventions in pre-school, primary, secondary, and special school settings. Programmes were strategically shaped through the analysis of participation trends and engagement rates, with notable developments including:

  - Traditional sports (football, netball, rugby).
  - Non-traditional activities (dance, skateboarding, martial arts).
  - A targeted focus on mass participation initiatives in schools.
  - Leadership pathways embedded from primary through secondary education, helping young people develop confidence, life skills and responsibility.

  This approach ensures that sport remains not just a recreational outlet, but a key driver of personal development, educational engagement and long-term workforce sustainability in the local sector.

- **Community Engagement & Food Resilience**

  In a pioneering cross-sector collaboration, the team partnered with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Food Resilience Team to deliver a targeted school holiday programme addressing food insecurity and social isolation. Key outcomes included:

  - 78 sessions delivered across 10 community groups.
  - 1,044 individuals engaged – programmes offered healthy meals, funded playscheme spaces and interactive cooking workshops.
  - Families received recipe books, ingredients and even small kitchen appliances to support healthy home cooking.

- **Leisure-Based Programmes and Holiday Activity**

  Across the Trust's sports centres, the team facilitated robust seasonal programming:

  - Fully booked playschemes.
  - Sport-specific development camps in football and rugby.
  - Combined activity delivery for physical, social and mental wellbeing.

  Participation remained consistently strong throughout the year, demonstrating high community demand and the value of trusted, localised provision.

Getting Young People and Communities Active cont.

- **Inclusive Practice and Workforce Continuity**

  The team responded to the departure of its Disability Sports Officer by executing a clear succession plan in Q3 2024/25. This ensured:

  - No disruption to inclusive delivery.
  - Seamless knowledge transfer and interim staffing.
  - Reinforced partnerships with local authorities, schools, and health providers.

  This transition illustrates the maturity and resilience of the team's planning process, while reaffirming their commitment to accessible sport for all.

- **Community Kit Room (CKR) – Award-Winning Impact**

  The CKR initiative continues to thrive. Milestones in 2024/25 include:

  - A second CKR launched at Tredegar Sports Centre (Q3).
  - A third CKR opened at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre in a custom-built shipping container.
  - 28 new donation bins deployed across the borough.
  - 944 items of clothing issued to 246 individuals (up from 141 in the previous year).
  - Items range from football boots and shorts to swimsuits and leotards.

  The CKR model was nationally recognised by the British Association for Sustainable Sport (BASIS) Awards, inspiring adoption by other local authorities across Wales.

- **Sports Library and 'Wiggly Words' Innovation**

  The Sports Library, run in collaboration with the Trust's libraries, provides free access to a wide array of loanable sporting equipment. Loans are managed through the Library Management System, with new inventory tracking introduced in 2024/25 to improve efficiency.

  Complementing this, the 'Wiggly Words' programme merges literacy with movement. Delivered in all six libraries during school holidays and now piloted in pre-schools, the programme: -

  - Engages children aged 3-8 in interactive storytelling.
  - Promotes reading comprehension through physical activity.
  - Has been recognised as best practice across the Gwent region.

Getting Young People and Communities Active cont.

Aquatics

Expanding access, delivering impact and transforming lives through water-based education Primary School Swimming Programme.

- The 2024/25 academic year has marked another record-breaking milestone for Aneurin Leisure Trust's Primary School Swimming Programme. A total of 2,858 pupils from Years 3 to 6 participated in structured school swimming, an increase of 142 pupils from the previous year, and the highest figure ever recorded since reporting to Welsh Government began.

  - Year 6 Pass Rate (KS2): 54% (389/723), showing a sustained improvement.
  - Gender Breakdown – Yr.6:
    - Girls: 370 swimming / 197 achieved KS2 standard (53%)
    - Boys: 353 swimming / 192 achieved KS2 standard (54%)
  - Local Authority Breakdown – Yr.6 Pass Rates:
    - Abertillery: 59% (104 pupils)
    - Ebbw Vale: 52% (162 pupils)
    - Tredegar: 64% (91 pupils)

- This year also welcomed 313 Year 2 pupils through taster sessions across Abertillery, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar Sports Centres. In addition, 19 home-educated children – a record for the service – were supported with tailored aquatic learning, further showcasing our commitment to inclusive practice.

- **Inclusion and Inspiration – Case Study 1: Bronte-Lei's Journey**

  A standout moment this year was the transformation of Bronte-Lei, a pupil from Bryn Bach Primary School with complex health conditions including Hydrocephalus, Spina Bifida, Epilepsy and more. Initially unable to float or swim independently, Bronte-Lei now swims unassisted thanks to regular, adapted sessions and collaborative working between her school, our instructors and the centre team.

  "One of the most powerful moments came when Bronte-Lei turned to her teacher and said she no longer needed help in the water."

  Her journey illustrates the life-changing impact of our Primary School Swimming Programme – particularly for pupils with additional needs.

- **Swim School Performance**

  The Aneurin Leisure Swim School continues to operate at a consistently high level with 1,917 children enrolled out of 2,170 capacities, achieving an impressive 88% overall occupancy.

  - Ebbw Vale: 719 / 767 spaces (90%)
  - Abertillery: 613 / 690 spaces (88%)
  - Tredegar: 585 / 713 spaces (82%)

Getting Young People and Communities Active cont.

- **Active Young People (AYP) Support and Transition Pathways**

  To support pupils not meeting KS2 swimming standards, targeted AYP Swimming Programmes now extend into Year 7, ensuring continued access to lessons. In collaboration with local clubs – including Tredegar Torpedoes – we have introduced Wave 6 and 7 transition stages to bridge children from structured lessons into club or lifesaving environments.

- **Lifesaving and Workforce Development**

  Following the national transition from "Survive and Save" to the RLSS Lifesaving Academy, Aneurin Leisure has adapted quickly – 9 learners have already passed the new award.

  - 3 Trainer Assessors qualified internally to expand course delivery.
  - 3 NPLQ Courses delivered, producing 16 qualified lifeguards.

- **Partnerships for Inclusion and Access**

  - Tai Calon continues to fund 10 weeks of free-swimming across all sites.
  - Positif Care kayaking sessions were hosted at Abertillery during winter, preparing learners for open water activities. Discussions are ongoing to evolve this into a year-round swimming pathway for their students.

- **Competitions and Community Engagement**

  Every primary school in Blaenau Gwent again took part in our regional gala programme – Regional Winners:

  - Ebbw Vale/Tredegar Gala: Beaufort Hill Primary.
  - Abertillery Gala: Blaen-y-Cwm Primary.
  - Grand Final Champion: Beaufort Hill Primary School.

  This consistent, borough-wide engagement not only raises the competitive standard but ensures all pupils can experience celebration, achievement and team spirit in a structured aquatic environment.

Getting Young People and Communities Active cont.

Parks & Hospitality

Bedwellty House & Park

- The tennis courts offering three courts of free tennis provision has grown in usage over the 2024/25 period with 17 family memberships being taken out, 4 student memberships and 354 one-off bookings. The tennis courts generated £1,669 of income which will be reinvested into the upkeep of the courts. A weekly free session was offered to young people to have a go which proved popular during the school holidays. Memberships are in line with the costs of those at Six Bells Park to ensure a consistent tennis option across the Borough.

- Mini Movers has remained a regular in the Bedwellty weekly calendar continuing to attract young parents and their babies to the music and movement session. New parents and carers meet and share their experiences of their babies in a welcoming environment. The session has increased immeasurable value on the mental wellbeing of some of the new parents with some powerful feedback to the session organiser.

- Louby Lou and her school holiday adventures continued throughout the 2024/25 school holiday calendar, taking young people and their families on a range of exciting journeys throughout the park and grounds. The stories unveiled great imaginations of the participants where the park became home to pirates, unicorns, mermaids and wizards – all went on exciting journeys around the grounds unravelling the story. During the year over 200 children and their families have engaged in the Louby Lous Story Trails.

- Quarters one and two of 2024/25 saw the redevelopment and upgrading of the children's play area at Bedwellty. The much needed and eagerly awaited project has been welcomed by local community members with their children, young people and visitors. The feedback has been positive with it being a bright, colourful and safe space for children to play. The playground is fully inclusive for young people with additional needs to also visit and enjoy the play opportunities. A footfall counter has been installed on the gate of the playground since Autumn 2024 which will track the visitors to this area of the park.

Parc Bryn Bach

- The bunkhouse at Parc Bryn Bach continued to be a roaring success during the 2024 summer season, with 14 Bunkhouse Visits booked and delivered. Incredible feedback was received from all schools visiting with many pre-booking for their 2025 School Outdoor Learning adventure activity trip.

- The team attended the Education Show in Cardiff in Autumn 2024, first time for the show to be held at the Utilita Arena promoting the bunkhouse and offer of activities at Parc Bryn Bach, which secured a record number of 19 bookings from schools within the region and across the border for the Summer 2025 season.

- As well as the residentials, the Activities team delivered 20 school round-robin activity days to schools, predominantly from within Blaenau Gwent, as part of their outdoor learning and learning outside of the classroom as part of the New Curriculum for Wales.

- The availability of activities during the peak season at Parc Bryn Bach has continued to grow, securing an additional apprenticeship to operate within the activities team to support the staffing infrastructure, as well as supporting the development of young people within the area.

- The Driving Range has, during this period, sustained high usage; the contactless payments and revised opening hours have proved fruitful with increased revenue from this activity.

- The free and established Park Run has continued to operate from Parc Bryn Bach on a weekly basis with a well-attended run every Saturday morning followed by a growing Junior Park run on a Sunday morning. All runners are welcomed to the Lake View Café following their run.

Adult and Community Learning

- The aim of Adult Community Learning (ACL) is to offer lifelong learning opportunities for those who wish to improve their essential skills and enhance their employment opportunities. Aneurin Leisure Adult Community Learning are part of the Gwent ACL Partnership with Caerphilly CBC, Torfaen CBB, Monmouthshire CC and Newport City Council. The Partnership is overseen by Coleg Gwent and offers a range of courses and clubs tailored to meet the diverse needs of its communities, including essential skills, independent living skills, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), ICT, employability, and leisure and wellbeing courses. The Partnership was inspected by Estyn – His Majesty's Education Inspectorate in Wales in November 2023.

- Key performance indicators in 2023/24 were greatly improved from the 2022/23 academic year:

  - Retention for 2023/24 was 99.1% an improvement of 14% on the previous year.
  - Attainment for 2023/24 was 92% up 16.8% up from 2022/23.
  - Successful completion 2023/24 was 85.6% an increase of 22.3% from the year before.

  This is testament to the hard work and commitment of tutors and curriculum staff in Adult Community Learning.

- **Celebration of Learning Awards 2024**

  The Gwent ACL Celebration of Learning Awards for 2024 was held at Bryn Meadows Golf, Hotel and Spa on 13 June 2024. The event was attended by learners, staff and local dignitaries from Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen and was a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of tutors and learners. The winners from Aneurin Leisure were:

  - Tutor of the Year – Katie Plumley
  - Learner of the Year – Sara Evans
  - Group of the Year – ILS Music and Drama

  Sara has been a learner in Aneurin Leisure for several years and has recently taken up a post of ICT tutor at Brynmawr Learning Action Centre.

  We congratulate them all on their success and wish them well for the future.

- **UKSPF Projects - Bridges Plus and Multiply**

£1.5 million of funding for the two new projects that began in April 2023, as part of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, ended at the end of March 2025. Both projects had met or exceeded all targets and will form the basis for new projects in the future.

The Multiply Project carried out air fryer courses at a sheltered housing complex in Ebbw Vale during August 2024 and received the following feedback:

Was just about to email you to thank you again for the sessions. They were fantastic and the tenants loved them.

The delivery was brilliant not only demonstrating the way that airfryers can be used but also making the way to convert the measurements from imperial to metric and the other maths involved simple and above all fun.

The sessions also contributed greatly to our project for combating loneliness and isolation as it brought tenants together in a way that I can sustain by hopefully continuing this type of session through the winter when it becomes more difficult for the tenants to get out for the scheme.

Michelle and Sarah were amazing combining the delivery of the airfryer demonstration, the numeracy aspect and the fun in a very unique way. They put the tenants at ease straight away and got them all involved.

The feedback that sticks in my mind is from one lady who lives in the community on her own and who comes into William Adams to join in our activities. She was quite reluctant at first but after the first session told me it was the most fun couple of hours she had had in a long time, and how she could not wait for the next one.

Please pass on my thanks to the team and if you need me to feedback to anyone else let me know.

And yes, we would most definitely be interested in cake decorating in December so if you want to chat about that give me call.

Thanks again

Kind Regards
Michelle Williams, Connect Facilitator / Hwlusyddes 'Connect Digital Inclusion Project Co-ordinator

- **Adult Community Learning Questionnaire 2023/24**

All learners are given the opportunity to complete a learner questionnaire at the end of the academic year and the results of the 2023/24 survey were very pleasing. The surveys are ideally completed online, but learners who do not have access to digital equipment are given the option of completing a paper version of the questionnaire. There is also a separate version for learners with an additional learning need, or whose first language isn't English.

There was a total of 238 responses to the 2023/24 questionnaire – whilst this is a good response measures will be put in place to increase the number of responses for 2024/25.

- 36% stated that they were male, 62% female – whilst the remaining 2% preferred not to say.
- 23% were aged 25-39 and 30% were 40-55 – this is a large increase in the number of learners in this age bracket from previous responses.
- 22% of respondents stated that they considered themselves to be disabled.
- 92% felt that attending a course had a positive effect on their mental and physical health.
- 97% said that attending a course had enhanced their sense of wellbeing.
- 100% of those who responded told us that they felt safe in the learning environment.

When asked what transferable skills respondents felt that they had gained by attending a course:

- 70% said literacy/communication skills
- 35% said numeracy skills
- 74% had improved their digital skills
- 60% felt more motivated
- 36% had improved their employability prospects

Support for National Health Initiatives Aimed at Improving Overall Wellbeing

National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) - Clinical Health Pathways, Preventative Practice, and Powerful Personal Transformation

- **Blending Aquatic and Land-Based Rehabilitation**

The NERS programme has continued to deliver a gold standard in physical activity referral through a dual-modality approach that combines water and land-based interventions:

Water-Based Therapy – Good Boost

- Good Boost remains a flagship programme across the service, providing low-impact aquatic sessions designed to improve joint mobility, reduce pain and enhance muscle strength. The buoyancy of water is especially beneficial for individuals living with arthritis, chronic pain, or post-operative conditions – offering pain relief, improved range of motion, and an accessible gateway to exercise.

Land-Based Functional Rehab

- To complement aquatic delivery, NERS incorporates land-based strength, balance and flexibility sessions. These are essential for improving everyday functional mobility, empowering participants to regain independence and tackle daily tasks with renewed confidence.

Escape Programme Partnership

- A successful partnership with the Escape Programme has enhanced referral pathways for individuals experiencing severe back and hip pain. Based in Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, the six-week programme enables participants to access targeted sessions twice weekly. Importantly, it expedites progression from physiotherapy directly into NERS, reducing dropout rates and ensuring early engagement in supported rehabilitation.

Referral Trends and System Integration

- Between April 2024 and March 2025, NERS recorded 549 referrals, a noticeable decline from 756 referrals the previous year. This drop is attributed to the introduction of a new national digital referral platform which experienced delays in integration within GP systems.
- In response, Aneurin Leisure has worked proactively alongside primary care practices to accelerate system familiarity and improve usability. Significant progress has been made and the service is now well-positioned to return to pre-integration referral levels during the next financial year.

Collaborative Health Leadership – Wellbeing Coaches

With funding secured to employ two dedicated Wellbeing Coaches, Aneurin Leisure has deepened its strategic partnership with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB). These coaches play a pivotal role in the system by:

- Offering direct patient support and health navigation.
- Signposting individuals to services including NERS, smoking cessation, and physiotherapy.
- Acting as a bridge between NHS and community-based wellbeing support.

This collaboration reflects the Trust's growing influence in regional preventative health strategy and supports the longer-term sustainability of NERS delivery.

GP Referral Case Study

Case Study 2 – National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS)
Confidence and Wellbeing Transformation

Client: Clare (Aberbeeg, Age 31)

Background:
Clare joined the NERS programme after reaching a personal low point – unfit, lacking confidence, and unsure if she would ever enjoy exercise again. Overwhelmed by doubt and fear, simply walking into the gym for the first time felt terrifying.

Initial Health Status:
- Struggling with low self-confidence and emotional wellbeing
- Physically inactive and lacking regular exercise
- Uncertain about how to start making positive lifestyle changes

Programme Participation:

- Clare participated in the NERS programme, attending regular supervised exercise sessions tailored to her needs
- The programme combined aerobic and strength exercises, alongside consistent emotional support and lifestyle guidance from the NERS team

Results:

- Confidence Boost: Clare now feels significantly more confident, having conquered her fears and gained belief in her abilities
- Physical Activity: She regularly attends the gym 2–3 times per week and genuinely enjoys exercise
- Mental Health: Clare has experienced a notable improvement in mood and mental wellbeing
- Lifestyle Change: Exercise has become a positive, sustained habit in her daily life, replacing former patterns of inactivity

Conclusion:
Clare's success in the NERS programme demonstrates the scheme's effectiveness in supporting people facing emotional and physical challenges. Through personalised guidance, encouragement and expert support, NERS has helped Clare transform her mindset, rebuild her confidence and embrace a healthier, more active lifestyle.

Supporting Essential Skills

- Parc Bryn Bach embarked on its second apprenticeship programme in 2024. One of the adventure Activities team undertook a learning apprenticeship in Outdoor Adventure Activity.

- A number of team members at Parc Bryn Bach have been part of the ILM training programmes undertaking learning appropriate to their roles and ability. Some are achieving basic skills as part of their learning.

- Investment into staff training at Parc Bryn Bach to increase the quality and consistency of the coffees, driving a friendly competition between staff to make the best cup of coffee for our customers day in day out – Partnership with Local Coffee Roasters – Big Dog Coffee.

Tackling Inequalities

- **Adult Learn to Swim Programme**

  - Background:
    Tredegar Sports Centre continued to deliver its highly valued Adult Learn to Swim programme, providing a safe, non-judgmental space where adults can build water confidence and learn essential swimming skills. Recognising the persistent social and emotional barriers that prevent many adults from accessing aquatic activities, the programme remained a vital part of the centre's inclusive offer.

- Highlights:
  - Welcomed a diverse group of adult learners, many of whom had little to no prior swimming experience
  - Fostered a strong sense of peer encouragement and community, helping participants feel less isolated in their learning journey
  - Integrated flexible learning approaches to accommodate varying abilities and paces, ensuring no one was left behind

- Outcomes:
  - Significant improvements in swimming technique, confidence and water safety awareness
  - Participants reported enhanced mental wellbeing, reduced anxiety around water, and a boost in overall self-esteem
  - Some learners have gone on to integrate swimming into their regular fitness routines, further enhancing long-term health benefits

This programme continues to address a critical gap in adult water safety and confidence, breaking down long-held fears and social stigma. By equipping adults with a fundamental life skill in a supportive, welcoming environment, Tredegar Sports Centre is not only enhancing individual health and safety but also making meaningful contributions to wider public health and community wellbeing.

- **Under 16's provision**

Secondary School – Free Swimming Programme

- Background:
  With evidence showing that over 40% of young people transitioning from primary to secondary school still lack the ability to swim a full pool length, Aneurin Leisure's extra-curricular swimming initiative continued into 2024/25 to address this critical water safety gap.

- Highlights:
  - Delivered consistently across Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar Sports Centres
  - Offered structured, expert-led lessons that combined skill development with water confidence building
  - Coordinated closely with secondary schools to identify pupils most in need, ensuring targeted delivery to those at greatest risk of being left behind

- Outcomes:
  - Dozens of pupils who previously could not swim now able to confidently swim a full length, significantly improving their safety and enjoyment in water
  - Positive feedback from both students and schools, who praised the programme's inclusive, non-pressured environment and expert instruction
  - Contributed to wider public health goals by improving physical activity levels, building confidence, and fostering long-term engagement in sport and fitness.

- This free secondary school swimming programme remains a cornerstone of Aneurin Leisure's commitment to tackling health and access inequalities. By ensuring that no child is excluded from learning this essential life skill, the Trust is strengthening community resilience, promoting health equity, and giving every young person the chance to thrive both in and out of the pool.

- **Community Kit Room – 2024/25 Highlights**

  - Background:
    The Community Kit Room (CKR) celebrated another milestone year in 2024/25, continuing to provide free sports clothing and footwear to individuals and families across Blaenau Gwent. Following its initial success at Abertillery Sports Centre, the initiative expanded with new locations at Tredegar Sports Centre and Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, housed in a custom-built shipping container.

  - Highlights:
    - Supported 246 individuals this year, an increase from 141 the previous year
    - Distributed 944 items of sportswear, including football boots, shorts, swimsuits and gym leotards
    - Benefited from strong weekly donations and funding support from Blaenau Gwent Council Waste & Recycling Team, which enabled the installation of 28 new donation bins across the borough
    - Recognised at the British Association for Sustainable Sport (BASIS) Awards as a national best practice model, inspiring replication across Wales

  - Outcomes:
  - The CKR continues to remove economic barriers to sport and physical activity, ensuring that children, young people and adults alike have the equipment they need to participate confidently in sport, regardless of financial circumstances.

  - Conclusion:
    This initiative not only promotes sustainability by reducing textile waste but also enhances physical activity levels and social inclusion across Blaenau Gwent. By equipping the community with essential sports gear, the CKR plays a critical role in levelling the playing field and encouraging healthier, more active lifestyles for all.

- **Playschemes**

  Aneurin Leisure's playschemes continue to be one of the Trust's most valued and in-demand services, providing safe, structured and engaging activities for children during school holiday periods across Blaenau Gwent.

  Delivery Highlights:

  - Playschemes were delivered consistently across Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar Sports Centres, covering all major school holiday periods, including Easter, summer, and October and February half terms.
  - Provision included a wide range of activities:
    - Multi-sport and physical activity sessions
    - Arts, crafts and creative workshops
    - Fun-focused team games and social interaction activities
    - Integrated healthy eating workshops and, in some locations, cooking activities in partnership with the Blaenau Gwent Council Food Resilience Team
  - All playschemes operated with a strong focus on inclusion, ensuring that families from all backgrounds, including those from economically disadvantaged households, could access the service.

Participation and Reach:

- Across the year, playschemes saw full bookings at all sites, regularly reaching capacity during holiday weeks.
- Hundreds of children engaged across multiple sites, demonstrating the ongoing need for structured school holiday activities in the borough.
- Parents consistently reported positive feedback, emphasising the affordability, quality and positive impact on their children's physical activity levels, social skills and overall wellbeing.

New Developments:

- Football-specific development camps were added at Tredegar Sports Centre during half term, broadening the variety of sport-specific pathways within the playscheme model.
- Collaborative delivery with external partners enhanced the programme offer, including additional enrichment activities, specialist coaching sessions, and themed event days.

Outcomes and Impact:

- Playschemes provided critical support to working families by offering affordable, high-quality childcare alternatives during non-school periods.
- Participating children benefited from improved physical fitness, increased confidence, and enhanced social engagement.
- Integrated healthy eating and wellbeing elements further strengthened the programme's impact, aligning with wider public health and community wellbeing objectives.

- **Over 60s Provision**

Free Swim Initiative

- Background: Aneurin Leisure maintained its free swim sessions for over-60s, promoting healthy ageing and reducing barriers to physical activity among older adults.
- Highlights: Each sports centre offers one free swim day per week during public sessions, encouraging regular participation and community connection.
- Outcomes: There has been strong and consistent uptake, with many older adults attending weekly. Reported benefits include improved fitness, reduced social isolation, and enhanced emotional wellbeing.
- Conclusion: By offering free, accessible swim sessions, the Trust supports older adults to stay active, addressing health inequalities and promoting independence and longevity.

Free Aqua Aerobics for Over 60s

- Background: Tredegar Sports Centre expanded its commitment to older adults by continuing to offer free aqua aerobics sessions tailored to individuals over 60.
- Highlights: These low-impact classes focus on improving cardiovascular fitness, strength, balance, and flexibility while minimising joint strain.
- Outcomes: Participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with regular attendees reporting improvements in mobility, physical strength, and overall wellbeing.
- Conclusion: Free aqua aerobics sessions provide a fun, effective, and inclusive way for older adults to engage in exercise, addressing physical activity gaps and supporting healthy ageing.

Muscular Skeletal Pathway

- Background: Through collaboration with local GPs and physiotherapy teams, Aneurin Leisure continued its musculoskeletal (MSK) pool-based rehabilitation programme under the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS).
- Highlights: The programme offers tailored water-based exercises targeting mobility, strength, and pain management for older adults with MSK conditions, ensuring a gentle yet effective approach.
- Outcomes: Participants have shown notable improvements in flexibility, pain reduction, and functional mobility, contributing to regained independence and improved quality of life.
- Conclusion: This specialised programme effectively addresses the needs of older adults with mobility challenges, reducing health inequalities by offering adapted, evidence-based exercise solutions.

Good Boost Provision

- Background: Aneurin Leisure's Good Boost sessions continued to leverage technology, offering tailored, virtual exercise programming via iPads for diverse participant groups.
- Highlights:
    - Delivered both pool-based and dryside sessions
    - Included specialist pathways for older adults, individuals with mobility challenges, and pre/post-natal participants
    - Provided personalised exercise routines that adapt to the user's specific health needs
- Outcomes: Good Boost has significantly expanded the accessibility and inclusivity of exercise provision, supporting participants in improving physical fitness, mobility, and confidence.

By integrating innovative technology into community leisure settings, Good Boost addresses longstanding access barriers, empowering participants with tailored, accessible, and engaging exercise options that promote holistic health and wellbeing.

Library Service

- To celebrate World Book Day in March 2025, the service worked in partnership with Families First, to provide children with free costumes. The costumes were loaned from local libraries, which worked well, with families joining the library at the same time and borrowing related stock. This scheme was particularly well received by families in need, many parents commenting how it helped them deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

- The Citizen's Advice Service continues to hold weekly drop-in sessions across five service points. The service provided compliments our wider offer of free, informal support to local residents, particularly for cost-of-living help. The sessions are popular and has helped us maintain footfall figures.

- There has been an increase in the number of partners accessing all libraries over 2024/25, including Communities4work Plus, JobCentrePlus, Pobl and Carers organisations. All partners find the informal, welcoming environment of libraries the ideal location to engage with the community.

- Blaina Library reopened on 22nd April 2024 following a period of closure to complete essential building maintenance. Since re-opening a range of new activities and events have been delivered at Blaina, including a Knit and Natter Group, Reading Group and a Men and Music Group. The footfall and book issues have steadily increased over the year.

- A new children's reading scheme, 'Accelerated Reading' has been introduced across all libraries. This has been delivered following feedback from parents. The scheme highlights stock that is approved and linked to improving reading ages of children.

- There has been a number of new reading groups established across various libraries, including a young adult group and an online reading group. The number of reading groups are reported via the Welsh Public Library Standards report and this indicator will show an increase in next return.

- Following on from the success of the Dementia Friendly Singalongs earlier in the year, a further series of concerts have been held in various libraries. We have continued to work with Thriving Communities to host activities that support people affected with Dementia and people who are socially excluded.



- A range of national campaigns were promoted across all libraries, including;
  - Men's Health Week in June 2024
  - Empathy Day – 6th June 2024
  - 80th Anniversary of D Day – 5th June 2024
  - Pride month
  - Elmer Day – 25th May 2024
  - Better with Books Campaign
  - Learning Disability Week – June 2024

- The service has continued to have a strong focus on environmental issues and our 'Libraries vs Litter' project has been developed to include younger pupils. As a result, the service has launched 'little Pickers' for under 5's. Libraries worked with BGCBC and Keep Wales Tidy to facilitate this new initiative. The Senior Outreach Assistant who leads on this project has been presented with an environmental award for hard work and dedication to community litter picking.

- To increase engagement with local schools the service has developed a range of new sessions targeted at class visits. These include:
  - Get to know your library
  - Library Quests
  - Magical Museum Missions

- The Museum Quests have been particularly successful in libraries where we have museums based in the building, i.e. Tredegar and Blaina. Many of the children have returned with their families as a result and volunteers at the Museum have been very grateful for raising awareness of their facilities.

- The national Summer Reading Challenge was launched in June, with the theme of 'Marvellous Makers'. This year's challenge aimed to fire up children's imaginations and unleash storytelling and creativity though the power of reading. All libraries delivered a range of activities linked to the theme. Our partnership work with the Sports Development team was particularly successful over the summer. The physical literacy sessions have been developed to link with our themes to encourage reading. The summer sessions focussed on 'Jump into a book and make those words wiggle off the page'. Additional funding to deliver activities from SPF grants have been instrumental in supporting and increasing library engagement, over the summer. A series of 'Create with Clay' sessions were delivered in all libraries, from funding secured by this scheme. In total 150 participants attended these events.



- Over the summer there was a:
  - 29% increase in participants of the Summer Reading Challenge.
  - total of 68 events delivered across all libraries.
  - 103% increase in the number of adults attending with children.

- Combating loneliness and improving health and wellbeing continued to be a priority for the Library Service during 2024/25. Loneliness is a major public health issue, in which the service has reacted to, in order to support users. The overarching theme across the service is about providing spaces that are welcoming, informal and shared for community use. This is extremely important to the residents of Blaenau Gwent, as we provided one of the few places where there is an expectation not to spend money and is inclusive.

- The service promoted 'Green Libraries Week' between 7-13th October 2024. This was a national celebration to focus on climate change and sustainability. All libraries promoted stock and delivered a range of green activites. Libraries are the original recycling service, circulating endless books between readers, we shared this message, encouraging the community to use libraries as the perfect place to start reducung their impact on the environemnt. Actvities involved using recycled materials.

- Ebbw Vale Library held a successful 'Meet the Author' event on 19th October 2024. Children's author and illustrator, Chris Morgan held an interactive session promoting his book 'Green Lady of Caerphilly Castle'. 20 children attended.

- During the half term week in October all libraries held a range of family activities. We have continued to develop our links with Sports Development to extend the offer of our Wiggly Words activities. We worked in partnership with the Regeneration Department to deliver 'Meet the Owls' across all service points. Famillies have greatly appreciated the free activities, whilst also increasing the footfall into town centres; this partnership is proving successful. Over 250 famillies attended the events. We also participated in the Monster trail scheme with the Regeneration Department, with children collecting the maps at local libraries. The partnership with the Regeneration Department continued for Christmas activities, with a Polar Bear Day being hosted at Tredegar Library.

- A new 'Libraries for Life' scheme was launched in the Autumn of 2024. We worked with the Emergency Services and local schools to enable pupils to visit libraries and to go on an Ambulance, to meet staff and view equipment. We arranged to have the ambulance stationed outside the library.

- The service worked in partnership with the Small Woodlands organisation and GAVO to deliver nature and craft and winter wellbeing sessions for carers and those they care for, during November 2024.

- The Creating Coding Communities project was extended, with all libraries participating in class inductions and inter-generational coding hour sessions have been held on a regular basis. We have worked in partnership with the Blaenau Gwent STEM project to link with local schools.

- The service marked the anniversary of Holocaust Memorial Day across all libraires on 27th January 2025. Libraries held coffee mornings, promoted stock and participated in a global read of 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusa.

- Nick Smith, MP, officially visited Abertillery Library on 1st November 2024, together with national delegates from the Goodthings Foundation and Vodaphone to meet staff and customers involved in the National Data Bank scheme. The Library Service is a designated digital inclusion hub to distribute free data sim cards to anyone in need. This is a successful partnership and enables the service to play a crucial role in helping to tackle to the digital divide in the borough.



- For February half term, the service held interactive mad science workshops across all libraries. Again, working with the Regeneration Dept, allowed the service to engage with many new families, hosting free, fun and educational sessions delivered by 'Fab Lab'

- World Book Day was celebrated on 6th March 2025 across all libraries, with the re-launch of the successful costume loaning scheme, working in partnership with Families First. Many parents have commented on their appreciation of this scheme, which addresses inequalities and promotes anti-poverty in the borough

- With the additional staffing of two SPF funded outreach posts, this has enabled the service to expand promotional events in a wide range of locations in the borough. Through this initiative we have been able to take library services to the community, by remote memberships and loaning of stock. This has enabled us to break down barriers related to the image of libraries and connect to hard-to-reach communities. This has resulted in an increase in membership across all libraries. An outreach reading group has been established at Georgetown Community Hub in Tredegar, with support from our staff. Group loans continue to be successful at a number of community venues including Trefil Chapel and Llanhilleth Miners' Institute. New outreach activities have also been delivered at local assisted living complexes, care homes, youth centres, and Scout and Beaver groups. The outreach provision has also helped us connect with the other services of the Trust by delivering sessions at Bedwellty and Parc Bryn Bach.

- Additional funding from the Multiply SPF grant has allowed the service to develop an adult craft programme across all libraries. A diverse range of activities have been delivered to increase numeracy skills, including Book folding, Textile courses, Knit and Natter, jewellery making and clay craft. By offering a wide range of craft activities, libraries can provide a space where everyone can explore their creative side, connect with others, and find inspiration, through learning numeracy skills.

Parks and Hospitality

- National Play Day was a large-scale free event at Bedwellty House & Park with a variety of partners and free play opportunities for children and their families to engage in, and to educate that play doesn't always mean toys, screens or play equipment, it can mean cardboard boxes, mud, wool, water as some options. Families were amazed at the fun they had engaging in basic play. A range of providers attended site offering workshops, fun activities and give aways. It was a great partnership, fully inclusive event which tackled inequality and was drenched in community engagement. Despite initially being postponed due to inclement weather the second date went ahead and the event was attended by 700 children aged 2-10 and 180 children aged 11-14.

- The second delivery of a '999' day was delivered at Parc Bryn Bach. The key 999 services attended the site putting on a range of activities and showcased their services through fun and innovative workshops and engagement to the community. Over 1,000 people attended the event in Summer 2024, it was free and well received by the community.

- Free Brass Band Concerts in partnership with Tredegar Town Council are delivered at Bedwellty House and Park for 10 weeks during the May-July summer season. The community can attend and enjoy the complimentary music in beautiful surroundings. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts are delivered inside.

- Armed Forces Day and Bevan Festival are two mass participation events held at Bedwellty during the summer season. The events are developed year on year with additional activities for families to engage in for free. The events include music, inflatables, face painting, crafts stalls and activities linked to the Armed Forces and History of Bevan. Both events are well attended with in excess of 1,000 local community members engaging in the events.

- Free weekly 'Wild Tots' and Wild Camp' sessions are delivered by Blaenau Gwent Play Team at Bedwellty on a weekly basis. Whatever the weather the Wild Tots and their families are on site engaging in outdoor play, making mud pies, mud slides/swings or having fun in the mud kitchen. The Wild Campers toast marshmallows around the fire and learn about outdoor safety. The wild tots area is a great asset within the grounds.

- Go Wild Event at Parc Bryn Bach was another WOW partnership event which was well attended with in excess of 1,000 visitors to the Parc. The event included partners offering workshops on animal care, wildlife habitats, seed boxes, bug boxes and hotels, as well as fun and games on the water and participating in partner led activities. A free event which spanned a wealth of visitors from across Blaenau Gwent and Neighbouring Authorities.

- Free Wildlife Wednesdays were delivered at Parc Bryn Bach, engaging young people and their families to learning about the natural habitats, embarking on nature walks, and craft activities with the nature theme.

- The play area at Parc Bryn Bach offered a daily quiet hour for families with young people who have additional needs so they could access the equipment in a calm and quiet time. This was complimented by families as a positive offer.

- Both parks have worked in partnership with BGCBC Young Carers where discounts have been provided for young carers attending the parcs and accessing facilities or catering. This has proved a great success and an acknowledged support to the young carers.

- Blaenau Gwent Otters hosted their first ever community fundraiser event at Bedwellty Park. The event day included stalls, activities, live music and opportunities for all ages and abilities to engage whilst supporting raising funds for the sustainability and future of operating costs for Blaenau Gwent Otters Swimming Club.

Case Study 3 - BGCBC Community Food Development

The importance of fuelling children and young people so they can remain physically active has remained central to the Trust's mission during the 2024/25 school holiday periods. For too many families in Blaenau Gwent, holidays continue to bring heightened hardship, food insecurity, and social isolation as parents struggle with increased food, childcare, and activity costs.

In response, the Aneurin Leisure Sports Development Team, in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Food Resilience Team, expanded its targeted holiday programme to deliver a comprehensive, community-focused solution.

- Delivered 78 sessions across isolated areas of Blaenau Gwent, tripling last year's reach

- Engaged 1,044 children and young people, providing access to healthy meals, safe activity spaces, and enriching play opportunities

- Worked in collaboration with 10 local community groups, strengthening grassroots partnerships and local delivery capacity

- Included interactive cooking workshops for children and parents, alongside distribution of ingredient packs, recipe books, and essential kitchen appliances to support nutritious home cooking

- Integrated the initiative into the wider playscheme model, ensuring that nutrition and physical activity are linked in a seamless, supportive experience.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

- The Library Service has forged a new partnership with the DWP. Outreach job-seeker sessions are held at various libraries and Youth Work Coaches deliver weekly drop-in sessions at Abertillery Library.

- The Library Service supported the local authority in September 2024 by assisting in the promotion of residents' surveys 'Living in Blaenau Gwent'. All libraries acted as point of contact for distribution and collection.

- The annual SLA of £7,500 between Social Services and the Library Service has been agreed for another year. This grant enables us to deliver a specialist Home Library Service to visually impaired users.

- Libraries have further developed its collaboration with the Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership by extending the offer of free seeds to all library users. There has been a re-design of the 'Little Veg Library' and various healthy food themed activities.

- BGCBC's community hub provision, which is located in all libraries, has become increasingly important, providing vital support to local residents.

- The number of attendances at library events and activities has significantly increased over 2024/25. The new outreach team have played an instrumental role in delivering new projects and as a result have attracted new audiences to the service. A key remit of their role is to increase school visits. There has been a school programme of regular class visits to all libraries, which has had a positive impact on all performance areas.

- Over the year the Library Service has developed an integrated approach to deliver a wide range of activities and events. We have further developed our partnership work, with approximately 50 organisations working in partnership with the Library Service.

- The community have been fully engaged in the live, free music at Bedwellty during the Summer of 2024. The courtyard canopy was back with popular demand. Free Sunday Music was delivered for 10 weeks from the end of June through to the first weekend in September for the community to meet with family & friends, listen to great local musicians, engage in garden games with a fully served bar and kitchen available to them. This area proved to be extremely popular with a regular 80-100 people attending on a weekly basis – whatever the weather, the music Sundays have proven to be a key income generator for Bedwellty House & Park through the Summer season.

- Bedwellty House & Park worked in conjunction with Hospice of the Valleys to host their first 'Forever in Bloom' sunflower event. Community members could purchase a sunflower which was locally made from recycled materials. These were then displayed in the grounds of Bedwellty. A service was held in memory of lost loved ones. The event was very well attended by the community, bringing many visitors to the park and also supporting the Hospice with much needed fundraising to continue with their incredible work across the community. Forever in Bloom is anticipated to be an annual event for the Hospice.

- The partnership with Tredegar Town Council brought 10 weeks of Brass Bands to the bandstand at Bedwellty House and Park during the Summer period. This brought the community across the generations together on a Sunday, enjoying the free live music and relaxing in the well-maintained grounds. In excess of 100 people per week attended the Brass band concerts.

- Bedwellty House has engaged in and hosted a number of events to celebrate national occasions such as Armed Forces Day, Union fun day, Breast Feeding event, Bevan Festival. Each occasion is marked with an appropriate celebration and community engagement event. They are also supported with local school partnerships to develop artwork to display along the gallery corridor for the wider community to admire.

- The Bedwellty kitchen garden grounds team and volunteers had a very successful season with some bumper crops. Volunteers in the garden and from Blaenau Gwent Youth Services tended to the kitchen garden tirelessly throughout the year. Crops were used as part of the menus in the Orchid House Tea Room. Vegetables were also available to the local community for a small donation should they want them.

- The Friends of Bedwellty Park continued to support Bedwellty with their attention to the sensory garden ensuring the area is well presented and tended too. The Friends volunteers support the Christmas programme with wrapping gifts in preparation for the Santa visits. Their efforts are invaluable.

- Tredegar Heritage Forum continued to deliver monthly Historical talks at Bedwellty House. This free monthly talk, where a variety of guest speakers are invited in to speak about local history and heritage of our locality. They are well attended by the community and also prove to be a social afternoon out for some of the hardest to reach members of the community.

- Tredegar Friendship Group continued to visit Bedwellty House on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the year for a two-course meal and social afternoon. The groups started with 18 members who would dine in the Miners Room, the group has grown in strength and numbers with now on average 40 attending monthly. The group of OAPs meet, eat and socialise which is for some the only occasion they go out each month. Costs are kept low so it doesn't become a barrier to attending.

- Bedwellty House hosted a Christmas Market the end of November 2024, where people browsed and purchased crafts and gifts made by local smaller businesses. It was a great opportunity and some of these small businesses had to provide their products in person. It was well received by all.

- The Team at Parc Bryn Bach engaged in supporting a fundraising outdoor pursuits campaign in leading them through, as well as participating in the National Three Peaks Challenges as well as the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge during 2024. The campaign was a great success, where the community followed the progress of the participants raising funds for a worthy cause.

- Parc Bryn Bach have hosted a number of charity walks and events throughout the year including chase the pudding Hospice of the Valleys fun run, Hope Charity Walk, You are not Alone men's Walking group, to name a few. All raise essential funds for their charities which are making huge impacts on the groups they work alongside and support.

- The DBMax Titan series event returned to Parc Bryn Bach in Summer 2024 for their annual titan series event.

- The British Cycle Cross event returned to Parc Bryn Bach for the second consecutive year.

- The Bryn Bach Fishing club hosted their first ever Angling competition where 12 competitors participated, this is something they are hoping to make an annual event for the Fishing club.

- The team at Parc Bryn Bach worked with Ken Sullivan and the Miners in establishing a site and launch of the NCB gates memorial at Parc Bryn Bach. The gates are in memory of all those who worked for the coal board and in particular to the forgotten 57 Miners who lost their lives in mining tragedies in neighbouring mines. The gates were installed and launched with tributes of speaking, singing and celebration while also in memory of the rich heritage on the local area. The gates have been welcomed by the community and are a key point of visit for those visiting the park.

- The opening hours of Parc Bryn Bach were extended for the Summer period. Street Food Thursdays continued throughout the season as well as the evening running and triathlon events returning to the evenings for 2024. Parc Bryn Bach became a hive of activity from 8am-8pm during the peak Summer season with visitors enjoying the activities, using the dog friendly café, utilising the outdoor kiosk and making use of the more relaxed terraced area overlooking the lake.

- Parc Bryn Bach Lake View Café & Kiosk exceeded all anticipated and projected income targets throughout the peak season and continued to grow in popularity during the Winter months with an innovative Christmas menu which became a social media hot topic! The team were inundated with calls and bookings for the festive offerings and themed hot drinks.

- The Lake View Café offered seasonal employment to 8 young people during the summer season. The Lake View Catering achieved a 5* Food Hygiene rating following inspection.

Case Study 4 - Libraries Borrowbox

Borrowbox is a digital platform which offers library customers the option to download e-books, e-audio and e-magazines. There are English and Welsh language books, fiction and nonfiction and books for adults and children. Every download counts as a performance measure towards library standards. The BorrowBox platform is available through an app that rivals paid-for consumer brands and it delivers a world-class user experience that's simple and made to inspire. Thousands of titles are available free of charge, to all our library members. There are many advantages to accessing digital content, including:

- Digital lending has opened up access to residents who may otherwise struggle to physically visit a library.
- Listening can be done whilst multi-tasking.
- Amending eBook font size, type and background is a game-changer for visually impaired readers and improves the accessibility for many users.
- Ideal for those who can't travel to a library due to time, financial or mobility limitations.
- Available 24/7.
- Audio is inviting for struggling or dyslexic readers.
- It's great for bringing the library to people and signing up new, non-traditional library members.
- The stock can never get lost or long overdue.
- Helpful for those struggling to hold a heavy book.
- Available wherever the customer is geographically.
- Listening to a book is relaxing for ASD readers.

Device usage and ownership is now the norm with people consuming more audio content than ever. 94% of over 16 year olds own a smartphone in 2024 compared to 60% in 2014.

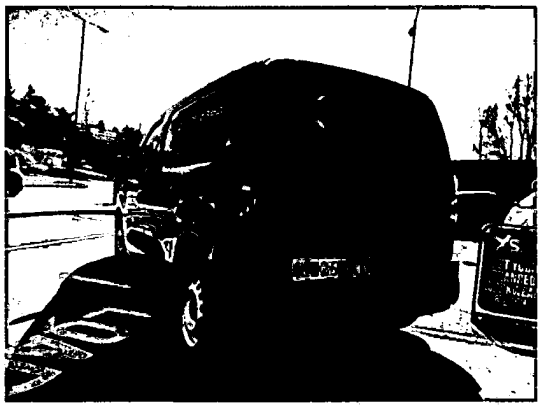
Performance over the last six months:

- 36% increase on e-audio
- 21% uplift in eBook loans vs 10% in the rest of Wales

As a result of the demand and use within the borrow, additional funding has been allocated to this area of stock to maintain satisfaction levels.

Feedback from customers accessing the service:
- *A marvellous service, the choice of titles is incredible.*
- *I never run out of books anymore!*
- *I have saved so much money by using BorowBox, I've cancelled my subscription to other similar services.*
- *I home school my children, the educational books are such a great support.*
- *I work shifts, so have no time to visit the library, this is perfect for me; I suffer with stress and anxiety, the self-help books have really helped me manage.*

Case Study 5 – (Libraries) Home Delivery Service



The service has two designated home delivery vans that delivers library stock to housebound customers and hard to reach communities. The Trust has recently signed a new contract to lease two brand new Citroen Belingo vans. They have received new branding, clearly promoting the home library service, with contact telephone numbers, and the service has already received several enquiries regarding the service as a result of the new branding. We currently have 184 registered customers, with a specialist visually impaired service, offering a range of materials and services. This aspect of the service receives an annual grant from social services to help us support many vulnerable customers with sight impairments.

We are able to loan specialist CD players and tablets to listen to audio books, physical talking books and digital resources including Borrowbox and Pressreader. Joe and Leigh, our home delivery library assistants are able to demonstrate how to use the devices and offer on-going suport, including digital assistance. This service is highly regarded by both users and Social Services for the added value customer care received by some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Sometimes, the visits from our staff are the only interaction some customers have on any given day. Apart from delivering library stock, the service plays a vital role in sharing information and signposting to other services.

The service also delivers to many care homes, day centres, hospitals, community centres and residential homes in the borough.

Comments received from customers:

- *Having talking books delivered to me, is such a lifeline, I don't know what I would do without the service, as I am unable to get out and about anymore.*
- *My husband is visually impaired and also has dementia. Having talking books delivered to us, makes such a difference. They keep him relaxed and focussed; they also help with his memory. I am his carer, I have no time to visit the library, so I also have books delivered to me, they help me sleep at night. I've recently had some books on caring for someone with dementia, which was very helpful.*
- *I have suffered with depression since losing my sight and mobility. Talking books lift my mood and make me feel happier – thank you for such a great service.*
- *I have been loaned a tablet, I have been shown how to download e-books and e-audio. The library staff have also helped me set up an email and showed me how to use Amazon and other sites – this has opened my world up. Being able to get online is so important for anyone who is housebound.*

Case Study 6 - Sport in the Library Collaboration

The Aneurin Leisure Sports Development Team, in partnership with Blaenau Gwent Libraries, has continued to deliver the highly successful Wiggly Words programme, which encourages children aged 3-8 to "jump into a book and make the words wiggle off the page". This innovative project blends reading with physical activity, transforming library spaces into playful, interactive environments that spark both literacy and movement.

- Delivered consistently across all six Blaenau Gwent libraries during school holidays.
- Expanded to local pre-school settings, broadening reach to early years children outside the library environment.
- Recognised as best practice not only locally, but also across the Gwent region, with neighbouring local authorities now replicating the model to support early childhood development.
- Engaged hundreds of young participants, reinforcing libraries as active, welcoming community spaces.

Sports Library Expansion:

- The Sports Library project, launched in 2021, continues to thrive, offering free access to a wide range of sports equipment through the Library Management System.
- Available across all four full-time Blaenau Gwent libraries.
- Supported by additional funding and National Governing Body (NGB) donations, significantly expanding the available inventory.
- Allows families to borrow items such as footballs, skipping ropes, and cricket sets for three-week periods, encouraging physical activity at home.
- 2024/25 figures: 300+ items loaned, maintaining strong community demand and promoting equitable access to sport and play resources.
- Cultural Enrichment.

Cultural Enrichment

- Libraries have an important role of promoting Welsh history and culture. As part of this remit, the service held a local history talk at Cwm Library on 22 May 2024 on the subject of 'Memories of the Miners' Strike'. As part of the 40th Anniversary of the Miners' Strike all libraries promoted stock and displayed information. A talk was also delivered at Pen-y-Bont Nursing home in Abertillery.

- The Library Service has made a strong commitment to the provision of Welsh language activities and resources over the year. The weekly 'Clwb Cymraeg' at Abertillery has grown in popularity, with the Welsh Language Support Officer for Blaenau Gwent, regularly attending the sessions. The service is achieving the standard for the amount of Welsh stock purchased.

- Welsh Baby Yoga is delivered weekly at Tredegar Library and number of Welsh Baby Rhyme time sessions have been delivered across the service. We have strong links with Cymraeg I Blant, helping us support many families through the medium of Welsh.

- The Library Service has further developed links with the Welsh Language Officer for Blaenau Gwent by working in partnership to promote 'Shwmae Day' on 15 October 2024. Various events were held across all libraries, including a Welsh teatime, 'Give Welsh a Go' and Welsh themed craft activities.

- The Library Service participated in the Big Welsh Rhyme Time during the week of 11-15 February 2025. All libraries held under 5 sessions, working in partnership with BookTrust Cymru for the annual celebration of rhymes, poems and songs.

- Continuing the focus on Welsh themed activities, the Library Service promoted Saint Dwynwen Day (Welsh patron of love) on 25 January 2025 with a range of art and craft activities. This theme continued to celebrate St Davids Day, with coffee mornings and craft activities in all libraries.

- There are various groups that use the free library space for cultural sessions. The service has strong partnership links with Gwent Family Society. Volunteers from this organisation deliver regular help desks in all libraries, promoting FindMyPast and Ancestry.com. The Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum holds monthly meetings at Tredegar Library and utilises the local studies resources based there. Blaina Heritage Centre is based in the same building as Blaina Library, which provides an ideal link to work jointly on shared Welsh cultural activities. Likewise, a community Museum is based in Tredegar Library, which attracts many visitors researching the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan, plus other historical information. Library staff and volunteers from the museum work together to provide a range of information and resources to promote Welsh culture.

Social Responsibility

- The Library Service in Blaenau Gwent is defined around our locality and the needs of local communities. From hosting cultural events and educational workshops to delivering reading activities and wellbeing events, our service provides opportunities to build relationships and fosters a sense of belonging. Our libraries strengthen social cohesion by serving as vital community spaces, where individuals and groups can connect, collaborate, and celebrate shared interests.

- During June 2024, the Library Service worked in partnership with the Regional Community Cohesion Officer (West Gwent) to arrange the hosting of an exhibition from Race Cymru to mark Windrush Day. This was exhibited at Abertillery and Tredegar Libraries.

- The Library Service worked in partnership with the Local Authority in November2024 to raise awareness of Pension Credit week. Community Hubs held additional support sessions in all libraries to assist residents with eligibility criteria.

- Abertillery Library also played a vital role in the support for flood victims in November 2024. The library hosted a range of additional partners including social services to deliver face to face support to residents in crisis. Our core services of free Wi-Fi, PC use, refreshments and warm welcoming spaces complimented this offer.

- As libraries are drivers for social inclusion, our role to provide free social activities has been extended over the year. All libraries provide coffee mornings, Cuppa and Company, and host various social groups, e.g. Knit and Natter and reading groups.

Real Women Revolution Retreats

- Expansion and Growth: Building on the success of previous years, the Real Women Revolution (RWR) retreats expanded further across Aneurin Leisure venues during 2024/25. Notably, Ebbw Vale Sports Centre emerged as a flagship site for inclusive health events, hosting the International Women's Day Celebration in partnership with RWR, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, and local wellbeing leaders.

- International Women's Day (IWD): Ebbw Vale Sports Centre welcomed over 80 women to celebrate IWD, featuring keynote talks, educational workshops, and interactive wellbeing activities. Highlights included:
  - Talks from public figures like Stephanie Webber (The Voice UK) on sobriety and resilience.
  - Sessions from local champions such as 'Bec's Besties' on overcoming adversity and building community.
  - Workshops addressing menopause, bone health, nutrition, and mental health (including a session by The Sport & Wellbeing Manager on "making the positive 1% change").
  - Interactive wellbeing stands offering resources on local health and fitness services.

- Future Plans: Due to the resounding success of IWD, plans are now in place to replicate this format for International Men's Day in Autumn 2025, expanding the Trust's inclusive wellbeing programming to engage all community members.

Signature Events Across the Sports Centres

Beyond the RWR-affiliated events, the Trust delivered an outstanding calendar of national and local events:

- Combat Sports: Hosted major events like Samurai Fighting Championships, Stand Up War (Muay Thai), Dragon Fight MMA, Polaris Uprising (Brazilian Ju-Jitsu), and Heads of the Valley Boxing.
- Dance and Gymnastics: Welcomed Born 2 Perform, UDO Street Dance Championships, KLA Dance, Gymfinity Cheer, and Welsh Aerobic Open Championships.
- Sporting Tournaments: Delivered 17 badminton, netball, and pickleball competitions at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, attracting national athletes and local participants alike.
- Family and Community Events: Organised popular children's Halloween and Christmas parties at Ebbw Vale and Tredegar Sports Centres, as well as multi-cultural gatherings in partnership with the BG Resettlement Team, enhancing inclusion and community cohesion.
- HYROX Simulations: Successfully launched the first HYROX simulation events across all three centres, igniting local passion for functional fitness competitions and producing world-class athletes like HYROX PRO Champion Lauren Stockley.

Parks and Hospitality

- Weddings – Bedwellty House successfully delivered weddings and ceremonies in partnership with Blaenau Gwent Registry Office. With a conversion rate of 80% of those attending a first meeting and visit to Bedwellty during this period, to making a booking, which is a small growth on the previous year.

- Catering partner Lupin Blanc deliver the food element of the larger weddings at Bedwellty, always with glowing reviews of food quality and service.

- The Orchid House Tea Room continued to thrive offering a varied menu of homecooked meals during the week, the famous Sunday Roast as well as BBQ's beer garden snacks menu. The Tea room extended its seating to include additional tables outside.

- Sunday lunches at Bedwellty have maintained the reputation of good service, good food and overall experience preceding the venue. There are a number of diners who attend on their own due to loss of loved ones but keep visiting as they feel so welcome and comfortable at Bedwellty. The NPS scoring with feedback from visitors has been introduced during the 2024/25 period allowing the site to capture some meaningful feedback.

- The Orchid House Tearoom came highly commended for best place to eat in the Southeast Wales tourism awards in November 2024.

- The NPS score remains in the 86 'excellent' region for Bedwellty. Both sites take the feedback seriously and work with the marketing team and wider partners where necessary to adopt a 'you've said - we've done' approach to tending to customer needs and feedback.

- Both parks maintained the grounds to exceptional standards throughout the 2024/25 period. Parc Bryn Bach working particularly closely with the Ecology Officer from BGCBC ensuring achieving the Green Flag Award status for 2024 and being commended for its Nature Reserve status.

- The friends of groups are an asset to the parks in supporting projects and raising funds. A number of the volunteers within these groups have stated how being part of the group and seeing areas develop in the parks within their weekly gardening sessions gives them a purpose and makes them feel like they are giving something back to the community they live in and love.

- Christmas Party Nights returned to Bedwellty House with full capacity for the 2024 Christmas season. Seven Christmas Party nights were sold out and delivered with visitors supporting from local businesses and some travelling in based on the reviews and reputation Bedwellty has built in previous seasons. Over 700 visitors dined, danced and engaged in the festive spirit.

- Wider social events such as Bubbles and Brunch, the Bedwellty version of 'Brunch Club' was launched in 2023 and continued to grow in popularity during 2024, becoming one of the most popular events in the calendar, selling out month on month. Guests experience 90 minutes of live music, bottomless drinks and quality grazing boards. They are much loved events.

- A partnership has been established with the BGCBC Education Service who are, for an interim period, housing the first intake of the new Welsh School to open in Tredegar in the near future into Bedwellty House & Park. The school development is behind on schedule which meant there was nowhere for the September 2023 intake to attend. Bedwellty have worked with the necessary personnel to redevelop part of the first floor of the house into a nursery classroom. Ysgol Tredegar based out of Bedwellty from September 2023 for the full 2023/24 academic season. This has further developed during 2023 with a second classroom being developed to host both a nursery and reception class for the 2024 academic year while the Welsh School is being finalised.

- The Partnership with Tredegar Town Council has continued working together on a number of great events during the 2023/24 season including the Brass Bands, Armed Forces Day, Bevan Festival, Remembrance Sunday, and Christmas Lights Switch on. Events such as these are the heart of the community and bring generations together.

- Parc Bryn Bach Maintained positive partnerships with the education services during 2024, being the go-to provider for the out of the classroom engagement for Greenfields School, the Thomas Richards Centre and Riverside PRU. The challenging young people attending from these settings have engaged in key skills, outdoor safety and some completing modules towards a Teamwork GCSE.

Local Business Partnerships

- Aneurin Leisure Trust continues to offer local, regional and national organisations discounted membership as part of our Life Card membership scheme and our drive to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace. Corporate members are currently enjoying the corporate discounts in the area that Aneurin Leisure operates. This product combines reduced rates for:
    - i) gym memberships within our sport centres,
    - ii) corporate hospitality and conferencing at Bedwellty House and Park and
    - iii) Team Building at Parc Bryn Bach.

- The Library Service has continued to support prosperity across the borough over 2024/25. We have continued to develop our partnership work with the Regeneration Department to increase footfall into town centres, through supporting family events in the high street. Events were delivered in libraries linked to the themes of the events.

- Bedwellty House & Parc Bryn Bach partner with a variety of local business in purchasing produce, milk, ice cream, fruit & vegetables, brewery, honey and coffee, all purchased from local suppliers.

- Both sites partner with local providers to operate sessions from the sites such as Louby Lou Story Telling, Mini Movers, Local Musicians, Little Dragon Pizza Van, The Munch Stop and The Tex co. The parks utilise local providers to operate events and workshops where possible to support.

- The Tredegar Arms Hotel are key partners when booking rooms for wedding couples and actors when dining events with special guests are organised.

- Partnerships with BGCBC play team, Families First, Gwent Police, Tredegar Town Centre Manager, Blaenau Gwent Education to support the delivery of activities and events.

Marketing and Communications

The key objectives for the Trust for marketing and communications during 2024/25 were as follows:

1. Reinforce the Trust's charitable status and mission to improve community life and establish donation channels across all sites. Goal to achieve donations of £15,000 total.
2. Increase revenue at Parc Bryn Bach for catering, accommodation and activities. Desired outcome 10% increase over previous financial year (£767K) – £843,700.
3. Increase revenue at Bedwellty House and Park for catering, weddings and activities. Desired outcome 10% increase over previous financial year (£565K) – £621,500.
4. Meet Library Standards for 2024/25. Desired outcome – WG standards achieved.
5. Meet ACL enrolment, retention and attainment targets for Coleg Gwent.
6. Exceed income for 2023/24 (£2,714M) by 10% – £2,985,400.
7.

At the time of submitting this report, the end of year finances was yet to be advised, therefore achievement against targets cannot be quantified. In addition, the charitable status project was delayed due to the requirement of legally changing our name. This will be a priority in the next financial year to establish the Trust strategically to enable us to seek donations. A plan outlining the required steps to do this is with the SMT. Also, for footfall, some issues were encountered with the measuring of this, and an update is awaited.

- The USP (Unique Selling Point) for the Trust continues to be:

  'Aneurin Leisure Trust – working to improve community life by investing in local amenities and improving the appeal and facilities of Blaenau Gwent'.

  Targeting – all residents in Blaenau Gwent and communities close to Blaenau Gwent, and tourists visiting the area.

- Media used was restricted based on visibility of targets and ability to prove ROI through a meaningful budget and therefore, we maximised and prioritised the following channels:

  ✓ Social media
  ✓ On-site
  ✓ Website
  ✓ Signage
  ✓ Content creation

  Communication via the ALT app was limited due to it being controlled by a different department and its use being relevant to sport centre users.

- Key messaging for each of the sites was as follows:

  Parc Bryn Bach (PBB) – the hidden gem of Blaenau Gwent. The perfect location to experience nature at its best, have fun with the family and explore the wonders of Wales.

  Bedwellty House & Park (BHAP) – a vibrant venue for all occasions. Amazing heritage and beautiful grounds to explore or make your dreams come true.

  Sports Centres - the team at BG Life is committed to helping you achieve your goals and be the best version of yourself in terms of your health and mental wellbeing. With state-of-the-art gyms, full digital integration, swimming pools and 100s of classes each week, our flexible memberships provide you with the tools to achieve your goals.

  Adult Community Learning (ACL) – helping you to achieve your academic and professional goals.

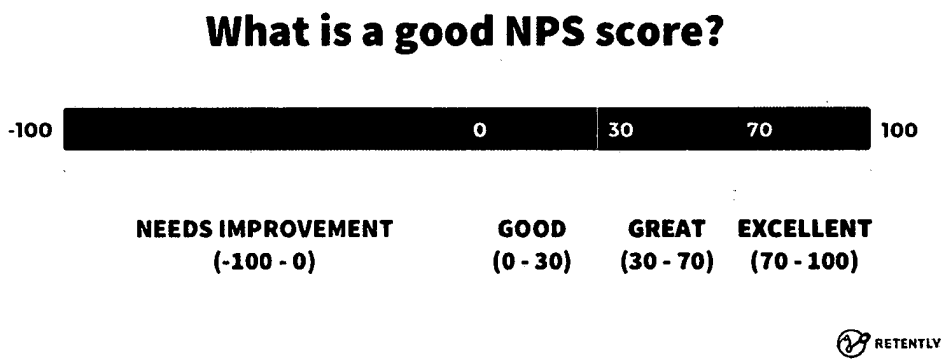
  Libraries – the heart of the community. A wealth of support and advice to enrich lives and expand horizons.

  Corporate – Aneurin Leisure Trust – working in partnership to improve community life.

Customer Insight/Satisfaction:

Our ongoing customer satisfaction monitored through a Net Promoter Score for each of the sites continued to be reviewed weekly and reported monthly, enabling us to monitor key issues prevailing within the different business sections.

Measurement of the NPS through Microsoft Forms is summarised based on the below scale:



Once again it should be noted that Adult Community Learning (ACL) and Libraries conduct ongoing research for Coleg Gwent and Welsh Government respectively. We believe that this is the key reason for limited responses in ACL in particular for Microsoft Forms, although we continue to encourage feedback through online and on-site mechanisms including providing each of the sites with feedback cards to give out to their customers.

In addition, due to the static nature of the NPS feedback for Parc Bryn Bach we have implemented another mechanism to encourage feedback which will be monitored in terms of efficacy and relevance given it is positioned in the Lake View Cafe.

NPS responses at the end of the financial year, March 2025 provided the following NPS scores for the different business units:

- Sports Centres – 3 – good
- Parc Bryn Bach – 25 – good
- BHAP – 84 - excellent
- Libraries – 92 – excellent
- ACL – 45 – great
- CKR – 92 – excellent

The NPS survey is anonymous, however, where customers have left contact details, we have gone back to them to address any concerns. For the sports centres, we have continued to provide ongoing 'You've Said. We've Done' communication through the app to address concerns and provide feedback to the comments provided.

It has been noted for the sports centres that the feedback is dropping off in terms of volume and the sports centre leads are considering how best to address this and to encourage staff to actively promote feedback. In addition, a number of the lower scores relate to issues outside of the control of the sports centres, e.g. parking.

Bedwellty House and Park (BHAP) / Parc Bryn Bach (PBB) – Google and Facebook Reviews:

Both BHAP and PBB have received consistent reviews on TripAdvisor of 4.5 and 4 respectively during the period April 2024 to March 2025, although PBB did drop briefly to 3.9 in March 2025; 4.7 and 4.5 on Facebook respectively and 4.6 on Google Reviews for both.
Examples of the comments are below.

BHAP

"Nice little park, has an excellent café. Some areas of the park especially the ponds needs some tlc but on the whole it's pretty good." (4)*
"What a beautiful place steeped in life changing history. Staff were incredibly friendly and helpful. Food was great. Thoroughly recommended for a visit." (5*)
"Interesting house and grounds. Food very nice albeit a limited menu." (4*)
"We attended a family wedding here on St David's day and could not fault the venue or staff. The venue is set in lovely, well-kept grounds, unfortunately the only thing that could not be controlled was the weather. The ceremony room was beautifully decorated for the actual vows. The reception room is a lovely size, not so large as to intimidate but conversely sizable enough to enable sufficient tables to the left for those with tired feet from dancing. Now moving on to the staff who were excellent. Nothing seemed too much trouble and even at the end of the evening the smiles were as broad as at the start. I would recommend the venue without hesitation, of course as a guest I have no idea as to cost but from my perspective whatever it was it was worth it." (5*)
"Attended the 'Let's go girls' event. Absolutely brilliant time, loved every minute. Can't wait for another event and hopefully back again soon." (5*)

PBB

"Lovely walk around the lake with a nice hot chocolate in the cafe." (5*)
"Nice for a walk and brilliant for the kids. Will be down again soon." (5*)
"Brilliant place for a day out for all the family, you have to go and see for yourself. You won't be disappointed, always something going on at the weekends, the children will love it." (5*)
"Fabulous walk around the lake but getting more and more commercial which is a shame; it's spoiling the feel of the place." (5*)
"We love going to Bryn Bach Parc to take the dog for a walk around the lake, free parking, children's play area and a cafe." (5*)
"Great children's play area and a slide that toddlers can get to independently which you don't often see! Lovely lake with lots of ducks, only let down by the café. Bring food and drink if you can because the queue was constantly so long it was outside the building. Everyone in one queue for cold drinks, coffees, ice lollies and full meals. Not very well managed. Spent most of my time queuing to be honest! They either need some vending machines or an ice cream van! Only redeeming feature of the café is that they serve Big Dog Coffee." (3*)

Staff Satisfaction

The annual staff satisfaction survey was undertaken during July and August 2024 and reflected last year's survey to monitor changes in employee attitudes to the Trust.

Engagement last year dropped by 17% with 43% of staff responding. Of these, over 80% of respondents would recommend working for the Trust and over 70% felt that they had good job prospects, benefits, colleagues and the Trust was an all-round good employer.

Key themes from the survey were also highlighted, and an update to the actions from the survey are below:

Working Procedures

Confirmation that the **central support team** works to support the whole of the Trust.

Suggestions box – an online suggestion process (anonymous) has been implemented on the Trust's intranet site.

Training new employees. HR continues to investigate the feasibility of new employees undertaking their first week's employment as an induction across the different business areas.

Inconsistency of decision making – this has been raised to the SMT to ensure that they communicate, at least monthly, on the key projects currently being worked through.

Lack of security because of funding. This does not only affect the Trust but the majority of organisations and initiatives throughout Wales. For the Trust, the cost of energy has been a major factor in the reduction of the reserves that we had built up but the Directors and SMT are working tirelessly to secure new funding and implement ways to reduce our energy costs

It is through these **funding bids** that we can secure the resources for future investment, to grow the business and create a greater appeal for our commercial business areas, both across Blaenau Gwent and Wales. This was communicated in the end-of-year video to all staff.

Limited progression opportunities in some areas of the business. All staff have been encouraged to ensure their continuous professional development as a priority and to discuss their personal development with their line manager in 1-2-1s. The Trust has offered all staff the opportunity to undertake "Welsh in the Workplace" training. As a small Trust and due to the structure of our business it has been noted that staff do all their optional training in working hours, but the Trust will support staff with free learning resources through the LMS365 which has now been rolled out to all departments.

Working with family and friends. The Trust has a policy that a line manager does not manage a member of their family. As a close-knit community, it is difficult to address the issue of managing friends, however, should you feel that favouritism is being applied to certain team members, the HR department has strict working policies to ensure that everyone is treated equally and the need to follow these will be reinforced to all managers.

Holiday carry over. Staff have been advised that should they not be able to take their leave and require carrying over some of their leave, this is permissible, however, no holidays are automatically permitted to be carried over from one entitlement year to the next. On receipt of a written request from an employee to their SMT Manager, CDT will consider any request to carry over holidays, but this will be by exception only.

Planday. The issue of **tracking 'Time off in Lieu' (TOIL) and flexi on Planday** has been raised. Planday does include this within the 'Leave Accounts' section. All employees have been assigned the necessary TOIL or Flexi Accounts.

In addition, the issue of **advising rotas in advance** has been raised. This has been discussed with the SMT and greater notice, where possible, will be provided.

Wording of bereavement and sick leave letters. This has been revised where appropriate.

Maintenance. Our SLA with BGCBC is being reviewed and clarification is to be communicated.

Staff Benefits

The area of staff benefits was raised and the need to match BGCBC in terms of wages and benefits. The findings of the survey reiterated that we **do match BGCBC** in terms of **our Terms and Conditions, Grade and Pay Structure, annual pay increase** and our staff benefits are as follows:

- 26 days increasing to 31 days annual leave (pro-rata) after 5 years
- Local Government Pension Scheme
- Support to all staff through the free Employee Assistance Programme – Care First
- Free membership to the sports centres for contract employees
- 10% discount in the cafes at Bedwellty House, Parc Bryn Bach and Ebbw Vale sports centre
- Support of the Cycle2Work scheme offering discount on the purchase of bikes

The benefits are for Contracted staff only.

It was suggested that we publish an **annual pay timetable** highlighting all pay and cutoff dates by month. Some facilities already publish this on their Planday and the HR team is reviewing this.

Staffing Levels

The relevant senior managers have discussed staff rotas and strategies to ensure adequate cover for all shifts.

Communication

The importance of good communication internally is paramount.

Planday enables communications to be sent to all staff through their assigned email address within the platform. This is used regularly.

All staff are encouraged to review the intranet site and to actively follow the Trust's social media accounts and to review the Trust's website for up-coming events.

At the end of the financial year, through funding, funding was secured to install two electronic totems placed at Ebbw Vale and Tredegar Sports Centres which will enable us to share with staff, and the community, relevant communication materials for the Trust.

We are looking for additional funding for other sites and will continue to work with BGCBC on the libraries' screens.

Staff Briefings. The annual Christmas party has been used as a platform for staff updates. However, it was felt that as this did not encompass many staff, that an end-of-year video would be produced for all staff to view instead thus providing all employees with the opportunity to see the update.

We are, therefore, looking to produce an annual end-of-year video that will be shared on the intranet plus a mid-year review statement from the directors.

Resources for marketing. There is a limited budget for marketing communication. However, prior to each financial year, the marketing budget is analysed, based on what knowledge there is for the next financial year for each of the business units and a budget proposed to CDT. Each business area is approached in the same way. Part of the planning process is to ensure we promote key areas of the business that help us meet our vision to 'improve community life'. This includes both commercial and non-commercial communication.

Also, at the end of the FY, we secured funding to implement a **social media scheduling platform**. This is to assist the Trust with the need to expand our social media to include Welsh posts (and in some instance, platforms). A working group has been agreed of users of social media across the Trust and training is planned for all users in the early part of the next FY.

Format of the Survey

CDT has committed to reviewing the format of the survey in 2025.

Customer Insight

Aneurin Leisure Trust

At the beginning of the financial year, we undertook research with sports centre members and the wider Blaenau Gwent community to understand perceptions of the Aneurin Leisure Trust brand and values. The research was borne out of the need and desire for us to establish the Trust as a charitable organisation and to understand the link with Aneurin Leisure and the sports centres due to the adoption of 'Aneurin Leisure' as opposed to BG Life by the sport and fitness team. Whilst the 'Aneurin Leisure' name fits well with sports centres, it causes complications online, particularly with social media, for the Trust in the longer term.

The research highlighted the following key learnings:

Aneurin Leisure Trust

- Brand recognised with no overly negative perceptions
- Nothing specific relating to sport and fitness

BG Life

- Referenced sports centres rather than BG Life in terms of 'brands'
- 'Ambivalent' to the BG Life brand but we don't have any real evidence of this, but it did come above Aneurin Leisure in the recall of brands

In terms of next steps, it was agreed:

- The Trust brand would be developed to review and update the values and incorporate the word 'Trust' into the logo
- Develop guidelines for implementation
- BG Life would continue to be used by the sports centres (referring to sports centres rather than Aneurin Leisure), underpinned by the ALT brand and that guidelines would be progressed in the next financial year.

The Trust brand and logo have now been developed in terms of inclusion of 'Trust' into the logo and the overall communication has been reviewed and guidelines set down.

Parc Bryn Bach

During May 2024, we undertook customer engagement at PBB to help us understand what visitors to the park valued and to gain insight into what developments they would appreciate at the park. The insight has been evaluated and is being used as evidence in funding applications, including a lottery bid to develop one of the nature trails. News on this is awaited.

Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Officer within the Trust has had a positive and impactful effect on the Trust's activities and its partnership working.

Some key highlights include for this financial year include:

- **Carers and Young Carers Support** - ALT, in collaboration with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) Families First team, has continued its support for young carers by offering a variety of discounts at all ALT cafés and additional concessions on pay-as-you-go activities at Parc Bryn Bach. This initiative builds on the previous provision of 10 free swimming sessions (benefiting 38 young carers) and now includes fully funded memberships through a new partnership with NEWCIS.

  NEWCIS is one of the leading providers of carer services in Wales, offering a range of support for unpaid carers including counselling, financial advice, peer support, and respite care, through its award-winning 'Bridging the Gap Gwent' (BTGG) scheme. This scheme is available to both adult and young carers across Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen.

  Through the BTGG initiative, eligible carers in Blaenau Gwent now have access to all ALT sports centre facilities via funded memberships. Furthermore, the Family Bridging the Gap Gwent (FBTGG) component provides carers with up to £400 to spend on food, drink, and activities at Bedwellty House and Park and Parc Bryn Bach. To date, 11 carers have received sports centre funded memberships totalling £3,757 through NEWCIS, though exact figures for FBTGG disbursements are unavailable due to direct payments.

Additionally, planning is underway to enhance the use of polytunnels at PBB to grow plants and vegetables, creating hands-on opportunities for young carers and their families to engage in sustainable practices and promote wellbeing.

- **Community Kit Room (CKR)** – The Community Kit Room, operated by the sports development team, continues to thrive and gain recognition. It was recently shortlisted for the BASIS awards (top 5 out of 80 nominees) and has expanded its reach through strategically placed donation bins across all Trust sites and The Den.

  Key achievements include:
  - Collaborations with BGCBC Waste Team to open a second CKR at Tredegar Sports Centre.
  - Installation of 29 donation bins across schools, sports clubs, and community venues.
  - Plans to increase visibility through CKR-branded banners.
  - Sharing good practice with other local authorities, such as Torfaen CBC and Pembrokeshire County Council, inspired to replicate the initiative.
  - Introduction of donation weighing to quantify environmental impact and contribution to Blaenau Gwent's recycling targets.
  - Support from the community, including a £200 donation from a Tredegar quiz club.
  - Creative collaboration with the Youth Service and local artist Antony Smith to design a graffiti mural on the CKR container at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, to take place in early 2025/26.

  To date, the CKR initiative has supported 433 individuals with 956 items of sportswear distributed.

- **Tomcat Trike Partnership** – ALT has established a valuable partnership with Tomcat Trikes, hosting an exhibition at Parc Bryn Bach to assist disabled users. This collaboration has generated interest from the Angelman Society, who plan to use the site for future outdoor activities. The initial 2024 event was highly successful, and a follow-up event is scheduled for May 2025.

- **Tennis Court** Refurbishment – ALT worked closely with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) post refurbishment of the tennis courts at Bedwellty House and Park and is exploring the recruitment and training of volunteers to deliver free community tennis sessions.

- **Community Engagement and Events** – the community engagement officer actively participated in numerous community events to promote services and build relationships, including: Freshers' Fayre and Health & Wellbeing Days at Coleg Gwent; Cefn Golau Community Event; Men's Mental Health Event (Blaina); Coed Cae Community Housing Event; National Play Day and Family Fun Day at Parc Bryn Bach; Go Wild in Torfaen; Bridges+ Event in Ebbw Vale; Education Showcase Event at the General Offices; 999 Day at Parc Bryn Bach; Blaenau Gwent Schools Grand Council; Antenatal Baby Shower and International Women's Day (Ebbw Vale)

- **Food Bank Appeals** - The 2023 festive food bank appeal marked the fourth year of the initiative, with 10 clubs collaborating to combat food insecurity. The campaign supported 10 distribution points, including food banks and community houses. David Spear Commercial Vehicles once again contributed by providing logistics support. The appeal continues to grow year-on-year, having started with just four clubs. ALT launched its first Summer Food Bank Appeal in 2024, engaging eight clubs.

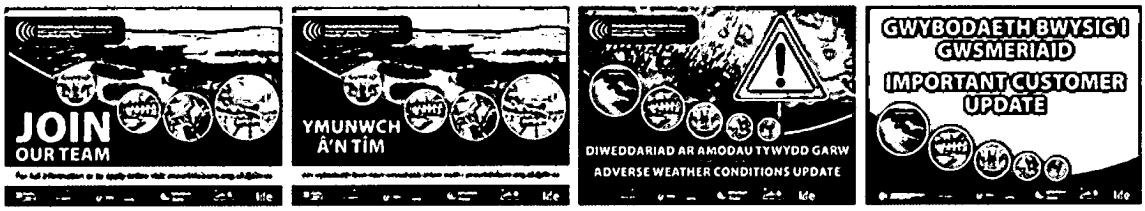
- **Children Looked After (CLA) Programme** – at the end of the financial year, ALT started exploring how to support the CLA programme and ALT will soon begin offering 10 free swimming sessions for Children Looked After. Referrals will be coordinated by education professionals and managed by the Community Engagement Officer.

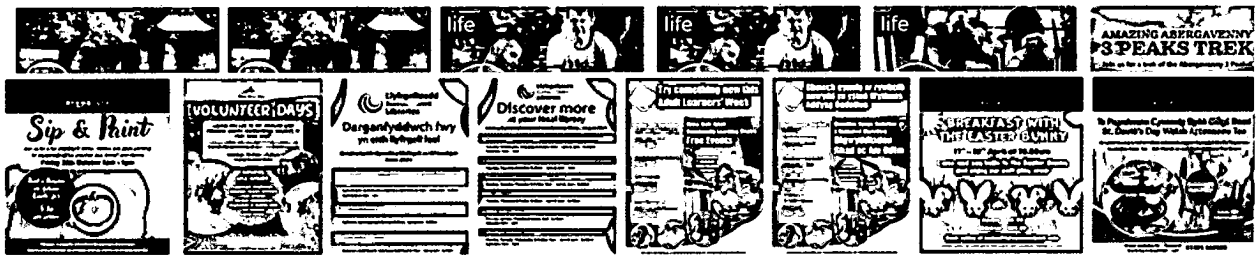
- **Active Travel** – ALT has supported the installation of new active travel infrastructure across key sites including Tredegar Sports Centre, Bedwellty House and Park, and Parc Bryn Bach. The community engagement officer continues to work closely with the Active Travel Team to enhance access and sustainability in local travel options.

Communication Support

In the period April to March, the marketing and communications team undertook 443 individual jobs supporting all business sites. This is in addition to the 230 ad-hoc social media requests from across the business.

A selection of the work undertaken is shown below.





Other key projects undertaken in the second half of the financial year include:

- Development of the Trust's logo and brand guidelines. A summary of the key issues pertaining to us promoting the Trust as a charity is with the SMT to review to ensure that we have a solid basis on which to promote the Trust to gain donations. The guidelines for the Trust, particularly the new logo featuring the full brand name, has been implemented with guidelines supporting its implementation. This is with all SMT members to ensure that their business areas adopt the logo asap where possible. It is noted that there will be a long tail of replacement of the logo across the Trust where there are cost implications in doing so (e.g. signage).

- Welsh language development – during the 2023/24 financial year the Trust undertook signage improvements to ensure that key signage at PBB was bilingual. Following the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office's (WLCO) complaint procedure, a strategy and subsequent action plan was agreed with BGCBC and the WLCO. This included all websites for the Trust being available in Welsh and English, ensuring that all event communication includes reference to the fact that they will be conducted in English (unless they are in Welsh), adoption of the Loomly social media management platform for rollout to all users across the Trust (FY2025/26), with clear guidelines which the SMT has reference of to discuss with their teams, on what needs to be done bilingually and what does not, the creation of a bank of translation which is housed on the marketing intranet site for everyone to reference and use. In addition, we have continued to be guided by BGCBC's partnership team and their Welsh policy officers have been supportive of the libraries in particular, to ensure that frontline staff are aware of their legal obligations when meeting members of the public. The rollout of this is with SMT operational managers to adopt for other areas of the business which are customer focused. Our online recruitment platform is available in Welsh, with Welsh language abilities being desirable for all jobs advertised. Welsh in the Workplace training has been made available to all staff free of charge, to be undertaken in their own time. There is a query over this, following the BGCBC's Welsh policy officer's presentation given the legal obligation of organisations to allow staff to do it during work time. These actions concluded in the WLCO closing the complaint against the Trust.

- Attended the National Education Show in Cardiff to promote the facilities of Parc Bryn Bach and Bedwellty House and Park to schools. The engagement was excellent and has resulted in new schools visiting both parks for their educational facilities.

- The implementation of updated communication and signage was completed to reflect the new phones numbers assigned to each business site by BGCBC.

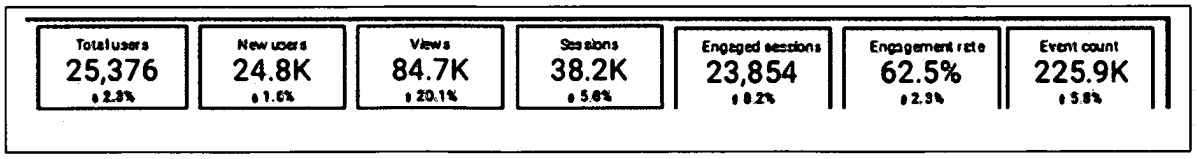
- Working with BGCBC, the new Abertillery Library and Adult Community Learning Centre was opened at Trinity Chapel, involving a launch event. The internal dressing and signage have been updated to reflect the library and learning's activities, and the communal areas reflect the Trust's different business areas.

Working in Partnership

- In addition to the work of the Community Engagement Officer, the Trust Is actively involved with the Local Wellbeing Partnership, the Local Nature Partnership (Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen), the Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership, southeast Wales Tourism, the Blaenau Gwent Destination Management Group, Dewis and the Independent Wellbeing Network.

Websites' Overview

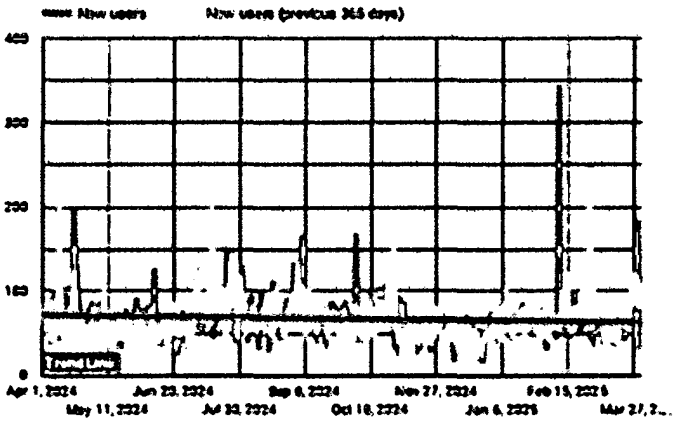
Aneurin Leisure Trust Website Analytics



During this financial year, the Aneurin Leisure Trust website was visited by 25,376 people who viewed the website 84,700 times.

38,200 sessions were started on the website by visitors, while 23,854 (62.5%) of those 'engaged sessions' lasted longer than 10 seconds and saw the user view at least 2 pages.

Throughout the year, there were 225,900 scrolling events (people scrolling through pages to view the information) and the website gained an engagement rate of 62.5% which is above the average of 55% and illustrates the website is well received and used.



The above chart illustrates the number of users over the year, illustrating a high number of new users.

During the 2024/25 financial year, the Welsh version of the ALT website had a total of 94 views.

	Traffic Source	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Organic Search	14,668	6.3%
2.	Direct	7,768	14.5%
3.	Organic Social	2,168	-37.1%
4.	Referral	639	-42.6%
5.	Unassigned	511	305.6%

The above chart illustrates how users found the website during the financial year.

- Most of the traffic to the website comes from organic search, with 14,668 people finding the website via a search engine such as Google, up year-on-year.
- 7,768 people visited the website directly, either through a bookmark or typing in the website address to their browser, up year-on-year.
- 2,168 people came to the site via organic social media, either using links in posts, tweets, Instagram stories or links provided in the bio or profile pages, down 37.1% year-on-year.
  Traffic from social media was predominantly Facebook and Instagram.
- Referrals to the ALT website came from various sources, with most coming from BG Inthistogether, BGCBC, BG Life, Gwelco and JtoGo recruitment.

	Page title	Total	% Δ
1.	[illegible]	8,826	[illegible]
2	[illegible]	4,729	[illegible]
3.	[illegible]	3,926	[illegible]
4	[illegible]	2,587	[illegible]
5	[illegible]	2,493	[illegible]
6	[illegible]	2,358	[illegible]
7.	[illegible]	1,636	[illegible]
8	[illegible]	1,187	[illegible]
9.	[illegible]	1,171	[illegible]
10	[illegible]	1,102	[illegible]
11.	[illegible]	763	[illegible]
12	[illegible]	360	[illegible]
13	[illegible]	334	[illegible]
14	[illegible]	331	[illegible]
15	[illegible]	319	[illegible]
16	[illegible]	424	[illegible]
17.	[illegible]	413	[illegible]
18	[illegible]	413	[illegible]
19	[illegible]	410	[illegible]
20	[illegible]	378	[illegible]

The summary above illustrates the most popular pages viewed during the financial year, once again showing a good mix of all business areas. Events were sixth highest reflecting the strong interest in the wide range of activities run by the Trust but the highest overall was for the libraries and ACL which, as the only website for these areas of the Trust, is to be expected.

BG Life Website Analytics

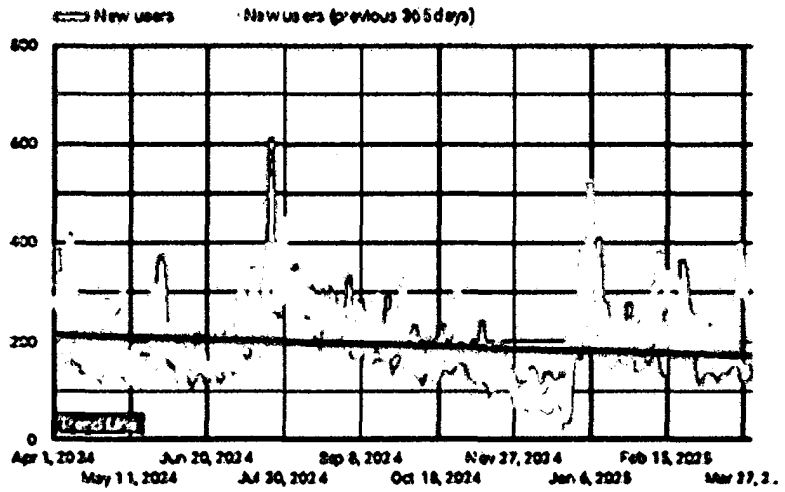
Total users	New users	Views	Sessions	Engaged sessions	Engagement rate	Event count
71,987	70.0K	317.1K	139.6K	86,134	61.7%	804.9K
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

During this financial year, the BG Life website was visited by 71,987 people who viewed the website 317,100 times.

139,600 sessions were started on the website by visitors, while 86,134 (c62%) of those 'engaged sessions' lasted longer than 10 seconds and saw the user view at least 2 pages.

Throughout the year, there were 804,900 scrolling events (people scrolling through pages to view the information) and the website gained an engagement rate of 61.7% which is above the average of 55%. The statistics are very encouraging and illustrate the efficacy of the website's UX. It should also be noted that a number of people are using the ALT website to access the BG Life website. It is anticipated that with the refocus of the sports centres brand to BG Life this will see more direct traffic.

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



The chart above illustrates the number of users for the financial year, illustrating a steady flow of new users. There was an unsurprising dip over the winter/Christmas period

	Traffic Source	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Organic Search	51,233	-3.0% ↓
2.	Direct	14,190	-11.9% ↓
3.	Organic Social	4,616	26.2% ↑
4.	Referral	3,091	-15.9% ↓
5.	Unassigned	825	1.5% ↑

The above chart illustrates how users found the BG Life website during this financial year.

- Most of the traffic to the website comes from organic search, with 51,233 people finding the website via a search engine such as Google.
- 14,190 people visited the website directly, either through a bookmark or typing in the website address to their browser.
- 4,616 people came to the site via organic social media, either using links in posts, tweets, Instagram stories or links provided in the bio or profile pages.
- 2,969 people visited the website from the Aneurin Leisure Trust site.
- 825 visits were through unassigned methods.

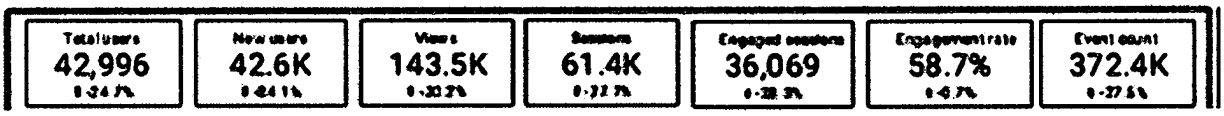
In addition, analytics show that traffic from social media was mainly Facebook and Instagram.

	Page title	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Swimming	34,998	-13.6% ↓
2	Life	33,052	-7.9% ↓
3	Bobby Vale Sports Centre	22,378	-9.2% ↓
4	Temporary Swimming Timetables	14,487	-5.8% ↓
5.	Membership	9,523	-8.9% ↓
6	Classes	6,504	-8.6% ↓
7	Abertillery Sports Centre	6,888	-6.1% ↓
8	Pontypool Sports Centre	5,137	-21.7% ↓
9	Contact Us	4,119	-16.4% ↓
10	Gyms	3,466	-6.9% ↓
11	Hydro	1,739	-
12	Christmas Opening Times 2024/25	1,622	-
13	Sports Centres	1,548	-60.5% ↓
14	Local Clubs	1,123	-1.1% ↓
15	Events	1,110	-
16	Half Term Activities February 2025	1,011	-
17.	FAQs	893	3.6% ↑
18	Bank Holiday Opening Times 2024	706	-
19	About Us	705	7.8% ↑
20	Queries	676	-20.9% ↓
21	Christmas Opening Times	619	-7.0% ↓

The above listings illustrate the most popular pages viewed during this financial year, with the highest page views on swimming and the home page. The membership page also rated highly plus the individual sports centre pages. Hyrox has continued to be popular along with tactical pages including Christmas opening hours and temporary swimming timetables, implemented for the holiday seasons.

Hyrox has also proven to be popular, along with information on local clubs and the community kit room. The Welsh website for BG Life had 426 views in this financial year.

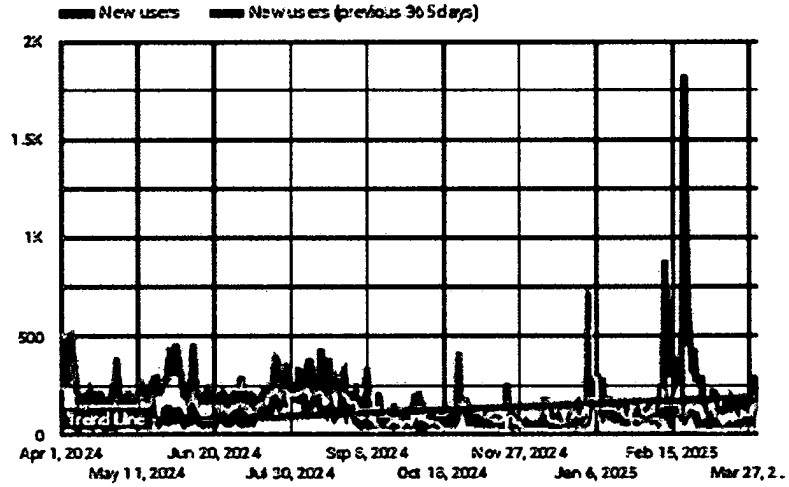
PBB Website Analytics



During this financial year, the PBB website was visited by 42,996 people who viewed the website 143,600 times.

61,400 sessions were started on the website by visitors, while 36,069 (59%) of those 'engaged sessions' lasted longer than 10 seconds and saw the user view at least 2 pages.

There were 372,400 scrolling events (people scrolling through pages to view the information) and the website gained an engagement rate of 58.7% which is above the average of 55%. Once again good statistics.



The chart above illustrates the number of users for the financial year, highlighting peaks at the start of the February half term and Easter.

	Traffic Source	Total	% Δ
1.	Organic Search	19,114	-34.9%
2.	Direct	12,318	-28.5%
3.	Organic Social	10,524	17.4%
4.	Referral	932	-32.7%
5.	Unassigned	626	-28.2%
6.	Email	2	-90.0%

The above chart illustrates how users found the PBB website this financial year.

- Most of the traffic to the website comes from organic search, with 19,114 people finding the website via a search engine such as Google.
- 12,318 people visited the website directly, either through a bookmark or typing in the website address to their browser.
- 10,524 people came to the site via organic social media, either using links in posts, tweets, Instagram stories or links provided in the bio or profile pages.
- 922 people visited the website via a link from another website, predominantly from the Aneurin Leisure Trust site with listing referrals, gov.wales, DofEand Booking Hound.
- Email provided traffic in a very small amount and is reflective of the email campaigns we undertook, due to data sourcing and the lack of a CRM tool. This was related to an OWS survey done.

Traffic from social media was again predominantly Facebook and Instagram.

	Page title	Total	% Δ
1.	Parc Bryn Bach	23,187	-35.5%
2.	Go Karts – Parc Bryn Bach	5,270	-33.2%
3.	Cafe – Parc Bryn Bach	4,915	-28.8%
4.	Family Fun – Parc Bryn Bach	4,165	-19.0%
5.	Contact – Parc Bryn Bach	3,978	-42.7%
6.	Wellbeing Workhub – Parc Bryn Bach	3,686	25.9%
7.	February Fun this Half Term – Parc Bryn Bach	3,214	-
8.	Stay with Us – Parc Bryn Bach	2,730	-34.4%
9.	Driving Range – Parc Bryn Bach	2,710	-27.7%
10.	Events – Parc Bryn Bach	2,206	-51.9%
11.	Staycation – Parc Bryn Bach	1,801	-25.9%
12.	Open Water Swimming – Parc Bryn Bach	1,712	-54.1%
13.	Summer Activities 2024 – Parc Bryn Bach	1,684	-
14.	Opening Hours – Parc Bryn Bach	1,284	-
15.	Sugar Loaf at Sunset Experience – Parc Bryn Bach	1,191	-
16.	Fishing – Parc Bryn Bach	925	-36.3%
17.	Nature Reserve – Parc Bryn Bach	845	-24.8%
18.	Paddlesports Self Launch – Parc Bryn Bach	822	-52.5%
19.	Education & Training – Parc Bryn Bach	818	-51.7%
20.	Stand Up Paddleboarding – Parc Bryn Bach	762	-51.0%

The summary above illustrates the most popular pages viewed, with the highest page views on the home page and go-karts. The cafe and Family Fun pages were also popular along with the Wellbeing Workhub which has seen continuous use through the year and other key activities for the summer including staying at PBB. The local nature reserve also featured in the top 20 reflecting the work undertaken by the grounds team and the BG biodiversity team.

The Welsh website for PBB was introduced in September 2024 and has had 135 views this financial year.

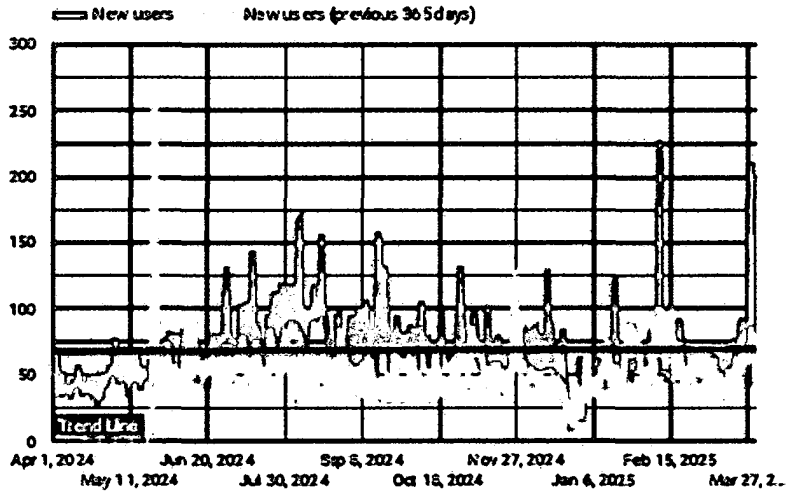
Bedwellty House and Park Website Analytics



For this financial year 25,780 people visited the website with 78,000 views.

37,400 sessions were started on the website by visitors, while 23,900 (64%) of those 'engaged sessions' lasted longer than 10 seconds and saw the user view at least 2 pages.

There were 214,300 scrolling events (people scrolling through pages to view the information) and the website gained an engagement rate of 62.5% which is above the average of 55%.



The chart above illustrates the number of users this financial year. The chart illustrates the number of new users which was consistent throughout the year illustrating the appeal of the park's facilities.

	Traffic Source	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Organic Search	15,274	57.3%
2.	Direct	6,024	43.5%
3.	Organic Social	3,803	34.1%
4.	Referral	503	15.9%
5.	Unassigned	218	489.2%

The above chart illustrates how users found the BHAP website this financial year.

- Most of the traffic to the website comes from organic search, with 15,274 people finding the website via a search engine such as Google.
- 6,024 people visited the website directly, either through a bookmark or typing in the website address to their browser.
- 3,803 people came to the site via organic social media, either using links in posts, tweets, Instagram stories or links provided in the bio or profile pages.
- 503 people visited the website via a link from another website, the top three being BGCBC, Visit Wales and ALT.
- 145 visits were through unassigned methods.

Social Media traffic was predominantly Facebook and Instagram with some from TripAdvisor. The Bedwellty House and Park website isn't monitored for Welsh use.

	Page title	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Bedwellty House & Park	14,764	23.4% ↑
2.	Events at Bedwellty House and Park	6,807	33.2% ↑
3.	Orchid House Tea Room	4,137	8.3% ↑
4.	Weddings and Civil Ceremonies at Bedwellty House and Park	2,925	25.1% ↑
5.	Calendar	1,999	-8.5% ↓
6.	Special Occasions	1,620	47.4% ↑
7.	About Us	1,501	241.1% ↑
8.	Contact Us at Bedwellty House and Park	1,417	57.4% ↑
9.	Things to do	908	-
10.	Santa Visit – Bedwellty House & Park	905	204.7% ↑
11.	History/Heritage	694	25.5% ↑
12.	Breakfast with Santa – Bedwellty House & Park	631	124.6% ↑
13.	Christmas Party Night: Noughts & Crosses – Bedwellty House & Park	611	-
14.	Registrar Services at Bedwellty House and Park	411	221.1% ↑
15.	Meet the staff at Bedwellty House and Park	399	14.3% ↑
16.	Baby Showers and Children's Parties	375	-6.0% ↓
17.	Christmas Market – Bedwellty House & Park	352	9.4% ↑
18.	Fawlty Towers The Dining Experience – Bedwellty House & Park	357	750.0% ↑
19.	Educational Opportunities at Bedwellty House and Park	307	29.5% ↑
20.	Business Events and Team Building	297	40.1% ↑

The summary above illustrates the most popular pages viewed during this financial year, with the highest page views on the home page and events. The tearoom and weddings were also popular along with the calendar of events and About Us and our contact page.

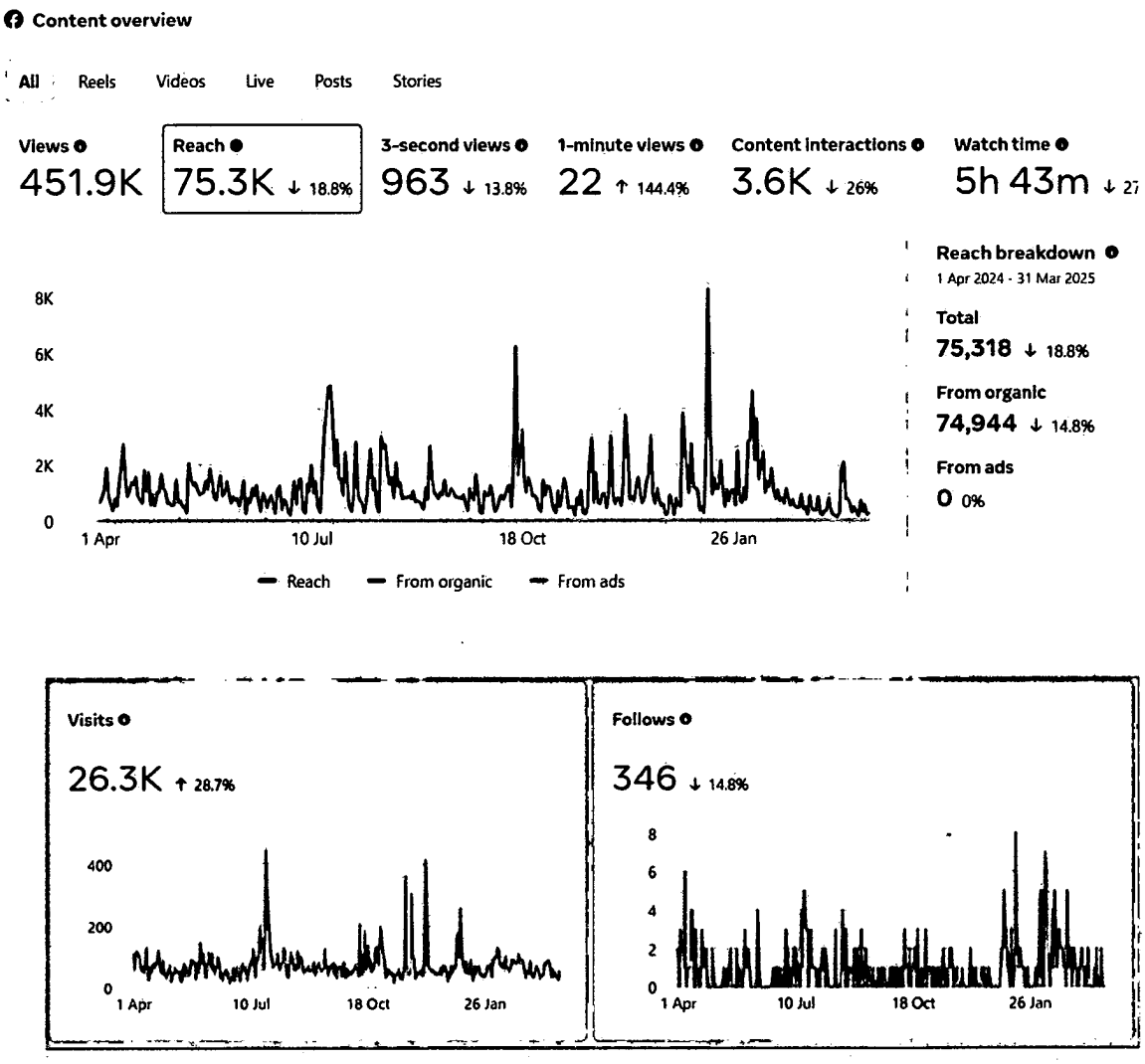
Social Media Overview

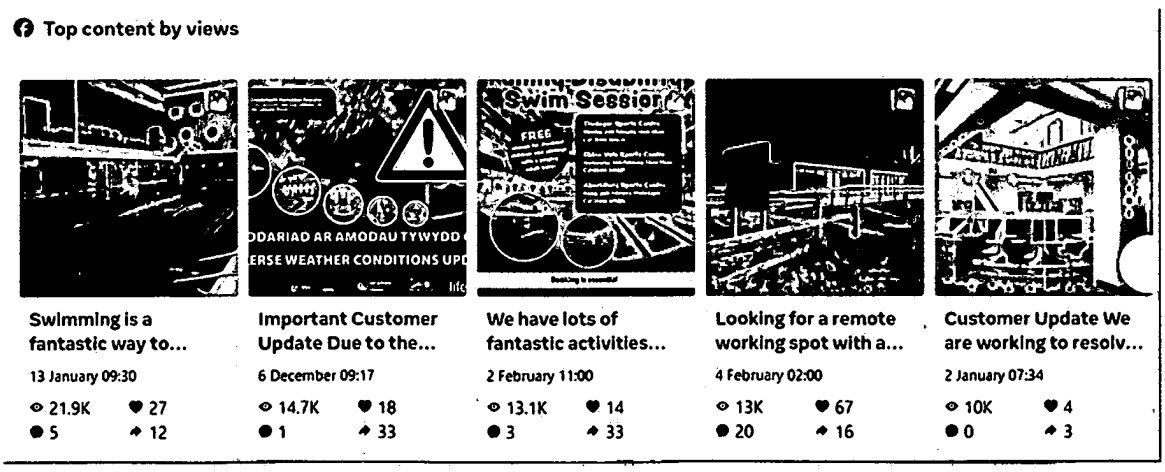
Across the Trust's main business areas, we use Facebook, Instagram and X to engage with the community. There has been, and continues to be, limited interaction with the X platform and the results below focus on Facebook and Instagram. During the next financial year, we will be looking to move away from X and we will be exploring the use of Bluesky.

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
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Aneurin Leisure Trust's Social Media

Facebook

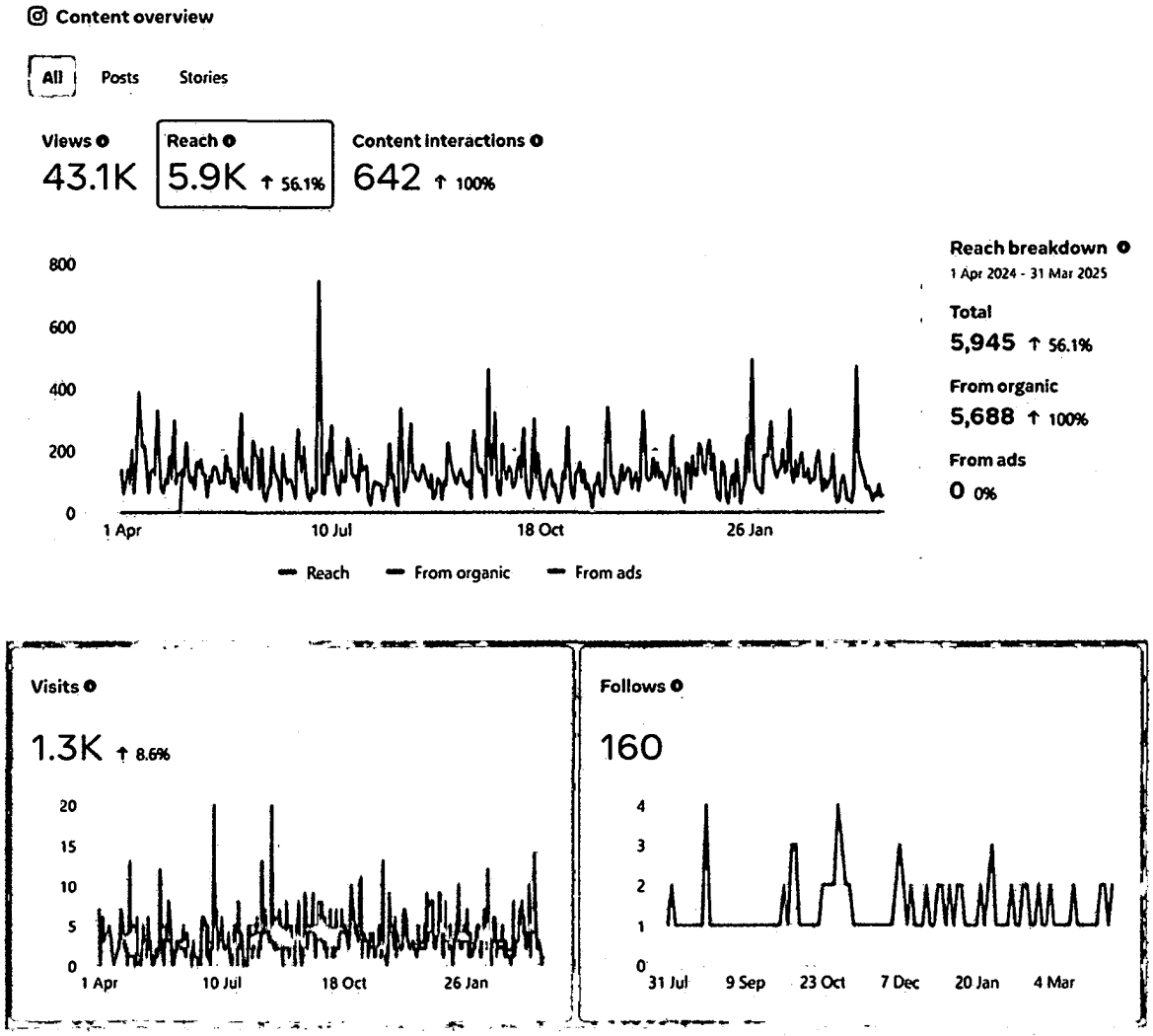




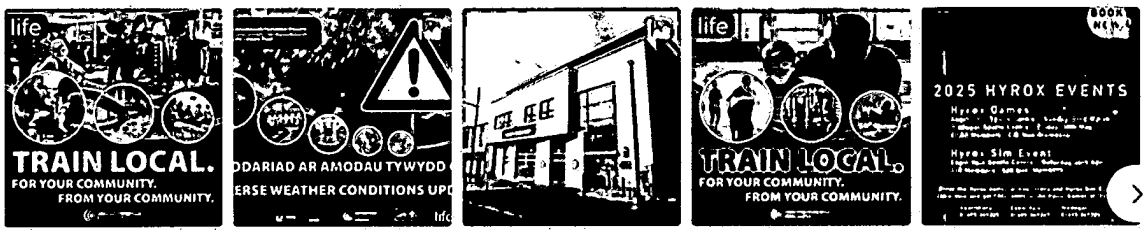
Reach for the Trust's Facebook page was down 18.8% during this financial year. Throughout the year our ALT Facebook content reached over 75K people and received almost 452K views. We gained 346 new followers, and our profile page received 26K visits.

Two posts on swimming sessions were in the top 5 posts (reaching 34K people), driving traffic through to our website to view our swimming timetables. Customer updates on weather warnings at the parks and heating issues at Ebbw Vale Library were also popular, while a post on the WBWH at Parc Bryn Bach topped the charts for reactions and shares.

Instagram



Top content by reach



Kick Off Your Week with a Local...	Important Customer Update Due to the...	Customer Update Due to essential...	Let's Get Moving, Blaenau Gwent! ...	We are excited to announce that this...
27 January 02:00	6 December 09:17	18 March 03:00	14 February 02:00	5 February 06:00
550 ♥ 3 ● 0 ↗ 4	445 ♥ 6 ● 0 ↗ 1	411 ♥ 4 ● 0 ↗ 0	354 ♥ 7 ● 0 ↗ 2	317 ♥ 10 ● 1 ↗ 1

into the top 5 most popular posts of the year. Other popular posts included the announcement of the 2025 Hyrox events at our sports centres and customer updates for the parks and adult community learning.

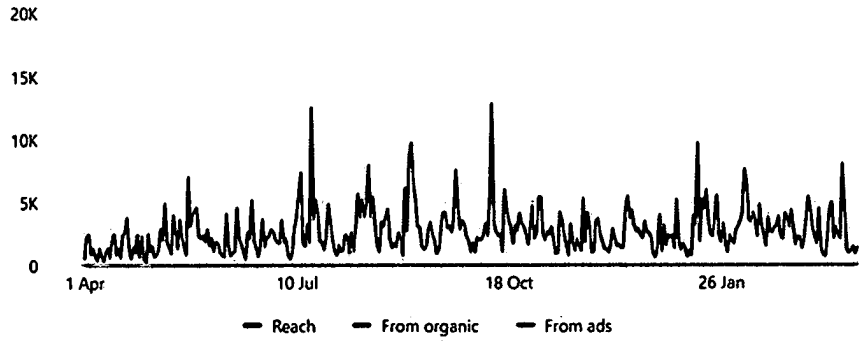
BG Life's Social Media

Facebook

Content overview

All | Reels | Videos | Live | Posts | Stories

Views	Reach	3-second views	1-minute views	Content interactions	Watch time
1.3M	154.4K ↑ 55.2%	32.4K ↑ 113.8%	1.1K ↑ 60.6%	14.2K ↑ 51.6%	7d 23h ↑ 1



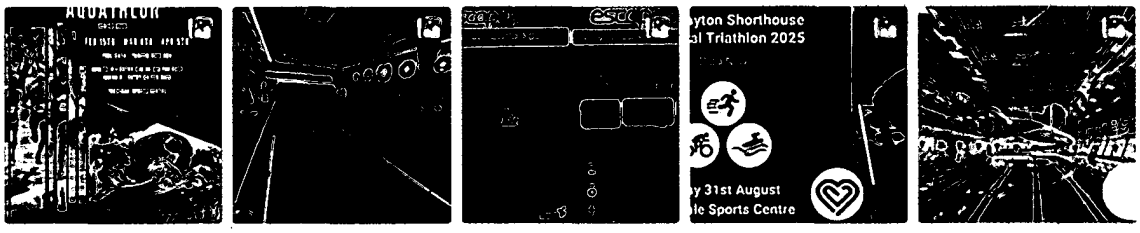
Reach breakdown
1 Apr 2024 - 31 Mar 2025

Total
154,426 ↑ 55.2%

From organic
150,850 ↑ 57.4%

From ads
0 0%

Top content by reach

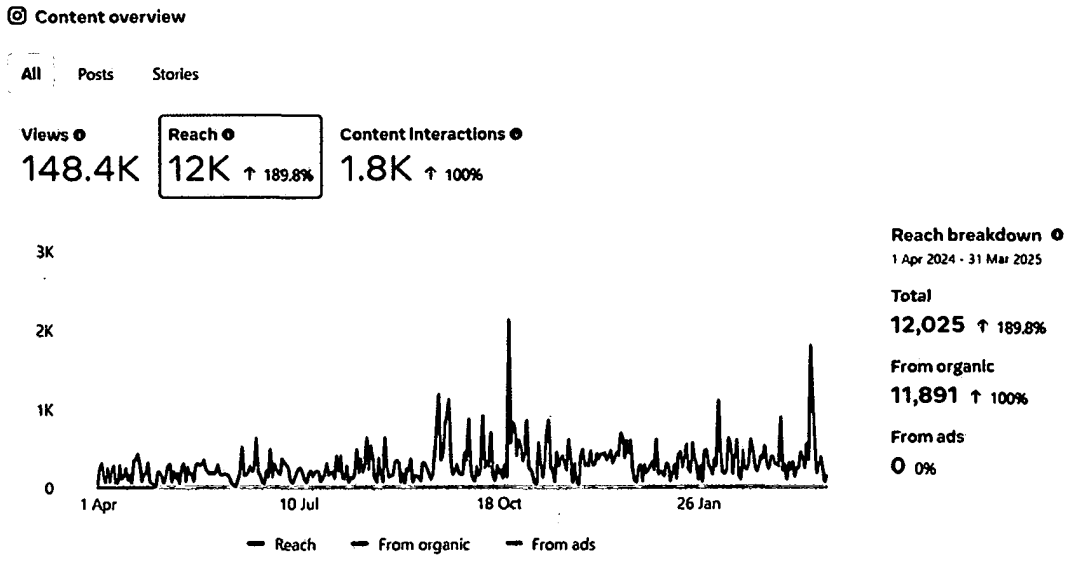


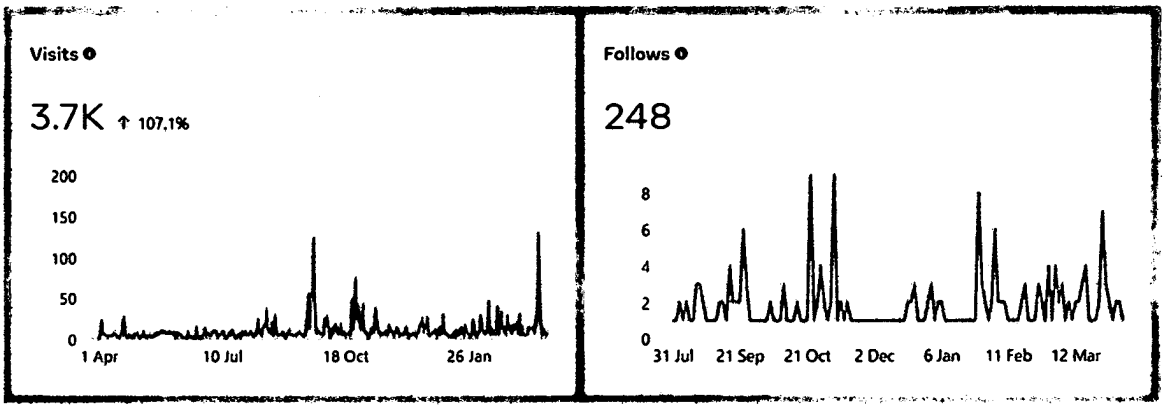
Facebook performance has improved across all metrics this financial year. Our content reached 154K people (an increase of 55% on last year) and received over 1 million views. We gained 433 new followers and had 60K profile visits (up 40% on last year).

Our most popular post of the year was the announcement of the Frosty Aquathlon Series at Tredegar sports centre, closely followed by the Clayton Shorthouse Memorial Triathlon at Ebbw Vale sports centre (which also had the most shares and reactions). Other very popular posts included information on adult swimming lessons, swimming timetables and pain management.

The impressive increase in video metrics is no doubt down to the regular content shared from our various Hyrox classes across all our sports centres. The most popular videos were the Christmas Hyrox class at Abertillery (watched 533 times) and a video from the International Women's Day event at Ebbw Vale (watched 324 times).

Instagram





Top content by reach

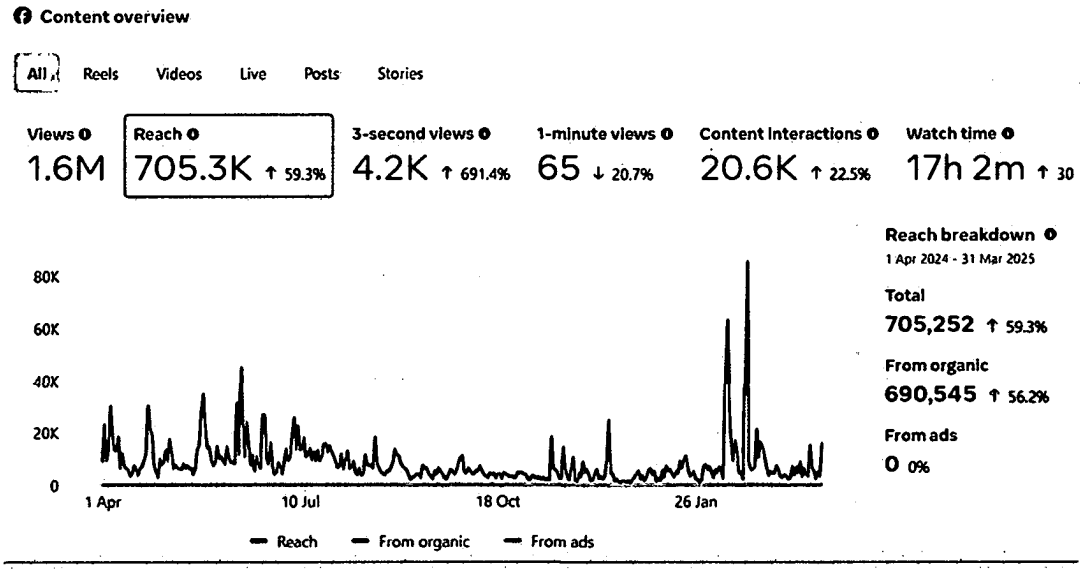


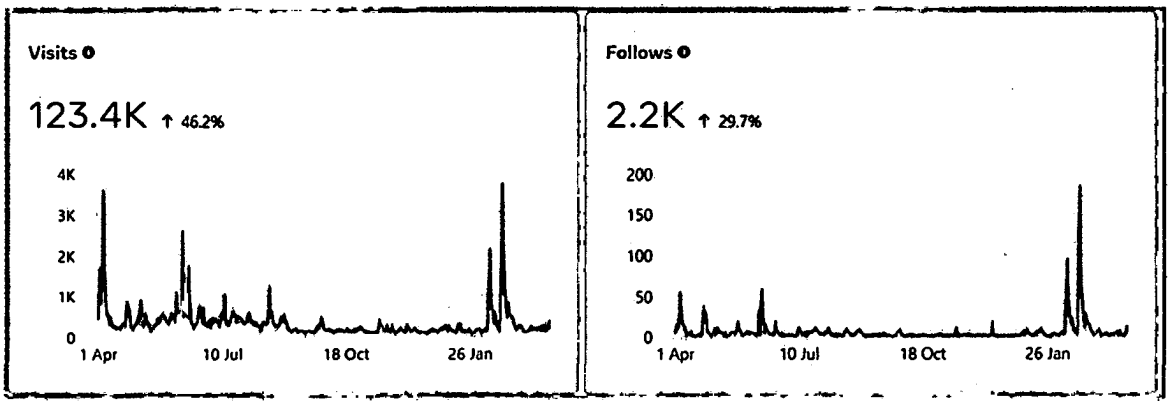
ASC HYROX GAMES Well done, Hyrox...	#WeAreHyrox We are excited to announce...	Happy International Women's Day - Why...	Join us at Abertillery Sports...	Team ASC Hyrox #hyroxgamesprep...
23 March 07:14	5 February 01:40	8 March 02:09	18 December 07:37	23 January 08:37
2.5K 105 0 4	1.2K 28 3 6	1.1K 31 2 2	728 10 0 2	702 28 1 0

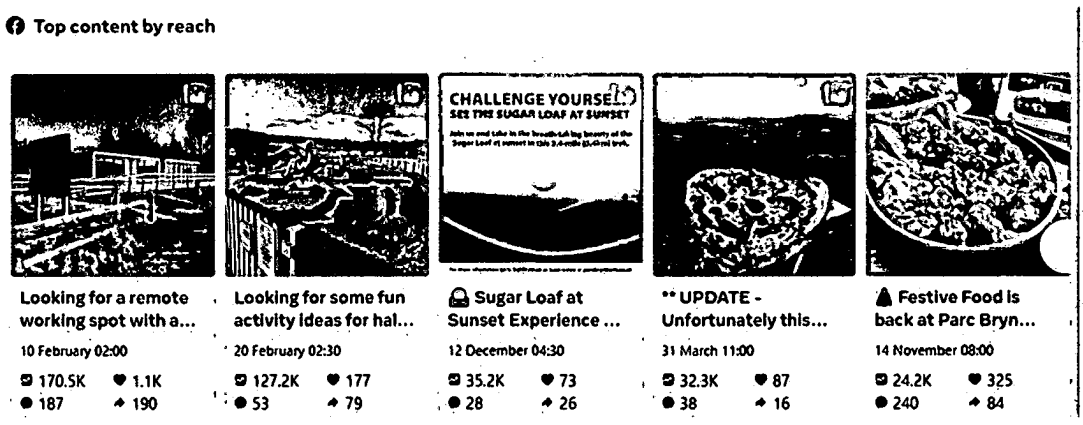
Instagram performance has also increased across the board, with a 189% increase in reach, 100% increase in content interactions and 107% increase in profile visits. We have also gained 248 new followers. The top 3 reels were the Hyrox Games at Abertillery, Team ASC Hyrox preparing for the games and the early morning Friday Hyrox class at Ebbw Vale.

Parc Bryn Bach's Social Media

Facebook



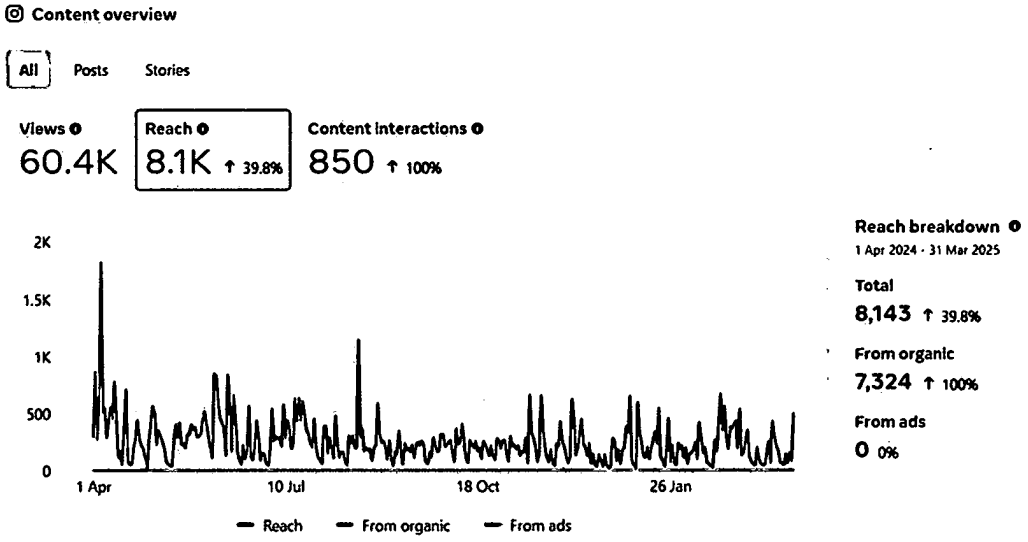


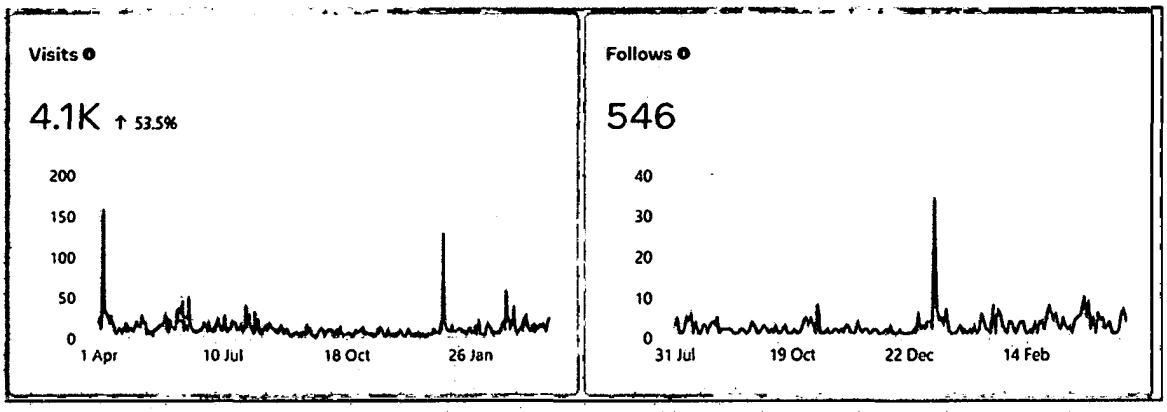


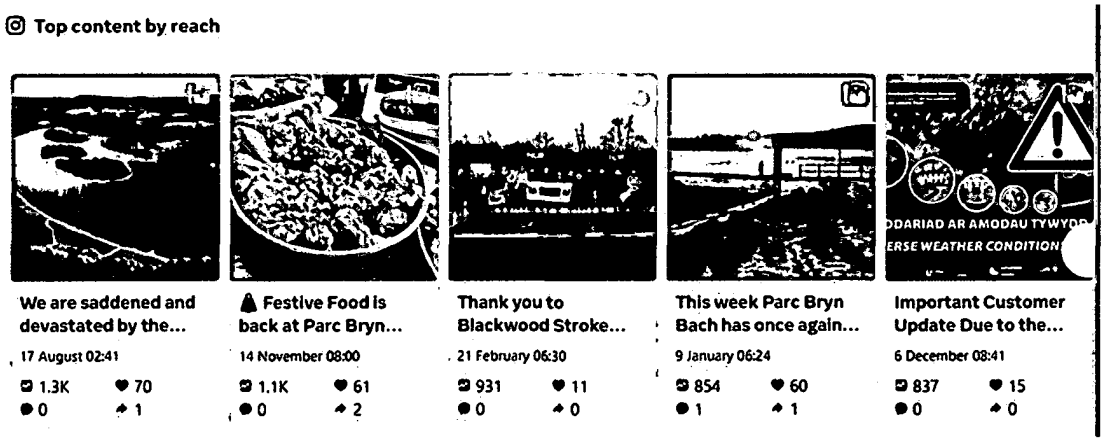
The majority of Facebook metrics showed an increase on last year, with content reaching 705K people (up 59%) and achieving 1.6 million views. We gained 2.2K new followers (up 29% on last year) and received 123K profile visits (up 46%). Video performance was mixed, with 3-second video views increasing by 691%, thanks to two Christmas reels that received 1,100 views (and were watched 227 times), and the LNR grounds team video (produced by VRP) which received 425 views. However, 1-minute views decreased by 20%, despite the LNR video being watched 157 times and receiving 35 1-minute views.

A post promoting the Wellbeing Work Hub and its incredible views of the park was the most popular, reaching 170K people and generating the highest number of link clicks to the website (1.6K), highest number of reactions (1.4K) and highest number of post shares (186). Other popular posts included activity ideas for the February half term (which reached 127K people and had the second highest number of link clicks), info on the Sugarloaf Sunset Experience as well as announcements on food updates for the park.

Instagram



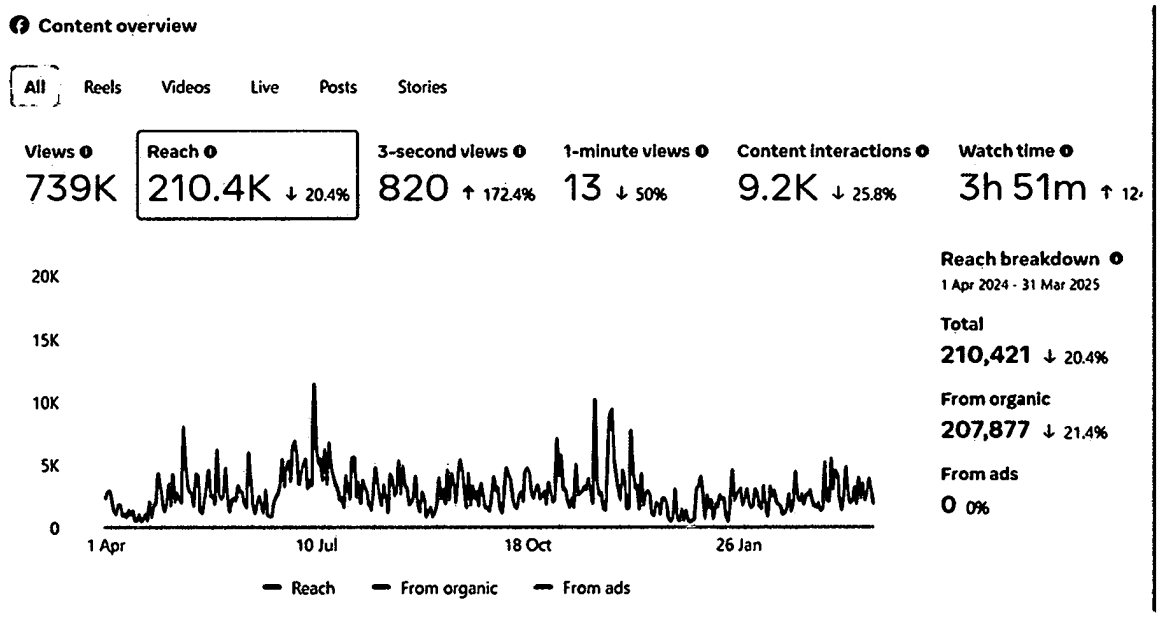


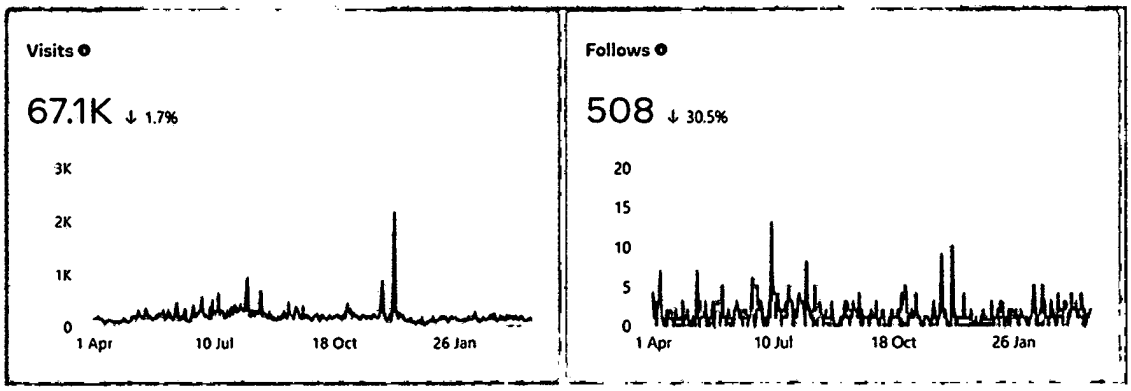


Instagram performance also increased across all metrics. Content reached 8.1K people (up 39%), content interactions increased by 100%, profile visits increased by 53% and we had 546 new followers. Our most popular posts were on the fire at Ron Skinners as we wished them well, festive food options in the café, a post thanking a local Stroke Association group for their visit, a selection of winter pictures at the park and customer updates on weather warnings. Our most popular reels were the Elf workshop (watched 41 times), LNR grounds team video (watched 26 times) and the Christmas train (watched 25 times).

Bedwellty House and Park Social Media

Facebook



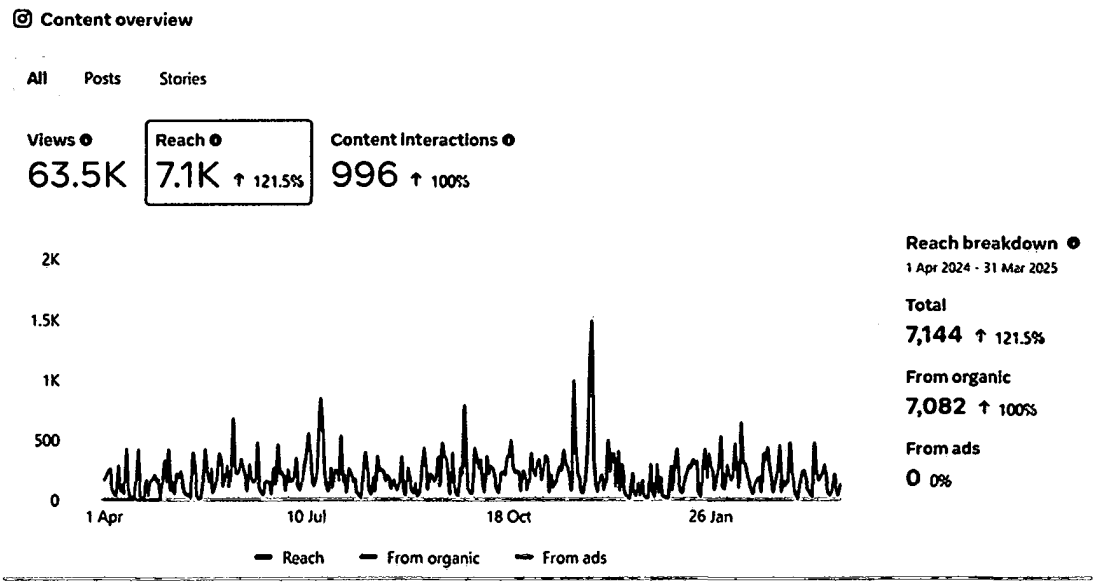


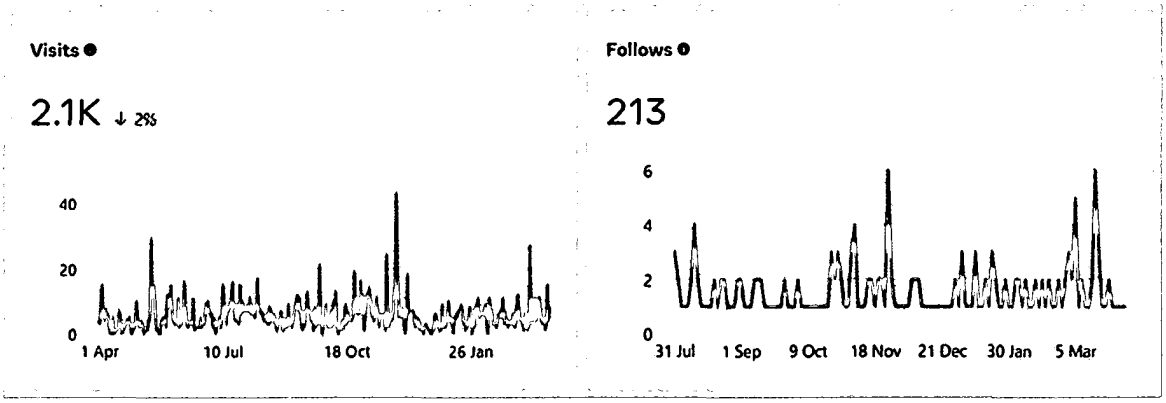


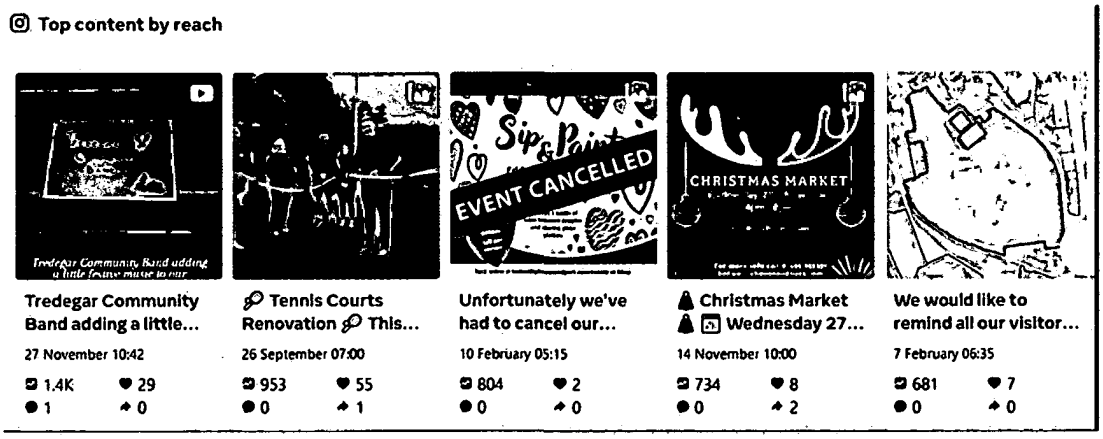
Bedwellty House and Park's Facebook content reached 210K people (a slight drop compared to the last financial year) and received 793 views. We gained 508 new followers and had 67K visits to the profile page.

The news of our 'highly commended' award at the SE Wales Tourism Awards was our most popular post of the year and generated the highest number of reactions for the year too. Pictures of the park in winter and our Christmas market also proved popular, as well as event advertising for The Science of Sweets and Let's Go Girls themed brunch. Our post on the Easter Bunny Breakfasts sent the highest number of traffic through to our website, while the video of Tredegar Community Band at the Christmas Market was our most watched reel.

Instagram





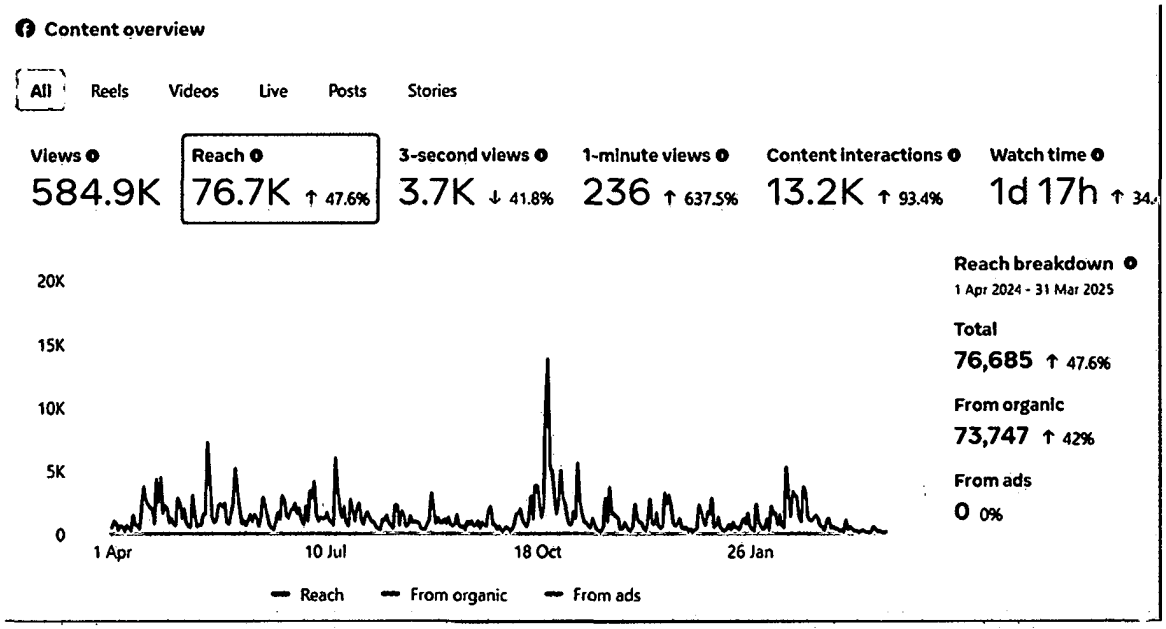


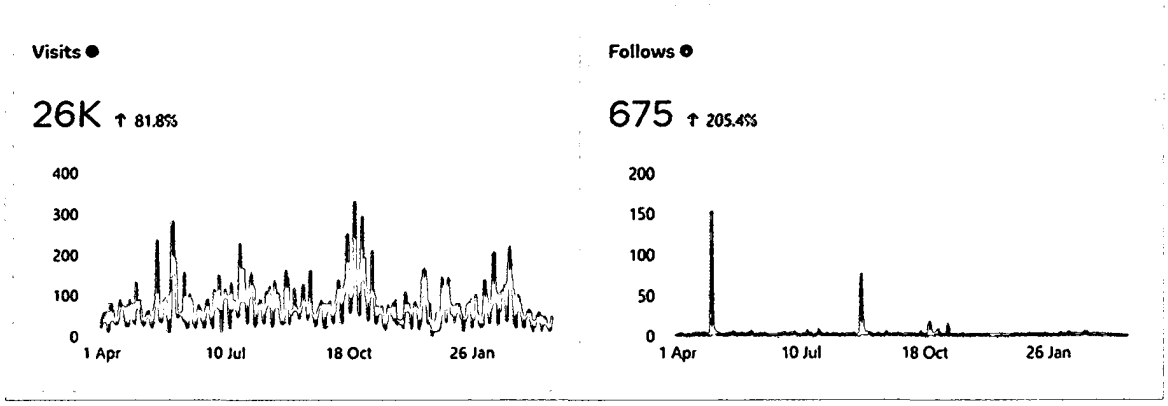
Instagram performance has also improved for Bedwellty House and Park this financial year, with a 121% increase in reach and 100% increase in content interactions. We gained 213 new followers and received just over 2K visits to the profile page.

The video reel of Tredegar Community Band performing at the Christmas Market was our most popular post (and was watched 140 times), while posts on the renovation of our tennis courts and event updates were also popular, as was information on dog control orders within the park.

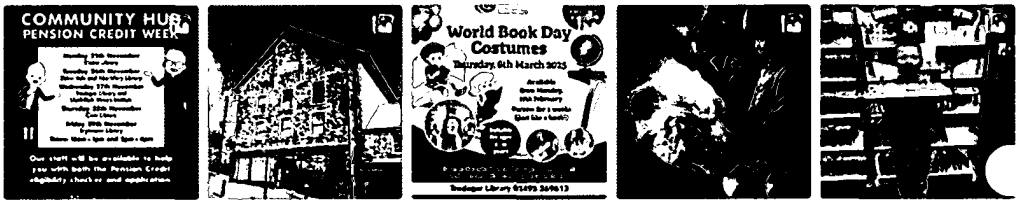
BG Libraries

Facebook





Top content by reach

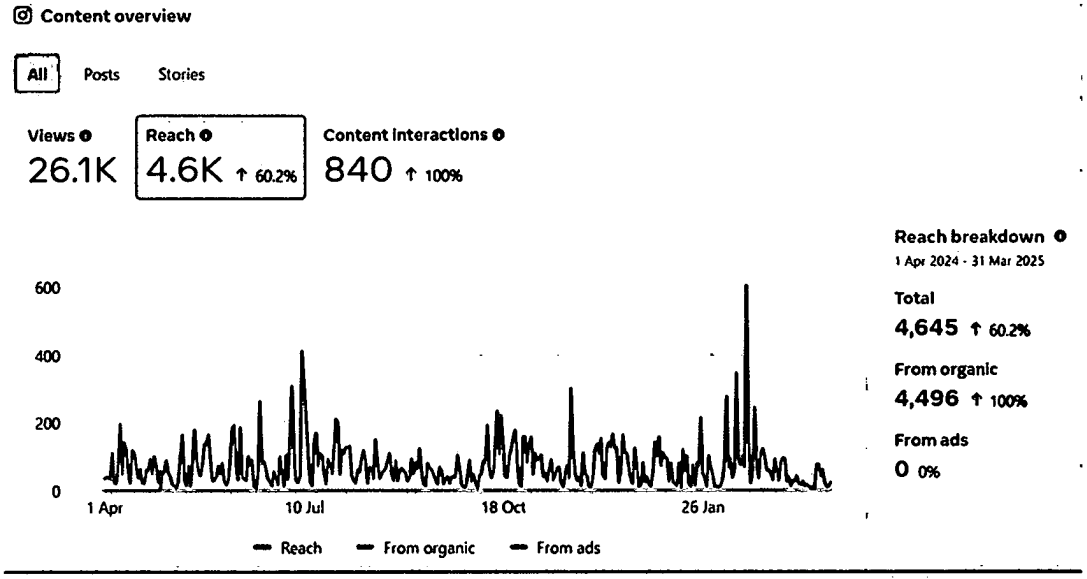


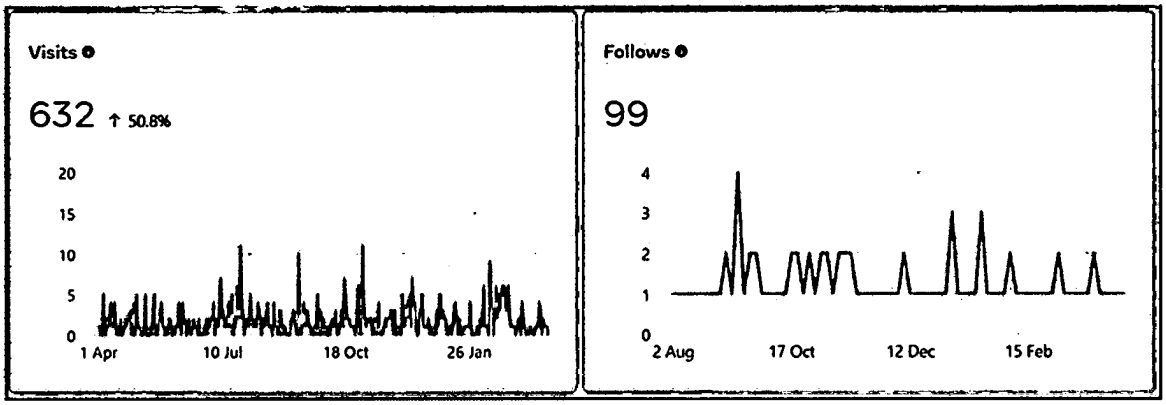
Don't miss these FREE drop-in sessions for...	Am gwpl o wythnosau cyntaf hyfryd! Diolc...	In conjunction with Families First, Blaen...	Do polar bears go to the library? Th...	Well done to Oscar who completed this...
20 November 06:30	6 November 02:59	17 February 09:04	19 December 09:36	12 February 03:30
6.4K ♥ 15	6.3K ♥ 110	4.6K ♥ 53	4.4K ♥ 40	4.3K ♥ 255
2 ↗ 39	6 ↗ 14	3 ↗ 68	21 ↗ 3	70 ↗ 10

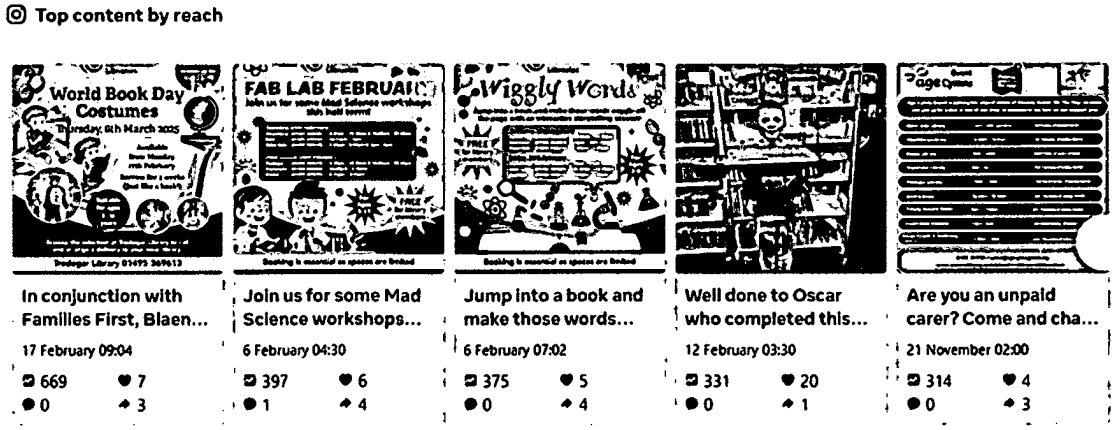
Our performance on Facebook for Blaenau Gwent libraries has improved across almost every metric this financial year, with content reaching 76K people (up 47%) and receiving almost 585K views. We gained a huge 675 new followers (up 205% on last year) and had 26K visits to our profile page (an increase of 81%). The most significant increase however is in 1-minute views, which is up by a staggering 637% thanks to variety of video content being posted. These figures' credit are shared with the outreach team at the libraries who were very active in positing and updating on events and activities they undertook.

The year's top 5 posts included information on Community Hub pension credit sessions, the launch of our new library at Abertillery, costume loans for World Book Day (which had the highest number of post shares), a special polar bear visit to the libraries at Christmas and an incredible LEGO creation by Oscar at Tredegar Library LEGO Club which generated the highest number of post reactions (335).

Instagram


Content overview
All
Posts
Stories
Views
26.1K
Reach
4.6K ↑ 60.2%
Content interactions
840 ↑ 100%
600
400
200
0
1 Apr
10 Jul
18 Oct
26 Jan
Reach
From organic
From ads
Reach breakdown
1 Apr 2024 - 31 Mar 2025
Total
4,645 ↑ 60.2%
From organic
4,496 ↑ 100%
From ads
0 0%


Visits
632 ↑ 50.8%
20
15
10
5
0
1 Apr
10 Jul
18 Oct
26 Jan
Follows
99
4
3
2
1
0
2 Aug
17 Oct
12 Dec
15 Feb


Top content by reach
World Book Day Costumes
FAB LAB FEBRUARY
Wiggly Words
In conjunction with Families First, Blaen...
17 February 09:04
669 7 0 3
Join us for some Mad Science workshops...
6 February 04:30
397 6 1 4
Jump into a book and make those words...
6 February 07:02
375 5 0 4
Well done to Oscar who completed this...
12 February 03:30
331 20 0 1
Are you an unpaid carer? Come and cha...
21 November 02:00
314 4 0 3

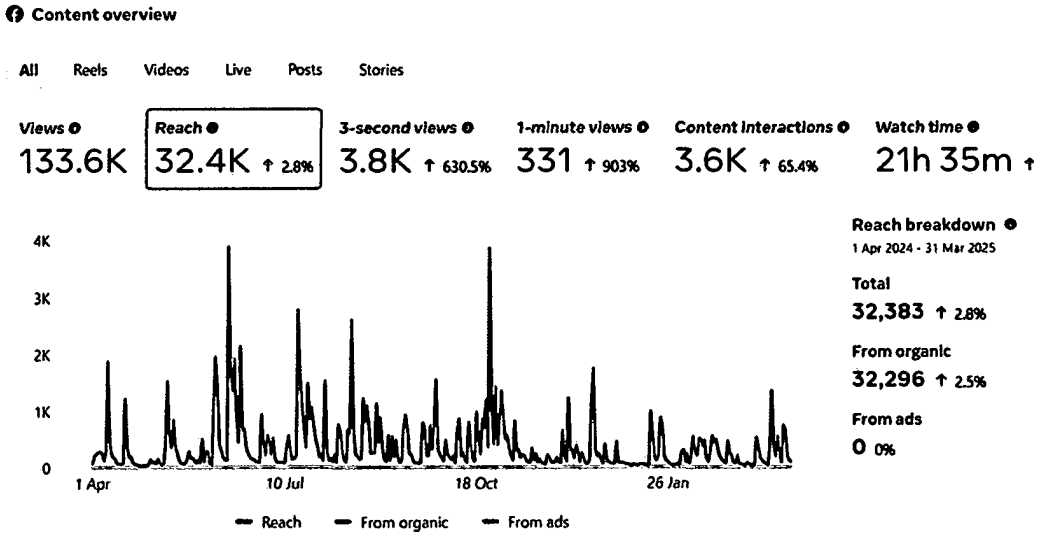
Instagram performance also increased across the board this financial year, with content reaching 4.6K people (up 60%), content interactions up by 100% and 632 profile visits (up 50%). We also gained 99 new followers throughout the year.

Free World Book Day costume loans were the most popular post, closely followed by information on free children's activities for Fab Lab February and STEM themed Wiggly Words. Oscar's LEGO Titanic at Tredegar Library's LEGO club was also popular and so was info on unpaid carers drop-in sessions.

A video reel by @valleys_mam on why her family love visiting the library received the highest number of reactions (325), while a video of Wiggly Words at Abertillery was also popular.

Sports Development

Facebook





The Sports Development Facebook performance has seen increase in all metrics this financial year. Content reached 32K people and received 133K views. We gained 181 new followers (up 10% on last year) and received just over 6K visits to the profile page (an increase of 34%). The biggest increases in performance, however, related to video content, with a huge 903% increase in 1-minute views and a 630% increase in 3-second views.

The launch of the new CKR donation bins at ALT venues was the most popular of the year, getting the highest reach and number of shares. Also popular were the Fit Fed Fun Rugby Camps (had the highest number of link clicks), Six Bells Sports in the Park and the retirement of Chris Garrett (which had the highest number of post reactions at 940).

Working in partnership:

- **Sports Centres:**

  - BG Life Website and Social Media: Secured additional content for the BG Life website and ongoing social media support to highlight key messaging.
  - Promoting Playschemes: Supported the Sports Development team in promoting their regular Playschemes.
  - Membership Campaigns: Launched Summer and Autumn campaigns for new memberships focusing on the overall benefits of membership, from as little as 63p per day.
  - Customer Journey Form: Developed a customer journey form to assist sports centre staff with onboarding new members.
  - National Promotions: Maximised national promotions such as National Fitness Day and Black Friday, and tactical promotions such as the 12 Days of Christmas and retreat days held at Tredegar Sports Centre.
  - Youth Sport Trust Partnership: Worked with the Sports Development team to promote their partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, ensuring it is presented on the BG Life website.
  - NERS Pregnancy Pathway: Supported the NERS (National Exercise Referral) team, particularly with their pregnancy pathway.
  - Improved Signage: Improved signage across all three centres, including the installation of selfie mirrors at Abertillery Sports Centre.
  - Tredegar Sports Centre Pool Refurbishment: Provided ongoing customer updates on the refurbishment and subsequent reopening of Tredegar Sports Centre's pool.
  - Community Kit Room Initiative: Supported the launch of the Community Kit Room initiative by the Sports Development team.
  - Website Analytics: Monthly visits to the website average around 7,300, with fluctuations particularly around school holidays. The most popular pages are membership, swimming, timetables, the three sports centres' pages, gyms, and contact us.

Workforce and Workplace Development

- Aneurin Leisure Trust recognises and fully appreciates that our employees are the key to the success of the Trust. The Trust employs c. 246 contracted employees (Full-time Equivalent 143.5) and in addition, utilises casual relief posts (i.e. 37 individuals at the end of March 2025) and is committed to the development, health and wellbeing of all.

- The Trust continues working towards a planned, systematic approach to improving our organisational effectiveness, one that aligns strategy, people and processes to achieve our commitment to continuously improve our customers' experience, which is essential to achieving this. The Trust links training and the performance appraisals to our values and strategic priorities.

- The Trust continues to meet with the Trade Unions on a regular basis and continues to have an excellent working relationship.

- During 2024/25 there has been a focus on growing the Trust's new online training platform LMS 365. The system has been further developed to manage and monitor all staff training requirements, and 136 employees have successfully completed training courses during the year.

- The Trust has continued to explore apprenticeship opportunities during 2024/25. Four employees have been appointed via the Aspire Apprenticeship scheme during the year.

- The Trust's time and attendance system 'Planday' continues to allow improvement in rota and schedule management across all sites. There is now focus on developing the system further to provide statistical management reporting to aid with staff budget planning.

- The introduction of SharePoint and the Human Resources intranet site has been further developed to ensure employees are provided with essential workforce information.

- A staff suggestion box has been added to the Trust's intranet sites allowing staff to submit any suggestions for improving the Trust's workplace or service.

- The Trust continues to promote and increase its employee benefit offerings including cycle to work schemes which has seen increased uptake each year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The group has returned a general fund surplus of £262,905 before FRS 102 pension adjustments for the 12-month period to 31 March 2025, within the same period there has been a draw of £60,019 from restricted funds. The trading subsidiary, LLT limited has contributed a surplus of £24,108 to the group.

On 1 October 2014, the Trust was admitted to the Greater Gwent Local Government Superannuation scheme (LGPS), a defined benefit scheme. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure was retained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). The Trust is, therefore, only responsible for any increase in liabilities occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. The pension liability on an FRS 102 basis as at 31 March 2025 has improved to £13,882m from a surplus of £8,454m in 2024. However, the pension fund's actuary has considered the impact of accounting to recognise an asset ceiling for the pension fund asset, and they have assessed that the asset ceiling should be nil therefore the pension fund asset has been revised to nil to ensure appropriate accounting treatment.

Principal funding sources
Within the period the Trust received £3,770,641 as a management fee from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council which included a £600,000 cash injection to ensure all services remained operational. Grant income for the period amounted to £2,112,732 and the majority of the remaining income was received from our customers.

The income is used to fund the operating costs of the facilities from which we deliver our charitable objectives.

Reserves policy
It is the Trust's policy to build up over time sufficient reserves to meet its charitable objectives on a sustainable basis and cover the risks that the Trust faces.

The Trust aims to build up reserves to fund working capital. All annual surpluses not allocated to fund working capital are available to fund investment in property and equipment to improve service quality. The Trust aims to maintain a minimum unrestricted reserve balance of £750,000, excluding any actuarial gains or losses. There has been a significant draw from unrestricted reserves for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2025 and the Trust recognises the need to significantly increase its current level of reserves.

At 31 March 2025 the restricted reserves amounted to a surplus of £568,262. The unrestricted reserves excluding the DB pension reserve amount to a surplus of £197,618 (2024: £71,704). The pension reserve was revised to nil as per the requirements of the actuarial adjustment for the asset ceiling. As at 1 October 2014 the pension deficit of £4,432,000 (FRS17 basis) is the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The underwritten pension balance relates to the deficit on the LGPS scheme prior to the Trust's inception. Due to the large net asset position of the pension scheme at year end (prior to the restriction) there is currently no funding shortfall and hence the decision was taken by management in the current year to impair this receivable balance down to nil resulting in the Pension Reserve also being nil.

Key risks
The Trust has a 20-year contract which commenced on 1 October 2014 with BGCBC with a review process built in during years 3 and 4 to review overall performance in advance of agreement to continue with the Trust for the following 5 years. ALT services are currently being reviewed to establish a sustainable operating model which will operate from 1st April 2026 – 31st March 2031

As part of the contract, the BGCBC Management fee is reviewed annually and is subject to an index linked uplift. The key challenge facing the Trust is to grow income and control expenditure to continue service provision within the constraints of the contracted management fee and the income that can be achieved.

If unsuccessful with attracting additional funding through various means including the Council, there will be a limitation in providing investment into key areas, and this will also limit the Trust's ability to reduce its dependence on the management fee.

The Trust received £2,112,732 (2024: £1,840,295) of grant income in the year, equating to 20.00% of total incoming resources. The increase in grants has been around through the award of Shared Prosperity Fund grants. In the event grant income reducing in future years the associated expenditure currently funded by the grants will also need to be reduced.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust faces a challenging period over the coming years mainly driven by the cost-of-living crisis which in recent years elevated utility costs to unprecedented levels and although they have now decreased, they remain significantly higher than before the cost-of-living crisis and had a significant detrimental impact on the unrestricted funds. As a result, the Trust are exploring every opportunity to accelerate business plan projects, reduce operational costs where possible and review prices which we hope will ensure that services remain fully available to Blaenau Gwent residents. The Trust is working alongside Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to review its operations to ensure that it continues to deliver the right services to Blaenau Gwent in a sustainable way and this is being supported by an independent review in 2025/26.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance
Aneurin Leisure Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act (2006). The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company.

The Trustees
The Trustees are also the Directors in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Board is made up of up to 11 Trustees consisting of one employee Trustee, up to two local authority Trustees and up to eight community Trustees.

Employee Trustees are appointed by the senior management team of the Trust for a period of three years.

The community Trustees are appointed for a 3-year period, with recruitment process as follows:

- Advert placed in local newspapers, on social media (LinkedIn & Twitter) within the Trust facilities, on the Trust website and other advertising resources as appropriate inviting applications. An information pack is provided outlining the duties and roles of a Trustee and the application process, together with information on the Trust.

- Applications will be shortlisted based on criteria specified within the personal specification and job description and assessment of the applicants' particular skills and expertise to cover both community interest and commercial/business knowledge (such as Finance, Human Resources, Sales and Marketing).

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will comprise of three members and wherever possible panels will have a gender/race balance. Panel members should include two Trustees (Chair and/or Vice Chair, or other Trustee), a Trust Senior Officer (Director of Resources or Director of Operations) with support from the Human Resource Service, where appropriate. In circumstances where there is a need to involve more than three members on an interview panel, then this should be discussed in advance and agreed with the Human Resource Service (it may be necessary on occasions for additional Members to sit in on a panel to observe the process for developmental purposes).

- The appointment of Trustees will be made by the Board of Trustees following recommendations from the Interview/Appointment Panel and be based on not only the assessment of whether individuals are suitable to be Trustees but also achieve a balance of skills on the Board. For example, it is important to have a balance of business skills and also geographical locations as well as interests (leisure, arts, community education, libraries, overall wellbeing, etc.)

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will recommend to the Board of Trustees of their preferred option to appoint a Trustee and following agreement to proceed, will confirm the offer to the selected candidate(s).

- The offer of appointment to be a member of the Board of Trustees will be subject to satisfactory references being obtained.

- All Trustees are provided with the following documentation on induction;

    - Declaration of Interests form
    - Rehabilitation of Offenders form
    - Equality & Diversity Monitoring form
    - Trustee Code of Conduct Policy
    - Trustee Confidentiality Policy
    - Health & Safety Policy
    - Equal Opportunities Policy
    - Memorandum and Articles of Association
    - Schedule of Matters

All Trustees are also members of the Charitable Trust which is limited by guarantee.

All Trustees receive induction training with regard to the organisation including its powers and objects and the Charitable Trust itself. Trustees will be offered further training opportunities during their tenure.

Structure of the Charity
The Board of Trustees meets quarterly. The Charitable Trust operates a Finance sub-group to advise and report to the Board of Trustees.

A Corporate Director Team manages the day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust, supported by a Senior Management Team.

Organisational Structure and Decision-Making Process
The Board retains overall accountability for the management of the Charitable Trust.

The day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust are managed by the Trust's Corporate Directors and Senior Management Team. The Senior Management Team is given strategic direction by the Board of Trustees (the Board) regarding the provision and operation of the services.

The Charitable Trust operates a business planning process whereby strategic priorities and targets directed by the Board and shared with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council flow from the business plan into quarterly reports and an annual delivery plan. This is fully embedded and central to our planning and budgeting cycles and drives operational performance.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
Remuneration of Key Management Personnel is reviewed annually alongside the other employees of the company by the main Board as part of the annual budget setting process.

Related Parties
The Charitable Trust has a relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, who provides funding in the form of a management fee to enable the Charitable Trust to carry out its charitable objectives.

The Charitable Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT limited. LLT limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

Co-operation with other organisations
As a community-based organisation operating throughout Blaenau Gwent, Aneurin Leisure Trust structures large elements of its strategic planning and operational service delivery having due regard to partner aims and objectives, particularly Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Work plans specifically identify how the Trust will contribute to delivering on broader social agendas working with the health, education and voluntary sectors.

Risk Management
The Charitable Trust has developed a risk management plan to identify risks and risk mitigation measures at corporate level. The risk register is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ITS TRUSTEES

Charity name:	Aneurin Leisure Trust (Formerly Life Leisure Trust)
Trading name:	Aneurin Leisure
Company registration number:	08951503
Charity registration number:	1159092
Registered office:	Bedwellty House Morgan Street Tredegar Gwent NP22 3XN

Trustees:	**Date of Appt.**
Mr Lyn Evans – Chair	12/05/14
Mrs Donna Hardman	12/05/14
Mr Richard Dando	26/03/19
Mr Stephen Priestnall	27/01/20
Mr Steven Hughes	14/08/23
Mr Matthew Burkitt	18/10/23
Mrs Ceri Waters	18/10/23

Key Management Personnel:	Mrs Nichola Morden-Tew	Director of Resources
	Mr Philip Sykes	Director of Operations

Bankers:	Barclays Business Banking South Wales Team 3rd Floor Windsor Court 3 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3ZL
Solicitors (Employment Law):	Capital Law LLP Capital Building Tyndall Street Cardiff CF10 4AZ
Auditors:	Azets Audit Services Limited Ty Derw Lime Tree Court Cardiff Gate Business Park Cardiff CF23 8AB

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Aneurin Leisure Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee
Date: 11 December 2025

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Aneurin Leisure Trust (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31st March 2025 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Charities SORP.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2025, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities SORP 2019.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the groups or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report[6]. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

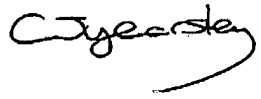
In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Craig Yearsley (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

Date 12 December 2025

Azets Audit Services is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2025	Total Funds (As restated) 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,014	-	1,014	1,000
Charitable activities	4	9,093,415	1,472,799	10,566,214	9,441,003
Other trading activities	5	24,365	-	24,365	26,275
Total income and endowments		**9,118,794**	**1,472,799**	**10,591,593**	9,468,278
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	8,855,889	1,532,818	10,388,707	10,490,813
Total expenditure		**8,855,889**	**1,532,818**	**10,388,707**	10,490,813
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**262,905**	**(60,019)**	**202,886**	(1,022,535)
Transfers between funds	15,16	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	5,291,000	-	5,291,000	3,277,000
Restriction on defined benefit pension schemes		(5,428,000)	-	(5,428,000)	(8,454,000)
Impairment of defined benefit pension scheme debtor		(4,432,000)	-	(4,432,000)	-
Net movement in funds		**(4,306,095)**	**(60,019)**	**(4,366,114)**	(6,199,535)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15,16	**4,503,713**	**628,281**	**5,131,994**	11,331,529
Total funds carried forward	16,17	**197,618**	**568,262**	**765,880**	5,131,994

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 84 - 114 form part of the financial statements

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CHARITY ONLY
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds (As restated) 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	25,122	-	25,122	20,815
Charitable activities	4	9,093,415	1,472,799	10,566,214	9,441,003
Other income		-	-	-	4,417
Total income and endowments		**9,118,537**	**1,472,799**	**10,591,336**	9,466,235
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	8,855,632	1,532,818	10,388,450	10,488,797
Total expenditure		**8,855,632**	**1,532,818**	**10,388,450**	10,488,797
Net (expenditure)/income	7	**262,905**	**(60,019)**	**202,886**	(1,022,562)
Transfers between funds	15,16	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	5,291,000	-	5,291,000	3,277,000
Restriction on defined benefit pension schemes		(5,428,000)	-	(5,428,000)	(8,454,000)
Impairment of defined benefit pension scheme debtor		(4,432,000)	-	(4,432,000)	-
Net movement in funds		**(4,306,095)**	**(60,019)**	**(4,366,114)**	(6,199,562)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15,16	**4,503,713**	**628,281**	**5,131,994**	11,331,556
Total funds carried forward	16,17	**197,618**	**568,262**	**765,880**	5,131,994

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 84 - 114 form part of the financial statements

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		398,770		492,335
Current assets:					
Stocks	11	15,370		20,889	
Debtors	12	775,602		5,203,457	
Cash at bank and in hand		634,859		563,682	
		1,425,831		5,788,028	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(861,969)		(883,721)	
Net current assets			**563,862**		4,904,307
Total assets less current liabilities			**962,632**		5,396,642
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(196,752)		(264,648)
Net assets excluding pension liability			**765,880**		5,131,994
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		-		-
Net (liabilities)/ assets			**765,880**		5,131,994
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	15		568,262		628,281
Unrestricted income funds	16	197,618		71,704	
Pension reserve	16	-		4,432,009	
			197,618		4,503,713
Total charity funds	17		**765,880**		5,131,994

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 11 December 2025

L J Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 84 – 114 form part of the financial statements

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		398,770		492,335
Investments	10		1		1
					492,336
Current assets:					
Stocks	11	15,370		20,889	
Debtors	12	794,073		5,204,893	
Cash at bank and in hand		616,387		562,245	
		1,425,830		5,788,027	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(861,969)		(883,721)	
Net current assets			**563,891**		4,904,306
Total assets less current liabilities			**962,632**		5,396,642
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(196,752)		(264,648)
Net assets excluding pension liability			**765,880**		5,131,994
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		-		-
Net (liabilities)/ assets			**765,880**		5,131,994
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	15		568,262		628,281
Unrestricted income funds	16	197,618		71,704	
Pension reserve	16	-		4,432,009	
			197,618		4,503,713
Total charity funds	17		**765,880**		5,131,994

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 11 December 2025

L J Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 84 - 114 form part of the financial statements

ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	21	**98,737**	(712,809)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	9	**(27,560)**	(112,491)
Net cash provided used in investing activities		**(27,560)**	(112,491)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**71,177**	(825,300)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	21	**563,682**	1,388,982
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	21	**634,859**	563,682

The notes on pages 84 - 114 form part of the financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal form and address
Aneurin Leisure Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Bedwellty House, Morgan Street, Tredegar, NP22 3XN.

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

No separate cash flow statement has been presented for the charity itself as the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions in paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

Group financial statements
These consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of Aneurin Leisure Trust (the charitable company) and LLT Limited its wholly owned trading subsidiary, made up to 31 March 2025.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary on a line-by-line basis.

The trading results of the subsidiary are disclosed in note 10 to these financial statements.

Going concern
The group made a surplus (before any OCI movements) of £202,886 for the year ended 31st March 2025 of which £262,905 related to unrestricted funds. The trust is predicted to be in a breakeven position for the financial year ending 31st March 2026 and make profits going forward. Membership and usage numbers for facilities have continued to grow and are now exceeding the numbers from pre-covid.

The trust has prepared forecasts for a period of more than 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements, these forecasts demonstrate that the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate cash reserves and resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. They have been prepared on a worst case scenario and with the Trust being ahead of the 2025/26 forecast. Cash reserves at the date of signing the financial statements are strong.

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Fund accounting

The charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require further disclosure. These are as follows:

Restricted funds are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes. Grant income received to fund capital expenditure is held in restricted reserves. The balance is transferred to unrestricted reserves in future years at the same rates as to match the depreciation charges of the related assets.

Revenue funds restricted by the donor are matched against expenditure as appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. In addition to expenditure on the principal activities of the charity these funds can be held in order to fund capital expenditure.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Certain income is received in advance of the provision of the relevant service and as such is deferred until the service commences.

The management fee is an unrestricted fund which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company. The income is invoiced and recognised in the period to which it relates.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from grants is deferred only when the terms and conditions of the grant permit the income to be deferred to future periods.

Turnover is the amount derived from ordinary activities, and stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees' report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

An analysis has been provided for the charitable activities on a departmental basis.
The departments are defined as follows:

The departments are defined as follows:

- Training and Libraries
- Culture, Parks and Events
- Sports and Fitness
- Central Support Services

Costs where possible are attributed directly to the activity in which they relate. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities based on income received in the year.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Netting off of income against expenditure
It is not the policy of the charitable company to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

Taxation
As a registered charity Aneurin Leisure Trust is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

Fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses or in cases where fixed assets have been donated to the charity, at valuation at time of acquisition.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% straight line
Plant and machinery	- 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Computers equipment	- 33% straight line

Assets are capitalised at cost.

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets
At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Investments
Investments relate to 100% of the share capital of the charity's wholly owned trading subsidiary and is recognised at cost.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling price after taking into account all further costs and excess stocks that are slow moving.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Derecognition of financial assets
Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Employee Benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Service Concession Agreements
The charity has service contracts with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the maintenance and operation of the various libraries, community centres, leisure centres and parks owned by the Local Authority to which it has lease and management service contracts.

Property, plant and equipment
The buildings and equipment at the various locations are to be leased to the charity as part of the overall contractual relationships with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) but BGCBC maintain ultimate control of these assets. Accordingly the access to which the charity has in the use of these assets is to enable it to operate the various venues so that the charity can provide the public service it is contracted to provide, not to effectively own these public service assets. These assets are therefore not recognised on the charity's Balance Sheet.

Any new assets purchased by the Trust remain the property of the Trust.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Receipts
The charity receives agreed management fee income from BGCBC each year which is decreased on an annual basis as per the terms of the Funding and Management Agreement.

Pensions
The charitable company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay.

Full details of the Trust's retirement benefit arrangements are set out in note 20 being the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

This is a funded pension scheme meaning that the employer and employee pay contributions which are invested in a separate fund.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) remain liable for the past service deficit that existed at the Trust's inception. The Trust is responsible for the LGPS movements after the commencement date; however the liability is indemnified by BGCBC.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the charity has a legal or constructive present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value. When a provision is measured at present value, the unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in net income / (expenditure) in the period in which it arises.

Operating leases
The charity classifies the lease of gym equipment and motor vehicles as operating leases. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

2. **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The following critical accounting estimates and judgements have been made:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimate, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 9 for the carrying amount of the plant and equipment and above for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

Defined benefit pension scheme
The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations	**1,014**	**-**	**1,014**	1,000
	1,014	**-**	**1,014**	1,000
Charity				
Donations	**1,014**	**-**	**1,014**	1,000
LLT Limited Covenant	**24,108**	**-**	**24,108**	19,815
	25,122	**-**	**25,122**	20,815

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group and charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Catering income	**1,454,411**	**-**	**1,454,411**	1,354,801
Class income	**24,906**	**-**	**24,906**	6,122
Educational income	**31,045**	**-**	**31,045**	31,955
Grants	**639,933**	**1,472,799**	**2,112,732**	1,840,295
Leisure centre income	**2,265,568**	**-**	**2,265,568**	2,185,990
Management fee	**3,770,641**	**-**	**3,770,641**	3,170,641
Management recharge	**93,444**	**-**	**93,444**	-
Park outdoor activities	**273,968**	**-**	**273,968**	242,583
Room hire and rental	**283,485**	**-**	**283,485**	234,295
Sale of assets	**833**	**-**	**833**	-
Sale of goods	**62,271**	**-**	**62,271**	51,461
Service Level Agreement	**82,630**	**-**	**82,630**	149,562
Shows and events	**83,599**	**-**	**83,599**	24,924
Sundry income	**26,681**	**-**	**26,681**	148,374
	9,093,415	**1,472,799**	**10,566,214**	9,441,003

Grant income was received from the following sources:

Group and charity				
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	-	**10,819**	**10,819**	1,994
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	-	**14,502**	**14,502**	16,154
Books Council of Wales	-	-	-	1,000
Cardiff Council	-	-	-	15,847
Coleg Gwent	**329,651**	-	**329,651**	317,522
Denbighshire County Council	-	**840**	**840**	-
Disability Sports Wales	-	**(3,543)**	**(3,543)**	23,943
Dragons Community	-	-	-	1,150
European Social Fund	-	-	-	24,066
GAVO	-	-	-	9,255
Learning & work Institute	-	**750**	**750**	-
Public Health Wales	-	**106,604**	**106,604**	103,151
Social Priority Fund	-	**1,148,765**	**1,148,765**	830,686
Sports Council Wales	**40,830**	**184,267**	**225,097**	220,323
Street Games	-	**9,795**	**9,795**	1,500
Tennis Wales	-	-	-	3,000
WCVA	-	-	-	988
Welsh Government	**269,299**	-	**269,299**	268,099
WLGA	**153**	-	**153**	312
WRU	-	-	-	1,305
	639,933	**1,472,799**	**2,112,732**	1,840,295

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Income by activity:

	Group*	Charity**
	£	£
Training and libraries	**1,737,117**	**1,737,117**
Culture, parks and events	**1,449,107**	**1,424,742**
Sports and fitness	**3,506,901**	**3,506,901**
Central support services	**3,898,468**	**3,922,576**
	10,591,593	**10,591,336**

* Group income includes donations and subsidiary trading income.
**Charity income includes donations and excludes subsidiary trading income

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Group	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Subsidiary trading operations	**24,365**	**-**	**24,365**	26,275
	24,365	**-**	**24,365**	26,275

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	Direct	Support	Grants	Governance	Total 2025	Total 2024 (As restated)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Agency and subcontractors	440,854	-	-	-	440,854	340,282
Business support	699,440	108,171	-	24,000	831,611	814,257
Catering costs	714,148	-	-	-	714,148	652,251
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs	457,940	-	-	-	457,940	671,029
Depreciation	121,126	-	-	-	121,126	117,345
Events and show costs	108,087	-	-	-	108,087	58,925
Irrecoverable VAT	186,209	-	-	-	186,209	151,544
Other costs	500,163	-	-	-	500,163	382,850
Premises	1,457,575	-	-	-	1,457,575	1,893,812
Recharges	93,444	-	-	-	93,444	-
Social security	391,114	-	-	-	391,114	384,390
Wages and salaries	4,660,197	420,989	5,250	-	5,086,436	5,024,128
	9,830,297	529,160	5,250	24,000	10,388,707	10,490,813
Charity						
Agency and subcontractors	440,854	-	-	-	440,854	340,282
Business support	699,306	108,171	-	24,000	831,477	794,384
Catering costs	714,148	-	-	-	714,148	652,251
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs	457,940	-	-	-	457,940	651,214
Depreciation	121,126	-	-	-	121,126	117,345
Events and show costs	108,087	-	-	-	108,087	58,925
Irrecoverable VAT	186,207	-	-	-	186,207	151,317
Other costs	500,042	-	-	-	500,042	420,748
Premises	1,457,575	-	-	-	1,457,575	1,893,813
Recharges	93,444	-	-	-	93,444	-
Social security	391,114	-	-	-	391,114	384,390
Wages and salaries	4,660,197	420,989	5,250	-	5,086,436	5,024,128
	9,830,040	529,160	5,250	24,000	10,388,450	10,488,797

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Expenditure can be attributed to:

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants £	Governance £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 (As restated) £
Training and libraries	**2,319,369**	**137,337**	-	-	**2,456,706**	2,175,729
Culture, parks and events	**2,166,897**	**114,567**	**5,250**	-	**2,286,714**	2,493,756
Sports and fitness	**4,110,134**	**277,256**	-	-	**4,387,390**	4,522,931
Central support services*	**1,233,897**	-	-	**24,000**	**1,257,897**	1,298,397
	9,830,297	**529,160**	**5,250**	**24,000**	**10,388,707**	10,490,813
Charity						
Training and libraries	**2,319,369**	**137,337**	-	-	**2,456,706**	2,175,729
Culture, parks and events	**2,166,897**	**114,567**	**5,250**	-	**2,286,714**	2,471,926
Sports and fitness	**4,110,134**	**277,256**	-	-	**4,387,390**	4,522,931
Central support services*	**1,233,640**	-	-	**24,000**	**1,257,640**	1,318,211
	9,830,040	**529,160**	**5,250**	**24,000**	**10,388,450**	10,488,797

*Costs related to FRS 102 valuation of the pension scheme have been charged to the support category within Central support services and are not allocated across the business.

Support costs have been allocated to the activities based on income received in the year.

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:

Group and charity	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Depreciation	**121,125**	117,345
Operating leases	**5,990**	7,995
Auditors Remuneration:		
Audit fees	**20,000**	15,500
Accountancy services	**4,000**	1,500

8. STAFF COSTS

Group and charity	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wages and salaries	**5,086,436**	5,024,128
Social security costs	**391,114**	384,390
FRS 102 Pension service costs (see note 19)	**5,885,940**	9,125,029
	11,363,490	14,533,547

Pension costs also include the impact of the FRS102 actuarial valuation of the service cost of running the DB scheme.

Redundancy costs totalling £73,900 are included in the above costs (2024: £76,940). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end (2024: £nil).

The total number of persons utilised throughout the year comprised a mixture of both contracted staff and relief workers.

Staff numbers excluding relief workers:

Group and charity	Headcount 2025	Headcount 2024	FTE 2025	FTE 2024
Training and libraries	**74**	82	**36**	39
Culture, parks and events	**64**	72	**30**	35
Sports and fitness	**114**	137	**60**	66
Central support services	**12**	11	**12**	5
	264	302	**138**	145

Key management personnel
The key management personnel of the charity received benefits totalling £193,512 (2024: £181,192).

These costs consist of gross pay, employers' national insurance contributions and employers pension contributions.

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 for the period and to whom retirement benefits are accruing under a defined benefit scheme was:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
£60,000- £70,000	**2**	2

8. STAFF COSTS (continued)

The amount of employers pension contributions paid in respect of the above employees for the period was as follows:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Total contributions	**19,540**	18,275

Transactions with Trustees
During the period Donna Hardman, as the staff Trustee, received remuneration from her employment with the charity but not for her services as a Trustee.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charity (paragraph 19.1) provides the charity with the legal authority to make such payments.

The employee is a staff representative on the Trustee board.

No Trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior period.

Related Party transactions
During the year the charity recharged its wholly owned trading subsidiary LLT Limited £24,108 (2024: £19,815) for admin, staff time and maintenance costs.

LLT Limited gift aided £24,108 (2024: £19,815) to the charity during the period.

As at 31 March 2025, LLT owed the charity £18,471 (2024: the charity owed LLT £1,949).

During the year, the charity made sales of £7,435,134 (2024: £5,853,953) and purchases of £1,443,857 (2024: £865,700) from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) an entity with significant control over the charity. The transactions were undertaken in the normal course of business and at an arm's length basis. As at year end the charity owed BGCBC £350,347 (2024: £486,484) and was owed £174,473 (2024: £425,193).

During the year, the charity made purchases of £343,776 (2024: £223,612) from Candour Talent Limited, a company in which trustee M.Burkitt is a director and has significant control. The transactions were undertaken in the normal course of business and at an arm's length basis. As at year end the net amount owed to the charity was £22,859 (2024: £9,818).

During the year, the charity made sales of £Nil (2024: £549) to Georgetown Primary School, an entity in which D.Hardman is a governor. The transactions were undertaken in the normal course of business and at an arm's length basis. As at year end the net amount owed to the charity was £549 (2024: £Nil).

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and charity	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicle £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	**808,917**	**8,674**	**64,108**	**28,125**	**909,824**
Additions	**27,560**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**27,560**
At 31 March 2025	**836,477**	**8,674**	**64,108**	**28,125**	**937,384**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	**324,286**	**8,674**	**56,404**	**28,125**	**417,489**
Charge for the year	**118,513**	**-**	**2,612**	**-**	**121,125**
At 31 March 2025	**442,799**	**8,674**	**59,016**	**28,125**	**538,614**
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2025	**393,678**	**-**	**5,092**	**-**	**398,770**
At 31 March 2024	484,631	-	7,704	-	492,335

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - CHARITY

	Investments in Group undertakings £
Cost as at 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025	1

Aneurin Leisure Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, company number 09236541. The registered office of the company is the same as the charity. LLT Limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

The results of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 can be found below:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Profit and Loss Account		
Turnover	24,365	21,858
Admin expenses	(24,365)	(21,858)
Operating profit	-	-
Statement of changes in Equity		
Balance brought forward	1	1
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	24,108	19,815
Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	(24,108)	(19,815)
Balance carried forward	1	1
Balance Sheet		
Current assets:		
Cash at bank and in hand	18,472	1,437
Prepayments	-	513
	18,472	1,950
Current liabilities:		
Amounts owed to group undertakings	18,471	1,949
	18,471	1,949
Net current assets/(liabilities)	**1**	1
Capital and reserves:		
Called up share capital	1	1
Profit and loss reserves	-	-
	1	1

The results above are included in the consolidated accounts.

11. STOCK

Group and charity	2025 £	2024 £
Shop items	3,846	5,210
Food and bar	11,524	15,679
	15,370	20,889

12. DEBTORS

Group	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	424,242	144,025
Prepayments and accrued income	305,466	526,721
Other debtors	45,894	6,123
Other Taxation	-	94,588
	775,602	771,457
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	-	4,432,000
	775,602	5,203,457

Charity		
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	424,242	142,758
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	18,471	1,949
Prepayments and accrued income	305,466	526,208
Other debtors	45,894	7,390
Other Taxation	-	94,588
	794,073	772,893
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	-	4,432,000
	794,073	5,204,893

The underwritten pension balance in the prior year relates to the deficit on the LGPS scheme prior to the Trust's inception (see note 20). Due to the large net asset position of the pension scheme at year end (prior to the restriction) there is currently no funding shortfall and hence the decision was taken by management in the current year to impair this receivable balance down to nil. A reassessment of this balance will be completed by management each year to determine whether any funding shortfall exists, at which point appropriate adjustments will be made.

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
Group	**£**	£
Trade creditors	-	55,624
Accruals and deferred income	527,053	762,148
Social security and other taxes	275,376	-
Hire purchase	59,540	65,949
	861,969	883,721
Charity		
Trade creditors	-	43,624
Accruals and deferred income	527,053	774,148
Social security and other taxes	275,376	-
Hire purchase	59,540	65,949
	861,969	883,721

Contained in the accruals and deferred income balance above is deferred income in relation to weddings, activities, ticket sale income and management fee income which will relate to the 2025/26 financial year. (2024: Income deferred in relation to weddings, activities, ticket sales and management fee income relating to the 2024/25 financial year.)

Contained in the balance is also grant income received in advance of the period to which it relates.

	2025	2024
Group and Charity	**£**	£
Balance brought forward	9,621	64,902
Income received in the year	90,889	-
Released to income	(9,621)	(55,281)
Balance carried forward	**90,889**	9,621

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Group and Charity	2025 £	2024 £
Hire purchase	196,752	264,648
	196,752	264,648

Hire purchase contracts

The net book value of fixed assets held under hire purchase contracts during the year totalled £253,086 (2024: £320,575).

Group and Charity	2025 £	2024 £
Future minimum lease payments due under finance leases:		
Within one year	59,540	65,949
In two to five years	196,752	264,648
	256,292	330,597

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Group and charity	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	-	10,819	(8,669)	-	**2,150**
Arts Council of Wales	(46)	-	(1,935)	1,981	-
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	22,947	14,502	(7,138)	(6,079)	**24,232**
Cardiff Council	15,847	-	-	(5,306)	**10,541**
Denbighshire County Council	(5,686)	840	(2,234)	7,080	-
Disability Sports Wales	-	(3,543)	(14,385)	40,636	**22,708**
European Social Fund	431,380	-	(54,359)	(22,845)	**354,176**
GAVO	2,432	-	(2,699)	466	**199**
Learning & Work Institute	3,761	750	(2,444)	-	**2,067**
National Heritage	536	-	-	-	**536**
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,114	-	-	(4,114)	-
Public Health Wales	-	106,604	(155,077)	48,473	-
Social Priority Fund	-	1,148,765	(1,062,235)	(33,545)	**52,985**
Sports Council Wales	137,422	184,267	(205,076)	(19,659)	**96,954**
Street Games	16,655	9,795	(9,364)	(15,669)	**1,417**
WCVA	190	-	-	-	**190**
Welsh Government	(2,975)	-	(7,203)	10,285	**107**
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,704	-	-	(1,704)	-
Total funds	628,281	**1,472,799**	**(1,532,818)**	-	**568,262**

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board was received for the MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) project to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme.

Arts Council of Wales funding was received for delivery of community arts projects within the four Local Authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council was to provide Adult Community Learning.

Cardiff Council offered Street Games funding to deliver community-based sessions and festivals within Blaenau Gwent.

Denbighshire County Council was received for the MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) funding to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme.

Disability Sports Wales funding was received for the provision of quality sporting and physical activity opportunities for disabled people at grass roots level.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

European Social Fund grant was received to achieve two main objectives:

1. engage, support and prepare the economically inactive in deprived areas, by teaching them the relevant skills to gain sustainable employment.
2. increase the relevant skills of those individuals currently employed with limited skills.

European Social Funds to engage, support and prepare the economically inactive, including those who are long term unemployed, in the most deprived areas, to acquire the appropriate skills to become job ready and to gain sustainable employment.

GAVO funding received to establish a community wellbeing hub that supports community members to reintegrate back into community life post COVID.

Good Things Foundation funding received for the public to complete their census digitally.

Learning & Work Institute funding was received to deliver promotional activities during the Adult Learners' week.

National Heritage funding was received for sensory garden project at Parc Bryn Bach.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) funding to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme

Public Health Wales funding was received to facilitate the implementation and maintenance of exercise schemes, with the view of improving the health and wellbeing for patients aged 16 and over at risk of chronic disease.

Social Priority fund shared Prosperity Funding to deliver improvements to Communities, and People and skills. Helping deliver employment support for economically inactive people and funding skills provision to provide people with the skills needed to progress in life and work, including supporting local areas to fund local skills needs.

Sports Council Wales funding was received to achieve six objectives:

i. to set up a buggy walker group for new parents/carers to meet weekly and enjoy an exercise class with their child via the Sports Lottery Community Chest Grant.
ii. increase regular participation in sport, improve opportunities for all and develop talented athletes via the LAPA project.
iii. provide free swimming to eligible participants via the Free Swim Grant.
iv. to support the delivery of the 'Coaches for the Future' programme.
v. to develop sports clubs via the 'Thriving Clubs' project.
vi. to improve the health, happiness and confidence of children by increasing their participation in physical activity via the Physical Literacy project.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Street Games funding was received to deliver the 'Door-step Sport' and 'Us Girls Initiative' as well as the 'Sports Leaders Awards'.

WCVA funding to improve biodiversity, waste minimisation and environmental enhancement.

Welsh Government funding was received to restructure the ground floor of Abertillery library to accommodate Adult Community learning activities.

Wrexham County Borough Council funding was received to achieve three main objectives:

- delivery of 'Every Child a Member' scheme with the libraries.
- delivery of the 'Summer Reading Challenge'.
- delivery of the 'Rugby Stories' project. This project has successfully concluded.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Previous period

Group and charity	At 1 April 2023 Restated £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	-	1,994	(1,994)	-	-
Arts Council of Wales	-	-	(46)	-	(46)
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	15,342	16,154	(8,549)	-	22,947
Books Council of Wales	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Cardiff Council	-	15,847	-	-	15,847
Denbighshire County Council	422	-	(6,108)	-	(5,686)
Disability Sports Wales	-	23,943	(23,943)	-	-
Dragons Community	-	1,150	(1,150)	-	-
European Social Fund	466,877	24,066	(59,563)	-	431,380
GAVO	9,118	9,255	(16,086)	145	2,432
Learning & Work Institute	3,761	-	-	-	3,761
National Heritage	1,013	-	(477)	-	536
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,114	-	-	-	4,114
Public Health Wales	-	103,151	(103,151)	-	-
Social Priority Fund	-	830,686	(830,686)	-	-
Sports Council Wales	117,546	179,323	(159,302)	(145)	137,422
Street Games	29,238	1,500	(14,083)	-	16,655
Tennis Wales	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
WCVA	-	988	(798)	-	190
Welsh Government	166,564	-	(169,539)	-	(2,975)
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,704	-	-	-	1,704
WRU	-	203	(203)	-	-
Total funds	815,699	1,212,260	(1,399,678)	-	628,281

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Group	As at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains / (losses) £	As at 31 March 2025 £
General fund	71,704	8,981,794	(8,855,889)	9	-	**197,618**
Defined benefit pension scheme	4,432,009	137,000	-	(9)	(4,569,000)	-
	4,503,713	**9,118,794**	**(8,855,889)**	-	**(4,569,000)**	**197,618**
Charity						
General fund	71,704	8,981,537	(8,855,632)	9	-	**197,618**
Defined benefit pension scheme	4,432,009	137,000	-	(9)	(4,569,000)	-
	4,503,713	**9,118,537**	**(8,855,632)**	-	**(4,569,000)**	**197,618**

Previous period (As restated)

Group	As at 1 April 2023 Restated £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains / (losses) £	As at 31 March 2024 £
General fund	820,830	8,256,018	(9,005,144)	-	-	71,704
Defined benefit pension scheme	9,695,000	-	(85,991)	-	(5,177,000)	4,432,009
	10,515,830	8,256,018	(9,091,135)	-	(5,177,000)	4,503,713
Charity						
General fund	820,857	8,253,975	(9,003,128)	-	-	71,704
Defined benefit pension scheme	9,695,000	-	(85,991)	-	(5,177,000)	4,432,009
	10,515,857	8,253,975	(9,089,119)	-	(5,177,000)	4,503,713

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025
Group	£	£	£
Fixed assets	398,770	-	**398,770**
Current assets	857,569	568,262	**1,425,831**
Current liabilities	(861,969)	-	**(861,969)**
Long term liabilities	(196,752)	-	**(196,752)**
Total funds	**197,618**	**568,262**	**765,880**
Charity			
Fixed assets	398,770	-	**398,770**
Investments	1	-	**1**
Current assets	857,568	568,262	**1,425,830**
Current liabilities	(861,969)	-	**(861,969)**
Long term liabilities	(196,752)	-	**(196,752)**
Total funds	**197,618**	**568,262**	**765,880**

Previous year (As restated)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024
Group	£	£	£
Fixed assets	492,335	-	492,335
Current assets	727,747	628,281	1,356,028
Pension debtor	4,432,000	-	4,432,000
Current liabilities	(883,721)	-	(883,721)
Long term liabilities	(264,648)	-	(264,648)
Total funds	4,503,713	628,281	5,131,994
Charity			
Fixed assets	492,335	-	492,335
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets	727,746	628,281	1,356,027
Pension debtor	4,432,000	-	4,432,000
Current liabilities	(883,721)	-	(883,721)
Long term liabilities	(264,648)	-	(264,648)
Total funds	4,503,713	628,281	5,131,994

18. OPERATING LEASES

The group had the following operating leases in place as at 31 March 2025:

Group and Charity	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Due less than 1 year	**3,610**	3,610
	3,610	3,610

19. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is the Board of Trustees and management team who are responsible for the strategic and operational decisions of the charity.

20. PENSIONS

The company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on pensionable pay.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary based on triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The most recent valuation was as at 31 March 2025 which has been updated to reflect conditions at the balance sheet date. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rate of increase in salaries and pensions.

There were no amounts outstanding in relation to pension contributions during the current or prior period. Regular employer contributions during the period totalled £604,000 (2024: £567,000).

Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGPS)
The company participates in the 'Torfaen County Borough Council (Greater Gwent)' pension scheme which is a defined benefit scheme based on final pensionable salary. Certain employees of the company participated in the scheme prior to the company's inception and, as such, assets or liabilities attributable to these individuals were identified at the transfer date i.e. 1st October 2014. As part of the agreement, liability for the proportion of the debt attributable to these employees that relates to the pre-transfer period rests with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). Gains and losses relating solely to the period since transfer are recognised in the income statement and statement of other comprehensive income. However, the deficit is underwritten by BGCBC. Pension funding is based on funding advice from the scheme actuary based on a different set of assumptions. The FRS 102 valuation does not impact on the level of contribution that the company and hence ultimately BGCBC has to make.

20. PENSIONS (continued)

Changes in the Fair Value of Plan Assets, Defined Benefit Obligation and Net Liability for year end 31 March 2025

Amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

Period ended 31 March 2025	Assets £(000)	Obligations £(000)	Net (liability)/ asset £(000)
Fair value of plan assets	30,350	-	**30,350**
Present value of funded liabilities	-	21,896	**(21,896)**
Opening Position as at 31 March 2024	**30,350**	**21,896**	**8,454**
Service cost			
Current service cost	-	827	**(827)**
Past service cost (including curtailments)	-	43	**(43)**
Total Service Cost	**-**	**870**	**(870)**
Net interest			
Interest income on plan assets	1,483	-	1,483
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	-	1,080	(1,080)
Total net interest	**1,483**	**1,080**	**403**
Total defined benefit cost recognised in Profit or (Loss)	**1,483**	**1,950**	**(467)**
Cash flows			
Plan participants' contributions	286	286	-
Employer contributions	604	-	**604**
Estimated Benefits paid	(369)	(369)	-
Expected closing position	**32,354**	**23,763**	**8,591**
Remeasurements			
Changes in financial assumptions	-	(4,961)	**4,961**
Changes in demographic assumptions	-	(37)	**37**
Other experience	-	(200)	**200**
Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	93	-	**93**
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	**93**	**(5,198)**	**5,291**
Fair value of plan assets	**32,447**	-	**32,447**
Present value of funded liabilities	-	**18,565**	**(18,565)**
Asset Ceiling	**(32,447)**	**(18,565)**	**(13,882)**
Closing Position as at 31 March 2025	**-**	**-**	**-**

20. PENSIONS (continued)

The major categories of plan assets as a percentage of total plan assets are as follows:

Using the most recent asset split and allowing for index returns, where required, on each asset category, the estimated split of assets as at 31 March 2025 is as shown below:

Period Ended	**31 March 2025**	31 March 2024
	%	%
Equities	70	74
Bonds	19	17
Property	10	6
Cash	1	3

The financial assumptions, as described in the accompanying report, are summarised below:

Period Ended	**31 Mar 2025**	31 March 2024
	% p.a.	% p.a.
Pension Increase Rate	2.70	2.75
Salary Increase Rate	3.20	3.25
Discount Rate	5.85	4.85

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2023 model, with a 15% weighting of 2023 (and 2022) data, a 0% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. for both males and females. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 for the Employer are summarised below:

The average future life expectances at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	**Females**
Current Pensioners	19.3 years	23.1 years
Future Pensioners*	20.3 years	24.2 years

*Figures assume members aged 45 as at the last formal valuation date.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2025	**Approximate % increase to Defined Benefit Obligation**	**Approximate monetary amount £(000)**
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2	421
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4	743
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0	16
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2	417

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period	**(4,366,114)**	(6,199,535)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**121,125**	117,344
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	**9,418**	3,899
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**4,427,855**	325,682
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	**(93,547)**	5,039,800
Net cash provided by operating activities	**98,737**	(712,809)
Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash in hand	**634,859**	563,682
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**634,859**	563,682

Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	Other non-cash changes	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	563,682	**71,177**	-	**634,859**
Obligations under finance lease	(330,597)	**74,305**	-	**(256,292)**
	233,085	**145,482**	-	**378,567**

22. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIY (AS RESTATED)

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	1,000	-	1,000
Charitable activities	8,228,743	1,212,260	9,441,003
Other trading activities	26,275	-	26,275
Total income and endowments	8,256,018	1,212,260	9,468,278
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	9,091,135	1,399,678	10,490,813
Total expenditure	9,091,135	1,399,678	10,490,813
Net (expenditure)/ income	(835,117)	(187,418)	(1,022,535)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	3,277,000	-	3,277,000
Restriction on defined benefit pension schemes	(8,454,000)	-	(8,454,000)
Net movement in funds	(6,012,117)	(187,418)	(6,199,535)
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	10,515,830	815,699	11,331,529
Total funds carried forward	4,503,713	628,281	5,131,994

22. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (AS RESTATED) (continued)

Charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	20,815	-	20,815
Charitable activities	8,228,743	1,212,260	9,441,003
Other income	4,417	-	4,417
Total income and endowments	8,253,975	1,212,260	9,466,235
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	9,089,119	1,399,678	10,488,797
Total expenditure	9,089,119	1,399,678	10,488,797
Net (expenditure)/ income	(835,144)	(187,418)	(1,022,562)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	3,277,000	-	3,277,000
Restriction on defined benefit pension schemes	(8,454,000)	-	(8,454,000)
Net movement in funds	(6,012,144)	(187,418)	(6,199,562)
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	10,515,857	815,699	11,331,556
Total funds carried forward	4,503,713	628,281	5,131,994

Aneurin Leisure Trust

England & Wales - Charity number 1159092

Accounts

Company registration number: 8951503
Charity registration number: 1159092

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
(A company limited by guarantee and not having any share capital)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, STRATEGIC REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

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LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Foreword from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is a great pleasure to introduce the annual review in the tenth year operating as Aneurin Leisure. The Trust has continued to deliver services and programs across Blaenau Gwent to a high standard whilst achieving our mission of 'Improving Community Life'.

This has been another excellent year of working closely with partners such as Tai Calon with our Community Kit Room, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board with several funded initiatives and Cardiff Capital Region on the design phase of a potentially exciting investment plan at Parc Bryn Bach.

During a tough and challenging financial climate due to the unprecedented rise in energy costs, Aneurin Leisure (Trust) has delivered service improvements and achieved targets agreed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) which have been achieved through utilising Trust reserves to maintain all services.

Key investments have been limited again through this financial year with funding streams being the ideal opportunity to improve the services for our residents. The Trust is pleased to share successful investments such as:

1. Air handling motor replacements in:
    a. Abertillery Sports Centre
    b. Ebbw Vale Sports Centre
    c. Tredegar Sports Centre
2. New Spin bikes in Ebbw Vale Sports Centre
3. Refurbishment of Parc Bryn Bach BMX track
4. Installation of a new play area in Bedwellty House & Park

There has been a successful relocation of the Library and Adult Education space in Abertillery with a move to Trinity Chapel completed in September 2024.

Weddings and functions continue to be popular in Bedwellty House with growth this year coming from music events in the carriage house garden at weekends which have enabled the hospitality arm to grow its business again.

Ebbw Vale Sports Centre continues to run large scale sporting events which increases footfall and secondary spend within the centres whilst Parc Bryn Bach has seen a strong first year delivering residential courses to schools with repeat bookings being achieved.

The National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) is an established partner on the Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN). The cluster design promotes joint working across practices and the integration of primary care services with key partners such as the Local Health Board, BGCBC and Third Sector. Clusters also have a key role in supporting local health needs assessments, allocating appropriate resources and forecasting the potential future demand on primary care. There have been multiple collaborative projects that have been established in these meetings including Fibromyalgia and Dementia working groups, with the NERS team delivering bespoke classes to contribute to the respective needs.

The successes achieved across the Trust are in no small part due to the commitment of our employees. Once again, the staff have been our greatest resource, working extremely hard to deliver high quality services to our customers in our facilities and the communities of Blaenau Gwent. I would like to thank the entire team and all our partners for their contribution to the delivery of improved services across the area.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the continued success of Aneurin Leisure during the year: our Trustees, staff, volunteers, funders and partners and in particular, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Above all, I would like to thank the local community whose interests we serve, for their support and engagement over the past year.



Lyn Evans
Chair
Board of Trustees

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report which incorporates the strategic report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as amended for accounting periods commencing 1 January 2016).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

- to provide or assist in the provision of both indoor and outdoor facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life;
- to promote community participation in healthy recreational activities;
- to provide or assist in the provision of community facilities to be available to all sections of the community without distinction, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and/or other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for all those who use the facilities;
- to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of a theatre/ arts development;
- to advance education in the arts by the establishment and maintenance of an art gallery and/or museum;
- to advance the education of the public through the provision of a library;
  to provide, maintain and equip parks with the object of advancing public education, with particular regard to horticulture, arboriculture, wild plants and wildlife;
- to preserve buildings of historic or architectural importance;
- to develop the capacity and skills of members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and participate more fully in society; and,
- to pursue such other charitable purposes analogous to any of the above as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall determine (together the "Objects").

To carry out any other charitable activity subject to the prior written consent of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Public benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trust considers how planned activities support its vision of improving community life through Leisure, Learning and Culture which benefits the local population served by the charity. The Trust aims to deliver social outcomes that improve health and wellbeing whilst encouraging staff to strive to improve the quality of service delivery in a commercially sustainable way.

Some of the key activities undertaken in relation to the objects of the charity and to further the charities' purpose for the public benefit are outlined on pages 6 – 68.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- These accounts represent trading for Aneurin Leisure for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

- Aneurin Leisure has maintained a strong relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

- The Library Service continued to achieve all 12 of the core entitlements of the Welsh Public Library Standards for 2023/24.

- The funding for the relocation of Abertillery Library to Trinity Chapel has been secured via the local authority. Contractors have been appointed with planned opening date for September 2024.

- The Library Service recruited to new additional members of staff (Outreach) in October 2023 from SPF funding. These posts are secured until March 2025. Both posts have had an instrumental effect on all Library Service indicators.

- All areas of library borrowing have increased over the year. Adult books by 13%, Children's by 45%, audio-visual by 4% and electronic downloads by 28%. Active library membership has increased by 25%

- Additionally, SPF funds have been acquired to retain a NERS Facilitator. This has enabled the NERS team to develop new initiatives through weight management provisions. These initiatives aim to promote healthier lifestyles and provide comprehensive support for individuals seeking to manage their weight effectively. The retention of the NERS Facilitator has been crucial in expanding the programmes reach and enhancing its impact on community health and wellbeing.

Who used and benefited from our services?

The Charitable Trust provides leisure, learning and cultural activities to the residents of Blaenau Gwent. Whilst some sections of the community are affluent, many are not and some 21 per cent of areas fall in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales and overall, the majority of its areas are more deprived than the Wales average.

The Charitable Trust is responsible for the operation, management and development of the following:

- Three Sports Centres (including Sports Development and NERS Facilitators)
- Four Learning Action Centres
- Six Libraries and two home delivery vans
- Bedwellty House & Park
- Parc Bryn Bach

Getting Young People and Communities Active

Sports Development

- Aneurin Leisure's Sports Development team deliver a wide range of sport, physical activity, community engagement and swimming opportunities across Blaenau Gwent, which all contribute to the 'Vision for Sport in Wales'. The vision is for everyone to have lifelong enjoyment of sport.

- The Sports Development team continue to deliver inspirational, engaging, high quality sport and physical activity programmes, projects and interventions, particularly for children, young people and their families which are insight led and aligned to Sport Wales' six levels of strategic intent:

  1. TO BE PERSON CENTRED
  2. TO GIVE EVERY YOUNG PERSON A GREAT START
  3. TO ENSURE EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ACTIVE THROUGH SPORT
  4. TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR THE LONG-TERM
  5. TO SHOWCASE THE BENEFITS OF SPORT
  6. TO BE A HIGHLY VALUED ORGANISATION

- An initiative that continues to profoundly impact Blaenau Gwent is the Community Kit Room. The Community Kit Room (CKR), situated within Abertillery Sports Centre, is a free initiative that provides sports clothing and footwear for people aged 3 – adults. Since the launch of the Community Kit Room (CKR) in 2023, the initiative has been a resounding success. From football boots to shorts, swimming costumes and gymnastic leotards, the CKR, operated by the Trust Sports Development team, has proudly supplied 331 items of sportswear to 140 individuals within a 12-month period. Members of the public can enquire about available sportswear, with the potential to view and select items. Donations are received in large quantities on a weekly basis; creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly platform for sportswear within Blaenau Gwent. The CKR has been identified as best practice, with local authorities across Wales replicating the initiative. The positive impact of the CKR has been recognised nationally by StreetGames as 'an organisation that demonstrates exceptional dedication to supporting and empowering communities.' In 2023, the CKR was named South Wales regional winner of the StreetGames Mental Health & Wellbeing Award for its profound impact.

- Equally, Sports Development's historic Sports Library initiative continues to successfully operate in all four of Blaenau Gwent's full-time libraries. Additional funding, and National Governing Body (NGB) donations has increased the range of sporting equipment available to library customers. All items continue to be loaned using the Library Management System, which requires customers to join the library in the first instance, but then gives access to all available items for a 3-week period. A total of 306 items of equipment were reportedly loaned out during the 2023/24 period.

- Drawing on the tremendous partnership established between Sports Development and Libraries, interactive storytelling, combining reading and physical activity, has been established in all six libraries in Blaenau Gwent. Children aged 3 – 8 are being encouraged to 'jump into a book and make the words wiggle off the page'. The libraries have been incredibly receptive to transforming their library settings into makeshift playgrounds to encourage fun and movement. More than 500 children have engaged in the provision since its establishment. The concept originated from the Sports Development team identifying the need for more 'early years' provision to be prevalent within Blaenau Gwent communities. 'Wiggly Words' has been identified as best practice, with local authorities across the Gwent region replicating similar provision.

- Collaborative working continues to remain at the forefront of all aspects of Sports Development's programmes. This approach has created a gateway to local 'hard to engage' communities and has provided a platform for young people living in those areas. The Sports Development team has forged invaluable links with Youth Services, community groups and other local agencies to encourage local children and young people to become more physically active in safe and fun environments. During 2023/24, this approach has been extended to community food development, giving children and young people the opportunity to take part in fun physical activity and enjoy nutritious, healthy meals.

- The importance of fuelling children and young people to allow them to be more physically active comes into fruition particularly during the school holiday periods. For too many young people, school holidays can be a time of hardship, hunger and isolation, as families in underserved communities struggle to fund the added food and childcare costs that the holidays bring. Throughout a proportion of the 2023/24 school holiday periods, the Sports Development team partnered with the Food Resilience team of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to devise a comprehensive plan to provide children and young people residing in isolated areas of Blaenau Gwent with healthy meals, funded playscheme spaces, and interactive cooking workshops (including parental access to cooking appliances, recipe books and ingredient packs for home cooking). The project has served as a lifeline for many families and has so far engaged with a total of 431 children across 25 sessions, including partnership working with 5 local community groups. The Sports Development team continues to extensively evaluate trends, latent demand and rates of participation to help shape the landscape of all their programmes. There has been a particular focus on sport specific and mass engagement opportunities during the 2023/24 period based on 'latent demand' from educational settings. Inclusive programmes have been strategically placed and embedded into curricular and extra-curricular time across pre and primary school settings, secondary school settings and in Blaenau Gwent's special school. From traditional team sports (football, rugby, netball) to non-traditional sports (dance, skateboarding, martial arts), an overwhelming number of pupils from across Blaenau Gwent schools have positively experienced an array of sporting opportunities throughout the 2023/24 academic year, with the focus being on fun and engagement.

- Sports Development's ability to deliver, adapt and evolve to the ever-changing landscape of sport and physical activity is in owing to the team's incredible workforce and its positive can-do culture. Leadership has become embedded in schools, with the foundations being set from as early as Year 5, with the delivery of the Playmaker Award. Young Leader Awards and the Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassador scheme also remain at the forefront of the leadership pathway within secondary schools and contributes towards building capacity and capability of Sports Development's wider workforce.

Aquatics

- In the period 2023/24, we have observed the participation of 2,716 children from Years 3 to 6 in school swimming activities. This is the highest number of swimmers we have had for the Primary schools since we first started recording the number for Welsh Government. We are also seeing an increase in the pass rate 53%, which is a significant increase compared to the 2022/23 figures. This is due to all schools returning to swimming lessons since the Covid-19 restrictions being lifted meaning they have been able to have a full academic year of swimming lessons.

  - Total number of Primary School Pupils Swimming: 2,716
  - Number of Girls Swimming: 1,296
  - Numbers of Boys Swimming: 1,420
  - Total number of Year 6 Swimming: 687
  - Total number of Year 6 Pupils Achieving KS 2: 364, 53%
  - Number of Year 6 Girls Swimming: 339
  - Number of Year 6 Boys Swimming: 348
  - Number of Year 6 Girls Achieving KS 2: 185, 55%
  - Number of Year 6 Boys Achieving KS 2: 179, 51%
  - Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Abertillery: 120, 46%
  - Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Ebbw Vale: 154, 55%
  - Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Tredegar: 90, 60%

- Aneurin Leisure Swim School provisions are currently 1,894 out of a possible 2,011 (maximum occupancy) children taking part in these lessons. This is 94% occupancy of the Swim School. The Swim School has also increased from 5 days a week between the 3 Sports Centres to 7 days a week;

  - Ebbw Vale Sports Centre – 700/767 – Occupancy 91%
  - Abertillery Sports Centre – 589/596 – Occupancy 98%
  - Tredegar Sports Centre – 605/648 – Occupancy 93%
  - Overall Occupancy – 94%

- Non-swimmers in Key Stage 2 (KS2) are now being supported through the Sports Development AYP swimming programme. Those who do not meet the swimming criteria at KS2 are offered swimming classes in Year 7. 31 non-swimmers attended the lessons. 26 (84%) of these swimmers have now move from the Foundation stage (shallow end of the pool) to the Target stage (deep end) and have become competent and confident swimmers.

- Aneurin Leisure is working closely with swimming clubs to enhance the transition from swimming lessons to the clubs. We have introduced a Tidal lesson's which has been put together by the Aquatic team and Swimming Teacher to make the transition from lessons to Swimming Club or Lifesaving Club easier for the swimmers.

- The swim data collection process has been expanded to include the following:

  - Piranha Swimming Club has an around 93 swimmers at their club.
  - Tri Club has 30 swimmers at their club
  - Tredegar Torpedoes Swimming Club has 58 swimmers at their club and 22 at their adult technique section of the club.

Adult and Community Learning

- The aim of Adult Community Learning (ACL) is to offer lifelong learning opportunities for those who wish to improve their essential skills and enhance their employment opportunities. Aneurin Leisure Adult Community Learning are part of the Gwent ACL Partnership with Caerphilly CBC, Torfaen CBB, Monmouthshire CC and Newport City Council. The Partnership is overseen by Coleg Gwent and offers a range of courses and clubs tailored to meet the diverse needs of its communities, including essential skills, independent living skills, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), ICT, employability and leisure and wellbeing courses. The Partnership was inspected by Estyn - His Majesty's Education Inspectorate in Wales in November 2023.

  The Greater Gwent Adult Learning Partnership, which is led by Coleg Gwent. Has received a glowing commendation following a review conducted by Estyn, Wales' education inspectorate. The report highlights the transformative impact of the partnership's work on learners and communities alike.

  During the inspection process, Estyn inspectors evaluate every aspect of the partnership's operations, as well as meeting with key stakeholders including the chair of the partnership, senior leaders, tutors and, most importantly, the learners. By visiting sessions, observing interactions, and reviewing documentation, the inspectors gained a complete understanding of the partnership's strengths and areas for development.

  The key highlights identified within the report were:

  - **A commitment to empowering learners**
    One of the standout features of the partnership highlighted in the report is its commitment to learner empowerment. Learners spoke passionately about the positive impact of the partnership on their lives, saying that they would be "lost without the centre" which has become a lifeline after challenging life circumstances. Learners in digital skills classes are particularly appreciative of learning about cyber security and value learning how to keep themselves safe when browsing, banking, and shopping online.

  - **An inclusive and supportive learning experience**
    Estyn's report praises the tutors' dedication to creating inclusive learning environments where every individual feels valued and supported. The report stated that "tutors create warm and welcoming environments that learners feel comfortable entering."

    The partnership is noted as flexible and responsive, delivering programmes at times and in venues to suit learner needs, with well-structured and person-centred plans. Tutors work with learners to create meaningful targets such as "*I am doing this to achieve my long-term goal of becoming a midwife*" or "I *am supporting my son to achieve GCSE maths*." The partnership's emphasis on mental health and well-being also resonated deeply with inspectors, who noted the tangible benefits experienced by learners. To support learners' mental health – 17 tutors across the partnership successfully achieved the L2 Accredited Mental Health First Aid course, seven of these progressed to the L3 Award in Supervising/Leading First Aid for Mental Health. These courses enabled staff to have a better understanding of mental health conditions and to signpost learners to appropriate organisation.

    One learner said: *"I wouldn't be able to manage without this support*" and "*It's very important as it's the one day of the week when we know where we are."*

- **A culture of continuous improvement**
  Estyn's report also commended the partnership's robust self-evaluation processes and quality improvement planning. By carefully analysing learner assessment data, monitoring progress, and asking for feedback, the partnership ensures that its programmes remain relevant to changing needs. The observation activities also support the partnership in monitoring the quality of delivery, identifying good practices, and developing those staff in need of support. Finally, the commitment to continuous improvement is reflected in the positive outcomes achieved by learners across a wide range of programmes.

  As we celebrate the achievements of the Greater Gwent Adult Learning Partnership highlighted in Estyn's report, we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in the partnership.

- Adult Community Learning learners and staff celebrated success at the annual Gwent ACL Partnership award ceremony, which was held at Bryn Meadows on Tuesday, 13th June 2024. The event was attended by local dignitaries, Adult Community Learning Staff and participants from all over the Greater Gwent area.

  The winners from Aneurin Leisure were:
  - Learner of the Year – Anita Van Renswoude- Davies
  - Tutor of the Year – Michelle Seabourne
  - Group of the Year – Digital Editing Group Ebbw Vale LAC

  These awards were presented by Lyn Evans – Chair of Aneurin Leisure Board of Trustees.

  Karen Williams was the winner of this year's Hwyl Award which was first awarded in 2019 in memory of Linda Bailey, a much loved and missed colleague and former Essential Skills Manager from Torfaen. This award is given to someone whose own positive attitude and love of learning shine through, in the same way that Linda's did. Karen enrolled on an ICDL course in 2020 and has recently been appointed as an Adult Education Tutor and it was her enthusiasm and dedication to adult learning that saw her beat off stiff opposition from the rest of the Partnership. Karen was presented with this coveted award by Linda's daughters Sophie and Lucie Phillips.

  Adult Community Learning were also thrilled to receive the Best Achieving Authority Award for the second time – well done to all our staff and learners!

  And last, but not least, Ceri Waters Aneurin Leisure's Partnership, Funding and Contracts Manager was given a special award in recognition of her commitment and long service to the Gwent ACL Partnership.

- **UKSPF Projects - Bridges Plus and Multiply**

  £1.5 million of funding for the two new projects that began in April 2023, as part of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, is due to end in March 2025.

  To date, the Bridges Plus employability project has provided intensive keyworker support to 82 economically inactive participants (62 of which consider themselves to be socially excluded) and 100 long term unemployed participants (50 socially excluded). Interventions include providing support to access basic skills (92), support to engage in life skills (100), and support to gain a qualification or complete a course (126). 112 participants have reported reduced barriers to employment and 95 participants have gained relevant qualifications to enhance their CVs.

The Multiply project has delivered 44 adult numeracy courses in schools and community centres throughout Blaenau Gwent. 214 participants have completed maths courses up to a Level 2.

Both projects are currently working to target.

Case Study 1 (Bridges into Work 2)

Julie came to the project for support in early January 2024. She was looking to set up her own business offering support at home for vulnerable adults. She had already put together a business plan but needed help to access training. Julie successfully completed an Emergency First Aid Level 3 qualification through the project. Bridges Plus also funded an online Safeguarding level 2 course - this was essential for operating a business within the sector.

Julie started her business in February 2024 – Bridges Plus continued support through funding some equipment (such as mops and cleaning caddies) as well as uniforms.

The business is going very well, and Julie has already had to recruit another staff member. A referral has since been made to the "Quickstart" project whereby Help at Home may become an employer for the scheme.

Case Study 2 (Bridges Plus)

In June 2023, Participant B enrolled on the Bridges Plus project for employability support. Originally, he was supported to boost employability and look for local jobs as he is unable to drive. After many sessions, Participant B agreed to volunteer in a local community garden and found that this is something he thoroughly enjoys. The project supplied him with waterproof clothing because of the unpredictable weather and eventually he felt more confident to look for work in this area.

Participant B is severely deaf. Despite having trouble with both ears, he has managed to get by for many years with one hearing aid. However, after his parents passing, he realised just how much he came to rely on his mother for support regarding his hearing – doctor appointments, advice and information, grants, and benefits etc. This has drastically impacted Participant B's quality of life, and he has not felt confident enough to stay in steady employment. However, as a result of the time he has spent volunteering, he feels much more independent and willing to take on more responsibility.

Working closely with Participant B, his development worker realised how much of a barrier his hearing impairment is. He is not able to communicate effectively with her nor his work coach. His pride prevents him for asking for help and he is embarrassed to ask people to repeat and explain what they are saying.

Eventually, he admitted he had not had a hearing test since 2007, and his hearing aid had not been changed since 2018. His development worker contacted the Aneurin Bevan Audiology department via phone call to ensure Participant B was on the waiting list for an appointment to have his hearing tested as it could be far worse than it was in 2007.

Over the past few months, Participant B has received support from Bridges Plus to access free hearing aid batteries through the hospital as he was unaware this could be arranged and a ride via Blaenau Gwent Car Scheme to take Participant B to Nevill Hall Hospital for a drop-in session with Audiology as his hearing aid has recently broken.

Realising that transport is another barrier for Participant B, especially because of his hearing, his development worker requested a letter from the Audiology team that states Participant B's condition and the severity, so he can get a concessionary bus pass. This is yet another barrier he has been able to overcome with the support of Bridges Plus.

In recent weeks, Participant B has had issues with housing. A family member has threatened homelessness. He came to Bridges Plus for help and we discussed filling in a Supporting People form. His development worker made sure he was aware of the type of support that may come from the referral as he is very vulnerable.

It has been a lengthy process but Participant B's barriers to employment have been reduced. Within the 10 months he has been with Bridges Plus, the support provided has ranged from food bank access, healthcare, physical and emotional wellbeing support, and employability guidance.

Participant B has progressed from being unwilling to accept help and uncomfortable asking for support, to reaching out when he is in times of need.

Case Study 3 (Multiply Project)

The Multiply *Make Cooking Count* courses focus on improving parents' numeracy skills so they can encourage their children to learn numeracy at home whilst cooking together. By the end of the course, the parents will be able to:

- give examples of standard and non-standard units of measure for weight, volume, time and temperature
- convert units for measuring weight in the same system
- read, estimate and measure ingredients, volumes of ingredients and fraction quantities of ingredients.

They will also have a better understanding of cooking requirements given in recipes e.g. estimate total cooking time and set temperature of cooking equipment.

When the course started, the parents at Ebbw Fawr did not know each other but have now set up a social media support group and meet for coffee during the week. They commented that they tried food on the course that they would not have bought before and are now measuring out ingredients when they make the recipes again at home.

Parks & Hospitality

- The Tennis courts offering three courts of free tennis provision was broadly utilised throughout the summer 2023 period. The courts were utilised by a range of ages which helped build and evidence base to successfully apply to the Lawn Tennis Association for funding to upgrade the courts with a full re-surface, online booking and gate system bringing the Bedwellty Courts to the same standard as the 2022 refurbishment of Six Bells Tennis Courts. Funding was successfully secured, and a £63,000 refurbishment of the courts has been completed. The tennis courts are a welcome upgrade to the park. Within the first two weeks of opening, four annual memberships were taken out and the courts widely used by Tredegar Comprehensive School.

  "Having this amazing facility close to school allows for a more realistic Tennis session. The young people are really enjoying lessons outside of the school on 'real' facilities their tennis skills are improving each week" Jamie Howells, PE Tredegar Comprehensive School.

- Mini Movers has remained a regular in the Bedwellty weekly calendar continuing to attract young parents and their babies to the music and movement session. New parents and carers meet and share their experiences of their babies in a welcoming environment. The session has increased immeasurable value on the mental wellbeing of some of the new parents with some powerful feedback to the session organiser.

- Louby Lou and her school holiday adventures continued throughout the 2023/24 school holiday calendar, taking young people and their families on a range of exciting journeys throughout the park and grounds. The stories unveiled great imaginations of the participants where the ark became home to pirates, unicorns, mermaids and wizards all went on exciting journeys around the grounds unravelling the story.

- During quarter four of the 2023/24 period Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) was applied for to upgrade the children's play area at Bedwellty Park to promote a safe and inviting place for families with children to visit and explore. £75,000 funding was awarded to Bedwellty House to develop this area installing new and improving some existing play equipment as well as introducing a floor road network where little learners can learn to ride balance bikes and pedal bikes in a safe and engaging environment. Bikes will be available for hire should families wish. Contracts were awarded to Wicksteed Leisure to undertake the development works.

- The bunkhouse at Parc Bryn Bach was launched in 2023 hosting its very first residential to Willowbrook Primary School, Cardiff. Triangulated planning between Adventure Activity team leaders, catering team leaders and Park management ensured the first residential was delivered with precision to detail. The school group had an incredible experience, which instilled confidence into the team planning and delivering, pride in the product that what was being delivered was of quality, and pride in the business to be able to promote the bunkhouse with secured confidence.

  Hi Cath (Parker) and the Parc Bryn Bach team,
  Just wanted to say thank you so much for an amazing week. You and the staff made us feel so welcome and went above and beyond to make our stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. Nothing was too much trouble. The children and staff had the best week and loved the range of activities you provided for the children. They had opportunities to develop their confidence and independence whilst working on their communication skills and it was great to see them moving out of their comfort zone and take risks in a safe environment. Some of the children hadn't experienced anything like this before and I know you will have created lifelong memories. Your team's knowledge and wealth of experience in adventurous activities clearly shone throughout the week and we felt safe with your professional, friendly team of staff. Thank you again and I hope to be in touch in the near future to book for next year.

  Diolch yn fawr, Lisa and the Willowbrook Staff

- As well as the first residential the Activities team delivered 26 school round robin activity days to schools, predominantly from within Blaenau Gwent as part of their outdoor learning and learning outside of the classroom as part of the New Curriculum for Wales.

- The availability of activities during the peak season at Parc Bryn Bach has doubled due to developing a greater staffing infrastructure in the activities team and has proven the greatest asset with activities being provided every day during the peak school holidays and every weekend. This has enabled visitors, for the first time ever, to explore and enjoy the great range of activities available, including climbing wall, water sports and caving. This initiative proved popular with visitors and residents staying on site for their families to have plenty of activities to engage in without having to pre book. Parc Bryn Bach has traditionally focussed on developing activities 'away' from the site in terms of gorge walking, paragliding and hill walking - the shift to on-site activities has been hugely welcomed but the local community and wider visitors to the park.

- Archery Tag was launched in Summer 2023 offering an additional on-site adventure for young people and families visiting Parc Bryn Bach. It has proved popular as a group activity and a favoured part of the school round robin days as an activity on their carousel.

- The Adventure Activity team at Parc Bryn Bach again attended an Education Show in September 2023 where they had the opportunity to showcase to prospective schools and colleges the opportunities Parc Bryn Bach could offer in terms of curriculum outdoor learning, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, residentials and school activity day trips. The show was a great success with team building on delivering a first rate inaugural residential for the bunkhouse in June 2023. They secured further residentials pre-booked for 2024. During the Autum season of 2023 the team organised a busy activity calendar where 10 residentials for Summer 2024 were confirmed.

- The driving range has seen a significant increase in usage due to the introduction of a contactless payment system and ball release machine. Users no longer have to call to the visitor centre to purchase driving range tokens, they can pay and access the baskets for balls at the range. This has proven a great improvement to the customer experience and use of the area to the point where there is often a queue for using the driving range facility.

- Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) funding was secured to resurface the BMX track, develop the fence line and put in place a competition standard starting gate. The investment is much welcomed to allow the community to use this facility for free but also for the site to be able to attract competitions in the future. The contracts were awarded during quarter 4 of the 2023/24 financial year with a view to works being completed and the track ready for use by Summer 2024.

- The free and established Park Runs operate from Parc Bryn Bach on a weekly basis with a well-attended run every Saturday morning followed by a growing Junior Park run on a Sunday morning. All runners are welcomed to the Lake View Café following their run for a discounted piece of the infamous Lake View Café Toast with any drink purchased.

Support for National Health Initiatives Aimed at Improving Overall Wellbeing

- Good Boost: Good Boost is an innovative rehabilitation programme designed to support individuals who have been referred by their physiotherapists. It combines water-based and land-based exercises accessible through a user-friendly tablet application, aiming to enhance physical therapy outcomes and improve patients' overall well-being.

- Water-Based Exercises are integral to the Good Boost programme, offering a low-impact environment that reduces stress on the joints while providing resistance to strengthen muscles. These exercises are particularly beneficial for individuals with arthritis, chronic pain, or post-surgery rehabilitation needs. The buoyancy of water aids in reducing pain and swelling, allowing for a greater range of motion and facilitating smoother movements.

- Land-Based Exercises: complementing the aquatic therapy, the programme includes land-based exercises that focus on building strength, flexibility, and balance. These exercises are crucial for functional rehabilitation, helping individuals regain their ability to perform daily activities with ease. The combination of land and water exercises ensures a comprehensive approach to physical therapy, catering to diverse rehabilitation needs.

- Escape Programme Partnership: the Escape Programme has now become a well-established programme in Ebbw Vale Sports Centre. The Escape programme is a 6-week initiative where clients attend twice a week, aimed at clients with server back and hip pain clients can access the sports centre and expediting the referral process from the physiotherapist to the NERS Scheme.

- Referral Increase and Participation: during the period April 2023 to March 2024, a total of 756 referrals were received, marking a significant increase compared to the previous year's figure. Out of these, 423 individuals have started their fitness journey, resulting in a 56% penetration rate. This demonstrates the growing demand and recognition for the NERS Scheme within the community.

- Electronic Referrals: there has been a notable increase in the submission of referrals by General Practitioners (GPs) and Health Professionals through electronic means. This transition to electronic referrals has significantly reduced the time required for contact to be established with clients. Previously, staff members had to collect referrals every two weeks, causing potential delays in reaching out to individuals seeking our services.

- 60+ Programme Funding and Activities: In the 2023/24 period, the NERS team secured continued funding through Sport Wales for the 60+ programme. As part of this initiative, we have allocated two months of free membership to 200 participants in the over 60s demographic. This aims to eliminate economic barriers to physical activity and enhance social, physical, and mental wellbeing. The uptake has been remarkable, with 102% of the target reached, as 321 participants have availed themselves of the funding. Additionally, in collaboration with UDOIT Dance and Zumba Gold, we have introduced 2 dance class specifically tailored for the older population. These classes have been well attended, with a weekly average of 10-15 participants.

- Free Swimming Opportunities for Over 60s: Our commitment to promoting active lifestyles among the over 60s extends to providing free swimming opportunities across all our facilities. Free swimming sessions are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and during all public swim sessions. Based on data from April to March, we have observed an average daily usage of 38 individuals.

GP Referral Case Study

Case Study 4 - National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) Cardiovascular Health Improvement

Client: Natalie McGriele

Background: Natalie McGriele was referred to the NERS programme to improve mobility and manage her mental health bipolar moods better.

Initial Health Status:

- Struggled to do day to day tasks on a daily basis.
- Manage her mental health (Uncontrollable moods).
- Feeling very lethargic and sleeping most of the time.

Programme Participation:

- Natalie participated in the NERS programme, which included regular supervised exercise sessions and lifestyle guidance.
- The programme focused on improving her mental health through aerobic exercises, strength training, and dietary adjustments.

Results:

- Eating habits: eating more healthier variety types of foods and feel less lethargic.
- Self-help: Started an autism course which has help dealing with anger issues.
- Fitness Progress: she has been attending the gym 2-3 x a week and feel that her mood has improved greatly.
- Lifestyle Change: Natalie has adopted a more active lifestyle, incorporating regular exercise into his daily routine.

Conclusion: Natalies success in the NERS programme demonstrates the programme's effectiveness in improving Mental health, promoting healthy eating, and encouraging a more active and healthier lifestyle.

Library Service Case Study

Case Study 5 - Families & Fur Intergenerational Wellbeing Sessions

A series of 'Families and Fur' sessions were delivered at Tredegar Library over the winter of 2023/24. The aim of the sessions was to increase usage of the library on Saturday mornings, raise awareness of library services and to improve intergenerational wellbeing. A series of 6 free sessions were delivered, where families could spend enjoyable time together with animals, in the safe, inclusive library space.

The Library Service partnered with a local organisation 'Animal Interactive' to help deliver the sessions. They use rescued animals for educational purposes. Following the interactive session, library staff read a story, promoting library stock and other library services.

Jake aged 10 attended every session with his grandmother. Jake has Autism and rarely shows emotions. During the sessions he came alive and was so animated.

'*It was great to see Jake smiling, laughing, and giggling with other children. Jake normally gets overwhelmed in new social settings, but in the library, he has been at ease and calm. He has made new friends, taken a new interest in books and is now a confident library user.* -Helen, - Jake's grandmother

Ella, 8 has also attended every session with her mother. Ella's confidence has grown since attending the activities. Ella has previously been reluctant to use the library, but since attending the sessions, she has joined another library groups, i.e. Lego Club and has become an avid reader. Ella regularly visits the library after school, to borrow books and to chat to staff about the activities she has attended.

'The Animal Interactive sessions have changed Ella's perspective of the library. She had shown little interest in books, before this, but since attending, she now loves reading. Her teacher has commented on how her reading has improved. It has had a very positive impact on her' – Kate- Ella's mother.

Scott is a single father of 3 young children. He has relayed to library staff how grateful he is to have free activities for the family.





'*Having free events, which is also on our doorstep, has made a big difference to our lives. Being a single parent family, having somewhere to go where the children can be entertained, somewhere where I can relax, and we can walk to, has been great for us. The children are learning new things and interacting with different children in a lovely environment. Having free tea and coffee from the Warm Spaces also makes the library such a nice, welcoming environment. We are also new to the area, so having something that we can feel part of, has really helped us settle into the community. We have all made new friends'* – Scott

Amanda has been attending the sessions with her three children. All three children are home schooled.

'*The library activities are so beneficial for the family to mix with other children. They are learning how to be part of an audience, how to interact and share, it is such a lovely social group. Each week we borrow a group loan of books, to support their home schooling, the library is so important to us'* - Amanda

Supporting Essential Skills

- Adult Community Learning is externally funded via the Franchise Agreement with Coleg Gwent and also by the Community Learning Grant, which comes directly from the Welsh Government. To date there are 1,190 (755 Direct Grant, 435 Franchise) across all curriculum areas. Retention Rate is at 97% (97.6% Direct Grant, 96: Franchise) which is above the target of 92%.

- Parc Bryn Bach embarked on its first apprenticeship programme in 2023. One of the Adventure Activities team undertook a learning apprenticeship in Outdoor Adventure Activity. The team member successfully completed the programme to a commendable standard and has secured a 30-hour permanent contract.

- A number of team members have been part of the ILM Training Programme undertaking learning appropriate to their roles and ability. Some are achieving basic skills as part of their learning.

Tackling Inequalities

Adult Learn to Swim Programme

- Background: Tredegar Sports Centre has launched a new Adult Learn to Swim programme aimed at providing a safe and supportive environment for adults to master the essential life skill of swimming.
- Highlights: The primary goal of this programme is to create a welcoming space where adults who may feel self-conscious about their swimming abilities can learn and improve together. The sessions are designed to enhance participants' feelings of safety in and around water, while also boosting their confidence and self-worth.
- Outcomes: The Adult Learn to Swim programme has had a positive impact on participants, helping them overcome the embarrassment often associated with not being able to swim. Many have reported significant improvements in their swimming skills, confidence levels, and overall sense of achievement.
- Conclusion: This initiative at Tredegar Sports Centre addresses an important need by offering adult learners the opportunity to develop a crucial life skill in a supportive environment. By helping participants build confidence and self-worth, the programme not only enhances their safety but also contributes to their overall wellbeing.

Under 16's provision

Secondary School - Free Swimming Programme

- Background: Over 40% of pupils transitioning from primary to secondary school lack the ability to swim a length of a pool.
- Highlights: The team is working with Aneurin Leisure Swimming Instructors to offer extra-curricular swimming lessons for pupils in all Blaenau Gwent Secondary schools, across all three sports centres.
- Outcomes: The programme offers expert tuition to help students learn to swim, build water confidence, and enjoy swimming.
- Conclusion: Providing these swimming lessons addresses inequalities in water safety skills among youths, ensuring all children have the opportunity to learn this vital skill regardless of their background.

Community Kit Room - 1 Year Celebration:

- Background: The Community Kit Room celebrated its 1-year anniversary at Abertillery Sports Centre.
- Highlights: The event publicised the success and support provided to communities, with 140 individuals engaged and 331 items of clothing/footwear distributed.
- Outcomes: The Community Kit Room continues to eliminate barriers to sports participation by providing necessary equipment to those in need.
- Conclusion: This initiative ensures all children have access to sports equipment, addressing economic barriers and promoting physical activity.

Bryn Farm Family Activity Day: Background:

- Background: In partnership with Public Health Wales and Cook Stars, the team provided a family cooking workshop programme for families living within the community of Bryn Farm, Brynmawr.
- Highlights: The activity day included cooking workshops, go-karting, exploring the cave, and playing mini-golf.
- Outcomes: Families participated in healthy cooking activities, enhancing their cooking skills and promoting family bonding.

- Conclusion: This initiative supports families in underserved communities, providing opportunities for engagement in healthy activities and improving family wellness.

February Half Term Activities:

- Background: The team delivered a variety of sessions across Blaenau Gwent during the February half term.
- Highlights: 28 sessions were delivered, attended by over 300 individuals, including playschemes and cooking workshops. A sports-specific football camp was introduced at Tredegar Sports Centre.
- Outcomes: The sessions provided children and families with opportunities to engage in physical activities and learn new skills.
- Conclusion: These activities help to address inequalities by offering structured, enjoyable activities during school holidays, ensuring all children have access to quality physical and educational programmes.

Over 60's provision

Free Swim Initiative:

- Background: Aneurin Leisure has introduced free swimming sessions for individuals over 60 to promote physical activity and wellness among older adults.
- Highlights: Each sports centre now offers one day per week where swimming is free of charge for individuals over 60 during public/adult swimming sessions. This initiative aims to encourage older adults to engage in regular physical activity, which is essential for maintaining health and well-being.
- Outcomes: The free swim sessions have seen a significant uptake, with many older adults attending regularly. This initiative has helped reduce social isolation, improve physical fitness, and enhance overall well-being among the elderly population.
- Conclusion: The free over 60's swim sessions address health inequalities by providing accessible and free opportunities for older adults to stay active, socialize and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Free Aqua Aerobics for Over 60's

- Background: To further support the health and wellness of older adults, Tredegar Sports Centre has introduced free aqua aerobics sessions specifically for individuals over 60.
- Highlights: These sessions are designed to be low impact yet effective in improving cardiovascular health, strength, and flexibility. The buoyancy of the water reduces strain on joints, making it an ideal exercise for older adults.
- Outcomes: The free aqua aerobics sessions have been well-received, with consistent participation from older adults. Participants have reported improvements in mobility, strength, and overall fitness.
- Conclusion: The free aqua aerobics sessions at Tredegar Sports Centre provide an enjoyable and effective way for older adults to stay active, addressing health inequalities by offering accessible exercise options tailored to their needs.

Muscular Skeletal Pathway

- Background: In partnership with local GPs and the physiotherapy department, Aneurin Leisure has developed a pool-based program targeting older adults with mobility issues.
- Highlights: The Muscular Skeletal Pathway program, part of the NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme), focuses on exercises that help improve mobility, strength, and flexibility. The water-based exercises are gentle on the joints, making them suitable for individuals with musculoskeletal conditions.
- Outcomes: Participants in the Muscular Skeletal Pathway program have shown significant improvements in mobility and pain management. The program has helped many older adults regain independence and improve their quality of life.

- Conclusion: This program addresses health inequalities by providing specialized, accessible exercise options for older adults with mobility issues, enhancing their physical health and overall wellbeing.

Good Boost Provision

- Background: Aneurin Leisure has introduced Good Boost sessions, utilizing iPads for virtual classes that can be used for pool-based activities, dryside activities, and pre/post-natal classes.
- Highlights: Good Boost is an innovative approach that uses technology to deliver customized exercise programs. The iPads provide virtual classes tailored to the needs of participants, whether in the pool or on dry land. This includes activities for older adults, individuals with mobility issues, and pre/post-natal exercises.
- Outcomes: The Good Boost sessions have expanded the range of accessible exercise options for the community. Participants have benefited from personalized exercise routines that cater to their specific health needs and preferences.
- Conclusion: The introduction of Good Boost sessions addresses health inequalities by leveraging technology to provide accessible, tailored exercise programs. This initiative supports the physical and mental well-being of diverse populations, including older adults and pre/post-natal individuals, promoting a healthier community overall.

This new approach aims to address the inequalities that are high on the local authority's agenda, reflecting the commitment to tackle such issues in the broader community.

Library Service

- To celebrate World Book Day in March 2024, the service worked in partnership with Families First, to provide children with free costumes. The costumes were loaned from local libraries, which worked well, with families joining the library at the same time and borrowing related stock. This scheme was particularly well received by families in need, many parents commenting how it helped them deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

- The Citizen's Advice Service continues to hold weekly sessions in all libraries. The service provided compliments our wider offer of free, informal support to local residents, particularly for cost of living help. The sessions are popular in all libraries and has helped us maintain footfall figures.

- A new coding project was rolled out across all libraries in Oct 2023. The purpose of this project is to provide an extracurricular, community based, STEM intervention that addresses educational inequality and disparity of opportunity, for children in Blaenau Gwent within our libraries. Working in partnership with Aspire2Be and the Education Dept of Blaenau Gwent Council. All library staff were trained in how to deliver taster sessions to all year 6 pupils across the borough. This scheme is continuing over 24/25 with several inter-generational community coding clubs being established in all libraries. This new, innovative scheme has been an important driver to help us tackle the divide by delivering opportunities for families to learn coding together in libraries



- The Data Sim scheme has continued to grow in popularity and has now been running for two years. Working in partnership with The Good Things Foundation and the National Data Bank, this scheme has helped us to bridge the digital divide in the borough. This project supports our cost-of-living help for the community, offering data to those people in need. It links with another digital inclusion project we deliver, the loaning of free tablets. This enables us to provide a solution to those people who have no access to data

- The Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, visited Tredegar Library in September 2023, as part of his Library Marathon Tour, championing the power and impact of reading.

- The Summer Reading Challenge was promoted at schools, outreach locations and at all libraries. We worked in partnership with the Sports Development team to deliver 'Wiggly Words' sessions in all libraries, incorporating exercise with stories.

- Combating loneliness and improving health and wellbeing continued to be a priority for the Library Service over 2023/24. Loneliness is a major public health issue, in which the service has reacted to, in order to support users. The overarching theme across the service is about providing spaces that are welcoming, informal, and shared for community use. This is extremely important to the residents of Blaenau Gwent, as we provided one of the few places where there is expectation not to spend money and is inclusive.

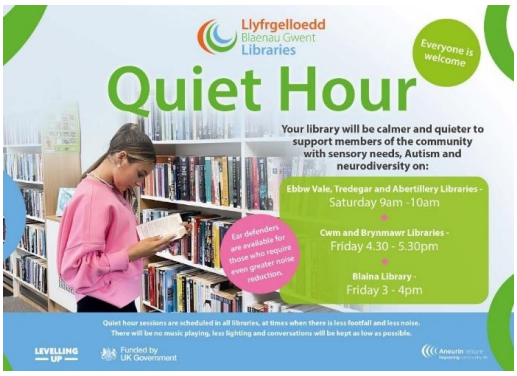
- Various health campaigns have been promoted over the year, for example, Mental Health Awareness Week in May 2024 and Empathy Day in June 2024.

- There has been a particular focus on Dementia Friendly events, with Friendly Fridays and Singalongs for Wellbeing.

- The service is working closely with the local health board and the local public health teams to develop a social prescribing scheme in the area. Working in partnership with a wide range of health professionals and organisations, we are currently facilitating an informal social prescribing scheme, this will be developed with more formal referral links. Two libraries are designed as wellbeing hubs as part of the integrated Wellbeing Network in Blaenau Gwent

- The Reading well collections are regularly promoted and over the year several schools and community organisations have borrowed sets.

- Our Sports Libraries scheme has been extended to all branches with a wider range of equipment available to borrow free, including kettlebells, resistance bands, cricket and badminton sets. These items are loaned free of charge via the LMS, which promotes library membership. We have loaned 300 sets of sports equipment over the year. We have also partnered with the Alive and Kicking Ball Network, which has enabled us to further extend our provision of free ball loaning.



- A new scheme, 'Quiet Hour' has been introduced following feed-back from neurodivergent users. This has proved popular with both children and adults**.** The service has also purchased ear defenders for all libraries to support this initiative.

Parks and Hospitality

- National Play Day was a large-scale free event at Bedwellty House & Park with a variety of partners and free play opportunities for children and their families to engage in, and to educate that play doesn't always mean toys, screens or play equipment, it can mean cardboard boxes, mud, wool, water as some options. Families were amazed at the fun they had engaging in basic play. A range of providers attended site offering workshops, fun activities and give aways. It was a great partnership, fully inclusive event which tackled inequality and was drenched in community engagement. Despite initially being postponed due to inclement weather the second date went ahead and the event was attended by 500 children aged 2-10 and 300 children aged 11-14.

- The first delivery of a '999' day was delivered at Parc Bryn Bach. The key 999 services attended the site putting on a range of activities and showcased their services through fun and innovative workshops and engagement to the community. Over 1,000 people attended the event in Summer 2023, it was free and well received by the community. The event organisers were in awe of how well the event operated, it was immediately put into the 2024 calendar.

- Free Brass Band Concerts in partnership with Tredegar Town Council are delivered at Bedwellty for 10 weeks during the May-July Summer season. The community can attend and enjoy the complimentary music in beautiful surroundings. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts are delivered inside.

- Armed Forces Day and Bevan Festival are two mass participation events held at Bedwellty during the Summer season. The events are developed year on year with additional activities for families to engage in for free. The events include music, inflatables, face painting, crafts stalls and activities linked to the Armed Forces and History of Bevan. Both events are well attended with in excess of 1,000 local community members engaging in the events.

- Free weekly 'Wild Tots' and Wild Camp' sessions are delivered by Blaenau Gwent Play Team at Bedwellty Park on a weekly basis. Whatever the weather the Wild Tots and their families are on site engaging in outdoor play, making mud pies, mud slides/swings or having fun in the mud kitchen. While the Wild Campers toast marshmallows around the fire and learn about outdoor safety. The wild tots area is a great asset within the grounds.

- Go Wild Event at Parc Bryn Bach was another partnership event which was well attended with in excess of 3,000 visitors to the park. The event included partners offering workshops on animal care, wildlife habitats, seed boxes, bug boxes and hotels as well as fun and games on the water and participating in partner led activities. A free event which spanned a wealth of visitors from across Blaenau Gwent and neighbouring authorities. Due to a great marketing campaign visitors travelled from Tonypandy, Rhondda, Pontyclun and Chepstow to attend the event. Many had not attended the park before and assured it would be the first of many visits being blown away by the facilities Parc Bryn Bach offers.

- Free Wildlife Wednesdays were delivered at Parc Bryn Bach engaging young people and their families to learning about the natural habitats, embarking on nature walks and craft activities with the nature theme.

- The play area at Parc Bryn Bach offered a daily quiet hour for families with young people who have additional needs so they could access the equipment in a calm and quiet time. This was complimented by families as a positive offer.

- MOY project – in collaboration with Gwent Police Motivating Our Youth, 100 children engaged in the project which operated every Monday and Tuesday, over 4 weeks during the Summer of 2023. The project focussed on outdoor adventure activities which alongside develops team building, self-discipline and communication skills.

- Ysgol Gyfun Tredegar Comprehensive School have worked in partnership with Parc Bryn Bach in securing bookings for three mornings per week from January 2024 onwards in the Wellbeing Meeting Hub to engage learners at risk of being permanently excluded from school in an out of school learning environment. Seven learners who were due to sit GCSE's in Summer 2024 but who were disengaged in the school setting were offered to attend the hub for their learning. While attendance was initially sporadic the learners eventually fully engaged and undertook essential learning to be able to achieve GCSE qualifications. Parc Bryn Bach worked in partnership with the school to support the provision and with Blaenau Gwent Catering to ensure the free school meal provision was still catered for, for those in attendance.

- Both parks have worked in partnership with BGCBC Young Carers where discounts have been provided for young carers attending the parks and accessing facilities or catering. This has proved a great success and an acknowledged support to the young carers.

Case Study 6 - BGCBC Community Food Development

The importance of fuelling children and young people to allow them to be more physically active comes into fruition particularly during the school holiday periods. For too many young people, school holidays can be a time of hardship, hunger and isolation, as families in underserved communities struggle to fund the added food and childcare costs that the holidays bring.

Throughout a proportion of the 2023/24 school holiday periods, the Aneurin Leisure Sports Development team partnered with the Food Resilience team of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to devise a comprehensive plan to provide children and young people residing in isolated areas of Blaenau Gwent with healthy meals, funded playscheme spaces, and interactive cooking workshops (incl. parental access to cooking appliances, recipe books and ingredient packs for home cooking).

The project has served as a lifeline for many families and has so far engaged with a total of 431 children across 25 sessions, including partnership working with 5 local community groups.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

- The Library Service worked in partnership with the local traveller community and Head4Arts on a mixed media art project. The collage that was based on their views and lived experiences of what it means to belong to a Traveller community was exhibited at Brynmawr Library.

- Libraries have further developed the partnership work the Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership by launching a new scheme 'Hungry Munchkins'. The sessions are aimed at parents and toddlers, promoting health eating, through storytelling and food craft. Linked to this project is the 'Little Veg Library. Free seeds are available to anyone who borrows a book.

- BGCBC community hub provision, which is located in all libraries has become increasingly important, providing vital support to local residents. Over the year 6,324 people visited the libraries to access the hubs.

- A new, very successful project was launched in the library service in Jan 24 'Libraries vs Litter'. Local schools were invited into libraries, for a library induction and story related to a green issue. Following this the class did an actual litter pick in the local area, supervised by teachers and library staff. We worked in partnership with the Local Environmental Quality Officer and Keep Wales Tidy. All libraries are litter picking hubs, so this scheme, further raised awarness to local famillies. Over 150 chilldren have engaged with the scheme, resulting in 100 bags of litter being collected. This scheme has been nominated for a local Eco Award by KeepWalesTidy.

- The number of attendances at library events and activities has significantly increased over 2023/24. The new outreach team have played an instrumental role in delivering new projects and as a result have attracted new audiences to the service. A key remit of their role is to increase school visits. There has been a school programme of regular class visits to all libraries, which has had a positive impact on all performance areas. Our pro-active approach to partnership working has also contributed to an increased range of activities. 16,406 people attended the library for activities and events.

- Over the year the Library Service has developed an integrated approach to deliver a wide range of activities and events. We have further developed our partnership work, with approximately 50 organisations working in partnership with the library service.

- Communities For Work, as part of their Wellbeing budget, have organised two career festivals at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre. These festivals aim to provide employment-related opportunities and support to the community. Additionally, they have allocated funds to enable 100 of their clients to access a free membership at the Sports Centre for a three-month period. This initiative allows individuals who may not be able to afford a membership due to their employment status to participate in various activities offered at the Sports Centre.

- The community has been fully engaged in the live, free music at Bedwellty during the Summer of 2023. The courtyard canopy was back with popular demand. Free Sunday music was delivered for 10 weeks from the end of June through to the first weekend in September for the community to meet with family & friends, listen to great local musicians, engage in garden games with a fully served bar and kitchen available to them. This area proved to be extremely popular with a regular 80-100 people attending on a weekly basis- whatever the weather.



- The partnership with Tredegar Town Council brought 10 weeks of Brass Bands to the bandstand during the summer period. This brought the community across the generations together on a Sunday, enjoying the free live music and relaxing in the well-maintained grounds. In excess of 100 people per week attended the Brass band concerts.

- Bedwellty have engaged in and hosted a number of events to celebrate national occasions such as Armed Forces Day, The Queens Jubilee, Armistice Day, National Eisteddfod to name a few. Each occasion is marked with an appropriate celebration and community engagement event. They are also supported with local school partnerships to develop artwork to display along the gallery corridor for the wider community to admire.

- The kitchen garden grounds team, and volunteers had a very successful season with some bumper crops. Volunteers in the garden and from Blaenau Gwent Youth Services tended to the kitchen garden tirelessly throughout the year. Crops were used as part of the menus in the Orchid House Tea Room. Vegetables were also available to the local community for a small donation should they want them.

- The Friends of Bedwellty Park continued to support Bedwellty with their attention to the Sensory Garden ensuing the area is well presented and tended too. The Friends Volunteers support the Christmas programme with wrapping gifts in preparation for the Santa Visits. Their efforts are invaluable.

- The Orchid House Tea Room continued to thrive offering a varied menu of homecooked meals during the week, the famous Sunday Roast as well as BBQ's beer garden snacks menu. The Tea room extended it's seating to include additional tables outside. The Orchid House Tea Room achieved a 4* Food Hygiene rating during Autumn 2023.

- Tredegar Heritage Forum continued to deliver monthly Historical talks at Bedwellty House. This free monthly talk, where a variety of guest speakers are invited in to speak about local history and heritage of our locality. They are well attended by the community and also prove to be a social afternoon out for some of the hardest to reach members of the community.

- Tredegar Friendship Group continued to visit Bedwellty House on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the year for a two-course meal and social afternoon. The groups started with 18 members who would dine in the Miners Room, the group has grown in strength and numbers with now on average 40 attending monthly. The group of OAPs meet, eat and socialise which is for some the only occasion they go out each month. Costs are kept low for them, so it doesn't become a barrier to attending.

- Bedwellty House hosted a Christmas Market at the end of November 2023, where people browsed and purchased crafts and gifts made by local smaller businesses. It was a great opportunity some of these small businesses had to provide their products in person and was well received by all. Bedwellty partnered with the Green Top Markets during the Summer of 2023, welcoming the market on a monthly basis to form part of the Sunday Brass Band & Music offering. Sundays became a vibrant day in the Summer calendar at Bedwellty.

- Partnership funding with the ABUHB allowed for the development of a wellbeing walk and talk. The attendees participate in a led walk around the grounds of Bedwellty Park where one of the team members would talk to them about some of the rich heritage of the park, events, the native plants etc. The group would then be treated out of the initial grant to a complimentary hot drink and cake. To start with three or four would attend but the word and mouth of the benefits of the group resulted in in growing to some weeks to 23 walkers. Some of which led very isolated and sedentary lifestyles. The start-up funding came to an end however, the group wished to continue with the weekly wellbeing walk, they turn out in all weathers to enjoy the exercise and company. Some feedback from the participants was heartwarming. The impact on social value, mental and physical health and wellbeing is invaluable.



- The team at Parc Bryn Bach engaged in supporting a fundraising outdoor pursuits campaign in leading them through, as well as participating in the National Three Peaks Challenges and the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge during 2023. The campaign was a great success, where the community followed the progress of the participants raising funds for a worthy cause.

- Park Run saw its members significantly increase throughout 2023. The volume of Park Run tourists attended Parc Bryn Bach also further increased during 2023 with runners attending from other Parc Run venues including Porthcawl and Newport. The competitive race season was in full programme during 2023, with another two successful Couch to 5K programmes being delivered by the Park Run volunteers who supported over 300 participants, predominantly females to completing their first 5K run.

- The DBMax Titan series event returned to Parc Bryn Bach in Summer 2023 for their annual titan series event. 100's of competitors embarked upon the swim, cycle and run at Parc Bryn Bach. The event organisers again commended the team at Parc Bryn Bach for the support planning and delivering the event and how well looked after the event team and competitors are. The venue is a definite in the calendar for the 2024 event.

- The opening hours of Parc Bryn Bach were extended for the Summer period. Street Food Thursdays continued throughout the season as well as the evening running and triathlon events returning to the evenings for 2023. Parc Bryn Bach became a hive of activity from 8am-8pm during the peak summer season with visitors enjoying the activities, using the dog friendly café, utilising the outdoor kiosk and also making use of the more relaxed terraced area overlooking the lake.

- Parc Bryn Bach Lake View Café & Kiosk exceeded all anticipated and projected income targets throughout the peak season and continued to grow in popularity during the Winter months with an innovative Christmas menu which became a social media hot topic! The Team was inundated with calls and bookings for the festive offerings and themed hot drinks.

- The Lake View Café offered seasonal employment to 8 young people during the summer season. The Lake View Catering achieved a 5* Food Hygiene rating following inspection.

Case Study 7 - Libraries Cuppa and Company Sessions

A new customer to the service, 'Adrian' joined the library a few months ago. He told library staff that he is visiting the library every day, he walks to the Library from Sirhowy, which is about a mile. This is helping him lose weight and gives him structure in his life. He has started using the computers and is doing some on-line courses. He also makes use of all the local information available. As he is quite lonely and lives alone, he has found out about lots of groups and activities from information in the library.

'*The library has been great to help me reach my goals. I am keen on getting healthy, I have borrowed lots of books on healthy eating and exercise. The library is a good social place for me, I can find out everything in one place. I've had help with some volunteering advice lately, I'm hoping to start soon. The library has helped motivate me and helped with my confidence'*-Adrian

Some of the comments received regarding the sessions:

- *I would be lost without the Cuppa and Company sessions.*
- *I look forward to the session, it is the highlight of my week.*
- *The library has something for everyone, my grandchildren came with me this week and joined in the storytelling activity.*
- *Really enjoy the crafts and chatting, since coming to the sessions I have started borrowing audio books, they help me relax.*
- *Library really is heart of the community with so much going on.*
- *I feel less lonely, nice to feel part of something.*
- *Where else can we have free coffee and free art session- amazing!*
- *Sessons so therapeutic …really lifts me!*
- *Nice to be involved in such a lovely group.*



Case Study 8 - Sport in the Library Collaboration

Aneurin Leisure Trust Sports Development team partnered with Blaenau Gwent Libraires, are encouraging children aged 3 – 8 to 'jump into a book and make the words wiggle off the page'. Drawing together reading and physical activity through interactive storytelling, all six libraries have been incredibly receptive to transforming their library settings into makeshift playgrounds to encourage fun and movement. More than 500 children have engaged in the provision since its establishment.

The concept originated from the Sports Development team identifying the need for more 'early years' provision to be prevalent within Blaenau Gwent communities. Wiggly Words has been identified as best practice, with local authorities across the Gwent region replicating similar provision.

Additionally, Sports Development's 2021 Sports Library project continues to successfully operate in all four of Blaenau Gwent's full-time libraries. Additional funding, and National Governing Body (NGB) donations has increased the range of sporting equipment available to library customers. All items continue to be loaned using the Library Management System, which requires customers to join the library in the first instance, but then gives access to all available items for a 3-week period. A total of 306 items of equipment were reportedly loaned out during the 2023/24 period.

Cultural Enrichment

- The Library Service has made a strong commitment to the provision of Welsh language activities and resources over the year. The weekly 'Clwb Cymraeg' at Abertillery has grown in popularity, with the Welsh Language Support Officer for Blaenau Gwent, regularly attending the sessions. The service has also purchased a range of leaning resources to support Welsh learners.

- Welsh Baby Yoga is delivered weekly at Tredegar Library and number of Welsh Baby Rhyme time sessions have been delivered across the service. We have strong links with Cymraeg I Blant, helping us support many families through the medium of Welsh.

- 'Big Welsh Rhyme Time' sessions were delivered across all libraries in February 2024, working in partnership with BookTrust Cymru.

- The Library Service has regularly promoted Welsh language audio books over the year and supported the North Wales Society for the Blind by committing a percentage of our allocated Welsh spend for this area.

- There are various groups that use the free library space for cultural sessions. For example, the Blaina Aberystruth History and Archaeological Society holds weekly sessions in Blaina Library. The service has strong partnership links with Gwent Family Society. Volunteers from this organisation deliver regular help desks in all libraries, promoting FindMyPast and Ancestry.com. The Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum holds monthly meetings at Tredegar Library and utilises the local studies resources based there. Blaina Heritage Centre is based in the same building as Blaina Library, which provides an ideal link to work jointly on shared Welsh cultural activities. Likewise, a community Museum is based in Tredegar Library. Which attracts many visitors researching the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan, plus other historical information. Library staff and volunteers from the museum work together to provide a range of information and resources to promote Welsh culture.

Social Responsibility

- The Library Service in Blaenau Gwent is defined around our locality and the needs of local communities. From hosting cultural events and educational workshops to delivering reading activities and wellbeing events, our service provides opportunities to build relationships and fosters a sense of belonging. Our libraries strengthen social cohesion by serving as vital community spaces, where individuals and groups can connect, collaborate, and celebrate shared interests**.**

- The social impact of Library services upon residents has been further highlighted over the year. The service has a NPS (Net Promoter Score) customer service score of 93%**.** Examples of the comments received over the year:

  - *The library has so much to offer, and all free. My father has benefitted from the Dementia activities, and the customer service is excellent.*
  - *So much support and help all in one place, our local library is such a vital community asset.*
  - *I save so much money by using the library, free on-line magazines and newspapers, free coffee and events, so important for people to help with the cost of living crisis.*
  - *I've borrowed a tablet and received a free sim card, and this has opened my world up to me. I've been able to apply for jobs, save money by shopping on-line and I can keep in touch with my family.*
  - *The home delivery service is an absolute lifeline for me. I am unable to get out and about, the talking books I received keep me occupied, I would be lost without them.*
  - *The 'Quiet Hour' has made a such a difference to my daughter. She has Autism and finds noise and lots of people overwhelming. This means we can enjoy time in the library, - thank you for the service to consider special needs.*

- **Real Women Revolution Retreats**

  - During the 2023/24 period, Tredegar Sports Centre hosted four Real Women Revolution (RWR) retreats as part of our ongoing corporate social responsibility efforts. These retreats, led by our Fitness Instructor Janet Oxenham, aim to engage with the local community and promote health and wellbeing through a variety of tailored experiences.

  - Each RWR retreat is uniquely designed to address different aspects of health and wellbeing. Topics covered include pain management, living with health conditions, gym-based fitness, nutritional awareness, and the importance of fuelling for sport. Collaborations with local sports clubs further enrich the retreats by providing expert insights on nutrition and fitness.

- Due to the success at Tredegar Sports Centre, the RWR retreats have now expanded to Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, with plans to host these transformative experiences at Abertillery Sports Centre during the 2024/25 period.

- The retreats offer participants a comprehensive, holistic experience that combines fitness classes, educational seminars, and mindfulness sessions. By addressing topics like calorie, sugar, and fat awareness, participants gain valuable knowledge to transform their dietary habits. The retreats also foster a sense of community, as attendees share their experiences, form friendships, and learn together over a healthy buffet and a cup of tea.

- The Real Women Revolution retreats at Tredegar and Ebbw Vale Sports Centres have had a positive impact on the community by promoting physical health, nutritional knowledge, and mental wellbeing. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Janet Oxenham and expanding these transformative experiences to Abertillery Sports Centre in the 2024/25 period, further contributing to the overall well-being of individuals and promoting a healthier, happier community.

- Bedwellty House successfully delivered in partnership with Blaenau Gwent Registry Office 'XX' Weddings and Ceremonies. With a conversion rate of 75% of those attending a first meeting and visit to Bedwellty during this period to making a booking which is a small growth on the previous year. Catering partner Lupin Blanc deliver the food element of the larger weddings at Bedwellty House always with glowing reviews of food quality and service.

- Sunday lunches at Bedwellty House have maintained the reputation of good service, good food and overall experience preceding the venue. There are a number of diners who attend on their own due to loss of loved ones but keep visiting as feel so welcome and comfortable at Bedwellty. The NPS scoring with feedback from visitors has been introduced during the 2023/24 period allowing the site to capture some meaningful feedback. The NPS score remains in the 70-80 'excellent' region for Bedwellty and the 60-70 'good' region for Parc Bryn Bach. Both sites take the feedback seriously and work with the Marketing team and wider partners where necessary to adopt a 'you've said - we've done' approach to tending to customer needs and feedback.

- Both parks maintained the grounds to exceptional standards throughout the 2023/24 period. Parc Bryn Bach working particularly closely with the Ecology Officer ensuring achieving the Green Flag Award status for 2023 and being commended for its Nature Reserve status.

- The Friends of groups are an asset to the parks in supporting projects and raising funds. A number of the volunteers within these groups have stated how being part of the group and seeing areas develop in the parks within their weekly gardening sessions gives them a purpose and makes them feel like they are giving something back to the community they live in and love.

- Christmas Party Nights returned with full capacity for the 2023 Christmas season. Seven Christmas Party nights were sold out and delivered with visitors supporting from local businesses and some travelling in based on the reviews and reputation Bedwellty has built in previous seasons. Over 700 visitors dined, danced and engaged in the festive spirit.

- Wider social events such as Bubbles and Brunch, the Bedwellty version of 'Brunch Club' was launched in 2023 and has become one of the most popular events in the calendar selling out month on month. Guests experience 90 minutes of live music, bottomless drinks and quality grazing boards. They are much loved events.

- A partnership has been established with the BGCBC Education Service who are, for an interim period, housing the first intake of the new Welsh School to open in Tredegar in the near future into Bedwellty House & Park. The school development is behind on schedule which meant there was nowhere for the September 2023 intake to attend. Bedwellty Have worked with the necessary personnel to redevelop part of the first floor of the house into a nursery classroom. Ysgol Tredegar based out of Bedwellty from September 2023 for the full 2023/24 academic season. This has further developed during 2023 with a second classroom being developed to host both a nursery and reception class for the 2024 academic year while the Welsh School is being finalised.

- The partnership with Tredegar Town Council has continued with working together on a number of great events during the 2023/24 season including the Brass Bands, Armed Forces Day, Bevan Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Lights Switch on. Events such as these are the heart of the community and bring generations together.

- Parc Bryn Bach maintained positive partnerships with the education services during 2023, being the go-to provider for the out of the classroom engagement for Greenfields School, the Thomas Richards Centre and Riverside PRU. The challenging young people attending from these settings have engaged in key skills, outdoor safety and some completing modules towards a teamwork GCSE.

Case Study 9 - Cost of Living Event at Tredegar Sports Centre

Background: In response to the growing financial challenges faced by families within our local community, Tredegar Sports Centre (TSC) collaborated with Blaenau Gwent (BG) to host a Cost of Living Event. Recognizing the urgency and significance of addressing these issues, TSC was eager to play a pivotal role in connecting families with the support they desperately need.
Highlights: The event provided a comprehensive platform for local families to access a wide array of support services. Various organizations and experts were present to offer guidance on managing finances, accessing benefits, and exploring cost-saving measures. The aim was to create a one-stop hub where community members could find solutions and receive the help they need to navigate these challenging times.

Outcomes:
Community Engagement: The event saw a significant turnout, with many families taking advantage of the opportunity to connect with support services. This engagement highlighted the community's need for accessible resources and the value of bringing such events to local venues.
Support Services: Attendees were able to consult with financial advisors, benefit counsellors, and representatives from various support organizations. This direct access helped demystify the available aid and streamlined the process for families seeking assistance.
Positive Feedback: Participants expressed gratitude for the event, noting how it provided clarity and relief in managing their financial situations. Many attendees shared stories of struggling to keep on top of their finances and appreciated the practical advice and support received.
Conclusion: The Cost of Living Event at Tredegar Sports Centre was a resounding success, demonstrating the power of community collaboration in addressing pressing social issues. By providing a platform for families to access crucial support services, TSC has reaffirmed its commitment to the wellbeing of its community. The positive feedback and high engagement levels underscore the importance of such initiatives, and TSC looks forward to continuing its support for local families through similar events in the future.

Local Business Partnerships

- Aneurin Leisure continues to offer local, regional and national organisations discounted membership as part of our Life Card membership scheme and our drive to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace. Corporate members are currently enjoying the corporate discounts in the area that Aneurin Leisure operates. This product combines reduced rates for i) gym memberships within our sport centres, ii) corporate hospitality and conferencing at Bedwellty House and Park and iii) Team Building at Parc Bryn Bach.

- The Library Service has continued to support prosperity across the borough over 2023/24. We have continued to develop our partnership work with the Regeneration Department to increase footfall into town centres, through supporting family events in the high street. Events were delivered in libraries linked to the themes of the events.

- Bedwellty House & Parc Bryn Bach partner with a variety of local business in purchasing produce, milk, ice cream, fruit & vegetables, brewery, honey, coffee all purchased from local suppliers.

- Both sites partner with local providers to operate sessions from the sites such as Louby Lou Story Telling, Mini Movers, local musicians, Little Dragon Pizza Van, The Munch Stop and The Tex co. The parks utilise local providers to operate events and workshops where possible to support.

- The Tredegar Arms Hotel are key partners when booking rooms for wedding couples and actors when dining events with special guests are organised.

- Partnerships with BGCBC Play Team, Families First, Gwent Police, Tredegar Town Centre Manager and Blaenau Gwent Education Department to support the delivery of activities and events.

Marketing and Communications

The key objectives for the Trust for marketing and communications during 2023/24 were as follows:

- ✓ Reinforce the Trust's charitable status and mission to improve community life.
- ✓ Establish the Trust's sustainability objectives.
- ✓ Increase revenue at Parc Bryn Bach.
- ✓ Increase revenue at Bedwellty House and Park.
- ✓ Meet Library Standards for 2023/24. Desired outcome – Welsh Government standards achieved.
- ✓ Meet ACL enrolment targets.
- ✓ Exceed membership revenue for sports centres over 2022/23 (£945k November 2022 to-date based on forecast) by 10%. Retain swimming lesson income to current levels (c£365k November 2022 to-date based on forecast). Exceed other swimming pool income over 2022/23 (£295k November 2022 to-date based on forecast), by 10%.

Targets for the above were drafted to measure all of the objectives against but with the changes to the finance team, establishing them, and reporting against them, was not achievable. In addition, due to budget constraints, limited research is carried out amongst our customer base and monitoring of activity therefore ROI, which is notoriously difficult to attribute to any one communication piece, was not established for key campaigns/activity.
In addition, marketing plans for the parks were also drafted, however, were not ratified with targets.

- The USP (Unique Selling Point) for the Trust continues to be:

  'Aneurin Leisure Trust – working to improve community life by investing in local amenities and improving the appeal and facilities of Blaenau Gwent'.

  Targeting – all residents in Blaenau Gwent and communities close to Blaenau Gwent, and tourists visiting the area.

- Media used was restricted based on visibility of targets and ability to prove ROI through a meaningful budget and therefore, we maximised and prioritised the following channels:

  - ✓ Social media
  - ✓ On-site
  - ✓ Website
  - ✓ Signage
  - ✓ Content creation
  - ✓ SEO

  Communication via the ALT app was limited due to it being controlled by a different department and its use being relevant to sport centre users.

- Key messaging for each of the sites was as follows:

  Parc Bryn Bach (PBB) – the hidden gem of Blaenau Gwent. The perfect location to experience nature at its best, have fun with the family and explore the wonders of Wales.

  Bedwellty House & Park (BHAP) – a vibrant venue for all occasions. Amazing heritage and beautiful grounds to explore or make your dreams come true.

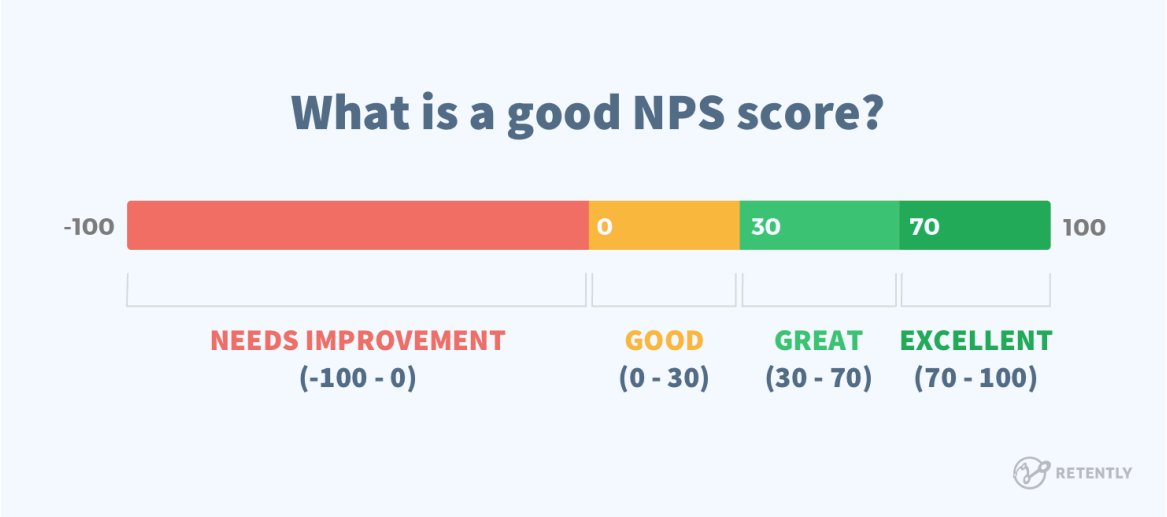
  Sports Centres - the team at BG Life is committed to helping you achieve your goals and be the best version of yourself in terms of your health and mental wellbeing. With state-of-the-art gyms, full digital integration, swimming pools and 100s of classes each week, our flexible memberships provide you with the tools to achieve your goals.

  Adult Community Learning (ACL) – helping you in to achieve your academic and professional goals.

  Libraries – the heart of the community. A wealth of support and advice to enrich lives and expand horizons.

  Corporate – Aneurin Leisure Trust – working in partnership to improve community life.

Customer Insight/Satisfaction:



During the period April 2023 - March 2024, customer feedback and satisfaction continued to be monitored monthly through Microsoft Forms, Google and Facebook reviews. Channels with which customers can report their thoughts on how the Trust is performing is predominantly through the websites, social media and on-site (QR-code posters and feedback cards). However, sports centres have the additional channel of the app which is proven to be an effective channel.

Measurement of the Net Promoter Score (NPS) through Microsoft Forms is summarised based on the above scale.

It should be noted that Adult Community Learning (ACL) and Libraries conduct ongoing research for Coleg Gwent and Welsh Government respectively. We believe that this is the key reason for limited responses in ACL in particular for Microsoft Forms, however, we have seen some improvement in feedback to allow us to establish a NPS for ACL.

NPS responses at end March 2024 provided the following end-of-year NPS scores for the different business units:

- Sports centres – 7 – good
- Parc Bryn Bach – 50 – great
- BHAP – 91 - excellent
- Libraries – 92 – excellent
- ACL – 38 - great

The NPS survey is anonymous however where customers have left contact details, we have gone back to them to address any concerns. For the sports centres, we provide a quarterly 'You've Said. We've Done' communication through the app to address concerns and provide feedback to the comments provided.

Bedwellty House and Park (BHAP) / Parc Bryn Bach (PBB) – Google and Facebook Reviews:

Both BHAP and PBB have received consistent reviews on TripAdvisor of 4.5 and 4 respectively during the period April 2023-March 2024; 4.7 and 4.1 on Facebook and 4.5 and 4.6 on Google Reviews, respectively.

Examples of the comments are below:

BHAP

"A quiet park that is a relic of times past. Now enjoyable for a stroll and stop in the onsite cafe which also serves a tasty looking traditional Sunday lunch." (4*)

"A beautiful afternoon tea for my aunt's 80th birthday. Food was delicious and the service was excellent. Chris was a gentleman and so helpful and friendly. Would thoroughly recommend it." (5*)

"Excellent service and food, as always. Lovely facility also." (5*)

"Beautiful food, great service with the most loveliest polite, friendly staff I have ever been to thank you, it is also nice and clean. Very helpful if there were 10 stars, I would give full 10 marks, this is such a wonderful place thank you Bedwellty House for a such a lovely day thank you all." (5*)

"Lovely historic building and beautiful park." (5*)

"Loads of well-kept outside areas for kids to run and play about. Staff are polite and helpful. Food nice. Also been to private functions which have been really well done." (5*)

"Interesting house and grounds. Food very nice albeit a limited menu. Restrooms: clean and tidy." (4*)

PBB

"Lovely park with a good flat path which makes it easy to do the circuit. Got to see a lot of baby geese and enjoy some of the flowers. Nice to see that they have added more activities for people to do, and feeding the geese with the food from the gift shop always goes down well." (5*)

"Great place to come with the family (and dog if you have one!) for a few hours out. The cafe has a dog friendly area and there is a flat walk around the lake you can take. There are activities such as pedal go karts and pedalo boats that you can hire for 45 minutes that won't break the bank. There are a few parking areas (free) but with being a popular place you will probably need to head straight to the furthest car park to the right as you enter unless you are early or out of season." (5*)

"What am amazing place? I went to watch the Park Run with my granddaughter. Absolutely piece of paradise. Family friendly and beautifully maintained. Wonderful." (5*)

"Absolutely beautiful spot, lush views, beautiful walk for prams and can hire bikes too. My new favourite place." (5*)

"Nice cup of coffee and a vegan jaffa cake." (4*)

"Without a doubt the nicest of all parks around here with the most for families to do. Honestly, I'm from Merthyr and love Cyfarthfa Park but Parc Bryn Bach caters for everyone with ample parking, a wonderful park for children, lovely cafe, Golf course, driving range, fishing, go-karts for families to hire, paddle boarding etc, etc. There's a campsite for caravans/ motor homes to hook up too. Lovely place we visit often." (5*)

"Stayed here in our tourer caravan for 3 nights. What a beautiful location with one-and-a-half-mile gentle walk around the lake." (5*)

Staff Satisfaction

- The annual staff satisfaction survey was undertaken during May-July 2023 which reflected the previous year's survey to monitor changes in employee attitudes to the Trust.

  NPS for working for the Trust was 39, falling into the 'great' category, with good job prospects at 33 (also great). This is a slight drop from 47 in the last financial year.

  There were 147 responses: 65% being full time employees and 35% part time employees and representing a 56% response rate. Of these, 'Promoters' of ALT (9 and 10) accounted for 52% of respondents, 'Passives' (7 and 8) accounted for 36% of respondents and 'Detractors' (1-6) accounted for 12% of respondents. This is a significant increase from 24% response rate we achieved in the last financial year.

  Key themes from the survey, and the response to employees was as follows:

  Communication – a lack of engagement, particularly with CDT and the senior management team, and fully understanding the progress the Trust is making, the challenges being faced and plans for the future.

  To address these concerns, twice-yearly staff meetings will be held to provide updates across the Trust with an opportunity for employees to ask questions. The first staff roadshow was held in early September 2023.

  In addition, the Trust intranet site is nearing completion, and the outstanding teams' sites will be added in the coming few months. This will be the main communication tool for all sites across the Trust.

  Commercial vs Community – reinforcing the Trust's mission to improve community life across Blaenau Gwent which is maximised by achieving a level of commercialism that supports the services we run. This was reinforced at the staff meeting held in September.

  Staff Benefits – reinforcing the staff benefits available across the Trust, including:

    - Free membership to the sports centres for contract employees
    - 10% discount in the cafes at Bedwellty House, Parc Bryn Bach and Ebbw Vale sports centre
    - Support of the Cycle2Work scheme offering discount on the purchase of bikes
    - Support to all staff through the free Employee Assistance Programme – Care First

  The question regarding *discounted sports centre membership for relief staff* was also raised and the management is reviewing this to advise staff in the near future.

  Staffing Levels - several employees raised concern about staffing levels and the relevant senior managers have been tasked to review and discuss staff rotas and strategies to ensure adequate cover for all shifts.

Equal Treatment of Employees - an issue of some employees feeling that they were treated differently to their colleagues by their manager was raised. The HR department has strict working policies to ensure that everyone is treated equally and the need to follow these will be reinforced to all managers.

Employees have been directed to seek more information about the Trust's policies, on the HR intranet site.

Diversity – the issue of lack of diversity was raised by some employees. The policy for the Trust is to recruit the right person for the role without prejudice.

We have communicated that we are currently a diverse workforce however, racially we appreciate that this is not the case. The new online recruitment platform, JTGO, provides the Trust with the potential to reach a wider catchment and thus potentially recruit greater diversity to work for the Trust.

Annually the Trust produce a Gender Pay Gap report which, again, can be found on the HR intranet site, with the latest one being published by end August.

Progression and Training - during the last financial year, the Trust instigated mandatory training for staff, including Equality and Diversity, Difficult Conversations, Performance Management and, more recently, Safeguarding.

With the escalating utility costs and the implications to the Trust, further training has, unfortunately, had to put on hold during this financial year.

However, the Trust will be reinstating the appraisal process and with a further update to be provided.

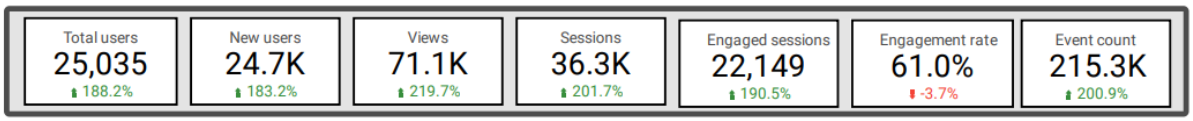
Staff Uniforms - currently each area of the business is responsible for sourcing its own uniform. CDT and the SMT will be reviewing this to determine a more consistent approach across the Trust.

Format of the Survey - the feedback highlighted areas of concern with the employee survey – you may really like working with your direct colleagues but not necessarily the Trust itself.

It was noted that the Trust's SMT appreciates that the survey isn't perfect, but our aim is to engage with as many employees as possible which is why it is as short as possible, and to enable the Trust to track responses year-on-year. However, the SMT will look to expand this for the next contract period with BGCBC.

Websites' Overview

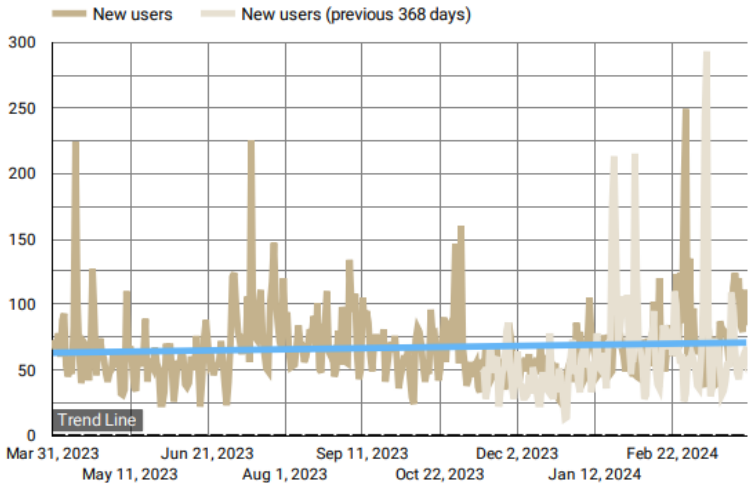
Aneurin Leisure Trust Website Analytics



During 2023/24, the Aneurin Leisure Trust website was visited by 25,035 people who viewed the website 71,100 times.

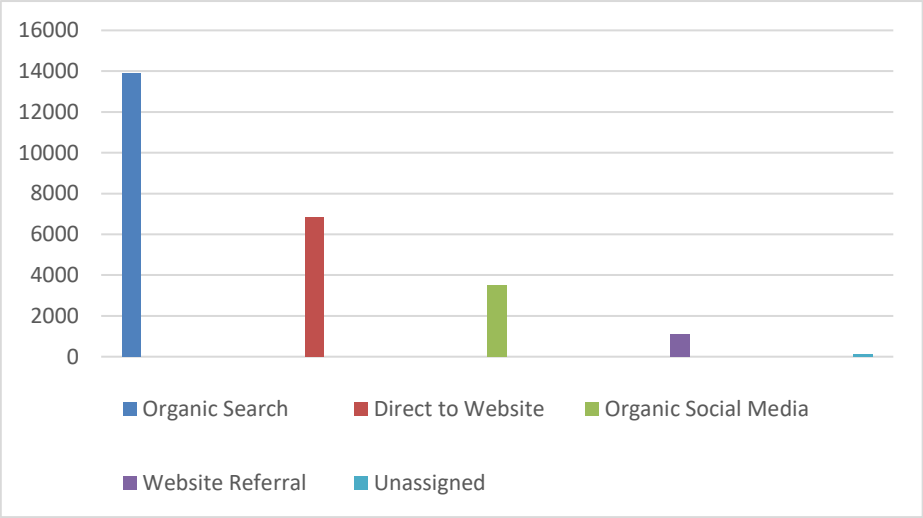
36,300 sessions were started on the website by visitors, while 22,149 (61%) of those 'engaged sessions' lasted longer than 10 seconds and saw the user view at least 2 pages.

Throughout the year, there were 215,300 scrolling events (people scrolling through pages to view the information) and the website gained an engagement rate of 61% which is above the average of 55% and illustrates the website is well received and used.



The above chart illustrates the number of users over the year, illustrating a high number of new users.

In August 2023, a Welsh translation of the ALT website was introduced. By year end, it received on average 6 views a month.



The above chart illustrates how users found the website during the financial year.

- Most of the traffic to the website comes from organic search, with 13,908 people finding the website via a search engine such as Google.

- 6,860 people visited the website directly, either through a bookmark or typing in the website address to their browser.

- 3,483 people came to the site via organic social media, either using links in posts, tweets, Instagram stories or links provided in the bio or profile pages.

- When it came to social media traffic, Facebook remained our most popular social media channel for bringing people to the website, with Instagram also proving to have gained in popularity. LinkedIn also brought in a small amount of traffic.

- 1,118 people visited the website via a link from another website, such as the BGCBC's site or JTGo recruitment site.

- 126 visits were through unassigned methods.

Your most popular pages

	Page title	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Aneurin Leisure Trust	8,270	210.2%
2.	Sports Centres - Swimming and sports facilities in Blaenau Gwent.	4,564	206.9%
3.	Learning - Learning opportunities for adults aged 16+ in Blaenau Gwent.	4,060	228.5%
4.	Libraries - Aneurin Leisure manages the libraries across Blaenau Gwent.	3,718	168.1%
5.	Join Us - Equal opportunities employer in Blaenau Gwent.	3,382	89.0%
6.	Events at Aneurin Leisure	2,178	235.6%
7.	Libraries and Services - Libraries and Services	1,877	333.5%
8.	Contact Aneurin Leisure Trust in Blaenau Gwent.	1,117	195.5%
9.	Ebbw Vale LAC	1,089	171.6%
10.	About the Trust - Managing the leisure, libraries and learning services in Blaena...	1,011	215.0%
11.	Join The Library - It's easy and free to join a library in Blaenau Gwent.	902	149.9%
12.	Free e-resources - Discover digital resources at your local library in Blaenau Gw...	599	121.9%
13.	Engagement - Aneurin Leisure Trust working to engage the whole community i...	564	252.5%
14.	Parks	549	192.0%
15.	Brynmawr LAC	492	296.8%
16.	Senior Management & Trustees - Experienced people guiding the Trust to conti...	362	217.5%
17.	Live Pro Wrestling: Echoes in the Valleys	352	-
18.	Abertillery LAC	350	161.2%
19.	News - The latest news about what's happening around the Trust.	315	125.0%
20.	Easter Opening Times 2024	254	-

The above summary illustrates the most popular pages viewed during the financial year, showing a good mix of all of the business areas but predominantly it was the Trust information, libraries and ACL that performed highest. This is a reflection of the Aneurin Leisure Trust website being the only website source for both libraries and ACL.

In August 2023, a Welsh version of the Aneurin Leisure Trust website was introduced. Usage is tracked monthly and, at the end of March 2024, had a total of 56 views.

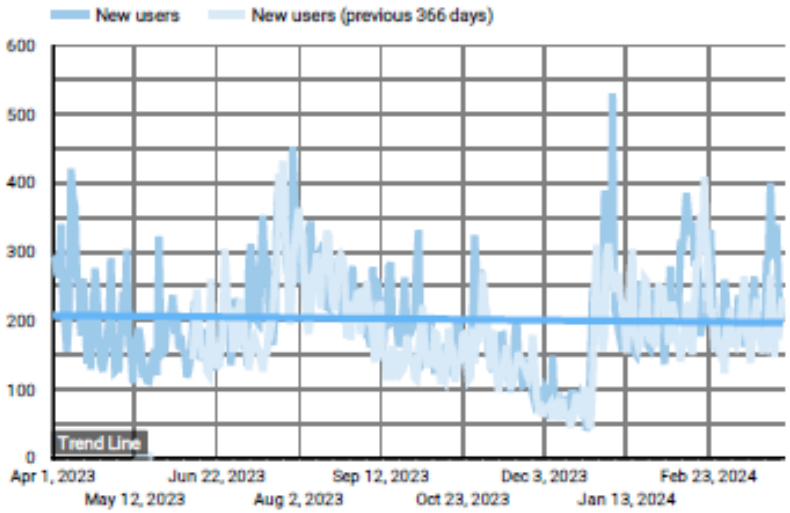
BG Life Website Analytics

Total users	New users	Views	Sessions	Engaged sessions	Engagement rate	Event count
75,661	74.2K	355.8K	138.2K	89,272	64.6%	906.8K
37.8%	35.8%	41.9%	39.6%	41.1%	1.1%	33.3%

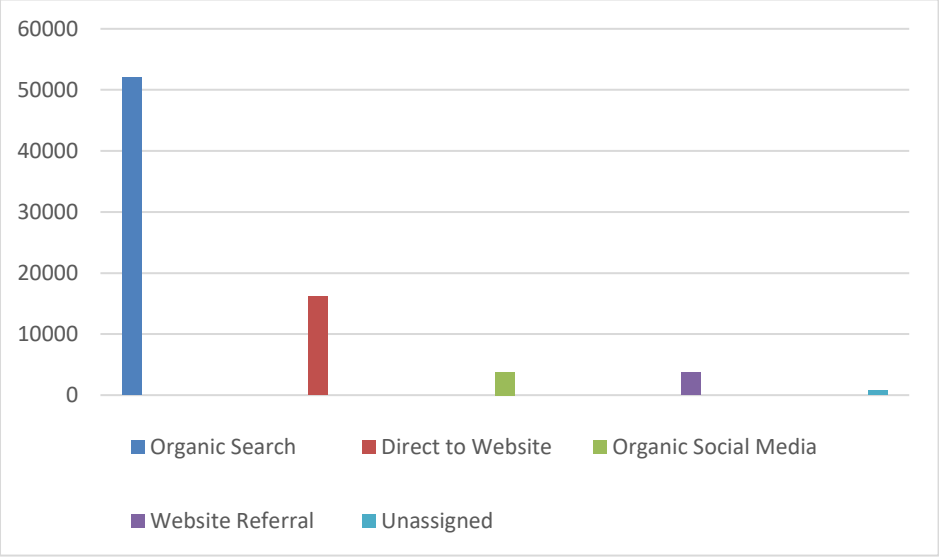
During 2023/24, the BG Life website was visited by 75,661 people who viewed the website 355,800 times.

138,200 sessions were started on the website by visitors, while 89,272 (65%) of those 'engaged sessions' lasted longer than 10 seconds and saw the user view at least 2 pages.

Throughout the year, there were 906,800 scrolling events (people scrolling through pages to view the information) and the website gained an engagement rate of 64.6% which is above the average of 55%. The statistics are very encouraging and illustrate the efficacy of the website's UX.



The above chart illustrates the number of users over the year, illustrating a steady flow of new users. In August 2023, we introduced a Welsh translation of the BG Life website. By year end, it received on average 47 views a month.



The above chart illustrates how users found the BG Life website during the financial year.

- Most of the traffic to the website comes from organic search, with 52,970 people finding the website via a search engine such as Google.

- 16,189 people visited the website directly, either through a bookmark or typing in the website address to their browser.

- 3,675 people came to the site via organic social media, either using links in posts, tweets, Instagram stories or links provided in the bio or profile pages.

- When it came to social media traffic, Facebook remained our most popular social media channel for bringing people to the website, with Instagram also proving to have gained in popularity.

- 3,681 people visited the website via a link from another website, predominantly from the Aneurin Leisure Trust site plus other partners' websites.

- 814 visits were through unassigned methods.



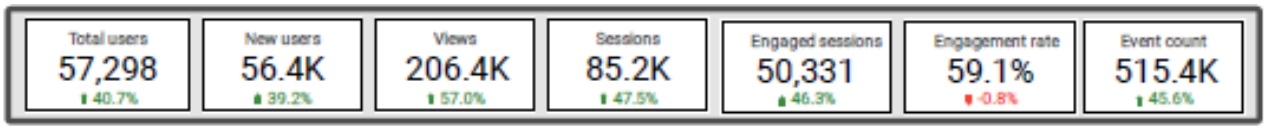
Your most popular pages

	Page title	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Swimming	41,663	25.1%
2.	Life	38,192	27.2%
3.	Ebbw Vale Sports Centre	24,774	29.4%
4.	Temporary Swimming Timetables	15,454	145.3%
5.	Membership	10,598	19.4%
6.	Classes	7,142	23.5%
7.	Tredegar Sports Centre	6,583	40.1%
8.	Abertillery Sports Centre	6,367	28.0%
9.	Contact Us	4,941	-29.9%
10.	Sports Centres	3,931	41.0%
11.	Gyms	3,732	31.8%
12.	Bank Holiday Opening Times 2023	2,169	5,607.9%
13.	Summer Holiday Activities	1,539	-
14.	Local Clubs	1,141	24.8%
15.	FAQs	864	17.1%
16.	No Excuses	805	-
17.	Queenax	793	12.5%
18.	Easter Opening Times 2024	713	-
19.	Aqua	705	-0.3%
20.	Christmas Opening Times 2023/24	689	-

The above summary illustrates the most popular pages viewed during the financial year, with the highest page views on swimming and the home page. The membership page also rated highly along with key facilities within the sports centres such as classes, gyms and the recently introduced Queenax.

In August 2023, a Welsh version of the BG Life website was introduced. Usage is tracked monthly and, at the end of March 2024, had a total of 361 views.

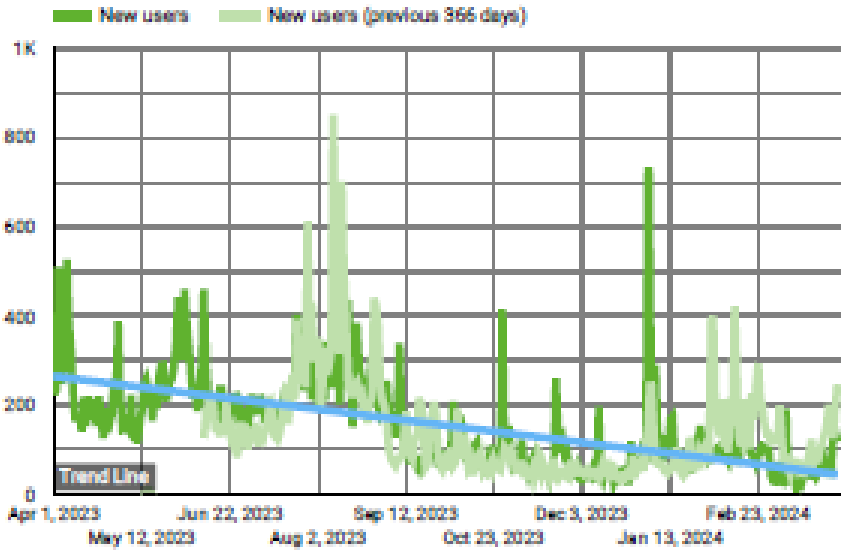
PBB Website Analytics



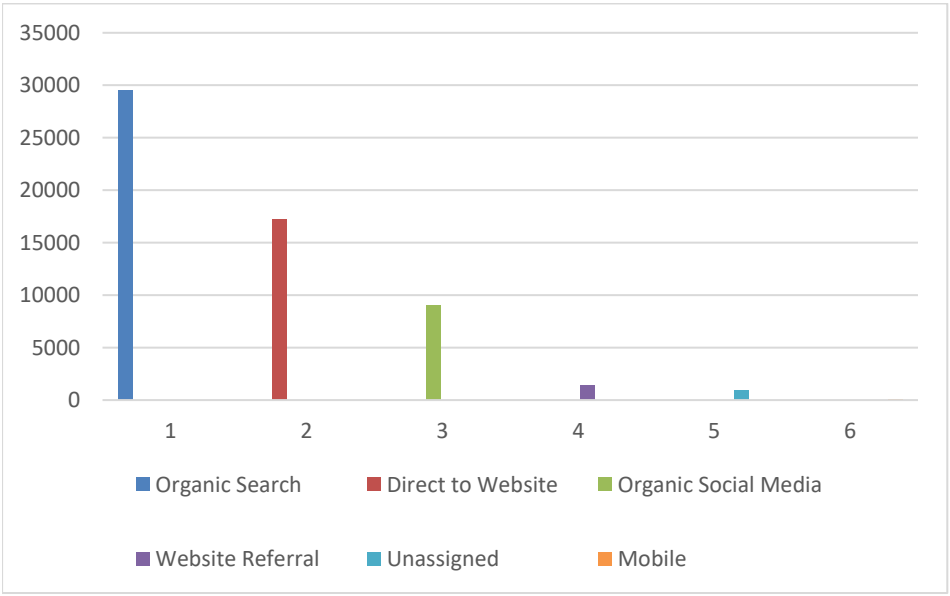
During 2023/24, the PBB website was visited by 57,298 people who viewed the website 206,400 times.

85,200 sessions were started on the website by visitors, while 50,331 (59%) of those 'engaged sessions' lasted longer than 10 seconds and saw the user view at least 2 pages.

Throughout the year, there were 515,400 scrolling events (people scrolling through pages to view the information) and the website gained an engagement rate of 59.1% which is above the average of 55%. Once again good statistics.



The above chart illustrates the number of users over the year. Overall users are c40% up year on year however, weather conditions have a considerable impact on the day-to-day trend.



The above chart illustrates how users found the PBB website during the financial year.

- Most of the traffic to the website comes from organic search, with 29,451 people finding the website via a search engine such as Google.

- 17,274 people visited the website directly, either through a bookmark or typing in the website address to their browser.

- 9,030 people came to the site via organic social media, either using links in posts, tweets, Instagram stories or links provided in the bio or profile pages.

- When it came to social media traffic, Facebook and Instagram remained our most popular channels.

- 1,388 people visited the website via a link from another website, predominantly from the Aneurin Leisure Trust site with listing referrals and partner websites.

- 873 visits were through unassigned methods and 20 through email reflecting the follow-up communiation from the National Education Show and Open Water Swimming.

Parc Bryn Bach

Your most popular pages

	Page title	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Parc Bryn Bach	36,645	36.7%
2.	Go Karts – Parc Bryn Bach	7,921	23.0%
3.	Contact – Parc Bryn Bach	6,970	31.6%
4.	Cafe – Parc Bryn Bach	6,926	71.8%
5.	Family Fun – Parc Bryn Bach	5,157	28.6%
6.	Events – Parc Bryn Bach	4,598	28.9%
7.	Stay with Us – Parc Bryn Bach	4,170	24.0%
8.	Driving Range – Parc Bryn Bach	3,758	85.0%
9.	Open Water Swimming – Parc Bryn Bach	3,736	26.4%
10.	Wellbeing Workhub – Parc Bryn Bach	2,967	2,480.0%
11.	Staycation – Parc Bryn Bach	2,436	-14.9%
12.	The Cave – Parc Bryn Bach	2,411	19.8%
13.	Summer Activities 2023 – Parc Bryn Bach	1,920	-
14.	Paddlesports Self Launch – Parc Bryn Bach	1,738	15,700.0...
15.	Education & Training – Parc Bryn Bach	1,705	69.7%
16.	Climbing Wall – Parc Bryn Bach	1,671	22.3%
17.	Stand Up Paddleboarding – Parc Bryn Bach	1,557	-28.1%
18.	Paddlesport Hire – Parc Bryn Bach	1,509	-
19.	Fishing – Parc Bryn Bach	1,453	84.6%
20.	Visitor Centre – Parc Bryn Bach	1,443	26.6%

The above summary illustrates the most popular pages viewed during the financial year, with the highest page views on the home page and go-karts. Events and Family Fun pages were also popular along with other key activities. Education and Training also featured reflecting the increased push into schools and securing residential bookings.

Bedwellty House and Park Website Analytics

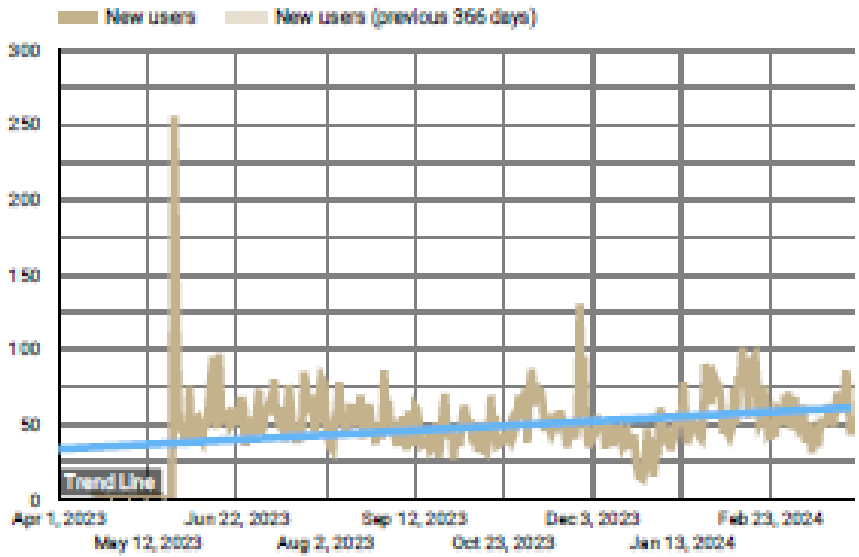
Total users	New users	Views	Sessions	Engaged sessions	Engagement rate	Event count
17,035	16.9K	58.8K	25.1K	17,751	70.8%	162.5K
N/A	No data	No data	N/A	N/A	No data	No data

We introduced the new Bedwellty House and Park website on 24th May 2023. Due to historic issues with the managing agency, we were unable to retain the URL and secured bedwelltyhouseandpark.com with a holding page from the old website in-situ for as long as possible to redirect visitors to the old site.

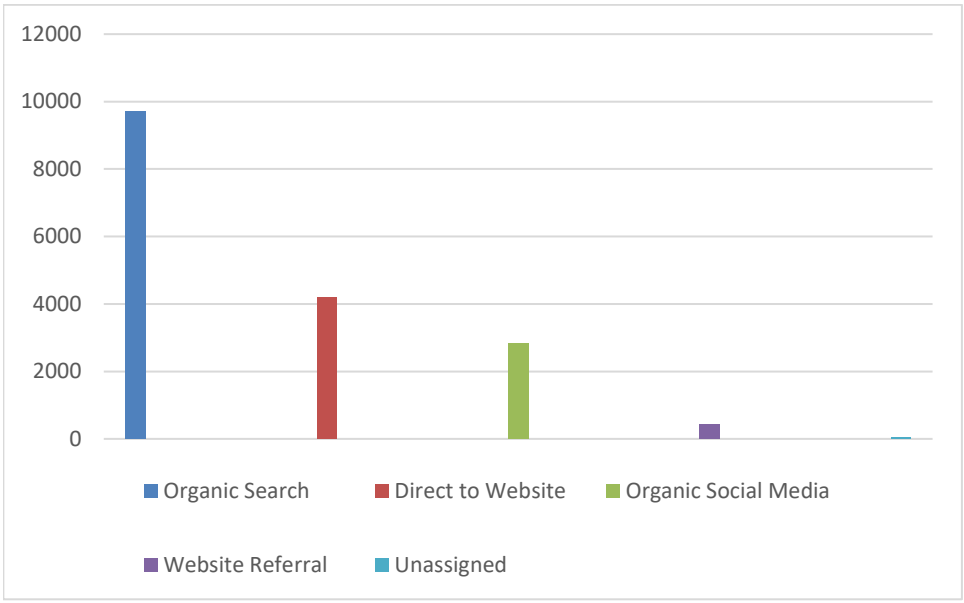
From 24th May 2023, the BHAP website was visited by 17,035 people who viewed the website 58,800 times. This is a decrease in the number of overall visitors to the site from bedwelltyhouseandpark.co.uk from 18,771/10.3% however, the drop in the number of visitors is less than anticipated given we were unable to secure the old URL (and this continues to be monitored to be purchased as soon as it becomes available).

25,100 sessions were started on the website by visitors, while 17,751 (71%) of those 'engaged sessions' lasted longer than 10 seconds and saw the user view at least 2 pages.

Throughout the year, there were 162,500 scrolling events (people scrolling through pages to view the information) and the website gained an engagement rate of 70.8% which is above the average of 55%.



The above chart illustrates the number of users over the year. The trend line is positive and illustrated new users were engaged with the website.



The above

- Most of the traffic to the website comes from organic search, with 9,710 people finding the website via a search engine such as Google.

- 4,199 people visited the website directly, either through a bookmark or typing in the website address to their browser.

- 2,835 people came to the site via organic social media, either using links in posts, tweets, Instagram stories or links provided in the bio or profile pages.

  Once again, Facebook and Instagram generated most of the social media traffic.

- 434 people visited the website via a link from another website, predominantly from the Aneurin Leisure Trust site and BGCBC's site.

- 37 visits were through unassigned methods.

BEDWELLTY HOUSE & PARK

Your most popular pages

	Page title	Total ▾	% Δ
1.	Bedwellty House & Park	11,961	-
2.	Events at Bedwellty House and Park	5,112	-
3.	Orchid House Tea Room	3,820	-
4.	Weddings and Civil Ceremonies at Bedwellty House and Park	2,339	-
5.	Calendar	2,184	-
6.	Special Occasions	1,099	-
7.	Contact Us at Bedwellty House and Park	900	-
8.	Visit Us	777	-
9.	History/Heritage	553	-
10.	Family Fun	480	-
11.	About Us	440	-
12.	Brunch & Bubbles – Bedwellty House & Park	437	-
13.	Baby Showers and Children's Parties	399	-
14.	Meet the staff at Bedwellty House and Park	349	-
15.	Christmas Market – Bedwellty House & Park	331	-
16.	Sheer Luck Holmes: The Case of the Floating Fiancee – Bedwellty House & Park	314	-
17.	Santa Visit – Bedwellty House & Park	297	-
18.	Breakfast with Santa – Bedwellty House & Park	281	-
19.	Children's Parties	280	-
20.	Summer Bandstand Concert – Bedwellty House & Park	253	-

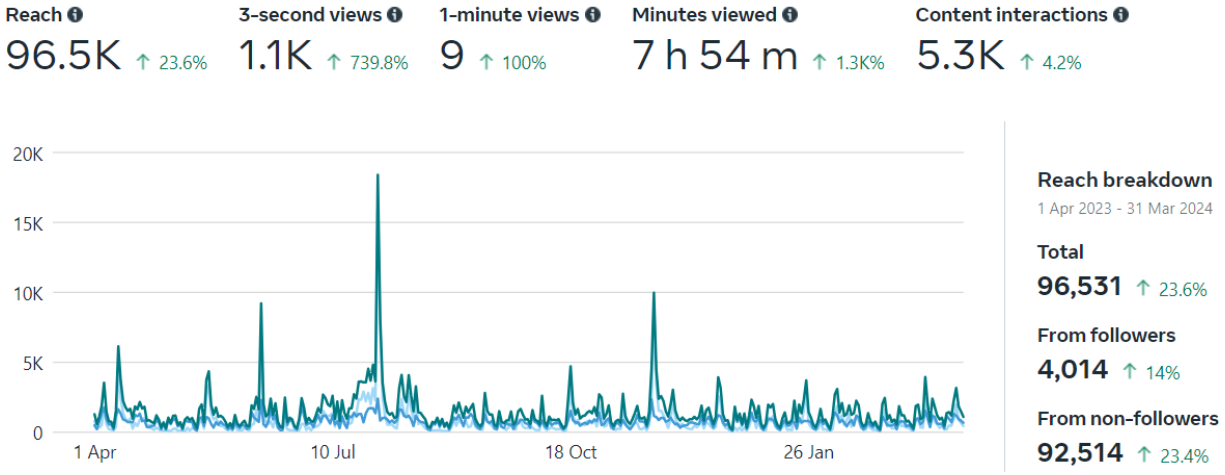
The above summary illustrates the most popular pages viewed during the financial year, with the highest page views on the home page and events. The tearoom and weddings were also the popular along with individual events that took place at BHAP.

Social Media Overview

Across the Trust's main business areas, we use Facebook, Instagram and X to engage with the community. There has been, and continues to be, limited interaction with the X platform and the results below focus on Facebook and Instagram.

Aneurin Leisure Trust's Social Media

Facebook Reach	Facebook Followers	Facebook Content Interactions	Facebook Minutes Viewed	Facebook Profile Visits
96.5K	4.6K (Nett +373 new follows)	5.3K	7 hours 54 mins	21.6K

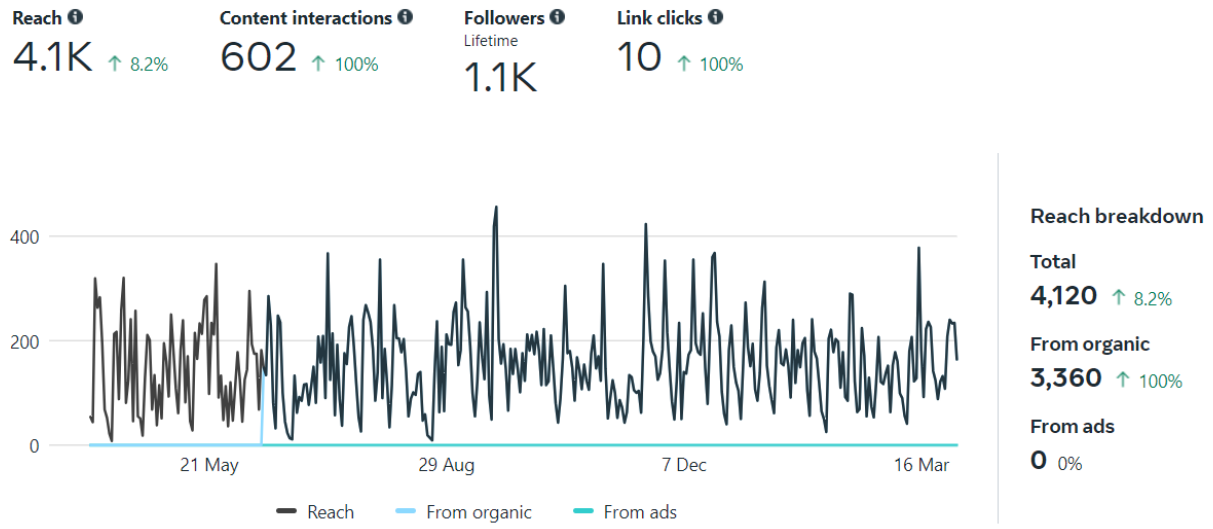


Reach for the Trust's Facebook page was up 23.6% year on year. Where there are significant spikes in reach, we believe that this is attributable to multiple posts going out on the same day and was not reflective of one specific post.

The most popular posts were:

Facebook Post	Date/Time	Reach	Reactions Likes, Shares & Comments
Job opportunities with ALT – 4 x PBB jobs and 2 x ACL jobs	24 Jan 09:00	6K	16
Tredegar Sports Centre 50th birthday celebrations	26 Feb 15:00	5K	42
Libraries Meet the Owls - children's activities	06 Feb 15:30	3.9K	66
Libraries Meet the Owls - children's activities – spaces filling up fast	08 Feb 16:00	3.3K	40
ACL Conversational Spanish course at EV LAC	18 March 11:30	3.2K	44

Instagram Reach	Instagram Followers	Instagram Content Interactions	Instagram Profile Visits	Link Clicks
4.1K	1.1K (+77 new follows)	602	1.3K	10



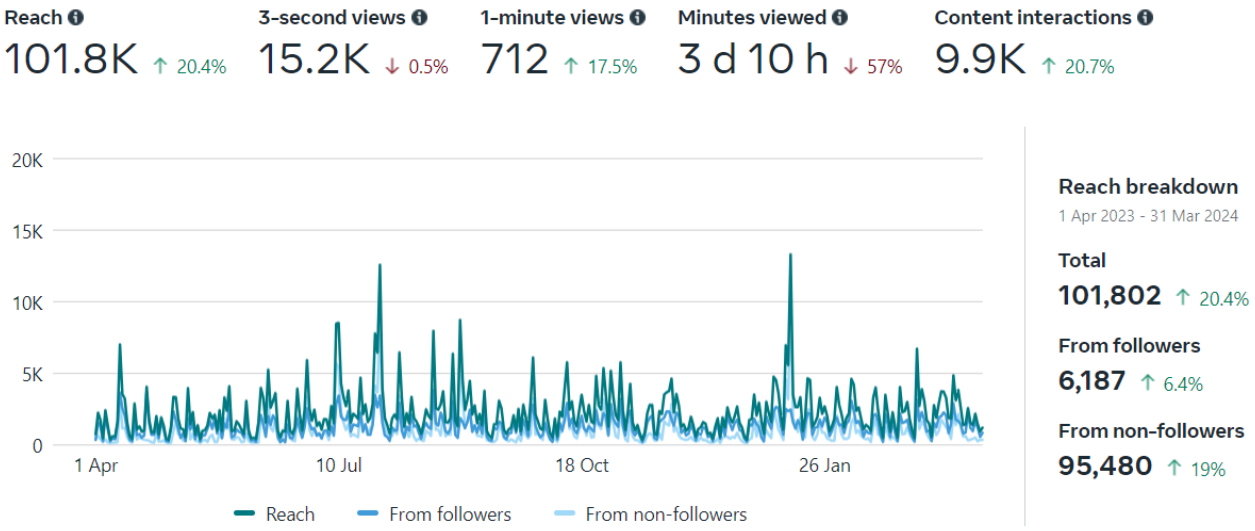
Reach for the Trust's Instagram page was up 8.2% year on year.

The most popular posts were:

Instagram Post	**Date**	**Reach**	**Reactions** Likes, Shares & Comments
Temporary Closure of Blaina Library	29 Nov 23	460	8
International Angelman Day – Thomas' story	15 Feb 24	407	29
PBB Santa Visit -cancelled due to bad weather	19 Dec 23	400	2
CKR First Anniversary - Instagram story	15 Mar 24	349	N/A
Sports Centres - December Deals – get 12 months for the price of 10	19 Dec 23	346	0

BG Life's Social Media

Facebook Reach	Facebook Followers	Facebook Content Interactions	Facebook Minutes Viewed	Facebook Profile Visits
101.8K	6.6K (Nett +345 new follows)	9.9K	3 days 10 hours	47K

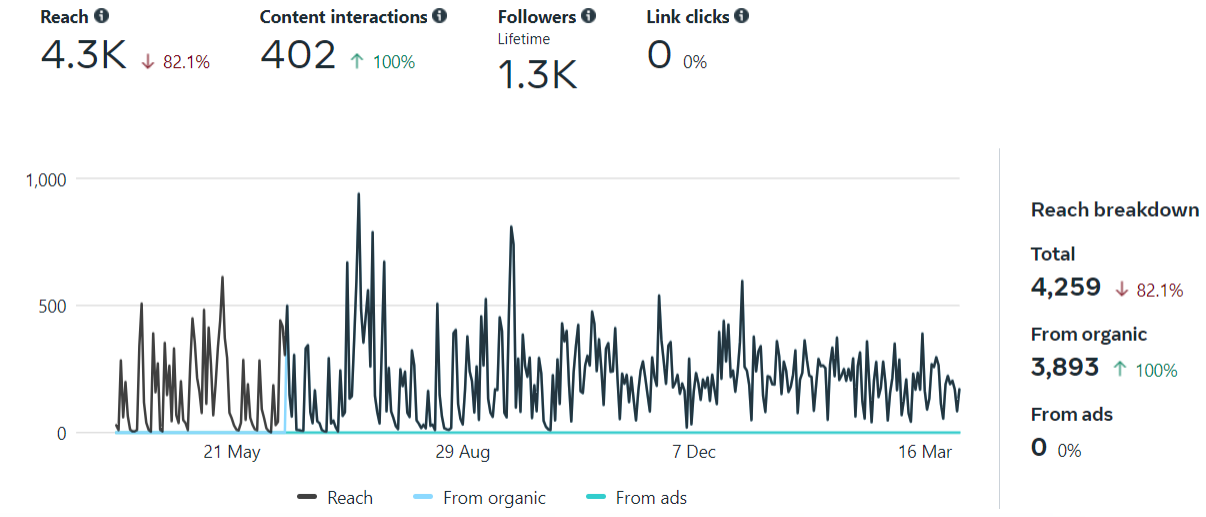


Reach for the BG Life Facebook page was up 20.4% year on year. Where there are significant spikes in reach, we believe that this is attributable to multiple posts going out on the same day and was not reflective of one specific post.

The most popular posts were:

Facebook Post	Date/Time	Reach	Reactions Likes, Shares & Comments
Tredegar Sports Centre Pool will be open as normal tomorrow	11 Jan 24 22:04	15.2K	113
Next NPLQ courses will be available in February 2024	10 Jan 24 18:18	8.9K	80
Abertillery Sports Centre Nerf party	20 Mar 24 20:19	8.4	81
Customer notice on multi storey car park access from Lime Avenue	19 Jan 24 22:19	6.9K	29
Tribute Fest at Ebbw	07 Feb 24	6.9K	69

Instagram Reach	Instagram Followers	Instagram Content Interactions	Profile Visits	Link Clicks
4.3K	1.3K (+73 new follows)	402	1.9K	0

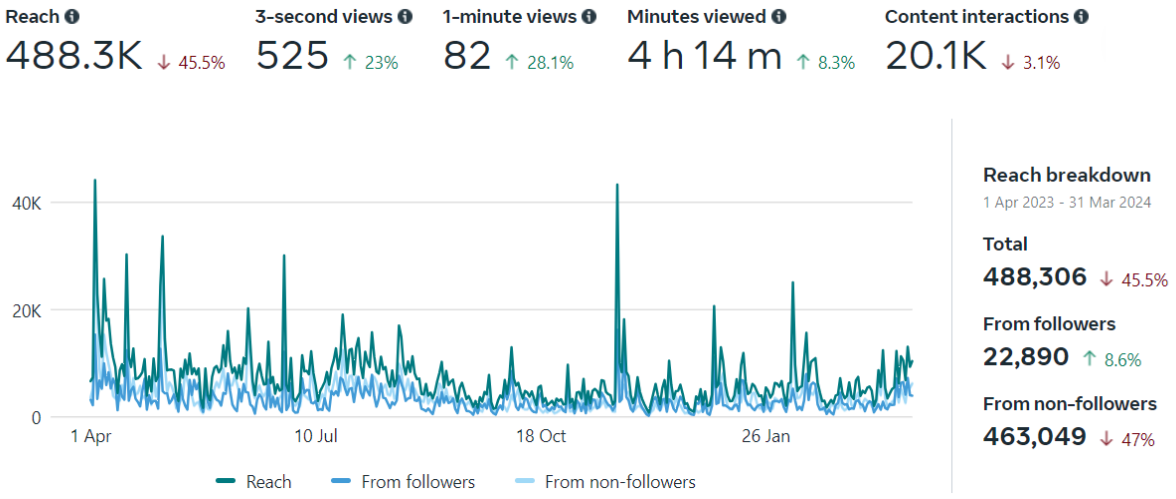


Reach for the BG Life Instagram page was down 82.1% year on year. However, the introduction of the platform was relatively new and requires ongoing content which will be a key development area for the next financial year.

The most popular posts were:

Instagram Post	**Reach**	**Reactions** Likes, Shares & Comments	**Video Performance**
National Fitness Day – EVSC promo video 19 Sep 23	942	46	1.1K plays 183 minutes viewed
National Fitness Day Rig Fit video reel 20 Sep 23	791	37	856 plays 129 minutes viewed
12 days of Christmas Prize Draw Winner at ASC 28 Dec 23	697	29	N/A
Congratulations to the latest successful NPLQ candidates 03 Nov 23	575	31	N/A
National Fitness Day – ASC promo video 18 Sep 23	552	30	609 plays 104 minutes viewed

Facebook Reach	Facebook Followers	Facebook Content Interactions	Facebook Minutes Viewed	Facebook Profile Visits
488.3K	26.1K (Nett 1.6K new follows)	20.1K	4 hours 14 mins	97.1K

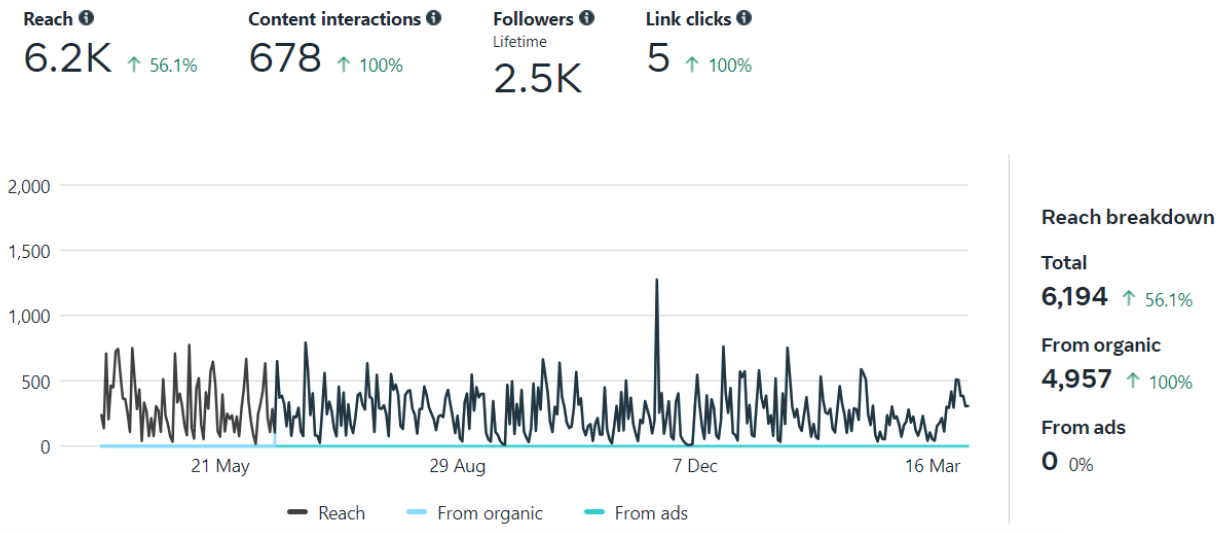


Reach for the PBB Facebook page was down 45.5% year on year. Where there are significant spikes in reach, we believe that this is attributable to multiple posts going out on the same day and was not reflective of one specific post. Moving forward to the next financial year, we will be working closely with the PBB team to balance the nature aspect of the park with activities.

The most popular posts were:

Facebook Post	**Date/Time**	**Reach**	**Reactions** Likes, Shares & Comments
Launch of Festive Menu in the Lake View Café	21 Nov 23	58.7K	2K
New Year Suggestions on things to do at PBB for families	03 Jan 24 10:00	25.4K	278
Have you tried our new festive food menu?	24 Nov 23	20.2K	284
Halloween Activities – creepy cave and glow in the dark mini golf	05 Oct 23	15.6K	179
It's a beautiful bright winter's day at the park – don't forget overflow car parking is available	12 Feb 24 13:35	14.2K	87

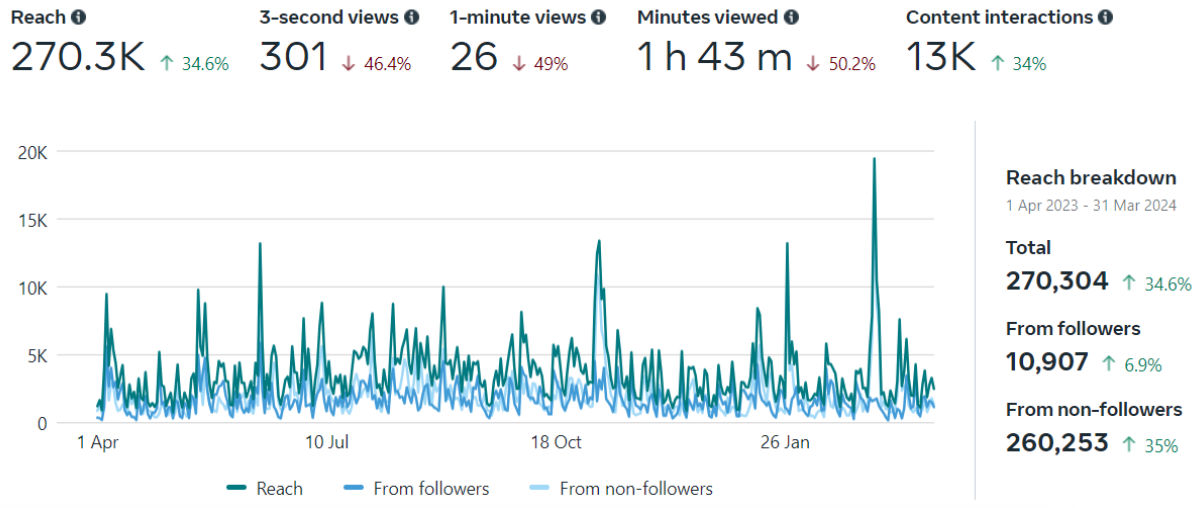
Instagram Reach	Instagram Followers	Instagram Content Interactions	Profile Visits	Link Clicks
6.2K	2.5K (+219 new followers)	678	3K	5



Instagram Post	Date	Reach	Reactions Likes, Shares & Comments
Launch of Festive Menu in the Lake View Café	21 Nov 23	1.5K	112
Cancellation of Santa visit due to bad weather	19 Dec 23	975	6
Reminder of dogs on leads rules at PBB	15 Jan 24 10:00	879	16
International Angelman Day – Thomas' story	15 Feb 24 12:30	850	47
New Year suggestions on things to do at PBB for families	03 Jan 24 10:00	843	16

Bedwellty House and Park Social Media

Facebook Reach	Facebook Followers	Facebook Content Interactions	Facebook Minutes Viewed	Facebook Profile Visits
270.3K	11.7K (Nett +675 new follows)	13K	1 hour 43 mins	73K

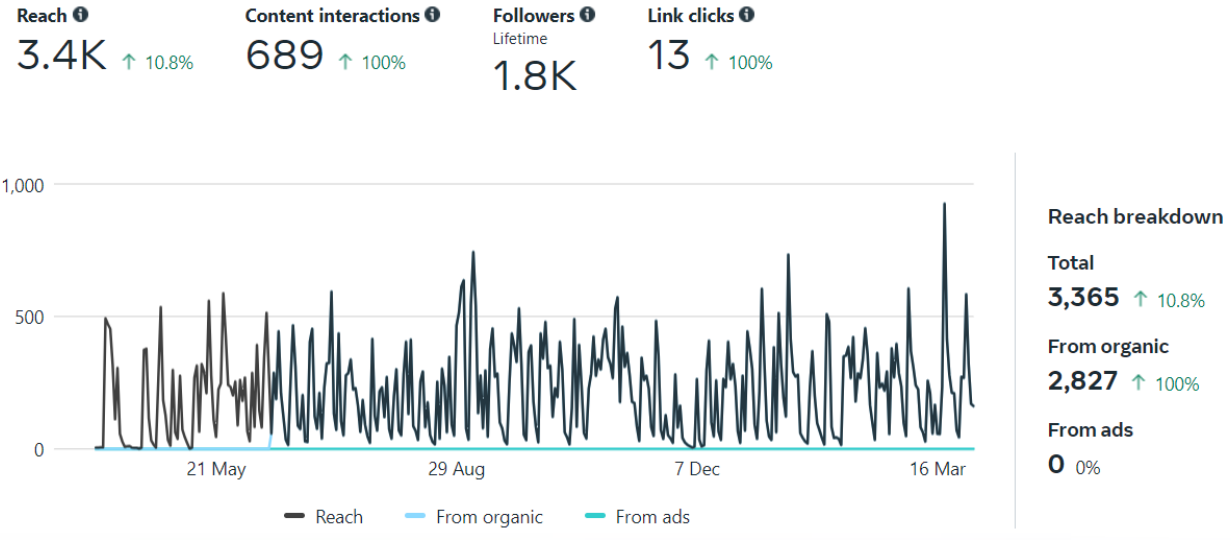


Reach for the BHAP Facebook page was up 34.6% year on year. Where there are significant spikes in reach, we believe that this is attributable to multiple posts going out on the same day and was not reflective of one specific post.

The most popular posts were:

Facebook Post	**Date/Time**	**Reach**	**Reactions** Likes, Shares & Comments
We may be biased, but we love Autumn in the park (pictures)	04 Nov 23	39.4K	1.3K
A beautiful bright winter day in the park (picture)	11 Jan 24 13:34	14.6K	263
Thank you to everyone who helped us create the poppy field for Remembrance Sunday (pictures)	14 Nov 23	9.8K	240
Team member spotlight – Chris Walters HOV fundraising boxing match	19 Mar 24 19:23	8K	376
Christmas family party night at BHAP	08 Nov 23	7.4	100

Instagram Reach	Instagram Followers	Instagram Content Interactions	Profile Visits	Link Clicks
3.4K	1.8K (+130 new follows)	689	2.3K	13



The reach for BHAP's Instagram page was up 10.8% and the most popular posts were:

Instagram Post	Date	Reach	Reactions Likes, Shares & Comments
Visit by Michael Sheen and National Theatre team (picture)	05 Sep 23	907	93
Reminder that Bedwellty Park is a dogs-on-lead area (map)	14 Jan 24	838	13
We are open as normal today but there is emergency work being carried out on the main drive	03 Jan 24 13:07	776	17
We may be biassed, but we love Autumn in the park (pictures)	04 Nov 23	743	88
Exciting developments for our play area	04 Mar 24 16:25	733	64

Communications Overview

During March 2023-April 2024, the Marketing and Communications team managed 305 individual jobs across the business units, and ad-hoc social media requests of c200.

Communication elements included events, promotional material and items, signage and filming /photography.

Some examples of these, for each of the business units is below:

- Central Support

    - Website management, design development, events covering the Trust's services, photography, videography/content creation, loyalty cards and overarching communication e.g. recycling.
    - The partner conference was co-ordinated in 2022/23 by the marketing team. This financial year it was agreed by the SMT to provide a development opportunity to other teams and timing has been postponed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Trust.
    - Tactical social media posts were posted to support job ads, partner requests/activities and research. Welsh posts have been implemented to support generic communication including opening hours, job ads and general activities, directing customers to the events page of the ALT website.

- Sports Centres

  - Supported various events including birthday parties, the charity fun day at Abertillery sports centre, summer holiday activities, the Christmas fun day at Abertillery Sports Centre, Halloween events and anniversary events for Tredegar Sports Centre's 50th anniversary and Abertillery Sports Centre's 20th anniversary.
  - Supported swimming activity through the use of selfie boards as an alternative option to providing certificates, promoted adult swimming lessons and family swim passes.
  - Promotional activities included 'On-your-Doorstep' flyers to push to new homes in the Ebbw Vale area, 'Summer's here; no excuses' and a summer membership offer, promoting junior gym sessions over the summer period, promoting the online coaching initiative, national fitness day and Black Friday promotions and corporate retreat days for Tredegar Sports Centre.
  - Signage updates were implemented at each of the reception areas, an upgrade to improve the directional signage at Abertillery Sports Centre and menu updates for The Galv café at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre.
  - Supported the Sports Development team with promotional materials for their holiday playschemes, including photography for use online, banners for use at events, summer holiday activities, football camps and mini kickers, spring fun day and festive food bank appeal.
  - A number of tactical social media posts were posted to support ad hoc service issues, events at Ebbw Vale sports centre, 3G pitch availability, respectful gym environments, Coronation celebrations and lifeguard courses.

- Parc Bryn Bach

  - Supported the Outdoor Adventure Activities (OAA) team with new, interactive documentation to send to schools/groups including a consent form, orienteering maps and business cards. To support their extensive Easter activity programme, we extended reach outside of Blaenau Gwent to Cardiff by advertising in Primary Times with an offer on activities when the ad was presented at reception. This did have some response and we recognise that better tracking is required with any future advertising.
  - Commissioned online research with open water swimmers to refine the offer from the park. We achieved a response rate of 37% and resulted in our open water swimming provision being extended to include a regular long course, opening the course to younger participants and more weekday sessions.
  - Improved signage for paddle sports and activity control, advisory signs for fishing and driving, updated menu signage for the café and kiosk, instigated the new map for the park to sit outside the visitor centre, plus new security and jetty signage. In addition, we produced a wooden selfie board to sit near the jetty for visitors to tag us in to on social media.
  - Following a complaint to the Welsh Language Commission, updated various signs around the park to be bilingual. Instructional signage was not changed at this juncture due to the complexity and importance of the information (e.g. go-kart bookings, open water swimming instructions) and hesitation to 'overload' the park with signs. Further discussions are ongoing on how to address this issue with exploration of digital solutions.
  - The team at the park commissioned a number of fauna sculptures and we commissioned bilingual videos (accessed through QR codes on each of the sculpture), which explains interesting facts about each in an engaging way and a printed flyer/poster that is used on-site and at events.

- Attended the National Education Show in Cardiff to promote the facilities at the park for schools which resulted in greater awareness and bookings. We also developed support materials for the Duke of Edinburgh awards support to engage with a wider age group within schools. In addition, we attended an education showcase in Blaenau Gwent to promote the facilities at PBB to local schools.
- Content was created through photography and videography of Gorge Walking
- Support of tactical activities including Christmas crafts, activities and a festive menu.
- Online, free listing sites and the Visit Wales site were updated with the developments at the park.
- A number of tactical social media posts were posted to support ad-hoc service issues (e.g. work being undertaken in the visitor centre, problems with Sum Up), guest caterers over the summer period, additional OAA taking place, caravan site opening, tactical menu additions, third-party events at the park and driving range availability.

- Bedwellty House and Park (BHAP)

  - The new website for BHAP went live in May 2023 and is felt to be a better representation of the classic heritage of the venue, promoting weddings and events on-site and showcasing the glorious grounds.
  - Supported weddings with a new brochure, tactical offers promoted online and through relevant events, testimonial canvases for use around Bedwellty House, folders and business cards, showcases during the year and wedding photography to improve the content online and in general communication. We also took the opportunity to advertise in a magazine that is distributed at other venues' wedding showcases (Top Tier magazine).
  - Commissioned photography for Christmas activities and Santa's grotto to improve website content.
  - Supported the many events taking place though the year, including Bubbles and Brunch, Coronation celebrations, Gin Clubs, NHS 75th anniversary teas, Christmas market, lunches and tea, family parties, third-party activities, Valentine and Easter activities and St David's day activities
  - Supported the operations team by producing updated, editable baby shower and wakes documentation, and developing promotional support for the Heritage trail implemented by the team and 'walk and talk' sessions.
  - Signage was updated throughout Bedwellty House to feature the new logo and we developed bilingual signage to support the Welsh School, housed at Bedwellty House.
  - We developed support materials for BHAP to use at an education showcase in Blaenau Gwent illustrating the support for MFL, proms etc that take place at the park. Greater emphasis is planned for this area in the next FY.
  - Online, free listing sites and the Visit Wales site were updated, and we bought into Squaremeal to further push BHAP as a wedding venue, having had good leads from the site previously. Unfortunately, our free listing was expiring so we committed to a year's involvement with the site.
  - Worked with The Friends of Bedwellty park to develop a recruitment flyer for them.
  - A number of tactical social media posts were posted to support the various third-party activities taking place at the BHAP (e.g. the BG Heritage Forum), exhibitions, Friends of Bedwellty Park activities and additional activity dates.

- Library Services

  - Supported the Library Services with a number of promotional activities including family history, various clubs, cost of living support, digital inclusion/tablet/SIM promotion, Wales libraries campaigns (growing together, BorrowBox, summer reading challenge, libraries week, big Welsh rhyme time) and student support,
  - Supported new outreach staff with promotional activity/events including wiggly words, hungry munchkins, half term owls, Christmas crafts, Halloween crafts and promotional materials for events.

- Signage was produced for Abertillery and Blaina libraries and improved internal signage was produced for Brynmawr library.
- A new book club was launched at Abertillery library with resultant promotional support.
- A number of tactical social media posts were posted including service updates, third-party group activities, litter picking sessions, healthy eating drop-in sessions, Tech Tuesdays, business support sessions, miscellaneous library activities and post event photography.

- Adult Community Learning

  - At the beginning of the SPF funding, we supported the Multiply team with a draft marketing plan and initial communication. This has subsequently been taken into their own team with the recruitment of a social media exec.
  - In addition, we supported the Bridges+ team to develop a new logo with the recommendation to retrain the name given the historic awareness that had been built from previous funding and not establish a new 'brand'.
  - Supported the Adult Community Learning team with communication for GCSEs, pottery workshops, art for adults, courses specific to Tredegar LAC, IT and maths courses, cooking with your child and an update to the overall provision.
  - Signage was produced for Ebbw Vale LAC.
  - Supported the various events and fayres held at Ebbw Vale LAC and procured promotional items for the team.
  - A number of tactical social media posts were posted to support course take-up.

- Community Engagement

  - Community engagement has continued with inclusion on many partners' working groups and committees including the Integrated Wellbeing Network, BG Food Partnership, Youth Partnership Hub and attendance at many events throughout the year to promote the services of the Trust.

  - Of particular note is supporting the work of the sports development team with the Family Engagement Programme and their support of Ukrainian Refugees which resulted in a family fun day hosted at Parc Bryn Bach. The community engagement officer is also active in supporting the sports development team with ongoing athletics festivals held at local schools.

  - To support potential funding opportunities, the Trust has become a partner of CWYVS (Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services), which the sports development team and community engagement officer work with.

  - In addition, following attendance at a Third Sector Partnership Event, the Trust has become involved with NEWCIS, supporting carers around Blaenau Gwent to access funding to use as respite at our facilities.

  - The Community Engagement Officer has been active in the support of social services' initiatives to support young carers in Blaenau Gwent. Following an initial presentation to young carers where the relevant opportunities across the Trust were highlighted, an activity day at Parc Bryn Bach was organised. This has also led to helping establish the use of the polytunnels at Parc Bryn Bach, supported by the operational team at the park.

- The ongoing support of the Community Kit Room at Abertillery Sports Centre has resulted in growth of donations and use of the facility. The Community Engagement Officer, with the Sports Development team, coordinate and manage the donations, stock and distribution of the sports equipment to local residents. They work in partnership with Tai Calon, Mountain Fuel and StreetGames Wales to source kit and funding. Awareness is raised through the websites, social media and at relevant events. The Community Kit Room celebrated its first anniversary at Abertillery sports centre with its first year helping 140 people and providing 331 items of sportswear. The team is actively working to improve the drop-off points across the local authority, particularly the Trust's sites and to expand to Tredegar sports centre.

- Working in Partnership

  - In addition to the work of the Community Engagement Officer, the Trust Is actively involved with the Local Wellbeing Partnership, the Local Nature Partnership (Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen), southeast Wales Tourism, the Blaenau Gwent Destination Management Group and Valleys Regional Park.

- Trust Communication and Content

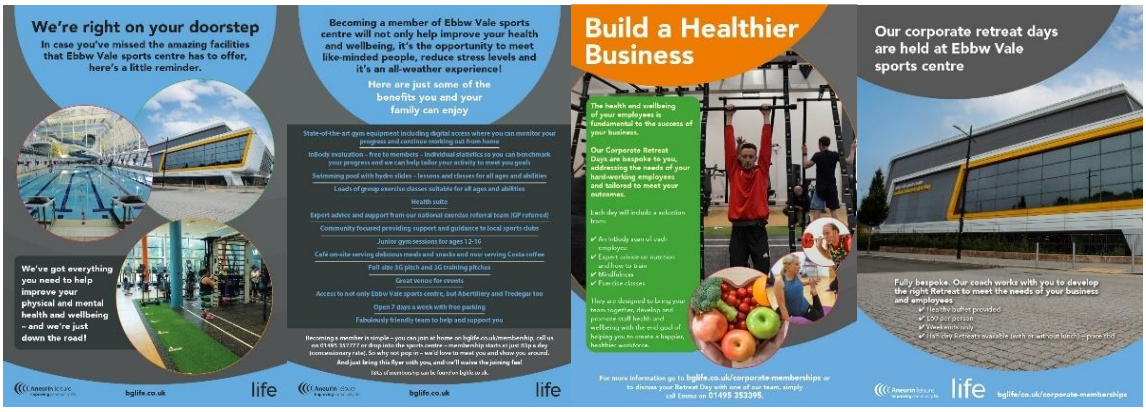
  - During 2023 we engaged the services of a local agency to help us to develop content that could be used to support the different areas of the Trust and provide online content. This relationship was borne out of the agency approaching us with an offer to film the family fun day at Abertillery Sports Centre. This resulted in films to support the individual business areas, showcasing their services and facilities and has been used on the websites and social media platforms and at key events such as the National Education Show in Cardiff.

  - We have very limited insight into the perceptions of the Trust and believe there is a strong 'belief' that we are part of the local authority. In addition to this, there is a move by the sport and fitness team away from BG Life to using 'Aneurin Leisure' therefore, we have commissioned research to gain a better understanding of perceptions of the Trust and BG Life to the community and sports centre users. This insight will provide us with a platform to further develop support to raise awareness of the Trust and clarify the way forward for the sports centres' brand.

- A selection of Marketing communication

















Working in partnership:

- **Sports Centres:**

  - BG Life Website and Social Media: Secured additional content for the BG Life website and ongoing social media support to highlight key messaging.
  - Promoting Playschemes: Supported the Sports Development team in promoting their regular Playschemes.
  - Membership Campaigns: Launched Summer and Autumn campaigns for new memberships focusing on the overall benefits of membership, from as little as 63p per day.
  - Customer Journey Form: Developed a customer journey form to assist sports centre staff with onboarding new members.
  - National Promotions: Maximised national promotions such as National Fitness Day and Black Friday, and tactical promotions such as the 12 Days of Christmas and retreat days held at Tredegar Sports Centre.
  - Youth Sport Trust Partnership: Worked with the Sports Development team to promote their partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, ensuring it is presented on the BG Life website.
  - NERS Pregnancy Pathway: Supported the NERS (National Exercise Referral) team, particularly with their pregnancy pathway.
  - Improved Signage: Improved signage across all three centres, including the installation of selfie mirrors at Abertillery Sports Centre.
  - Tredegar Sports Centre Pool Refurbishment: Provided ongoing customer updates on the refurbishment and subsequent reopening of Tredegar Sports Centre's pool.
  - Community Kit Room Initiative: Supported the launch of the Community Kit Room initiative by the Sports Development team.
  - Website Analytics: Monthly visits to the website average around 7,300, with fluctuations particularly around school holidays. The most popular pages are membership, swimming, timetables, the three sports centres' pages, gyms, and contact us.

NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme):

- NERO-fit Classes: Partnered with the neurodiversity physiotherapy department to introduce NERO-fit classes at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, catering to clients with neurological conditions.
- Shared Prosperity Funding: Secured £112,000 through the Shared Prosperity Fund over two years (2023/24 and 2024/25) linked to the Multiply project in Wales, supporting the expansion of the NERS programme.
- Weight Management Programme: Rolled out a weight management programme aiming to achieve 80 participants over two years.
- New NERS Database (Theseus): Introduced the Theseus database, integrating efficiently with the GP patient system, reducing paperwork, and increasing the number of clients seen.
- Workforce Transition: Employed Mike White, enhancing the team's flexibility and range of services offered.

Community and Development Initiatives:

- Cost of Living Event: Collaborated with Blaenau Gwent (BG) to host a Cost of Living Event at Tredegar Sports Centre, providing families with access to financial support and resources.
- Events and Activities: Hosted various events and activities including the Coal Dust Music event, 4-nations EMMAA event, Polaris 25, dance, boxing, netball, pickleball, and badminton, with more planned for 2024/25.
- Mental Health Partnerships: Established new partnerships with mental health charities Pobl and Papyrus, running initiatives like coffee mornings and community engagement sessions.
- Elective Home Educated Swimmers: Expanded the elective home educated swimmers programme from 6 to 14 swimmers in 2023/24.
- Energy Efficiency Initiatives: Implemented upgraded pumps, voltage optimisation, LED floodlights, and extended solar panels, reducing carbon emissions by over 100 tonnes and saving £87,000 in utility costs annually.
- Air Handling Unit Upgrade: Secured funding to replace and upgrade motors, reducing ventilation system utility costs by 42%.
- Social Value Calculator: Invested in the Social Value Calculator, demonstrating the social value generated by facilities. The total value generated was £2.5 million, with breakdowns for each centre.

Sports Development:

- School Sports: Supported school sports with summer athletics and cricket festivals, involving year 9 pupils and Pen-Y-Cwm School. Participation increased by 10% compared to the previous year.
- Community Kit Room: Increased donations and usage by 10%, expanding its reach and providing more resources to the community.
- Playscheme Programme: Delivered 367.4 hours to 3,039 attendees, including 229 children with disabilities, with volunteers contributing 387 hours. This represents a 10% increase in hours, attendees, support, and meals provided compared to the previous year.

Workforce and Workplace Development

- Aneurin Leisure recognises and fully appreciates that our employees are the key to the success of the Trust. The Trust employs c. 244 contracted employees (Full Time Equivalent 138.7) and in addition, utilises casual relief posts (i.e., 42 individuals at the end of March 2024) and is committed to the development, health and wellbeing of all.

- The Trust continues working towards a planned, systematic approach to improving our organisational effectiveness, one that aligns strategy, people and processes to achieve our commitment to continuously improve our customers' experience which is essential to achieving this. The Trust links training and the performance appraisals to our values and strategic priorities.

- The Trust continues to meet with the Trade Unions on a regular basis and continues to have an excellent working relationship.

- The Trust has continued to work in partnership with TSW (Training Services Wales) and a number of frontline supervisors and managers are currently completing training at Level's 3 to 5.

- The Trust has recently invested in LMS 365. Learn 365 provides an online learning platform that is built into Microsoft 365 and Teams. A new suite of training materials will be created and rolled out to all employees during 2024/25.

- The Trust successfully rolled out a new time and attendance system 'Planday' during 2024/24 allowing for improved management of rota and schedule management and the removal of manual timesheets.

- Planday has allowed for provided greater accessibility to all employees improving communication channels across the Trust.

- The introduction of sharepoint and a Trust intranet site has allowed for the development of a Human Resources intranet site providing all employees with access to essential workforce information such as policies, forms and staff benefit information.

- The Trust continues to promote and increase its employee benefit offerings including cycle to work schemes which has seen increased interest each year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The group has returned a Deficit of £9,289,117 before FRS 102 pension adjustments for the 12-month period to 31 March 2024, of which £187,418 is from restricted funds. The trading subsidiary, LLT limited has contributed a surplus of £19,814 to the group.

On 1 October 2014, the Trust was admitted to the Greater Gwent Local Government Superannuation scheme (LGPS), a defined benefit scheme. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure was retained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). The Trust is, therefore, only responsible for any increase in liabilities occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. The pension deficit on an FRS 17 basis on the 1 October 2014 was £4.432m and this deficit remains the obligation of BGCBC; an asset of £4.432m is included in these accounts to reflect this. The pension liability on an FRS 102 basis as at 31 March 2024 has improved to £8,454m from a surplus of £5,263m in 2023. However, the pension fund's actuary has considered the impact of accounting to recognise an asset ceiling for the pension fund asset, and they have assessed that the asset ceiling should be nil therefore the pension fund asset has been revised to nil to ensure appropriate accounting treatment.

Principal funding sources

Within the period the Trust received £3,170,641 as a management fee from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Grant income for the period amounted to £1,840,295 and the majority of the remaining income was received from our customers.

The income is used to fund the operating costs of the facilities from which we deliver our charitable objectives.

Reserves policy

It is the Trust's policy to build up over time sufficient reserves to meet its charitable objectives on a sustainable basis and cover the risks that the Trust faces.

The Trust aims to build up reserves to fund working capital. All annual surpluses not allocated to fund working capital are available to fund investment in property and equipment to improve service quality. The Trust aims to maintain a minimum unrestricted reserve balance of £750,000, excluding any actuarial gains or losses. There has been a significant draw from unrestricted reserves for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2024 and the Trust recognises the need to significantly increase its current level of reserves.

At 31 March 2024 the restricted reserves amounted to a surplus of £628,281. The unrestricted reserves excluding the DB pension reserve amount to a surplus of £656,742 (2023: £820,830). The pension reserve was revised to nil as per the requirements of the actuarial adjustment for the asset ceiling.

On creation of Aneurin Leisure Trust in October 2014, pension assets and liabilities assessed on an actuarial basis were transferred from Blaenau Gwent CBC, such that the Trust's pension obligations were deemed to be fully funded. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure Trust was not transferred but was retained by Blaenau Gwent CBC. The Trust is therefore only responsible for any increase in liabilities (on an actuarial valuation basis) occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. In addition, the Authority agreed to act as guarantor of last resort in order that the Leisure Trust could enter the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund as an admitted body and has therefore agreed to underwrite any costs arising in the event that the admitted body defaults on any or all of its payments in relation to its pension obligations.

However, in the Statement of Accounts the transferred pension assets and liabilities have been accounted for using assumptions for which differ from those used in the actuarial valuation approach on which the funding position at inception of the Trust was based. Consequently, those elements of the settlement figures disclosed in 2014/2015 that related to Aneurin Leisure Trust did not reflect a fully funded position, Nevertheless, the Authority is still liable for the sums relating to the accrued net deficit on transfer which is represented by the long-term debtor and will be adjusted for over time.

Key risks
The Trust has a 20-year contract which commenced on 1 October 2014 with BGCBC with a review process built in during years 3 and 4 to review overall performance in advance of agreement to continue with the Trust for the following 5 years.

As part of the contract, BGCBC service management fee is agreed at the start of each 5-year period and reviewed annually on progress. The key challenge facing the Trust is to grow income and control expenditure to support the contracted management fee.

If unsuccessful with attracting additional funding through various means including the Council, there will be a limitation in providing investment into key areas, and this will also limit the Trust's ability to reduce its dependence on the management fee.

The Trust received £1,840,295 (2023: £1,730,831) of grant income in the year, equating to 19.50% of total incoming resources. The decrease in grants this year mainly relates to the reduction of Covid funding. In the event grant income reducing in future years the associated expenditure currently funded by the grants would also need to be reduced.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust faces a challenging period over the coming years mainly driven by the cost-of-living crisis which has elevated utility costs to unprecedented levels in recent financial years and although they have now decreased, they remain significantly higher than before the cost-of-living crisis. As a result, the Trust are exploring every opportunity to accelerate business plan projects, reduce operational costs where possible and review prices which we hope will ensure that services remain fully available to Blaenau Gwent residents. The Trust is working alongside Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to review its operations to ensure that it continues to deliver the right services to Blaenau Gwent in a sustainable way.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance
Life Leisure Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act (2006). The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company.

The Trustees
The Trustees are also the Directors in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Board is made up of up to eleven Trustees consisting of one employee Trustee, up to two local authority Trustees and up to eight community Trustees.

Employee Trustees are appointed by the senior management team of the Trust for a period of three years.

The community Trustees are appointed for a 3-year period, with recruitment process as follows:

- Advert placed in local newspapers, on social media (LinkedIn & Twitter) within the Trust facilities, on the Trust website and other advertising resources as appropriate inviting applications. An information pack is provided outlining the duties and roles of a Trustee and the application process, together with information on the Trust.

- Applications will be shortlisted based on criteria specified within the personal specification and job description and assessment of the applicants' particular skills and expertise to cover both community interest and commercial/business knowledge (such as Finance, Human Resources, Sales and Marketing).

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will comprise of three members and wherever possible panels will have a gender/race balance. Panel members should include two Trustees (Chair and/or Vice Chair, or other Trustee), a Trust Senior Officer (Director of Resources or Director of Operations) with support from the Human Resource Service, where appropriate. In circumstances where there is a need to involve more than three members on an interview panel, then this should be discussed in advance and agreed with the Human Resource Service (it may be necessary on occasions for additional Members to sit in on a panel to observe the process for developmental purposes).

- The appointment of Trustees will be made by the Board of Trustees following recommendations from the Interview/Appointment Panel and be based on not only the assessment of whether individuals are suitable to be Trustees but also achieve a balance of skills on the Board. For example, it is important to have a balance of business skills and also geographical locations as well as interests (leisure, arts, community education, libraries, overall wellbeing, etc.)

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will recommend to the Board of Trustees of their preferred option to appoint a Trustee and following agreement to proceed, will confirm the offer to the selected candidate(s).

- The offer of appointment to be a member of the Board of Trustees will be subject to satisfactory references being obtained.

- All Trustees are provided with the following documentation on induction;

    - Declaration of Interests form
    - Rehabilitation of Offenders form
    - Equality & Diversity Monitoring form
    - Trustee Code of Conduct Policy
    - Trustee Confidentiality Policy
    - Health & Safety Policy
    - Equal Opportunities Policy
    - Memorandum and Articles of Association
    - Schedule of Matters

All Trustees are also members of the Charitable Trust which is limited by guarantee.

All Trustees receive induction training with regard to the organisation including its powers and objects and the Charitable Trust itself.

Trustees will be offered further training opportunities during their tenure.

Structure of the Charity
The Board of Trustees meets quarterly. The Charitable Trust operates a Finance sub-group to advise and report to the Board of Trustees.

A Corporate Director Team manages the day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust, supported by a Senior Management Team.

Organisational Structure and Decision-Making Process
The Board retains overall accountability for the management of the Charitable Trust.

The day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust are managed by the Trust's Corporate Directors and Senior Management Team. The Senior Management Team is given strategic direction by the Board of Trustees (the Board) regarding the provision and operation of the services.

The Charitable Trust operates a business planning process whereby strategic priorities and targets directed by the Board and shared with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council flow from the business plan into quarterly reports and an annual delivery plan. This is fully embedded and central to our planning and budgeting cycles and drives operational performance.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
Remuneration of Key Management Personnel is reviewed annually alongside the other employees of the company by the main Board as part of the annual budget setting process.

Related Parties
The Charitable Trust has a relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, who provides funding in the form of a management fee to enable the Charitable Trust to carry out its charitable objectives.

The Charitable Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT limited. LLT limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

Co-operation with other organisations
As a community-based organisation operating throughout Blaenau Gwent, Aneurin Leisure structures large elements of its strategic planning and operational service delivery having due regard to partner aims and objectives, particularly Blaenau Gwent County Borough council. Work plans specifically identify how Aneurin Leisure will contribute to delivering on broader social agendas working with the health, education and voluntary sectors.

Risk Management
The Charitable Trust has developed a risk management plan to identify risks and risk mitigation measures at corporate level. The risk register is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ITS TRUSTEES

Charity name:	Life Leisure Trust
Trading name:	Aneurin Leisure
Company registration number:	8951503
Charity registration number:	1159092
Registered office:	Bedwellty House Morgan Street Tredegar NP22 3XN

Trustees:	**Date of Appt.**	
Mr Lyn Evans – Chair	12/05/14	
Mrs Donna Hardman	12/05/14	
Councillor Wayne Hodgins	03/03/17	Resigned 10/12/18 Re-appointed 13/12/18 Resigned 21/09/22
Councillor Lee Parsons	25/05/17	Resigned 21/09/22
Professor Jennifer Ames	24/08/17	Resigned 05/01/24
Mr Richard Dando	26/03/19	
Mr Stephen Priestnall	27/01/20	
Mr Steven Hughes	14/08/23	
Mr Matthew Burkitt	18/10/23	
Mrs Ceri Waters	18/10/23	
Ms Andrea Smart	27/01/20	Resigned 03/05/22
Mr Stephen Dwyer	16/03/20	Resigned 21/09/22
Mrs Sharon Howell	12/05/14	Resigned 29/03/19
Mrs Susan Lewis	12/05/14	Resigned 08/06/17
Mrs Sian Hughes	13/05/14	Resigned 30/09/17
Mr Philip Hodgson	01/07/14	Resigned 05/05/17
Mr Barry Esterhuizen	03/02/16	Resigned 27/04/17
Mr Steven Lewis	14/10/16	Resigned 31/05/17
Councillor Keren Bender	03/03/17	Resigned 19/05/17
Ms Tania Frowen	24/08/17	Resigned 26/06/18
Mr Mark Langshaw	01/12/17	Resigned 18/06/18
Mr Meirion Morgan	24/08/17	Resigned 03/12/18
Ms Claire Beynon	01/12/17	Resigned 15/03/19
Mr Andrew Rogers	25/03/19	Resigned 18/10/19
Mr Ross Watts	25/03/19	Resigned 14/12/20

Key Management Personnel:		
	Mrs Nichola Morden-Tew	Director of Resources
	Mr Phillip Sykes	Director of Operations

Bankers:	Barclays Business Banking South Wales Team 3rd Floor Windsor Court 3 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3ZL
Solicitors (Employment Law):	Capital Law LLP Capital Building Tyndall Street Cardiff CF10 4AZ
Auditors:	Azets Audit Services Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 1-3 Waters Lane Chambers Waters Lane Newport NP20 1LA

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Life Leisure Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

Date: 24th December 2024

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2024, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the groups or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report[6]. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements**.**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the groups and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with this Act.
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

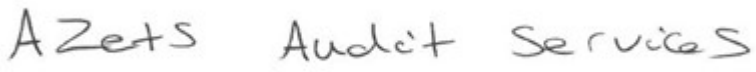
Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Craig Yearsley
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

Date 30/12/2024

Azets Audit Services is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023 Restated
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**1,000**	**-**	**1,000**	1,316
Charitable activities	4	**8,228,743**	**1,212,260**	**9,441,003**	8,312,410
Other trading activities	5	**26,275**	**-**	**26,275**	7,924
Total income and endowments		**8,256,018**	**1,212,260**	**9,468,278**	8,321,650
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**17,545,135**	**1,399,678**	**18,944,813**	10,265,947
Total expenditure		**17,545,135**	**1,399,678**	**18,964,628**	10,265,947
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**(9,289,117)**	**(187,418)**	**(9,476,535)**	(1,944,297)
Transfers between funds	15,16	**-**	**-**	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	**3,277,000**	**-**	**3,277,000**	16,112,000
Net movement in funds		**(6,012,117)**	**(187,418)**	**(6,199,535)**	14,167,703
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15,16	**10,515,830**	**815,699**	**11,331,529**	(2,836,174)
Total funds carried forward	16,17	**4,503,713**	**628,281**	**5,131,994**	11,331,529

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 78 - 108 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CHARITY ONLY
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023 Restated
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**20,815**	**-**	**20,815**	7,355
Charitable activities	4	**8,228,743**	**1,212,260**	**9,441,003**	8,312,410
Other income		**4,417**	**-**	**4,417**	-
Total income and endowments		**8,253,975**	**1,212,260**	**9,466,235**	8,319,765
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**17,543,119**	**1,399,678**	**18,942,797**	10,264,030
Total expenditure		**17,543,119**	**1,399,678**	**18,942,797**	10,264,030
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**(9,289,144)**	**(187,418)**	**(9,476,562)**	(1,944,265)
Transfers between funds	15,16	**-**	**-**	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	**3,277,000**	**-**	**3,277,000**	16,112,000
Net movement in funds		**(6,012,144)**	**(187,418)**	**(6,199,562)**	14,167,735
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15,16	**10,515,857**	**815,699**	**11,331,556**	(2,836,179)
Total funds carried forward	16,17	**4,503,713**	**628,281**	**5,131,994**	11,331,556

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 78 - 108 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 Restated £	2023 Restated £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**9**		**492,335**		497,188
Current assets:					
Stocks	**11**	**20,889**		24,788	
Debtors	**12**	**5,203,457**		5,529,139	
Cash at bank and in hand		**563,682**		1,388,982	
		5,788,028		6,942,909	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**13**	**(883,721)**		(1,040,971)	
Net current assets			**4,904,307**		5,901,938
Total assets less current liabilities			**5,396,642**		6,399,126
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	**14**		**(264,648)**		(330,597)
Net assets excluding pension liability			**5,131,994**		6,068,529
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	**20**		**-**		5,263,000
Net (liabilities)/ assets			**5,131,994**		11,331,529
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	**15**		**628,281**		815,699
Unrestricted income funds	**16**	**656,742**		820,830	
Pension reserve	**16**	**3,846,971**		9,695,000	
			4,503,713		10,515,830
Total charity funds	**17**		**5,131,994**		11,331,529

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 24 December 2024.



Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 78 – 108 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**9**		**492,335**		497,188
Investments	**10**		**1**		1
			492,336		497,189
Current assets:					
Stocks	**11**	**20,889**		24,788	
Debtors	**12**	**5,204,893**		5,532,533	
Cash at bank and in hand		**562,245**		1,387,097	
		5,788,027		6,944,418	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**13**	**(883,721)**		(1,042,454)	
Net current assets			**4,904,306**		5,901,964
Total assets less current liabilities			**5,396,642**		6,399,153
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	**14**		**(264,648)**		(330,597)
Net assets excluding pension liability			**5,131,994**		6,068,556
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	**20**		**-**		5,263,000
Net (liabilities)/ assets			**5,131,994**		11,331,556
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	**15**		**628,281**		815,699
Unrestricted income funds	**16**	**656,742**		820,857	
Pension reserve	**16**	**3,846,971**		9,695,000	
			4,503,713		1,015,857
Total charity funds	**17**		**5,131,994**		11,331,556

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 24 December 2024

L J Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 78 - 108 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	21	**(712,809)**	(447,356)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	9	**(112,491)**	(46,629)
Net cash provided used in investing activities		**(112,491)**	(46,629)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**(825,300)**	(493,985)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	21	**1,388,982**	1,882,967
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	21	**563,682**	1,388,982

The notes on pages 78 - 108 form part of the financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal form and address
Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Bedwellty House, Morgan Street, Tredegar, NP22 3XN.

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

No separate cash flow statement has been presented for the charity itself as the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions in paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

Group financial statements
These consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust Limited (the charitable company) and LLT Limited its wholly owned trading subsidiary, made up to 31 March 2024.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary on a line-by-line basis.

The trading results of the subsidiary are disclosed in note 10 to these financial statements.

Going concern
The group made a deficit (before defined benefit pension adjustments) of £9,476,534 for the year ended 31st March 2024 of which £9,289,116 related to unrestricted funds. The trust is predicted to be in a breakeven position for the financial year ending 31st March 2025 and make profits going forward. Membership and usage numbers for facilities have continued to grow and are now exceeding the numbers from pre-covid.- gc accounting policy

The trust's have prepared forecasts for a period of more than 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements, these forecasts demonstrate that the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate cash reserves and resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. They have been prepared on a worst case scenario and with the Trust being significantly ahead of the 2024/25 forecast. Cash reserves at the date of signing the financial statements are strong.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund accounting

The charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require further disclosure. These are as follows:

Restricted funds are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes. Grant income received to fund capital expenditure is held in restricted reserves. The balance is transferred to unrestricted reserves in future years at the same rates as to match the depreciation charges of the related assets.

Revenue funds restricted by the donor are matched against expenditure as appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. In addition to expenditure on the principal activities of the charity these funds can be held in order to fund capital expenditure.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Certain income is received in advance of the provision of the relevant service and as such is deferred until the service commences.

The management fee is an unrestricted fund which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company. The income is invoiced and recognised in the period to which it relates.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from grants is deferred only when the terms and conditions of the grant permit the income to be deferred to future periods.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Turnover is the amount derived from ordinary activities, and stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees' report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

An analysis has been provided for the charitable activities on a departmental basis.
The departments are defined as follows:

The departments are defined as follows:

- Training and Libraries
- Culture, Parks and Events
- Sports and Fitness
- Central Support Services

Costs where possible are attributed directly to the activity in which they relate. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities based on income received in the year.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Netting off of income against expenditure
It is not the policy of the charitable company to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

Taxation
As a registered charity Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses or in cases where fixed assets have been donated to the charity, at valuation at time of acquisition.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% straight line
Plant and machinery	- 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Computers equipment	- 33% straight line

Assets are capitalised at cost.

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets
At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Investments
Investments relate to 100% of the share capital of the charity's wholly owned trading subsidiary and is recognised at cost.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling price after taking into account all further costs and excess stocks that are slow moving.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets
Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Employee Benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Service Concession Agreements
The charity has service contracts with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the maintenance and operation of the various libraries, community centres, leisure centres and parks owned by the Local Authority to which it has lease and management service contracts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Property, plant and equipment
The buildings and equipment at the various locations are to be leased to the charity as part of the overall contractual relationships with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) but BGCBC maintain ultimate control of these assets. Accordingly the access to which the charity has in the use of these assets is to enable it to operate the various venues so that the charity can provide the public service it is contracted to provide, not to effectively own these public service assets. These assets are therefore not recognised on the charity's Balance Sheet.

Any new assets purchased by the Trust remain the property of the Trust.

Receipts
The charity receives agreed management fee income from BGCBC each year which is decreased on an annual basis as per the terms of the Funding and Management Agreement.

Pensions
The charitable company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay.

Full details of the Trust's retirement benefit arrangements are set out in note 19 being the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

This is a funded pension scheme meaning that the employer and employee pay contributions which are invested in a separate fund.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) remain liable for the past service deficit that existed at the Trust’s inception. The Trust is responsible for the LGPS movements after the commencement date; however the liability is indemnified by BGCBC.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

Operating leases
The charity classifies the lease of gym equipment and motor vehicles as operating leases. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The following critical accounting estimates and judgements have been made:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimate, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 9 for the carrying amount of the plant and equipment and above for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

Defined benefit pension scheme
The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Group	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**Total 2024 £**	Total 2023 £
Donations	**1,000**	**-**	**1,000**	1,316
LLT Limited Covenant	**-**	**-**	**-**	-
	20,815	**-**	**20,815**	1,316
Charity				
Donations	**1,000**	**-**	**1,000**	1,316
LLT Limited Covenant	**19,815**	**-**	**19,815**	6,039
	20,815	**-**	**20,815**	7,355

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group and charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 Restated £
Catering income	**1,354,801**	**-**	**1,354,801**	1,193,081
Class income	**6,122**	**-**	**6,122**	57,873
Educational income	**31,955**	**-**	**31,955**	34,124
Grants	**628,035**	**1,212,260**	**1,840,295**	1,730,831
Leisure centre income	**2,185,990**	**-**	**2,185,990**	1,787,536
Management fee	**3,170,641**	**-**	**3,170,641**	2,879,785
Park outdoor activities	**242,583**	**-**	**242,583**	263,975
Room hire and rental	**234,295**	**-**	**234,295**	174,531
Sale of goods	**51,461**	**-**	**51,461**	43,936
Service Level Agreement	**149,562**	**-**	**149,562**	76,471
Shows and events	**24,924**	**-**	**24,924**	13,339
Sundry income	**148,374**	**-**	**148,374**	56,928
	8,228,743	**1,212,260**	**9,441,003**	8,312,410

Grant income was received from the following sources:

Group and charity				
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	**-**	**1,994**	**1,994**	8,000
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	**-**	**16,154**	**16,154**	45,278
Books Council of Wales	**-**	**1,000**	**1,000**	-
Cardiff Council	**-**	**15,847**	**15,847**	-
Coleg Gwent	**317,522**	**-**	**317,522**	261,793
Denbighshire County Council	**-**	**-**	**-**	3,500
Disability Sports Wales	**-**	**23,943**	**23,943**	19,963
Dragons Community	**-**	**1,150**	**1,150**	-
European Social Fund	**-**	**24,066**	**24,066**	460,795
GAVO	**-**	**9,255**	**9,255**	12,000
National Heritage	**-**	**-**	**-**	1,013
Public Health Wales	**-**	**103,151**	**103,151**	101,772
Social Priority Fund	**-**	**830,686**	**830,686**	-
Sports Council Wales	**41,000**	**179,323**	**220,323**	266,030
Street Games	**-**	**1,500**	**1,500**	28,992
Tennis Wales	**-**	**3,000**	**3,000**	-
WCVA	**-**	**988**	**988**	5,892
Welsh Government	**268,099**	**-**	**268,099**	515,803
WLGA	**312**	**-**	**312**	-
WRU	**1,102**	**-**	**1,102**	-
WRU	**-**	**203**	**203**	-
	628,035	**1,212,260**	**1,840,295**	1,730,831

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Income by activity:

	Group*	Charity**
	£	£
Training and libraries	**945,719**	**945,719**
Culture, parks and events	**1,430,098**	**1,430,098**
Sports and fitness	**3,193,386**	**3,193,386**
Central support services	**3,918,890**	**3,897,032**
	9,488,093	**9,466,235**

* Group income includes donations and subsidiary trading income.
**Charity income includes donations and excludes subsidiary trading income

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Group	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Subsidiary trading operations	**26,275**	**-**	**26,275**	7,924
	26,275	**-**	**26,275**	7,924

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	**Direct** £	**Support** £	**Grants** £	**Governance** £	**Total 2024** £	Total 2023 £
Agency and subcontractors	**340,282**	-	-	-	**340,282**	245,239
Business support	**733,087**	**44,355**	-	**17,000**	**814,257**	639,067
Catering costs	**652,251**	-	-	-	**652,251**	605,889
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	**9,125,029**	-	-	-	**9,125,029**	2,413,922
Depreciation	**117,345**	-	-	-	**117,345**	107,578
Events and show costs	**58,925**	-	-	-	**58,925**	26,185
Irrecoverable VAT	**151,544**	-	-	-	**151,544**	73,451
Other costs	**402,665**	-	-	-	**402,665**	432,568
Premises	**1,893,812**	-	-	-	**1,893,812**	1,095,054
Reorganisation costs	-	-	-	-	-	9,560
Social security	**384,390**	-	-	-	**384,390**	333,796
Wages and salaries	**4,406,525**	**599,438**	**18,165**	-	**5,024,128**	4,283,638
	18,265,855	**643,793**	**18,165**	**17,000**	**18,944,813**	10,265,947

Charity						
Agency and subcontractors	**340,282**	-	-	-	**340,282**	245,239
Business support	**733,029**	**44,355**	-	**17,000**	**794,384**	639,024
Catering costs	**652,251**	-	-	-	**652,251**	605,889
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	**9,125,029**	-	-	-	**9,125,029**	2,413,922
Depreciation	**117,345**	-	-	-	**117,345**	107,578
Events and show costs	**58,925**	-	-	-	**58,925**	26,185
Irrecoverable VAT	**151,317**	-	-	-	**151,317**	72,335
Other costs	**400,933**	-	-	-	**400,932**	431,810
Premises	**1,893,813**	-	-	-	**1,893,813**	1,095,054
Reorganisation costs	-	-	-	-	-	9,560
Social security	**384,390**	-	-	-	**384,390**	333,796
Wages and salaries	**4,406,525**	**599,438**	**18,165**	-	**5,024,128**	4,283,638
	18,263,839	**643,793**	**18,165**	**17,000**	**18,942,797**	10,264,030

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Expenditure can be attributed to:

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants	Governance £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Training and libraries	**2,066,406**	**109,323**	**-**	**-**	**2,175,729**	1,814,592
Culture, parks and events	**2,290,458**	**165,318**	**18,165**	**-**	**2,473,914**	1,907,521
Sports and fitness	**4,153,779**	**369,152**	**-**	**-**	**4,522,931**	3,480,748
Central support services*	**9,755,211**	**-**	**-**	**17,000**	**9,772,211**	3,063,086
	18,265,855	**643,793**	**18,165**	**17,000**	**18,944,813**	10,265,947

Charity						
Training and libraries	**2,066,406**	**109,323**	**-**	**-**	**2,175,729**	1,814,592
Culture, parks and events	**2,288,443**	**165,318**	**18,165**	**-**	**2,471,926**	1,905,604
Sports and fitness	**4,153,779**	**369,152**	**-**	**-**	**4,522,931**	3,480,748
Central support services*	**9,755,211**	**-**	**-**	**17,000**	**9,772,211**	3,063,086
	18,263,839	**643,793**	**18,165**	**17,000**	**18,942,797**	10,264,030

*Costs related to FRS 102 valuation of the pension scheme have been charged to the support category within Central support services and are not allocated across the business.

Support costs have been allocated to the activities based on income received in the year.

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:

Group and charity	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Depreciation	**117,345**	107,578
Operating leases	**7,995**	7,995
Auditors Remuneration:		
Audit fees	**15,500**	9,000
Accountancy services	**1,500**	1,500

8. STAFF COSTS

Group and charity	**Total 2024 £**	Total 2023 £
Wages and salaries	**5,024,128**	4,283,638
Social security costs	**384,390**	333,796
FRS 102 Pension service costs (see note 19)	**9,125,029**	2,413,922
	14,533,547	7,031,356

Pension costs also include the impact of the FRS102 actuarial valuation of the service cost of running the DB scheme.

Redundancy costs totalling £76,940 are included in the above costs (2023: £nil). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end (2023: £nil).

The total number of persons utilised throughout the year comprised a mixture of both contracted staff and relief workers. A number of individuals have only worked minimal shifts to support events. At 31 March 2022 and 2023 the Trust had 69 people in relief posts.

Staff numbers excluding relief workers:

Group and charity	**Headcount 2024**	Headcount 2023	**FTE 2024**	FTE 2023
Training and libraries	**82**	75	**39**	36.12
Culture, parks and events	**72**	75	**35**	36.12
Sports and fitness	**137**	129	**66**	62.13
Central support services	**11**	10	**5**	4.82
	302	289	**145**	139.19

Key management personnel
The key management personnel of the charity received benefits totalling £181,192 (2023: £182,009).

These costs consist of gross pay, employers' national insurance contributions and employers pension contributions.

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 for the period and to whom retirement benefits are accruing under a defined benefit scheme was:

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
£60,000- £70,000	**2**	2

8. STAFF COSTS (continued)

The amount of employers pension contributions paid in respect of the above employees for the period was as follows:

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Total contributions	**18,275**	24,732

Transactions with Trustees
During the period Donna Hardman, as the staff Trustee, received remuneration from her employment with the charity but not for her services as a Trustee.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charity (paragraph 19.1) provides the charity with the legal authority to make such payments.

The employee is a staff representative on the Trustee board.

No Trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior period.

Related Party transactions
During the period the charity recharged its wholly owned trading subsidiary LLT Limited £19,815 (2023: £6,039) for admin, staff time and maintenance costs.

LLT Limited gift aided £19,815 (2023: £6,039) to the charity during the period.

As at 31 March 2024 the LLT owed the charity £1,949 (2023: the charity owed LLT £3,362).

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and charity	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicle £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	**707,667**	**8,674**	**64,108**	**28,125**	**808,574**
Additions	**112,491**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**112,491**
Disposals	**(11,241)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(11,241)**
At 31 March 2024	**808,917**	**8,674**	**64,108**	**28,125**	**909,824**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	**221,926**	**8,674**	**52,661**	**28,125**	**311,386**
Charge for the year	**113,601**	**-**	**3,743**	**-**	**117,344**
Depreciation on disposals	**(11,241)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(11,241)**
At 31 March 2024	**324,286**	**8,674**	**56,404**	**28,125**	**417,489**
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2024	**484,631**	**-**	**7,704**	**-**	**492,335**
At 31 March 2023	485,741	-	11,447	-	497,188

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - CHARITY

	Investments in Group undertakings £
Cost as at 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024	**1**

Life Leisure Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, company number 09236541. The registered office of the company is the same as the charity. LLT Limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

The results of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 can be found below:

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Profit and Loss Account		
Turnover	**21,858**	7,924
Admin expenses	**(21,858)**	(7,955)
Operating profit	**-**	(31)
Statement of changes in Equity		
Balance brought forward	**1**	1
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	**31**	31
Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	**(31)**	(31)
Balance carried forward	**1**	1
Balance Sheet		
Current assets:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**1,437**	1,880
Prepayments	**513**	1,483
	1,950	3,363
Current liabilities:		
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**1,949**	3,362
	1,949	3,362
Net current assets/(liabilities)	**1**	1
Capital and reserves:		
Called up share capital	**1**	1
Profit and loss reserves	**-**	-
	1	1

The results above are included in the consolidated accounts.

11. STOCK

Group and charity	2024 £	2023 £
Shop items	**5,210**	5,991
Food and bar	**15,679**	18,797
	20,889	24,788

12. DEBTORS

Group	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	**144,025**	488,005
Prepayments and accrued income	**526,721**	603,670
Other debtors	**6,123**	5,464
Other Taxation	**94,588**	
	771,457	1,097,139
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	**4,432,000**	4,432,000
	5,203,457	5,529,139

Charity

Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	**142,758**	488,005
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	**1,949**	3,394
Prepayments and accrued income	**526,208**	603,670
Other debtors	**7,390**	5,464
Other Taxation	**94,588**	
	772,893	1,100,533
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	**4,432,000**	4,432,000
	5,204,893	5,532,533

The underwritten pension balances relates to the deficit on the LGPS scheme prior to the Trust's inception (see note 20).

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023 Restated
Group	**£**	£
Trade creditors	**55,624**	44,290
Accruals and deferred income	**762,148**	677,042
Social security and other taxes	**-**	255,638
Hire purchase	**65,949**	64,002
	883,721	1,040,972
Charity		
Trade creditors	**43,624**	44,290
Accruals and deferred income	**774,148**	677,041
Social security and other taxes	**-**	255,638
Amounts due to subsidiary undertakings	**-**	1,483
Hire purchase	**65,949**	64,002
	883,721	1,042,454

Contained in the accruals and deferred balance above is deferred income in relation to weddings, activities, ticket sale income and management fee income which will relates to the 2023/24 financial year.
Contained in the balance is also grant income received in advance of the period to which it relates.

	2024	2023
Group and Charity	**£**	£
Balance brought forward	**64,902**	205,857
Income received in the year	**-**	2,738,830
Released to income	**(55,281)**	(2,879,785)
Balance carried forward	**9,621**	64,902

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Group and Charity	2024 £	2023 £
Hire purchase	264,648	330,597
	264,648	330,597

Hire purchase contracts

The net book value of fixed assets held under hire purchase contracts during the year totalled £320,575 (2023: £388,065).

Group and Charity	2024 £	2023 £
Future minimum lease payments due under finance leases:		
Within one year	65,949	64,002
In two to five years	264,648	275,477
In over five years	0	55,120
	330,597	394,599

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Group and charity	At 1 April 2023 Restated £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	-	**1,994**	**(1,994)**	**-**	**-**
Arts Council of Wales	-	**-**	**(46)**	**-**	**(46)**
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	15,342	**16,154**	**(8,549)**	**-**	**22,947**
Books Council of Wales	-	**1,000**	**(1,000)**	**-**	**-**
Cardiff Council	-	**15,847**	**-**	**-**	**15,847**
Denbighshire County Council	422	**-**	**(6,108)**	**-**	**(5,686)**
Disability Sports Wales	-	**23,943**	**(23,943)**	**-**	**-**
Dragons Community	-	**1,150**	**(1,150)**	**-**	**-**
European Social Fund	466,877	**24,066**	**(59,563)**	**-**	**431,380**
GAVO	9,118	**9,255**	**(1,6086)**	**145**	**2,432**
Learning & Work Institute	3,761	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,761**
National Heritage	1,013	**-**	**(477)**	**-**	**536**
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,114	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,114**
Public Health Wales	-	**103,151**	**(103,151)**	**-**	**-**
Social Priority Fund	-	**830,686**	**(830,686)**	**-**	**-**
Sports Council Wales	117,546	**179,323**	**(159,302)**	**(145)**	**137,422**
Street Games	29,238	**1,500**	**(14,083)**	**-**	**16,654**
Tennis Wales	-	**3,000**	**(3,000)**	**-**	**-**
WCVA	-	**988**	**(798)**	**-**	**190**
Welsh Government	166,564	**-**	**(169,539)**	**-**	**(2,975)**
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,704	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,704**
WRU	-	**203**	**(203)**	**-**	**-**
Total funds	815,699	**1,212,260**	**(1,399,678)**	**-**	**628,281**

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board was received for the MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) project to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme.

Arts Council of Wales funding was received for delivery of community arts projects within the four Local Authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council was to provide Adult Community Learning.

Books Council of Wales funded by MALD Museums and Libraries Division to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme.

Cardiff Council offered Street Games funding to deliver community-based sessions and festivals within Blaenau Gwent.

Denbighshire County Council was received for the MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) funding to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme.

Disability Sports Wales funding was received for the provision of quality sporting and physical activity opportunities for disabled people at grass roots level.

European Social Fund grant was received to achieve two main objectives:

1. engage, support and prepare the economically inactive in deprived areas, by teaching them the relevant skills to gain sustainable employment.
2. increase the relevant skills of those individuals currently employed with limited skills.

Heritage Lottery funding was received to achieve four main objectives:

i. enhancing educational activities within the local heritage attractions.
ii. delivering the 'Blaenau Gwent in the 1st World War' project, which includes working with volunteers and the community. This project has successfully concluded.
iii. providing exposure to the arts via the History and Mystery project.
iv. to deliver a series of workshops to young people in the community on local history via the Voice and Identity project

Dragons Community hosts Fit, Fed, Fun summer rugby camps delivered for young people in Blaenau Gwent with Dragons rugby

European Social Funds to engage, support and prepare the economically inactive, including those who are long term unemployed, in the most deprived areas, to acquire the appropriate skills to become job ready and to gain sustainable employment.

GAVO funding received to establish a community wellbeing hub that supports community members to reintegrate back into community life post COVID.

Good Things Foundation funding received for the public to complete their census digitally.

Learning & Work Institute funding was received to deliver promotional activities during the Adult Learners' week.

National Heritage funding was received for sensory garden project at Parc Bryn Bach.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) funding to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme

Public Health Wales funding was received to facilitate the implementation and maintenance of exercise schemes, with the view of improving the health and wellbeing for patients aged 16 and over at risk of chronic disease.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Social Priority fund shared Prosperity Funding to deliver improvements to Communities, and People and skills. Helping deliver employment support for economically inactive people and funding skills provision to provide people with the skills needed to progress in life and work, including supporting local areas to fund local skills needs.

Sports Council Wales funding was received to achieve six objectives:

i. to set up a buggy walker group for new parents/carers to meet weekly and enjoy an exercise class with their child via the Sports Lottery Community Chest Grant.
ii. increase regular participation in sport, improve opportunities for all and develop talented athletes via the LAPA project.
iii. provide free swimming to eligible participants via the Free Swim Grant.
iv. to support the delivery of the 'Coaches for the Future' programme.
v. to develop sports clubs via the 'Thriving Clubs' project.
vi. to improve the health, happiness and confidence of children by increasing their participation in physical activity via the Physical Literacy project.

Street Games funding was received to deliver the 'Door-step Sport' and 'Us Girls Initiative' as well as the 'Sports Leaders Awards'.

Tennis Wales provides provide financial support to Tennis and Padel clubs, venues and not for profit organisations in Wales who can support us in delivering our participation growth targets and to assist with diversifying the sport.

WCVA funding to improve biodiversity, waste minimisation and environmental enhancement.

Welsh Government funding was received to restructure the ground floor of Abertillery library to accommodate Adult Community learning activities.

Wrexham County Borough Council funding was received to achieve three main objectives:

- delivery of 'Every Child a Member' scheme with the libraries.
- delivery of the 'Summer Reading Challenge'.
- delivery of the 'Rugby Stories' project. This project has successfully concluded.

WRU provide funding from Welsh Rugby Union to support rugby activities and events delivered by Aneurin Leisure Trust in Blaenau Gwent.

Previous period

Group and charity	At 1 April 2022 £	Income Restated £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 Restated £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	10,000	8,000	(18,000)	-	-
Arts Council of Wales	(12,446)	-	809	11,637	-
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	11,000	45,278	(40,936)	-	15,342
Denbighshire County Council	-	3,500	(3,078)	-	422
Disability Sports Wales	(162)	19,963	(22,400)	2,599	-
European Social Fund	434,238	460,795	(428,047)	(109)	466,878
GAVO	-	12,000	(2,882)	-	9,118
Good Things Foundation	4,234	-	(4,234)	-	-
Heritage Lottery	11,592	-	-	(11,592)	-
Learning & Work Institute	3,761	-	-	-	3,761
National Heritage	-	1,013	-	-	1,013
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,114	-	-	-	4,114
Public Health Wales	6,793	101,772	(131,920)	23,355	-
Sports Council Wales	56,845	224,554	(163,852)	-	117,547
Street Games	50,728	28,992	(50,483)	-	29,237
WCVA	22,104	5,892	(27,996)	-	-
Welsh Government	5,000	254,410	(92,846)	-	166,564
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,704	-	-	-	1,704
Total funds	609,505	1,166,169	(985,865)	25,890	815,699

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Group	As at 1 April 2023 Restated **£**	**Income** **£**	**Expenditure** **£**	**Transfers** **£**	**Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme** **£**	**As at 31 March 2024** **£**
General fund	820,830	**8,256,018**	**(9,005,144)**	**-**	**-**	**71,704**
Defined benefit pension scheme	9,695,000	**-**	**(8,539,991)**	**-**	**3,277,000**	**4,432,009**
	10,515,830	**8,256,018**	**(17,564,950)**	**-**	**3,277,000**	**4,503,713**
Charity						
General fund	820,857	**8,253,975**	**(8,418,090)**	**-**	**-**	**656,742**
Defined benefit pension scheme	9,695,000	**-**	**(9,125,029)**	**-**	**3,277,000**	**3,846,971**
	10,515,857	**8,253,975**	**(17,543,119)**	**-**	**3,277,000**	**4,503,713**

Previous period

Group	As at 1 April 2022 **£**	Income £	Expenditure Restated £	Transfers £	Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme £	As at 31 March 2023 Restated £
General fund	1,263,321	7,155,481	(7,572,081)	(25,890)	-	820830
Defined benefit pension scheme	(4,709,000)	-	(1,708,000)	-	16,112,000	9695000
	(3,445,679)	7,155,481	(9,280,081)	(25,890)	16,112,000	10,515,831
Charity						
General fund	1,263,316	7,153,596	(7,570,163)	(25,890)	-	820,859
Defined benefit pension scheme	(4,709,000)	-	(1,708,000)	-	16,112,000	9,695,000
	(3,445,684)	7,153,596	(9,278,163)	(25,890)	16,112,000	10,515,859

17. ANALSYS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Group	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**2024 £**
Fixed assets	**492,335**	**-**	**492,335**
Current assets	**633,159**	**628,281**	**1,261,440**
Pension debtor	**4,432,000**	**-**	**4,432,000**
Current liabilities	**(789,133)**	**-**	**(789,133)**
Long term liabilities	**(264,648)**	**-**	**(264,648)**
Pension deficit	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total funds	**4,503,713**	**628,281**	**5,131,994**

Charity			
Fixed assets	**492,335**	**-**	**492,335**
Investments	**1**	**-**	**1**
Current assets	**633,159**	**628,281**	**1,261,440**
Pension debtor	**4,432,000**	**-**	**4,432,000**
Current liabilities	**(789,133)**	**-**	**(789,133)**
Long term liabilities	**(264,648)**	**-**	**(264,648)**
Pension deficit	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total funds	**4,503,714**	**628,281**	**5,131,995**

Previous year

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 £
Fixed assets	497,188	-	497,188
Current assets	1,695,204	815,699	2,510,903
Pension debtor	4,432,000	-	4,432,000
Current liabilities	(1,040,972)	-	(1,040,972)
Long term liabilities	(330,597)	-	(330,597)
Pension deficit	5,263,000	-	5,263,000
Total funds	10,515,823	815,699	11,331,522

Charity			
Fixed assets	497,188	-	497,188
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets	1,696,719	815,699	2,512,418
Pension debtor	4,432,000	-	4,432,000
Current liabilities	(1,042,455)	-	(1,042,455)
Long term liabilities	(330,597)	-	(330,597)
Pension deficit	5,263,000	-	5,263,000
Total funds	10,515,856	815,699	11,331,555

18. OPERATING LEASES

The group had the following operating leases in place as at 31 March 2024:

Group and Charity	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Due less than 1 year	**3,610**	22,468
	3,610	22,468

19. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is the Board of Trustees and management team who are responsible for the strategic and operational decisions of the charity.

20. PENSIONS

The company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on pensionable pay.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary based on triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The most recent valuation was as at 31 March 2022 which has been updated to reflect conditions at the balance sheet date. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rate of increase in salaries and pensions.

There were no amounts outstanding in relation to pension contributions during the current or prior period. Regular employer contributions during the period totalled £567,000 (2023: £776,000).

Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGPS)
The company participates in the 'Torfaen County Borough Council (Greater Gwent)' pension scheme which is a defined benefit scheme based on final pensionable salary. Certain employees of the company participated in the scheme prior to the company's inception and, as such, assets or liabilities attributable to these individuals were identified at the transfer date i.e. 1st October 2014. As part of the agreement, liability for the proportion of the debt attributable to these employees that relates to the pre-transfer period rests with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). Gains and losses relating solely to the period since transfer are recognised in the income statement and statement of other comprehensive income. However, the deficit is underwritten by BGCBC. Pension funding is based on funding advice from the scheme actuary based on a different set of assumptions. The FRS 102 valuation does not impact on the level of contribution that the company and hence ultimately BGCBC has to make.

20. PENSIONS (continued)

Changes in the Fair Value of Plan Assets, Defined Benefit Obligation and Net Liability for year end 31 March 2024

Amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

Period ended 31 March 2024	Assets £(000)	Obligations £(000)	Net (liability)/ asset £(000)
Fair value of plan assets	**26,435**	**-**	**26,435**
Present value of funded liabilities	**-**	**21,172**	**(21,172)**
Opening Position as at 31 March 2023	**26,435**	**21,172**	**5,263**
Service cost			
Current service cost	**-**	**896**	**(896)**
Past service cost (including curtailments)	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total Service Cost	**-**	**896**	**(896)**
Net interest			
Interest income on plan assets	**1,268**	**-**	**1,268**
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	**-**	**1,025**	**(1,025)**
Total net interest	**1,268**	**1,025**	**243**
Total defined benefit cost recognised in Profit or (Loss)	**1,268**	**1,921**	**(653)**
Cash flows			
Plan participants' contributions	**274**	**274**	**-**
Employer contributions	**567**	**-**	**567**
Estimated Benefits paid	**(335)**	**(335)**	**-**
Expected closing position	**28,209**	**23,032**	**5,177**
Remeasurements			
Changes in financial assumptions	**-**	**(1,683)**	**1,683**
Changes in demographic assumptions	**-**	**(130)**	**130**
Other experience	**-**	**677**	**(677)**
Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	**2,141**	**-**	**2,141**
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	**2,141**	**(1,136)**	**3,277**
Fair value of plan assets	**30,350**	**-**	**30,350**
Present value of funded liabilities	**-**	**21,896**	**(21,896)**
Asset Ceiling	**(30,350)**	**(21,896)**	**(8,454)**
Closing Position as at 31 March 2024	**-**	**-**	**-**

20. PENSIONS (continued)

The major categories of plan assets as a percentage of total plan assets are as follows:

Using the most recent asset split and allowing for index returns, where required, on each asset category, the estimated split of assets as at 31 March 2024 is as shown below:

Period Ended	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	%	%
Equities	74	79
Bonds	17	17
Property	6	3
Cash	3	1

The financial assumptions, as described in the accompanying report, are summarised below:

Period Ended	31 Mar 2024	31 March 2023
	% p.a.	% p.a.
Pension Increase Rate	2.75	2.95
Salary Increase Rate	3.25	3.45
Discount Rate	4.85	4.75

Life expectancy is based on the Funds' VitaCurves with improvements in line with CMI 2018 with a peaked long term rate of 1.25% p.a.

The average future life expectances at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	19.3 years	23.2 years
Future Pensioners*	20.5 years	24.3 years

*Figures assume members aged 45 as at the last formal valuation date.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2024	Approximate % increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount £(000)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2	535
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4	876
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0	20
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2	525

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023 Restated
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period	**(6,199,535)**	14,167,703
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**117,344**	107,578
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	**3,899**	(1,111)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**325,682**	(467,397)
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	**5,039,800**	(14,254,128)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**(712,809)**	(447,355)
Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash in hand	**563,682**	1,388,982
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**563,682**	1,388,982

Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2023	**Cash flows**	**Other non-cash changes**	**At 31 March 2024**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cash at bank and in hand	1,388,982	(825,300)	**0**	563,682
Obligations under finance lease	(394,599)	74,304	(10,302)	(330,597)
	994,383	(750,966)	(10,302)	233,085

22. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIY

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds Restated £	Total funds 2023 Restated £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	1,316	-	1,316
Charitable activities	7,146,240	1,166,170	8,312,410
Other trading activities	7,924	-	7,924
Total income and endowments	7,155,480	1,166,170	8,321,650
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	9,280,081	985,866	10,265,947
Total expenditure	9,280,081	985,866	10,265,947
Net (expenditure)/ income	(2,124,601)	180,304	(1,944,297)
Transfers between funds	(25,890)	25,890	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16,112,000	-	16,112,000
Net movement in funds	13,961,509	206,194	14,167,703
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	(3,445,679)	609,505	(2,836,174)
Total funds carried forward	10,515,830	815,699	11,331,529

22. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (continued)

Charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds Restated £	Total funds 2023 Restated £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	7,355	-	7,355
Charitable activities	7,146,240	1,166,170	8,312,410
Total income and endowments	7,153,595	1,166,170	8,319,765
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	9,278,164	985,866	10,264,030
Total expenditure	9,278,164	985,866	10,264,030
Net (expenditure)/ income	(2,124,569)	180,304	(1,944265)
Transfers between funds	(25,890)	25,890	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16,112,000	-	16,112,000
Net movement in funds	13,961,541	206,194	14,167,735
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	(3,445,684)	609,505	(2,836,179)
Total funds carried forward	10,515,857	815,699	11,331,556

23. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

Using it was noted during the year that a credit note was raised in relation to Solar Grant Funding received and recognised from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in the prior year. This was in error and should have been recognised as expenditure on behalf Life Leisure Trust. As a result the prior year income and closing reserve position has been decreased by £261,558 with an accrual and expense recognised for the return of the funds to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Aneurin Leisure Trust

England & Wales - Charity number 1159092

Accounts

Company registration number: 8951503
Charity registration number: 1159092

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
(A company limited by guarantee and not having any share capital)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, STRATEGIC REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

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LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Foreword from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is a great pleasure to introduce this ninth annual review of Aneurin Leisure. Our mission is to "Improve Community Life" and I am pleased to say that we continue to deliver on this commitment through the services and programmes we provide to the residents of Blaenau Gwent.

We continue to make a positive impact on creating healthier lifestyles working closely with partners such as Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Sport Wales and many others.

During a tough and challenging financial climate due to the unprecedented rise in energy costs, Aneurin Leisure (Trust) has delivered service improvements and achieved targets agreed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) which has been achieved through utilising Trust reserves to maintain all services.

Key investments have been limited through this challenging period and only achieved through exploring funding opportunities where possible to continue to develop the products on offer or to make the services more environmentally and financially sustainable. These include:

1- Solar panels on the roofs of:
    a. Abertillery Sports Centre
    b. Tredegar Sports Centre
    c. Brynmawr Adult education centre
    d. Ebbw Vale Adult education centre
2- New Grounds maintenance fleet of vehicles

The plan to relocate Abertillery Library to Trinity Chapel in the town centre has finally achieved success with all the funding now secured and the work started. The work is due to be completed in September 2024 with the building being transformed into a modern, vibrant Library and Adult Community Learning centre.

Catering & Hospitality has flourished in this reporting period with Parc Bryn Bach achieving record café sales through the year. Bedwellty House & Park continues to receive positive feedback and maintained a 4.5* rating on Trip Advisor and 5* rating on Facebook for quality of food. Throughout 2022/23, function restrictions were fully lifted which saw an influx of customers booking weddings in Bedwellty House and park.

Since the inception of Aneurin Leisure, partnerships have been important to our success and this period has been no different with our Sports Development team working with a range of partners including Tai Calon to introduce Community Kit Rooms, which have allowed children to be provided with clothing and equipment to take part in new sporting activities. This programme continues to grow and the Trust are now looking to expand from Abertillery Sports Centre into other centres within the Trust portfolio.

The National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) is an established partner on the Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN). The cluster design promotes joint working across practices and the integration of primary care services with key partners such as the Local Health Board, BGCBC and Third Sector. Clusters also have a key role in supporting local health needs assessments, allocating appropriate resources and forecasting the potential future demand on primary care. There have been multiple collaborative projects that have been established in these meetings including Fibromyalgia and Dementia working groups, with the NERS team delivering bespoke classes to contribute to the respective needs.

The successes achieved across the Trust are in no small part due to the commitment of our employees. Once again, the staff have been our greatest resource, working extremely hard to deliver high quality services to our customers in our facilities and the communities of Blaenau Gwent. I would like to thank the entire team and all our partners for their contribution to the delivery of improved services across the area.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the continued success of Aneurin Leisure during the year: our Trustees, staff, volunteers, funders and partners and in particular, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Above all, I would like to thank the local community whose interests we serve, for their support and engagement over the past year.

Lyn Evans
Chair
Board of Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report which incorporates the strategic report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as amended for accounting periods commencing 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

- to provide or assist in the provision of both indoor and outdoor facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life;
- to promote community participation in healthy recreational activities;
- to provide or assist in the provision of community facilities to be available to all sections of the community without distinction, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and/or other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for all those who use the facilities;
- to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of a theatre/arts development;
- to advance education in the arts by the establishment and maintenance of an art gallery and/or museum;
- to advance the education of the public through the provision of a library;
- to provide, maintain and equip parks with the object of advancing public education, with particular regard to horticulture, arboriculture, wild plants and wildlife;
- to preserve buildings of historic or architectural importance;
- to develop the capacity and skills of members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and participate more fully in society; and,
- to pursue such other charitable purposes analogous to any of the above as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall determine (together the "Objects").

To carry out any other charitable activity subject to the prior written consent of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trust considers how planned activities support its vision of improving community life through Leisure, Learning and Culture which benefits the local population served by the charity. The Trust aims to deliver social outcomes that improve health and wellbeing whilst encouraging staff to strive to improve the quality of service delivery in a commercially sustainable way.

Some of the key activities undertaken in relation to the objects of the charity and to further the charities' purpose for the public benefit are outlined on pages 6 – 21.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- These accounts represent trading for Aneurin Leisure for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

- Aneurin Leisure has maintained a strong relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

- The Library Service continued to achieve all 12 of the core entitlements of the Welsh Public Library Standards for 2022/23.

- The Community hub provision across all libraries is now firmly embedded into library service delivery, with 6,132 residents being supported over 2022/23.

- The Library Service had the highest increase in usage of BorrowBox (e-books and e-audio) compared to all Welsh authorities at 33% increase. Over 2022/23 we increased our BorrowBox borrowers by one third and the number of new users we attracted each month was 33% higher than it was the previous year, showing a very positive upwards trend. Adult book issues increased by 32% and children's book issues increased by 115%, with performance increasing month on month. There was a total of 139,638 visits to all libraries across 2022/23.

- Our 'Warm Spaces' campaign was launched across all Libraries in October 2022. This campaign linked directly with supporting residents with the cost-of-living crisis. 1,629 free events and activities were delivered over the year.

- Funding has been secured to recruit two new library Development Officers from the Skills Priority Funding stream (SPF). The recruitment process is planned for the summer of 2023. The post holders will have targets to achieve linked to performance in the WPLS, particularly on active membership and footfall.

- Adult Community Learning has attracted £1.8 million in Shared Prosperity Grant Funding to deliver two new projects, commencing in April 2023. Bridges+ will deliver employability and essential skills support to long term unemployed. Multiply will deliver numeracy courses to parents whose children are of school age and expand numeracy provision into the hardest to reach areas of Blaenau Gwent.

Who used and benefited from our services?

The Charitable Trust provides leisure, learning and cultural activities to the residents of Blaenau Gwent. Whilst some sections of the community are affluent, many are not and some 21 per cent of areas fall in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales and overall, the majority of its areas are more deprived than the Wales average.

The Charitable Trust is responsible for the operation, management and development of the following:

- Three Sports Centres (including Sports Development and NERS Facilitators)
- Four Learning Action Centres
- Six Libraries and two home delivery vans
- Bedwellty House & Park
- Parc Bryn Bach

Getting Young People and Communities Active

Sports Development

- Aneurin Leisure's Sports Development team deliver a wide range of sport, physical activity, community engagement and swimming opportunities across Blaenau Gwent, which all contribute to the 'Vision for Sport in Wales'. The vision is for everyone to have lifelong enjoyment of sport.

- The Sports Development team continue to deliver inspirational, engaging, high quality sport and physical activity programmes, projects and interventions, particularly for children, young people and their families which are insight led and aligned to Sport Wales' six levels of strategic intent:

  1. TO BE PERSON CENTRED
  2. TO GIVE EVERY YOUNG PERSON A GREAT START
  3. TO ENSURE EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ACTIVE THROUGH SPORT
  4. TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR THE LONG-TERM
  5. TO SHOWCASE THE BENEFITS OF SPORT
  6. TO BE A HIGHLY VALUED ORGANISATION

- After being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the School Sport Survey (SSS) returned in 2022. A total of 3,622 pupils (primary and secondary age) from Blaenau Gwent shared their recent experiences of sport. The Sports Development team bridged the gap for those schools who did not qualify for an individual school report, due to a lack of survey responses. An in-house 'Active Schools Survey' was created for those select schools, to ensure that data and insight was still captured and presented in a report similar to that of a SSS report. The Sports Development team uses the SSS results to evaluate the performance of school sport within Blaenau Gwent and to identify latent demand. Headline measures for Blaenau Gwent, from the 2022 School Sport Survey include:

  - 35% of pupils participated in organised sport outside of the curriculum at least 3 times per week.
  - 52% of pupils believe PE and sport contribute towards a healthy lifestyle.
  - 57% of pupils enjoy PE 'a lot'.
  - 95% of pupils want to do more sport.

  The Sports Development team have extensively evaluated the 2022 SSS results and have used the data to help shape the landscape of sport in Blaenau Gwent. There has been a focus on sport-specific opportunities, based on the 'latent demand' insight gathered, and provision has been strategically placed within schools to create a wide range of positive experiences for pupils. Equally, bespoke teacher training offers have been sourced to help bridge the gap in knowledge and skill-deficiency among teachers at a primary level, within specific sports.

- Mass participation primary school sports festivals have been re-introduced following the COVID-19 pandemic and an overwhelming number of pupils from across Blaenau Gwent schools have positively experienced an array of sporting opportunities throughout the academic year, with the focus being on fun and engagement.

- The Sports Development team continues to strive towards building capacity and capability of its workforce. Leadership has become embedded in schools, with the foundations being set from as early as Year 5, with the delivery of the Playmaker Award. Young Leader Awards and the Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassador scheme also remain at the forefront of the leadership pathway within secondary schools. Blaenau Gwent's team, among other neighbouring authorities, NGB's, and partners, have formed a national steering group, led by Sport Wales, to understand local learning and to review the current Young Ambassador program in its entirety. The outcome of the review will help shape the future of the program, and the team have played an integral part in that.

- Recent years have seen a shrinking gap in sports participation between individuals with a disability or impairment, and those without. According to the 2022 Blaenau Gwent SSS results, 33% of pupils with a disability or impairment participated in organised sport, outside of the curriculum, three or more times per week, compared to 35% of pupils without.

- A positive relationship has been re-established with Pen Y Cwm Special School (PYC) and regular dialogue between Sports Development and PYC has resumed. This relationship has been personal driven by the school's new headteacher and other key staff members. The Sports Development team continues to promote equality throughout all provision and programs. The main objective is to offer sport and physical activity that is accessible to all. There is a particular focus on aquatic opportunities for children with disabilities, spanning across all three sports centres, during varying times of the year. A fully inclusive and extremely therapeutic activities for the children.

- Historically, there has been a gap in sports participation across Wales, with girls consistently reporting less participation in sport than their male counterparts. In Blaenau Gwent's 2022 SSS report, 38% of boys reported to have participated in organised sport outside of the curriculum three or more times a week, compared to 32% of girls.

- In the autumn of 2022, a female only well-being 'Us Girls' group was established to support young females who have experienced adversity in their lives and are at risk of being removed from their families and/or of being permanently excluded from school. The project was delivered in partnership with Blaenau Gwent's Supporting Change Team, ABUHB Child & Family Community Psychology Team, and wider departments within Aneurin Leisure Trust (Us Girls mentors and Parc Bryn Bach). The project was based around the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) recovery toolkit and incorporated additional therapeutic activities and outdoor exercises to help the females recognise and develop their skills, strengths, and resilience. The project was based at Parc Bryn Bach and involved outdoor activities, which included paddle boarding, caving, high ropes, climbing, abseiling, driving range, team building and bush craft. The project has had an incredible impact on the young females. For the first time, the females are seeing themselves in a positive light, and are sharing their hopes and goals for the future. They have developed aspects of resilience, self-confidence, and self-worth. They are beginning to trust and accept support from others, and they feel they can openly express themselves without the fear of being judged.

- Cross-sector working continues to remain at the forefront of all aspects of Sports Development's programs. This approach has created a gateway to local 'hard to engage' communities and has provided a platform for young people living in those areas. The Sports Development team has forged invaluable links with youth services, community groups, and other local agencies to encourage local children and young people to become more physically active in safe and fun environments. This approach has been extended to Blaenau Gwent's Ukranian residents, where a considerable amount of work between Sports Development and Blaenau Gwent's Ukranian Resettlement team has taken place to ensure families are gaining access to the same opportunities as their local counterparts.

- Equally, the importance of fuelling children and young people to allow them to be more physically active comes into fruition particularly during the school holiday periods. For too many young people, school holidays can be a time of hardship, hunger and isolation, as families in underserved communities struggle to fund the added food and childcare costs that the holidays bring. 'Fit and Fed' in Blaenau Gwent exists to plug that gap by providing young people and their families access to local sporting provision and food items via food parcels and cooking workshops. Additionally, in December of 2022, the Sports Development team and the Trust's Community Engagement Officer coordinated a mass Christmas food bank appeal in collaboration with six local sports clubs. Players, committee members, supporters, members of the public and local businesses donated an overwhelming amount of food and hygiene products to the appeal. The items were distributed to local food banks and community groups and supported local families during the festive period.

- Sports Development's 2021 Sports Library project has successfully been maintained and continues to operate in all four of the Trust's full-time libraries. Additional funding and National Governing Body (NGB) donations have increased the range of sporting equipment available to library customers. All items continue to be loaned using the Library Management System, which requires customers to join the library in the first instance, but then gives access to all available items for a 3-week period.

- Following the success of the Sports Libraries project, and the concept of making sports equipment readily available to families, the Sports Development team have gone on to launch the Community Kit Room (CKR), a free initiative that provides sports clothing and footwear for people aged 3-adults. Situated in Abertillery Sports Centre, members of the public can enquire about available sportswear, with the potential to view and select items. Furthermore, to make the initiative more accessible and convenient, the team have expanded their reach by establishing 'CKR Hubs', which offer drop off and collection points within local communities. The local sports clubs, operating as 'CKR Hubs' have been incredibly receptive and supportive of the initiative. Additionally, the team are also working in partnership with local schools, neighbouring organisations and community groups to ensure that all members of the community are being supported. Abertillery Learning Community 3-16 (ALC) in particular have made incredible inroads ensuring all their pupils are given access to appropriate sportswear by referring families onto the scheme.

Aquatics

- In the period 2022/23, we have observed the participation of 2,425 children from Years 3 to 6 in school swimming activities. However, the pass rate stands at 44%, which is a significant decrease compared to the 2018/19 figures. It is important to note that the decline can be attributed to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions. Several schools have been unable to resume swimming lessons until the restrictions are lifted, resulting in lower numbers of participating students. It is anticipated that as the Covid-19 situation improves and restrictions are lifted, the participation and pass rates will recover to previous levels.

  - Total number of Primary School Pupils Swimming: 2,425
  - Number of Girls Swimming: 1,182
  - Numbers of Boys Swimming: 1,233
  - Total number of Year 6 Pupils Achieving KS 2: 265, 44%
  - Total number of Year 6 Swimming: 601
  - Number of Year 6 Girls Swimming: 295
  - Number of Year 6 Boys Swimming: 306
  - Number of Year 6 Girls Achieving KS 2: 129, 44%
  - Number of Year 6 Boys Achieving KS 2: 136, 44%

- Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Abertillery: 70, 28%
- Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Ebbw Vale: 151, 50%
- Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Tredegar: 102, 59%

- Swim school provisions are currently 1,830 out of a possible 2,190 (maximum occupancy) children taking part in these lessons. Increase of 20% of swimmers from this time last year.

  - Ebbw Vale Sports Centre – 643/790 – Occupancy 81%
  - Abertillery Sports Centre – 601/680 – Occupancy 88%
  - Tredegar Sports Centre – 586/720 – Occupancy 81%
  - Overall Occupancy – 83%

- Non-swimmers in Key Stage 2 (KS2) are now being supported through the Sports Development AYP swimming programme. Those who do not meet the swimming criteria at KS2 are offered swimming classes in Year 7. Currently, 72 non-swimmers are invited to participate and 42 of them choose to undertake the lessons, resulting in a 58% uptake rate.

- The achievement of every child becoming a swimmer by the end of KS2 (Year 6) will now be assessed based on the Nofio Ysgol framework, which aligns with the Swim Wales learn to swim model. This updated measurement framework ensures consistency and follows the recognized standards set by Swim Wales for swimming proficiency.

- Aneurin Leisure is working closely with swimming clubs to enhance the transition from swimming lessons to focused swimming training, specifically emphasising swimming lengths according to FINA rules and regulations (Federation of Swimming). Swimmers from waves 5 to 8 are invited to trial sessions at swimming clubs in Blaenau Gwent, aiming to encourage their continued participation in aquatic activities.

- The swim data collection process has been expanded to include the following:

  - Swimming Clubs: The average number of people per lane (6) multiplied by the number of lanes and hours.
  - Other aquatic clubs (water polo, canoeing, synchro, octopush, parties): An average of 20 people per hour multiplied by the number of hours.
  - School participation: The number of children attending multiplied by the number of sessions will be recorded to track their involvement in swimming activities.

Adult and Community Learning

- Adult Community Learning benefitted from a £68,000 Welsh Government Learner Engagement grant which was utilised to re-brand the Learning Action Centres giving the Service a distinctive logo and signage. The grant was also utilised to deliver Summer School of Health and Wellbeing learning workshops to encourage local people to re-engage. The benefit of the grant was that the 2022/23 academic year saw a 17% increase in learner enrolments compared to previous years.

- Bridges into Work 2 was successfully completed in December 2022; the project attracted £2.3 million of European Social Funding over 7 years. Through the lifetime of the project 610 participants were engaged, out of which 29% gained sustainable employment, which is the highest rate of all ESF projects in South-East Wales. The project also enabled 28% of participants to engage with volunteering opportunities enabling them to improve their employability skills enabling them to move closer to the labour market.

- Nurture, Equip and Thrive (NET) was successfully completed in December 2022; the project attracted £688,000 of European Social Funding over 5 years. Through the lifetime of the project 343 employed participants were engaged and participated in a range of non-accredited learning activities designed to improve their wellbeing, confidence and transferable skills.

- The final European Social Funded project, Working Skills for Adults2 completed in December 2022, attracting £1.5 million of ESF grant over its lifetime. The project engaged with 707 employed local people, of which 75% received a qualification and a further 25% were given support to improve their employment prospectus.

Case Study 1 (Bridges into Work 2)

Jonathan enrolled with Bridges into Work 2 in July. He joined the project after he was made redundant from his retail position with Sainsbury's. He had a good work history but had lost some confidence after being with the same company for many years.

He needed to gain new skills, qualifications and experience to change his career to work in a different sector. Jonathan completed level 2 ECDL spreadsheets, which helped his confidence. He began voluntary work with Hospice of the Valleys helping at events and assisting with setting up a new Hospice shop in Merthyr where he gained many new skills. He attended Job Club where he developed his CV and had support to apply for a variety of jobs.

In November, with help from his Development Officer, he applied for a position as an Employment Advisor with Elite Clothing. From his application he gained an interview. He met with his Development Officer and discussed potential interview questions and examples to give relating to the job description. His interview went very well and he was offered the position starting at the end of January 2020. Jonathan has now been in the role for over two years and regularly notifies us of opportunities at Elite Clothing for either paid or voluntary work.

Case Study 2 (NET project)

NET has supported a gentleman (K) who is on the sick from work with anxiety and depression. He is a very talented gentleman who can turn his hand to make various items from wood or metal, he would love to help young people and teach them all his skills and knowledge. NET has arranged for K to run Christmas workshops making copper Christmas trees with young people for Brynmawr Rotary Club. K was so grateful for this opportunity as it really helped him with his anxiety and gave him a focus. NET also supported K to find a new job where his skills can be utilised, assisting in job search activities, interview techniques and building his confidence.

K secured a job working with young people teaching them multi-skills, such as woodwork and bricklaying. He is managing his anxiety better now he has changed his career and utilising his skills to help young people build a more secure future for themselves by learning these skills.

Case Study 3 (Working Skills for Adults 2)

Kayleigh enrolled onto the Working Skills for Adults 2 project after hearing about it from a friend. Kayleigh had a bad learning experience at school and never sat her GCSE's as she became pregnant at 14. Kayleigh had worked in several different retail jobs and never felt that this was her career long-term. She decided that she would like to work with children, so she joined the 'Introduction to Teaching Assistant' course. The course had been developed as a taster for people who wished to work in childcare. Kayleigh enjoyed the 10-week course and progressed to complete her level 2 'Supporting Teaching and Learning' with Adult Community Learning. Again, she excelled at this and completed the Level 3 course. After this Kayleigh quickly secured employment as a Teaching Assistant with the support of Working Skills for Adults.

This spurred Kayleigh on to decide to attend University and study the foundation degree 'Childhood Studies. After completing this Kayleigh decided she would do her full degree in 'Childhood Studies'. Kayleigh has now completed her full degree and she has secured a job with Blaenau Gwent Social Services, and is currently doing her Masters Degree alongside working.

Kayleigh said '*The project gave me the tools I needed to be able to achieve so much; that one course by the Working Skills team led me into gaining many qualifications and gave me the foundation for learning that I needed. The team were lovely, friendly and so supportive. I would like to thank them for all they did to help the start of my new career!*'

Parks & Hospitality

- The tennis courts offering three courts of free tennis provision was broadly utilised throughout the Summer 2022 period. The courts were utilised by a range of ages as well as the local primary schools making great use of them as part of their PE and outdoor learning. One of the local Primary Schools Hosted 'Brynbledon' which was the start of an annual tournament.

- Mini Movers has remained a regular in the Bedwellty weekly calendar, continuing to attract young parents and their babies to the music and movement session. New parents and carers meet and share their experiences of their babies in a welcoming environment.

- Louby Lou and her school holiday adventures continued right throughout the 2022/23 school holiday calendar, taking young people and their families on a range of exciting journeys throughout the Park and Grounds. The stories unveiled great imaginations of the participants where the Park became home to Pirates, Unicorns, Mermaids and Wizards - all went on exciting journeys around the grounds unravelling the story.

  "The Louby Lou Story Trails at Bedwellty are the favourite part of the school holidays, the children don't need play areas or toys just a story and their imaginations, they are engrossed. They played for hours after the story trail had finished in the Bandstand, which was of course their 'Mermaid Clamshell' Deb Nicklin - Thank you Bedwellty for putting these on.

- The caving container was launched in Spring 2022 offering an additional on-site adventure for young people and families visiting Parc Bryn Bach. It has proved popular as a sole activity and a favoured part of the school round robin days as an activity on their carousel.

- Spring/Summer 2022 brought the launch of the on-site activity pass at Parc Bryn Bach. The availability of activities during this 6-month period, due to developing a greater staffing infrastructure in the activities team, has proven the greatest asset with activities being provided every day during the peak school holidays and every weekend. This has enabled visitors, for the first time ever, to explore and enjoy the great range of activities available, including climbing wall, water sports and caving. This initiative proved popular with visitors and residents staying on-site for their families to have plenty of activities to engage in without having to pre-book. Parc Bryn Bach has traditionally focussed on developing activity 'away' from the site in terms of Gorge Walking, Paragliding and Hill Walking - the shift to on-site activities has been hugely welcomed by the local community and wider visitors to the park.

- With Stand-Up Paddle Boarding being a hot topic activity Parc Bryn Bach took the initiative to launch group paddle boarding on the new Tikki Boards, as well as a Stand-Up Paddle Boarding Membership for local paddle boarders to attend at their leisure within desired timeframes. Some used this opportunity to further advance their paddle boarding skills, try out their own equipment and enjoy the ability to undertake the activity in their locality. All members had to undertake the necessary Safety to Sup training, and they were all set to go. The water activity certainly made the Lake the highlight of the season.

  Katie - Local Sup Enthusiast stated:

  "It's amazing the developments at Parc Bryn Bach, I love exploring new areas to take my board, but nothing beats coming home from work and being able to SUP locally and escape the day for an hour, it makes a great difference to me both physically and mentally. Can't thank Parc Bryn Bach enough for this membership".

- The Adventure Activity Team at Parc Bryn Bach attended an Education Show in September 2022 where they had the opportunity to showcase to prospective schools and colleges the opportunities Parc Bryn Bach could offer in terms of curriculum outdoor learning, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, residentials and school activity day trips. The show was a great success with the team securing the first Residential for the bunkhouse with an arrival date of June 2023. The team also secured a regular booking from a secondary school in a neighbouring authority where they delivered weekly team building activities as part of a GCSE outdoor learning course.

- The Driving Range during this period has seen a significant increase in usage due to the introduction of a contactless payment system and ball release machine. Users no longer have to call to the visitor centre to purchase driving range tokens, they can pay and access the baskets for balls at the range. This has proven a great improvement to the customer experience and use of the area.

Support for National Health Initiatives Aimed at Improving Overall Wellbeing

- The NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme) has resumed normal operation procedures following the pandemic, with face-to-face consultations and classes operating at full capacity. We have also adopted a blended model using Zoom and Teams, which has proven beneficial for clients with limited mobility or those unable to visit our sports centres.

- The NERS team continues to provide digital content through platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and Advagym (digital applications for members). This includes a variety of classes, workouts, and informational resources for referral clients to engage in exercise at home, outdoors, or within our facilities. Currently, there are 10 classes and 34 progressive workouts available to our clients.

- Partnership established with the physiotherapist at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan (YAB) to deliver the Escape programme from Ebbw Vale Sports Centre. The Escape programme is a 6-week initiative where clients attend twice a week, aimed at breaking down barriers for clients accessing the sports centre and expediting the referral process from the physiotherapist to the NERS Scheme.

- During the period April 2022 to March 2023, a total of 764 referrals were received, marking a significant increase of 197 compared to the previous year's figure of 567 referrals. This demonstrates the growing demand and recognition for the NERS Scheme within the community.

- There has been a notable increase in the submission of referrals by General Practitioners (GPs) and Health Professionals through electronic means. This transition to electronic referrals has significantly reduced the time required for contact to be established with clients. Previously, staff members had to collect referrals every two weeks, causing potential delays in reaching out to individuals seeking our services.

- The NERS fitness classes have successfully returned to full capacity, with an average attendance of 20-30 clients participating in various classes such as Gentle Exercise and Functional Exercise. This signifies the high demand and popularity of these classes among our target audience.

- In the 2022/23 period, the NERS team secured continued funding through Sport Wales for the 60+ programme. As part of this initiative, we have allocated two months of free membership to 200 participants in the over 60s demographic. This aims to eliminate economic barriers to physical activity and enhance social, physical, and mental wellbeing. The uptake has been remarkable, with 102% of the target reached, as 150 participants have availed themselves of the funding. Additionally, in collaboration with UDOIT Dance, we have introduced a dance class specifically tailored for the older population. This class has been well attended, with a weekly average of 10-15 participants.

- Our commitment to promoting active lifestyles among the over 60s extends to providing free swimming opportunities across all our facilities. Free swimming sessions are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and during all public swim sessions. Based on data from April to March, we have observed an average daily usage of 38 individuals.

- To further support individuals receiving benefits, the NERS Team has partnered with the Department of Working Pensions (DWP) to offer 32 free sessions to clients who are claiming benefits. This collaboration involves referrals from both the DWP officer and the clients' GP. After completing the 32 sessions, clients can continue to access the NERS scheme at the discounted rate of £2.50.

GP Referral Case Study

'Since starting the programme, I have achieved significant improvements in my physical health and overall wellbeing. Here are some of the accomplishments I have made:

Weight loss: I have successfully lost over 2 stone, reducing my weight from 154kg to 140kg. This has had a positive impact on my mobility and has helped alleviate the pain in my knees.

BMI reduction: My BMI has decreased from 50 to 46, which is a notable improvement. This reduction indicates progress towards a healthier body composition.

Body fat mass reduction: I have effectively reduced my body fat mass from 73kg to 60kg. This demonstrates a positive change in my body composition and overall health.

Increased activity level: I am now actively engaging in physical activity 4-5 times a week. This includes activities such as walking for 40 minutes, going to the gym and swimming. The improvement in my stamina and energy levels allows me to participate in these activities with greater ease and enjoyment.

Lifestyle changes: Alongside my increased physical activity, I have also made positive changes to my diet. I have shifted away from junk food and sugary snacks that were once prominent in my diet. Instead, I have embraced more nutritious foods that keep me fuller for longer. I have also noticed that by making these dietary changes, I no longer experience the constant hunger and cravings that I used to after consuming sugary foods'.

Library Service Case Study

Regular Attendees from Warm Spaces

Our 'Warm Spaces' campaign was launched in October 2022, with all six libraries offering the scheme. We delivered it during the full opening hours of all the libraries and in addition to this, we held specific activities to encourage people to attend.

'*The library has saved me so much money over the winter. I visit everyday. I live alone, so I cannot afford to put the heating on in the day. Even boiling the kettle, I have to think twice about, so having a free hot drink has been very much appreciated. The library is warm, comfortable and just makes me happier, knowing I can socialise, just like being in a café, but without paying. It really lifts my mood. It provides me with company, stimulation and makes me feel part of whatever is going on. I've participated in craft sessions, Knit and Natter and Reminiscence sessions. Due to the cost-of-living crisis, I have had to end my Broadband contract, so having free Wi-fi and computers has been invaluable for me. The council hub has helped me claim the correct benefits and helped me with fuel vouchers. The Citizens Advice service in the library has also helped me with form filling. Last week I also had a warm pack given to me, which has been a great help.* – Barbara

David started attending the Cuppa and Company sessions after losing his wife. He enjoys reading the newspaper, doing the crossword and having a friendly chat.

'I have been suffering with depression since my wife passed away, earlier this year. I lost my purpose and routine in life; after caring for her for many years, I felt lost. A neighbour suggested joining the coffee morning at the library. It has really helped, I pop in most mornings, have a coffee, do the crossword and a chat, and it sets me up for the day. It gets me out of the house, I've made some new friends and has given me back some routine in my life - and I haven't got to spend a penny! Which is really important, being a pensioner living alone. I have also started reading again, which helps me relax in the evenings' – David



'I lost my job in December and as a result I couldn't afford the rent on my flat. For a couple of weeks, I was sofa surfing with friends. The library was a sanctuary to me, a safe haven; I could use the wi-fi, have a free coffee, and had lots of support from agencies like Pobl, Llamau and Citizens Advice Bureau. I could stay as long as I liked, without the need to spend money. I also had help with CV and advice on training and education. Within a few weeks, my life changed completely. I found a new job and affordable flat. Without the library, I think I would have ended up on the streets!' - Jamie

Supporting Essential Skills

- The core purpose of Adult Community Learning is to enable adults to develop to play a full part in life and work by providing support primarily through a curriculum focussed on improving essential skills. The target group for Adult Community Learning are those individuals who are not in full-time education, training or employment. In the 2022/23 academic year over 850 individuals participated in a range of essential skills courses.

- The curriculum offered by Adult Community Learning is benchmarked against targets which are agreed across the Coleg Gwent partnership. Aneurin Leisure achieved an attainment rate of 90% against a benchmark 90% for the academic year 2022/23. The GCSE English Language and Maths results for 2022/23 were extremely pleasing with 100% of learners achieving a grade A-D, 91.6% achieving a grade A – C.

- During the Summer, Adult Community Learning were approached to support the Ukraine Refugees who were located in the Welcome Centre in Ebbw Vale. Through the Bridges into Work 2 project and Adult Community Learning a range of structured English for the Speakers of Other Languages Courses and Chatter groups were delivered at Ebbw Vale Learning Action Centre. Over 30 Ukraine refugees attended the courses and groups during the following months, receiving support to improve their English skills and assistance to find employment.

Case Study

Ukrainian refugee Liliia came to Wales in the summer with her teenage son and they were placed in temporary accommodation at the Welcome Centre in Ebbw Vale. Liliia and her son attended the weekly Chatter Group at Ebbw Vale Learning Action Centre (LAC) to find out about the support they could receive and to improve their English skills. They also enrolled on the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course at the LAC. Liliia was very nervous as she did not speak any English and was extremely anxious about her husband and daughter who were still in Ukraine. Through the summer, Liliia was supported to improve her English, enrol onto ESOL courses at the centre and to compile a CV. Liliia is a trained seamstress making military uniforms in her job in Ukraine so, as Liliia's confidence grew, we contacted Jonathan at Elite Clothing (see previous case study) and were able to arrange a work trial accompanied by her Development Officer. Elite were very impressed with her skills and offered her a full-time job, but Liliia was very nervous. Bridges into Work 2 were able to arrange lunch provision, transport and a translator to accompany Liliia for her induction. They were also able to support with HR paperwork including her contract and obtaining a Share Code to prove Liliia's right to live and work in the UK.

Tackling Inequalities

- The monitoring of free-swimming initiatives continues to focus on qualitative assessments, supported by the Free Swim Initiative funding. Below are some key projects and initiatives:

    - Fit and Fed Project: In collaboration with the Police Commissioner Fund and Bryn Farmhouse, the Sports Development team has developed a customised learn-to-swim pathway for youths, providing aquatics-based activities that also teach essential lifesaving skills.
    - Collaborative Project with Social Services: A partnership between Aneurin Leisure and Families First (Social Services) offers 20 free swimming sessions to young carers during public swimming times. Out of the 56 cards distributed to young carers, 28% had never visited our facilities before.
    - Disability Swimming Sessions: 10 individuals have been offered disability swimming sessions based on referrals from the Disability Sports Officer.
    - Free Unstructured Swimming: Two hours per week per centre are dedicated to free unstructured swimming.
    - Allotted Free Swimming during Holidays: An allocated amount of free swimming is provided during holiday periods and the summer.

- Updates to Over 60's Free Swim Initiative:

    - Free Over 60's Swim Sessions: Each centre now offers one day per week where swimming is free of charge for individuals over 60 during public/adult swimming sessions.
    - Free Aqua Aerobics for Over 60's: Tredegar Sports Centre hosts a free aqua aerobics session specifically for individuals over 60.
    - Muscular Skeletal Pathway: A pool-based program targeting older adults with mobility issues is available through the NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme) scheme in partnership with local GPs and the physiotherapy department.

- This new approach aims to address the inequalities that are high on the local authority's agenda, reflecting the commitment to tackle such issues in the broader community.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- To celebrate World Book Day in March 2023, the service worked in partnership with Families First, to provide children with free costumes. The costumes were loaned from local libraries, which worked well, with families joining the library at the same time and borrowing related stock. This scheme was particularly well received by families in need, many parents commenting how it helped them deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

- A new Citizens Advice Service was launched in September 2022 with weekly drop-in sessions being delivered in all libraries. This, together with the council community hubs provides a 'one stop shop' approach to support local residents with a wide range of enquiries.

- The Library service has launched a new sim card project working with The Good Things Foundation and the National Data Bank to help bridge the digital divide. This project supports our cost-of-living help for the community, offering data to those people in need. It links with another digital inclusion project we deliver, the loaning of free tablets. This enables us to provide a solution to those people who have no access to data. This offer has been a major development in the service, over the year, enabling us to prevent data poverty within the community.

- The theme of free activities was a common thread across all our events, schemes and projects. The 'Summer of Fun, Project Gadgeteers' campaign was delivered alongside the Summer Reading Challenge with a wide range of children's sessions held in all libraries. The service received Welsh Government funding to deliver a wide range of activities, including:

  - Diffusion Art
  - Slime Workshops
  - Weekly STEM Craft sessions
  - Balloon Rocket Workshops
  - When Science meets art sessions
  - Owl visits
  - Potion Party
  - Louby-Lou Inter-active storytelling
  - Huw Davies Author Visit
  - Malachy Doyle Author Visit
  - Clay Modelling
  - Recycling Art Sessions



- The service supported the Welsh Libraries 'Living Well in Wales' campaign by delivering sessions to bring people together, focusing on connecting and giving people a sense of belonging. Grant funding from Welsh Government enable the service to deliver a series of events to support well-being in the Autumn of 2022.

  Examples of sessions held:

  - Reminiscence sessions
  - Coffee mornings
  - Coffee Art Sessions
  - Family History sessions
  - Book launches
  - Creative writing sessions



- A new member of staff from Abertillery Library has represented our service by being a member on the Anti-Racism steering group, commissioned by CILIP Cymru Wales. As a result of this, training will follow for all our library staff and have started reviewing our collections and stock policies. It will demonstrate our commitment to equality and will support our evolving communities. This work will align with the objectives of the WPLS and the Anti Racist Wales Action Plan.

- A new project was launched in December 2022, with the service hosting live music events with the aim of engaging with new audiences to library services. We worked with employability projects and local artists to inspire and motivate young people to embark on a career in the music industry. Library staff enrolled participants to the library and promoting relevant stock to them, including raising awareness of e-resources, e.g., music magazines.



- The service continues to be the main distribution hub for food recycling bags in the borough. The Keep Wales Tidy litter picking scheme, which was launched in 2022, links closely with raising awareness of environmental issues and encourages residents to be responsible for keeping areas free from litter.

- Bedwellty House & Park and Parc Bryn Bach were supported with an £18,000 grant as part of the Welsh Government Summer of Fun fund. This allowed a range of free activities to be delivered across the sites between April –September 2023. Over 1,000 young people attended the activities, some families were in awe of what was available to them and we welcomed some to participate in activities they may not have been able to fund without the grant. It was an incredible opportunity and well spent grant funding. Activities included Queens teas, cinema evenings, open water group paddle boarding, fairground days, silent discos, magic shows, Animal Encounters, Princess visits, Story Trails, caving, kayaking and climbing days. Such an amazing experience seeing so many people benefit and visit the parks through the Summer season.

- National Play Day was a large-scale free event at Bedwellty House & Park with a variety of partners and free play opportunities for children and their families to engage in, and to educate that play doesn't always mean toys, screens or play equipment, it can mean cardboard boxes, mud, wool, water as some options. Families were amazed at the fun they had engaging in basic play. A range of providers attended site offering workshops, fun activities and giveaways. It was a great partnership, fully inclusive event which tackled inequality and was drenched in community engagement. The 2022 event was attended by 800 children aged 2-10 and 400 children aged 11-14.

- Go Wild Event at Parc Bryn Bach was another WOW partnership event which was well attended with more than 3,000 visitors to the park. The event included partners offering workshops on animal care, wildlife habitats, seed boxes, bug boxes and hotels as well as fun and games on the water and participating in partner led activities. A free event which spanned a wealth of visitors from across Blaenau Gwent and neighbouring authorities. Due to a great marketing campaign visitors travelled from Tonypandy-Rhondda, Pontyclun and Chepstow to attend the event. Many had not attended the park before and assured it would be the first of many visits, being blown away by the facilities Parc Bryn Bach offers.

- Bevan Festival was hosted at Parc Bryn Bach funded by the Trade Unions which offered local families a free activity day to explore the range of activities at Parc Bryn Bach. Yhe day included nature trails, orienteering, go-karting, mini golf, climbing, caving and paddle boarding. There were 800 young people aged 8+ who participated in the day.

- Bedwellty House & Park hosted a 'Silent Fireworks evening' for those young people and families who find the loud noises of fireworks frightening. Barnardo's co-ordinated the event while Bedwellty were the host venue. One of the families in attendance said it was the 'Best night of their lives' as they have one child who loves fireworks and one child who gets so distressed by the noise - this event covered both bases.

- The play area at Parc Bryn Bach offered a daily quiet hour for families with young people who have additional needs so they could access the equipment in a calm and quiet time. This was complimented by families as a positive offer.

- MOY project – in collaboration with Gwent Police Motivating Our Youth, 120 children engaged in the project, which operated every Monday and Tuesday, over 4 weeks during the Summer of 2022. The project focussed on outdoor adventure activities which alongside develops team building, self-discipline and communication skills.

  ***Case Study – Louis**:*

  One of the young lads who was engaged with the MOY project with Gwent Police to undertake the 4 weeks adventure activity programme, which also encouraged team building, self-discipline & communication, had previously been a young person engaging in instances of anti-social behaviour at Parc Bryn Bach and had difficulty with following instructions from team members. Following completion of his MOY programme he engaged in Police Cadets and is now much more respectful in the park and to the Team Members, the programme has had a positive impact on his behaviour in the community.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

- In partnership with Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Aneurin Leisure played an active part in the Participatory Budgeting pilot "Your Community, Your Voice". This initiative distributed over £150,000 to local groups and charities within Blaenau Gwent to help with local wellbeing projects.

- In March 2023, in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Nick Smith MP, Ebbw Vale LAC hosted the Borough's first "Cost of Living Event", inviting a range of utility providers and budgeting experts to give information and advice to members of the public. Over 150 individuals attended the event, which based on the positive feedback, is due to be repeated in April 2023.

- The Library Service has further developed links with Llanhilleth Miners Institute. We have supported literacy campaigns, loaned large amounts of stock and established clear referrals for library memberships.

- A new weekly adult craft group has been established at Cwm Library, this has grown in popularity over the year and is now running at maximum capacity.

- Funding from the local health board has enabled the Library Service to deliver a range of wellbeing activities at Brynmawr and Tredegar Libraries, via the Integrated Well-being Network. Activities included Coffee Art, Christmas Craft, Family History Sessions and Reminiscence sessions.

- A new weekly group for adults with learning disabilities has been established at Brynmawr Library, linking with Social Services.

- Pobl are delivering new housing and tenancy related supports in all libraries. These sessions were launched in November 2022 and are held weekly.

- Over the year the Library Service linked with the Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership to deliver the 'Little Veg Library'. Each veg library includes 'pick and mix' pots filled with different seeds as well as envelopes that families can fill with seeds of their choice to take home. The idea is for people to have a go at growing some veg at home in response to the recent food shortages and spiralling food prices.

- Tai Calon has partnered with Sport and Fitness to support the community by promoting physical activity and providing essential life skills. This collaboration has been made possible through funding that covers the cost of swimming lessons for families. In the 2022/23 period, 75 children were able to benefit from this funding opportunity and receive swimming lessons.

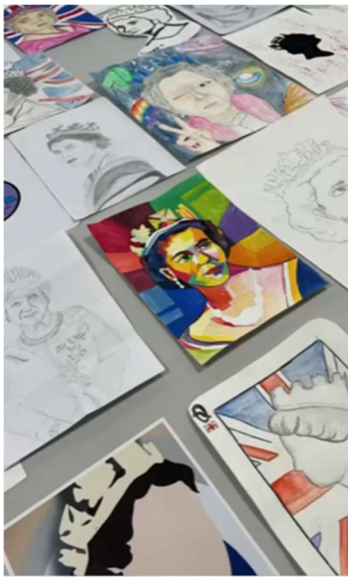
- Communities For Work, as part of their Wellbeing budget, have organised two career festivals at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre. These festivals aim to provide employment-related opportunities and support to the community. Additionally, they have allocated funds to enable 100 of their clients to access a free membership at the Sports Centre for a three-month period. This initiative allows individuals who may not be able to afford a membership due to their employment status to participate in various activities offered at the Sports Centre.

- The community have been fully engaged in the live, free music at Bedwellty during the Summer of 2022. The courtyard canopy was developed in 2021 as a covered outdoor space for the community to meet when there were still some restrictions in place. During the Summer of 2022 this area became a weekly hive of free music. Sunday music was delivered for 10 weeks from the end of June through to the first weekend in September, for the community to meet with family and friends, listen to great local musicians, engage in garden games all for free, with a fully served bar and kitchen available to them. This area proved to be extremely popular with a regular 80 people attending on a weekly basis - whatever the weather.

- The partnership with Tredegar Town Council brought 10 weeks of Brass Bands to the bandstand during the summer period. This brought the community across the generations together on a Sunday, enjoying the free live music and relaxing in the well-maintained grounds. An average of 100 people per week attended the Brass Band concerts.



- Bedwellty House has engaged in and hosted a number of events to celebrate national occasions such as Armed Forces Day, the Queens Jubilee, Armistice Day, National Eisteddfod to name a few. Each occasion is marked with an appropriate celebration and community engagement event. They are also supported with local school partnerships to develop artwork to display along the gallery corridor for the wider community to admire. All schools within the Tredegar cluster have taken part in displaying artwork throughout the Year.



- The kitchen garden grounds team and volunteers had a very successful season with some bumper crops. Volunteers in the garden and from Blaenau Gwent Youth Services tended to the kitchen garden tirelessly throughout the year. Crops were used as part of the menus in the Orchid House Tea Room. Vegetables were also available to the local community for a small donation should they want them. The Youth Service also donated some of the produce they grew and items they made such as bat boxes to the local shelters and food banks.

- The Orchid House Tea Room continued to thrive offering a varied menu of homecooked meals during the week, the famous Sunday Roast as well as BBQ's and beer garden snacks menu. The Tea room extended it's seating to include additional tables outside. The Orchid House Tea Room achieved a 5* Food Hygiene rating during Summer 2022.

- Tredegar Heritage Forum continued to deliver monthly Historical talks at Bedwellty House. This is a free monthly talk, where a variety of guest speakers are invited in to speak about local history and heritage of our locality. They are well attended by the community and also prove to be a social afternoon out for some of the hardest to reach members of the community.

- Tredegar Friendship Group continued to visit Bedwellty House on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the year for a two-course meal and social afternoon. The groups started with 18 members who would dine in the Miners Room; the group has grown in strength and numbers with now on average 40 attending monthly. The group of OAPs meet, eat and socialise, which is for some the only occasion they go out each month. Costs are kept low so it doesn't become a barrier to attending.

- Bedwellty House hosted a Christmas Market in December 2022, which was back to full capacity with no restrictions as in the previous season. People browsed and purchased crafts and gifts made by local smaller businesses. It was a great opportunity as some of these small businesses had to provide their products in person. It was well received by all.

- The Team at Parc Bryn Bach engaged in supporting a fundraising outdoor pursuits campaign in leading them through, as well as participating in the Three Peaks Challenge in 2022. The campaign was a great success, where the community followed the progress of the participants raising funds for a worthy cause.

- Park Run saw its members significantly increase throughout 2022. The Park Run celebrated its 100th run during the 2022 season. The volume of Park Run tourists attending Parc Bryn Bach also increased during 2022 with runners attending from other Park Run venues including Porthcawl and Newport. The Competitive race season was in full programme during 2022/23, as well as two successful Couch to 5K programmes being delivered by the Park Run volunteers who supported over 300 participants to completing their first 5K run.

- The opening hours of Parc Bryn Bach were extended for the Summer period. Street Food Thursdays continued throughout the season as well as the evening running and triathlon events returning to the evenings for 2022. Parc Bryn Bach became a hive of activity from 8am-8pm during the peak summer season with visitors enjoying the activities, using the dog friendly café, utilising the outdoor kiosk and also making use of the more relaxed terraced area overlooking the lake.

- Parc Bryn Bach Lake View Café & Kiosk exceeded all anticipated and projected income targets throughout the six-month period, serving in excess of 30,000 ice creams during this time. The Lake View Café also offered seasonal employment to 8 young people during the summer season. The Lake View Catering achieved a 5* Food Hygiene rating following inspection.

Case Study

Ukrainian Refugees

Over the year, the service has supported a number of Ukrainian refugees by providing a safe place to chat, meet others and link with local services, partners and community groups. Additional stock has been purchased to support them, including ESOL materials. We have also provided a free tablet loan scheme, which many Ukrainians benefitted from. Many were unable to speak any English, so library staff helped the refugees download an app, to enable translation.

'*Thank you so much for the kindness shown to us. Being able to borrow a tablet, which was set up for us in Ukrainian, helped us so much. I have used the free wi-fi in the library to contact family in Ukraine, access my emails and to source other information.'*- Yulia

'Thank you for helping me in my hour of need. Having books in our native language has provided much comfort for me. Also, the wide selection of Ukranian e-books given to me helped me deal with stress, helped me un-wind. I have been able to access lots of help in the library, from support with benefits and studying. I have also borrowed lots of books to help improve my English. We have been made to feel welcome at the coffee mornings, it has really helped us settle into our new life in Ebbw Vale. My children have enjoyed the activities and made new friends. Everything is free, we have even had access to period products. My teenage children have also borrowed free sports equipment, they have been able to enjoy the parks and play games' – Khrystyna.

'*We have been made to feel very welcome at the library. Having somewhere to just drop in and have a free coffee, relax and have lots of help all in one place has been a lifeline to use, when we have been in crisis*' - Anna

Case Study

Single Parent/Young family

In March, the service worked in partnership with Families First to loan free costumes for World Book Day. All participants were required to join the library and encouraged to borrow themed books. This scheme was offered across all our Libraries in Blaenau Gwent.

Tammy, 23, has 3 young children all under the age of 6. The family joined the library early last year and has since accessed a number of activities.

'*We use the library a lot. It has really helped having free activities for the children. We have attended lots of events, including interactive storytimes, clay-modelling workshops and meet the owls event. We borrowed costumes for World Book Day at the Library, which was very helpful. This meant all my 3 children had costumes, which I wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise, it took a lot of worry from me. This was such a good idea. My children were thrilled! The library has given my children a love of books, there is so much going on, it makes reading fun for them. Since coming to the library, I have noticed they are much more settled in school. It has helped with so many things. It has also helped me meet other parents, as a single parent, that has been really nice. Free coffee, as well, where else could you go without having to spend money and the children always learning. I noticed I saved money on the heating; coming to the library every day after school meant I could delay putting the heating on'.*

Cultural Enrichment

- There are various groups that use the free library space for cultural sessions. For example, the Blaina Aberystruth History and Archaeological Society holds weekly sessions in Blaina Library. The service has strong partnership links with Gwent Family Society. Volunteers from this organisation deliver regular help desks in all libraries, promoting FindMyPast and Ancestry.com. The Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum holds monthly meetings at Tredegar Library and utilises the local studies resources based there. Blaina Heritage Centre is based in the same building as Blaina Library, which provides an ideal link to work jointly on shared Welsh cultural activities. Likewise, a community Museum is based in Tredegar Library, which attracts many visitors researching the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan, plus other historical information. Library staff and volunteers from the museum work together to provide a range of information and resources to promote Welsh culture.

- A new Welsh club has been established at Abertillery Library to encourage Welsh learners to practice conversational Welsh. A range of new Welsh language learning resources have been purchased over the year, including Welsh board games.

Social Responsibility

- As Blaenau Gwent is already one of the most deprived areas of Wales, the emphasis on free library services has become more important than ever. Being 'fines free' continues to remove barriers to accessing the library. With the closure of the main council offices (Civic Centre) and the transition to all face-to-face council enquiries now being delivered at libraries through the provision of community hubs, this has encompassed library buildings as being the 'go-to' venue for anyone in need. Residents access libraries for food bank referrals, fuel vouchers and general cost of living advice. The local health board has provided the service with a range of free items to support people in need, for example period products and warm packs. All libraries have a 'free' area, for the community to take, without asking.

- The social impact of library services upon residents has been further highlighted over the year. The service conducted formal user surveys over February and March 2023. Results of the survey concluded that:

  - 96% of adults thinks that the library has made a difference to their lives.
  - 100% of adults experience the library as an enjoyable, safe and inclusive place.
  - 99% of adults think that the standard of customer care is very good or good.
  - 94% of children think that the library helps them learn and find things out.

  Many users left feedback and comments, demonstrating the way in which the library has affected their lives. Examples:

  - *Kept me sane.*
  - *Would be lost without this library.*
  - *Where else can you go without spending a penny, free coffee, free activities, everything free - our library is such an asset in the community, so much help available.*
  - *I have used the library to study, order books and received help with my CV and applying for jobs - in which I was successful.*
  - *It's the best thing in Ebbw Vale. A little escape haven to read and learn.*
  - *The library has been a warm and welcoming refuge for me this winter (I've been very ill and quite depressed) and I've been able to borrow excellent uplifting books and have met friends or rummikub games.*
  - *It's helped me make friends.*
  - *I come for the friendships that I have made over the many years I've been coming. I've had help with the computer and printer. The staff are like friends now.*
  - *Library staff taught me computer skills for use in my studies. Enabled me to make friends at knit and natter.*
  - *Very friendly, I feel so much better, I look forward to every Wednesday and Friday.*
  - *I have used this library since a very young age. It is part of my heritage. Who can live without a library? They are the oxygen – something we all need.*
  - *It has given me joy in my retirement, enabled me to meet friends to read and discuss books, and to help the community through knit and natter activities, etc.*
  - *The library has significantly reduced my energy bill. I use the public computers instead of my own computer.*
  - *It saves me money as I constantly use the internet.*

- During the 2022/23 period, Tredegar Sports Centre has introduced retreat days as part of our corporate social responsibility efforts. These retreats aim to engage with the local community and promote health and wellbeing. The retreat days have been designed to offer a holistic experience, combining fitness classes, educational seminars on nutrition and mindfulness sessions.

  - These retreats provide an opportunity for individuals to focus on their physical and mental wellbeing in a serene and supportive environment. The fitness classes offered during the retreats cater to different fitness levels and interests, ensuring that participants can find activities that suit their needs. These classes are led by qualified instructors who provide guidance and motivation to help individuals achieve their fitness goals.

  - In addition to physical activities, our retreats include educational seminars on nutrition. These sessions aim to raise awareness about healthy eating habits, proper nutrition, and the importance of maintaining a balanced diet. Participants can learn about making nutritious food choices, understanding portion sizes and creating healthy meal plans to support their overall well-being.

  - Mindfulness sessions are also an integral part of our retreat days. These sessions focus on relaxation, stress reduction and enhancing mental well-being. Participants are guided through mindfulness exercises, breathing techniques and meditation practices to promote a sense of calm and inner peace. The aim is to provide individuals with tools they can use in their daily lives to manage stress, improve focus and cultivate a positive mindset.

  - Through these retreat days, we have made a positive impact on the community by promoting physical health, nutritional knowledge and mental well-being. We believe that investing in these holistic experiences contributes to the overall well-being of individuals and fosters a healthier and happier community.

- Weddings were finally back to the full capacity during the 2022/23 period. Bedwellty House successfully delivered in partnership with Blaenau Gwent Registry Office, 29 Weddings and Ceremonies. With a conversion rate of 70% of those attending a first meeting and visit to Bedwellty during this period to making a booking.



Weddings – Beth and Rhys George-Lewis - *"I just want to say a massive thank you for all your efforts. It was an amazing day, and everyone has spoken highly of the team. Bedwellty House and Park is lucky to have such a talented team."*



Damion and Luke Shepard-Richards - "We first booked our wedding at Bedwellty House and Park in August 2018 and were looking forward to our special day in August 2020 but due to the coronavirus pandemic we had to push back to 2022. The team at Bedwellty was absolutely wonderful in supporting us with the delay and when we finally got married the whole day was just amazing as were the team; helpful and nothing was too much trouble. The venue is just magical and steeped in local Welsh history. We couldn't have wished for a more beautiful venue and have made a few recommendations to our friends to get married there."

- Sunday lunches re-established themselves during this period with the reputation of good service, good food and overall experience preceding the venue. There are a number of diners who attend on their own due to loss of loved ones but keep visiting as feel so welcome and comfortable at Bedwellty.

- During quarter 4 of the 2022/23 period, partnerships strengthened with Blaenau Gwent Registry Office where a change of office space was agreed on the first floor at Bedwellty House resulting in the Registrar team expanding by an additional officer creating more appointments for those in need of visiting the registry office. The move will, in time, support them in becoming a full-time service.

- Both parks maintained the grounds to exceptional standards throughout the 2022/23 period with both sites again working closely with the Ecology Officer ensuring each site again achieved the Green Flag Award status.

- The friends of groups are an asset to the parks in supporting projects and raising funds. A number of the volunteers within these groups have stated how being part of the group and seeing areas develop in the parks within their weekly gardening sessions gives them a purpose and makes them feel like they are giving something back to the community they live in and love.

  ***Case Study - Volunteering in the parks gave me a sense of purpose**:*

  Olga, a young Ukranian refugee living in Tredegar was introduced to the Friends of Bedwellty. She has a keen interest in gardening and likes to pot plants to sell. Her input to the group has been invaluable. Olga said she feels 'part' of a community and feels her new life has a sense of purpose where she is helping upkeep the local gardens.

- Christmas Party Nights returned with full capacity for the 2022 Christmas season. Seven Christmas Party nights were sold out and delivered with visitors supporting from local businesses and some travelling in based on the reviews and reputation Bedwellty has built in previous seasons. Over 700 visitors dined, danced and engaged in the festive spirit.

- A partnership has been established with the BGCBC Education Service who are, for an interim period, housing the first intake of the new Welsh School to open in Tredegar in the near future into Bedwellty House and Park. The school development is behind schedule which meant there was nowhere for the September 2023 intake to attend. Bedwellty House has worked with the necessary personnel to re-develop part of the first floor of the house into a nursery classroom. The young people registered to the new school will now have an interim school space to attend while their new school is being built.

- The partnership with Tredegar Town Council has continued while working together on a number of great events during the 2022/23 season, including the Brass Bands, Armed Forces Day, Bevan Festival, Christmas Lights Switch on. Events such as these are the heart of the community and bring generations together.

- Parc Bryn Bach was successful in obtaining a grant from the WCVA Landfills Tax Disposal Communities Scheme. The project has brought the park and local community together to develop all that are interested in and value nature. All ages from school groups to the retired generation participated throughout the whole project and without them we wouldn't have achieved as much as planned. It has allowed school children to learn about nature and its importance, and adults the opportunity to give a hands-on approach to develop personal skills, meet new people with similar interests and have a positive impact to local nature at our park. Throughout the course of the project there have been several volunteer days where the teams have learned about and undertook Willow coppicing, tree planting, creating a beetle/butterfly bank, creating a wildflower meadow as well as creating and enhancing the water and green spaces, supporting the wider green infrastructure throughout the park. A series of wooden carvings on native wildlife feature around the lake with animated QR codes to educate visitors on the native wildlife.






Feedback from some of the schools participating in the project:

"What a lovely experience for our pupils, they all had a lovely day and learned so much about our environment and what we should be doing to sustain and improve our area for both our wildlife, and indeed us". The children said, "*This has been so much fun I want to do it again next week". "Can we do this again miss and bring the rest of our class because they will love it". Please thank everyone who was involved in organising what was a well-planned event. We would certainly like to attend any future events that you arrange. Kind regards Helen Blaenycwm*"

The students and staff that attended the trip really enjoyed the day. Mrs Rogers said, *'the event was well organised and was very interesting.' Students said the following, ' They really enjoyed the birdwatching and the day'*. Another student said ' *I enjoyed the Bug hunt because I want to be an entomologist when I am older*.' Thanks Rachel Ebbw Fawr Learning Community (Secondary LRB)

Fantastic day yesterday, we really enjoyed it and learnt lots! Thank you to you all. Anna Georgetown Primary School.

Absolutely loved yesterday, thank you! I haven't seen Charlie smile like that for a long time.....and today he decided to go for work practice 😊a massive win. Chris PenYCwm School

Local Business Partnerships

- Aneurin Leisure continues to offer local, regional and national organisations discounted membership as part of our Life Card membership scheme and our drive to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace. Corporate members are currently enjoying the corporate discounts in the area that Aneurin Leisure operates. This product combines reduced rates for i) gym memberships within our sport centres, ii) corporate hospitality and conferencing at Bedwellty House and Park and iii) Team Building at Parc Bryn Bach.

- The service has continued to support prosperity across the borough over 2022/23. We have continued to develop our partnership work with the regeneration department to increase footfall into town centres, through supporting family events in the high street. Events were delivered in libraries linked to the themes of the events.

- Support for jobseekers has continued to be a core aspect of Library Service provision. Our close working links with our colleagues in Adult Community Learning (ACL) has enabled us to provide a wide range of learning opportunities delivered in their local library. This ranged for tailored one-to-one support, informal learning and classes. Clear referral routes are in place to signpost learners to more formal learning. Libraries continue to be the 'first port of call' for informal learning, particularly for digital needs. Staff are trained to encourage customers to progress with their learning and work with partners to facilitate this.

- Bedwellty House and Parc Bryn Bach partner with a variety of local business in purchasing produce; milk, ice cream, fruit & vegetables, brewery, honey, coffee all purchased from local suppliers.

- The Tredegar Arms Hotel are key partners when booking rooms for wedding couples and actors when dining events with special guests are organised.

Marketing and Communications

- The key objectives for the Trust for marketing and communications during 2023/23 were to optimise the opportunities provided by the full relaxation of restrictions following the pandemic.

  These included:

  - ✓ Working closely with partners to deliver on 'improving community life'.
  - ✓ Drive revenue at Parc Bryn Bach and Bedwellty House and Park through activities and events.
  - ✓ Assist libraries and adult community learning to achieve their targets for the Welsh Government Library Standards and Coleg Gwent respectively.
  - ✓ Exceed sports centre membership revenue compared to 2019 (pre pandemic).

- The USP (Unique Selling Point) for the Trust was:

  'Aneurin Leisure Trust – working to improve community life by investing in local amenities and improving the appeal and facilities of Blaenau Gwent'.

  Targeting – all residents in Blaenau Gwent and communities close to Blaenau Gwent, and tourists visiting the area.

- Media used was restricted based on ability to prove ROI through a meaningful budget and therefore, we maximised and prioritised the following channels:

  - ✓ Websites
  - ✓ Social media
  - ✓ ALT app
  - ✓ Signage
  - ✓ SEO

- Key messaging for each of the sites was as follows:

  Parc Bryn Bach (PBB) – the hidden gem of Blaenau Gwent. The perfect location to experience nature at its best, have fun with the family and explore the wonders of Wales.

  Bedwellty House & Park (BHAP) – a vibrant venue for all occasions. Amazing heritage and beautiful grounds to explore or make your dreams come true.

  Sports Centre's - the team at BG Life is committed to helping you achieve your goals and be the best version of yourself in terms of your health and mental wellbeing. With state-of-the-art gyms, full digital integration, swimming pools and 100s of classes each week, our flexible memberships provide you with the tools to achieve your goals.

  Adult Community Learning (ACL) – helping you to achieve your academic and professional goals.

  Libraries – the heart of the community. A wealth of support and advice to enrich lives and expand horizons.

  Corporate – Aneurin Leisure Trust – working in partnership to improve community life.

To highlight some of the key activities that were undertaken to support each of the business units, to achieve these objectives:

Working in partnership:

- This was the first year that we have been able to host a partner conference. Held at Bedwellty House and Park on 2nd August 2022, it was attended by over 20 organisations and included presentations from the Integrated Wellbeing Network, Blaenau Gwent's Biodiversity Officer and Sparkle, along with presentations from different departments within the Trust.

- The Community Engagement Officer has been integral in developing and enhancing relationships with many organisations in the public, private and third sector, sitting on many committees, including: the Integrated Wellbeing Network, BG Food Partnership, PSB Sub-Group, Local Nature Partnership, Dewis, Youth Partnership Hub and VRP Guardians. Through the Family Engagement Programme, we have supported the Sports Development team to help the most under privileged families, including Family Retreat Days and securing funding through the Food Insecurity Fund, to enable the Sports Development team to run more playschemes. In addition, working with Social Services, a Trust-wide proposition has been developed to support young carers across the borough, offering discounts to our many services.

- Many events have been attended enabling us to present the different opportunities available through the Trust to help with raising awareness and participation. During the year, the cost-of-living crisis resulted in promoting the diverse opportunities available across the Trust and through partner organisations to support the community. In addition, we supported the Sports Development team to raise awareness and contributions to the food banks in Blaenau Gwent and their distribution.

- **Sports Centres:**

  - Communicated with several organisations to participate in Corporate Memberships for the Sports Centres. Secured Candour Talent and maintained Tai Calon. We continue to pursue Thales, Sharp Clinical, GTS Flexible Materials, General Dynamics, Dwr Cymru and Coleg Gwent. We have revised the terms and conditions to ensure that we have greater control over the 'membership' with a minimum of 10 members per organisation which are billed each month, to the organisation and not the individual.
  - Additional content secured for the BG Life website and ongoing social media support to highlight key messaging.
  - Supported the Sports Development team to promote their regular Playschemes.
  - Summer and Autumn push for new memberships focusing on the overall benefits of membership, from as little as 63p per day.
  - Developed a customer journey form to assist sports centre staff with on-boarding new members.
  - Maximised national promotions such as National Fitness Day and Black Friday, and tactical promotions such as the 12 days of Christmas and retreat days held at Tredegar sports centre.
  - Worked with the Sports Development team to promote their partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, ensuring it is presented on the BG Life website.
  - Supported the NERS (National Exercise Referral) team, particularly with their pregnancy pathway.
  - Improved signage across all three centres, including the installation of selfie mirrors at Abertillery Sports Centre.
  - Ongoing customer updates relating to the refurbishment of Tredegar Sports Centre's pool and subsequent reopening.
  - Supported the launch of sports development's Community Kit Room initiative.
  - Website analytics indicated that the number of monthly visits to the website is around 7,300 noting that this figure does fluctuate particularly around school holidays. The most popular pages, in the main, are membership, swimming, timetables, the three sport centres' pages, gyms and contact us.

- **Parc Bryn Bach (PBB):**

  - Continued to support the ever-expanding activities held at the park while ensuring the website was kept up-to-date, social media posts went out, directing people to book online, and signage was updated to reflect the new activities, such as Open Access SUP, the Cave, Paddlesport Hire and OWS rules.
  - Accommodation for the caravan park was promoted through improved SEO, updating free listing sites and new content for website updates.
  - Ongoing support for the different events taking place at PBB, including Go Wild and improving the sustainability perception of the park through the installation Nature Isn't Neat, reusable cups and ongoing support and liaison with the biodiversity officer and her team at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

- Attended the National Education Show in Cardiff to promote the bunkhouse and activities to support schools. The engagement was excellent and resulted in many schools booking day activities and logging interest in the accommodation when the bunkhouse opens.

- Website analytics indicated that the number of monthly visits to the website has grown to c5,700 noting fluctuations around holiday times and the most popular pages (top 10), are activities on-site, events (particularly during school holidays), staycations/stay with us, family fun and the café.

- **Bedwellty House & Park (BHAP):**

  - The key focus for communication for BHAP was to finalise the new website. With personnel changes at the park, this resulted in delays, however, we were able to develop a new logo (the previous 'logo' being a line drawing), which reflected the heritage and classic nature of the house and park, and the iconography of the grounds.
  - Securing the URL for bedwelltyhouseandpark.co.uk was explored at length but due to the way the site was originally set up, we have had to change the URL for the new website to .com.
  - BHAP continued to run many events including maximising the funding from the Summer of Fun, the Yarn Trail, the Queen's Jubilee and many others including free and paid-for events.
  - During the year we undertook photography and content for the new website, including the wedding fayre.
  - Worked with the Friends of Bedwellty Park to help them with a recruitment drive (still in progress).
  - Started to develop the communication for the history trail which will be interactive through QR codes/videos.

- **Library Services:**

  - Continued to expand the sports libraries offer providing the community with a wider range of equipment to loan out, expanding this to care homes to help residents stay fit and healthy.
  - Developed a new logo for the library's services in BG that complemented the Trust's logo; the previous logo being outdated and complex. This provided us with an opportunity to bring libraries graphically under the Trust's umbrella as the services provided by the libraries are integral to the wider Trust's offer and prove popular at events, appealing to all age groups.
  - New signage was installed at each of the libraries, updating old, worn signage with the new logo.
  - Social media was heavily used by the libraries to promote events and services, including the BorrowBox and Libby apps.
  - The libraries became the focus for digital inclusion during 2022/23, receiving funding through the IWN for tablets and SIM cards.

- **Adult Community Learning (ACL):**

  - Once again, we focused on supporting the team to meet targets with enrolment, undertaking photography for their annual brochure.
  - We developed a logo for ACL to provide them with an identity that was complementary but separate from the Trust.
  - New signage was installed at each of the learning action centres.
  - We supported their activities, particularly the ILS and other events.

- Continued to work in partnership to support partners and promote the developments and facilities across the Trust. In addition to those mentioned above, examples of these are:

  - BGCBC – working with the Biodiversity Officer and Groundwork Wales to promote volunteering at PBB and engaging with the Gwent Wildlife Trust to support activities.

  - The Destination Management Group (DMG), continued with support provided to the tourism officer to help promote the parks. Exploration of advertising opportunities were also supported.

  - Ongoing dialogue with the Sustainable Food Co-ordinator to help promote initiatives for greater awareness of healthy eating, supporting through attendance to meetings and investigating the use of the polytunnels at PBB for use by Young Carers or other local volunteer groups.

  - Welsh Government – in addition to the involvement with the DMG and the South Wales Tourism Group, we secured key activities at PBB on the Visit Wales website. We will continue to work closely to gain accreditation for the new bunkhouse to help drive tourism to the park.

  - Valley Regional Partnership (VRP) – the launch of the new Wellbeing Workhub and Wellbeing Meeting hub was successfully achieved in March 2023. Thus far use and feedback has been very positive. Greater insight is being pursued when visitors log on to the Wi-Fi in the hubs so this feedback can be ratified.

  - ABUHB – continued support of Dewis, acting as editors and ensuring the Trust's facilities are updated.

- Customer feedback – continued to report monthly on customer feedback through Facebook, Google Reviews and TripAdvisor. We have moved ongoing feedback for the sites from Fitronics (solely for sports centres) to Microsoft Forms where visitors/members can feedback to us through all websites (except BHAP due to concern regarding the stability of the current site), on-site through a QR code, and through the Trust's app (sports centres only).

- App development dialogue has been ongoing during the year so that the Trust's app can better reflect all the sites rather than being for sports centres predominantly. This dialogue continues and it will be a key objective in the next FY.

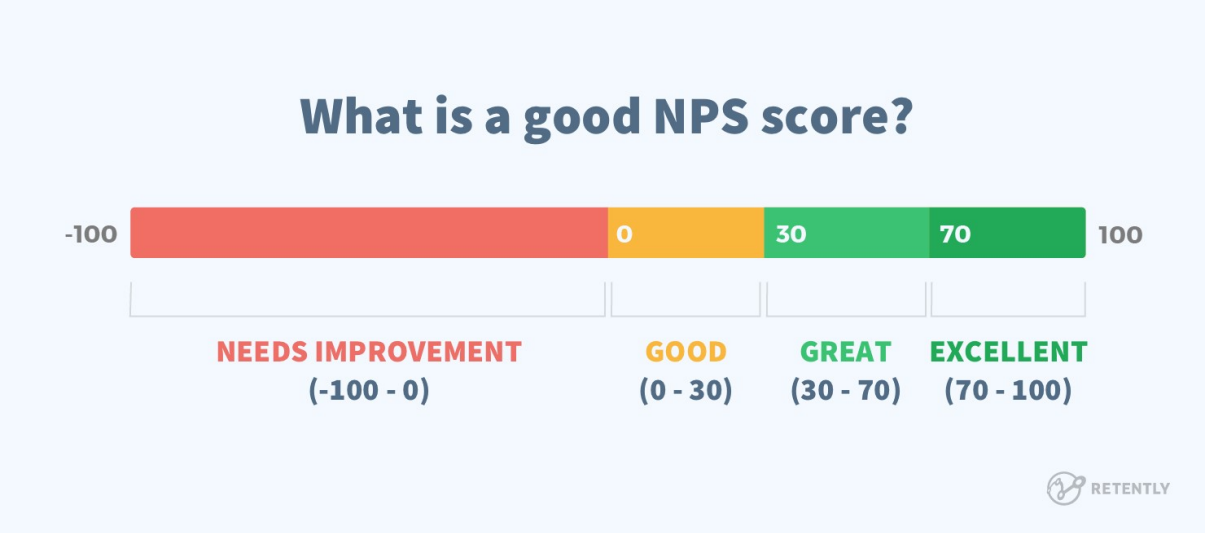
- The IT team developed the new intranet site for the Trust which enable each site to be responsible for promoting its own news and celebrating success, in real time. This replaces the newsletter.

- The annual staff survey provided the following feedback:

  - Response rate was 25%, with two thirds of respondents being full-time employees.
  - NPS for recommending working for the Trust was 47 (great).
  - NPS for believing there are good job prospects, benefits, friendly colleagues and an overall good employer was 35 (great).
  - 14% of respondents wanted to see better communication. The introduction of the new intranet should address greater cross-site awareness.
  - 13% of respondents wanted greater cross-site integration. The introduction of annual staff parties has been introduced to help break down the silo-mentality of each site.
  - 9% of respondents wanted better progression and training. Each manager has been tasked to ensure that this is covered in regular 1-2-1s.

- Following the pandemic and closure/working from home, greater visibility of the SMT was also highlighted and this has been implemented.

Greater engagement is key for the next annual survey and the SMT will work with the HR team to maximise the new Planday system.



Workforce and Workplace Development

- Aneurin Leisure recognises and fully appreciates that our employees are the key to the success of the Trust. The Trust employs c. 226 contracted employees (Full Time Equivalent 137.54) and in addition, utilises casual relief posts (i.e., 53 individuals at the end of March 2023) and is committed to the development, health and wellbeing of all.

- The Trust continues working towards a planned, systematic approach to improving our organisational effectiveness, one that aligns strategy, people and processes to achieve our commitment to continuously improve our customers' experience which is essential to achieving this. The Trust links training and the performance appraisals to our values and strategic priorities.

- The Trust continues to meet with the Trade Unions on a regular basis and has an excellent working relationship.

- The Trust has continued to work in partnership with TSW (Training Services Wales) and a number of frontline supervisors and managers are currently completing training at Level's 3 to 5.

- Delivery of in-house training for Performance Management, Difficulty Conversations and Conducting Investigations.

- New staff and workers receive the Trust's company Induction, day 1 covers the corporate induction whilst over the following 12 weeks they cover their Business Unit and their facility induction.

- Strategic Business Unit Managers are undertaking their performance management cycle process and identifying training needs which forms part of the Trust's annual.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The group has returned a surplus of £801,262 before FRS 102 pension adjustments for the 12-month period to 31 March 2023, of which £467,752 is from restricted funds. The trading subsidiary, LLT limited has contributed £7,924 to the group surplus.

	£
Group surplus pre-FRS 102 pension adjustments	**801,262**
Less excess of FRS 102 DB pension cost recognised in P&L over employer contributions	(1,708,000)
Net outgoing resources per SOFA	(1,682,707)
Add actuarial gain on pension fund	16,112,000
Net movement in funds per SOFA	14,429,293

On 1 October 2014, the Trust was admitted to the Greater Gwent Local Government Superannuation scheme (LGPS), a defined benefit scheme. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure was retained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). The Trust is, therefore, only responsible for any increase in liabilities occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. The pension deficit on an FRS 17 basis on the 1 October 2014 is £4.432m and this deficit remains the obligation of BGCBC; an asset of £4.432m is included in these accounts to reflect this. The pension liability on an FRS 102 basis as at 31 March 2023 has improved to £5,263m from a deficit of £9,141m in 2022, thereby generating a cumulative actuarial pension increase of £9,695m since 1 October 2014.

Principal funding sources
Within the period the Trust received £2,879,785 as a management fee from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Grant income for the period amounted to £1,992,389 and the majority of the remaining income was received from our customers.

The income is used to fund the operating costs of the facilities from which we deliver our charitable objectives.

Financial management
The Trust utilises key performance indicators (KPI) to assist in the financial management of the business. Some of the KPI measures include:

- Staff costs as a % of income: 2022/23: 81% (2022: 77%)
- Staff costs as a % of total resources expended: 2022/23 65% (2022: 68%)

It should be noted that the FRS 102 pension adjustment makes a significant impact. If the 2022/23 figures are adjusted to remove the FRS 102 increase in the pension service cost the staff costs as a % of income reduces to 49% and the staff costs as % of expenditure reduces to 44%.

Reserves policy
It is the Trust's policy to build up over time sufficient reserves to meet its charitable objectives on a sustainable basis and cover the risks that the Trust faces.

The Trust aims to build up reserves to fund working capital. All annual surpluses not allocated to fund working capital are available to fund investment in property and equipment to improve service quality. The Trust aims to maintain a minimum unrestricted reserve balance of £850,000, excluding any actuarial gains or losses and recognises the need to increase its current level of reserves.

At 31 March 2023 the restricted reserves amounted to a surplus of £1,077,256. The unrestricted income reserves excluding the DB pension reserve amount to a surplus of £1,596,830 (2022: £1,263,321). The pension reserve amounted to a surplus of £8,919,000.

As at 1 October 2014 the pension deficit of £4,432,000 (FRS17 basis) is the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Key risks
The Trust has a 20-year contract which commenced on 1 October 2014 with BGCBC with a review process built in during years 3 and 4 to review overall performance in advance of agreement to continue with the Trust for the following 5 years.

As part of the contract, BGCBC service management fee is agreed at the start of each 5-year period and reviewed annually on progress. The key challenge facing the Trust is to grow the income and control expenditure to support the contracted management fee.

If unsuccessful with attracting funding through various means including the Council, as well as providing investment into key assets, this will limit the Trust's ability to reduce its dependence on the management fee.

The Trust received £1,992,389 (2022: £2.151m) of grant income in the year, equating to 23% of total incoming resources. The decrease in grants this year mainly relates to the reduction of Covid funding. In the event grant income is reduced in future years, associated expenditure currently funded by the grants would also need to be reduced.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust faces a challenging period over the coming years mainly driven by the cost-of-living crisis which has elevated utility costs to unprecedented levels and this has resulted in the Trust exploring every opportunity to accelerate business plan projects, reduce operational costs where possible and review prices, which we hope will ensure that services remain fully available to Blaenau Gwent residents.

Key investments will include solar panel projects at 2 of the 3 sports centres which will enable the running costs to be more sustainable and help to secure the leisure provision for the future.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Life Leisure Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act (2006). The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company.

The Trustees

The Trustees are also the Directors in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Board is made up of up to 11 Trustees consisting of one employee Trustee, up to two local authority Trustees and up to eight community Trustees.

Employee Trustees are appointed by the senior management team of the Trust for a period of three years.

The community Trustees are appointed for a 3-year period, with recruitment process as follows:

- Advert placed in local newspapers, on social media (LinkedIn & Twitter) within the Trust facilities, on the Trust website and other advertising resources as appropriate inviting applications. An information pack is provided outlining the duties and roles of a Trustee and the application process, together with information on the Trust.

- Applications will be shortlisted based on criteria specified within the personal specification and job description and assessment of the applicants' particular skills and expertise to cover both community interest and commercial/business knowledge (such as Finance, Human Resources, Sales and Marketing).

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will comprise of three members and wherever possible panels will have a gender/race balance. Panel members should include two Trustees (Chair and/or Vice Chair, or other Trustee), a Trust Senior Officer (Director of Resources or Director of Operations) with support from the Human Resource Service, where appropriate. In circumstances where there is a need to involve more than three members on an interview panel, then this should be discussed in advance and agreed with the Human Resource Service (it may be necessary on occasions for additional Members to sit in on a panel to observe the process for developmental purposes).

- The appointment of Trustees will be made by the Board of Trustees following recommendations from the Interview/Appointment Panel and be based on not only the assessment of whether individuals are suitable to be Trustees, but also achieve a balance of skills on the Board. For example, it is important to have a balance of business skills and also geographical locations as well as interests (leisure, arts, community education, libraries, overall wellbeing, etc.)

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will recommend to the Board of Trustees of their preferred option to appoint a Trustee and following agreement to proceed, will confirm the offer to the selected candidate(s).

- The offer of appointment to be a member of the Board of Trustees will be subject to satisfactory references being obtained.

- All Trustees are provided with the following documentation on induction:

  - Declaration of Interests form
  - Rehabilitation of Offenders form
  - Equality & Diversity Monitoring form
  - Trustee Code of Conduct Policy
  - Trustee Confidentiality Policy
  - Health & Safety Policy
  - Equal Opportunities Policy
  - Memorandum and Articles of Association
  - Schedule of Matters

All Trustees are also members of the Charitable Trust which is limited by guarantee.

All Trustees receive induction training with regard to the organisation including its powers and objects and the Charitable Trust itself.

Trustees will be offered further training opportunities during their tenure.

Structure of the Charity
The Board of Trustees meets quarterly. The Charitable Trust operates a Finance sub-group to advise and report to the Board of Trustees.

A Corporate Director Team manages the day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust, supported by a Senior Management Team.

Organisational Structure and Decision-Making Process
The Board retains overall accountability for the management of the Charitable Trust.

The day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust are managed by the Trust's Corporate Directors and Senior Management Team. The Senior Management Team is given strategic direction by the Board of Trustees (the Board) regarding the provision and operation of the services.

The Charitable Trust operates a business planning process whereby strategic priorities and targets directed by the Board and shared with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council flow from the business plan into quarterly reports and an annual delivery plan. This is fully embedded and central to our planning and budgeting cycles and drives operational performance.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
Remuneration of Key Management Personnel is reviewed annually alongside the other employees of the company by the main Board as part of the annual budget setting process.

Related Parties
The Charitable Trust has a relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, who provides funding in the form of a management fee to enable the Charitable Trust to carry out its charitable objectives.

The Charitable Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT limited. LLT limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

Co-operation with other organisations

As a community-based organisation operating throughout Blaenau Gwent, Aneurin Leisure structures large elements of its strategic planning and operational service delivery having due regard to partner aims and objectives, particularly Blaenau Gwent County Borough council. Work plans specifically identify how Aneurin Leisure will contribute to delivering on broader social agendas working with the health, education and voluntary sectors.

Risk Management

The Charitable Trust has developed a risk management plan to identify risks and risk mitigation measures at corporate level. The risk register is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ITS TRUSTEES

Charity name:	Life Leisure Trust
Trading name:	Aneurin Leisure
Company registration number:	8951503
Charity registration number:	1159092
Registered office:	Bedwellty House Morgan Street Tredegar NP22 3XN

Trustees:	**Date of Appt.**	
Mr Lyn Evans – Chair	12/05/14	
Mrs Donna Hardman	12/05/14	
Councillor Wayne Hodgins	03/03/17	Resigned 10/12/18 Re-appointed 13/12/18 Resigned 21/09/22
Councillor Lee Parsons	25/05/17	Resigned 21/09/22
Professor Jennifer Ames	24/08/17	
Mr Richard Dando	26/03/19	
Mr Stephen Priestnall	27/01/20	
Ms Andrea Smart	27/01/20	Resigned 03/05/22
Mr Stephen Dwyer	16/03/20	Resigned 21/09/22
Mrs Sharon Howell	12/05/14	Resigned 29/03/19
Mrs Susan Lewis	12/05/14	Resigned 08/06/17
Mrs Sian Hughes	13/05/14	Resigned 30/09/17
Mr Philip Hodgson	01/07/14	Resigned 05/05/17
Mr Barry Esterhuizen	03/02/16	Resigned 27/04/17
Mr Steven Lewis	14/10/16	Resigned 31/05/17
Councillor Keren Bender	03/03/17	Resigned 19/05/17
Ms Tania Frowen	24/08/17	Resigned 26/06/18
Mr Mark Langshaw	01/12/17	Resigned 18/06/18
Mr Meirion Morgan	24/08/17	Resigned 03/12/18
Ms Claire Beynon	01/12/17	Resigned 15/03/19
Mr Andrew Rogers	25/03/19	Resigned 18/10/19
Mr Ross Watts	25/03/19	Resigned 14/12/20
Mr Steven Hughes	14/08/23	

Key Management Personnel:	Mrs Nichola Morden-Tew	Director of Resources
	Mr Phillip Sykes	Director of Operations

Bankers:	Barclays Business Banking South Wales Team 3rd Floor Windsor Court 3 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3ZL
Solicitors (Employment Law):	Capital Law LLP Capital Building Tyndall Street Cardiff CF10 4AZ
Auditors:	Azets Audit Services Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Ty Derw Lime Tree Court Cardiff Gate Business Park Cardiff CF23 8AB

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Life Leisure Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

L J Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

Date ..... 27/1/24 .....

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2023, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees , other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report[6]. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements**.**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the groups and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with this Act. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

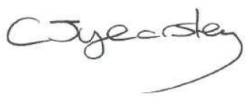
Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 . Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Craig Yearsley
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

Date 31 January 2024

Azets Audit Services is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**1,316**	**-**	**1,316**	9,449
Charitable activities	4	**7,146,241**	**1,427,727**	**8,573,968**	7,678,209
Other trading activities	5	**7,924**	**-**	**7,924**	9,576
Total income and endowments		**7,155,481**	**1,427,727**	**8,583,208**	7,697,234
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**9,280,081**	**985,866**	**10,265,947**	8,743,334
Total expenditure		**9,280,081**	**985,866**	**10,265,947**	8,743,334
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**(2,124,600)**	**441,861**	**(1,682,739)**	(1,046,100)
Transfers between funds	15,16	**(25,890)**	**25,890**	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	**16,112,000**	**-**	**16,112,000**	4,677,000
Net movement in funds		**13,961,510**	**467,751**	**14,429,261**	3,630,900
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15,16	**(3,445,679)**	**609,505**	**(2,836,174)**	(6,467,074)
Total funds carried forward	16,17	**10,515,831**	**1,077,256**	**11,593,087**	(2,836,174)

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 50 - 79 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CHARITY ONLY
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**7,355**	**-**	**7,355**	9,449
Charitable activities	4	**7,146,241**	**1,427,727**	**8,573,968**	7,678,209
Total income and endowments		**7,153,596**	**1,427,727**	**8,581,323**	7,687,658
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**9,278,164**	**985,866**	**10,264,030**	8,733,770
Total expenditure		**9,278,164**	**985,866**	**10,264,030**	8,733,770
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**(2,124,568)**	**441,861**	**(1,682,707)**	(1,046,112)
Transfers between funds	15,16	**(25,890)**	**25,890**	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	**16,112,000**	**-**	**16,112,000**	4,677,000
Net movement in funds		**13,961,542**	**467,751**	**14,429,293**	3,630,888
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15,16	**(3,445,684)**	**609,505**	**(2,836,179)**	(6,467,067)
Total funds carried forward	16,17	**10,515,858**	**1,077,256**	**11,593,114**	(2,836,179)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 50 - 79 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**9**		**497,188**		558,137
Current assets:					
Stocks	**11**	**24,788**		23,677	
Debtors	**12**	**5,529,139**		5,061,742	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,388,982**		1,882,967	
		6,942,909		6,968,386	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**13**	**(779,413)**		(827,098)	
Net current assets			**6,163,496**		6,141,288
Total assets less current liabilities			**6,660,684**		6,699,425
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	**14**		**(330,597)**		(394,599)
Net assets excluding pension liability			**6,330,087**		6,304,826
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	**20**		**5,263,000**		(9,141,000)
Net (liabilities)/ assets			**11,593,087**		(2,836,174)
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	**15**		**1,077,256**		609,505
Unrestricted income funds	**16**	**1,596,831**		1,263,321	
Pension reserve	**16**	**8,919,000**		(4,709,000)	
			10,515,831		(3,445,679)
Total charity funds	**17**		**11,593,087**		(2,836,174)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 27/1/24

L Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 50 - 79 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	**9**		**497,188**		558,137
Investments	**10**		**1**		1
			497,189		558,138
Current assets:					
Stocks	**11**	**24,788**		23,677	
Debtors	**12**	**5,532,533**		5,065,135	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,387,097**		1,881,051	
		6,944,418		6,969,863	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**13**	**(780,896)**		(828,581)	
Net current assets			**6,163,522**		6,141,282
Total assets less current liabilities			**6,660,711**		6,699,420
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	**14**		**(330,597)**		(394,599)
Net assets excluding pension liability			**6,330,114**		6,304,821
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	**20**		**5,263,000**		(9,141,000)
Net (liabilities)/ assets			**11,593,114**		(2,836,179)
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	**15**		**1,077,256**		609,505
Unrestricted income funds	**16**	**1,596,858**		1,263,316	
Pension reserve	**16**	**8,919,000**		(4,709,000)	
			10,515,858		(3,445,684)
Total charity funds	**17**		**11,593,114**		(2,836,179)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 27/7/24

.....
Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 50 - 79 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	**(447,356)**	1,186,749
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	9	**(46,629)**	(551,864)
Net cash provided used in investing activities		**(46,629)**	(551,864)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**(493,985)**	634,885
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	21	**1,882,967**	1,248,082
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	21	**1,388,982**	1,882,967

The notes on pages 50 - 79 form part of the financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal form and address
Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Bedwellty House, Morgan Street, Tredegar, NP22 3XN.

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

No separate cash flow statement has been presented for the charity itself as the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions in paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

Group financial statements
These consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust Limited (the charitable company) and LLT Limited its wholly owned trading subsidiary, made up to 31 March 2023.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary on a line-by-line basis.

The trading results of the subsidiary are disclosed in note 10 to these financial statements.

Going concern
The group made a deficit (before defined benefit pension adjustments) of £1,626,947 for the year ended 31st March 2023 of which £441,862 related to unrestricted funds. The trust is predicted to make a deficit for the financial year ending 31st March 2024 and a breakeven position for the financial year ending 31st March 2045. The deficit is largely due to the follow-on impact of covid-19, with customer numbers not returning to pre-covid levels as well as cost of living increases.

The trust's have prepared forecasts for a period of more than 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements, these forecasts demonstrate that the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate cash reserves and resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. They have been prepared on a worst case scenario and with the Trust being significantly ahead of the 2023/24 forecast. Cash reserves at the date of signing the financial statements are strong.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund accounting

The charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require further disclosure. These are as follows:

Restricted funds are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes. Grant income received to fund capital expenditure is held in restricted reserves. The balance is transferred to unrestricted reserves in future years at the same rates as to match the depreciation charges of the related assets.

Revenue funds restricted by the donor are matched against expenditure as appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. In addition to expenditure on the principal activities of the charity these funds can be held in order to fund capital expenditure.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Certain income is received in advance of the provision of the relevant service and as such is deferred until the service commences.

The management fee is an unrestricted fund which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company. The income is invoiced and recognised in the period to which it relates.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from grants is deferred only when the terms and conditions of the grant permit the income to be deferred to future periods.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Turnover is the amount derived from ordinary activities, and stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees' report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

An analysis has been provided for the charitable activities on a departmental basis.
The departments are defined as follows:

The departments are defined as follows:

- Training and Libraries
- Culture, Parks and Events
- Sports and Fitness
- Central Support Services

Costs where possible are attributed directly to the activity in which they relate. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities based on income received in the year.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Netting off of income against expenditure
It is not the policy of the charitable company to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

Taxation
As a registered charity Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses or in cases where fixed assets have been donated to the charity, at valuation at time of acquisition.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% straight line
Plant and machinery	- 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Computers equipment	- 33% straight line

Assets are capitalised at cost.

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets
At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Investments
Investments relate to 100% of the share capital of the charity's wholly owned trading subsidiary and is recognised at cost.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling price after taking into account all further costs and excess stocks that are slow moving.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets
Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Employee Benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Service Concession Agreements
The charity has service contracts with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the maintenance and operation of the various libraries, community centres, leisure centres and parks owned by the Local Authority to which it has lease and management service contracts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Property, plant and equipment
The buildings and equipment at the various locations are to be leased to the charity as part of the overall contractual relationships with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) but BGCBC maintain ultimate control of these assets. Accordingly the access to which the charity has in the use of these assets is to enable it to operate the various venues so that the charity can provide the public service it is contracted to provide, not to effectively own these public service assets. These assets are therefore not recognised on the charity's Balance Sheet.

Any new assets purchased by the Trust remain the property of the Trust.

Receipts
The charity receives agreed management fee income from BGCBC each year which is decreased on an annual basis as per the terms of the Funding and Management Agreement.

Pensions
The charitable company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay.

Full details of the Trust's retirement benefit arrangements are set out in note 19 being the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

This is a funded pension scheme meaning that the employer and employee pay contributions which are invested in a separate fund.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) remain liable for the past service deficit that existed at the Trust’s inception. The Trust is responsible for the LGPS movements after the commencement date; however the liability is indemnified by BGCBC.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

Operating leases
The charity classifies the lease of gym equipment and motor vehicles as operating leases. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The following critical accounting estimates and judgements have been made:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimate, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 9 for the carrying amount of the plant and equipment and above for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

Defined benefit pension scheme
The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Group	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**Total 2023 £**	Total 2022 £
Donations	**1,316**	**-**	**1,316**	1,002
LLT Limited Covenant	**-**	**-**	**-**	8,447
	1,316	**-**	**1,316**	9,449
Charity				
Donations	**1,316**	**-**	**1,316**	1,002
LLT Limited Covenant	**6,039**	**-**	**6,039**	8,447
	7,355	**-**	**7,355**	9,449

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group and charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Catering income	**1,193,081**	**-**	**1,193,081**	872,172
Class income	**57,873**	**-**	**57,873**	34,694
Educational income	**34,124**	**-**	**34,124**	21,051
Grants	**564,662**	**1,427,727**	**1,992,389**	2,150,537
Leisure centre income	**1,787,536**	**-**	**1,787,536**	1,310,916
Management fee	**2,879,785**	**-**	**2,879,785**	2,798,092
Park outdoor activities	**263,975**	**-**	**263,975**	236,664
Room hire and rental	**174,531**	**-**	**174,531**	109,687
Sale of goods	**43,936**	**-**	**43,936**	30,438
Service Level Agreement	**76,471**	**-**	**76,471**	75,304
Shows and events	**13,339**	**-**	**13,339**	9,086
Sundry income	**56,928**	**-**	**56,928**	29,568
	7,146,241	**1,427,727**	**8,573,968**	7,678,209

Grant income was received from the following sources:

Group and charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	**-**	**8,000**	**8,000**	15,609
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	**-**	**45,278**	**45,278**	61,734
Cardiff Council	**-**	**-**	**-**	4,005
Coleg Gwent	**261,793**		**261,793**	274,079
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	**-**	**-**	**-**	82,049
Denbighshire County Council	**-**	**3,500**	**3,500**	-
Disability Sports Wales	**-**	**19,963**	**19,963**	19,945
European Social Fund	**-**	**460,795**	**460,795**	477,085
GAVO	**-**	**12,000**	**12,000**	-
Good Things Foundation	**-**	**-**	**-**	2,352
Learning & Work Institute	**-**	**-**	**-**	750
National Heritage	**-**	**1,013**	**1,013**	7,911
Public Health Wales	**-**	**101,772**	**101,772**	103,000
Sports Council Wales	**41,476**	**486,112**	**527,588**	284,916
Street Games	**-**	**28,992**	**28,992**	26,000
WCVA	**-**	**5,892**	**5,892**	27,520
Welsh Government	**261,393**	**254,410**	**515,803**	763,582
	564,662	**1,427,727**	**1,992,389**	2,150,537

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Income by activity:

	Group*	Charity**
	£	£
Training and libraries	**1,415,611**	**1,415,611**
Culture, parks and events	**1,188,736**	**1,186,851**
Sports and fitness	**3,062,416**	**3,062,416**
Central support services	**2,916,445**	**2,916,445**
	8,583,208	**8,581,323**

* Group income includes donations and subsidiary trading income.
**Charity income includes donations and excludes subsidiary trading income

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Group	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total 2023**	Total 2022
	£	**£**	**£**	£
Subsidiary trading operations	**7,924**	**-**	**7,924**	9,576
	7,924	**-**	**7,924**	9,576

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	**Direct** £	**Support** £	**Grants** £	**Governance** £	**Total 2023** £	Total 2022 £
Agency and subcontractors	**245,239**	-	-	-	**245,239**	214,076
Business support	**577,288**	**47,683**	-	**14,096**	**639,067**	641,912
Catering costs	**605,889**	-	-	-	**605,889**	385,375
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	**2,413,922**	-	-	-	**2,413,922**	2,169,252
Depreciation	**107,578**	-	-	-	**107,578**	51,778
Events and show costs	**26,185**	-	-	-	**26,185**	42,755
Irrecoverable VAT	**63,359**	**10,092**	-	-	**73,451**	32,177
Other costs	**432,568**	-	-	-	**432,568**	462,076
Premises	**1,095,054**	-	-	-	**1,095,054**	842,194
Reorganisation costs	**9,560**	-	-	-	**9,560**	75,219
Social security	**333,796**	-	-	-	**333,796**	283,130
Wages and salaries	**3,673,563**	**598,182**	**11,893**	-	**4,283,638**	3,543,390
	9,584,001	**655,957**	**11,893**	**14,096**	**10,265,947**	8,743,334

Charity						
Agency and subcontractors	**245,239**	-	-	-	**245,239**	214,076
Business support	**577,245**	**47,683**	-	**14,096**	**639,024**	641,912
Catering costs	**605,889**	-	-	-	**605,889**	385,375
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	**2,413,922**	-	-	-	**2,413,922**	2,169,252
Depreciation	**107,578**	-	-	-	**107,578**	51,778
Events and show costs	**26,185**	-	-	-	**26,185**	42,755
Irrecoverable VAT	**62,243**	**10,092**	-	-	**72,335**	31,061
Other costs	**431,810**	-	-	-	**431,810**	453,628
Premises	**1,095,054**	-	-	-	**1,095,054**	842,194
Reorganisation costs	**9,560**	-	-	-	**9,560**	75,219
Social security	**333,796**	-	-	-	**333,796**	283,130
Wages and salaries	**3,673,563**	**598,182**	**11,893**	-	**4,283,638**	3,543,390
	9,582,084	**655,957**	**11,893**	**14,096**	**10,264,030**	8,733,770

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Expenditure can be attributed to:

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants	Governance £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Training and libraries	**1,650,673**	**163,919**	**-**	**-**	**1,814,592**	1,534,014
Culture, parks and events	**1,758,198**	**137,430**	**11,893**	**-**	**1,907,521**	1,634,056
Sports and fitness	**3,126,140**	**354,608**	**-**	**-**	**3,480,748**	2,928,065
Central support services*	**3,048,990**	**-**	**-**	**14,096**	**3,063,086**	2,647,199
	9,584,001	**655,957**	**11,893**	**14,096**	**10,265,947**	8,743,334

Charity						
Training and libraries	**1,650,673**	**163,919**	**-**	**-**	**1,814,592**	1,534,014
Culture, parks and events	**1,756,281**	**137,430**	**11,893**	**-**	**1,905,604**	1,624,492
Sports and fitness	**3,126,140**	**354,608**	**-**	**-**	**3,480,748**	2,928,065
Central support services*	**3,048,990**	**-**	**-**	**14,096**	**3,063,086**	2,647,199
	9,582,084	**655,957**	**11,893**	**14,096**	**10,264,030**	8,733,770

*Costs related to FRS 102 valuation of the pension scheme have been charged to the support category within Central support services and are not allocated across the business.

Support costs have been allocated to the activities based on income received in the year.

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:

Group and charity	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Depreciation	**107,578**	51,778
Operating leases	**7,995**	96,773
Auditors Remuneration:		
Audit fees	**9,000**	9,000
Accountancy services	**1,500**	1,500

8. STAFF COSTS

Group and charity	**Total 2023 £**	Total 2022 £
Wages and salaries	**4,283,638**	3,543,390
Social security costs	**333,796**	283,130
FRS 102 Pension service costs (see note 19)	**2,413,922**	2,169,252
	7,031,356	5,995,772

Pension costs also include the impact of the FRS102 actuarial valuation of the service cost of running the DB scheme.

Redundancy costs totalling £nil are included in the above costs (2022: £75,219). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end (2022: £nil).

The total number of persons utilised throughout the year comprised a mixture of both contracted staff and relief workers. A number of individuals have only worked minimal shifts to support events. At 31 March 2022 and 2022 the Trust had 69 people in relief posts.

Staff numbers excluding relief workers:

Group and charity	**Headcount 2023**	Headcount 2022	**FTE 2023**	FTE 2022
Training and libraries	**75**	83	**36.12**	37.91
Culture, parks and events	**75**	69	**36.12**	31.52
Sports and fitness	**129**	123	**62.13**	56.19
Central support services	**10**	12	**4.82**	5.48
	289	287	**139.19**	131.1

Key management personnel
The key management personnel of the charity received benefits totalling £182,009 (2022: £170,597).

These costs consist of gross pay, employers' national insurance contributions and employers pension contributions.

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 for the period and to whom retirement benefits are accruing under a defined benefit scheme was:

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
£60,000- £70,000	**2**	2

8. STAFF COSTS (continued)

The amount of employers pension contributions paid in respect of the above employees for the period was as follows:

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Total contributions	**24,732**	23,190

Transactions with Trustees
During the period Donna Hardman, as the staff Trustee, received remuneration from her employment with the charity but not for her services as a Trustee.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charity (paragraph 19.1) provides the charity with the legal authority to make such payments.

The employee is a staff representative on the Trustee board.

No Trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior period.

Related Party transactions
During the period the charity recharged its wholly owned trading subsidiary LLT Limited £5,582 (2022: £8,373) for admin, staff time and maintenance costs.

LLT Limited gift aided £457 (2022: £2,865) to the charity during the period.

As at 31 March 2023 the LLT owed the charity £1,910 (2022: the charity owed LLT £1,910).

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and charity	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicle £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	**665,984**	**8,674**	**59,162**	**28,125**	**761,945**
Additions	**41,683**	**-**	**4,946**	**-**	**46,629**
At 31 March 2023	**707,667**	**8,674**	**64,108**	**28,125**	**808,574**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	**120,235**	**8,674**	**46,774**	**28,125**	**203,808**
Charge for the year	**101,691**	**-**	**5,887**	**-**	**107,578**
At 31 March 2023	**221,926**	**8,674**	**52,661**	**28,125**	**311,386**
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2023	**485,741**	**-**	**11,447**	**-**	**497,188**
At 31 March 2022	545,749	-	12,388	-	558,137

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - CHARITY

	Investments in Group undertakings £
Cost as at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023	**1**

Life Leisure Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, company number 09236541. The registered office of the company is the same as the charity. LLT Limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

The results of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023 can be found below:

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Profit and Loss Account	**£**	£
Turnover	**7,924**	9,576
Admin expenses	**(7,955)**	(6,711)
Operating profit	**(31)**	2,865
Statement of changes in Equity		
Balance brought forward	**1**	1
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	**31**	2,865
Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	**(31)**	(2,865)
Balance carried forward	**1**	1
Balance Sheet		
Current assets:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**1,880**	1,911
Amount owed by parent	**1,483**	1,484
	3,363	3,395
Current liabilities:		
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**3,362**	3,394
	3,362	3,394
Net current assets/(liabilities)	**1**	1
Capital and reserves:		
Called up share capital	**1**	1
Profit and loss reserves	**-**	-
	1	1

The results above are included in the consolidated accounts.

11. STOCK

Group and charity	2023 £	2022 £
Shop items	**5,991**	6,925
Food and bar	**18,797**	16,752
	24,788	23,677

12. DEBTORS

Group	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	**488,005**	198,160
Prepayments and accrued income	**603,670**	431,582
Other debtors	**5,464**	-
	1,097,139	629,742
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	**4,432,000**	4,432,000
	5,529,139	5,061,742

Charity

Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	**488,005**	198,160
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	**3,394**	3,394
Prepayments and accrued income	**603,670**	431,581
Other debtors	**5,464**	
	1,100,533	633,135
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	**4,432,000**	4,432,000
	5,532,533	5,065,135

The underwritten pension balances relates to the deficit on the LGPS scheme prior to the Trust's inception (see note 19).

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
Group	**£**	£
Trade creditors	**44,290**	30,195
Accruals and deferred income	**415,484**	580,727
Social security and other taxes	**255,637**	154,121
Hire purchase	**64,002**	62,055
	779,413	827,098

Charity		
Trade creditors	**44,290**	30,195
Accruals and deferred income	**415,484**	580,727
Social security and other taxes	**255,637**	154,121
Amounts due to subsidiary undertakings	**1,483**	1,483
Hire purchase	**64,002**	62,055
	780,896	828,581

Contained in the accruals and deferred balance above is deferred income in relation to weddings, activities, ticket sale income and management fee income which will relates to the 2023/24 financial year.
Contained in the balance is also grant income received in advance of the period to which it relates.

	2023	2022
Group and Charity	**£**	£
Balance brought forward	**205,857**	53,234
Income received in the year	**2,738,830**	2,965,147
Released to income	**(2,879,785)**	(2,814,546)
Balance carried forward	**64,902**	203,835

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Group and Charity	2023 £	2022 £
Hire purchase	**330,597**	394,599
	330,597	394,599

Hire purchase contracts

The net book value of fixed assets held under hire purchase contracts during the year totalled £388,065s (2022: £455,554).

Group and Charity	2023 £	2022 £
Future minimum lease payments due under finance leases:		
Within one year	**64,002**	62,055
In two to five years	**275,477**	297,217
In over five years	**55,120**	97,382
	394,599	456,654

s

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Group and charity	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	10,000	**8,000**	**(18,000)**	**-**	**-**
Arts Council of Wales	(12,446)	**-**	**809**	**11,637**	**-**
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	11,000	**45,278**	**(40,936)**	**-**	**15,342**
Denbighshire County Council	-	**3,500**	**(3,078)**	**-**	**422**
Disability Sports Wales	(162)	**19,963**	**(22,400)**	**2,599**	**-**
European Social Fund	434,238	**460,795**	**(428,048)**	**(109)**	**466,876**
GAVO	-	**12,000**	**(2,882)**	**-**	**9,118**
Good Things Foundation	4,234	**-**	**(4,234)**	**-**	**-**
Heritage Lottery	11,592	**-**	**-**	**(11,592)**	**-**
Learning & Work Institute	3,761	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,761**
National Heritage	-	**1,013**	**-**	**-**	**1,013**
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,114	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,114**
Public Health Wales	6,793	**101,772**	**(131,920)**	**23,355**	**-**
Sports Council Wales	56,845	**486,112**	**(163,852)**	**-**	**379,105**
Street Games	50,728	**28,992**	**(50,483)**	**-**	**29,237**
WCVA	22,104	**5,892**	**(27,996)**	**-**	**-**
Welsh Government	5,000	**254,410**	**(92,846)**	**-**	**166,564**
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,704	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,704**
Total funds	609,505	**1,427,727**	**(985,866)**	**25,890**	**1,077,256**

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board was received for the MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) project to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme.

Arts Council of Wales funding was received for delivery of community arts projects within the four Local Authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council was to provide Adult Community Learning.

Denbighshire County Council was received for the MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) funding to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme.

Disability Sports Wales funding was received for the provision of quality sporting and physical activity opportunities for disabled people at grass roots level.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

European Social Fund grant was received to achieve two main objectives:

1. engage, support and prepare the economically inactive in deprived areas, by teaching them the relevant skills to gain sustainable employment.
2. increase the relevant skills of those individuals currently employed with limited skills.

Heritage Lottery funding was received to achieve four main objectives:

i. enhancing educational activities within the local heritage attractions.
ii. delivering the 'Blaenau Gwent in the 1st World War' project, which includes working with volunteers and the community. This project has successfully concluded.
iii. providing exposure to the arts via the History and Mystery project.
iv. to deliver a series of workshops to young people in the community on local history via the Voice and Identity project

GAVO funding received to establish a community wellbeing hub that supports community members to reintegrate back into community life post COVID.

Good Things Foundation funding received for the public to complete their census digitally.

Learning & Work Institute funding was received to deliver promotional activities during the Adult Learners' week.

National Heritage funding was received for sensory garden project at Parc Bryn Bach.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) funding to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme

Public Health Wales funding was received to facilitate the implementation and maintenance of exercise schemes, with the view of improving the health and wellbeing for patients aged 16 and over at risk of chronic disease.

Sports Council Wales funding was received to achieve six objectives:

i. to set up a buggy walker group for new parents/carers to meet weekly and enjoy an exercise class with their child via the Sports Lottery Community Chest Grant.
ii. increase regular participation in sport, improve opportunities for all and develop talented athletes via the LAPA project.
iii. provide free swimming to eligible participants via the Free Swim Grant.
iv. to support the delivery of the 'Coaches for the Future' programme.
v. to develop sports clubs via the 'Thriving Clubs' project.
vi. to improve the health, happiness and confidence of children by increasing their participation in physical activity via the Physical Literacy project.

Street Games funding was received to deliver the 'Door-step Sport' and 'Us Girls Initiative' as well as the 'Sports Leaders Awards'.

WCVA funding to improve biodiversity, waste minimisation and environmental enhancement.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Welsh Government funding was received to restructure the ground floor of Abertillery library to accommodate Adult Community learning activities.

Wrexham County Borough Council funding was received to achieve three main objectives:

- delivery of 'Every Child a Member' scheme with the libraries.
- delivery of the 'Summer Reading Challenge'.
- delivery of the 'Rugby Stories' project. This project has successfully concluded.

Previous period

Group and charity	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	-	14,887	(4,887)	-	10,000
Arts Council of Wales	74,227	-	(86,673)	-	(12,446)
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	-	49,129	(38,129)	-	11,000
Cardiff Council	-	4,005	(4,005)	-	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	82,049	(82,049)	-	-
Disability Sports Wales	2,446	19,945	(21,308)	(1,245)	(162)
European Social Fund	353,948	477,085	(396,795)	-	434,238
Good Things Foundation	1,960	2,352	(78)	-	4,234
Heritage Lottery	11,592	-	-	-	11,592
Learning & Work Institute	3,141	750	(130)	-	3,761
National Heritage	(7,911)	7,911	-	-	-
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,114	-	-	-	4,114
Public Health Wales	-	103,000	(96,207)	-	6,793
Sports Council Wales	26,453	243,210	(212,818)	-	56,845
Street Games	45,453	26,000	(20,725)	-	50,728
WCVA	-	27,520	(5,416)	-	22,104
Welsh Government	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,704	-	-	-	1,704
Total funds	522,127	1,057,843	(969,220)	(1,245)	609,505

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Group	As at 1 April 2022 **£**	**Income £**	**Expenditure £**	**Transfers £**	**Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme £**	**As at 31 March 2023 £**
General fund	1,263,321	**7,155,481**	**(6,796,081)**	**(25,890)**	**-**	**1,596,831**
Defined benefit pension scheme	(4,709,000)	**-**	**(2,484,000)**	**-**	**16,112,000**	**8,919,000**
	(3,445,679)	**7,155,481**	**(9,280,081)**	**(25,890)**	**16,112,000**	**10,515,831**
Charity						
General fund	1,263,316	**7,153,596**	**(6,794,164)**	**(25,890)**	**-**	**1,596,858**
Defined benefit pension scheme	(4,709,000)	**-**	**(2,484,000)**	**-**	**16,112,000**	**8,919,000**
	(3,445,684)	**7,153,596**	**(9,278,164)**	**(25,890)**	**16,112,000**	**10,515,858**

Previous period

Group	As at 1 April 2021 **£**	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme £	As at 31 March 2022 £
General fund	845,799	6,639,391	(6,223,114)	1,245	-	1,263,321
Defined benefit pension scheme	(7,835,000)	-	(1,551,000)	-	4,677,000	(4,709,000)
	(6,989,201)	6,639,391	(7,774,114)	1,245	4,677,000	(3,445,679)
Charity						
General fund	845,806	6,629,815	(6,213,550)	1,245	-	1,263,316
Defined benefit pension scheme	(7,835,000)	-	(1,551,000)	-	4,677,000	(4,709,000)
	(6,989,194)	6,629,815	(7,764,550)	1,245	4,677,000	(3,445,684)

17. ANALSYS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Group	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**2023 £**
Fixed assets	**497,188**	**-**	**497,188**
Current assets	**1,433,653**	**1,077,256**	**2,510,909**
Pension debtor	**4,432,000**	**-**	**4,432,000**
Current liabilities	**(779,713)**	**-**	**(779,713)**
Long term liabilities	**(330,597)**	**-**	**(330,597)**
Pension deficit	**5,263,000**	**-**	**5,263,000**
Total funds	**10,515,831**	**1,077,256**	**11,593,087**

Charity			
Fixed assets	**497,188**	**-**	**497,188**
Investments	**1**	**-**	**1**
Current assets	**1,435,162**	**1,077,256**	**2,512,418**
Pension debtor	**4,432,000**	**-**	**4,432,000**
Current liabilities	**(780,896)**	**-**	**(780,896)**
Long term liabilities	**(330,597)**	**-**	**(330,597)**
Pension deficit	**5,263,000**	**-**	**5,263,000**
Total funds	**10,515,858**	**1,077,256**	**11,593,114**

Previous year

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 £
Fixed assets	558,137	-	558,137
Current assets	1,926,881	609,505	2,536,386
Pension debtor	4,432,000	-	4,432,000
Current liabilities	(827,098)	-	(827,098)
Long term liabilities	(394,599)	-	(394,599)
Pension deficit	(9,141,000)	-	(9,141,000)
Total funds	(3,445,679)	609,505	(2,836,174)

Charity			
Fixed assets	558,137	-	558,137
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets	1,928,358	609,505	2,537,863
Pension debtor	4,432,000	-	4,432,000
Current liabilities	(828,581)	-	(828,581)
Long term liabilities	(394,599)	-	(394,599)
Pension deficit	(9,141,000)	-	(9,141,000)
Total funds	(3,445,684)	609,505	(2,836,179)

18. OPERATING LEASES

The group had the following operating leases in place as at 31 March 2023:

Group and Charity	**Total 2023 £**	Total 2022 £
Due less than 1 year	**22,468**	22,468
Due 2-5 years	**-**	-
Due >5 years	**-**	-
	22,468	22,468

19. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is the Board of Trustees and management team who are responsible for the strategic and operational decisions of the charity.

20. PENSIONS

The company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on pensionable pay.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary based on triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The most recent valuation was as at 31 March 2022 which has been updated to reflect conditions at the balance sheet date. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rate of increase in salaries and pensions.

There were no amounts outstanding in relation to pension contributions during the current or prior period. Regular employer contributions during the period totalled £705,922 (2022: £618,252).

Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGPS)
The company participates in the 'Torfaen County Borough Council (Greater Gwent)' pension scheme which is a defined benefit scheme based on final pensionable salary. Certain employees of the company participated in the scheme prior to the company's inception and, as such, assets or liabilities attributable to these individuals were identified at the transfer date i.e. 1st October 2014. As part of the agreement, liability for the proportion of the debt attributable to these employees that relates to the pre-transfer period rests with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). Gains and losses relating solely to the period since transfer are recognised in the income statement and statement of other comprehensive income. However, the deficit is underwritten by BGCBC. Pension funding is based on funding advice from the scheme actuary based on a different set of assumptions. The FRS 102 valuation does not impact on the level of contribution that the company and hence ultimately BGCBC has to make.

20. PENSIONS (continued)

Changes in the Fair Value of Plan Assets, Defined Benefit Obligation and Net Liability for year end 31 March 2023

Amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

Period ended 31 March 2023	Assets £(000)	Obligations £(000)	Net (liability)/ asset £(000)
Fair value of plan assets	**27,133**	**-**	**27,133**
Present value of funded liabilities	**-**	**36,274**	**(36,274)**
Opening Position as at 31 March 2022	**27,133**	**36,274**	**(9,141)**
Service cost			
Current service cost	**-**	**1,904**	**(1,904)**
Past service cost (including curtailments)	**-**	**309**	**(309)**
Total Service Cost	**-**	**2,213**	**(2,213)**
Net interest			
Interest income on plan assets	**756**	**-**	**756**
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	**-**	**1,027**	**(1,027)**
Total net interest	**756**	**1,027**	**(271)**
Total defined benefit cost recognised in Profit or (Loss)	**756**	**3,240**	**(2,484)**
Cash flows			
Plan participants' contributions	**250**	**250**	**-**
Employer contributions	**776**	**-**	**776**
Estimated Benefits paid	**(252)**	**(252)**	**-**
Expected closing position	**28,663**	**39,512**	**(10,849)**
Remeasurements			
Changes in financial assumptions	**-**	**(15,386)**	**15,386**
Changes in demographic assumptions	**-**	**(2,277)**	**2,277**
Other experience	**(1,367)**	**(677)**	**(690)**
Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	**(861)**	**-**	**(861)**
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	**(2,228)**	**(18,340)**	**16,112**
Fair value of plan assets	**26,435**	**-**	**26,435**
Present value of funded liabilities	**-**	**21,172**	**(21,172)**
Closing Position as at 31 March 2023	**26,435**	**21,172**	**5,263**

20. PENSIONS (continued)

The major categories of plan assets as a percentage of total plan assets are as follows:

Using the most recent asset split and allowing for index returns, where required, on each asset category, the estimated split of assets as at 31 March 2023 is as shown below:

Period Ended	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	%	%
Equities	79	81
Bonds	17	16
Property	3	3
Cash	1	0

The financial assumptions, as described in the accompanying report, are summarised below:

Period Ended	31 Mar 2023	31 March 2022
	% p.a.	% p.a.
Pension Increase Rate	2.95	3.15
Salary Increase Rate	3.45	3.45
Discount Rate	4.75	2.75

Life expectancy is based on the Funds' VitaCurves with improvements in line with CMI 2018 with a peaked long term rate of 1.25% p.a.

The average future life expectances at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	19.5 years	23.4 years
Future Pensioners*	20.6 years	24.5 years

*Figures assume members aged 45 as at the last formal valuation date.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2023	Approximate % increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount £(000)
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	14%	522
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	847
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	68
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	461

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period	**14,429,261**	3,575,170
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**107,578**	51,778
(Gain)/Loss on disposal	**-**	607
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	**(1,111)**	(9,678)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**(467,397)**	404,417
Increase in creditors	**(14,515,687)**	(2,835,547)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**(447,356)**	1,186,747
Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash in hand	**1,388,982**	1,882,967
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**1,388,982**	1,882,967

Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2022	**Cash flows**	**Other non-cash changes**	**At 31 March 2023**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cash at bank and in hand	1,882,967	(493,994)		**1,388,982**
Obligations under finance lease	(456,654)	74,304	(12,249)	**(394,599)**
	1,426,313	(493,994)	(12,249)	**994,383**

22. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIY

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	9,449	-	9,449
Charitable activities	6,620,366	1,057,843	7,678,209
Other trading activities	9,576	-	9,576
Total income and endowments	6,639,391	1,057,843	7,697,234
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	7,774,114	969,220	8,743,334
Total expenditure	7,774,114	969,220	8,743,334
Net (expenditure)/ income	(1,134,723)	88,623	(1,046,100)
Transfers between funds	1,245	(1,245)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	4,677,000	-	4,677,000
Net movement in funds	3,543,522	87,378	3,630,900
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	(6,989,201)	522,127	(6,467,074)
Total funds carried forward	(3,445,679)	609,505	(2,836,174)

22. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (continued)

Charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	9,449	-	9,449
Charitable activities	6,620,366	1,057,843	7,678,209
Total income and endowments	6,629,815	1,057,843	7,687,658
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	7,764,550	969,220	8,733,770
Total expenditure	7,764,550	969,220	8,733,770
Net (expenditure)/ income	(1,134,735)	88,623	(1,046,112)
Transfers between funds	1,245	(1,245)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	4,677,000	-	4,677,000
Net movement in funds	3,543,510	87,378	3,630,888
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	(6,989,194)	522,127	(6,467,067)
Total funds carried forward	(3,445,684)	609,505	(2,836,179)

Aneurin Leisure Trust

England & Wales - Charity number 1159092

Accounts

Company registration number: 8951503
Charity registration number: 1159092

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
(A company limited by guarantee and not having any share capital)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, STRATEGIC REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

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LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Foreword from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is a great pleasure to introduce this eighth annual review of Aneurin Leisure. Our mission is to "Improve Community Life" and I am pleased to say that we continue to deliver on this commitment through the services and programmes we provide to the residents of Blaenau Gwent.

We are at an exciting juncture in our development, as a young Leisure Trust, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on creating healthier lifestyles whilst working with partners such as Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Sport Wales and Disability Sport Wales.

Once again, during a continuing tough and challenging financial climate, Aneurin Leisure (Trust) has delivered service improvements and achieved targets agreed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). Access to the Hardship Fund continued through the 2021/22 financial year which provided stability to the Trust and allowed continued investments to mitigate against the challenges faced by restrictions due to the Covid pandemic. Investments carried out are set out in the 10-year business plan to support continued growth and deliver on our mission statement.

Key investments that were put in place in the 2020/21 financial year have proven to be a big success across all areas and allowed the Trust to be in the best position for a quick post pandemic recovery such as:

- Sports Centre Refurbishments
    - Membership numbers surpassed pre-pandemic levels and the growth continued throughout the financial year.

- Parc Bryn Bach Mini Golf & Go-Karts
    - Both investments have been extremely well received with the return on investment achieved within the first financial year.

The Library Service and Adult Community Education have continued consultation with BGCBC to discuss relocation plans to Trinity Chapel in Abertillery. This relocation will provide residents with improved town centre access and co-located services in a modern, refurbished building.

Catering & Hospitality continued to achieve growth across the business unit sites, with public confidence in the quality of service remaining consistent across the business. Bedwellty House & Park continues to receive positive feedback and maintained a 4.5* rating on Trip Advisor and 5* rating on Facebook for quality of food. Throughout the 2021/22 financial year Bedwellty House & Park were faced with the continued challenge of distancing restrictions which only allowed 30 guests at a wedding.

Since the inception of Aneurin Leisure, partnerships have been important to our success. As well as the key partnership with BGCBC, the Trust has developed many partnerships with agencies and organisations and the relationship with Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Health Board is flourishing and key projects are arising as a result.

The National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) is an established partner on the Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN). The cluster design promotes joint working across practices and the integration of primary care services with key partners such as the Local Health Board, BGCBC and Third Sector. Clusters also have a key role in supporting local health needs assessments, allocating appropriate resources and forecasting the potential future demand on primary care. There have been multiple collaborative projects that have been established in these meetings including Fibromyalgia and Dementia working groups, with the NERS team delivering bespoke classes to contribute to the respective needs.

The successes achieved across the Trust are in no small part due to the commitment of our employees. Once again, the staff have been our greatest resource, working extremely hard to deliver high quality services to our customers in our facilities and the communities of Blaenau Gwent. I would like to thank the entire team and all our partners for their contribution to the delivery of improved services across the area.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the continued success of Aneurin Leisure during the year: our Trustees, staff, volunteers, funders and partners and in particular, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Above all, I would like to thank the local community whose interests we serve, for their support and engagement over the past year.

Lyn Evans
Chair
Board of Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report which incorporates the strategic report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as amended for accounting periods commencing 1 January 2016).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

- to provide or assist in the provision of both indoor and outdoor facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life;
- to promote community participation in healthy recreational activities;
- to provide or assist in the provision of community facilities to be available to all sections of the community without distinction, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and/or other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for all those who use the facilities;
- to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of a theatre/ arts development;
- to advance education in the arts by the establishment and maintenance of an art gallery and/or museum;
- to advance the education of the public through the provision of a library;
  to provide, maintain and equip parks with the object of advancing public education, with particular regard to horticulture, arboriculture, wild plants and wildlife;
- to preserve buildings of historic or architectural importance;
- to develop the capacity and skills of members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and participate more fully in society; and,
- to pursue such other charitable purposes analogous to any of the above as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall determine (together the "Objects").

To carry out any other charitable activity subject to the prior written consent of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trust considers how planned activities support its vision of improving community life through Leisure, Learning and Culture which benefits the local population served by the charity. The Trust aims to deliver social outcomes that improve health and wellbeing whilst encouraging staff to strive to improve the quality of service delivery in a commercially sustainable way.

Some of the key activities undertaken in relation to the objects of the charity and to further the charities' purpose for the public benefit are outlined on pages 6 - 21

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- These accounts represent trading for Aneurin Leisure for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.
- Aneurin Leisure has maintained a strong relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.
- The Library Service achieved all 12 of the core entitlements of the Welsh Public Library Standards for 2021/22.
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust have withdrawn from the Trinity Chapel project to relocate Abertillery Library and Adult Education service, however, the project continues to move forward with plans now centred around a direct partnership between BGCBC and the Trust. Plans have been revisited to ensure that the project suits the needs of the users to the best effect.
- Community Hubs launched into every library across Blaenau Gwent which has evidenced the strong partnership working with the Local Authority. The project has been extremely well received across the Borough and has allowed the Blaenau Gwent residents to access all Local Authority services in a much more efficient and cost-effective way with 98% of the population of Blaenau Gwent live within 2.5 miles of their nearest library. This demonstrates that residents have easy access to library and council services in one building
- There were 13,632 electronic downloads, 3,156 audio/visual loans and 56,148 book loans. Physical book borrowing has increased by 120% compared to last year, as the services recovers from Covid 19
- In the last quarter of 2021/22, the Library Service worked in partnership with the Local Authority to coordinate the distribution of lateral flow tests. All libraries distributed the tests to residents, providing easy access. Over this period, 3,606 tests were distributed through the Library Service. Without the reach of libraries, widespread community distribution would have been difficult. During this time, library staff reported that they provided lots of information on Covid related enquiries, from assisting with online Covid passes to explaining current restrictions to vulnerable customers.
- In October 2021 a new Sports Library project was launched at our full-time libraries. Funding was made available to loan a range of sporting equipment to library customers, free of charge. Equipment includes kettle bells, resistance bands, badminton sets, rugby balls etc. All the items are loaned using our Library Management System and, therefore, requires the customer to join the library

Who used and benefited from our services?

The Charitable Trust provides leisure, learning and cultural activities to the residents of Blaenau Gwent. Whilst some sections of the community are affluent, many are not and some 21 per cent of areas fall in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales and overall, the majority of its areas are more deprived than the Wales average.

The Charitable Trust is responsible for the operation, management and development of the following:

- Three Sports Centres (including Sports Development and NERS Facilitators)
- Four Learning Action Centres
- Six Libraries and two home delivery vans
- Bedwellty House & Park
- Parc Bryn Bach

Getting Young People and Communities Active

Sports Development

- The Sports Development team deliver a wide range of sport, physical activity, community engagement and swimming opportunities across Blaenau Gwent which contributes to Sport Wales' 'Vision for Sport' and their mission statement, 'An active nation where everyone can have a lifelong enjoyment of sport.'

- Sports Wales and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 underpin and embrace the new Vision for Sport in Wales via their new Sports Wales Strategy.

- For the last 5 years, lottery investment has been combined in to one central pot to enable the Gwent region to work collaboratively to impact on the Vision for Sport in Wales and the population of Gwent. This has continued during the 2021/22 funding cycle.

- The regular communication and dialogue among Local Authority officers has provided a platform for continuous learning and the sharing of good practice and innovation over a number of years. The sharing of what works and what doesn't across the Gwent region, means 'Active Gwent' and individual local authorities are in a strong position to submit Partnership Agreements based on local insight, experience, and knowledge of our areas.

- Sports Development continue to deliver inspirational, engaging, and high-quality sport and physical activity programmes, projects, and interventions, particularly for children, young people and their families which are insight led and aligned to Sport Wales Investment Priority Areas:

    - Foundation
    - Participation
    - Progression
    - Performance
    - Succeed
    - Growing Capability, Capacity and Confidence

The team aim to support and deliver:

- The Foundation and Participation priorities via physical literacy development, primary school sport, secondary school sport and community sport.

- The Progression and Performance priorities via club development, partnerships with NGB's, and sustainability of grassroots sports programmes.

- All programmes are driven by insight gathered from a number of different sources. Extra-curricular secondary school sessions will be selected based on the latest school sport survey (SSS – see below) data and the latent demand. A number of health and wellbeing interventions for secondary schools will be shaped by the School Health Research network data (SHRN). That data stated that a number of children are not meeting the required amount of physical activity minutes per week. A bespoke intervention was implemented to engage with the wider family to help support individuals.

- Previous Primary School SSS data (prior to Covid) presented a significant decrease of sport and physical activity including the number of minutes of PE being delivered during curriculum time. As a result, support packages have been created and delivered to a number of Primary school staff. There was a focus on adapting their current curriculum to the new one. This support will continue throughout the next year(s) and will help the Primary school phase reintroduce sport and physical activity opportunities.

- Sport Wales currently uses the School Sport Survey (SSS) to evaluate the performance of school sport within individual local authorities. Headline measures from Blaenau Gwent's 2022 School Sport Survey include:

  - 95% of pupils would like to do more sport
  - 65% of pupils enjoy PE 'a lot'
  - 31% of pupils participate in organised sport outside of the curriculum at least 3 times per week
  - 22% of pupils 'always' feel their ideas about PE and school sport are listened to
  - 58% of pupils believe PE and sport contribute towards a healthy lifestyle.

- The cross cutting-workforce development programme undertaken across the county borough includes playmakers; ambassador programme, coach education and officer training. This will contribute to growing capability, capacity and confidence priority.

- The team promote equality throughout all provision and programmes. The main objective is to continue to offer sport and physical activity that is accessible to all. Disability inclusion sessions are integrated into all community and school provision. Bespoke 1-to-1 support during mainstream provision is also offered. All coaches and staff have completed disability inclusion training to allow all sessions to be inclusive.

- Disability partnership community engagement has developed with a number of local trusted organisations (LTOs) working together to ensure high quality inclusive sessions are delivered within local communities. Families First, Children with Disability Team, Barnardo's and other agencies are working alongside sports development to establish physical activity sessions within their programmes. These partnerships will continue to create and develop opportunities for everyone.

- The Us Girls brand in Blaenau Gwent has created a legacy that will continue far beyond the brand itself. Both the brand and the delivery tool are still very much utilised in Blaenau Gwent in order to engage with inactive and semi-active females. The 'female only' setting that the project promotes gives young women and girls the confidence to attend sessions and participate in activities in a safe and fun environment without the fear of being judged. Volunteer-led and participant centred sessions remain at the forefront of the project, with an emphasis on engaging the 'right' target group into a more physically active and sporting lifestyle. In 2021/21, a staggering £15,791 was secured to establish new projects in the area. One project will include a 6-week Wellbeing Group supporting secondary age females who have experienced adversity in their lives and are at risk of being removed from their families and/or of being permanently excluded from school. The project will be based at Parc Bryn Bach and will be delivered in partnership with ABUHB and Education.

- Youth Sport Trust's 'Girls Active' initiative is also delivered in partnership with all four of the secondary schools in Blaenau Gwent, to provide extra-curricular opportunities for female pupils aged 11 to 16.

- Blaenau Gwent's Community Sport model has created a gateway to local 'hard to engage' communities and has provided a platform for young people living in the area. Community Sport in Blaenau Gwent aims to encourage local young people to become more physically active in a safe and fun environment. Delivered in the community, for the community; sessions are current and vibrant, and are delivered by the 'right people', at the 'right time', in the 'right place', for the 'right price', and in the 'right style'. 1 in 3 young people grow up in poverty with only 42% of those from the most deprived households taking part in physical activity 3 or more times a week.

- During the holiday periods, 'Fit and Fed' provision is delivered across the borough in partnership with a multitude of local agencies – Tai Calon, Gwent Police, Rotary, etc. Fit and Fed is a project to help young people receive food and physical activity during the school holidays. Research shows that many young people have access to less food and physical activity once schools break up for the holidays. Fit and Fed is designed to help bridge that gap by providing nutritional meals and sporting provision.

- Welsh Government's 'Summer of Fun' and 'Winter of Wellbeing' funding was secured in the summer of 2021 and winter of 2021/22, which supported the wellbeing of children and young people ages 0-25 via bespoke physical activity interventions and programmes.

- Sports Development intends to build on the current Healthy and Active funded Family Engagement Project to excite and inspire the most vulnerable families across Blaenau Gwent to be active, healthy and participate in activities as a family. A fourth year of funding (£6,000) has been received to aid the delivery of the project. A pathway into activity for the most vulnerable families in Blaenau Gwent will be created. Families will be referred into the programme via Families First/Social Services and will receive bespoke physical activity support, nutritional advice and will be introduced to mindfulness. Families will be able to access sports centre-based classes such as fitness and swimming classes, as well as community-based sessions linked to local sports clubs.

- For those accessing services via community settings, they may not always have the technology available as a school setting would. Digital poverty is high within the area for a number of demographics. A 'Sports Library' and 'Digital Inclusion' scheme has been introduced into the Trust's libraries, whereby families can check-out and loan sports equipment and tablets free of charge.

- Working with Blaenau Gwent's Youth Services Team and their Positive Futures programme has allowed the continuation of Community Safety, Youth Engagement and Sport, and Alternative Education provision. Positive Futures in Blaenau Gwent aims to connect detached youth provision to sport and physical activity. There are a number of high anti-social behaviour hotspots within the area. The level of criminal activity from young people within those areas that have seen high level of engagement has significantly reduced. Friday night football sessions in conjunction with the Cardiff City foundation are extremely popular.

- The Free-Swimming Initiative has a greater emphasis on qualitative projects for the under 16's. The open access for the over 60's has been replaced with individual days across the 3 sports centres which made way for more innovation through the under 16's element.

- There has been a collaborative project between the Sports Centres and Sports Development through the 'Fit and Fed' programme, which was halted in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic but was relaunched again in 2021 due to popular demand. Just over 60 young people have accessed free transport, and a free 30-minute swimming lesson delivered by a qualified instructor. The aim has been to introduce basic swimming skills and establish good water swimming habits, giving those living in the hardest to reach areas in Blaenau Gwent (as according to the Welsh index for Multiple Deprivation WIMD report) the opportunity to access aquatics.

- An extra-curricular swimming programme for those children in Year 7 that didn't meet the Key Stage 2 criteria in Year 6 in the Nofio Ysgol has been delivered. A member of the Sports Development team collaborates with the PE departments across the borough to identify individuals and conduct sessions.

- Weekly disability swimming sessions are delivered at each of the sports centres – family swim sessions, structured 'learn to swim' lessons, quiet swim sessions. 45 disabled children currently access this provision.

Aquatics

- There are currently 2,329 children that take part in school swimming Years 3 – 6, with a pass rate of 75% which is 4% higher than the national average:

  - Total No. of Primary School Pupils Swimming: 2,329
  - Number of Girls Swimming: 1,174
  - Numbers of Boys Swimming: 1,155
  - Total No. of Year 6 Pupils Achieving KS 2: 405, 75%
  - Total No. of Year 6 Swimming: 538
  - Number of Year 6 Girls Swimming: 272
  - Number of Year 6 Boys Swimming: 266
  - Number of Year 6 Girls Achieving KS 2: 202, 74%
  - Number of Year 6 Boys Achieving KS 2: 203, 76%
  - Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Abertillery: 91, 60%
  - Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Ebbw Vale: 196, 79%
  - Number of Year 6 Achieving KS 2, Tredegar: 118, 84%

- Swim school provisions are currently 1,477 out of a possible 1,903 (maximum occupancy) children taking part in these lessons;

  - Ebbw Vale Sports Centre – 634/713 – Occupancy 89%
  - Abertillery Sports Centre – 510/630 – Occupancy 81%
  - Tredegar Sports Centre – 419/560 – Occupancy 75%

- Non-swimmers from KS2 are now catered for through the Sports Development AYP swimming. Those who don't pass the criteria at KS2 are invited to Year 7 swimming classes. The current rate is 57 non-swimmers invited with 35 undertaking the lessons, which equates to a 65% uptake.

- The new measurement for Every Child a Swimmer by the end of KS2 (Year 6) will now be measured against the Nofio Ysgol framework which mirrors the Swim Wales learn to swim model.

- Extra work is being developed between swimming clubs and Aneurin Leisure to make the transition from swimming lessons more focused to swimming length following FINA rules and regulations. Invitations to swimmers from wave 5 – 8 are invited to trial sessions at the swimming clubs in Blaenau Gwent with the aim of retaining them in aquatic activities.

- The swim data collection will now include;

  - Swimming Clubs – Average number of people per lane (6) x number of lanes x number of hours
  - Other aquatic clubs (water polo, canoeing, synchro, octopush, parties) – Average of 20 people per hour x number of hours
  - School numbers to be recorded by numbers of children attending x number of sessions

Adult and Community Learning

- Adult Community Learning's Independent Living Skills classes are for those with mild to moderate learning difficulties or those experiencing issues with their mental health. Learners based at Ebbw Vale Learning Action Centre have created a range of Welsh themed pottery items, including figures of St Dwynwen, Welsh ladies. The students sell their pottery creations via their class Facebook page, and the money raised is then re-invested back into the class in order to purchase supplies and tools for them to continue their sessions, enabling the learners to practice their numeracy and communication skills in a relaxed environment.

- During the Buggy Walks in Parc Bryn Bach the Nurture Equip Thrive project engaged with 32 women who were currently on maternity leave. Due to lockdown all the women discussed with the development workers how isolated they have been feeling as they had their babies during lockdown and were feeling very anxious about leaving the house. They were also worrying about having to return to work and would like support to meet people in similar situations to improve their confidence and anxiety about returning to the work environment. After consultation with the women, they all felt that groups where they could do some physical exercise with their babies would benefit them with their anxiety and also confidence in meeting new people. From the consultation we sourced a tutor to deliver Baby Yoga for the babies 6 months and under and Zumbini (music and movement) for the older babies.

- Both Baby Yoga and Zumbini have been very successful; 9 - 12 women attended each session. From these sessions the women have set up WhatsApp groups to support each other. Due to the success of the sessions, they have continued, with the women being offered reduced Life Membership which means that they can also benefit from the Life Classes including Mother and Baby classes.

Parks & Hospitality

- The popular Mini Mover Sessions continued weekly throughout the 2021/22 period, welcoming new parents and their babies to a session where their little people can enjoy natural stimulation through music and movement while they are able to meet, socialise and share parenting experiences with other new parents.

- The Buggy Walk established at Parc Bryn Bach has continued to increase in number each week with feedback being popular particularly in having a positive impact on the new parents' mental health and how much better they feel following a walk around the lake and chatting to like-minded people.

- Junior Parc Run recommenced in late Spring 2022 following 15 months of being on hold due to the restrictions surrounding Covid-19. 30-40 young people participate in the free event every Sunday at Parc Bryn Bach supported by their family members and volunteers.

- A brand new Adventure Golf course was launched at Parc Bryn Bach offering families a quality crazy golf experience. The activity was very well attended and well received by the community and visitors.

- The free play area at Parc Bryn Bach remained incredibly popular during the 2021/22 period with tens of thousands of children and their families enjoying the play space.

- During the Winter period Bedwellty House offered a series of 'Silent Discos' for young people aged 11-16 to meet and socialise with disco headsets. These were offered free of charge as part of the Winter of Wellbeing funding.

- The tennis courts within the Bedwellty Park undertook a clean-up and maintenance programme during Spring 2021, which allowed for 2 out of the 3 courts to be opened for the Summer 2021. The courts were free for the community and local cluster schools to use. This was welcomed by the community. Both courts were well used during the peak summer season and into Autumn 2021.

- Round Robin activity days proved a successful option for schools who attended Parc Bryn Bach during the Summer term of 2021. Young people participated in a range of Outdoor Adventure Activities, these activities encouraged team building, logical thinking, and resilience. All schools who participated in 2021 re-booked immediately for 2022, which is encouraging.

- Parc Bryn Bach offered Wildlife Wednesdays during the Summer of 2021; these were free for young people and their families to attend and were in partnership with Gwent Wildlife Trust.

Support for National Health Initiatives Aimed at Improving Overall Wellbeing

- The NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme) resumed in July 2021 and continued to be affected by limited numbers in classes and restricted consultations. Clients who were defined extremely vulnerable were not able to attend face to face meetings until February 2022. Virtual consultations were offered, but very limited uptake due to confidence of clients using such platforms such as Teams and Zoom. A blended model was undertaken up to the end of March 2022;

    - The NERS team utilised Advagym (digital applications for members). The NERS team proceeded to uploads, classes, workouts, and information for referral clients to take part in exercise at home, outdoors or within the facilities. There are 10 classes and 34 progressive workouts available to the clients.

    - There was an option for clients to undertake their consultation via virtual means. Those who were classed as extremely vulnerable took this option and were provided a login for the Advagym application.

    - There were 567 referrals received between July 2021 and March 2022. This was due to the limited provision and the confidence levels of the clients during this uncertain time.

- General Practitioners and Health Professionals are submitting more referrals via electronic means. This cuts down the time for contact to be made with the clients, as previously referrals were collected every 2 weeks by the staff.

- Most of the secondary care clinics were postponed during the 2021/22 period due to Covid-19. This limited the number of referrals further as the physio department in Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan submits 20% of all referrals per year (on average 200 referrals per year).

- The NERS fitness class provision was also limited to around 25 classes, with a maximum capacity per class being 12 (usual occupancy is 25). Restrictions eased in February 2022, with the average occupancy raised from 10 to 18 in the classes.

- The NERS team have secured additional funding of £13,781 for 2021/22 through Sport Wales for the 60+ programme. There is £8,600 that has been allotted to 3-months free membership for 200 participants for the over 60's demographic. This is to eliminate the economical barrier to getting active and improve social wellbeing along with the physical and mental wellbeing. There was an uptake of 152 with funding allocated for 150 which is 102% of target.

- The over 60s free swimming is offered across all facilities, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The average daily usage is 38 based on April to September's figures. In all there were 2,964 swims undertaken by the over 60's demographic.

- The NERS programme (National Exercise Referral Scheme) continues to operate on a weekly basis out of Bedwellty House to encourage those community members who aren't as comfortable and confident to attend a Sports Centre to participate in a gentle Tai Chi class in the park. This is a much loved and well received class reaching out to some of the hardest to reach in the community.

GP Referral Case Study
Name: - Christie Weights

	1st Consultation	8 Week Consultation
Weight (kg)	**80.3**	**78.8**
Waist (cm)	**95**	**92**
Blood pressure	**126/82**	**123/82**
Heart Rate	**61**	**60**
BMI	**26.6**	**25.1**

Achievements
The client has been attending the NeuroFit class 1 x a week for the past 8 weeks. Range of movement in shoulders and legs have increased. The client is now able to do some shoulder rolls and can lift both knees up to hip height.

Activity
Attending 1 class a week and receiving physio treatment and doing home exercise.

Reason for Attending the Referral Scheme
Neurological condition (The client had a stroke at a young age which left her finding daily activities very difficult and unable to work) client is only 38.

Difficulties you had to overcome
"I Felt a little anxious at first as I was so young but once I realised the NeuroFit class was aimed specifically at my conditions needs I felt more at ease. I felt that way as I feel I should be doing more for a person my age"

Benefits from the Scheme
"I'm improving each week, my range of movement has increase in my shoulders and legs (I can do shoulder rolls and lift both knees to hip height which I couldn't before). I Feel my posture is improving which is allowing me to do sit to stands in the correct manner. I'm also learning how my body works which is helping me understand my limits".

Overall Experience
"I think the class has given me a lot more confidence and I'm able to do more around the house and more activities with my daughter".

Library Service Case Study

Long Covid Sufferer

Janet joined the library in May 2021. Janet explained to the staff that she was suffering from long Covid and as a result it has affected her ability to read. Janet used to be an avid reader, reading a couple of books a week. Long Covid has left Janet unable to focus on the words, very similar to Dyslexia. Library staff recommended stock to help Janet, starting with adult learner titles and progressing to Quick Reads. Janet has praised the library service for helping her recovery with a range of support.

'When I first joined the library, I could only read a page or two of a book. Having the right type of book, has built my confidence, and got my brain back into reading. At the start I couldn't focus or remember the words. Nearly a year on, I am enjoying the Quick Reads, I think I have read most of them now. I am going to move onto light paperback novels soon, that is going to be such big achievement for me'

Library staff also helped Janet set up Borrowbox on her ipad. Janet finds following instructions difficult and has poor memory. Library staff designed a very simple user guide to help Janet log onto Borrowbox in simple steps. From time to time, Janet has needed to bring her ipad into the library, for further help in how to access the app. Staff have demonstrated the Dyslexia friendly accessibility features of BorrowBox, including altering the font style, font size, margins and background. Janet has discovered the sepia background has been particularly helpful in making reading easier for her. Janet has also benefitted from listening to many e-audio titles, which have aided her long Covid recovery, as she suffers from insomnia and anxiety, since her diagnosis.

'Borrowbox has been really helpful. Being able to listen to books, at my own pace has really helped with my brain fog and has helped build my concentration and helps me relax at the same time. I've listened to self-help books to help manage stress and anxiety and in the evenings, I listen to historical novels, they help get me off to sleep. I often wake through-out the night, so I start listening again and they help me drift off again, I find them very soothing'

'I've not been able to return to work since having long Covid. My local library has been invaluable to me over the year. From helping me get back into reading, helping my mental health and by just having somewhere I can easily walk to and have a friendly chat, all so helpful to getting me back on the road to full recovery'

Supporting Essential Skills

- The Trust's Adult and Community Learning has three externally funded employability projects, which contribute to raising skill levels and improving career prospects across Blaenau Gwent. All projects have been extended until March 2023, bringing the total value of the projects to £4,262,283. Staff in all three projects have worked tirelessly to ensure that the deliverables and outputs for each project remain on target to avoid grant clawback by Welsh Government following the pandemic.

- The first project delivered through Adult and Community Learning is "Working Skills for Adults 2". This project aims to provide qualifications and support to those individuals who are in low-skilled and seasonal employment to enable them to improve their job sustainability and prospects. As at the end of March 2022, the project had exceeded its engagement target by 5% with 649 starts, with 73% of participants achieving a recognised qualification primarily in short course or vocational certificates. A small number of participants have engaged with informal courses such as confidence building or CV writing which does not enable a qualification to be achieved.

  The project has formed strong links with local primary schools including Ebbw Fawr Learning Community and Abertillery 3-16 Learning Campus providing continuous professional development learning opportunities to their auxiliary staff.

- Bridges into Work 2 is the second project which is delivered through Adult and Community Learning. Its aim is to engage with those who are economically inactive or have been unemployed for over 3 years and reside in non-Community First areas. The project commenced delivery in January 2016 and robust marketing and delivery plans are in place to ensure that the project will remain on target for its delivery profile until March 2023. The project has engaged with 547 individuals with 28% already securing sustainable employment, which is the highest employability rate of all the Bridges into Work project sponsors. The project to the end of March 2022 has sourced 184 voluntary work placements across Blaenau Gwent, enabling individuals to gain valuable transferable and employment related skills. Relationships have been formed with local employers including The Owl Sanctuary, Gwent Wildlife Trust and Hospice of the Valleys.

- The Nurture, Equip, Thrive project is designed to engage with those employed individuals who wish to improve their job sustainability. Individuals on the project are either under employed or have a work limiting health conditions. To date the project has engaged with 272 individuals, 89 of whom have reported an improvement to their employment through promotion, changing careers or increased responsibility at work plus 20 have returned to work after a period of absence. This project is unique in its offer to employed participants to engage with stress management and anxiety courses which are complemented with individual mentoring and support. The project has expanded to work closely with the local Health Visitors to provide wellbeing opportunities to mums who are looking to return to employment after maternity leave. Additionally, the project delivered 6 face-to-face Coping with Anxiety courses, supporting 38 people. The course helps participants' gain greater understanding of the causes and effects of anxiety and to provide an opportunity to learn effective relaxation and other coping techniques.

- The core purpose of Adult Community Learning is to enable adults to develop to play a full part in life and work by providing support primarily through a curriculum focussed on improving essential skills. The target group for Adult Community Learning are those individuals who are not in full time education, training or employment, in 2021/22 academic year over 850 individuals participated in a range of essential skills courses.

  The curriculum offered by Adult Community Learning is benchmarked against targets which are agreed across the Coleg Gwent partnership. Aneurin Leisure achieved a successful completion rate 94.3% against a benchmark 93% for the academic year 2020/21. The GCSE results for 2020/2021 were extremely pleasing with 92% of English Language learners achieving A or B grades plus 100% of maths learners who took the intermediate or higher course achieved an A*- D grade, with 79% getting an A*-C grade.

- During the academic year 2021/2022 Adult Community Learning welcomed back to its Learning Action Centres a wide variety of clubs and social groups, including Crafty Crafters, Allsorts Stained Glass, Yoga and the Astronomy Society. These clubs and social groups give learners within Adult Community Learning the opportunity to engage in learning for pleasure and wellbeing.

Adult Community Learning Testimonial from Nurture, Equip, Thrive Participant:

HP decided to contact Adult Community Learning after hearing about the service from a friend. Initially she was very nervous about re-engaging with learning as she had not completed any form of learning or education for over twenty years.

In an initial meeting with Working Skills for Adults Development Officer, HP disclosed that she had poor childhood experiences which had affected her education and in adulthood she had suffered a brain tumour, which had resulted in her being unable to work for several years. On returning to the workplace HP secured a role in the caring profession but had realised that this was not the role for her but lacked the skills and qualifications to progress into a different role.

With the support of her Development Officer, HP completed a plan of what employment she would like and enrolled in Adult Community Learning onto a series of short courses designed to improve her confidence and provide low-level generic transferrable skills.

The next step was for HP to complete a CV with the support of her Development Officer, HP realised that she would like to work in a prison supporting others. Whilst continuing her learning journey with Adult Community Learning HP secured role as a custody officer within the prison service.

HP stated *"at the beginning I did not think I would be able to complete an hour in a classroom, but my development officers and tutors were always reassuring me and celebrating all my learning successes however small. I feel that my life has turned a corner"*

Tackling Inequalities

- Adult Community Learning benefitted from several Welsh Government grants which enabled the service to purchase several sets of I-pads, Chrome books and tablets. These devices are being loaned free of charge to learners to enable them to attend the blended learning options available within the service plus they are able to complete assessments and coursework.

- Adult Community Learning delivers a programme of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) across Blaenau Gwent. The programme is free of charge and combines formal taught classes together with informal coffee mornings/chatter groups all of which enable the learners to develop their communication in English.

- Free swimming continues to be monitored from a qualitative perspective based on projects supplemented by the Free Swim Initiative funding;

  - The Fit and Fed project run through the Sports Development team and worked in collaboration with the Police Commissioner fund (transportation) and Bryn Farmhouse (community base for children) we have developed a bespoke learn to swim pathway for those youths to take part in aquatics-based activities which is also a lifesaving skill.

  - There is a collaborative project between Aneurin Leisure Trust and Families First (Social Services) to provide 20 free swimming sessions for young carers during our public swimming times. 28% of the 56 cards given out to the young carers had never been in our facilities previously.

  - Disability swimming sessions have been offered to 10 individuals based on referrals from the Disability Sports Officer.

  - 2 hours per week per centre for free unstructured swimming.

  - An allotted amount of free swimming through holiday periods and the summer.

- The over 60's free swim has also been updated as detailed below: -

  - There is now one day per centre per week where over 60 swimming is free of charge during each public/adult swimming session.

  - There is a free aqua aerobics session for over 60's at Tredegar Sports Centre.

  - There is a muscular skeletal pathway for older adults with mobility problems that is pool based. This is being run through the NERS scheme in partnership with the local GP's and physiotherapy department.

- The new approach has been set out to tackle the inequalities that are high on the agenda of the local authority as a whole.

- The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted new challenges for residents of Blaenau Gwent. Blaenau Gwent has some of the most deprived communities in Wales, the pandemic has further exasperated problems for those living with poor health and poverty. Various services and projects delivered by the Library Service over 2021/22 has supported the equality agenda on a local level and helped bridge the poverty gap.

- The service worked in partnership with the local housing association Tai-Calon during the February half-term, to distribute free 'recipe bags' to residents. People attending the library could receive a bag contain all the contents to make health family meals, including recipe cards and ingredients.

- To celebrate World Book Day in March 2022, the service worked in partnership with Families First, to provide children with free costumes. The costumes were loaned from local libraries, which worked well, with families joining the library at the same time and borrowing related stock.

- Library space was used by Social Services working with the 'Supporting Change' team, targeting vulnerable, disadvantaged children. Craft activities and reading groups were delivered, which we promoted to the wider community, as well as targeted invitations to families needing support. The aim was to provide inclusive sessions, in neutral settings, with families using libraries on a regular basis.

- The service delivered a very successful 'Winter of Wellbeing' campaign during the last quarter of 2021/22. Families really appreciated having free events. The service delivered a total of 29 events, attended by 596 young people and 152 parents and carers. The campaign has been instrumental for re-engaging with young people, post pandemic. Memberships and issues have risen as a result, compared to February/March last year. Book issues increased by 137% over that period.

  - Sessions were delivered to target all the age ranges from 0-25
  - Example of sessions included –
  - Baby Zumbini
  - Expressive Art (for 16-25 year olds)
  - Dan Anthony Author workshops
  - Crochet taster sessions
  - Louby-Lou interactive Storytelling events
  - Roald Dahl themed Art Sessions
  - Harry Potter themed Art Sessions
  - Lego Club

- BookTrust Cymru's Bookstart packs and Early Years packs were also distributed from libraries, as health checks were still disrupted by the pandemic.

- Outreach provision has been extended further over 2021/22 with an increasing number of group loans to community organisations, community centres and other hard to reach communities. The service maintains strong partnership support with Llanhilleth Miners Institute. Llanhilleth, is an isolated community within Blaenau Gwent. We regularly loan stock, advise on reading material and provide outreach library-based activities, including Summer Reading Challenge events. With support from the Library Service, the Institute has been able to establish their own community-based children's library, with stock provided by the Library Service. Trefil, another isolated community in Tredegar has regular group loans, at Trefil Chapel, where customers are able to access and request library stock.

- The Library Service worked closely with the Sports Development Team over the year, as reading has been added to the Fit and Fed programme. Libraries supported the scheme by providing promotional bags for outreach activity. This programme aims to tackle inequalities that children living in the most disadvantaged areas face, including food poverty, physical inactivity and social isolation. The Fit, Fed and Read has been successful in reaching children, who otherwise, would have encountered barriers to reading.

- Stock promotion is an important aspect for the service to raise awareness of equality. Pride Month and LGBT History Month was promoted in all libraries, with displays, with relevant titles promoted.

- During the summer of 2021, the service launched the Summer Reading Challenge 'Wild World Heroes'. We offered the physical visits with incentives, as by this time, we were inviting families back to libraries, by managing numbers in buildings. We also offered a digital participation for those families choosing not to engage face to face

- The Library Service worked with Keep Wales Tidy to launch a new litter picking scheme from all libraries. Libraries are now Litter Picking hubs, residents are able to borrow a litter picking kits from their local library, loaned via the Library Management System. A series of drop-in sessions were held across libraries, to raise awareness of the scheme. A community litter-pick event was also held from Ebbw Vale Library, attended by MP, Alun Davies.

- Various health campaigns have been promoted in all libraries, over the year, for example, Mental Health Awareness Week in May 2021.

- Empathy Day was promoted in June 2021, with related stock promotions and online digital activities.

- The service held Dewis Cymru drop-in sessions in all libraries in Oct 21. We worked in partnership to deliver training to community groups, raising awareness of this well-being resource. Library staff also completed the training and signed up as 'Wellbeing' friends within local communities. Working with the Integrated Wellbeing Network (Public Health Wales) within Blaenau Gwent, Brynmawr and Tredegar Libraries have now become 'Wellbeing hubs'. These Libraries form a network of groups and organisations that provide information, resources and signposting to support well-being.

- The Library Service has worked closely with the Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board and have agreed for Abertillery Library to be the base to hold the resources for 'Five ways to Well-being and Melo (mental health resource). Community groups, organisations and individuals are able to collect resource packs from their local library, we also offer a free delivery service, through our home delivery vans.

- Bedwellty House & Park and Parc Bryn Bach were supported with grant funding as part of the Winter of Wellbeing fund, this allowed a range of free activities to be delivered across the sites between November 2021 and March 2022. Over 1,000 young people attended the activities, some families were in awe of what was available to them and welcomed some to participate in activities they may not have been able to fund without the grant. It was an incredible opportunity and well spent grant funding. Activities included Harry Potter teas, cinema evenings, open water group paddle boarding, fairground days, silent discos, magic shows, Animal Encounters and Princess visits. Such an amazing experience seeing so many people benefit and visit the parks through the Winter season.

- Bedwellty House & Park hosted a 'Silent Fireworks evening' for those young people and families who find the loud noises of fireworks frightening. Barnardo's co-ordinated the event while Bedwellty were the host venue. One of the families in attendance said it was the 'Best night of their lives' as have one child who loves fireworks and one child who gets so distressed by the noise - this event covered both bases.

- The play area at Parc Bryn Bach offered a daily quiet hour for families with young people who have additional needs so they could access the equipment in a calm and quiet time. This was complimented by families as a positive offer.

English for Speakers of Other Languages – Case Study

Z, aged 34 entered Wales with her young daughter after fleeing Afghanistan in Autumn 2021. Z enrolled onto English for Speaker of Other Languages programme plus an ICT class within Adult Community learning. Z was an enthusiastic learner always keen to practice her English with her peers and staff at the Learning Action Centre. Z expressed an interest in running her own beauty business, specialising in working with women who had similar backgrounds to hers. Z's tutor accompanied her to the Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone where she secured a place on a Level 2 Health and Beauty Couse which started in September 2022.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

- In partnership with Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Aneurin Leisure played an active part in the Participatory Budgeting pilot "Your Community, Your Voice". This initiative distributed over £150,000 to local groups and charities within Blaenau Gwent to help with local wellbeing projects.

- Well established links with Tredegar Town Council remained during this season. While the Town Council did not lead any larger events during this period due to the ongoing rates of covid in the area, they were more than supportive of the outdoor and lower scale events held at both parks.

- Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir delivered a Christmas Carol Concert for the public which was well attended within the covid restrictions to offer some Christmas spirit amongst the community.

- Bedwellty House hosted a smaller scale Family Christmas party and Santa's Grotto to spread a little Christmas cheer during a period where covid rates were on the increase. Those who were able to attend were grateful of the opportunity for the children to experience some Christmas cheer.

- The kitchen garden grounds team and volunteers had a very successful season with some bumper crops. Volunteers in the garden and from Blaenau Gwent Youth Services tended to the kitchen garden tirelessly throughout the year. Crops were used as part of the menus in the Orchid House Tea Room. Vegetables were also available to the local community for a small donation should they want them. The Youth Service also donated some of the produce they grew and items they made such as bat boxes to the local shelters and food banks.

- Clubs returned to Parc Bryn Bach during this season with increased membership in the Fishing Club and Running Club.

- Park Run saw its members significantly increase throughout 2021 as the community and Park Run tourists gained confidence in returning to group activity. Competitive races recommenced later into the 2021 season along with Open Water Swimming and Newt series.

- Tredegar Heritage Forum returned to live monthly Historical talks at Bedwellty House in Autumn 2021. This is a free monthly talk to learn about local history and heritage of our locality. They are well attended by the community and also prove to be a social afternoon out for some of the hardest to reach members of the community.

- Tredegar Friendship Group visited Bedwellty House on a monthly basis for a two-course meal and social afternoon. The group of OAPs meet, eat and socialise which is for some the only occasion they go out each month. Costs are kept low for them so it doesn't become a barrier to attending.

- Bedwellty House hosted a Christmas Market in December 2021, while it operated under restrictions. People attended in given timeslots and browsed and purchased crafts and gifts made by local smaller businesses. It was the first opportunity some of these small businesses had to provide their products in person. It was well received by all and commended on how safe people felt when attending.



Case Study
Young Family/Winter of Wellbeing Events
The funding made available from Welsh Government through the Winter of Wellbeing scheme, enabled the Library Service to deliver a wide range of young people's events during February and March 2022. 29 events were delivered with 596 children and 152 parents and carers.

One family, with three children, aged, 3, 5 and 8 attended all the events in Tredegar Library.

Parent, Kate, explained to staff the value of the sessions.
'It has been great to have so many free events in the library. With the cost of living so high, having free sessions in the library has made a big difference. It's been such a long time since the children have been able to use the library like this, the atmosphere is lovely and cosy and it has got the children in the habit of visiting the library regularly. It's helped them get back into reading too. The library is full of new books!'

Many parents relayed their positive feedback to staff on the campaign, many highlighting the importance aspect of using libraries for building social interaction, following the pandemic. For many young children, it has been their first library experience. The opportunity to mix with other children, for parents to chat has been very much needed and appreciated. Many parents commented on the value of having the library to teach the children how to be a participant of an 'audience' and the much-needed experience of building social skills. The campaign helped the service recover from the pandemic by enabling us to offer exciting, entertaining, and educational sessions. A very important result was the centralising of the social experience of being in a library setting, re-connecting with the community.



'It has been the first visit, for my son Noah, who is 3. He has been in awe of the library, to able to borrow so many books and have such fun, he loves it. We attended the Louby Lou Storytelling session, this was the first time he had participated in this type of event, with children of a similar age, he loved it. To watch his face, he was mesmerised'

More comments from parents –

- *'It has been so nice to get the children away from screens, they have become so reliant on ipads and gaming. They have made some new friends, it has been so good for them to get hands-on and creative. Sam loved the Lego club, will be coming to the next session'*

- *'I saw the Louby-Lou storytelling session advertised on Facebook and decided to take my Grandson Jack, who is nearly 3. We received such a warm welcome, the storyteller, facilitated a fantastic story session with props, keeping both children and adults entertained. It was magical'*
- *'We attended the Harry Potter workshop, it was so nice to have an event where the parents could also participate. We have been coming to the library every week, since this'*
- *'My son loves attending Lego Club, he is Autistic, so usually finds it hard to fit into group activities. The library staff have been great, helping him settle and encouraging him. This is the first club that he has attended, I am thrilled to see him enjoy it so much'*

Case Study
Tackling Loneliness and Isolation
As the service lifted restrictions for group activities in the Autumn of 2021, many people expressed their gratitude to the library service, for helping them combat loneliness and social isolation.

A range of activities and events were held to target isolated people. It was identified from customer enquiries that there was a particular need to support carers in the borough. The service worked with Age Cymru and Gwent Carers hub to deliver a series of drop-in sessions across all libraries.

The service also received funding from social services to purchase coffee machines for all libraries, to facilitate coffee morning events in 'carers corners'.

'I have been caring for my husband, since the start of the pandemic, due to chronic health conditions. I came to the library after seeing a poster for carers sessions. I was so glad I came along. I got all the information I needed, and I have been coming to the library every week, since. I haven't got a lot of time to myself, but the library has been ideal for me, as it is on my doorstep. I have joined the Knit and Natter group, this gets me out of the house and makes me feel so much better, having a nice chat and a cuppa' – Mary.

Singalong sessions were also held during February and March 2022. Invitations were sent to residents of local care homes and sheltered accommodation.

'The session really lifted the spirits of our residents, it was such a feel-good event, everyone came out smiling' – support worker
'Oh, it was lovely to sign in a group, to be part of something, it really cheered me up' – participant
'It was so emotional, signing the national anthem, it was joyful! I've asked the library for more sessions' – participant

Reading groups recommenced in all libraries in September 2021. Previously, the groups met in outdoor spaces, i.e., parks and cafes. The service still supported the groups, by providing stock and maintained regular contact with members on a one-to-one basis, in preparation for the return of group activities in September 2021.

The social aspect of reading groups, post pandemic, has become even more evident, with positive feedback being relayed to staff.

'I have forgotten how good coming to the reading group makes me feel. It has been wonderful coming back; we all feel safe. Coming back finally feels like our lives are getting back to normal. I have missed it so much'

'Coming back to the library, is like coming back home. Meeting friends, having a chat and coffee, it really lifts my mood'.

'I suffer with depression; the reading group helps me manage my condition. Being able to join in a group and focus on something good, like reading engrossing and powerful books really helps my mental health. We have all been enjoying the Richard and Judy booklist, we are really grateful for the staff for sourcing all our books'.

Case Study
Impact of Library Services on a New Family

In April 2021 a new family moved into the area. They visited the library, initially to find out more about the services within the community. We were able to help them with several enquiries, from how to register with a GP, how to order recycling bins and information on local schools and playgroups. Following this, the whole family joined the library and all family members have participated in library events and services over the year. The father, Dave, has joined the job club and attends the weekly sessions in the library. The mother, Emma, has participated in a range of library sessions, including creative writing and family history events. The children of varying ages have attended the WOW events and their teenage son, Ethan, has really embraced the digital services, including Libby and Borrowbox. He has also recently registered to use Theory Test on-line. The family are regularly giving feed-back to staff on their appreciation of the service. When the family first moved to the area, they enquired at the library about litter picking, as it very noticeable to them, having moved from a rural area, that some areas in Blaenau Gwent have particular problems with litter. Staff promoted the KeepWalesTidy scheme to them and as a result they have now become litter picking champions, doing regular weekly litterpicks, as a family.

'The library has helped us settle into Ebbw Vale. We have had so much help with so many things. I am amazed at all the extra things on offer. Money has been tight, so having free events has been great. It has helped us feel part of the community, we have all made new friends. As a family we are keen to learn Welsh, the library has helped us with books for the children and language courses for myself and my husband. The bilingual picture books have been helpful, for all of us. We have borrowed litter picking equipment, sports equipment and a tablet! I feel very fortunate to have a library on our doorstep which offers so much'

Cultural Enrichment

- There are various groups that use the free library space for cultural sessions. For example, the Blaina Aberystruth History and Archaeological Society holds weekly sessions in Blaina Library. The service has strong partnership links with Gwent Family Society. Volunteers from this organisation deliver regular help desks in all libraries, promoting FindMyPast and Ancestry.com. The Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum holds monthly meetings at Tredegar Library and utilises the local studies resources based there. Blaina Heritage Centre is based in the same building as Blaina Library, which provides an ideal link to work jointly on shared Welsh cultural activities. Likewise, a community Museum is based in Tredegar Library. Which attracts many visitors researching the birthplace of Aneurin Bevan, plus other historical information. Library staff and volunteers from the museum work together to provide a range of information and resources to promote Welsh culture.

Social Responsibility

- As the service continues to re-cover from the pandemic, the social role of libraries, providing vital community support has been further compounded. An increasing number and range of partners worked closely with the service over the year, as libraries have become the 'go-to' place for community engagement.

- Over 2021/22 the Library Service has delivered a staggered approach to pre-Covid delivery, in line with legislation and advice. Every aspect of reinstating services has been risk assessed and approved by BGCBC's Health and Safety Section. As a result, at the end of the year, the service is back to pre-pandemic delivery.

- The Sensory Gardens at both Bedwellty House and Parc Bryn Bach were officially launched during the Summer 2021. These spaces have been developed by the 'Friends of' groups at the sites with the support of team members and some grant funding. The areas have been beautifully designed and offer tranquil and reflective space for members of the community and visitors to the sites. The gardens have an array of native plants and flowers bursting with colour and scent. The wind chimes, water features and seating make it them the perfect space to unwind and remember.

- A regular visitor to Parc Bryn Bach, Shaun Kennedy * outlined how visiting the site during the year and sitting in this space has been a lifeline to him during some of his darker days.

- The friends of groups are an asset to the parks in supporting projects and raising funds. A number of the volunteers within these groups have stated how being part of the group and seeing areas develop in the parks within their weekly gardening sessions gives them a purpose and makes them feel like they are giving something back to the community they live in and love.

- Both parks maintained the grounds to exceptional standards throughout the 2021/22 period with both sites again working closely with the Ecology Officer ensuring each site again achieved the Green Flag Award status.

- Weddings with restricted numbers were welcomed back to Bedwellty House in Autumn 2021, while the circumstances and lower numbers weren't ideal for the Bride and Grooms, the service provided was complimented. Bedwellty House hosted several smaller scale ceremonies and 2 to capacity (limited numbers) during the 2021/22 season.

- Christmas Party Nights returned; while the community were keen to engage in normality and Christmas spirit, restrictions remained in place for a second Christmas season, with rates of infection being particularly high in the locality during this time. All necessary protocols and precautions were delivered with 5 successful party nights being delivered.

- Parc Bryn Bach offered Street Food Thursdays during Summer 2021, local food vendors were invited to serve visitors to the site. Little Dragon Pizza Van and Cluckin Bull were the two resident vendors. The Lake View Kiosk remained open for drinks and ice creams, offering a late-night provision for visitors and the community to Parc Bryn Bach.

Local Business Partnerships

- Aneurin Leisure continues to offer local, regional and national organisations discounted membership as part of our Life Card membership scheme and our drive to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace. Corporate members are currently enjoying the corporate discounts in the area that Aneurin Leisure operates. This product combines reduced rates for i) gym memberships within our sport centres, ii) corporate hospitality and conferencing at Bedwellty House and Park and iii) Team Building at Parc Bryn Bach.

- The Library Service has continued to support prosperity across the County Borough during 2021/22, as the community recovers from the pandemic. Business start-up sessions were held online in the first quarter of the year but returned face-to-face by the summer. Monthly drop-in sessions are held in every library.

- The service has worked closely with the Regeneration Department of BGCBC to help support local high streets. During the summer the Library Service was the lead partner for a town centre family activity. A story telling treasure hunt was held in all towns, with children starting and finishing in the library. This initiative encouraged families to use and visit their local high street. From feedback received from Elected Members, council officers and local businesses, all have commented that having busy, community focused libraries, helps support the high street by encouraging footfall in town centres. This has been particularly highlighted in Blaenau Gwent, where town centres struggle, particularly in post Covid times. The merger of community hubs into libraries have increased visitor figures considerably in all libraries. The Regeneration Department has also funded digital screens for all libraries, to promote local projects, services, and organisations. As part of this scheme, all libraries have linked to the 'Shop Local' promotion, raising awareness of services by shared advertising.

Marketing and Communications

The start of the year saw the community still experiencing restrictions due to the pandemic. Fortunately, indoor activity was resumed in late May, albeit with continued social distancing requirements across all the Trust's sites. This required the Trust to continue to communicate the need for heightened caution and reduced numbers for attendees, indoors, however, it did allow us to start to resume activity to support the reopening of our sites.

To highlight some of the key activities that were undertaken to support each of the business units:

- Corporate / Aneurin Leisure Trust (ALT) – continued to work to improve the ALT website, with content and updates relating predominantly to the library and adult community learning provision.

- Sports centres – the refurbishment of the gyms required communication both on site and through online support. We introduced Join@Home and Go Learn to improve the customer experience and relaunched the BG Life website. The key objective for redeveloping the website (bglife.co.uk) was to:

  - present a simplified, modern, professional, easy to use and accessible portal for the sports centres within the Trust.

- Through redesigning the website, we were able to focus on the many benefits and facilities that the sports centres offer, including the many classes available, NERS and Sports Development activities and highlighting the many clubs that are local to the area, to name a few.

- We also reviewed the proposition for corporate memberships, simplifying it so that it was easier to engage with and manage internally. The rollout of this started in late 2021/22 and is building traction.

- Parc Bryn Bach (PBB) – supporting the many on-site activities and ensuring that visitors were able to navigate and engage with the development of the amenities required communication on site and through the relaunch PBB website. These included open water swimming, go-karts and updating the signage within the café. A new sensory garden was also launched which is enjoyed by many.

- In late 2021, night golf was introduced to the park and was supported online. Working with Valleys Regional Park (VRP), the planning started for the introduction of the Wellbeing Work hub, reviewing and visiting other sites such as Llyn Llech Owain to enable the proposition to the honed, in line with Welsh Government objectives.

- Bedwellty House & Park (BHAP) – a raft of events was undertaken at BHAP and supported through social media posts. All sold out quickly, a reflection of the local community's desire to return to 'normal' following the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Photography was undertaken to support weddings and the café/food, again, restarting following the pandemic. Signage around the park was improved and the brief was finalised to start the development of the relaunch of the BHAP website.

- Library Services – working with BGCBC we redeveloped the libraries' launcher, providing great modernity and usability. Sports Libraries were also introduced, an initiative that enables the community to take out sporting equipment to try new and different sports to aid financial constraints experienced by families and to encourage greater engagement with physical activity to support physical and mental health and wellbeing.

- Adult and Community Learning (ACL) – focusing on supporting the team to meet targets with enrolment and engagement through adult learners' week.

- A new Community Engagement Officer for the Trust was appointed whose remit is to engage with partners and better represent the Trust as a whole. Previously this role has been difficult due to the pandemic but is picking up a-pace with restrictions being lifted. In addition, the Community Engagement Officer works closely with the Sports Development team, particularly the Family Engagement Programme.

- Continued to work in partnership to support partners and promote the developments and facilities across the Trust. Examples of these are:

  - BGCBC – working with the Biodiversity Officer and Groundwork Wales to promote volunteering at PBB and engaging with the Gwent Wildlife Trust to support activities. Advice and guidance was provided for the sensory garden to produce an area that has indigenous flora and fauna.

  - The Destination Management Group (DMG), continued with additional support in the development of the Blue Plaques project. We supported the Tourism Officer with advertising of the parks to help promote Blaenau Gwent to a wider target audience through maximising affordable media opportunities.

  - Dialogue has been started with the Sustainable Food Co-ordinator to help promote initiatives for greater awareness of healthy eating.

- Welsh Government – in addition to the involvement with the DMG and the South Wales Tourism Group, we continued communication with the Visit Wales team at Welsh Government to promote the parks' facilities to a wider audience with improved visibility of these facilities on their website. We will continue to work closely to gain ratings for the activities so that these can added to the Visit Wales website to drive tourism to the park.

- Valley Regional Partnership (VRP) – the bunkhouse has been completed in terms of on-site signage and awareness of VRP's partnership and the website has been updated in preparation for the opening. Planning is well underway for the opening of the Wellbeing Workhub and the Trust continue to support the wider Discovery Gateways with social media communication.

- PSB Sub-Group – working with partners within the PSB sub-group, we have actively communicated support and facilities available to the Blaenau Gwent community.

- Chwarae Teg – continued a dialogue with Chwarae Teg throughout the year, particularly highlighting and promoting their training sessions across the Trust.

- Parkinson's Society – supporting the charity's events to publicise National Parkinson's day.

- ABUHB – supporting their key initiatives including Dewis, of which we are editors, and the Independent Wellbeing Network. This support has been in the guise of online and event support.

- Coleg Gwent – attending Freshers' events to promote the Trust's facilities highlighting the resources of the libraries, sports centres and parks and using the opportunity to promote employment and volunteering opportunities.

- Gain Nutrition – working with a local business to promote their products within the sports centres.

- The new websites for ALT, PBB and sports centres continue to perform well with engagement increasing across the board.

- Social Media continues to be a popular source of engagement with the community particularly the engagement for funding for events through the summer of fun and winter of wellbeing funding.

- Both the Aneurin Leisure Trust and Parc Bryn Bach websites have been completed and are improving

- The internal communication through the staff newsletter has continued and our internal staff survey provided the following feedback:

  - Over 85% of respondents are inspired by the mission/vision.
  - 80% of respondents feel the SMT encourage working towards the vision/mission.
  - 89% of respondents feel supported by their line manager.
  - 90% of respondents feel they work as part of a strong team.
  - 88% of respondents feel that they have flexible working conditions.
  - 84% of respondents feel they're recognised for doing a good job.
  - 78% of respondents feel that they have everything they need to do a good job.
  - 85% of respondents feel that their line managers show a personal interest in their development.
  - 82% of respondents do believe that they're given the opportunity to improve themselves.
  - 73% of respondents believe that there are good career opportunities at the Trust.

- We also hosted the first annual staff event at EVSC which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Workforce and Workplace Development

- Aneurin Leisure recognises and fully appreciates that our employees are the key to the success of the Trust. The Trust employs c. 230 contracted employees (Full Time Equivalent 133.86) and in addition, utilises casual relief posts (i.e., 24 individuals at the end of March 2022) and is committed to the development, health and wellbeing of all.

- The Trust continues working towards a planned, systematic approach to improving our organisational effectiveness, one that aligns strategy, people and processes to achieve our commitment to continuously improve our customers' experience which is essential to achieving this. The Trust links training and the performance appraisals to our values and strategic priorities.

- The Trust continues to meet with the Trade Unions on a regular basis and has an excellent working relationship.

- The Trust has continued to work in partnership with TSW (Training Services Wales) and a number of frontline supervisors and managers are currently completing training at Level's 3 to 5.

- Delivery of in-house training for Manual Handling, First Aid, Level 2 Food Safety, Level 3 Supervising Food Safety, Health and Safety training for Employees and Level 3 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace

- New staff and workers receive the Trust's company Induction, day 1 covers the corporate induction whilst over the following 12 weeks they cover their Business Unit and their facility induction.

- Strategic Business Unit Managers are undertaking their performance management cycle process and identifying training needs which forms part of the Trust's annual Training and Development Schedule.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The group has returned a surplus of £504,900 before FRS 102 pension adjustments for the 12-month period to 31 March 2022, of which £87,378 is from restricted funds. The trading subsidiary, LLT limited has contributed £9,576 to the group surplus.

	£
Group surplus pre-FRS 102 pension adjustments	504,900
Less excess of FRS 102 DB pension cost recognised in P&L over employer contributions	(1,551,000)
Net outgoing resources per SOFA	(1,046,100)
Add actuarial gain on pension fund	4,677,000)
Net movement in funds per SOFA	**3,630,900**

On 1 October 2014 the Trust was admitted to the Greater Gwent Local Government Superannuation scheme (LGPS), a defined benefit scheme. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure was retained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). The Trust is, therefore, only responsible for any increase in liabilities occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. The pension deficit on an FRS 17 basis on the 1 October 2014 is £4.432m and this deficit remains the obligation of BGCBC; an asset of £4.432m is included in these accounts to reflect this. The pension liability on an FRS 102 basis as at 31 March 2022 has decreased to £9,141m from £12,267m in 2021, thereby generating a cumulative actuarial pension loss of £4.709m since 1 October 2014.

Principal funding sources
Within the period the Trust received £2,798,092 as a management fee from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Grant income for the period amounted to £2,150,537 and the majority of the remaining income was received from our customers.

The income is used to fund the operating costs of the facilities from which we deliver our charitable objectives.

Financial management
The Trust utilises key performance indicators (KPI) to assist in the financial management of the business. Some of the KPI measures include:

- Staff costs as a % of income: 2021/22: 77% (2021: 69%)
- Staff costs as a % of total resources expended: 68% (2021: 67%)

It should be noted that the FRS 102 pension adjustment makes a significant impact. If the 2021 figures are adjusted to remove the FRS 102 increase in the pension service cost the staff costs as a % of income reduces to 49% and the staff costs as % of expenditure reduces to 43%.

Reserves policy
It is the Trust's policy to build up over time sufficient reserves to meet its charitable objectives on a sustainable basis and cover the risks that the Trust faces.

The Trust aims to build up reserves to fund working capital. All annual surpluses not allocated to fund working capital are available to fund investment in property and equipment to improve service quality. The Trust aims to maintain a minimum unrestricted reserve balance of £750,000, excluding any actuarial gains or losses and recognises the need to increase its current level of reserves.

At 31 March 2022 the restricted reserves amounted to a surplus of £609,505. The unrestricted income reserves excluding the DB pension reserve amount to a surplus of £1,263,321 (2021: £845,799). The pension reserve amounted to a deficit of £4,709,000

As at 1 October 2014 the pension deficit of £4,432,000 (FRS17 basis) is the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Key risks

The Trust has a 20-year contract which commenced on 1 October 2014 with BGCBC with a review process built in during years 3 and 4 to review overall performance in advance of agreement to continue with the Trust for the following 5 years.

As part of the contract, BGCBC service management fee is agreed at the start of each 5-year period and reviewed annually on progress. The key challenge facing the Trust is to grow the income and control expenditure to support the contracted management fee.

If unsuccessful with attracting funding through various means including the Council, as well as providing investment into key assets, this will limit the Trust's ability to reduce its dependence on the management fee.

The Trust received £2.151m (2021: £3.611m) of grant income in the year, equating to 28% of total incoming resources. The decrease in grants this year mainly relates to the reduction of Covid funding. In the event grant income is reduced in future years associated expenditure currently funded by the grants would also need to be reduced.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust faces a challenging period over the coming years mainly driven by the cost of living crisis which has elevated utility costs to unprecedented levels and this has resulted in the Trust exploring every opportunity to accelerate business plan projects, reduce operational costs where possible and review prices which we hope will ensure that services remain fully available to Blaenau Gwent residents.

Key investments will include solar panel projects at 2 of the 3 sports centres which will enable the running costs to be more sustainable and help to secure the leisure provision for the future.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Life Leisure Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act (2006). The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company.

The Trustees

The Trustees are also the Directors in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Board is made up of up to eleven Trustees consisting of one employee Trustee, up to two local authority Trustees and up to eight community Trustees.

Employee Trustees are appointed by the senior management team of the Trust for a period of three years.

The local authority, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, is entitled to nominate up to two individuals to the Board of Trustees and decide their period of appointment.

The community Trustees are appointed for a 3-year period, with recruitment process as follows:

- Advert placed in local newspapers, on social media (LinkedIn & Twitter) within the Trust facilities, on the Trust website and other advertising resources as appropriate inviting applications. An information pack is provided outlining the duties and roles of a Trustee and the application process, together with information on the Trust.

- Applications will be shortlisted based on criteria specified within the personal specification and job description and assessment of the applicants' particular skills and expertise to cover both community interest and commercial/business knowledge (such as Finance, Human Resources, Sales and Marketing).

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will comprise of three members and wherever possible panels will have a gender/race balance. Panel members should include two Trustees (Chair and/or Vice Chair, or other Trustee), a Trust Senior Officer (Director of Resources or Director of Operations) with support from the Human Resource Service, where appropriate. In circumstances where there is a need to involve more than three members on an interview panel, then this should be discussed in advance and agreed with the Human Resource Service (it may be necessary on occasions for additional Members to sit in on a panel to observe the process for developmental purposes).

- The appointment of Trustees will be made by the Board of Trustees following recommendations from the Interview/Appointment Panel and be based on not only the assessment of whether individuals are suitable to be Trustees, but also achieve a balance of skills on the Board. For example, it is important to have a balance of business skills and also geographical locations as well as interests (leisure, arts, community education, libraries, overall wellbeing, etc.)

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will recommend to the Board of Trustees of their preferred option to appoint a Trustee and following agreement to proceed, will confirm the offer to the selected candidate(s).

- The offer of appointment to be a member of the Board of Trustees will be subject to satisfactory references being obtained.

- All Trustees are provided with the following documentation on induction;

    - Declaration of Interests form
    - Rehabilitation of Offenders form
    - Equality & Diversity Monitoring form
    - Trustee Code of Conduct Policy
    - Trustee Confidentiality Policy
    - Health & Safety Policy
    - Equal Opportunities Policy
    - Memorandum and Articles of Association
    - Schedule of Matters

All Trustees are also members of the Charitable Trust which is limited by guarantee.

All Trustees receive induction training with regard to the organisation including its powers and objects and the Charitable Trust itself.

Trustees will be offered further training opportunities during their tenure.

Structure of the Charity
The Board of Trustees meets quarterly. The Charitable Trust operates a Finance sub-group to advise and report to the Board of Trustees.

A Corporate Director Team manages the day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust, supported by a Senior Management Team.

Organisational Structure and Decision-Making Process
The Board retains overall accountability for the management of the Charitable Trust.

The day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust are managed by the Trust's Corporate Directors and Senior Management Team. The Senior Management Team is given strategic direction by the Board of Trustees (the Board) regarding the provision and operation of the services.

The Charitable Trust operates a business planning process whereby strategic priorities and targets directed by the Board and shared with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council flow from the business plan into quarterly reports and an annual delivery plan. This is fully embedded and central to our planning and budgeting cycles and drives operational performance.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
Remuneration of Key Management Personnel is reviewed annually alongside the other employees of the company by the main Board as part of the annual budget setting process.

Related Parties
The Charitable Trust has a relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, who provides funding in the form of a management fee to enable the Charitable Trust to carry out its charitable objectives.

The Charitable Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT limited. LLT limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

Co-operation with other organisations
As a community-based organisation operating throughout Blaenau Gwent, Aneurin Leisure structures large elements of its strategic planning and operational service delivery having due regard to partner aims and objectives, particularly Blaenau Gwent County Borough council. Work plans specifically identify how Aneurin Leisure will contribute to delivering on broader social agendas working with the health, education and voluntary sectors.

Risk Management
The Charitable Trust has developed a risk management plan to identify risks and risk mitigation measures at corporate level. The risk register is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ITS TRUSTEES

Charity name:	Life Leisure Trust
Trading name:	Aneurin Leisure
Company registration number:	8951503
Charity registration number:	1159092
Registered office:	Bedwellty House Morgan Street Tredegar NP22 3XN

Trustees:		**Date of Appt.**	
	Mr Lyn Evans – Chair	12/05/14	
	Mrs Donna Hardman	12/05/14	
	Councillor Wayne Hodgins	03/03/17	Resigned 10/12/18 Re-appointed 13/12/18 Resigned 21/09/22
	Councillor Lee Parsons	25/05/17	Resigned 21/09/22
	Professor Jennifer Ames	24/08/17	
	Mr Richard Dando	26/03/19	
	Mr Stephen Priestnall	27/01/20	
	Ms Andrea Smart	27/01/20	Resigned 03/05/22
	Mr Stephen Dwyer	16/03/20	Resigned 21/09/22
	Mrs Sharon Howell	12/05/14	Resigned 29/03/19
	Mrs Susan Lewis	12/05/14	Resigned 08/06/17
	Mrs Sian Hughes	13/05/14	Resigned 30/09/17
	Mr Philip Hodgson	01/07/14	Resigned 05/05/17
	Mr Barry Esterhuizen	03/02/16	Resigned 27/04/17
	Mr Steven Lewis	14/10/16	Resigned 31/05/17
	Councillor Keren Bender	03/03/17	Resigned 19/05/17
	Ms Tania Frowen	24/08/17	Resigned 26/06/18
	Mr Mark Langshaw	01/12/17	Resigned 18/06/18
	Mr Meirion Morgan	24/08/17	Resigned 03/12/18
	Ms Claire Beynon	01/12/17	Resigned 15/03/19
	Mr Andrew Rogers	25/03/19	Resigned 18/10/19
	Mr Ross Watts	25/03/19	Resigned 14/12/20

Key Management Personnel:	Mrs Nichola Morden-Tew	Director of Resources
	Mr Phillip Sykes	Director of Operations

Bankers:	Barclays Business Banking South Wales Team 3rd Floor Windsor Court 3 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3ZL
Solicitors (Employment Law):	Capital Law LLP Capital Building Tyndall Street Cardiff CF10 4AZ
Auditors:	Azets Audit Services Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 1-3 Waters Lane Chambers Waters Lane Newport NP20 1LA

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Life Leisure Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

L Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

Date 10/12/2022

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31st March 2022 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2022, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees , other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report[6]. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the groups and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with this Act. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 . Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Sarah Case FCA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

Date 22-12-2022

Azets Audit Services is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**9,449**	-	**9,449**	630
Charitable activities	4	**6,620,366**	**1,057,843**	**7,678,209**	7,638,416
Other trading activities	5	**9,576**	-	**9,576**	9,479
Total income and endowments		**6,639,391**	**1,057,843**	**7,697,234**	7,648,525
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**7,774,114**	**969,220**	**8,743,334**	7,829,024
Total expenditure		**7,774,114**	**969,220**	**8,743,334**	7,829,024
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**(1,134,723)**	**88,623**	**(1,046,100)**	(180,499)
Transfers between funds	15,16	**1,245**	**(1,245)**	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	**4,677,000**	-	**4,677,000**	(5,155,000)
Net movement in funds		**3,543,522**	**87,378**	**3,630,900**	(5,335,499)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15,16	**(6,989,201)**	**522,127**	**(6,467,074)**	(1,131,575)
Total funds carried forward	16,17	**(3,445,679)**	**609,505**	**(2,836,174)**	(6,467,074)

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 45 - 75 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CHARITY ONLY
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**9,449**	**-**	**9,449**	18,596
Charitable activities	4	**6,620,366**	**1,057,843**	**7,678,209**	7,640,509
Total income and endowments		**6,629,815**	**1,057,843**	**7,687,658**	7,659,105
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**7,764,550**	**969,220**	**8,733,770**	7,828,602
Total expenditure		**7,764,550**	**969,220**	**8,733,770**	7,828,602
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**(1,134,735)**	**88,623**	**(1,046,112)**	(169,497)
Transfers between funds	15,16	**1,245**	**(1,245)**	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	**4,677,000**	-	**4,677,000**	(5,155,000)
Net movement in funds		**3,543,510**	**87,378**	**3,630,888**	(5,324,497)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	15,16	**(6,989,194)**	**522,127**	**(6,467,067)**	(1,142,570)
Total funds carried forward	16,17	**(3,445,684)**	**609,505**	**(2,836,179)**	(6,467,067)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 45 - 75 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		**558,137**		58,658
Current assets:					
Stocks	11	**23,677**		13,999	
Debtors	12	**5,061,742**		5,466,159	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,882,967**		1,248,082	
		6,968,386		6,728,240	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	**(827,098)**		(986,972)	
Net current assets			**6,141,288**		5,741,268
Total assets less current liabilities			**6,699,425**		5,799,926
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		**(394,599)**		-
Net assets excluding pension liability			**6,304,826**		5,799,926
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		**(9,141,000)**		(12,267,000)
Net (liabilities)/ assets			**(2,836,174)**		(6,467,074)
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	15		**609,505**		522,127
Unrestricted income funds	16	**1,263,321**		845,799	
Pension reserve	16	**(4,709,000)**		(7,835,000)	
			(3,445,679)		(6,989,201)
Total charity funds	17		**(2,836,174)**		(6,467,074)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 10-12-2022

L Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 45 - 75 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021	2021
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		558,137		58,658
Investments	10		1		1
			558,138		58,659
Current assets:					
Stocks	11	23,677		13,999	
Debtors	12	5,065,135		5,469,552	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,881,051		1,246,178	
		6,969,863		6,729,729	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(828,581)		(988,455)	
Net current assets			6,141,282		5,741,274
Total assets less current liabilities			6,699,420		5,799,933
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(394,599)		-
Net assets excluding pension liability			6,304,821		5,799,933
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		(9,141,000)		(12,267,000)
Net (liabilities)/ assets			(2,836,179)		(6,467,067)
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	15		609,505		522,127
Unrestricted income funds	16	1,263,316		845,806	
Pension reserve	16	(4,709,000)		(7,835,000)	
			(3,445,684)		(6,989,194)
Total charity funds	17		(2,836,179)		(6,467,067)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 10-12-2022

L Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 45 - 75 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	**1,186,749**	(633,285)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	9	**(551,864)**	-
Net cash provided used in investing activities		**(551,864)**	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**634,885**	(633,285)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	**1,248,082**	1,881,367
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20	**1,882,967**	1,248,082

The notes on pages 45 - 75 form part of the financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal form and address
Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Bedwellty House, Morgan Street, Tredegar, NP22 3XN.

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

No separate cash flow statement has been presented for the charity itself as the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions in paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

Group financial statements
These consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust Limited (the charitable company) and LLT Limited its wholly owned trading subsidiary, made up to 31 March 2022.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary on a line-by-line basis.

The trading results of the subsidiary are disclosed in note 10 to these financial statements.

Going concern
The group made a surplus (before defined benefit pension adjustments) of £526,501 for the year ended 31st March 2022 of which £442,125 related to unrestricted funds. The trust is predicted to make a significant deficit for the financial year ending 31st March 2022. The deficit is largely due to the impact of covid-19 and the capacity restrictions in place.

After reviewing the trust's forecasts and projections to the 31st March 2022 and at the time of approving the financial statements the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Should support from the Welsh Assembly Hardship Loan not continue and capacity restrictions remain in place the trust will scale down operations as required.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The Trust were notified in August 2020 that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will continue with the Trust for a further 5 year period which will commence on 1st April 2021. Contractual arrangements including the funding arrangements are currently being finalised.

The trustees are of the view that on this basis, the charity is a going concern.

In light of Covid implications, the trustees are aware that there is uncertainty regarding:

- certain figures of both income and expenditure included within the forecasts and projections; and
- level of financial support from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Fund accounting
The charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require further disclosure. These are as follows:

Restricted funds are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes. Grant income received to fund capital expenditure is held in restricted reserves. The balance is transferred to unrestricted reserves in future years at the same rates as to match the depreciation charges of the related assets.

Revenue funds restricted by the donor are matched against expenditure as appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. In addition to expenditure on the principal activities of the charity these funds can be held in order to fund capital expenditure.

Income recognition
Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Certain income is received in advance of the provision of the relevant service and as such is deferred until the service commences.

The management fee is an unrestricted fund which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company. The income is invoiced and recognised in the period to which it relates.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from grants is deferred only when the terms and conditions of the grant permit the income to be deferred to future periods.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Turnover is the amount derived from ordinary activities, and stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees' report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

An analysis has been provided for the charitable activities on a departmental basis.
The departments are defined as follows:

The departments are defined as follows:

- Training and Libraries
- Culture, Parks and Events
- Sports and Fitness
- Central Support Services

Costs where possible are attributed directly to the activity in which they relate. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities based on income received in the year.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Netting off of income against expenditure
It is not the policy of the charitable company to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

Taxation
As a registered charity Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses or in cases where fixed assets have been donated to the charity, at valuation at time of acquisition.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% straight line
Plant and machinery	- 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Computers equipment	- 33% straight line

Assets are capitalised at cost.

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets
At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Investments
Investments relate to 100% of the share capital of the charity's wholly owned trading subsidiary and is recognised at cost.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling price after taking into account all further costs and excess stocks that are slow moving.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets
Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Employee Benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Service Concession Agreements
The charity has service contracts with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the maintenance and operation of the various theatres, libraries, community centres, leisure centres and parks owned by the Local Authority to which it has lease and management service contracts.

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Property, plant and equipment
The buildings and equipment at the various locations are to be leased to the charity as part of the overall contractual relationships with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) but BGCBC maintain ultimate control of these assets. Accordingly the access to which the charity has in the use of these assets is to enable it to operate the various venues so that the charity can provide the public service it is contracted to provide, not to effectively own these public service assets. These assets are therefore not recognised on the charity's Balance Sheet.

Any new assets purchased by the Trust remain the property of the Trust.

Receipts
The charity receives agreed management fee income from BGCBC each year which is decreased on an annual basis as per the terms of the Funding and Management Agreement.

Pensions
The charitable company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay.

Full details of the Trust's retirement benefit arrangements are set out in note 19 being the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

This is a funded pension scheme meaning that the employer and employee pay contributions which are invested in a separate fund.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) remain liable for the past service deficit that existed at the Trust's inception. The Trust is responsible for the LGPS movements after the commencement date; however the liability is indemnified by BGCBC.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

Operating leases
The charity classifies the lease of gym equipment and motor vehicles as operating leases. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The following critical accounting estimates and judgements have been made:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimate, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 9 for the carrying amount of the plant and equipment and above for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

Defined benefit pension scheme
The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations	**1,002**	**-**	**1,002**	630
LLT Limited Covenant	**8,447**	**-**	**8,447**	-
	9,449	**-**	**9,449**	630
Charity				
Donations	**1,002**	**-**	**1,002**	630
LLT Limited Covenant	**8,447**	**-**	**8,447**	17,966
	9,449	**-**	**9,449**	18,596

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Catering income	**872,172**	-	**872,172**	200,966
Class income	**34,694**	-	**34,694**	14,859
Educational income	**21,051**	-	**21,051**	26,590
Grants	**1,092,694**	**1,057,843**	**2,150,537**	3,610,665
Leisure centre income	**1,310,916**	-	**1,310,916**	221,840
Management fee	**2,798,092**	-	**2,798,092**	3,232,688
Park outdoor activities	**236,664**	-	**236,664**	30,695
Reorganisation funding & recharges	-	-	-	164,555
Room hire and rental	**109,687**	-	**109,687**	67,701
Sale of goods	**30,438**	-	**30,438**	4,845
Service Level Agreement	**75,304**	-	**75,304**	55,064
Shows and events	**9,086**	-	**9,086**	-
Sundry income	**29,568**	-	**29,568**	7,948
	6,620,366	**1,057,843**	**7,678,209**	7,638,416

Charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Catering income	**872,172**	-	**872,172**	200,966
Class income	**34,694**	-	**34,694**	14,859
Educational income	**21,051**	-	**21,051**	26,590
Grants	**1,092,694**	**1,057,843**	**2,150,537**	3,610,665
Leisure centre income	**1,310,916**	-	**1,310,916**	221,840
Management fee	**2,798,092**	-	**2,798,092**	3,232,688
Park outdoor activities	**236,664**	-	**236,664**	30,695
Reorganisation funding & recharges	-	-	-	164,555
Room hire and rental	**109,687**	-	**109,687**	67,701
Sale of goods	**30,438**	-	**30,438**	4,845
Service Level Agreement	**75,304**	-	**75,304**	55,064
Shows and events	**9,086**	-	**9,086**	-
Sundry income	**29,568**	-	**29,568**	10,041
	6,620,366	**1,057,843**	**7,678,209**	7,640,509

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Grant income was received from the following sources:

Group and charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	722	14,887	15,609	-
Arts Council of Wales	-	-	-	219,710
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	12,605	49,129	61,734	175,593
Cardiff Council	-	4,005	4,005	-
Caerphilly County Borough Council	-	-	-	11,200
Coleg Gwent	274,079	-	274,079	279,512
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	82,049	82,049	1,032,412
Denbighshire County Council	-	-	-	5,000
Disability Sports Wales	-	19,945	19,945	21,311
European Social Fund	-	477,085	477,085	427,539
Good Things Foundation	-	2,352	2,352	3,936
Learning & Work Institute	-	750	750	700
National Heritage	-	7,911	7,911	5,550
Public Health Wales	-	103,000	103,000	99,600
Sports Council Wales	41,706	243,210	284,916	252,294
Street Games	-	26,000	26,000	15,672
WCVA	-	27,520	27,520	-
Welsh Government	763,582	-	763,582	1,060,636
	1,092,694	1,057,843	2,150,537	3,610,665

Income by activity:

	Group* £	Charity** £
Training and libraries	1,177,298	1,177,298
Culture, parks and events	996,859	1,006,435
Sports and fitness	2,256,766	2,256,766
Central support services	3,256,735	3,256,735
	7,687,658	7,697,234

* Group income includes donations and subsidiary trading income.
**Charity income includes donations and excludes subsidiary trading income

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Subsidiary trading operations	**9,576**	**-**	**9,576**	9,479
	9,576	**-**	**9,576**	9,479

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants £	Governance £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Agency and subcontractors	**214,076**	-	-	-	**214,076**	49,954
Business support	**568,016**	**62,971**	-	**10,925**	**641,912**	679,370
Catering costs	**385,375**	-	-	-	**385,375**	93,827
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	**2,169,252**	-	-	-	**2,169,252**	1,307,804
Depreciation	**51,778**	-	-	-	**51,778**	41,022
Events and show costs	**42,755**	-	-	-	**42,755**	891
Irrecoverable VAT	**28,496**	**3,681**	-	-	**32,177**	77,425
Other costs	**462,076**	-	-	-	**462,076**	440,269
Premises	**842,194**	-	-	-	**842,194**	978,700
Reorganisation costs	**75,219**	-	-	-	**75,219**	4,375
Social security	**283,130**	-	-	-	**283,130**	274,412
Wages and salaries	**3,025,417**	**507,717**	**10,256**	-	**3,543,390**	3,880,975
	8,147,784	**574,369**	**10,256**	**10,925**	**8,743,334**	7,829,024

Charity

Agency and subcontractors	**214,076**	-	-	-	**214,076**	49,954
Business support	**568,016**	**62,971**	-	**10,925**	**641,912**	679,370
Catering costs	**385,375**	-	-	-	**385,375**	93,827
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	**2,169,252**	-	-	-	**2,169,252**	1,307,804
Depreciation	**51,778**	-	-	-	**51,778**	41,022
Events and show costs	**42,755**	-	-	-	**42,755**	891
Irrecoverable VAT	**27,380**	**3,681**	-	-	**31,061**	77,007
Other costs	**453,628**	-	-	-	**453,628**	440,265
Premises	**842,194**	-	-	-	**842,194**	978,700
Reorganisation costs	**75,219**	-	-	-	**75,219**	4,375
Social security	**283,130**	-	-	-	**283,130**	274,412
Wages and salaries	**3,025,417**	**507,717**	**10,256**	-	**3,543,390**	3,880,975
	8,138,220	**574,369**	**10,255**	**10,925**	**8,733,770**	7,828,602

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Expenditure can be attributed to:

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants	Governance £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Training and libraries	**1,381,733**	**152,281**	**-**	**-**	**1,534,014**	1,633,901
Culture, parks and events	**1,493,620**	**130,180**	**10,256**	**-**	**1,634,056**	1,728,740
Sports and fitness	**2,636,157**	**291,908**	**-**	**-**	**2,928,065**	2,613,610
Central support services*	**2,636,274**	**-**	**-**	**10,925**	**2,647,199**	1,852,773
	8,147,784	**574,369**	**10,256**	**10,925**	**8,743,334**	7,829,024
Charity						
Training and libraries	**1,381,733**	**152,281**	-	-	**1,534,014**	1,633,901
Culture, parks and events	**1,484,056**	**130,180**	**10,256**	**-**	**1,624,492**	1,728,320
Sports and fitness	**2,636,157**	**291,908**	**-**	**-**	**2,928,065**	2,613,610
Central support services*	**2,636,274**	**-**	**-**	**10,925**	**2,647,199**	1,852,771
	8,138,220	**574,369**	**10,256**	**10,925**	**8,733,770**	7,828,602

*Costs related to FRS 102 valuation of the pension scheme have been charged to the support category within Central support services and are not allocated across the business.

Support costs have been allocated to the activities based on income received in the year.

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:

Group and charity	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Depreciation	**51,778**	41,022
Operating leases	**96,773**	60,869
Auditors Remuneration:		
Audit fees	**9,000**	9,250
Accountancy services	**1,500**	1,550

8. STAFF COSTS

Group and charity	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Wages and salaries	**3,543,390**	3,880,976
Social security costs	**283,130**	274,412
FRS 102 Pension service costs (see note 19)	**2,169,252**	1,157,000
	5,995,772	5,312,388

Pension costs also include the impact of the FRS102 actuarial valuation of the service cost of running the DB scheme.

Redundancy costs totalling £75,219 are included in the above costs (2021: £3,183). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end (2021: £nil).

The total number of persons utilised throughout the year comprised a mixture of both contracted staff and relief workers. A number of individuals have only worked minimal shifts to support events. At 31 March 2022 and 2021 the Trust had 69 people in relief posts.

Staff numbers excluding relief workers:

Group and charity	Headcount 2022	Headcount 2021	FTE 2022	FTE 2021
Training and libraries	**83**	79	**37.91**	38.7
Culture, parks and events	**69**	47	**31.52**	25.3
Sports and fitness	**123**	95	**56.19**	55.9
Central support services	**12**	17	**5.48**	16.8
	287	238	**131.1**	136.7

Key management personnel
The key management personnel of the charity received benefits totalling £170,597 (2021: £163,761).

These costs consist of gross pay, employers' national insurance contributions and employers pension contributions.

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 for the period and to whom retirement benefits are accruing under a defined benefit scheme was:

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
£60,000- £70,000	**2**	2

8. STAFF COSTS (continued)

The amount of employers pension contributions paid in respect of the above employee for the period was as follows:

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Total contributions	**23,190**	22,343

Transactions with Trustees
During the period Donna Hardman, as the staff Trustee, received remuneration from her employment with the charity but not for her services as a Trustee.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charity (paragraph 19.1) provides the charity with the legal authority to make such payments.

The employee is a staff representative on the Trustee board.

No Trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior period.

Related Party transactions
During the period the charity recharged its wholly owned trading subsidiary LLT Limited £8,373 (2021: £2,093) for admin, staff time and maintenance costs.

LLT Limited gift aided £2,865 (2021: £17,966) to the charity during the period.

As at 31 March 2022 the LLT owed the charity £1,910 (2021: the charity owed LLT £9,419).

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicle £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	**120,739**	**8,674**	**55,576**	**28,125**	**213,114**
Additions	**545,245**	**-**	**6,619**	**-**	**551,864**
Disposals	**-**	**-**	**(3,033)**	**-**	**(3,033)**
At 31 March 2022	**665,984**	**8,674**	**59,162**	**28,125**	**761,945**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2021	**81,994**	**6,541**	**42,533**	**23,388**	**154,456**
Charge for the year	**38,241**	**2,133**	**6,667**	**4,737**	**51,778**
Disposals	**-**	**-**	**(2,426)**	**-**	**(2,426)**
At 31 March 2022	**120,235**	**8,674**	**46,774**	**28,125**	**203,808**
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2022	**545,749**	**-**	**12,388**	**-**	**558,137**
At 31 March 2021	38,745	2,133	13,043	4,737	58,658

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - CHARITY

	Investments in Group undertakings £
Cost as at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022	1

Life Leisure Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, company number 09236541. The registered office of the company is the same as the charity. LLT Limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

The results of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 can be found below:

Profit and Loss Account	**Total 2022 £**	Total 2021 £
Turnover	**9,576**	9,479
Admin expenses	**(6,711)**	(2,511)
Operating profit	**2,865**	6,968
Statement of changes in Equity		
Balance brought forward	**1**	10,999
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	**2,865**	6,968
Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	**(2,865)**	(17,966)
Balance carried forward	**1**	1
Balance Sheet		
Current assets:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**1,911**	1,911
Amount owed by parent	**1,484**	-
	3,395	1,911
Current liabilities:		
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**3,394**	1,910
	3,394	1,910
Net current assets	**1**	1
Capital and reserves:		
Called up share capital	**1**	1
Profit and loss reserves	**-**	-
	1	1

The results above are included in the consolidated accounts.

11. STOCK

Group and charity	2022 £	2021 £
Shop items	**6,925**	6,010
Food and bar	**16,752**	7,989
	23,677	13,999

12. DEBTORS

Group	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	**198,160**	558,149
Prepayments and accrued income	**431,582**	476,010
	629,742	1,034,159
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	**4,432,000**	4,432,000
	5,061,742	5,466,159

Charity

Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	**198,160**	558,149
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	**3,394**	3,393
Prepayments and accrued income	**431,581**	476,010
	633,135	1,037,552
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	**4,432,000**	4,432,000
	5,065,135	5,469,552

The underwritten pension balances relates to the deficit on the LGPS scheme prior to the Trust's inception (see note 19).

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Group	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	**30,195**	56,516
Accruals and deferred income	**580,727**	765,551
Social security and other taxes	**154,121**	164,905
Hire purchase	**62,055**	-
	827,098	986,972

Charity	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	**30,195**	56,516
Accruals and deferred income	**580,727**	765,551
Social security and other taxes	**154,121**	164,905
Amounts due to subsidiary undertakings	**1,483**	1,483
Hire purchase	**62,055**	-
	828,581	988,455

Contained in the accruals and deferred balance above is deferred income in relation to weddings, activities, ticket sale income and management fee income which will relates to the 2022/23 financial year.

Group and Charity	2022 £	2021 £
Balance brought forward	**53,234**	939,604
Income received in the year	**2,965,147**	2,346,318
Released to income	**(2,814,546)**	(3,232,688)
Balance carried forward	**203,835**	53,234

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Group and Charity	2022 £	2021 £
Hire purchase	**394,599**	-
	394,599	-

Hire purchase contracts

The net book value of fixed assets held under hire purchase contracts during the year totalled £455,554 (2021: £nil).

Group and Charity	2022 £	2021 £
Future minimum lease payments due under finance leases:		
Within one year	**62,055**	-
In two to five years	**297,217**	-
In over five years	**97,382**	-
	456,654	-

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Group and charity	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	-	14,887	(4,887)	-	10,000
Arts Council of Wales	74,227	-	(86,673)	-	(12,446)
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	-	49,129	(38,129)	-	11,000
Cardiff Council	-	4,005	(4,005)	-	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	82,049	(82,049)	-	-
Disability Sports Wales	2,446	19,945	(21,308)	(1,245)	(162)
European Social Fund	353,948	477,085	(396,795)	-	434,238
Good Things Foundation	1,960	2,352	(78)	-	4,234
Heritage Lottery	11,592	-	-	-	11,592
Learning & Work Institute	3,141	750	(130)	-	3,761
National Heritage	(7,911)	7,911	-	-	-
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,114	-	-	-	4,114
Public Health Wales	-	103,000	(96,207)	-	6,793
Sports Council Wales	26,453	243,210	(212,818)	-	56,845
Street Games	45,453	26,000	(20,725)	-	50,728
WCVA	-	27,520	(5,416)	-	22,104
Welsh Government	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,704	-	-	-	1,704
Total funds	522,127	1,057,843	(969,220)	(1,245)	609,505

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board was received for the MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) project to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme.

Arts Council of Wales funding was received for delivery of community arts projects within the four Local Authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council was to provide Adult Community Learning.

Cardiff Council was received for the MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) project to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funding was received to cover the wage cost of staff placed on furlough during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Disability Sports Wales funding was received for the provision of quality sporting and physical activity opportunities for disabled people at grass roots level.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

European Social Fund grant was received to achieve two main objectives:

1. engage, support and prepare the economically inactive in deprived areas, by teaching them the relevant skills to gain sustainable employment.
2. increase the relevant skills of those individuals currently employed with limited skills.

Heritage Lottery funding was received to achieve four main objectives:

i. enhancing educational activities within the local heritage attractions.
ii. delivering the 'Blaenau Gwent in the 1st World War' project, which includes working with volunteers and the community. This project has successfully concluded.
iii. providing exposure to the arts via the History and Mystery project.
iv. to deliver a series of workshops to young people in the community on local history via the Voice and Identity project

Good Things Foundation funding received for the public to complete their census digitally.

Learning & Work Institute funding was received to deliver promotional activities during the Adult Learners' week.

National Heritage funding was received for sensory garden project at Parc Bryn Bach.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
MALD Museums and Libraries Division (formally CyMAL) funding to assist with the delivery of Every Child a Member Scheme

Public Health Wales funding was received to facilitate the implementation and maintenance of exercise schemes, with the view of improving the health and wellbeing for patients aged 16 and over at risk of chronic disease.

Sports Council Wales funding was received to achieve six objectives:

i. to set up a buggy walker group for new parents/carers to meet weekly and enjoy an exercise class with their child via the Sports Lottery Community Chest Grant.
ii. increase regular participation in sport, improve opportunities for all and develop talented athletes via the LAPA project.
iii. provide free swimming to eligible participants via the Free Swim Grant.
iv. to support the delivery of the 'Coaches for the Future' programme.
v. to develop sports clubs via the 'Thriving Clubs' project.
vi. to improve the health, happiness and confidence of children by increasing their participation in physical activity via the Physical Literacy project.

Street Games funding was received to deliver the 'Door-step Sport' and 'Us Girls Initiative' as well as the 'Sports Leaders Awards'.

WCVA funding to improve biodiversity, waste minimisation and environmental enhancement.

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Welsh Government funding was received to restructure the ground floor of Abertillery library to accommodate Adult Community learning activities.

Wrexham County Borough Council funding was received to achieve three main objectives:

- delivery of 'Every Child a Member' scheme with the libraries.
- delivery of the 'Summer Reading Challenge'.
- delivery of the 'Rugby Stories' project. This project has successfully concluded.

Previous period

Group and charity	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Arts Council of Wales	96,797	191,408	(213,978)	-	74,227
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	-	18,511	(18,511)	-	-
Caerphilly CBC	-	11,200	(11,200)	-	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	1,032,413	(982,796)	(49,617)	-
Denbighshire County Council	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Disability Sports Wales	(109)	21,311	(22,756)	4,000	2,446
European Social Fund	264,456	427,539	(387,664)	49,617	353,948
Good Things Foundation	-	3,936	(1,976)	-	1,960
Heritage Lottery	11,592	-	-	-	11,592
Learning & Work Institute	2,558	700	(117)	-	3,141
National Heritage	-	5,550	(13,461)	-	(7,911)
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4,114	-	-	-	4,114
Public Health Wales	-	99,670	(103,056)	3,386	-
Sports Council Wales	20,954	211,612	(202,113)	(4,000)	26,453
Street Games	35,685	15,672	(5,904)	-	45,453
Welsh Government	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Wrexham County Borough Council	1,704	-	-	-	1,704
Total funds	437,751	2,049,522	(1,968,532)	3,386	522,127

16. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Group	As at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme £	As at 31 March 2022 £
General fund	845,799	**6,639,391**	**(6,223,114)**	**1,245**	-	**1,263,321**
Defined benefit pension scheme	(7,835,000)	-	**(1,551,000)**	-	**4,677,000**	**(4,709,000)**
	(6,989,201)	**6,639,391**	**(7,774,114)**	**1,245**	**4,677,000**	**(3,445,679)**
Charity						
General fund	845,806	**6,629,815**	**(6,213,550)**	**1,245**	-	**1,263,316**
Defined benefit pension scheme	(7,835,000)	-	**(1,551,000)**	-	**4,677,000**	**(4,709,000)**
	(6,989,194)	**6,629,815**	**(7,764,550)**	**1,245**	**4,677,000**	**(3,445,684)**

Previous period

Group	As at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme £	As at 31 March 2021 £
General fund	403,674	5,599,003	(5,153,492)	(3,386)	-	845,799
Defined benefit pension scheme	(1,973,000)	-	(707,000)	-	(5,155,000)	(7,835,000)
	(1,569,326)	5,599,003	(5,860,492)	(3,386)	(5,155,000)	(6,989,201)
Charity						
General fund	392,679	5,609,583	(5,153,070)	(3,386)	-	845,806
Defined benefit pension scheme	(1,973,000)	-	(707,000)	-	(5,155,000)	(7,835,000)
	(1,580,321)	5,609,583	(5,860,070)	(3,386)	(5,155,000)	(6,989,194)

17. ANALSYS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Group	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**2022 £**
Fixed assets	**558,137**	**-**	**558,137**
Current assets	**1,926,881**	**609,505**	**2,536,386**
Pension debtor	**4,432,000**	**-**	**4,432,000**
Current liabilities	**(827,098)**	**-**	**(827,098)**
Long term liabilities	**(394,599)**	**-**	**(394,599)**
Pension deficit	**(9,141,000)**	**-**	**(9,141,000)**
Total funds	**(3,445,679)**	**609,505**	**(2,836,174)**
Charity			
Fixed assets	**558,137**	**-**	**558,137**
Investments	**1**	**-**	**1**
Current assets	**1,928,358**	**609,505**	**2,537,863**
Pension debtor	**4,432,000**	**-**	**4,432,000**
Current liabilities	**(828,581)**	**-**	**(828,581)**
Long term liabilities	**(394,599)**	**-**	**(394,599)**
Pension deficit	**(9,141,000)**	**-**	**(9,141,000)**
Total funds	**(3,445,684)**	**609,505**	**(2,836,179)**

Previous year

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 £
Fixed assets	58,658	-	58,658
Current assets	1,774,113	522,127	2,296,240
Pension debtor	4,432,000	-	4,432,000
Current liabilities	(986,972)	-	(986,972)
Pension deficit	(12,267,000)	-	(12,267,000)
Total funds	(6,989,201)	522,127	(6,467,074)
Charity			
Fixed assets	58,658	-	58,658
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets	1,775,602	522,127	2,297,729
Pension debtor	4,432,000	-	4,432,000
Current liabilities	(988,455)	-	(988,455)
Pension deficit	(12,267,000)	-	(12,267,000)
Total funds	(6,989,194)	522,127	(6,467,067)

18. OPERATING LEASES

The group had the following operating leases in place as at 31 March 2022:

Group and Charity	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Due less than 1 year	**22,468**	22,468
Due 2-5 years	-	
Due >5 years	-	-
	22,468	22,468-

19. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate controlling party is the Board of Trustees and management team who are responsible for the strategic and operational decisions of the charity.

20. PENSIONS

The company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on pensionable pay.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary based on triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The most recent valuation was as at 31 March 2019 which has been updated to reflect conditions at the balance sheet date. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rate of increase in salaries and pensions.

There were no amounts outstanding in relation to pension contributions during the current or prior period. Regular employer contributions during the period totalled £618,252 (2021: £600,032).

Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGPS)
The company participates in the 'Torfaen County Borough Council (Greater Gwent)' pension scheme which is a defined benefit scheme based on final pensionable salary. Certain employees of the company participated in the scheme prior to the company's inception and, as such, assets or liabilities attributable to these individuals were identified at the transfer date i.e. 1st October 2014. As part of the agreement, liability for the proportion of the debt attributable to these employees that relates to the pre-transfer period rests with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). Gains and losses relating solely to the period since transfer are recognised in the income statement and statement of other comprehensive income. However, the deficit is underwritten by BGCBC. Pension funding is based on funding advice from the scheme actuary based on a different set of assumptions. The FRS 102 valuation does not impact on the level of contribution that the company and hence ultimately BGCBC has to make.

20. PENSIONS (continued)

Changes in the Fair Value of Plan Assets, Defined Benefit Obligation and Net Liability for year end 31 March 2022

Amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

Period ended 31 March 2022	Assets £(000)	Obligations £(000)	Net (liability)/ asset £(000)
Fair value of plan assets	25,012	-	25,012
Present value of funded liabilities	-	37,279	(37,279)
Opening Position as at 31 March 2021	25,012	37,279	(12,267)
Service cost			
Current service cost	-	1,904	(1,904)
Past service cost (including curtailments)	-	-	-
Total Service Cost	-	1,904	(1,904)
Net interest			
Interest income on plan assets	519	-	519
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	-	783	(783)
Total net interest	519	783	(264)
Total defined benefit cost recognised in Profit or (Loss)	519	2,687	(2,168)
Cash flows			
Plan participants' contributions	208	208	-
Employer contributions	617	-	617
Estimated Benefits paid	(218)	(218)	-
Expected closing position	26,138	39,956	(13,818)
Remeasurements			
Changes in financial assumptions	-	(3,5450	3,545
Changes in demographic assumptions	-	(214)	214
Other experience	-	77	(77)
Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	995	-	995
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	995	(3,682)	4,677
Fair value of plan assets	27,133	-	27,133
Present value of funded liabilities	-	36,274	(36,274)
Closing Position as at 31 March 2022	27,133	36,274	(9,141)

20. PENSIONS (continued)

The major categories of plan assets as a percentage of total plan assets are as follows:

Using the most recent asset split and allowing for index returns, where required, on each asset category, the estimated split of assets as at 31 March 2022 is as shown below:

Period Ended	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	%	%
Equities	81	81
Bonds	16	17
Property	3	2
Cash	0	0

The financial assumptions, as described in the accompanying report, are summarised below:

Period Ended	31 Mar 2022	31 March 2021
	% p.a.	% p.a.
Pension Increase Rate	3.15	2.80%
Salary Increase Rate	3.45	3.10%
Discount Rate	2.75	2.05%

Life expectancy is based on the Funds' VitaCurves with improvements in line with CMI 2018 with a peaked long term rate of 1.25% p.a.

The average future life expectances at age 65 are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current Pensioners	2056 years	23.2 years
Future Pensioners*	21.8 years	25.1 years

*Figures assume members aged 45 as at the last formal valuation date.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at 31 March 2022	Approximate % increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount £(000)
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	14%	5,201
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	697
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	4,386

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period	**3,575,170**	(5,335,499)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**51,778**	41,022
(Gain)/Loss on disposal	**607**	-
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	**(9,678)**	6,539
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**404,417**	(592,629)
Increase in creditors	**(2,835,547)**	5,247,282
Net cash provided by operating activities	**1,186,747**	(633,285)
Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash in hand	**1,882,967**	1,248,082
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**1,882,967**	1,248,082

Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2021	Cash flows	New finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,248,082	**634,885**	-	-	**1,882,967**
Obligations under finance lease	-	**18,576**	**(471,863)**	**(3,367)**	**(456,654)**
	1,248,082	**653,461**	**(471,863)**	**(3,367)**	**1,426,313**

22. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIY

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	430	200	630
Charitable activities	5,589,094	2,049,322	7,638,416
Other trading activities	9,479	-	9,479
Total income and endowments	5,599,003	2,049,522	7,648,525
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5,860,492	1,968,532	7,829,024
Total expenditure	5,860,492	1,968,532	7,829,024
Net (expenditure)/ income	(261,489)	80,990	(180,499)
Transfers between funds	(3,386)	3,386	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	(5,155,000)	-	(5,155,000)
Net movement in funds	(5,419,875)	84,376	(5,335,499)
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	(1,569,326)	437,751	(1,131,575)
Total funds carried forward	(6,989,201)	522,127	(6,467,074)

22. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	18,396	200	18,596
Charitable activities	5,591,187	2,049,322	7,640,509
Total income and endowments	5,609,583	2,049,522	7,659,105
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5,860,070	1,968,532	7,828,602
Total expenditure	5,860,070	1,968,532	7,828,602
Net (expenditure)/ income	(250,487)	80,990	(169,497)
Transfers between funds	(3,386)	3,386	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):			
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	(5,155,000)	-	(5,155,000)
Net movement in funds	(5,408,873)	84,376	(5,324,497)
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	(1,580,321)	437,751	(1,142,570)
Total funds carried forward	(6,989,194)	522,127	(6,467,067)

Aneurin Leisure Trust

England & Wales - Charity number 1159092

Accounts

Company registration number: 8951503
Charity registration number: 1159092



LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
(A company limited by guarantee
and not having any share capital)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, STRATEGIC REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

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LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Foreword from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is a great pleasure to introduce this seventh annual review of Aneurin Leisure. Our mission is to "Improve Community Life" and I am pleased to say that we continue to deliver on this commitment through the services and programmes we provide to the residents of Blaenau Gwent.

We are at an exciting juncture in our development, as a young Leisure Trust, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on creating healthier lifestyles whilst working with partners such as Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Sport Wales and Disability Sport Wales.

Once again, during a continuing tough and challenging financial climate, Aneurin Leisure (Trust) has delivered service improvements and achieved targets agreed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Access was granted to the Hardship fund to mitigate against the challenges faced by restrictions due to the Covid pandemic which has allowed the Trust to continue planned investment set out in the 10 year business plan to support continued growth and deliver on our mission statement.

Key investments were made across key areas of the business to place the Trust in the best possible position to recover, which included a full refurbishment of all three Sports Centre gyms consisting of new flooring, brand coloured redecorating and new cardiovascular and resistance equipment. The successful tender was sought to embrace the latest digital developments within the health and fitness industry which will help to provide value for money to our users in the event of future lockdowns.

Parc Bryn Bach also benefited from additional investment with the upgrade of the visitor centre, showers and the implementation of new activity projects such as Mini Golf, Go-Karts and the ordering of a Caving container. These upgrades will help to develop the park as a destination for longer day trips.

The Library Service and Adult Community Education have continued consultation with the local authority and Coalfields Regeneration to discuss relocation plans to Trinity Chapel in Abertillery. This relocation will provide residents with improved town centre access and co-located services in a modern, refurbished building.

Catering & Hospitality achieved growth across the business unit sites, with public confidence in the quality of service remaining consistent across the business. Bedwellty House and Park continues to receive positive feedback with a 4.5* rating on Trip Advisor and 5* rating on Facebook for quality of food.

Since the inception of Aneurin Leisure, partnerships have been important to our success. As well as the key partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the Trust has developed many partnerships with agencies and organisations and the relationship with Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Health Board is flourishing and key projects are arising as a result.

The National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) is an established partner on the Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN). The cluster design promotes joint working across practices and the integration of primary care services with key partners such as the Local Health Board, Local Authority and Third Sector. Clusters also have a key role in supporting local health needs assessments, allocating appropriate resources and forecasting the potential future demand on primary care. There have been multiple collaborative projects that have been established in these meetings including Fibromyalgia and Dementia working groups, with the NERS team delivering bespoke classes to contribute to the respective needs.

The successes achieved across the Trust are in no small part due to the commitment of our employees. Once again, the staff have been our greatest resource, working extremely hard to deliver high quality services to our customers in our facilities and the communities of Blaenau Gwent. I would like to thank the entire team and all our partners for their contribution to the delivery of improved services across the area.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the continued success of Aneurin Leisure during the year: our Trustees, staff, volunteers, funders and partners and in particular, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Above all, I would like to thank the local community whose interests we serve, for their support and engagement over the past year.

Lyn Evans
Chair
Board of Trustees

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report which incorporates the strategic report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as amended for accounting periods commencing 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

- to provide or assist in the provision of both indoor and outdoor facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life;
- to promote community participation in healthy recreational activities;
- to provide or assist in the provision of community facilities to be available to all sections of the community without distinction, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and/or other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for all those who use the facilities;
- to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of a theatre/ arts development;
- to advance education in the arts by the establishment and maintenance of an art gallery and/or museum;
- to advance the education of the public through the provision of a library;
  to provide, maintain and equip parks with the object of advancing public education, with particular regard to horticulture, arboriculture, wild plants and wildlife;
- to preserve buildings of historic or architectural importance;
- to develop the capacity and skills of members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and participate more fully in society; and,
- to pursue such other charitable purposes analogous to any of the above as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall determine (together the "Objects").

To carry out any other charitable activity subject to the prior written consent of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Public benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trust considers how planned activities support its vision of improving community life through Leisure, Learning and Culture which benefits the local population served by the charity. The Trust aims to deliver social outcomes that improve health and wellbeing whilst encouraging staff to strive to improve the quality of service delivery in a commercially sustainable way.

Some of the key activities undertaken in relation to the objects of the charity and to further the charities purpose for the public benefit are outlined on pages 5 - 21

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- These accounts represent trading for Aneurin Leisure for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.
- Aneurin Leisure has maintained a strong relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.
- The Library Service achieved all 12 of the core entitlements of the Welsh Public Standards.
- During 2020/21 further discussions took place to develop the relocation of Abertillery Library to Trinity Chapel. Coalfields Regeneration Trust, the Local Authority, Adult Community Learning and the Library Service have progressed the plan with timescales being scheduled for April 2022.
- A working group was established to discuss the implementation of Community Hubs within local libraries. Regular meetings were held and visits to libraries were arranged throughout 2020/21 to discuss delivery of this new service. This joint venture will transform the way in which residents engage with the council, offering face-to-face support through the six libraries. It will link closely with other library services, increasing footfall and will further develop the role of libraries as vital community hubs. The new service is planned to be launched in the first quarter of 2021/22.
- There were 17,976 electronic downloads (77% increase from previous year), 25,543 book loans and 1,532 call and collect visits.

Who used and benefited from our services?

The Charitable Trust provides leisure, learning and cultural activities to the residents of Blaenau Gwent. Whilst some sections of the community are affluent, many are not and some 21 per cent of areas fall in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales and overall, the majority of its areas are more deprived than the Wales average.

The Charitable Trust is responsible for the operation, management and development of the following:

- Three Sports Centres (including Sports Development and NERS Facilitators)
- Four Learning Action Centres
- Six Libraries
- *An Arts/Cultural Venue -
- Bedwellty House & Park
- Parc Bryn Bach

*The Metropole Theatre remained closed throughout the 2020/21 financial year due to covid restrictions
By offering a wide range of products and activities, individuals of all ages can participate.

User/Footfall Statistics - 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

	2020/21	2019/20
Sports Centres	*68,021	598,422
Libraries	**3,100	305,343
Learning Action Centres	***21,203	151,869
Parc Bryn Bach	****	542,537

*Sports Centres were closed until mid-August, followed by a 2-week firebreak and a further lockdown 20 20th December 2021. Facilities did not reopen until May 2021. During the re-opening all activities were severely restricted due to capacity numbers allowed and social distancing.

**Cwm Library (operated a Post Office service only and was the first service to resume on 26th May 2020 and this continued throughout the year)

Call and Collect numbers were recorded manually, as footfall counters did not pick up, as collection was at entrance. Customers returning books are also included in this, again approx figures, as manually recorded. Browsing by appointment and PC use by appointment was implemented in the Autumn of 2020 and continued until Christmas 2020, these figures are also included.

***The Learning Action Centres opened back up in September 2020 following the closure for Covid-19.

**** Footfall counters were faulty throughout the year and have been upgraded for future reporting

Getting Young People and Communities Active

Sports Development

The Sport Wales additional lottery investment for the last 5 years has been combined into one pot (e.g. LAPA) to enable the Gwent region to work collaboratively to impact on the Vision For Sport in Wales and the population of Gwent. This will continue during the 2021-22 funding cycle. The regular communication and dialogue among Local Authority officers has provided a platform for continuous learning and the sharing of good practice and innovation over a number of years. The sharing of what works and what doesn't, across the Gwent region means 'Active Gwent' and individual local authorities are in a strong position to submit Partnership Agreements based on local insight, experience, and knowledge of our areas.

Sports Development will continue to deliver inspirational, engaging, high quality sport and physical activity programmes, projects and interventions, particularly for children, young people and their families which are insight led and aligned to Sport Wales investment priority areas:

- Foundations
- Participation
- Progression
- Performance
- Succeed
- Growing Capability, Capacity and Confidence

We aim to support and deliver:

- The Foundation and Participations priorities via physical Literacy development, Primary School Sport, Secondary School Sport and Community Sport.

- The Progression and Performance priorities via our Club Development, Partnerships with NGBs, and Sustainability of Grassroots Sports programme.

- All programmes will be driven by insight gathered from a number of different sources. Extra-curricular secondary school sessions will be selected based on the latest School Sport Survey (SSS) data and the latent demand. A number of health and wellbeing interventions for secondary schools will be shaped by the School Health Research network data (SHRN). That data stated that a number of children are not meeting the required amount of physical activity minutes per week. A bespoke intervention was implemented to engage with the wider family to help support individuals.

- 2018 Primary School SSS data presented a significant decrease of sport and physical activity including the number of minutes of PE being delivered during curriculum time. As a result, support packages have been created and delivered to a number of Primary school staff. There was a focus on adapting their current curriculum to the new one. This support will continue throughout the next year and will help the Primary school phase reintroduce sport and physical activity opportunities.

- The cross-cutting workforce development programme undertaken across the county borough includes playmakers; ambassador programme, coach education and officer training will contribute to growing capability, capacity and confidence priority.

- The Sports Development team will ensure to promote equality throughout all of our provision and programmes. The main objective is to continue to offer sport and physical activity that is accessible to all. Disability inclusion sessions are integrated into all community and school provision.

- All coaches and staff have completed disability inclusion training to allow all sessions to be inclusive. The Admiral play together programmes has been installed into the Primary School Package, which is delivered to all schools.

- Disability partnership community engagement has developed with a number of local trusted organisations (LTOs) working together to ensure high quality inclusive sessions are delivered within local communities. Families First, Barnardos and other agencies are working alongside Sports Development to establish physical activity sessions within their programmes. These partnerships will continue to create and develop opportunities for everyone.

- The Us Girls brand in Blaenau Gwent has created a legacy that will continue far beyond the brand itself. Both the brand and the delivery tool is still very much utilised in Blaenau Gwent in order to engage with inactive and semi-active females. The 'female only' setting that the project promotes gives young women and girls the confidence to attend sessions and participate in activities in a safe and fun environment without the fear of being judged. Volunteer-led and participant centred sessions remain at the forefront of our project, with an emphasis on engaging the 'right' target group into a more physically active and sporting lifestyle.

- The Us Girls project in isolation created opportunities for local women and girls but lacked the sustainability required for long term engagement. The development of Blaenau Gwent's Community Sport model in particular, has streamlined the women and girls offer in Blaenau Gwent and embedded the offer alongside new and existing provision. Provision is also delivered in partnership with all four of the secondary schools in Blaenau Gwent, to provide extra-curricular opportunities for female pupils aged 11 to 16.

- Blaenau Gwent's Community Sport model has created a gateway to local 'hard to engage' communities and has provided a platform for young people living in the area. Community Sport in Blaenau Gwent aims to encourage local young people to become more physically active in a safe and fun environment. Delivered in the community, for the community; sessions are current and vibrant, and are delivered by the 'right people', at the 'right time', in the 'right place', for the 'right price', and in the 'right style'. 1 in 3 young people grow up in poverty with only 42% of those from the most deprived households taking part in physical activity 3 or more times a week. With us unable to deliver of the 5 rights the offer had to be adapted. The introduction of the Family Engagement Project – FEP has been introduced to help support families who are not engaging in sport or physical activity.

- Community Hubs were due to be established at 4 Primary Schools – selected from the Social Services in the schools' programme. Those hubs would provide regular weekly activity for all the family. Families will be referred into the programme and will receive bespoke support via 1-1 consultations. Once barriers have been identified, they will then receive support in helping them remove them. Funding for courses, free gym memberships, clothing / equipment. A training programme will also be made available. Training will include first aid, safeguarding, nutrition, mindfulness.

- With facilities often closed and sport opportunities limited all projects and interventions have to have the ability to adapt to ensure the target audience is being reached. A number of interventions have been digitalised to help as many people via school and community settings access these opportunities.

- For those accessing services via community settings, they may not always have the technology available as a school setting would. Digital poverty in high within the area for a number of demographics. To allow everyone to access sport and physical activities sporting equipment was provided to families and that will continue should face-to-face delivery be limited.

- The introduction of providing sporting activity packs to families who have been referred to us have been very successful and that intervention will continue.

- Working with the local authority's Youth Team and their Positive Futures Programme will allow the continuation of Community Safety, Youth Engagement and Sport and Alternative Education provision. Positive Futures in Blaenau Gwent aims to connect detached youth provision to sport and physical activity. There are a number of high anti-social behaviour hotspots within the area. The level of criminal activity from young people within those areas that have seen high level of engagement has significantly reduced. Friday night football sessions in conjunction with the Cardiff City foundation are extremely popular.

- The Free-Swimming Initiative has a greater emphasis on qualitative projects for the under 16's. The open access for the over 60's has been replaced with individual days across the 3 sports centres which made way for more innovation through the under 16's element.

    - There has been a collaborative project between the Sports Centres and Sports Development through the Fit and Fed programme, which was halted in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this 20 young people attended the sessions (case study below), giving some the aquatic opportunity in the hardest to reach areas (as according to the Welsh index for Multiple Deprivation WIMD report).

- An AYP (Active Young People) swimming programme for those children in Year 7 that didn't meet the Key Stage 2 criteria in Year 6 in the Nofio Ysgol programme. A member of the Sports Development team collaborates with the PE departments across the borough to identify individuals and conduct sessions.

- A collaborative project with Families First Blaenau Gwent (Social Services) has been designed for those youngsters classed as 'Young Carers.' A swimming card with 10 free sessions for the Young Carer to access all public swim sessions across the 3 sports centres. There are 56 young carers that have been identified for the scheme.

- Finally, another collaborative project with Flying Start and their ELKLAN speech and language programme. The Trust has tailored an aquatic activity with speech and language development through the medium of singing.

All infographics are yet to be complete due to the programmes remaining unfinished due to COVID-19 and hope for a resumption to all projects soon.

- Swimming lessons resumed in November 2021, after the first COVID-19 lockdown, for a 6-week period prior to the second lockdown in December 2020. The occupancy in the sessions across the 3 Sports Centres ran at 42% (662 participants returned from previous 1,589) prior to March 2020.

- Park Run delivered virtual runs during the lockdown period of 2020/21 with not a single physical race taking place during this time period due to the restrictions in place of mass gatherings and events. Weekly runs became virtual and individual, however, engagement and morale was maintained as best possible throughout.

Support for National Health Initiatives Aimed at Improving Overall Wellbeing

- 640 'welfare' /keep in touch calls were made to vulnerable customers. Telephone contact proved a vital support to otherwise, isolated people.

- The service promoted a variety of national health campaigns through our digital channels, promoting relevant stock which was available through e-books or through call and collect. Key online promotions included;
  - Men's Health Week
  - World Mental Health Day January
  - Time to Talk Day (Mental health awareness)
  - Blue Monday promotion linking with MIND

- The Home Delivery Service recommenced in June 2020, although visits into homes were suspended, many customers enjoyed talking to the staff on the doorstop or in their gardens. Many older, vulnerable customers commented on how this helped their mental health and made them feel less isolated.

- The outreach mobile post office was the first service to recommence in May 2020. This was in response to discussions with the council and reacting to the needs of the local community

- The Reading Well for Children scheme was launched in October 2020. This scheme provides helpful reading to support children's mental health and wellbeing. The books provide quality-assured information, stories and advice. Books have been chosen and recommended by leading health professionals and co-produced with children and families. collections were loaned to hospitals and community groups and in hard-to-reach communities.

- The Summer Reading Challenge was launched as a digital challenge and was promoted online through all social media channels. Over the school holidays marketing was targeted to reach families, promoting call and collect to support the summer reading challenge. Free craft activities were also distributed, included in the call and collect bags.

    - In response to the pandemic Adult Community Learning successfully delivered all 56 courses through a blended learning model. Following the successful application of the grant from Welsh Government, learners were given the appropriate support and resources to move seamlessly from classroom-based delivery to remote learning.

    - The NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme) was unfortunately postponed for the entirety of 2020/21 period. The facilitators were retained due to being funded by Public Health Wales and conducted health, fitness and well-being content and conversations as detailed below;

- Virtual delivery was prioritised during this time with over 400 exercise, self-help and motivational videos created with over 300,000 views from participants.
- Phone calls were made bi-weekly to clients that were on the scheme during the postponement, with 980 calls being made during this period.
- 344 home programmes were designed for clients postponed, to keep active and healthy during the pandemic.
- 4 collaborative wellbeing engagement meetings for Blaenau Gwent were held to work on health and wellbeing interventions for the community. A wellbeing DVD was made for those individuals who couldn't access social media. 54 DVDs were given out to those in the community.

    - A Virtual Wellbeing weekend was delivered and run for the whole community. 24 fitness classes and 6 education wellbeing sessions were delivered over the weekend, with 702 participants taking part.

    - An Everest stair climb challenge was undertaken by the team to lift spirits and raise funds for our local charity partner Hospice of the Valleys. £2,462 was raised for the charity and 119 individuals took part alongside the team of 4.

    - The over 60s free swimming returned in September 2020 to December 2020. This encompassed an offering of 3 days free swimming (during public swimming sessions) for the over 60's community across all Sports Centres. There was an additional structured activity (Aqua Aerobics) incorporated as part of the offer.

- The Trust received a grant of £13,125 to develop wellbeing activities for the over 60's demographic. The grant was accepted in January 2021 (during the second lockdown), much of the grant was spent on instructors delivering virtual fitness class delivery. Part of the funding was utilized to develop a virtual walking tour of Blaenau Gwent. The routes were incorporated into the Strava application for participants to progressively improve their cardiovascular fitness, via a 10-week walking plan. High-definition filming equipment was purchased to give a better viewing experience to the end user and the kit has been utilised to film a series of fitness sessions that have been archived for participants. The filming equipment was also used to develop a digital literacy webinar series to aid the over 60's demographic in this 'digital age.'

- Bedwellty House & Park became a Covid vaccination centre from January 2021 to April 2021. The Health Centre from Tredegar occupied the venue on Mondays and Thursdays each week to roll out the vaccine programme. Staff from within the Park volunteered to ensure the vaccine centre staff were supported throughout the programme. Team Members also volunteered at the vaccine centre in the general offices.

- Bedwellty House and Parc Bryn Bach team members along with wider Trust officers, supported the Local Authority with the outreach community support roles, taking calls, supporting deliveries of goods to vulnerable and hard to reach community members and later the track trace protect programme.

- Parc Bryn Bach has continued a partnership with the Hospice of the Valleys, despite there not being any physical events during the 2020/21 period, support was given in raffles and virtual runs.

- Bedwellty House & Park continued to welcome and host the NERS Officer (National Exercise Referral Scheme) weekly to deliver health checks to those patients in the community who do not wish to attend a Sports Centre, providing them with an outreach service. While the service has been intermittent during the lockdown periods those who have accessed it have appreciated the locality.

- Bedwellty House & Park has welcomed back weekly Mini Mover sessions for parents/carers and their babies/toddlers to engage in a weekly music and movement session during periods of open. The outcome of the session has a dual achievement with the babies and toddlers learning skills through music and movement while the parents/carers have social interaction with others to share experiences of parenthood supporting mental wellbeing after having a child. This has again been intermittent during the year, however, went ahead as and when it could, ensuring guidelines were fully adhered to.

- Parc Bryn Bach in partnership with Adult Learning developed a weekly buggy walk around the lake followed by outdoor refreshments to engage with new parents for them to get out and enjoy like-minded company while adhering to all social distancing outdoor guidelines. Feedback has been collated and evidences a positive impact on the mental health of those attending.

Case Study

Gareth, 59 came onto the scheme through the mental health pathway. He had a high-pressure directorship role and couldn't 'switch off' from work which led to self-destructive habits, such as binge drinking and eating a diet of high saturated fats and processed foods. He took some time off due to stress and was advised by the GP to visit his local Sports Centre with a referral to the NERS scheme. He joined the scheme in January 2020 on the mental health pathway and dedicated his time to getting fit, healthy, and work on his mental, physical and social wellbeing. His progress was halted in March 2020 due to the pandemic, but he managed to stay active following the virtual exercise programme delivered by the Exercise Facilitators and completed a home workout programme, also designed by the NERS team. He used the 16-week intervention to focus solely on his wellbeing, which improved all health criteria he was working towards;

Weight	92kg – 80kg*
BMI	29 – 24.5*
Waist	94 – 82cm*
Visual Analogue Score	64 – 54**
WEMWS	Improvements in 10 of the 14 questions
Activity levels	Sedentary – 5 days per week

*The measurements were taken by the individual at home due to lockdown
**participant experienced high anxiety due to COVID-19

Gareth has completed the scheme under COVID-19 restrictions (5 weeks with a home-based programme). Gareth has stated *'the NERS scheme has helped me so much, becoming more aware of what I am putting into my body and focusing on today, rather than living in the future. I feel more in control of my life and not living my life around my job. I have also created a new social network with health and physical activity at the centre of our friendships. The pandemic has taught me not to take things for granted and focus on what I can control and the NERS scheme has taught me what I put into my body is what I can get out it. I have created a new lifestyle and will advocate the programme to anyone who will listen to me in the future.* (April 12th 2020).

Supporting Essential Skills

- The Trust's Adult and Community Learning has three externally funded employability projects, which contribute to raising skill levels and improving career prospects across Blaenau Gwent. All projects have been extended until December 2022, bringing the total value of the projects to £3,543,291. Staff in all three projects participated in the Blaenau Gwent locality team's initiative during the pandemic and were placed on the Government's job retention scheme for two months. Since returning to their substantive roles, staff in all three projects have worked tirelessly to ensure that the deliverables and outputs for each project remain on target to avoid grant clawback by Welsh Government.

- The first project delivered through Adult and Community Learning is "Working Skills for Adults 2". This project aims to provide qualifications and support to those individuals who are in low-skilled and seasonal employment to enable them to improve their job sustainability and prospects. As at the end of March 2021, the project was just below its profiled number of 547 starts, with 73.5% of participants achieving a recognised qualification primarily in short courses, while the remaining 9% are enrolled on longer courses such as Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools, which will complete in June 2021. A small number of participants have engaged with informal courses such as confidence building or CV writing which does not enable a qualification to be achieved.

The project has formed strong links with local primary schools and childcare providers to deliver a range of short courses aimed at improving the skills and confident of their employees.

- Bridges into Work 2 is the second project which is delivered through Adult and Community Learning. Its aim is to engage with those who are economically inactive or have been unemployed for over 3 years and reside in non-Community First areas. The project commenced delivery in January 2016 and robust marketing and delivery plans are in place to ensure that the project will remain on target for its delivery profile until December 2022. The project has engaged with 506 individuals with 25% already securing sustainable employment. The project to the end of March 2021 has sourced 155 voluntary work placements across Blaenau Gwent, enabling individuals to gain valuable transferable and employment related skills.

- The Nurture, Equip, Thrive project is designed to engage with those employed individuals who wish to improve their job sustainability. Individuals on the project are either under employed or have a work limiting health conditions. To date the project has engaged with 141 individuals, 53 of whom have reported an improvement to their employment through promotion, changing careers or increased responsibility at work plus 8 have returned to work after a period of absence. This project is unique in its offer to employed participants to engage with stress management and anxiety courses which are complemented with individual mentoring and support. The project has worked closely with the Trade Unions to expand the offer of stress management and anxiety courses to the workforce across Blaenau Gwent

- The core purpose of Adult Community Learning is to enable adults to develop to play a full part in life and work by providing support primarily through a curriculum focussed on improving essential skills. The target group for Adult Community Learning are those individuals who are not in full time education, training or employment. The curriculum offered by Adult Community Learning is benchmarked against targets which are agreed across the Coleg Gwent partnership. Aneurin Leisure achieved a successful completion rate 94.3% against a benchmark 93% for the academic year 2020/21. The GCSE results for 2020/2021 were extremely pleasing with 92% of English Language learners achieving A or B grades plus 100% of maths learners who took the intermediate or higher course achieved an A*- D grade, with 79% getting an A*-C grade.

- The pandemic and subsequently lockdowns meant that Adult Community Learning could not support the face-to-face informal learning which is delivered throughout the academic year. However, a weekly digital coffee morning was successfully delivered throughout the 12 months. The digital coffee mornings were learner led and included information sessions from partners such as Pet Therapy, Hedgehog Trust and the Integrated Wellbeing network. The service also delivered Zoom cookery sessions for parents and children which proved extremely successful and will now form part of the Adult Community Learning offer for 2021/22.

Adult Community Learning Testimonial from Nurture, Equip, Thrive Participant:

Testimonial: Maria Lloyd *"I was first introduced to the Nurture. Equip. Thrive Project, through family who were attending another works project. I was introduced to Caroline who was very understanding and discussed how she could help me. We filled in a personal development form and saw that I was struggling with my confidence and my anxiety which caused me to feel stressed in my previous job role. Caroline then recommended that I attend different courses that the project offered to help me with my confidence and anxiety. Over the next few months, I completed different tasks and activities that helped encourage my confidence and make me feel less anxious being in work. I attended the confidence course that was run by Caroline and Michelle, who over the next months helped encourage my confidence and self-esteem and watched it grow as the course was nearing to the end. During this time, I met other people who like me was struggling with confidence and we all worked together as a group to overcome it. I found working in groups incredibly helpful as before I always felt uncomfortable working with someone I didn't know very well. I completed a number of different tasks to help as well as interview techniques. I also attended the anxiety course also run by Caroline and Michelle, I learnt so much about anxiety that I didn't know. I always felt scared to go to the toilets whenever I visited the cinema with my partner or my friends and never thought that it was linked to anxiety. During my time completing this course I learnt all different techniques to help me with my anxiety e.g. The worry tree and a breathing technique which I use on a daily basis. When both courses were complete, I still kept in contact with Caroline who helped me with my C.V. and sent me numerous different job opportunities while I was still working in my previous role. Even though the courses were finished I still visited both Caroline and Michelle and took part in different activities that they offered me, I even volunteered at Christmas to help out with craft making. I no longer wanted to work in my previous job role and decided on a completely different job that I trained for previously. N.E.T. Set me up with getting my DBS certificate where I can be certified to work with children safely again. Only a few months later I was offered a job in a Pre-School where I now currently work, and I feel like I'm living my dream job every day. I wouldn't be where I am today without N.E.T. Teresa, Caroline and Michelle. Those courses and the help that was provided have completely changed my life. I work 4 days a week which have much better hours suitable to my schedule, I have a better social life and attend the cinema at least once a month with my friends. Overall, I feel more confident, no longer anxious and so much more healthier within myself. I will be forever grateful to N.E.T. Thank you very much for the opportunity to improve my life.*
Marie Lloyd

Tackling Inequalities

- Adult Community Learning delivers essential skills which are free at point of delivery to all individuals over the age of 16. Essential Skills includes communication, English for Speakers of Other Languages, numeracy and financial literacy. Essential Skills classes target those individuals who have become disengaged with the education process. During this academic year over 600 individuals enrolled onto Essential Skills courses, all of which are designed to enable individuals to realise their potential and achieve their aspirations.

- Free swimming has now changed from a quantitative model to a qualitative, project-based model for under 16's and over 60's. The biggest changes have been made for the under 16's offer;

    - Fit and Fed project having a bespoke learn to swim pathway to take part in aquatics-based activities
    - Disability swimming, accessing the pool through the Disability Sports Development Officer free of charge.
    - 1 hour per week per centre for free unstructured swimming.
    - An allotted amount of free swimming through holiday periods and the summer.
    - Young carers initiative, collaborating with Social Services to provide 20 free swimming sessions.

- The over 60's free swim has also been updated as detailed below;

14. There is now one day per centre per week where over 60 swimming is free of charge.
15. There is a free aqua aerobics session for over 60's.
16. There is a muscular skeletal pathway for older adults with mobility problems that is pool based. This is being run through the NERS scheme in partnership with the local GP's and physiotherapy department.

- The new approach has been set out to tackle the inequalities that are high on the agenda of the local authority as a whole.

- Library promotional packs and free books were distributed to local food banks within the borough during the summer months. These packs and bags were added to the food boxes and provided a means to reach vulnerable families. A number of new registrations resulted from this scheme.

- The service continued to promote equality, providing impartial information and welcoming everyone, regardless of race, age and gender. In February 2021 the service promoted stock online to celebrate LGBT month. Stock collections were also promoted during March 2021 for International Women's Day.

- Book Collections for Schools was also launched to compensate for the lack of school visits to libraries. Stock was delivered to schools, made up of reading choices made by pupils, including reading for pleasure and titles to support the national curriculum. Teachers commented that some children only have access to books from regular school visits to libraries, this scheme provided an opportunity to reach children. A number of deliveries of stock were also made to hub provision at schools in the borough.

- Libraries also played an important role in helping parents who were educating their children at home. Blaenau Gwent was a partner in a new scheme, working with BookTrust Cymru to enable parents to collect their Bookstart packs from local libraries, in the absence of clinic appointments.

- The Library Service relaxed its policy on library membership during the pandemic. In addition to online registrations, we also implemented taking membership enrolments over the phone. This removed access barriers for those customers who are digitally excluded. This proved very successful, with an increase in referrals from external agencies, e.g. Care and Repair, Social Services, etc.

- The service worked with The Goodthings Foundation over 2020/21 to deliver census support through the Library Service. All six libraries were registered as support centres, with two members of library staff having training to enable them to be designated census advisors. A number of digitally excluded residents received help and support from this initiative. The Library Service also worked with 'We are Digital' to provide assisted digital support for residents needing help with the EU settlement scheme.

- Swimming lessons are offered in Welsh language format, utilising our Welsh Speaking instructors to deliver the sessions. There is also an option of Welsh only 1-2-1 swimming lessons dependant on instructor's availability.

- Bedwellty House & Park work in partnership with BGCBC Flying Start and Families First teams to deliver free weekly Wild Tots sessions for young people and their families to explore and enjoy the outdoors this was delivered intermittently as and when restrictions were lifted during the period, those who attended were appreciative of the activities going ahead as and when they could.

- Bedwellty House & Park delivered in partnership with Heads for Arts, the annual Arty Parky event which is a free family and community event for community members to participate in develop a mass community art masterpiece due to the 2020 local lockdown this still operated as a virtual event which was a great success.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

- During the lockdown periods the Friends of both Bedwellty House & Park and Parc Bryn Bach continued with the development of the sensory gardens, these will be tranquil and welcoming areas for the community. The Friends of volunteers felt being able to engage in some community gardening when they were able to go out individually was a positive impact on their mental health. It also helped with maintaining and having a presence in the Parks.

- During 2020, which was a difficult time for many, the launch of the new children's play area at Parc Bryn Bach in June 2020, proved to be a huge success. A banded and limited entry system was put in place to ensure all outdoor covid guidelines were followed. The playground is an incredible structure delivered by Elbe Play. The play area would often be to the desired covid capacity throughout the June to September period of 2020. It has been well received by all and is a great addition to the park.

1. Bedwellty House & Park has continued to maintain and develop the partnership with Tredegar Town Council. While no events have been able to operate the Park has worked in collaboration in developing online virtual meetings for them to engage with the community and deliver key messages.

2. Both Parc Bryn Bach and Bedwellty House & Park maintain excellent links with Gwent Wildlife Trust. Both Parks achieved Green Flag award status again in 2020/21, with Bedwellty House also receiving the Heritage Award and Parc Bryn Bach maintaining its status a wildlife reserve site.

3. There is an established corporate partnership between Aneurin Leisure and Tai Calon within the sport and fitness sector of the Trust. Aneurin Leisure delivers corporate health checks for the Tai Calon workforce twice yearly (one conducted at Tai Calon head office due to COVID-19), this facilitates prospective members to membership conversion and helps engage their health, fitness, and wellbeing journey. The NERS team accesses referrals through Tai Calon's community team, with direct communication to their tenant who are applicable to the scheme.

4. A new partnership with Precor LTD UK (acquired by Peloton 31st March 2021) was established January 2021, whereby they won the tender to refurbish the gyms across our three Sports Centres. The equipment is due to be installed in April 2021 with state-of-the-art Cardio equipment for bespoke user experience, cutting edge gym layouts for multi-functional goal-based training, the most up to date technological advancements through Sony Advagym and a future proof project which inbuilds exponential development.

Case Study
Home Delivery Customers

During 2020/21 the Home Delivery Service has adapted to new flexible ways of reaching the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Betty, 80, from Ebbw Vale was referred to the service last year by library staff. Betty was a regular library user but needed to shield. She always enjoyed coming to the library with her daughter to choose talking books and large print books. From a telephone enquiry, it was suggested that the home delivery would be a good service for her. Betty's daughter has recently contacted the library to give her thanks to the service.

'My mother has been so pleased to be able to have her books again. What a marvellous service, thank you so much. As my mother's main carer, I have very little time to collect books for her. My mother reads about 5 books a week and listens to audio books too, so this is a great help, saves me carrying heavy bags from the library. Also, it is re-assuring to know all the deliveries are safe, using paper bags and with the books being quarantined, that is really important to my mother. – Betty's daughter.

Two new customers, from a sheltered accommodation in Tredegar, joined the Home Delivery service in Aug 2020. These new customers have both said that they have started listening to audio books since the start of the pandemic, as they have so much time on their hands.

'It is a nice distraction from all the worries of the world, to listen to a nice story and switch-off. I miss going out and seeing my family, the days are so long when you live alone, the stories help, breaking the day up'
'I've really got into audio books since the lockdown. I was never a big reader, but these are nice to have on in the background, it is nice to hear another voice in the flat, makes me feel less lonely'

Martha, 70, is a new customer to the service. She lives in Brynmawr and suffers with poor mental health and has recently been diagnosed with Dementia. Although Joe has not met Martha in person, they have built up a good relationship over the phone. Weekly phone calls are made, where Martha will tell Joe about the book she has listened to. Martha has expressed how much talking books have helped her with her condition and has been *'delighted'* with the service. Over the last couple of months, Martha has listened to 30 talking books and Joe has noticed how much brighter she sounds lately.

'I was an avid reader at one time, but I now struggle so much with my eyesight and I have lost my concentration too. The talking books have been so helpful. They have really helped my memory, I like to listen to books that I have read before as certain little things bring my memory back, which makes me smile. When Joe rings, we have a nice chat about what I liked about the book, I've started making notes, so that he can recommend to other customers. They lift my depression too. I listen as soon as I wake up and before I go to bed, I couldn't manage without them now, they are my little bit of happiness everyday, a lifeline to me during the pandemic! – Martha.

Tom, 81, has been a customer for a number of years. He has been shielding most of the year due to his chronic health conditions, COPD and diabetes. Before the pandemic, Tom was active and regularly went out to socialise. Joe has noticed that Tom wants to talk more and he has expressed to Joe that he has never felt so lonely. As a result, Joe makes additional calls to Tom for 'welfare chats' and Tom has expressed his gratitude by saying how much this has helped him.

'I am reading so much more in the lockdown, it has been a wonderful service to have books whenever I need them. I really miss the visit with Joe, but the phone calls have kept me going. When you live alone, it is nice to talk to someone, it is such a long day, staying at home all the time. I would never have thought a phone call would help so much. Joe has encouraged me to try different talking books, and I have really enjoyed them. Great escapism and keeps the blues away'
*(Joe-Home Delivery Library Assistant)

Cultural Enrichment

- Aneurin Leisure's Arts and Cultural Service ensures that activities are closely aligned to the Health and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, working particularly to tackle mental wellbeing, dementia and social isolation in the region. The aim is to deliver a quality, accessible and varied range of arts and cultural events and activities that will challenge, entertain and develop audiences of all ages providing opportunities to expand horizons and enhance lifestyles.

- Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions the Theatre remained shut for the entirety of 2020/21, however, this time was spent working with BGCBC to ensure a smooth transition of the arts to an alternative provider at the start of the 2021/22 financial year.

- The Library Service is well placed to extend cultural engagement because of their use by all social groups and their role as inclusive cultural hubs within communities.

- Local Studies research provision at Tredegar Library provides a wide range of materials supporting welsh culture and heritage. A Local community museum is also based in Tredegar Library, linking to library heritage services.

- The Heritage Forum and Tredegar Members delivered local heritage recordings and shared stories of days gone by monthly via social media platforms during the lock down period. They kept in touch with the House Management team with a plan of talks ready when the restrictions were lifting.

Social Responsibility

- Public library services are a vital part of social infrastructure and during the pandemic it has highlighted the role of connecting communities. When people's daily lives are disrupted, we have found they look for places that provide a sense of belonging and support, our libraries provide that safe, trusted environment.

- The service delivered a number of digital engagement events that helped people feel connected to their local communities. By identifying an increase in enquires relating to family and local history, we worked with our volunteers in this area to provide support over the phone for detailed enquiries and signposted to the remote services of Ancestry and Find My Past. We also promoted various library online competitions, e.g. Lego challenges and World Book Day.



Ezekiel, winner of our online competition. – Quote from his mother.
'He was thrilled with everything. He's been studying space at home school this term and will be studying nature and the animal kingdom when he returns to school on Monday, so the books were just wonderful! Ezekiel is dyslexic and so this has been a wonderful way to help him develop an interest in books and libraries. Thank you'.

- Bedwellty House & Park shared and promoted a number of online activities, quizzes and information on social media platforms to try and maintain engagement with the community throughout the lockdown period. Team members were also engaged with throughout the period. During times of opening all be them sporadic, free and low-cost activities were offered to ensure a welcome option for all.

- Parc Bryn Bach delivered a programme in conjunction with Gwent Police in the Summer 2020, to engage with young people to participate in Outdoor Adventure Activity. The young people who participated were identified as being at risk of being socially isolated, instances of anti-social behaviours or crime prevention. The sessions were well received with many of the young people gaining self-respect and gained confidences and skills they didn't know they had.

Local Business Partnerships

- Aneurin Leisure continues to offer local, regional and national organisations discounted membership as part of our Life Card membership scheme and our drive to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace. Corporate members are currently enjoying the corporate discounts in the area that Aneurin Leisure operates. This product combines reduced rates for i) gym memberships within our sport centres, ii) corporate hospitality and conferencing at Bedwellty House and Park and iii) Team Building at Parc Bryn Bach.

- New partnerships have been formed with numerous organisations to benefit the business and the local community. Below is a selection of the partnerships and the benefits associated:

Who	How
Valleys Regional Parks	Funding secured (£625,000) to build; - play area - bunkhouse - co-working hub
Regional Welsh Leisure Trusts	During Covid an agreement was made to allow access to gym members across all regional providers. This promoted staying healthy when travelling across county borders was prohibited.
BGCBC	- Throughout Covid staff supported BGCBC to maintain services which were stretched. - A partnership has been formed to deliver council services directly through the libraries following the closure of the Civic Centre.

- Catering across Aneurin Leisure sites work to utilise locally sourced produce and to support local businesses for it catering products. As well as the Kitchen Garden providing home grown fruit and vegetables to be utilised at Bedwellty House, the park along with other sites use the local milkman, local ice cream provider, local bakers, local grocers and the local brewery. The positive relationship with using local suppliers is very much welcomed by the suppliers and the community.

Marketing and Communications

- The pandemic resulted in a mainly tactical approach to the marketing and communications for the Trust due to the restrictions placed on society.

- Our priority was to communicate our approach to the safety of members, visitors and staff of the Trust which resulted in on-site, social media and website communication aligned with the strategic approach of:

  - Reassurance – the safety of our customers and staff is our primary concern
  - Information – here's how you stay safe
  - Engagement – this is how we support you
  - Inspiration – this is how to make the most of our facilities

- As restrictions eased, we communicated the reopening of our facilities stressing the importance of safety and reinforcing PHW and WG messaging.

- Working in partnership has continued to be of importance to promoting the developments and facilities that the Trust has to offer. Examples of these are:

-The Trust has worked closely with the marketing and communications team at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to co-ordinate and reinforce messaging relating to health and wellbeing of the community including testing and vaccination centres and the impact on council services. In addition, the Bio-diversity team has supported us at Parc Bryn Bach and Bedwellty House and Park to improve the facilities and, in particular, improve the communication of the wildlife, flora and fauna at Parc Bryn Bach through improvement of the communication of the existing nature trails.

-The Trust has continued to work closely with the Tourism Officer and the Destination Management Group (DMG) through sharing best practice, working with partners and helping to raise awareness of the benefits of the Trust's facilities to the local community and wider potential audiences through Wales and beyond.

-Welsh Government – in addition to the involvement with the DMG we have started communication with the Visit Wales team at Welsh Government to promote the parks' facilities to a wider audience and will improve our visibility as the sites' tourist facilities are improved, and the Trust's websites are redeveloped.

-Valley Regional Partnership (VRP) – the funding received through VRP for Parc Bryn Bach resulted in a new play area being opened. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, a formal launch event wasn't possible but we communicated its facilities and benefits widely whilst reinforcing the need for safety measures to be adhered to. In addition, the signage was improved throughout the park including highlighting key areas and directional signage, a map of the park's facilities and a sign highlighting the history and heritage of the park. Refurbishment of the bunkhouse continued throughout the pandemic and a formal launch will be planned for the coming financial year.

-Working with partners within the Public Service Board (PSB) sub-group, the Trust has actively communicated support and facilities available to the Blaenau Gwent community.

-The Trust has continued a dialogue with Chwarae Teg throughout the year. We have communicated their support for female training throughout the Trust and will continue to explore ways of working in partnership with this organisation.

- Online communication has been of paramount importance throughout the year. It has reinforced the need to improve the websites for the Trust and its individual sites and ensure that they are on secure and consistent platforms for security and ease of updating.

- The priority was the Aneurin Leisure Trust website (aneurinleisure.org.uk) with the key objectives of the new site being:

  - To present a modern, professional and accessible portal for the Trust that can evolve and be updated easily.

  - To make the site more user friendly and easy to navigate and truly an umbrella for the Trust's activities with links to the parks' and sport centres' websites but retaining the main portal for ACL and libraries.

  - To highlight the Trust's charitable status.

  - For Parc Bryn Bach there was a need to reposition the park from activities-focused to a park that was a place where families and groups could 'discover more'.

  - The key objectives for the new site (parcbrynbach.co.uk) being:

  - To update the website with a new positioning that illustrates the wealth of opportunities that residents of Blaenau Gwent and all visitors to the park can discover and enjoy and thereby increase footfall.
  - To ensure that the website is updated to reflect all activities taking place and become the primary source of information for visitors resulting in a better UX and high repeat visits and conversion rates.
  - To improve retention through qualified data capture and pertinent and efficient information, response and booking experience.
  - To ensure that the UX is clear and easy to navigate
  - To improve the website in terms of SEO, targeting families and sports enthusiasts.

- Both the Aneurin Leisure Trust and Parc Bryn Bach websites have been completed and are improving in terms of analytics with the bounce rate down to 1% for both sites (from 69% and 68% respectively).

- In addition, our social media channels have been key to ensuring that visitors and members are kept up to date with information. In addition to health and wellbeing communication to support partners, we have communicated a number of activities and services that have been available to the community when restrictions have eased particularly the services that libraries have reinstated and the online support from Adult Community Learning.

- Keeping staff appraised of activities and support across the Trust has continued throughout the year with monthly newsletters being sent to all staff. A new, confidential, staff survey has been developed to run bi-annually to gauge how our staff view the Trust and areas for improvement.

Workforce and Workplace Development

- Aneurin Leisure recognises and fully appreciates that our employees are the key to the success of the Trust. The Trust employs c. 257 contracted employees (Full Time Equivalent 133) and in addition, utilises casual relief posts (i.e. 28 individuals at the end of March 2021) and is committed to the development, health and wellbeing of all.

- The Trust continues working towards a planned, systematic approach to improving our organisational effectiveness, one that aligns strategy, people and processes to achieve our commitment to continuously improve our customers' experience which is essential to achieving this. The Trust links training and the performance appraisals to our values and strategic priorities.

- The Trust continues to meet with the Trade Unions on a regular basis and has an excellent working relationship.

- The Trust has continued to work in partnership with TSW (Training Services Wales) and a number of frontline managers are currently completing training at Level's 3 to 5.

- Delivery of in-house training for Level 2 Food Safety, Level 3 Supervising Food Safety, Connect 5 Mental Health and Wellbeing, Digital Safeguarding and Mental Health for Tutors.

- All Sports Centre Recreation Assistants attended return to work Covid Compliant training and all staff have received online PPE training.

- New staff and workers receive the Trust's company Induction, day 1 covers the corporate induction whilst over the following 12 weeks they cover their Business Unit and their facility induction.

- Strategic Business Unit Managers are undertaking their performance management cycle process and identifying training needs which forms part of the Trust's annual Training and Development Schedule.

- Payroll processes throughout the financial year have become more streamlined through collaboration with the facilities' management team utilising Microsoft Teams and SharePoint. During the financial year, HR collaborated with IT move payroll paperwork to electronic to support the Trusts aim to be paperless by significantly reduced the usage of paper in the payroll process and the use of digital has improved efficiency throughout the facilities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The group has returned a surplus of £526,501 before FRS 102 pension adjustments for the 12-month period to 31 March 2021, of which £84,376 is from restricted funds. The trading subsidiary, LLT limited has contributed £9,480 to the group surplus.

	£
Group surplus pre-FRS 102 pension adjustments	526,501
Less excess of FRS 102 DB pension cost recognised in P&L over employer contributions	(707,000)
Net outgoing resources per SOFA	(180,499)
Less actuarial loss on pension fund	(5,155,000)
Net movement in funds per SOFA	**(5,335,499)**

On 1 October 2014 the Trust was admitted to the Greater Gwent Local Government Superannuation scheme (LGPS), a defined benefit scheme. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure was retained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). The Trust is, therefore, only responsible for any increase in liabilities occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. The pension deficit on an FRS 17 basis on the 1 October 2014 is £4.432m and this deficit remains the obligation of BGCBC; an asset of £4.432m is included in these accounts to reflect this. The pension liability on an FRS 102 basis as at 31 March 2021 has increased to £12,267m from £6,405m in 2020, thereby generating a cumulative actuarial pension loss of £7.835m since 1 October 2014.

Principal funding sources
Within the period the Trust received £3,232,688 as a management fee from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Grant income for the period amounted to £3,610,665 and the majority of the remaining income was received from our customers.

The income is used to fund the operating costs of the facilities from which we deliver our charitable objectives.

Financial management
The Trust utilises key performance indicators (KPI) to assist in the financial management of the business. Some of the KPI measures include:

- Staff costs as a % of income: 2020/21 69% (2020 68%)
- Staff costs as a % of total resources expended: 68% (2020 61%)

It should be noted that the FRS 102 pension adjustment makes a significant impact. If the 2020 figures are adjusted to remove the FRS 102 increase in the pension service cost the staff costs as a % of income reduces to 54% and the staff costs as % of expenditure reduces to 53%.

Reserves policy
It is the Trust's policy to build up over time sufficient reserves to meet its charitable objectives on a sustainable basis and cover the risks that the Trust faces.

The Trust aims to build up reserves to fund working capital. All annual surpluses not allocated to fund working capital are available to fund investment in property and equipment to improve service quality. The Trust aims to maintain a minimum unrestricted reserve balance of £750,000, excluding any actuarial gains or losses and recognises the need to increase its current level of reserves.

At 31 March 2021 the restricted reserves amounted to a surplus of £522,127. The unrestricted income reserves excluding the DB pension reserve amount to a surplus of £845,799 (2020: £403,674). The pension reserve amounted to a deficit of £7,835,000

As at 1 October 2014 the pension deficit of £4,432,000 (FRS17 basis) is the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Key risks
The Trust has a 20-year contract which commenced on 1 October 2014 with BGCBC with a review process built in during years 3 and 4 to review overall performance in advance of agreement to continue with the Trust for the following 5 years.

As part of the contract, BGCBC service management fee is agreed at the start of each 5-year period and reviewed annually on progress. The key challenge facing the Trust is to grow the income and control expenditure to support the contracted management fee.

If unsuccessful with attracting funding through various means including the Council, as well as providing investment into key assets, this will limit the Trust's ability to reduce its dependence on the management fee.

The Trust received £3.611m (2020: £1.605m) of grant income in the year, equating to 47% of total incoming resources. The increase in grants this year relates to £1.992m of Covid funding. In the event that the grant income is reduced in future years associated expenditure currently funded by the grants would also need to be reduced.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust has agreed another 5 years delivering the services for BGCBC which will be reviewed at the end of Year 3.

During 2021/22 the Trust will be installing a community working hub with funding secured through Welsh Government. This product will support the Welsh Government initiative to achieve 30% of office workers continuing to work from home in the future. Other plans include exploring a full upgrade of the caravan site to maximise the income potential alongside all other activity investments that have taken place at Parc Bryn Bach.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Life Leisure Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act (2006). The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company.

The Trustees

The Trustees are also the Directors in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Board is made up of up to eleven Trustees consisting of one employee Trustee, up to two local authority Trustees and up to eight community Trustees.

Employee Trustees are appointed by the senior management team of the Trust for a period of three years.

The local authority, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, is entitled to nominate up to two individuals to the Board of Trustees and decide their period of appointment.

The community Trustees are appointed for a 3-year period, with recruitment process as follows:

- Advert placed in local newspapers, on social media (LinkedIn & Twitter) within the Trust facilities, on the Trust website and other advertising resources as appropriate inviting applications. An information pack is provided outlining the duties and roles of a Trustee and the application process, together with information on the Trust.

- Applications will be shortlisted based on criteria specified within the personal specification and job description and assessment of the applicants' particular skills and expertise to cover both community interest and commercial/business knowledge (such as Finance, Human Resources, Sales and Marketing).

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will comprise of three members and wherever possible panels will have a gender/race balance. Panel members should include two Trustees (Chair and/or Vice Chair, or other Trustee), a Trust Senior Officer (Director of Resources or Director of Operations) with support from the Human Resource Service, where appropriate. In circumstances where there is a need to involve more than three members on an interview panel, then this should be discussed in advance and agreed with the Human Resource Service (it may be necessary on occasions for additional Members to sit in on a panel to observe the process for developmental purposes).

- The appointment of Trustees will be made by the Board of Trustees following recommendations from the Interview/Appointment Panel and be based on not only the assessment of whether individuals are suitable to be Trustees, but also achieve a balance of skills on the Board. For example, it is important to have a balance of business skills and also geographical locations as well as interests (leisure, arts, community education, libraries, overall wellbeing, etc.)

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will recommend to the Board of Trustees of their preferred option to appoint a Trustee and following agreement to proceed, will confirm the offer to the selected candidate(s).

- The offer of appointment to be a member of the Board of Trustees will be subject to satisfactory references being obtained.

- All Trustees are provided with the following documentation on induction;

  i. Declaration of Interests form
  ii. Rehabilitation of Offenders form
  iii. Equality & Diversity Monitoring form
  iv. Trustee Code of Conduct Policy
  v. Trustee Confidentiality Policy
  vi. Health & Safety Policy
  vii. Equal Opportunities Policy
  viii. Memorandum and Articles of Association
  ix. Schedule of Matters

All Trustees are also members of the Charitable Trust which is limited by guarantee.

All Trustees receive induction training with regard to the organisation including its powers and objects and the Charitable Trust itself.

Trustees will be offered further training opportunities during their tenure.

Structure of the Charity
The Board of Trustees meets bi-monthly. The Charitable Trust operates a Finance sub-group to advise and report to the Board of Trustees.

A Corporate Director Team manages the day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust, supported by a Senior Management Team.

Organisational Structure and Decision-Making Process
The Board retains overall accountability for the management of the Charitable Trust.

The day-to-day operations of the Trust are managed by the Trust's Corporate Directors and Senior Management Team. The Senior Management Team is given strategic direction by the Board of Trustees (the Board) regarding the provision and operation of the services.

The Charitable Trust operates a business planning process whereby strategic priorities and targets directed by the Board and shared with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council flow from the business plan into quarterly reports and an annual delivery plan. This is fully embedded and central to our planning and budgeting cycles and drives operational performance.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
Remuneration of Key Management Personnel is reviewed annually alongside the other employees of the company by the main Board as part of the annual budget setting process.

Related Parties
The Charitable Trust has a relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, who provides funding in the form of a management fee to enable the Charitable Trust to carry out its charitable objectives.

The Charitable Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT limited. LLT limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

Co-operation with other organisations
As a community-based organisation operating throughout Blaenau Gwent, Aneurin Leisure structures large elements of its strategic planning and operational service delivery having due regard to partner aims and objectives, particularly Blaenau Gwent County Borough council. Work plans specifically identify how Aneurin Leisure will contribute to delivering on broader social agendas working with the health, education and voluntary sectors.

Risk Management
The Charitable Trust has developed a risk management plan to identify risks and risk mitigation measures at corporate level. The risk register is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ITS TRUSTEES

Charity name:	Life Leisure Trust		
Trading name:	Aneurin Leisure		
Company registration number:	8951503		
Charity registration number:	1159092		
Registered office:	Bedwellty House Morgan Street Tredegar NP22 3XN		
		Date of Appt.	
Trustees:			
	Mr Lyn Evans – Chair	12/05/14	
	Mrs Donna Hardman	12/05/14	
	Councillor Wayne Hodgins	03/03/17	Resigned 10/12/18 Re-appointed 13/12/18
	Councillor Lee Parsons	25/05/17	Resigned 16/4/21
	Professor Jennifer Ames	24/08/17	
	Mr Richard Dando	26/03/19	
	Mr Stephen Priestnall	27/01/20	
	Ms Andrea Smart	27/01/20	
	Mr Stephen Dwyer	16/03/20	
	Mr Stewart Healy	25/06/21	
	Mr Ross Watts	25/03/19	Resigned 14/12/20
Key Management Personnel:	Mrs Nichola Morden-Tew	Director of Resources	
	Mr Phillip Sykes	Director of Operations	

Bankers:	Barclays Business Banking South Wales Team 3rd Floor Windsor Court 3 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3ZL
Solicitors (Employment Law):	Capital Law LLP Capital Building Tyndall Street Cardiff CF10 4AZ
Auditors:	Azets Audit Services Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 1-3 Waters Lane Chambers Waters Lane Newport NP20 1LA

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Life Leisure Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

L Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

Date 24/01/2022

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31st March 2021 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2021, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees , other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report[6]. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the groups and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with this Act. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 . Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sarah Case

Sarah Case FCA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

Date 27-01-2022

Azets Audit Services is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	430	200	630	3,857
Charitable activities	4	5,589,094	2,049,322	7,638,416	8,358,558
Other trading activities	5	9,479	-	9,479	21,298
Total income and endowments		5,599,003	2,049,522	7,648,525	8,383,713
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	5,860,492	1,968,532	7,829,024	9,353,195
Total expenditure		5,860,492	1,968,532	7,829,024	9,353,195
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	(261,489)	80,990	(180,499)	(969,482)
Transfers between funds	14/15	(3,386)	3,386	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	(5,155,000)	-	(5,155,000)	4,179,000
Net movement in funds		(5,419,875)	84,376	(5,335,499)	3,209,518
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	14,15	(1,569,326)	437,751	(1,131,575)	(4,341,093)
Total funds carried forward	15,16	(6,989,201)	522,127	(6,467,074)	(1,131,575)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CHARITY ONLY
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**18,396**	**200**	**18,596**	3,857
Charitable activities	4	**5,591,187**	**2,049,322**	**7,640,509**	8,366,931
Total income and endowments		**5,609,583**	**2,049,522**	**7,659,105**	8,370,788
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**5,860,070**	**1,968,532**	**7,828,602**	9,351,266
Total expenditure		**5,860,070**	**1,968,532**	**7,828,602**	9,351,266
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**(250,487)**	**80,990**	**(169,497)**	(980,478)
Transfers between funds	14/15	**(3,386)**	**3,386**	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	**(5,155,000)**	**-**	**(5,155,000)**	4,179,000
Net movement in funds		**(5,408,873)**	**84,376**	**(5,324,497)**	3,198,522
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	14,15	**(1,580,321)**	**437,751**	**(1,142,570)**	(4,341,092)
Total funds carried forward	15,16	**(6,989,194)**	**522,127**	**(6,467,067)**	(1,142,570)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 41 -70 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		58,658		99,680
Current assets:					
Stocks	11	13,999		20,538	
Debtors	12	5,466,159		4,873,530	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,248,082		1,881,367	
		6,728,240		6,775,435	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(986,972)		(1,601,690)	
Net current assets			5,741,268		5,173,745
Total assets less current liabilities			5,799,926		5,273,425
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(12,267,000)		(6,405,000)
Net (liabilities)/ assets			(6,467,074)		(1,131,575)
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	14		522,127		437,751
Unrestricted income funds	15	845,799		403,674	
Pension reserve	15	(7,835,000)		(1,973,000)	
			(6,989,201)		(1,569,326)
Total charity funds	16		(6,467,074)		(1,131,575)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 20/01/2022

L Evans

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Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 41 -70 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020	2020
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		58,658		99,680
Investments	10		1		1
			58,659		99,681
Current assets:					
Stocks	11	13,999		20,538	
Debtors	12	5,469,552		4,886,642	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,246,178		1,879,790	
		6,729,729		6,786,970	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(988,455)		(1,624,221)	
Net current assets			5,741,274		5,162,749
Total assets less current liabilities			5,799,933		5,262,430
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(12,267,000)		(6,405,000)
Net (liabilities)/ assets			(6,467,067)		1,142,570
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	14		522,127		437,751
Unrestricted income funds	15	845,806		392,679	
Pension reserve	15	(7,835,000)		(1,973,000)	
			(6,989,194)		(1,580,321)
Total charity funds	16		(6,467,067)		(1,142,570)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 20/01/2022

L Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 41 -70 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	(633,285)	1,160,309
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	9	-	(6,685)
Net cash provided used in investing activities		-	(6,685)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**(633,285)**	1,153,624
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	**1,881,367**	727,743
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20	**1,248,082**	1,881,367

The notes on pages 41 -70 form part of the financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal form and address
Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Bedwellty House, Morgan Street, Tredegar, NP22 3XN.

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

No separate cash flow statement has been presented for the charity itself as the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions in paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

Group financial statements
These consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust Limited (the charitable company) and LLT Limited its wholly owned trading subsidiary, made up to 31 March 2021.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary on a line-by-line basis.

The trading results of the subsidiary are disclosed in note 10 to these financial statements.

Going concern
The group made a surplus (before defined benefit pension adjustments) of £526,501 for the year ended 31st March 2021 of which £442,125 related to unrestricted funds. The trust is predicted to make a significant deficit for the financial year ending 31st March 2022. The deficit is largely due to the impact of covid-19 and the capacity restrictions in place.

After reviewing the trust's forecasts and projections to the 31st March 2022 and at the time of approving the financial statements the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Should support from the Welsh Assembly Hardship Loan not continue and capacity restrictions remain in place the trust will scale down operations as required.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The Trust were notified in August 2020 that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will continue with the Trust for a further 5 year period which will commence on 1st April 2021. Contractual arrangements including the funding arrangements are currently being finalised.

The trustees are of the view that on this basis, the charity is a going concern.

In light of Covid implications, the trustees are aware that there is uncertainty regarding:

- certain figures of both income and expenditure included within the forecasts and projections; and
- level of financial support from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Fund accounting

The charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require further disclosure. These are as follows:

Restricted funds are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes. Grant income received to fund capital expenditure is held in restricted reserves. The balance is transferred to unrestricted reserves in future years at the same rates as to match the depreciation charges of the related assets.

Revenue funds restricted by the donor are matched against expenditure as appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. In addition to expenditure on the principal activities of the charity these funds can be held in order to fund capital expenditure.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Certain income is received in advance of the provision of the relevant service and as such is deferred until the service commences.

The management fee is an unrestricted fund which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company. The income is invoiced and recognised in the period to which it relates.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from grants is deferred only when the terms and conditions of the grant permit the income to be deferred to future periods.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Turnover is the amount derived from ordinary activities, and stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

4. Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees' report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

An analysis has been provided for the charitable activities on a departmental basis.
The departments are defined as follows:

The departments are defined as follows:

- Training and Libraries
- Culture, Parks and Events
- Sports and Fitness
- Central Support Services

Costs where possible are attributed directly to the activity in which they relate. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities based on income received in the year.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Netting off of income against expenditure
It is not the policy of the charitable company to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

Taxation
As a registered charity Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses or in cases where fixed assets have been donated to the charity, at valuation at time of acquisition.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% straight line
Plant and machinery	- 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Computers equipment	- 33% straight line

Assets are capitalised at cost.

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets
At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Investments
Investments relate to 100% of the share capital of the charity's wholly owned trading subsidiary and is recognised at cost.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling price after taking into account all further costs and excess stocks that are slow moving.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

- ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets
Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Employee Benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Service Concession Agreements
The charity has service contracts with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the maintenance and operation of the various theatres, libraries, community centres, leisure centres and parks owned by the Local Authority to which it has lease and management service contracts.

- **ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Property, plant and equipment
The buildings and equipment at the various locations are to be leased to the charity as part of the overall contractual relationships with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) but BGCBC maintain ultimate control of these assets. Accordingly the access to which the charity has in the use of these assets is to enable it to operate the various venues so that the charity can provide the public service it is contracted to provide, not to effectively own these public service assets. These assets are therefore not recognised on the charity's Balance Sheet.

Any new assets purchased by the Trust remain the property of the Trust.

Receipts
The charity receives agreed management fee income from BGCBC each year which is decreased on an annual basis as per the terms of the Funding and Management Agreement.

Pensions
The charitable company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay.

Full details of the Trust's retirement benefit arrangements are set out in note 19 being the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

This is a funded pension scheme meaning that the employer and employee pay contributions which are invested in a separate fund.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) remain liable for the past service deficit that existed at the Trust's inception. The Trust is responsible for the LGPS movements after the commencement date; however the liability is indemnified by BGCBC.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

19. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

Operating leases
The charity classifies the lease of gym equipment and motor vehicles as operating leases. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

20. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The following critical accounting estimates and judgements have been made:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimate, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 9 for the carrying amount of the plant and equipment and above for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

Defined benefit pension scheme
The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

21. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations	430	200	630	3,857
	430	200	630	3,857
Charity				
Donations	430	200	630	3,857
LLT Limited Covenant	17,966	-	17,966	-
	18,396	200	18,596	3,857

22. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Catering income	200,966	-	200,966	901,777
Class income	2,324	12,535	14,859	36,474
Educational income	7,407	19,183	26,590	48,605
Grants	1,600,114	2,010,551	3,610,665	1,604,793
Leisure centre income	221,840	-	221,840	1,760,746
Management fee	3,232,688	-	3,232,688	3,178,800
Park outdoor activities	30,695	-	30,695	53,069
Reorganisation funding & recharges	161,420	3,135	164,555	328,156
Room hire and rental	67,701	-	67,701	145,356
Sale of goods	4,845	-	4,845	44,363
Service Level Agreement	55,064	-	55,064	104,611
Shows and events	-	-	-	126,355
Sundry income	4,030	3,918	7,948	25,453
	5,589,094	2,049,322	7,638,416	8,358,558

Charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Catering income	200,966	-	200,966	901,777
Class income	2,324	12,535	14,859	36,474
Educational income	7,407	19,183	26,590	48,605
Grants	1,600,114	2,010,551	3,610,665	1,604,793
Leisure centre income	221,840	-	221,840	1,760,746
Management fee	3,232,688	-	3,232,688	3,178,800
Park outdoor activities	30,695	-	30,695	53,069
Reorganisation funding & recharges	161,420	3,135	164,555	328,156
Room hire and rental	67,701	-	67,701	145,356
Sale of goods	4,845	-	4,845	44,363
Service Level Agreement	55,064	-	55,064	104,611
Shows and events	-	-	-	126,355
Sundry income	6,123	3,918	10,041	33,826
	5,591,187	2,049,322	7,640,509	8,366,931

i. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Grant income was received from the following sources:

Group and charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Arts Council of Wales	63,284	156,426	219,710	156,491
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	161,000	14,593	175,593	-
Caerphilly County Borough Council	-	11,200	11,200	-
Coleg Gwent	279,512	-	279,512	236,058
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	1,032,412	1,032,412	-
Denbighshire County Council	-	5,000	5,000	-
Disability Sports Wales	-	21,311	21,311	20,113
European Social Fund	-	427,539	427,539	478,235
Good Things Foundation	-	3,936	3,936	-
Learning & Work Institute	-	700	700	1,500
National Heritage	-	5,550	5,550	-
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	-	-	-	3,026
Public Health Wales	-	99,600	99,600	98,943
Sports Council Wales	40,682	211,612	252,294	230,019
Street Games	-	15,672	15,672	41,000
Wales Council for Voluntary Action	-	-	-	3,447
Welsh Government	1,055,636	5,000	1,060,636	335,961
	1,600,114	2,010,551	3,610,665	1,604,793

Income by activity:

	Group* £	Charity** £
Training and libraries	1,394,188	1,394,188
Culture, parks and events	813,389	803,910
Sports and fitness	1,238,221	1,238,221
Central support services	4,202,727	4,222,786
	7,648,525	7,659,105

* Group income includes donations and subsidiary trading income.
**Charity income includes donations and excludes subsidiary trading income

23. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Subsidiary trading operations	9,479	-	9,479	21,298
	9,479	-	9,479	21,298

24. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants £	Governance £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Agency and subcontractors	49,954	-	-	-	49,954	318,319
Business support	619,476	49,094	-	10,800	679,370	644,254
Catering costs	93,827	-	-	-	93,827	440,430
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	1,307,804	-	-	-	1,307,804	1,848,901
Depreciation	41,022	-	-	-	41,022	41,884
Events and show costs	891	-	-	-	891	107,737
Irrecoverable VAT	55,250	22,175	-	-	77,425	97,124
Other costs	440,269	-	-	-	440,269	452,805
Premises	978,700	-	-	-	978,700	1,229,637
Reorganisation costs	4,375	-	-	-	4,375	176,454
Social security	274,412	-	-	-	274,412	272,038
Wages and salaries	3,363,003	507,717	10,255	-	3,880,975	3,723,611
	7,228,983	578,986	10,255	10,800	7,829,024	9,353,195

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Charity	Direct £	Support £	Grants £	Governance £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Agency and subcontractors	49,954	-	-	-	49,954	318,319
Business support	619,476	49,094	-	10,800	679,370	644,240
Catering costs	93,827	-	-	-	93,827	440,430
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	1,307,804	-	-	-	1,307,804	1,848,901
Depreciation	41,022	-	-	-	41,022	41,884
Events and show costs	891	-	-	-	891	107,737
Irrecoverable VAT	54,832	22,175	-	-	77,007	95,449
Other costs	440,265	-	-	-	440,265	452,566
Premises	978,700	-	-	-	978,700	1,229,637
Reorganisation costs	4,375	-	-	-	4,375	176,454
Social security	274,412	-	-	-	274,412	272,038
Wages and salaries	3,363,003	507,717	10,255	-	3,880,975	3,723,611
	7,228,561	578,986	10,255	10,800	7,828,602	9,351,266

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Expenditure can be attributed to:

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants	Governance £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Training and libraries	1,398,994	234,907	-	-	1,633,901	1,554,318
Culture, parks and events	1,583,034	135,451	10,255	-	1,728,740	2,012,336
Sports and fitness	2,404,982	208,628	-	-	2,613,610	3,368,889
Central support services*	1,841,973	-	-	10,800	1,852,773	2,417,652
	7,228,983	578,986	10,255	10,800	7,829,024	9,353,195
Charity						
Training and libraries	1,398,994	234,907	-	-	1,633,901	1,552,389
Culture, parks and events	1,582,614	135,451	10,255	-	1,728,320	2,012,336
Sports and fitness	2,404,982	208,628	-	-	2,613,610	3,368,889
Central support services*	1,841,971	-	-	10,800	1,852,771	2,417,652
	7,228,561	578,986	10,255	10,800	7,828,602	9,351,266

*Costs related to FRS 102 valuation of the pension scheme have been charged to the support category within Central support services and are not allocated across the business.

Support costs have been allocated to the activities based on income received in the year.

25. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:

Group and charity	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Depreciation	**41,022**	41,884
Operating leases	**60,869**	93,264
Auditors Remuneration:		
Audit fees	**9,250**	8,325
Accountancy services	1,550	1,550

26. STAFF COSTS

Group and charity	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages and salaries	**3,880,976**	3,723,611
Social security costs	**274,412**	272,038
FRS 102 Pension service costs (see note 19)	**1,157,000**	1,707,408
	5,312,388	5,703,057

Pension costs also include the impact of the FRS102 actuarial valuation of the service cost of running the DB scheme.

Redundancy costs totalling £3,183 are included in the above costs (2020: £160,648). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end (2020: £nil).

The total number of persons utilised throughout the year comprised a mixture of both contracted staff and relief workers. A number of individuals have only worked minimal shifts to support events. At 31 March 2021 and 2020 the Trust had 69 people in relief posts.

Staff numbers excluding relief workers:

Group and charity	Headcount 2021	Headcount 2020	FTE 2021	FTE 2020
Training and libraries	**79**	76	**38.7**	38.9
Culture, parks and events	**47**	49	**25.3**	30.2
Sports and fitness	**95**	97	**55.9**	55.2
Central support services	**17**	14	**16.8**	13.9
	238	236	**136.7**	138.2

27. STAFF COSTS (continued)

Key management personnel
The key management personnel of the charity received benefits totalling £163,761 (2020: £145,157).

These costs consist of gross pay, employers' national insurance contributions and employers pension contributions.

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 for the period and to whom retirement benefits are accruing under a defined benefit scheme was:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
£60,000- £70,000	2	-

The amount of employers pension contributions paid in respect of the above employee for the period was as follows:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Total contributions	22,343	-

Transactions with Trustees
During the period Donna Hardman, as the staff Trustee, received remuneration from her employment with the charity but not for her services as a Trustee.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charity (paragraph 19.1) provides the charity with the legal authority to make such payments.

The employee is a staff representative on the Trustee board.

No Trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior period.

Related Party transactions
During the period the charity recharged its wholly owned trading subsidiary LLT Limited £2,093 (2020: £8,373) for admin, staff time and maintenance costs.

LLT Limited gift aided £17,966 (2020: £ nil) to the charity during the period.

As at 31 March 2021 the LLT owed the charity £1,910 (2020: the charity owed LLT £9,419).

28. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicle £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	120,739	8,674	55,576	28,125	213,114
At 31 March 2021	120,739	8,674	55,576	28,125	213,114
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2020	58,313	5,741	31,677	17,703	113,434
Charge for the year	23,681	800	10,856	5,685	41,022
At 31 March 2021	81,994	6,541	42,533	23,388	154,456
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2021	38,745	2,133	13,043	4,737	58,658
At 31 March 2020	62,426	2,933	23,899	10,422	99,680

29. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - CHARITY

	Investments in Group undertakings £
Cost as at 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021	1

Life Leisure Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, company number 09236541. The registered office of the company is the same as the charity. LLT Limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

The results of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 can be found below:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Profit and Loss Account		
Turnover	9,479	21,298
Admin expenses	(2,511)	(10,300)
Operating profit	6,968	10,998
Statement of changes in Equity		
Balance brought forward	10,999	1
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	6,968	10,998
Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	(17,966)	-
Balance carried forward	1	10,999
Balance Sheet		
Current assets:		
Cash at bank and in hand	1,911	1,580
Amount owed by parent	1,483	22,531
	3,394	24,111
Current liabilities:		
Amounts owed to group undertakings	3,393	13,112
	3,393	13,112
Net current assets	1	10,999
Capital and reserves:		
Called up share capital	1	1
Profit and loss reserves	-	10,998
	1	10,999

The results above are included in the consolidated accounts.

30. STOCK

Group and charity	2021 £	2020 £
Shop items	6,010	4,656
Food and bar	7,989	15,882
	13,999	20,538

31. DEBTORS

Group	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	558,149	37,189
Prepayments and accrued income	476,010	365,213
Other debtors	-	39,128
	1,034,159	441,530
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	4,432,000	4,432,000
	5,466,159	4,873,530

Charity		
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	558,149	37,189
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	3,393	13,112
Prepayments and accrued income	476,010	365,213
Other debtors	-	39,128
	1,037,552	454,642
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	4,432,000	4,432,000
	5,469,552	4,886,642

The underwritten pension balances relates to the deficit on the LGPS scheme prior to the Trust's inception (see note 19).

Company registration number: 8951503
Charity registration number: 1159092



LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
(A company limited by guarantee
and not having any share capital)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES, STRATEGIC REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

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LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Foreword from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is a great pleasure to introduce this seventh annual review of Aneurin Leisure. Our mission is to "Improve Community Life" and I am pleased to say that we continue to deliver on this commitment through the services and programmes we provide to the residents of Blaenau Gwent.

We are at an exciting juncture in our development, as a young Leisure Trust, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on creating healthier lifestyles whilst working with partners such as Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Sport Wales and Disability Sport Wales.

Once again, during a continuing tough and challenging financial climate, Aneurin Leisure (Trust) has delivered service improvements and achieved targets agreed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Access was granted to the Hardship fund to mitigate against the challenges faced by restrictions due to the Covid pandemic which has allowed the Trust to continue planned investment set out in the 10 year business plan to support continued growth and deliver on our mission statement.

Key investments were made across key areas of the business to place the Trust in the best possible position to recover, which included a full refurbishment of all three Sports Centre gyms consisting of new flooring, brand coloured redecorating and new cardiovascular and resistance equipment. The successful tender was sought to embrace the latest digital developments within the health and fitness industry which will help to provide value for money to our users in the event of future lockdowns.

Parc Bryn Bach also benefited from additional investment with the upgrade of the visitor centre, showers and the implementation of new activity projects such as Mini Golf, Go-Karts and the ordering of a Caving container. These upgrades will help to develop the park as a destination for longer day trips.

The Library Service and Adult Community Education have continued consultation with the local authority and Coalfields Regeneration to discuss relocation plans to Trinity Chapel in Abertillery. This relocation will provide residents with improved town centre access and co-located services in a modern, refurbished building.

Catering & Hospitality achieved growth across the business unit sites, with public confidence in the quality of service remaining consistent across the business. Bedwellty House and Park continues to receive positive feedback with a 4.5* rating on Trip Advisor and 5* rating on Facebook for quality of food.

Since the inception of Aneurin Leisure, partnerships have been important to our success. As well as the key partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the Trust has developed many partnerships with agencies and organisations and the relationship with Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Health Board is flourishing and key projects are arising as a result.

The National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) is an established partner on the Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN). The cluster design promotes joint working across practices and the integration of primary care services with key partners such as the Local Health Board, Local Authority and Third Sector. Clusters also have a key role in supporting local health needs assessments, allocating appropriate resources and forecasting the potential future demand on primary care. There have been multiple collaborative projects that have been established in these meetings including Fibromyalgia and Dementia working groups, with the NERS team delivering bespoke classes to contribute to the respective needs.

The successes achieved across the Trust are in no small part due to the commitment of our employees. Once again, the staff have been our greatest resource, working extremely hard to deliver high quality services to our customers in our facilities and the communities of Blaenau Gwent. I would like to thank the entire team and all our partners for their contribution to the delivery of improved services across the area.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the continued success of Aneurin Leisure during the year: our Trustees, staff, volunteers, funders and partners and in particular, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Above all, I would like to thank the local community whose interests we serve, for their support and engagement over the past year.

Lyn Evans
Chair
Board of Trustees

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report which incorporates the strategic report, together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as amended for accounting periods commencing 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

- to provide or assist in the provision of both indoor and outdoor facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life;
- to promote community participation in healthy recreational activities;
- to provide or assist in the provision of community facilities to be available to all sections of the community without distinction, including use for meetings, lectures and classes and/or other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for all those who use the facilities;
- to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of a theatre/ arts development;
- to advance education in the arts by the establishment and maintenance of an art gallery and/or museum;
- to advance the education of the public through the provision of a library;
  to provide, maintain and equip parks with the object of advancing public education, with particular regard to horticulture, arboriculture, wild plants and wildlife;
- to preserve buildings of historic or architectural importance;
- to develop the capacity and skills of members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and participate more fully in society; and,
- to pursue such other charitable purposes analogous to any of the above as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall determine (together the "Objects").

To carry out any other charitable activity subject to the prior written consent of the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Public benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trust considers how planned activities support its vision of improving community life through Leisure, Learning and Culture which benefits the local population served by the charity. The Trust aims to deliver social outcomes that improve health and wellbeing whilst encouraging staff to strive to improve the quality of service delivery in a commercially sustainable way.

Some of the key activities undertaken in relation to the objects of the charity and to further the charities purpose for the public benefit are outlined on pages 5 - 21

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- These accounts represent trading for Aneurin Leisure for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.
- Aneurin Leisure has maintained a strong relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.
- The Library Service achieved all 12 of the core entitlements of the Welsh Public Standards.
- During 2020/21 further discussions took place to develop the relocation of Abertillery Library to Trinity Chapel. Coalfields Regeneration Trust, the Local Authority, Adult Community Learning and the Library Service have progressed the plan with timescales being scheduled for April 2022.
- A working group was established to discuss the implementation of Community Hubs within local libraries. Regular meetings were held and visits to libraries were arranged throughout 2020/21 to discuss delivery of this new service. This joint venture will transform the way in which residents engage with the council, offering face-to-face support through the six libraries. It will link closely with other library services, increasing footfall and will further develop the role of libraries as vital community hubs. The new service is planned to be launched in the first quarter of 2021/22.
- There were 17,976 electronic downloads (77% increase from previous year), 25,543 book loans and 1,532 call and collect visits.

Who used and benefited from our services?

The Charitable Trust provides leisure, learning and cultural activities to the residents of Blaenau Gwent. Whilst some sections of the community are affluent, many are not and some 21 per cent of areas fall in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales and overall, the majority of its areas are more deprived than the Wales average.

The Charitable Trust is responsible for the operation, management and development of the following:

- Three Sports Centres (including Sports Development and NERS Facilitators)
- Four Learning Action Centres
- Six Libraries
- *An Arts/Cultural Venue -
- Bedwellty House & Park
- Parc Bryn Bach

*The Metropole Theatre remained closed throughout the 2020/21 financial year due to covid restrictions
By offering a wide range of products and activities, individuals of all ages can participate.

User/Footfall Statistics - 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

	2020/21	2019/20
Sports Centres	*68,021	598,422
Libraries	**3,100	305,343
Learning Action Centres	***21,203	151,869
Parc Bryn Bach	****	542,537

*Sports Centres were closed until mid-August, followed by a 2-week firebreak and a further lockdown 20 20th December 2021. Facilities did not reopen until May 2021. During the re-opening all activities were severely restricted due to capacity numbers allowed and social distancing.

**Cwm Library (operated a Post Office service only and was the first service to resume on 26th May 2020 and this continued throughout the year)

Call and Collect numbers were recorded manually, as footfall counters did not pick up, as collection was at entrance. Customers returning books are also included in this, again approx figures, as manually recorded. Browsing by appointment and PC use by appointment was implemented in the Autumn of 2020 and continued until Christmas 2020, these figures are also included.

***The Learning Action Centres opened back up in September 2020 following the closure for Covid-19.

**** Footfall counters were faulty throughout the year and have been upgraded for future reporting

Getting Young People and Communities Active

Sports Development

The Sport Wales additional lottery investment for the last 5 years has been combined into one pot (e.g. LAPA) to enable the Gwent region to work collaboratively to impact on the Vision For Sport in Wales and the population of Gwent. This will continue during the 2021-22 funding cycle. The regular communication and dialogue among Local Authority officers has provided a platform for continuous learning and the sharing of good practice and innovation over a number of years. The sharing of what works and what doesn't, across the Gwent region means 'Active Gwent' and individual local authorities are in a strong position to submit Partnership Agreements based on local insight, experience, and knowledge of our areas.

Sports Development will continue to deliver inspirational, engaging, high quality sport and physical activity programmes, projects and interventions, particularly for children, young people and their families which are insight led and aligned to Sport Wales investment priority areas:

- Foundations
- Participation
- Progression
- Performance
- Succeed
- Growing Capability, Capacity and Confidence

We aim to support and deliver:

- The Foundation and Participations priorities via physical Literacy development, Primary School Sport, Secondary School Sport and Community Sport.

- The Progression and Performance priorities via our Club Development, Partnerships with NGBs, and Sustainability of Grassroots Sports programme.

- All programmes will be driven by insight gathered from a number of different sources. Extra-curricular secondary school sessions will be selected based on the latest School Sport Survey (SSS) data and the latent demand. A number of health and wellbeing interventions for secondary schools will be shaped by the School Health Research network data (SHRN). That data stated that a number of children are not meeting the required amount of physical activity minutes per week. A bespoke intervention was implemented to engage with the wider family to help support individuals.

- 2018 Primary School SSS data presented a significant decrease of sport and physical activity including the number of minutes of PE being delivered during curriculum time. As a result, support packages have been created and delivered to a number of Primary school staff. There was a focus on adapting their current curriculum to the new one. This support will continue throughout the next year and will help the Primary school phase reintroduce sport and physical activity opportunities.

- The cross-cutting workforce development programme undertaken across the county borough includes playmakers; ambassador programme, coach education and officer training will contribute to growing capability, capacity and confidence priority.

- The Sports Development team will ensure to promote equality throughout all of our provision and programmes. The main objective is to continue to offer sport and physical activity that is accessible to all. Disability inclusion sessions are integrated into all community and school provision.

- All coaches and staff have completed disability inclusion training to allow all sessions to be inclusive. The Admiral play together programmes has been installed into the Primary School Package, which is delivered to all schools.

- Disability partnership community engagement has developed with a number of local trusted organisations (LTOs) working together to ensure high quality inclusive sessions are delivered within local communities. Families First, Barnardos and other agencies are working alongside Sports Development to establish physical activity sessions within their programmes. These partnerships will continue to create and develop opportunities for everyone.

- The Us Girls brand in Blaenau Gwent has created a legacy that will continue far beyond the brand itself. Both the brand and the delivery tool is still very much utilised in Blaenau Gwent in order to engage with inactive and semi-active females. The 'female only' setting that the project promotes gives young women and girls the confidence to attend sessions and participate in activities in a safe and fun environment without the fear of being judged. Volunteer-led and participant centred sessions remain at the forefront of our project, with an emphasis on engaging the 'right' target group into a more physically active and sporting lifestyle.

- The Us Girls project in isolation created opportunities for local women and girls but lacked the sustainability required for long term engagement. The development of Blaenau Gwent's Community Sport model in particular, has streamlined the women and girls offer in Blaenau Gwent and embedded the offer alongside new and existing provision. Provision is also delivered in partnership with all four of the secondary schools in Blaenau Gwent, to provide extra-curricular opportunities for female pupils aged 11 to 16.

- Blaenau Gwent's Community Sport model has created a gateway to local 'hard to engage' communities and has provided a platform for young people living in the area. Community Sport in Blaenau Gwent aims to encourage local young people to become more physically active in a safe and fun environment. Delivered in the community, for the community; sessions are current and vibrant, and are delivered by the 'right people', at the 'right time', in the 'right place', for the 'right price', and in the 'right style'. 1 in 3 young people grow up in poverty with only 42% of those from the most deprived households taking part in physical activity 3 or more times a week. With us unable to deliver of the 5 rights the offer had to be adapted. The introduction of the Family Engagement Project – FEP has been introduced to help support families who are not engaging in sport or physical activity.

- Community Hubs were due to be established at 4 Primary Schools – selected from the Social Services in the schools' programme. Those hubs would provide regular weekly activity for all the family. Families will be referred into the programme and will receive bespoke support via 1-1 consultations. Once barriers have been identified, they will then receive support in helping them remove them. Funding for courses, free gym memberships, clothing / equipment. A training programme will also be made available. Training will include first aid, safeguarding, nutrition, mindfulness.

- With facilities often closed and sport opportunities limited all projects and interventions have to have the ability to adapt to ensure the target audience is being reached. A number of interventions have been digitalised to help as many people via school and community settings access these opportunities.

- For those accessing services via community settings, they may not always have the technology available as a school setting would. Digital poverty in high within the area for a number of demographics. To allow everyone to access sport and physical activities sporting equipment was provided to families and that will continue should face-to-face delivery be limited.

- The introduction of providing sporting activity packs to families who have been referred to us have been very successful and that intervention will continue.

- Working with the local authority's Youth Team and their Positive Futures Programme will allow the continuation of Community Safety, Youth Engagement and Sport and Alternative Education provision. Positive Futures in Blaenau Gwent aims to connect detached youth provision to sport and physical activity. There are a number of high anti-social behaviour hotspots within the area. The level of criminal activity from young people within those areas that have seen high level of engagement has significantly reduced. Friday night football sessions in conjunction with the Cardiff City foundation are extremely popular.

- The Free-Swimming Initiative has a greater emphasis on qualitative projects for the under 16's. The open access for the over 60's has been replaced with individual days across the 3 sports centres which made way for more innovation through the under 16's element.

    - There has been a collaborative project between the Sports Centres and Sports Development through the Fit and Fed programme, which was halted in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this 20 young people attended the sessions (case study below), giving some the aquatic opportunity in the hardest to reach areas (as according to the Welsh index for Multiple Deprivation WIMD report).

- An AYP (Active Young People) swimming programme for those children in Year 7 that didn't meet the Key Stage 2 criteria in Year 6 in the Nofio Ysgol programme. A member of the Sports Development team collaborates with the PE departments across the borough to identify individuals and conduct sessions.

- A collaborative project with Families First Blaenau Gwent (Social Services) has been designed for those youngsters classed as 'Young Carers.' A swimming card with 10 free sessions for the Young Carer to access all public swim sessions across the 3 sports centres. There are 56 young carers that have been identified for the scheme.

- Finally, another collaborative project with Flying Start and their ELKLAN speech and language programme. The Trust has tailored an aquatic activity with speech and language development through the medium of singing.

All infographics are yet to be complete due to the programmes remaining unfinished due to COVID-19 and hope for a resumption to all projects soon.

- Swimming lessons resumed in November 2021, after the first COVID-19 lockdown, for a 6-week period prior to the second lockdown in December 2020. The occupancy in the sessions across the 3 Sports Centres ran at 42% (662 participants returned from previous 1,589) prior to March 2020.

- Park Run delivered virtual runs during the lockdown period of 2020/21 with not a single physical race taking place during this time period due to the restrictions in place of mass gatherings and events. Weekly runs became virtual and individual, however, engagement and morale was maintained as best possible throughout.

Support for National Health Initiatives Aimed at Improving Overall Wellbeing

- 640 'welfare' /keep in touch calls were made to vulnerable customers. Telephone contact proved a vital support to otherwise, isolated people.

- The service promoted a variety of national health campaigns through our digital channels, promoting relevant stock which was available through e-books or through call and collect. Key online promotions included;
  - Men's Health Week
  - World Mental Health Day January
  - Time to Talk Day (Mental health awareness)
  - Blue Monday promotion linking with MIND

- The Home Delivery Service recommenced in June 2020, although visits into homes were suspended, many customers enjoyed talking to the staff on the doorstop or in their gardens. Many older, vulnerable customers commented on how this helped their mental health and made them feel less isolated.

- The outreach mobile post office was the first service to recommence in May 2020. This was in response to discussions with the council and reacting to the needs of the local community

- The Reading Well for Children scheme was launched in October 2020. This scheme provides helpful reading to support children's mental health and wellbeing. The books provide quality-assured information, stories and advice. Books have been chosen and recommended by leading health professionals and co-produced with children and families. collections were loaned to hospitals and community groups and in hard-to-reach communities.

- The Summer Reading Challenge was launched as a digital challenge and was promoted online through all social media channels. Over the school holidays marketing was targeted to reach families, promoting call and collect to support the summer reading challenge. Free craft activities were also distributed, included in the call and collect bags.

    - In response to the pandemic Adult Community Learning successfully delivered all 56 courses through a blended learning model. Following the successful application of the grant from Welsh Government, learners were given the appropriate support and resources to move seamlessly from classroom-based delivery to remote learning.

    - The NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme) was unfortunately postponed for the entirety of 2020/21 period. The facilitators were retained due to being funded by Public Health Wales and conducted health, fitness and well-being content and conversations as detailed below;

- Virtual delivery was prioritised during this time with over 400 exercise, self-help and motivational videos created with over 300,000 views from participants.
- Phone calls were made bi-weekly to clients that were on the scheme during the postponement, with 980 calls being made during this period.
- 344 home programmes were designed for clients postponed, to keep active and healthy during the pandemic.
- 4 collaborative wellbeing engagement meetings for Blaenau Gwent were held to work on health and wellbeing interventions for the community. A wellbeing DVD was made for those individuals who couldn't access social media. 54 DVDs were given out to those in the community.

    - A Virtual Wellbeing weekend was delivered and run for the whole community. 24 fitness classes and 6 education wellbeing sessions were delivered over the weekend, with 702 participants taking part.

    - An Everest stair climb challenge was undertaken by the team to lift spirits and raise funds for our local charity partner Hospice of the Valleys. £2,462 was raised for the charity and 119 individuals took part alongside the team of 4.

    - The over 60s free swimming returned in September 2020 to December 2020. This encompassed an offering of 3 days free swimming (during public swimming sessions) for the over 60's community across all Sports Centres. There was an additional structured activity (Aqua Aerobics) incorporated as part of the offer.

- The Trust received a grant of £13,125 to develop wellbeing activities for the over 60's demographic. The grant was accepted in January 2021 (during the second lockdown), much of the grant was spent on instructors delivering virtual fitness class delivery. Part of the funding was utilized to develop a virtual walking tour of Blaenau Gwent. The routes were incorporated into the Strava application for participants to progressively improve their cardiovascular fitness, via a 10-week walking plan. High-definition filming equipment was purchased to give a better viewing experience to the end user and the kit has been utilised to film a series of fitness sessions that have been archived for participants. The filming equipment was also used to develop a digital literacy webinar series to aid the over 60's demographic in this 'digital age.'

- Bedwellty House & Park became a Covid vaccination centre from January 2021 to April 2021. The Health Centre from Tredegar occupied the venue on Mondays and Thursdays each week to roll out the vaccine programme. Staff from within the Park volunteered to ensure the vaccine centre staff were supported throughout the programme. Team Members also volunteered at the vaccine centre in the general offices.

- Bedwellty House and Parc Bryn Bach team members along with wider Trust officers, supported the Local Authority with the outreach community support roles, taking calls, supporting deliveries of goods to vulnerable and hard to reach community members and later the track trace protect programme.

- Parc Bryn Bach has continued a partnership with the Hospice of the Valleys, despite there not being any physical events during the 2020/21 period, support was given in raffles and virtual runs.

- Bedwellty House & Park continued to welcome and host the NERS Officer (National Exercise Referral Scheme) weekly to deliver health checks to those patients in the community who do not wish to attend a Sports Centre, providing them with an outreach service. While the service has been intermittent during the lockdown periods those who have accessed it have appreciated the locality.

- Bedwellty House & Park has welcomed back weekly Mini Mover sessions for parents/carers and their babies/toddlers to engage in a weekly music and movement session during periods of open. The outcome of the session has a dual achievement with the babies and toddlers learning skills through music and movement while the parents/carers have social interaction with others to share experiences of parenthood supporting mental wellbeing after having a child. This has again been intermittent during the year, however, went ahead as and when it could, ensuring guidelines were fully adhered to.

- Parc Bryn Bach in partnership with Adult Learning developed a weekly buggy walk around the lake followed by outdoor refreshments to engage with new parents for them to get out and enjoy like-minded company while adhering to all social distancing outdoor guidelines. Feedback has been collated and evidences a positive impact on the mental health of those attending.

Case Study

Gareth, 59 came onto the scheme through the mental health pathway. He had a high-pressure directorship role and couldn't 'switch off' from work which led to self-destructive habits, such as binge drinking and eating a diet of high saturated fats and processed foods. He took some time off due to stress and was advised by the GP to visit his local Sports Centre with a referral to the NERS scheme. He joined the scheme in January 2020 on the mental health pathway and dedicated his time to getting fit, healthy, and work on his mental, physical and social wellbeing. His progress was halted in March 2020 due to the pandemic, but he managed to stay active following the virtual exercise programme delivered by the Exercise Facilitators and completed a home workout programme, also designed by the NERS team. He used the 16-week intervention to focus solely on his wellbeing, which improved all health criteria he was working towards;

Weight	92kg – 80kg*
BMI	29 – 24.5*
Waist	94 – 82cm*
Visual Analogue Score	64 – 54**
WEMWS	Improvements in 10 of the 14 questions
Activity levels	Sedentary – 5 days per week

*The measurements were taken by the individual at home due to lockdown
**participant experienced high anxiety due to COVID-19

Gareth has completed the scheme under COVID-19 restrictions (5 weeks with a home-based programme). Gareth has stated *'the NERS scheme has helped me so much, becoming more aware of what I am putting into my body and focusing on today, rather than living in the future. I feel more in control of my life and not living my life around my job. I have also created a new social network with health and physical activity at the centre of our friendships. The pandemic has taught me not to take things for granted and focus on what I can control and the NERS scheme has taught me what I put into my body is what I can get out it. I have created a new lifestyle and will advocate the programme to anyone who will listen to me in the future.* (April 12th 2020).

Supporting Essential Skills

- The Trust's Adult and Community Learning has three externally funded employability projects, which contribute to raising skill levels and improving career prospects across Blaenau Gwent. All projects have been extended until December 2022, bringing the total value of the projects to £3,543,291. Staff in all three projects participated in the Blaenau Gwent locality team's initiative during the pandemic and were placed on the Government's job retention scheme for two months. Since returning to their substantive roles, staff in all three projects have worked tirelessly to ensure that the deliverables and outputs for each project remain on target to avoid grant clawback by Welsh Government.

- The first project delivered through Adult and Community Learning is "Working Skills for Adults 2". This project aims to provide qualifications and support to those individuals who are in low-skilled and seasonal employment to enable them to improve their job sustainability and prospects. As at the end of March 2021, the project was just below its profiled number of 547 starts, with 73.5% of participants achieving a recognised qualification primarily in short courses, while the remaining 9% are enrolled on longer courses such as Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools, which will complete in June 2021. A small number of participants have engaged with informal courses such as confidence building or CV writing which does not enable a qualification to be achieved.

The project has formed strong links with local primary schools and childcare providers to deliver a range of short courses aimed at improving the skills and confident of their employees.

- Bridges into Work 2 is the second project which is delivered through Adult and Community Learning. Its aim is to engage with those who are economically inactive or have been unemployed for over 3 years and reside in non-Community First areas. The project commenced delivery in January 2016 and robust marketing and delivery plans are in place to ensure that the project will remain on target for its delivery profile until December 2022. The project has engaged with 506 individuals with 25% already securing sustainable employment. The project to the end of March 2021 has sourced 155 voluntary work placements across Blaenau Gwent, enabling individuals to gain valuable transferable and employment related skills.

- The Nurture, Equip, Thrive project is designed to engage with those employed individuals who wish to improve their job sustainability. Individuals on the project are either under employed or have a work limiting health conditions. To date the project has engaged with 141 individuals, 53 of whom have reported an improvement to their employment through promotion, changing careers or increased responsibility at work plus 8 have returned to work after a period of absence. This project is unique in its offer to employed participants to engage with stress management and anxiety courses which are complemented with individual mentoring and support. The project has worked closely with the Trade Unions to expand the offer of stress management and anxiety courses to the workforce across Blaenau Gwent

- The core purpose of Adult Community Learning is to enable adults to develop to play a full part in life and work by providing support primarily through a curriculum focussed on improving essential skills. The target group for Adult Community Learning are those individuals who are not in full time education, training or employment. The curriculum offered by Adult Community Learning is benchmarked against targets which are agreed across the Coleg Gwent partnership. Aneurin Leisure achieved a successful completion rate 94.3% against a benchmark 93% for the academic year 2020/21. The GCSE results for 2020/2021 were extremely pleasing with 92% of English Language learners achieving A or B grades plus 100% of maths learners who took the intermediate or higher course achieved an A*- D grade, with 79% getting an A*-C grade.

- The pandemic and subsequently lockdowns meant that Adult Community Learning could not support the face-to-face informal learning which is delivered throughout the academic year. However, a weekly digital coffee morning was successfully delivered throughout the 12 months. The digital coffee mornings were learner led and included information sessions from partners such as Pet Therapy, Hedgehog Trust and the Integrated Wellbeing network. The service also delivered Zoom cookery sessions for parents and children which proved extremely successful and will now form part of the Adult Community Learning offer for 2021/22.

Adult Community Learning Testimonial from Nurture, Equip, Thrive Participant:

Testimonial: Maria Lloyd *"I was first introduced to the Nurture. Equip. Thrive Project, through family who were attending another works project. I was introduced to Caroline who was very understanding and discussed how she could help me. We filled in a personal development form and saw that I was struggling with my confidence and my anxiety which caused me to feel stressed in my previous job role. Caroline then recommended that I attend different courses that the project offered to help me with my confidence and anxiety. Over the next few months, I completed different tasks and activities that helped encourage my confidence and make me feel less anxious being in work. I attended the confidence course that was run by Caroline and Michelle, who over the next months helped encourage my confidence and self-esteem and watched it grow as the course was nearing to the end. During this time, I met other people who like me was struggling with confidence and we all worked together as a group to overcome it. I found working in groups incredibly helpful as before I always felt uncomfortable working with someone I didn't know very well. I completed a number of different tasks to help as well as interview techniques. I also attended the anxiety course also run by Caroline and Michelle, I learnt so much about anxiety that I didn't know. I always felt scared to go to the toilets whenever I visited the cinema with my partner or my friends and never thought that it was linked to anxiety. During my time completing this course I learnt all different techniques to help me with my anxiety e.g. The worry tree and a breathing technique which I use on a daily basis. When both courses were complete, I still kept in contact with Caroline who helped me with my C.V. and sent me numerous different job opportunities while I was still working in my previous role. Even though the courses were finished I still visited both Caroline and Michelle and took part in different activities that they offered me, I even volunteered at Christmas to help out with craft making. I no longer wanted to work in my previous job role and decided on a completely different job that I trained for previously. N.E.T. Set me up with getting my DBS certificate where I can be certified to work with children safely again. Only a few months later I was offered a job in a Pre-School where I now currently work, and I feel like I'm living my dream job every day. I wouldn't be where I am today without N.E.T. Teresa, Caroline and Michelle. Those courses and the help that was provided have completely changed my life. I work 4 days a week which have much better hours suitable to my schedule, I have a better social life and attend the cinema at least once a month with my friends. Overall, I feel more confident, no longer anxious and so much more healthier within myself. I will be forever grateful to N.E.T. Thank you very much for the opportunity to improve my life.*
Marie Lloyd

Tackling Inequalities

- Adult Community Learning delivers essential skills which are free at point of delivery to all individuals over the age of 16. Essential Skills includes communication, English for Speakers of Other Languages, numeracy and financial literacy. Essential Skills classes target those individuals who have become disengaged with the education process. During this academic year over 600 individuals enrolled onto Essential Skills courses, all of which are designed to enable individuals to realise their potential and achieve their aspirations.

- Free swimming has now changed from a quantitative model to a qualitative, project-based model for under 16's and over 60's. The biggest changes have been made for the under 16's offer;

    - Fit and Fed project having a bespoke learn to swim pathway to take part in aquatics-based activities
    - Disability swimming, accessing the pool through the Disability Sports Development Officer free of charge.
    - 1 hour per week per centre for free unstructured swimming.
    - An allotted amount of free swimming through holiday periods and the summer.
    - Young carers initiative, collaborating with Social Services to provide 20 free swimming sessions.

- The over 60's free swim has also been updated as detailed below;

14. There is now one day per centre per week where over 60 swimming is free of charge.
15. There is a free aqua aerobics session for over 60's.
16. There is a muscular skeletal pathway for older adults with mobility problems that is pool based. This is being run through the NERS scheme in partnership with the local GP's and physiotherapy department.

- The new approach has been set out to tackle the inequalities that are high on the agenda of the local authority as a whole.

- Library promotional packs and free books were distributed to local food banks within the borough during the summer months. These packs and bags were added to the food boxes and provided a means to reach vulnerable families. A number of new registrations resulted from this scheme.

- The service continued to promote equality, providing impartial information and welcoming everyone, regardless of race, age and gender. In February 2021 the service promoted stock online to celebrate LGBT month. Stock collections were also promoted during March 2021 for International Women's Day.

- Book Collections for Schools was also launched to compensate for the lack of school visits to libraries. Stock was delivered to schools, made up of reading choices made by pupils, including reading for pleasure and titles to support the national curriculum. Teachers commented that some children only have access to books from regular school visits to libraries, this scheme provided an opportunity to reach children. A number of deliveries of stock were also made to hub provision at schools in the borough.

- Libraries also played an important role in helping parents who were educating their children at home. Blaenau Gwent was a partner in a new scheme, working with BookTrust Cymru to enable parents to collect their Bookstart packs from local libraries, in the absence of clinic appointments.

- The Library Service relaxed its policy on library membership during the pandemic. In addition to online registrations, we also implemented taking membership enrolments over the phone. This removed access barriers for those customers who are digitally excluded. This proved very successful, with an increase in referrals from external agencies, e.g. Care and Repair, Social Services, etc.

- The service worked with The Goodthings Foundation over 2020/21 to deliver census support through the Library Service. All six libraries were registered as support centres, with two members of library staff having training to enable them to be designated census advisors. A number of digitally excluded residents received help and support from this initiative. The Library Service also worked with 'We are Digital' to provide assisted digital support for residents needing help with the EU settlement scheme.

- Swimming lessons are offered in Welsh language format, utilising our Welsh Speaking instructors to deliver the sessions. There is also an option of Welsh only 1-2-1 swimming lessons dependant on instructor's availability.

- Bedwellty House & Park work in partnership with BGCBC Flying Start and Families First teams to deliver free weekly Wild Tots sessions for young people and their families to explore and enjoy the outdoors this was delivered intermittently as and when restrictions were lifted during the period, those who attended were appreciative of the activities going ahead as and when they could.

- Bedwellty House & Park delivered in partnership with Heads for Arts, the annual Arty Parky event which is a free family and community event for community members to participate in develop a mass community art masterpiece due to the 2020 local lockdown this still operated as a virtual event which was a great success.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

- During the lockdown periods the Friends of both Bedwellty House & Park and Parc Bryn Bach continued with the development of the sensory gardens, these will be tranquil and welcoming areas for the community. The Friends of volunteers felt being able to engage in some community gardening when they were able to go out individually was a positive impact on their mental health. It also helped with maintaining and having a presence in the Parks.

- During 2020, which was a difficult time for many, the launch of the new children's play area at Parc Bryn Bach in June 2020, proved to be a huge success. A banded and limited entry system was put in place to ensure all outdoor covid guidelines were followed. The playground is an incredible structure delivered by Elbe Play. The play area would often be to the desired covid capacity throughout the June to September period of 2020. It has been well received by all and is a great addition to the park.

1. Bedwellty House & Park has continued to maintain and develop the partnership with Tredegar Town Council. While no events have been able to operate the Park has worked in collaboration in developing online virtual meetings for them to engage with the community and deliver key messages.

2. Both Parc Bryn Bach and Bedwellty House & Park maintain excellent links with Gwent Wildlife Trust. Both Parks achieved Green Flag award status again in 2020/21, with Bedwellty House also receiving the Heritage Award and Parc Bryn Bach maintaining its status a wildlife reserve site.

3. There is an established corporate partnership between Aneurin Leisure and Tai Calon within the sport and fitness sector of the Trust. Aneurin Leisure delivers corporate health checks for the Tai Calon workforce twice yearly (one conducted at Tai Calon head office due to COVID-19), this facilitates prospective members to membership conversion and helps engage their health, fitness, and wellbeing journey. The NERS team accesses referrals through Tai Calon's community team, with direct communication to their tenant who are applicable to the scheme.

4. A new partnership with Precor LTD UK (acquired by Peloton 31st March 2021) was established January 2021, whereby they won the tender to refurbish the gyms across our three Sports Centres. The equipment is due to be installed in April 2021 with state-of-the-art Cardio equipment for bespoke user experience, cutting edge gym layouts for multi-functional goal-based training, the most up to date technological advancements through Sony Advagym and a future proof project which inbuilds exponential development.

Case Study
Home Delivery Customers

During 2020/21 the Home Delivery Service has adapted to new flexible ways of reaching the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Betty, 80, from Ebbw Vale was referred to the service last year by library staff. Betty was a regular library user but needed to shield. She always enjoyed coming to the library with her daughter to choose talking books and large print books. From a telephone enquiry, it was suggested that the home delivery would be a good service for her. Betty's daughter has recently contacted the library to give her thanks to the service.

'My mother has been so pleased to be able to have her books again. What a marvellous service, thank you so much. As my mother's main carer, I have very little time to collect books for her. My mother reads about 5 books a week and listens to audio books too, so this is a great help, saves me carrying heavy bags from the library. Also, it is re-assuring to know all the deliveries are safe, using paper bags and with the books being quarantined, that is really important to my mother. – Betty's daughter.

Two new customers, from a sheltered accommodation in Tredegar, joined the Home Delivery service in Aug 2020. These new customers have both said that they have started listening to audio books since the start of the pandemic, as they have so much time on their hands.

'It is a nice distraction from all the worries of the world, to listen to a nice story and switch-off. I miss going out and seeing my family, the days are so long when you live alone, the stories help, breaking the day up'
'I've really got into audio books since the lockdown. I was never a big reader, but these are nice to have on in the background, it is nice to hear another voice in the flat, makes me feel less lonely'

Martha, 70, is a new customer to the service. She lives in Brynmawr and suffers with poor mental health and has recently been diagnosed with Dementia. Although Joe has not met Martha in person, they have built up a good relationship over the phone. Weekly phone calls are made, where Martha will tell Joe about the book she has listened to. Martha has expressed how much talking books have helped her with her condition and has been *'delighted'* with the service. Over the last couple of months, Martha has listened to 30 talking books and Joe has noticed how much brighter she sounds lately.

'I was an avid reader at one time, but I now struggle so much with my eyesight and I have lost my concentration too. The talking books have been so helpful. They have really helped my memory, I like to listen to books that I have read before as certain little things bring my memory back, which makes me smile. When Joe rings, we have a nice chat about what I liked about the book, I've started making notes, so that he can recommend to other customers. They lift my depression too. I listen as soon as I wake up and before I go to bed, I couldn't manage without them now, they are my little bit of happiness everyday, a lifeline to me during the pandemic! – Martha.

Tom, 81, has been a customer for a number of years. He has been shielding most of the year due to his chronic health conditions, COPD and diabetes. Before the pandemic, Tom was active and regularly went out to socialise. Joe has noticed that Tom wants to talk more and he has expressed to Joe that he has never felt so lonely. As a result, Joe makes additional calls to Tom for 'welfare chats' and Tom has expressed his gratitude by saying how much this has helped him.

'I am reading so much more in the lockdown, it has been a wonderful service to have books whenever I need them. I really miss the visit with Joe, but the phone calls have kept me going. When you live alone, it is nice to talk to someone, it is such a long day, staying at home all the time. I would never have thought a phone call would help so much. Joe has encouraged me to try different talking books, and I have really enjoyed them. Great escapism and keeps the blues away'
*(Joe-Home Delivery Library Assistant)

Cultural Enrichment

- Aneurin Leisure's Arts and Cultural Service ensures that activities are closely aligned to the Health and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, working particularly to tackle mental wellbeing, dementia and social isolation in the region. The aim is to deliver a quality, accessible and varied range of arts and cultural events and activities that will challenge, entertain and develop audiences of all ages providing opportunities to expand horizons and enhance lifestyles.

- Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions the Theatre remained shut for the entirety of 2020/21, however, this time was spent working with BGCBC to ensure a smooth transition of the arts to an alternative provider at the start of the 2021/22 financial year.

- The Library Service is well placed to extend cultural engagement because of their use by all social groups and their role as inclusive cultural hubs within communities.

- Local Studies research provision at Tredegar Library provides a wide range of materials supporting welsh culture and heritage. A Local community museum is also based in Tredegar Library, linking to library heritage services.

- The Heritage Forum and Tredegar Members delivered local heritage recordings and shared stories of days gone by monthly via social media platforms during the lock down period. They kept in touch with the House Management team with a plan of talks ready when the restrictions were lifting.

Social Responsibility

- Public library services are a vital part of social infrastructure and during the pandemic it has highlighted the role of connecting communities. When people's daily lives are disrupted, we have found they look for places that provide a sense of belonging and support, our libraries provide that safe, trusted environment.

- The service delivered a number of digital engagement events that helped people feel connected to their local communities. By identifying an increase in enquires relating to family and local history, we worked with our volunteers in this area to provide support over the phone for detailed enquiries and signposted to the remote services of Ancestry and Find My Past. We also promoted various library online competitions, e.g. Lego challenges and World Book Day.



Ezekiel, winner of our online competition. – Quote from his mother.
'He was thrilled with everything. He's been studying space at home school this term and will be studying nature and the animal kingdom when he returns to school on Monday, so the books were just wonderful! Ezekiel is dyslexic and so this has been a wonderful way to help him develop an interest in books and libraries. Thank you'.

- Bedwellty House & Park shared and promoted a number of online activities, quizzes and information on social media platforms to try and maintain engagement with the community throughout the lockdown period. Team members were also engaged with throughout the period. During times of opening all be them sporadic, free and low-cost activities were offered to ensure a welcome option for all.

- Parc Bryn Bach delivered a programme in conjunction with Gwent Police in the Summer 2020, to engage with young people to participate in Outdoor Adventure Activity. The young people who participated were identified as being at risk of being socially isolated, instances of anti-social behaviours or crime prevention. The sessions were well received with many of the young people gaining self-respect and gained confidences and skills they didn't know they had.

Local Business Partnerships

- Aneurin Leisure continues to offer local, regional and national organisations discounted membership as part of our Life Card membership scheme and our drive to improve health and wellbeing in the workplace. Corporate members are currently enjoying the corporate discounts in the area that Aneurin Leisure operates. This product combines reduced rates for i) gym memberships within our sport centres, ii) corporate hospitality and conferencing at Bedwellty House and Park and iii) Team Building at Parc Bryn Bach.

- New partnerships have been formed with numerous organisations to benefit the business and the local community. Below is a selection of the partnerships and the benefits associated:

Who	How
Valleys Regional Parks	Funding secured (£625,000) to build; - play area - bunkhouse - co-working hub
Regional Welsh Leisure Trusts	During Covid an agreement was made to allow access to gym members across all regional providers. This promoted staying healthy when travelling across county borders was prohibited.
BGCBC	- Throughout Covid staff supported BGCBC to maintain services which were stretched. - A partnership has been formed to deliver council services directly through the libraries following the closure of the Civic Centre.

- Catering across Aneurin Leisure sites work to utilise locally sourced produce and to support local businesses for it catering products. As well as the Kitchen Garden providing home grown fruit and vegetables to be utilised at Bedwellty House, the park along with other sites use the local milkman, local ice cream provider, local bakers, local grocers and the local brewery. The positive relationship with using local suppliers is very much welcomed by the suppliers and the community.

Marketing and Communications

- The pandemic resulted in a mainly tactical approach to the marketing and communications for the Trust due to the restrictions placed on society.

- Our priority was to communicate our approach to the safety of members, visitors and staff of the Trust which resulted in on-site, social media and website communication aligned with the strategic approach of:

  - Reassurance – the safety of our customers and staff is our primary concern
  - Information – here's how you stay safe
  - Engagement – this is how we support you
  - Inspiration – this is how to make the most of our facilities

- As restrictions eased, we communicated the reopening of our facilities stressing the importance of safety and reinforcing PHW and WG messaging.

- Working in partnership has continued to be of importance to promoting the developments and facilities that the Trust has to offer. Examples of these are:

-The Trust has worked closely with the marketing and communications team at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to co-ordinate and reinforce messaging relating to health and wellbeing of the community including testing and vaccination centres and the impact on council services. In addition, the Bio-diversity team has supported us at Parc Bryn Bach and Bedwellty House and Park to improve the facilities and, in particular, improve the communication of the wildlife, flora and fauna at Parc Bryn Bach through improvement of the communication of the existing nature trails.

-The Trust has continued to work closely with the Tourism Officer and the Destination Management Group (DMG) through sharing best practice, working with partners and helping to raise awareness of the benefits of the Trust's facilities to the local community and wider potential audiences through Wales and beyond.

-Welsh Government – in addition to the involvement with the DMG we have started communication with the Visit Wales team at Welsh Government to promote the parks' facilities to a wider audience and will improve our visibility as the sites' tourist facilities are improved, and the Trust's websites are redeveloped.

-Valley Regional Partnership (VRP) – the funding received through VRP for Parc Bryn Bach resulted in a new play area being opened. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, a formal launch event wasn't possible but we communicated its facilities and benefits widely whilst reinforcing the need for safety measures to be adhered to. In addition, the signage was improved throughout the park including highlighting key areas and directional signage, a map of the park's facilities and a sign highlighting the history and heritage of the park. Refurbishment of the bunkhouse continued throughout the pandemic and a formal launch will be planned for the coming financial year.

-Working with partners within the Public Service Board (PSB) sub-group, the Trust has actively communicated support and facilities available to the Blaenau Gwent community.

-The Trust has continued a dialogue with Chwarae Teg throughout the year. We have communicated their support for female training throughout the Trust and will continue to explore ways of working in partnership with this organisation.

- Online communication has been of paramount importance throughout the year. It has reinforced the need to improve the websites for the Trust and its individual sites and ensure that they are on secure and consistent platforms for security and ease of updating.

- The priority was the Aneurin Leisure Trust website (aneurinleisure.org.uk) with the key objectives of the new site being:

  - To present a modern, professional and accessible portal for the Trust that can evolve and be updated easily.

  - To make the site more user friendly and easy to navigate and truly an umbrella for the Trust's activities with links to the parks' and sport centres' websites but retaining the main portal for ACL and libraries.

  - To highlight the Trust's charitable status.

  - For Parc Bryn Bach there was a need to reposition the park from activities-focused to a park that was a place where families and groups could 'discover more'.

  - The key objectives for the new site (parcbrynbach.co.uk) being:

  - To update the website with a new positioning that illustrates the wealth of opportunities that residents of Blaenau Gwent and all visitors to the park can discover and enjoy and thereby increase footfall.
  - To ensure that the website is updated to reflect all activities taking place and become the primary source of information for visitors resulting in a better UX and high repeat visits and conversion rates.
  - To improve retention through qualified data capture and pertinent and efficient information, response and booking experience.
  - To ensure that the UX is clear and easy to navigate
  - To improve the website in terms of SEO, targeting families and sports enthusiasts.

- Both the Aneurin Leisure Trust and Parc Bryn Bach websites have been completed and are improving in terms of analytics with the bounce rate down to 1% for both sites (from 69% and 68% respectively).

- In addition, our social media channels have been key to ensuring that visitors and members are kept up to date with information. In addition to health and wellbeing communication to support partners, we have communicated a number of activities and services that have been available to the community when restrictions have eased particularly the services that libraries have reinstated and the online support from Adult Community Learning.

- Keeping staff appraised of activities and support across the Trust has continued throughout the year with monthly newsletters being sent to all staff. A new, confidential, staff survey has been developed to run bi-annually to gauge how our staff view the Trust and areas for improvement.

Workforce and Workplace Development

- Aneurin Leisure recognises and fully appreciates that our employees are the key to the success of the Trust. The Trust employs c. 257 contracted employees (Full Time Equivalent 133) and in addition, utilises casual relief posts (i.e. 28 individuals at the end of March 2021) and is committed to the development, health and wellbeing of all.

- The Trust continues working towards a planned, systematic approach to improving our organisational effectiveness, one that aligns strategy, people and processes to achieve our commitment to continuously improve our customers' experience which is essential to achieving this. The Trust links training and the performance appraisals to our values and strategic priorities.

- The Trust continues to meet with the Trade Unions on a regular basis and has an excellent working relationship.

- The Trust has continued to work in partnership with TSW (Training Services Wales) and a number of frontline managers are currently completing training at Level's 3 to 5.

- Delivery of in-house training for Level 2 Food Safety, Level 3 Supervising Food Safety, Connect 5 Mental Health and Wellbeing, Digital Safeguarding and Mental Health for Tutors.

- All Sports Centre Recreation Assistants attended return to work Covid Compliant training and all staff have received online PPE training.

- New staff and workers receive the Trust's company Induction, day 1 covers the corporate induction whilst over the following 12 weeks they cover their Business Unit and their facility induction.

- Strategic Business Unit Managers are undertaking their performance management cycle process and identifying training needs which forms part of the Trust's annual Training and Development Schedule.

- Payroll processes throughout the financial year have become more streamlined through collaboration with the facilities' management team utilising Microsoft Teams and SharePoint. During the financial year, HR collaborated with IT move payroll paperwork to electronic to support the Trusts aim to be paperless by significantly reduced the usage of paper in the payroll process and the use of digital has improved efficiency throughout the facilities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The group has returned a surplus of £526,501 before FRS 102 pension adjustments for the 12-month period to 31 March 2021, of which £84,376 is from restricted funds. The trading subsidiary, LLT limited has contributed £9,480 to the group surplus.

	£
Group surplus pre-FRS 102 pension adjustments	526,501
Less excess of FRS 102 DB pension cost recognised in P&L over employer contributions	(707,000)
Net outgoing resources per SOFA	(180,499)
Less actuarial loss on pension fund	(5,155,000)
Net movement in funds per SOFA	**(5,335,499)**

On 1 October 2014 the Trust was admitted to the Greater Gwent Local Government Superannuation scheme (LGPS), a defined benefit scheme. The funding deficit accruing to 30 September 2014 in respect of employees relocating to Aneurin Leisure was retained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC). The Trust is, therefore, only responsible for any increase in liabilities occurring after the transfer date, with the Authority acting as a guarantor for the previously accrued net deficit. The pension deficit on an FRS 17 basis on the 1 October 2014 is £4.432m and this deficit remains the obligation of BGCBC; an asset of £4.432m is included in these accounts to reflect this. The pension liability on an FRS 102 basis as at 31 March 2021 has increased to £12,267m from £6,405m in 2020, thereby generating a cumulative actuarial pension loss of £7.835m since 1 October 2014.

Principal funding sources
Within the period the Trust received £3,232,688 as a management fee from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Grant income for the period amounted to £3,610,665 and the majority of the remaining income was received from our customers.

The income is used to fund the operating costs of the facilities from which we deliver our charitable objectives.

Financial management
The Trust utilises key performance indicators (KPI) to assist in the financial management of the business. Some of the KPI measures include:

- Staff costs as a % of income: 2020/21 69% (2020 68%)
- Staff costs as a % of total resources expended: 68% (2020 61%)

It should be noted that the FRS 102 pension adjustment makes a significant impact. If the 2020 figures are adjusted to remove the FRS 102 increase in the pension service cost the staff costs as a % of income reduces to 54% and the staff costs as % of expenditure reduces to 53%.

Reserves policy
It is the Trust's policy to build up over time sufficient reserves to meet its charitable objectives on a sustainable basis and cover the risks that the Trust faces.

The Trust aims to build up reserves to fund working capital. All annual surpluses not allocated to fund working capital are available to fund investment in property and equipment to improve service quality. The Trust aims to maintain a minimum unrestricted reserve balance of £750,000, excluding any actuarial gains or losses and recognises the need to increase its current level of reserves.

At 31 March 2021 the restricted reserves amounted to a surplus of £522,127. The unrestricted income reserves excluding the DB pension reserve amount to a surplus of £845,799 (2020: £403,674). The pension reserve amounted to a deficit of £7,835,000

As at 1 October 2014 the pension deficit of £4,432,000 (FRS17 basis) is the responsibility of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Key risks
The Trust has a 20-year contract which commenced on 1 October 2014 with BGCBC with a review process built in during years 3 and 4 to review overall performance in advance of agreement to continue with the Trust for the following 5 years.

As part of the contract, BGCBC service management fee is agreed at the start of each 5-year period and reviewed annually on progress. The key challenge facing the Trust is to grow the income and control expenditure to support the contracted management fee.

If unsuccessful with attracting funding through various means including the Council, as well as providing investment into key assets, this will limit the Trust's ability to reduce its dependence on the management fee.

The Trust received £3.611m (2020: £1.605m) of grant income in the year, equating to 47% of total incoming resources. The increase in grants this year relates to £1.992m of Covid funding. In the event that the grant income is reduced in future years associated expenditure currently funded by the grants would also need to be reduced.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trust has agreed another 5 years delivering the services for BGCBC which will be reviewed at the end of Year 3.

During 2021/22 the Trust will be installing a community working hub with funding secured through Welsh Government. This product will support the Welsh Government initiative to achieve 30% of office workers continuing to work from home in the future. Other plans include exploring a full upgrade of the caravan site to maximise the income potential alongside all other activity investments that have taken place at Parc Bryn Bach.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Life Leisure Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act (2006). The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company.

The Trustees

The Trustees are also the Directors in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Board is made up of up to eleven Trustees consisting of one employee Trustee, up to two local authority Trustees and up to eight community Trustees.

Employee Trustees are appointed by the senior management team of the Trust for a period of three years.

The local authority, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, is entitled to nominate up to two individuals to the Board of Trustees and decide their period of appointment.

The community Trustees are appointed for a 3-year period, with recruitment process as follows:

- Advert placed in local newspapers, on social media (LinkedIn & Twitter) within the Trust facilities, on the Trust website and other advertising resources as appropriate inviting applications. An information pack is provided outlining the duties and roles of a Trustee and the application process, together with information on the Trust.

- Applications will be shortlisted based on criteria specified within the personal specification and job description and assessment of the applicants' particular skills and expertise to cover both community interest and commercial/business knowledge (such as Finance, Human Resources, Sales and Marketing).

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will comprise of three members and wherever possible panels will have a gender/race balance. Panel members should include two Trustees (Chair and/or Vice Chair, or other Trustee), a Trust Senior Officer (Director of Resources or Director of Operations) with support from the Human Resource Service, where appropriate. In circumstances where there is a need to involve more than three members on an interview panel, then this should be discussed in advance and agreed with the Human Resource Service (it may be necessary on occasions for additional Members to sit in on a panel to observe the process for developmental purposes).

- The appointment of Trustees will be made by the Board of Trustees following recommendations from the Interview/Appointment Panel and be based on not only the assessment of whether individuals are suitable to be Trustees, but also achieve a balance of skills on the Board. For example, it is important to have a balance of business skills and also geographical locations as well as interests (leisure, arts, community education, libraries, overall wellbeing, etc.)

- The Interview/Appointment Panel will recommend to the Board of Trustees of their preferred option to appoint a Trustee and following agreement to proceed, will confirm the offer to the selected candidate(s).

- The offer of appointment to be a member of the Board of Trustees will be subject to satisfactory references being obtained.

- All Trustees are provided with the following documentation on induction;

  i. Declaration of Interests form
  ii. Rehabilitation of Offenders form
  iii. Equality & Diversity Monitoring form
  iv. Trustee Code of Conduct Policy
  v. Trustee Confidentiality Policy
  vi. Health & Safety Policy
  vii. Equal Opportunities Policy
  viii. Memorandum and Articles of Association
  ix. Schedule of Matters

All Trustees are also members of the Charitable Trust which is limited by guarantee.

All Trustees receive induction training with regard to the organisation including its powers and objects and the Charitable Trust itself.

Trustees will be offered further training opportunities during their tenure.

Structure of the Charity
The Board of Trustees meets bi-monthly. The Charitable Trust operates a Finance sub-group to advise and report to the Board of Trustees.

A Corporate Director Team manages the day-to-day operations of the Charitable Trust, supported by a Senior Management Team.

Organisational Structure and Decision-Making Process
The Board retains overall accountability for the management of the Charitable Trust.

The day-to-day operations of the Trust are managed by the Trust's Corporate Directors and Senior Management Team. The Senior Management Team is given strategic direction by the Board of Trustees (the Board) regarding the provision and operation of the services.

The Charitable Trust operates a business planning process whereby strategic priorities and targets directed by the Board and shared with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council flow from the business plan into quarterly reports and an annual delivery plan. This is fully embedded and central to our planning and budgeting cycles and drives operational performance.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
Remuneration of Key Management Personnel is reviewed annually alongside the other employees of the company by the main Board as part of the annual budget setting process.

Related Parties
The Charitable Trust has a relationship with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, who provides funding in the form of a management fee to enable the Charitable Trust to carry out its charitable objectives.

The Charitable Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT limited. LLT limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

Co-operation with other organisations
As a community-based organisation operating throughout Blaenau Gwent, Aneurin Leisure structures large elements of its strategic planning and operational service delivery having due regard to partner aims and objectives, particularly Blaenau Gwent County Borough council. Work plans specifically identify how Aneurin Leisure will contribute to delivering on broader social agendas working with the health, education and voluntary sectors.

Risk Management
The Charitable Trust has developed a risk management plan to identify risks and risk mitigation measures at corporate level. The risk register is reviewed on a regular basis. The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ITS TRUSTEES

Charity name:	Life Leisure Trust		
Trading name:	Aneurin Leisure		
Company registration number:	8951503		
Charity registration number:	1159092		
Registered office:	Bedwellty House Morgan Street Tredegar NP22 3XN		
		Date of Appt.	
Trustees:			
	Mr Lyn Evans – Chair	12/05/14	
	Mrs Donna Hardman	12/05/14	
	Councillor Wayne Hodgins	03/03/17	Resigned 10/12/18 Re-appointed 13/12/18
	Councillor Lee Parsons	25/05/17	Resigned 16/4/21
	Professor Jennifer Ames	24/08/17	
	Mr Richard Dando	26/03/19	
	Mr Stephen Priestnall	27/01/20	
	Ms Andrea Smart	27/01/20	
	Mr Stephen Dwyer	16/03/20	
	Mr Stewart Healy	25/06/21	
	Mr Ross Watts	25/03/19	Resigned 14/12/20
Key Management Personnel:	Mrs Nichola Morden-Tew	Director of Resources	
	Mr Phillip Sykes	Director of Operations	

Bankers:	Barclays Business Banking South Wales Team 3rd Floor Windsor Court 3 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3ZL
Solicitors (Employment Law):	Capital Law LLP Capital Building Tyndall Street Cardiff CF10 4AZ
Auditors:	Azets Audit Services Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 1-3 Waters Lane Chambers Waters Lane Newport NP20 1LA

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Life Leisure Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

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

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

L Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

Date 24/01/2022

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31st March 2021 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2021, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees , other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report[6]. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the groups and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with this Act. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 . Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sarah Case

Sarah Case FCA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

Date 27-01-2022

Azets Audit Services is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	430	200	630	3,857
Charitable activities	4	5,589,094	2,049,322	7,638,416	8,358,558
Other trading activities	5	9,479	-	9,479	21,298
Total income and endowments		5,599,003	2,049,522	7,648,525	8,383,713
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	5,860,492	1,968,532	7,829,024	9,353,195
Total expenditure		5,860,492	1,968,532	7,829,024	9,353,195
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	(261,489)	80,990	(180,499)	(969,482)
Transfers between funds	14/15	(3,386)	3,386	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	(5,155,000)	-	(5,155,000)	4,179,000
Net movement in funds		(5,419,875)	84,376	(5,335,499)	3,209,518
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	14,15	(1,569,326)	437,751	(1,131,575)	(4,341,093)
Total funds carried forward	15,16	(6,989,201)	522,127	(6,467,074)	(1,131,575)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CHARITY ONLY
(Incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**18,396**	**200**	**18,596**	3,857
Charitable activities	4	**5,591,187**	**2,049,322**	**7,640,509**	8,366,931
Total income and endowments		**5,609,583**	**2,049,522**	**7,659,105**	8,370,788
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**5,860,070**	**1,968,532**	**7,828,602**	9,351,266
Total expenditure		**5,860,070**	**1,968,532**	**7,828,602**	9,351,266
Net (expenditure)/ income	7	**(250,487)**	**80,990**	**(169,497)**	(980,478)
Transfers between funds	14/15	**(3,386)**	**3,386**	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/ gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	**(5,155,000)**	**-**	**(5,155,000)**	4,179,000
Net movement in funds		**(5,408,873)**	**84,376**	**(5,324,497)**	3,198,522
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	14,15	**(1,580,321)**	**437,751**	**(1,142,570)**	(4,341,092)
Total funds carried forward	15,16	**(6,989,194)**	**522,127**	**(6,467,067)**	(1,142,570)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

The notes on pages 41 -70 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		58,658		99,680
Current assets:					
Stocks	11	13,999		20,538	
Debtors	12	5,466,159		4,873,530	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,248,082		1,881,367	
		6,728,240		6,775,435	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(986,972)		(1,601,690)	
Net current assets			5,741,268		5,173,745
Total assets less current liabilities			5,799,926		5,273,425
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(12,267,000)		(6,405,000)
Net (liabilities)/ assets			(6,467,074)		(1,131,575)
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	14		522,127		437,751
Unrestricted income funds	15	845,799		403,674	
Pension reserve	15	(7,835,000)		(1,973,000)	
			(6,989,201)		(1,569,326)
Total charity funds	16		(6,467,074)		(1,131,575)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 20/01/2022

L Evans

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Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 41 -70 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020	2020
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		58,658		99,680
Investments	10		1		1
			58,659		99,681
Current assets:					
Stocks	11	13,999		20,538	
Debtors	12	5,469,552		4,886,642	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,246,178		1,879,790	
		6,729,729		6,786,970	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(988,455)		(1,624,221)	
Net current assets			5,741,274		5,162,749
Total assets less current liabilities			5,799,933		5,262,430
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(12,267,000)		(6,405,000)
Net (liabilities)/ assets			(6,467,067)		1,142,570
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	14		522,127		437,751
Unrestricted income funds	15	845,806		392,679	
Pension reserve	15	(7,835,000)		(1,973,000)	
			(6,989,194)		(1,580,321)
Total charity funds	16		(6,467,067)		(1,142,570)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 20/01/2022

L Evans

Mr Lyn Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 41 -70 form part of the financial statements

LIFE LEISURE TRUST T/A ANEURIN LEISURE
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	(633,285)	1,160,309
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	9	-	(6,685)
Net cash provided used in investing activities		-	(6,685)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**(633,285)**	1,153,624
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	20	**1,881,367**	727,743
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20	**1,248,082**	1,881,367

The notes on pages 41 -70 form part of the financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Legal form and address
Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Bedwellty House, Morgan Street, Tredegar, NP22 3XN.

Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

No separate cash flow statement has been presented for the charity itself as the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions in paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102.

Group financial statements
These consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust Limited (the charitable company) and LLT Limited its wholly owned trading subsidiary, made up to 31 March 2021.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary on a line-by-line basis.

The trading results of the subsidiary are disclosed in note 10 to these financial statements.

Going concern
The group made a surplus (before defined benefit pension adjustments) of £526,501 for the year ended 31st March 2021 of which £442,125 related to unrestricted funds. The trust is predicted to make a significant deficit for the financial year ending 31st March 2022. The deficit is largely due to the impact of covid-19 and the capacity restrictions in place.

After reviewing the trust's forecasts and projections to the 31st March 2022 and at the time of approving the financial statements the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Should support from the Welsh Assembly Hardship Loan not continue and capacity restrictions remain in place the trust will scale down operations as required.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The Trust were notified in August 2020 that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will continue with the Trust for a further 5 year period which will commence on 1st April 2021. Contractual arrangements including the funding arrangements are currently being finalised.

The trustees are of the view that on this basis, the charity is a going concern.

In light of Covid implications, the trustees are aware that there is uncertainty regarding:

- certain figures of both income and expenditure included within the forecasts and projections; and
- level of financial support from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Fund accounting

The charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require further disclosure. These are as follows:

Restricted funds are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes. Grant income received to fund capital expenditure is held in restricted reserves. The balance is transferred to unrestricted reserves in future years at the same rates as to match the depreciation charges of the related assets.

Revenue funds restricted by the donor are matched against expenditure as appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. In addition to expenditure on the principal activities of the charity these funds can be held in order to fund capital expenditure.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Certain income is received in advance of the provision of the relevant service and as such is deferred until the service commences.

The management fee is an unrestricted fund which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company. The income is invoiced and recognised in the period to which it relates.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from grants is deferred only when the terms and conditions of the grant permit the income to be deferred to future periods.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Turnover is the amount derived from ordinary activities, and stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

4. Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustees' report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

An analysis has been provided for the charitable activities on a departmental basis.
The departments are defined as follows:

The departments are defined as follows:

- Training and Libraries
- Culture, Parks and Events
- Sports and Fitness
- Central Support Services

Costs where possible are attributed directly to the activity in which they relate. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities based on income received in the year.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Netting off of income against expenditure
It is not the policy of the charitable company to show incoming resources net of expenditure.

Taxation
As a registered charity Life Leisure Trust T/A Aneurin Leisure is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses or in cases where fixed assets have been donated to the charity, at valuation at time of acquisition.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% straight line
Plant and machinery	- 20% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Computers equipment	- 33% straight line

Assets are capitalised at cost.

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets
At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Investments
Investments relate to 100% of the share capital of the charity's wholly owned trading subsidiary and is recognised at cost.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling price after taking into account all further costs and excess stocks that are slow moving.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

- ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets
Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Employee Benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Service Concession Agreements
The charity has service contracts with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the maintenance and operation of the various theatres, libraries, community centres, leisure centres and parks owned by the Local Authority to which it has lease and management service contracts.

- **ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Property, plant and equipment
The buildings and equipment at the various locations are to be leased to the charity as part of the overall contractual relationships with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) but BGCBC maintain ultimate control of these assets. Accordingly the access to which the charity has in the use of these assets is to enable it to operate the various venues so that the charity can provide the public service it is contracted to provide, not to effectively own these public service assets. These assets are therefore not recognised on the charity's Balance Sheet.

Any new assets purchased by the Trust remain the property of the Trust.

Receipts
The charity receives agreed management fee income from BGCBC each year which is decreased on an annual basis as per the terms of the Funding and Management Agreement.

Pensions
The charitable company operates a pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay.

Full details of the Trust's retirement benefit arrangements are set out in note 19 being the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

This is a funded pension scheme meaning that the employer and employee pay contributions which are invested in a separate fund.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) remain liable for the past service deficit that existed at the Trust's inception. The Trust is responsible for the LGPS movements after the commencement date; however the liability is indemnified by BGCBC.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

19. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

Operating leases
The charity classifies the lease of gym equipment and motor vehicles as operating leases. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

20. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The following critical accounting estimates and judgements have been made:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets
The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimate, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 9 for the carrying amount of the plant and equipment and above for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

Defined benefit pension scheme
The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

21. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations	430	200	630	3,857
	430	200	630	3,857
Charity				
Donations	430	200	630	3,857
LLT Limited Covenant	17,966	-	17,966	-
	18,396	200	18,596	3,857

22. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Catering income	200,966	-	200,966	901,777
Class income	2,324	12,535	14,859	36,474
Educational income	7,407	19,183	26,590	48,605
Grants	1,600,114	2,010,551	3,610,665	1,604,793
Leisure centre income	221,840	-	221,840	1,760,746
Management fee	3,232,688	-	3,232,688	3,178,800
Park outdoor activities	30,695	-	30,695	53,069
Reorganisation funding & recharges	161,420	3,135	164,555	328,156
Room hire and rental	67,701	-	67,701	145,356
Sale of goods	4,845	-	4,845	44,363
Service Level Agreement	55,064	-	55,064	104,611
Shows and events	-	-	-	126,355
Sundry income	4,030	3,918	7,948	25,453
	5,589,094	2,049,322	7,638,416	8,358,558

Charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Catering income	200,966	-	200,966	901,777
Class income	2,324	12,535	14,859	36,474
Educational income	7,407	19,183	26,590	48,605
Grants	1,600,114	2,010,551	3,610,665	1,604,793
Leisure centre income	221,840	-	221,840	1,760,746
Management fee	3,232,688	-	3,232,688	3,178,800
Park outdoor activities	30,695	-	30,695	53,069
Reorganisation funding & recharges	161,420	3,135	164,555	328,156
Room hire and rental	67,701	-	67,701	145,356
Sale of goods	4,845	-	4,845	44,363
Service Level Agreement	55,064	-	55,064	104,611
Shows and events	-	-	-	126,355
Sundry income	6,123	3,918	10,041	33,826
	5,591,187	2,049,322	7,640,509	8,366,931

i. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Grant income was received from the following sources:

Group and charity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Arts Council of Wales	63,284	156,426	219,710	156,491
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	161,000	14,593	175,593	-
Caerphilly County Borough Council	-	11,200	11,200	-
Coleg Gwent	279,512	-	279,512	236,058
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	1,032,412	1,032,412	-
Denbighshire County Council	-	5,000	5,000	-
Disability Sports Wales	-	21,311	21,311	20,113
European Social Fund	-	427,539	427,539	478,235
Good Things Foundation	-	3,936	3,936	-
Learning & Work Institute	-	700	700	1,500
National Heritage	-	5,550	5,550	-
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	-	-	-	3,026
Public Health Wales	-	99,600	99,600	98,943
Sports Council Wales	40,682	211,612	252,294	230,019
Street Games	-	15,672	15,672	41,000
Wales Council for Voluntary Action	-	-	-	3,447
Welsh Government	1,055,636	5,000	1,060,636	335,961
	1,600,114	2,010,551	3,610,665	1,604,793

Income by activity:

	Group* £	Charity** £
Training and libraries	1,394,188	1,394,188
Culture, parks and events	813,389	803,910
Sports and fitness	1,238,221	1,238,221
Central support services	4,202,727	4,222,786
	7,648,525	7,659,105

* Group income includes donations and subsidiary trading income.
**Charity income includes donations and excludes subsidiary trading income

23. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Group	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Subsidiary trading operations	9,479	-	9,479	21,298
	9,479	-	9,479	21,298

24. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants £	Governance £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Agency and subcontractors	49,954	-	-	-	49,954	318,319
Business support	619,476	49,094	-	10,800	679,370	644,254
Catering costs	93,827	-	-	-	93,827	440,430
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	1,307,804	-	-	-	1,307,804	1,848,901
Depreciation	41,022	-	-	-	41,022	41,884
Events and show costs	891	-	-	-	891	107,737
Irrecoverable VAT	55,250	22,175	-	-	77,425	97,124
Other costs	440,269	-	-	-	440,269	452,805
Premises	978,700	-	-	-	978,700	1,229,637
Reorganisation costs	4,375	-	-	-	4,375	176,454
Social security	274,412	-	-	-	274,412	272,038
Wages and salaries	3,363,003	507,717	10,255	-	3,880,975	3,723,611
	7,228,983	578,986	10,255	10,800	7,829,024	9,353,195

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Charity	Direct £	Support £	Grants £	Governance £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Agency and subcontractors	49,954	-	-	-	49,954	318,319
Business support	619,476	49,094	-	10,800	679,370	644,240
Catering costs	93,827	-	-	-	93,827	440,430
Defined benefit FRS102 recognised pension costs (note 19)	1,307,804	-	-	-	1,307,804	1,848,901
Depreciation	41,022	-	-	-	41,022	41,884
Events and show costs	891	-	-	-	891	107,737
Irrecoverable VAT	54,832	22,175	-	-	77,007	95,449
Other costs	440,265	-	-	-	440,265	452,566
Premises	978,700	-	-	-	978,700	1,229,637
Reorganisation costs	4,375	-	-	-	4,375	176,454
Social security	274,412	-	-	-	274,412	272,038
Wages and salaries	3,363,003	507,717	10,255	-	3,880,975	3,723,611
	7,228,561	578,986	10,255	10,800	7,828,602	9,351,266

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Expenditure can be attributed to:

Group	Direct £	Support £	Grants	Governance £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Training and libraries	1,398,994	234,907	-	-	1,633,901	1,554,318
Culture, parks and events	1,583,034	135,451	10,255	-	1,728,740	2,012,336
Sports and fitness	2,404,982	208,628	-	-	2,613,610	3,368,889
Central support services*	1,841,973	-	-	10,800	1,852,773	2,417,652
	7,228,983	578,986	10,255	10,800	7,829,024	9,353,195
Charity						
Training and libraries	1,398,994	234,907	-	-	1,633,901	1,552,389
Culture, parks and events	1,582,614	135,451	10,255	-	1,728,320	2,012,336
Sports and fitness	2,404,982	208,628	-	-	2,613,610	3,368,889
Central support services*	1,841,971	-	-	10,800	1,852,771	2,417,652
	7,228,561	578,986	10,255	10,800	7,828,602	9,351,266

*Costs related to FRS 102 valuation of the pension scheme have been charged to the support category within Central support services and are not allocated across the business.

Support costs have been allocated to the activities based on income received in the year.

25. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:

Group and charity	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Depreciation	**41,022**	41,884
Operating leases	**60,869**	93,264
Auditors Remuneration:		
Audit fees	**9,250**	8,325
Accountancy services	1,550	1,550

26. STAFF COSTS

Group and charity	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages and salaries	**3,880,976**	3,723,611
Social security costs	**274,412**	272,038
FRS 102 Pension service costs (see note 19)	**1,157,000**	1,707,408
	5,312,388	5,703,057

Pension costs also include the impact of the FRS102 actuarial valuation of the service cost of running the DB scheme.

Redundancy costs totalling £3,183 are included in the above costs (2020: £160,648). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end (2020: £nil).

The total number of persons utilised throughout the year comprised a mixture of both contracted staff and relief workers. A number of individuals have only worked minimal shifts to support events. At 31 March 2021 and 2020 the Trust had 69 people in relief posts.

Staff numbers excluding relief workers:

Group and charity	Headcount 2021	Headcount 2020	FTE 2021	FTE 2020
Training and libraries	**79**	76	**38.7**	38.9
Culture, parks and events	**47**	49	**25.3**	30.2
Sports and fitness	**95**	97	**55.9**	55.2
Central support services	**17**	14	**16.8**	13.9
	238	236	**136.7**	138.2

27. STAFF COSTS (continued)

Key management personnel
The key management personnel of the charity received benefits totalling £163,761 (2020: £145,157).

These costs consist of gross pay, employers' national insurance contributions and employers pension contributions.

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 for the period and to whom retirement benefits are accruing under a defined benefit scheme was:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
£60,000- £70,000	2	-

The amount of employers pension contributions paid in respect of the above employee for the period was as follows:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Total contributions	22,343	-

Transactions with Trustees
During the period Donna Hardman, as the staff Trustee, received remuneration from her employment with the charity but not for her services as a Trustee.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charity (paragraph 19.1) provides the charity with the legal authority to make such payments.

The employee is a staff representative on the Trustee board.

No Trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the current or prior period.

Related Party transactions
During the period the charity recharged its wholly owned trading subsidiary LLT Limited £2,093 (2020: £8,373) for admin, staff time and maintenance costs.

LLT Limited gift aided £17,966 (2020: £ nil) to the charity during the period.

As at 31 March 2021 the LLT owed the charity £1,910 (2020: the charity owed LLT £9,419).

28. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicle £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	120,739	8,674	55,576	28,125	213,114
At 31 March 2021	120,739	8,674	55,576	28,125	213,114
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2020	58,313	5,741	31,677	17,703	113,434
Charge for the year	23,681	800	10,856	5,685	41,022
At 31 March 2021	81,994	6,541	42,533	23,388	154,456
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2021	38,745	2,133	13,043	4,737	58,658
At 31 March 2020	62,426	2,933	23,899	10,422	99,680

29. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - CHARITY

	Investments in Group undertakings £
Cost as at 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021	1

Life Leisure Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of LLT Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, company number 09236541. The registered office of the company is the same as the charity. LLT Limited rents camping and caravanning pitches at Parc Bryn Bach.

The results of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 can be found below:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Profit and Loss Account		
Turnover	9,479	21,298
Admin expenses	(2,511)	(10,300)
Operating profit	6,968	10,998
Statement of changes in Equity		
Balance brought forward	10,999	1
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	6,968	10,998
Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	(17,966)	-
Balance carried forward	1	10,999
Balance Sheet		
Current assets:		
Cash at bank and in hand	1,911	1,580
Amount owed by parent	1,483	22,531
	3,394	24,111
Current liabilities:		
Amounts owed to group undertakings	3,393	13,112
	3,393	13,112
Net current assets	1	10,999
Capital and reserves:		
Called up share capital	1	1
Profit and loss reserves	-	10,998
	1	10,999

The results above are included in the consolidated accounts.

30. STOCK

Group and charity	2021 £	2020 £
Shop items	6,010	4,656
Food and bar	7,989	15,882
	13,999	20,538

31. DEBTORS

Group	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	558,149	37,189
Prepayments and accrued income	476,010	365,213
Other debtors	-	39,128
	1,034,159	441,530
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	4,432,000	4,432,000
	5,466,159	4,873,530

Charity		
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	558,149	37,189
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	3,393	13,112
Prepayments and accrued income	476,010	365,213
Other debtors	-	39,128
	1,037,552	454,642
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Underwritten pension balance	4,432,000	4,432,000
	5,469,552	4,886,642

The underwritten pension balances relates to the deficit on the LGPS scheme prior to the Trust's inception (see note 19).

Aneurin leisure
Improving community life

Life Leisure Trust

AZETS

Audit Findings Report – Year Ended 31st March 2

Presented to those charged with governance ISA (UK) 260 and 265

Dated 1st December 2021

Life Leisure Trust
Audit Findings Report – Year Ended 31st March 2021

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The matters raised in this and other reports that will flow from the systems review are only those which have come to our attention arising from or relevant to our work that we believe need to be brought to your attention. They are not a comprehensive record of all the matters arising, and in particular we cannot be held responsible for reporting all risks in your business or all internal control weaknesses. This report has been prepared solely for your use and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared for, and is not intended for, any other purpose.

1 Audit Status

We have now substantially completed our audit of the financial statements of Life Leisure Trust for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The following matters remain outstanding: -

- Trustees report – ***Charity to forward***
- Letter of representation – ***Azets to forward***
- Trustees approval of the financial statements- ***December 2021***
- Post balance sheet review.

Information needed before audit report can be signed and accounts filed:

- Up to date management accounts- ***Charity to forward***
- Post year end board minutes- ***Charity to forward***
- Up to date cash at bank balances- ***Charity to forward***

This report includes the issues arising from our audit of the financial statements and those issues which we are formally required to report to you under International Standard of Auditing (UK) 260 – "Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance", and ISA 265 "Communicating deficiencies in Internal Controls".

Although limited audit work is carried out on internal control procedures, the size of your finance function is such that the level of supervisory control and division of duties in existence is limited. In these circumstances, we cannot give assurance that our audit work has either been designed to, or has identified all control weaknesses that exist, or that the risk of fraud within your organisation has been minimised.

2 Audit/Accounting Issues – Prior Year

No	Issues	Management Response
1	**Property Maintenance Accrual** During the audit it was noted that the Trust has recognised an accrual regarding the maintenance work for various properties it operates from. Current procedures require all work to be booked through Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, this has resulted in a significant delay in the Trust receiving invoices for the expenditure incurred. Can the trustees confirm if any purchase invoices for the works have been received since the audit date?	Invoices coming from the council are always slow at coming across. The accrual has been calculated in line with purchase orders raised. The accrual will be monitored to ensure its accuracy. **2021 Interim Audit Update** No changes to note, there is still a significant delay in timing in purchase invoices being received from the Council with a large accrual remaining in the balance sheet. There are currently discussions regarding the council taking control of the maintenance function in future periods. **2021 Final Audit** No changes to note.
2	**Insurance claim** During the audit it was noted that an accident occurred at the Ebbw Vale Sports Centre as a result of staff negligence. We understand that a claim is expected to be made against the Trust which is being handled by the Trust's insurance providers. Can the trustees confirm if there have been any	The Trust has not received any claim relating to this accident to date. Staff have been managed in line with the Trusts policies for dereliction of duty with additional controls, training and documentation being introduced. **2020 Final Audit Update** The Trust has not received any claim relating to this accident to date. **2021 Interim Audit Update**

	further developments?	The matter remains with the charity's solicitors. **2021 Final Audit Update** No changes to note.
3	**COVID-19** The current situation regarding Covid-19 could have significant impact on the charity. The Trustees Report will need to make specific references to the issue, we have provided the relevant detail in the form of a checklist detailing what needs to be included. As auditors we are required to understand the impact Covid-19 will have on the charity not just in respect of the immediate situation but the ongoing knock on effect for the 12 months following the signing of the audit report. Going concern assumes that the charity will still be able to operate post COVID-19. Can the trustees explain the plans they have in place if the lockdown is extended for the foreseeable future? Can the trustees also confirm whether the budget is reasonable given what is currently known about COVID-19?	The Trust closed its doors on the 20th of March 2020 and although most of our building have re-opened their doors, services have been reduced and income lost. The Trust has been successful in sourcing various grant funding streams to mitigate the losses. Financial accounts at the end of September are now Forecasting a close to breakeven position at the end of March 2021. We have also received communication from the Welsh Assembly Government via Blaenau Gwent that losses will be covered by the Welsh Assembly up to the end of March 2021. **2021 Interim Audit Update** There charity have accessed the Welsh Government Hardship Fund, furlough scheme and rates relief. At the end of January the charity had over £2m contained in cash at bank and has generated a surplus of £588k. **2021 Final Audit Update** Operations have resumed post year end with funding continuing to be accessed. Deficit made in 2021 relates to FRS 102 defined benefit pension scheme adjustments. Once added back an unrestricted operational surplus has been

		made.

2 Audit/Accounting Issues – Current year

We have completed the audit of the charity's accounts in line with approved Auditing Standards. We anticipate issuing an unqualified audit report subject to the satisfactory resolution of the matters outlined below.

No	Issues	Management Response
1	**COVID-19 and Trustees Report** Trustees should be aware that it will be important to provide users of the accounts with information regarding how the pandemic has affected the organisation. When preparing their trustees' annual report, charity trustees may wish to consider: • In reporting the main achievements of the charity explaining how the virus control measures affected the charity's activities • Taking the opportunity to explain any financial uncertainties regarding the charity's financial sustainability and consideration of going concern and the steps being taken to address these uncertainties • Explaining how the contribution of	

	volunteers, where appropriate, assisted the charity in its work in managing in the changed circumstances • The impact on the charity's ability to fundraise and how the trustees managed this situation • How the outbreak of the virus has affected staff, volunteers and beneficiaries and the implications for the charity's operations and activities for the coming year • How the financial and operational effects of the virus and the control measures relating to the virus affected the principal risks and uncertainties facing the charity during the reporting period • Give consideration whether there are any implications for any existing or potential defined benefit pension liability and investments the charity holds • Consider any impact on the charity's reserves policy, level of reserves and any change to designated funds set aside for future commitments	

	• Consider the likely impact of the virus control measures and potential duration of the control measures on the future aims and activities of the charity • The impact of the virus related control measures on any wider network of which the charity is a part and how this affects the charity's operations To be discussed.	
2	**Results** The group has made an unrestricted loss before the loss on the defined benefit pension scheme of £258,103. As at 31st March 2021 the group had unrestricted reserves of a negative £6,989,201 of which £7,835,000 relates to the defined benefit pension deficit. Removing the annual pension adjustments, the group made a surplus of £526,501 of which £442,125 related to unrestricted funds. The free reserves of the group totalled £787,141. We understand an unrestricted deficit is predicted to be made in 2021/22. Can the trustees confirm the current results to date ?	

3	**Pension Scheme** During the audit and a review of the board minutes it was noted that the charity's contractual agreement with the council notes they only act as a guarantor regarding the LGPS for a period of 3 years. It was noted that if the council decides not to act as guarantor, the charity could not continue to fund the LGPS as a member and the charity would have to provide an alternative pension provision to employees. Can the trustees confirm if there have been any developments with the above?	
4	**Expression of Interests** During the audit and a review of the board minutes it was noted the charity have submitted an expression of interest for the following: • Plas Menai • Sophia Gardens Gym • Pendine Sands Can the trust confirm if there has been any development with the above?	

5	**Grant Income** During the audit and the testing of grant accrued income, it was noted the following balances were yet to be received at the date of the audit: Bridges into Work 2: £55,728 Working Skills for Adults 2: £30,971 Can the trustees confirm if the amounts have now been received?	

3 ISA 265 - Control Issues/Recommendations

The nature and extent of our audit procedures varies according to our assessment of the charity's accounting and internal control systems and may cover any aspect of the business operations that we consider appropriate.

Our audit is not designed to identify all significant weaknesses in the charity's systems but, if any such weaknesses come to our attention during the course of the audit that we think should be brought to your attention, we shall report them to you.

The following matters were raised in the interim period:

No	Description of Weakness	Risk Arising	Recommendation	Management Response
1	**Purchase Orders** During the audit it was noted that purchase orders are being raised after the date of purchase invoices. This was first noted in 2018 with issues noted from this date to the 2021 interim audit.	Understatement of expenditure within the financial statements.	Purchase orders to be raised before expenditure is made.	Managers are regularly reminded of the importance of raising purchase orders at the time goods/services are requested. **2021 Final Audit Update** No changes to note, purchase orders continue to be raised after the invoice date.
2	**Income Recognition** During the interim audit and the testing of income, it was noted that there were sales invoices raised in the current	Income recognised in the incorrect year.	Sales invoices should be reviewed as part of the year end process to ensure income is recognised in the correct	Noted. **2021 Final Audit Update** No further issues noted.

	year that related to room/event hires which occurred in the prior year. The amounts noted were highly trivial.		periods.	

The following matters were raised in the final period:

No	Description of Weakness	Risk Arising	Recommendation	Management Response
1	**Depreciation** During the audit and testing of depreciation it was noted that 3 assets has been depreciated at the wrong rate.	Risk that assets are not depreciated over their estimated useful lives	All assets should be depreciated in line with the charity's accounting policies.	

4 Other Matters

4.1 Post balance sheet events

Are the trustees aware of any post balance sheet events?

4.2 Related party transactions

Other than those already disclosed in the in the financial statements are the trustees aware of any other material related party transactions. Please note the 'immediate family' terminology has been replaced with 'persons closely associated' and includes spouses, dependent children or a relative who has lived in the same house for more than a year.

4.3 Contingent liabilities

Are the trustees aware of any contingent liabilities at the year end?

4.4 International Standard on Auditing (ISA 570) – (Revised September 2019) Going concern

The revised ISA came into effect for periods beginning on or after 15th December 2019.

The revised standard increases the work which auditors are required to undertake when auditing the going concern status of an entity. It is the trustee's responsibility to determine if the organisation is a going concern and our responsibility to review the assessment. Increased testing is required to be performed on the charity's assessment of the going concern basis of accounting. Documents such as up to date financials, board minutes, budgets and cashflow forecasts are required to be provided to evidence the trustee's assessment of going concern.

4.5 International Standards on Auditing (ISA 540) – (Revised December 2018) Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures

The revised ISA came into effect for periods beginning on or after 15th December 2019.

The updated objective requires audit procedures to address whether both the accounting estimates and related disclosures are reasonable (rather than simply adequate) in the context of the financial reporting framework.

Enhanced documentation will be required, particularly around:

- understanding the entity;
- the link between audit risks and audit procedures;
- the response if management procedures are inadequate;
- indicators of possible management bias and implications for the audit; and

significant judgements made when assessing whether or not estimates and disclosures are reasonable

4.6 Threats to independence and objectivity

At the planning stage any issues were communicated to the trustees who were satisfied that adequate safeguards are in place. Nothing has come to our attention to alter this view.

4.7 Section 393 Accounts to give true and fair view

The trustees of a charity must not approve accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss –

(a) In the case of the charity's individual accounts, of the charity;

(b) In the case of the charity's group accounts, of the undertakings included in the consolidation as a whole, so far as concerns members of the charity.

4.8 Section 501 of the Companies Act 2006

In connection with representations and supply of information to us generally, we draw your attention to Section 501 of the Companies Act 2006 under which it is an offence for anyone to recklessly or knowingly supply information to the auditors that is false or misleading or to fail to provide information requested promptly.

4.9 Fraud

It is the trustee's responsibility to implement a framework of internal control that actively prevents and detects fraudulent activity. Our responsibility as auditor is to consider fraud risk to the entity and to conduct audit procedures work that would give us a reasonable expectation of detection of any material fraud only. To this end we have considered key controls in place within the organisation that contribute towards the prevention and detection of fraud and conducted any other work that we consider necessary to provide us with assurance that the financial statements are free of material fraud.

Our work as auditor is not intended to identify any instance of fraud of a non-material nature and should not be relied upon for this purpose. In the event that the trustees wish to obtain enhanced assurance with regard to the effectiveness of internal control in preventing and detecting fraud we would be happy to provide additional services. Within our firm we have individuals with specific counter-fraud expertise gained within a variety of industry sectors. We can offer specific counter-fraud reviews and consultancy in addition to tailored counter fraud assessment tools.

Note: Trustees have a statutory duty to report fraud to the Charity Commission.

4.10 Materiality

The materiality applied to our work was £75,000 and was calculated by reference to a range of indicators including the charity's income, expenditure and gross assets. Our reporting threshold, under which errors are not reported to the Board was £3,750.

4.11 Updates

Charity Governance, Finance and Resilience Checklist

The Commission have designed a checklist which includes 15 questions charity trustees should be asking. This checklist can be used to review your charity's effectiveness and provides updated guidance from the Charity Commission, ensuring charity trustees engage with and use finance guidance from the regulator to run their charities effectively.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-trustee-meetings-15-questions-you-should-ask

Charity Commission Annual Return

The Charity Commission Annual Return includes new questions which you can now view before you log in. Certain questions that were optional in 2018 are now compulsory. The link below provides guidance on the questions asked, how to answer them and what information is shown to the public on its register.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charity-annual-return-2018

Seminars

We are always looking for new topics that you might find of interest for seminars or hot topic sessions. If there is an area you would like covered please let us know.

Publication of Charity Trustee Names

From 1 April 2020 the names of all charity trustees will be displayed on the Charity Commission website. As trustees have a responsibility for the management and administration of their charity, this move is seen as a way of ensuring that they remain accountable to the public.

Some trustees may feel that publication of their name may endanger their physical or mental safety, and are able to apply for a dispensation from having the details published. Applications for a dispensation should be made to Commission setting the reasons why publication of their name could place them in danger. Once granted dispensations will be reviewed every five years.

Serious Incidents

The Charity Commission updated its guidance on Serious Incident Reporting in October 2018, with a particular focus on the reporting of safeguarding serious incidents following recent high-profile incidents in the charity sector.

Should a serious incident occur in a charity, trustees are expected to follow the correct processes to manage the incident and report it to the appropriate authorities, including the Commission as the charity regulator. The Commission's role is to ensure that trustees take appropriate steps to limit the immediate impact of the incident and prevent it from happening again. The link below provides the full guidance issued by the Commission and details on how to report.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-report-a-serious-incident-in-your-charity

Fraud

Like any other sector, charities are not immune to criminal abuse from fraudsters. Fraud poses a serious risk to valuable funds and sensitive data, and can damage the good reputation of charities, affecting public trust and confidence in the sector as a whole.

Fraud awareness week took place in October 2019 from which the Commission produced 8 guiding principles on tackling charity fraud. The link below provides the full guidance issued by the Commission as well as access to a Charity Fraud Awareness Hub.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protect-your-charity-from-fraud#tackling-charity-fraud-8-guiding-principles

5 Reconciliation of management accounts results to the financial statements

We have set out below a reconciliation of the results disclosed in the draft financial statements to the management accounts/ trial balance prepared by the client, as approved and authorised by the trustees during the audit.

No adjustments were made to the trial balance, below details the unrestricted operational results:

	£
Deficit per trial balance	(5,324,497)
Deficit per financial statements	(5,324,497)*
Unrestricted element of deficit:	
Unrestricted deficit:	(5,419,875)
Less pension service cost:	707,000
Less pension loss	5,155,000
Unrestricted surplus	**442,125**

6 Schedule of unadjusted differences

The responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud or error is that of the trustees. The objective of our audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements.

We plan our audit so that we have a reasonable expectation of detecting material misstatements in the financial statements or accounting records (including those resulting from fraud or error) but our examination should not be relied upon to disclose all such material misstatements or frauds or errors.

	£
Post-year end credit note relating to pre-year end	(7,600)
Understatement of prepayments	12,658
Understatement of accrued income	9,870
Net effect on deficit	**14,928**

