

CONGENS GROUP

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For Year Ended
31st December 2023

Charity Registration number: 1159464

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Company Information

Charity Registration No.	1159464
Trustees:	Grace Peddie, Chair Janet Mahay Judith Aldred
Governing Document:	Constitution for CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) adopted 1 December 2014
Registered Office:	The Workspace All Saints Road Wolverhampton WV2 1EL
Accountants:	Craig Miller 81 Oakley Court Springmeadow Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2GH

Message from the Chair – New Beginnings

This year marks an exciting chapter for our charity, as we embrace "New Beginnings." As the new chair of ConGens, I would first of all like to thank my predecessor, Janet Mahay for her leadership in developing the Charity to be the organisation that it is today. It was Janet's shared vision that gave birth to ConGens as an organisation that could help fill a gap in the support available to people in the community disadvantaged by older age, disability, low income or other social factors. She has passed on the mantle of guiding ConGens, leaving it in a very healthy position.

My being Chair of ConGens is one new beginning for our organisation. Another is that we are thrilled to announce the receipt of £290,000 in lottery funding for a transformative three-year project. This substantial grant will allow us to appoint dedicated staff and expand our impact within the community we proudly serve.

Our mission is to engage local residents, understand their needs, and involve them in our decision-making processes. By placing community members at the heart of our initiatives, we ensure that our efforts are truly reflective of their aspirations and concerns.

This new beginning also serves as a learning platform, enabling us to refine our approaches and strengthen our collaborations with the community and other stakeholders. Continuous performance review will be crucial as we adapt to the evolving needs of the community and navigate the changes that arise.

We remain mindful of the project outcomes we aim to achieve, as these will be the benchmarks of our success. Through this funding, we will provide vital training and development opportunities, further enhancing our ability to attract and empower those we serve.

As we embark on this journey, we are filled with optimism and determination, ready to create lasting positive change in our community. Together, we look forward to witnessing the growth and success that these new beginnings will bring.

For our volunteers, we are filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication you have shown to our charity. Your tireless efforts continue to have made a profound impact on the diverse areas of our work in which ever capacity you assist. Volunteers make an important contribution that is often the oil that effects the smooth functionality of our organisation. We are excited that you will continue to have a vital part to play in the years ahead as we enter this new phase in our organisational growth.

Grace Peddie
Chair
ConGens

Structure and Governance

ConGens operates as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a management committee of three trustees. Its constitution adopted 1 December 2014 serves as its governing document and details its objectives and operational management.

Committee meetings are held bi-monthly with Annual General Meetings scheduled for each year. There was no deselecting and reappointing of trustees at the last AGM as the constitution allows for trustees to be appointed for a term of two years.

The Board will consist of no fewer than three Trustees, which can be increased subject to the provision of the Constitution. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees may be appointed at any time in accord with the dictates of the Constitution. The Trustees deem that the organisation is not subject to corporation tax.

The organisation achieved full charity registration on 3rd December 2014, under registration number 1159464.

The Trustees all provide their services free of charge. They have a wide range of skills and experience in community engagement and development, and management in the public, private, commercial and voluntary sectors.

The Trustees set the overall policy and direction of the organisation.

Objects and Activity

The objects of the charity are:

- To relieve financial hardship and to promote social inclusion for the benefit of the public by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate back into society.
- In furtherance of this object, but not otherwise the group shall provide support, experiences and access to resources and information to enable people to improve their confidence and capacity as members of society.
- For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health or disability.

All activities of the charity are for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Our most notable achievement was the securing of a National Lottery Grant of £290,000 for a three year project to support the development of the centre and bring a range of activities to local residents. New Bushbury Triangle Resource Centre has been the home for ConGens for eight years. The centre was a community asset at the heart of Bushbury Triangle Estate that required investment and vision. ConGens, as project lead, in partnership with New Bushbury Triangle Cooperative Limited undertook an initiative to determine the needs of the community that resulted this huge investment. ConGens were also able to appoint staff to help the project deliver upon its intended outcomes.

As a result of our efforts to promote the centre, engage residents and other stakeholders from the statutory and community sectors footfall into the centre increased exponentially. Recorded sign-ins amounted to 1823. An increase of over 500% over the previous year.

Below is a table outlining key activities and accomplishments.

Activity	Number of beneficiaries	Aim
IT Classes	12	Support people to learn important computer skills in a structured manner – such as familiarity with a keyboard, browsing the internet, communicating via email
Computer Cafe	13	People can drop-in without appointment to receive advice and support to better understand their digital device or to resolve IT related problems.
Arts and Crafts	5	Opportunity to socialise whilst engaging in arts and crafts that provide mental stimulation.
Seated Exercise	14	Gentle exercise for older people to improve mobility and general fitness.
Drop-in Health Checks	11	Opportunity to speak to a nurse for basic health information and advice and receive blood pressure and BMI checks with a view to encouraging people to have a more active interest in their health.
Weekly estate walks	8	Estate walks to improve physical fitness and maintain personal independence.
Ramblers leader walk training	9	Training to lead estate walks for local residents
Development of community allotment	-	Transform an unused space into a area for local residents to connect with nature and each other. As people grow produce and interact with others, this green space will help foster better community cohesion.
Culture day	180 (Approx)	This event sought to share elements of Caribbean culture with others to create a better level of understanding amongst people from diverse ethnic backgrounds.
Partial refurbishment of resource centre	-	Improve the look and feel of the centre to make it more comfortable space to visit and work in.

Funding and Finance Review

In 2022, our charity's income stood at £34,321.63. We are thrilled to report a record-breaking income of £130,448.98 for 2023, reflecting an impressive 280% increase over the previous year.

This significant surge in funding is primarily attributed to the generous Reaching Communities lottery grant. These funds will be pivotal in achieving our project outcomes, allowing us to expand our programs, appoint dedicated staff, and deepen our engagement with the community we serve.

Additionally, we received grants from the Black Country Consortium, Severn Trent Water, NHS Black Country, Localgiving, Wolverhampton City Council, and Wolverhampton Homes. These contributions have collectively propelled our income to its highest level yet, providing essential financial support to fuel our community-focused initiatives.

Together, these funds will enable us to make a greater impact, address the evolving needs of our community, and continue to drive positive change. We remain committed to transparency and prudent financial management, ensuring that every penny is utilized effectively to further our mission.

Risk Management

The Trustees review periodically risks it may face in respect of its finances and operations and militate against these with the implementation of policies and procedures in order to eliminate or minimise any potential or adverse impact harm to the charity and the public.

Current policies and procedures include the following:

- Safeguarding Adults
- Safeguarding children
- Health and Safety
- Complaints Policy
- Equality and Diversity policy

Statement of Director's responsibilities

The trustees are required under UK Company law to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the company's financial activities during the year and its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- c) State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- d) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the company and which enable them to ensure that the financial position of the statements comply with applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The directors have identified the major risks to which the charity are exposed and have adopted suitable mechanisms to manage those risks.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approval

This report was approved by the directors on 30 October 2024

and signed on their behalf by: *Grace Peddie*

Grace Peddie, Chair

Congens Group

Income and Expenditure Summary Statement 2023

OPENING BALANCE AS OF 1 JANUARY 2023 - £21,366.90

Income

Grants	129252.08
Donations	
Fund Raising	315.00
Other (incentive payment & reverse credit)	122.00
Interest	
Refunds	759.90
Total Income	<u>130,448.98</u>

Expenditure

Professional Fees	66,325.64
Salaries	22,350.36
Equipment	15,217.66
Administration/Subsidiaries	2,137.11
Projects	7,420.58
Running Costs	7,488.88
Expenses - Travel/Refreshments	209.32
Hire - Venue/Equipment	4,445.00
Petty Cash	547.41
Miscellaneous	859.26
	<u>127,001.22</u>

Funds carried forward from last year (if any)	21,366.90	+	
Funds received in year	130,448.98		
	Total		151,815.88
Funds spent in year	127,001.22	-	

CLOSING BALANCE AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021

£24,814.66

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 10 - 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below):

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
2. Attention should continue to be drawn and detail given in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. Recommendations will be given to assist the Charity to achieve this.



Craig Miller
81 Oakley Court
Springmeadow Rd
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2GH

CONGENS GROUP
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming Resources</u>						
Incoming resources from generated funds		-	-	-	-	-
Donations, Legacies & other Voluntary Income		-	-	-	-	-
Activities for generated funds	2	-	-	-	315	-
Investment Income	3	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	-	-	-	129,252	33,785
Other incoming resources	5	-	-	-	882	537
		-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		-	-	-	130,449	34,322
<u>Resources Expended</u>						
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-
Costs of generating voluntary income		-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading: costs of goods sold		-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs		-	-	-	-	-
Other costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities		-	-	-	126,881	25,519
Governance Costs		-	-	-	120	120
		-	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended	6	-	-	-	127,001	25,639
		-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers			-	-	3,448	8,683
Gross transfers between funds			-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Net Income (expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds				-	3,448	8,683
Fund balances as at 31 December 2022					21,367	12,659
		-	-		-	-
Fund balances as at 31 December 2023		-	-		24,815	21,342
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

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

None of the charity's activities were started or discontinued during the current or previous year and all operations continue

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those passing through the income and expenditure account

CONGENS GROUP
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BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible Assets	9	36,222	22,032
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		24,815	21,367
		-----	-----
Creditors	11	(24815)	(16900)
		-----	-----
Net Current Assets		- 0	4,467
		-----	-----
Total Assets less current liabilities		36,222	26,499
		=====	=====
Income funds			
Restricted funds	12	24,815	16,900
Unrestricted Funds		11,407	9,599
Designated Funds	13		
Other charitable funds		-----	-----
		36,222	26,499
		=====	=====

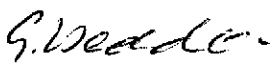
For the year ended 31/12/2021 the company wasa entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Director's responsibilities:

- a) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476;
- b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts;

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

The accounts were approved by the Board on 29 October 2024



Grace Peddie, Chair

CONGENS GROUP

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting Principles

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No.1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small charity.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 and the Companies Act 2006

1.2 Incoming Resources

Restricted Grants received in advance at the year end for expenditure in a future accounting period are carried forward as deferred income. Restricted grants received but not fully utilised at the year end are carried forward as balances on the basis that they may become repayable.

Voluntary donations and gifts are accounted for as received.

The charity receives help and support in the form of voluntary assistance in advising the public. No entries are required to be included in the accounts for the financial value of such help.

The charity enjoys the use of various buildings, in some cases at below market rental value. Similarly some services are provided on beneficial terms and information is given in the Notes to the Accounts.

Interest receivable on the charity's various bank accounts is allocated in full to unrestricted funds.

Resources Expended

a) Cost of generating voluntary funds

These include functions, publicity and fundraising costs. Publicity costs include local promotional advertising, printed leaflets and the cost of producing the annual report.

b) Charitable activities

Resources expended on charitable activities include all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity

c) Governance costs

Governance costs include the cost of premises maintenance, the Independent Review together with the cost of the AGM

1.4 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

All assets costing more than £100 are capitalised. Tangible fixed Assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Equipment	0% per annum on the fixed installment basis
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CONGENS GROUP **(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

1 NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Accounting Policies (Continued)

1.5 Taxation

The company, being a registered charity with minimal trading income, has been granted exemption from tax under Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. No provision for taxation has therefore been made in these accounts.

The charity is not registered for Value Added Tax (VAT)

2 Activities for generating funds

2023

2022

£

£

Fundraising activities

315

-

3 Investment Income

Unrestricted
Funds

Restricted
Funds

Total
2023

Total
2022

£

£

£

£

4 Interest receivable

0

0

0

0

Incoming resources from charitable activities

Unrestricted
Funds

Restricted
Funds

Total
2023

Total
2022

£

£

£

£

Black Country Consortium

-

702

Severn Trent Water

-

7,260

NHS Black Country

-

300

Main Grants (National Lottery Fund)

-

112,778

Wolverhampton City Council

-

910

Wolverhampton Homes

-

3,359

Main Grants

-

8,214

Localgiving

-

500

NGED SW Main

-

3,845.08

WBASCAR&M BCA

-

800

Postcode Community Trust

-

23,058

Clothworkers Foundation

-

ASDA empowering local communities

-

1,311

-

-

129,252

33,785

CONGENS GROUP
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

5 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
Other Incoming Resources	£	£
Other Income	122	
Refunds	759.9	536.73
	-----	-----
	882	537
	=====	=====

6 Total Resources Expended	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£		£
Costs of generating funds:					
Fundraising and publicity	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Charitable expenditure					
Direct Project Costs		-		31,534	1,665
Staff and Volunteer Costs		-		3,152	15
Premises costs		-		4,445	445
Legal and Professional costs		-		85,613	20,912
Administration Costs		-		2,137	2,483
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Costs in furtherance of the Charity's objectives	-	-	-	126,881	25,519
Management and Administration	-	-		120	120
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	-	-	127,001	25,639
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	-	-	127,001	25,639
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

7 Management and administration costs include payments to the Independent Reviewer of £120 (2019-£100) for fees.

Trustees

During the Year remuneration for services as a director/ trustee and expenses were paid, directly or indirectly, out of funds of the charity to trustee and persons known to be connected with them for services rendered.

CONGENS GROUP
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

8 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Employees	2023 Number	2022 Number
Number of employees	0	-
The average number of employees during the period was:	2	-
	-----	-----
	2	-
	=====	=====
Activities in furtherance of organisations objects		
Management & Administration		

Employment Costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	22,350.36	-
Social security costs	2,700.69	-
Pension Costs	636.06	-
	-----	-----
	25,687.11	-
	=====	=====

There are no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

CONGENS GROUP
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

9 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Tangible Fixed Assets	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
Equipment, F & F			
Costs			
At 1 January 2023	4,763	17,269	22,032
Additions	-	14,190	14,190
Disposals	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2023	4,763	31,459	36,222
	=====	=====	=====
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	-	-	-
Charge for the period	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
As 31 December 2023	-	-	-
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value			
As 31 December 2023	4,763	31,459	36,222
	=====	=====	=====
As 31 December 2022	4,763	17,269	22,032
	=====	=====	=====

10 Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
other debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	=====	=====

11 Creditors	2023	2022
	£	£
Taxes and social security costs	-	-
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals	24,815	16,900
	-----	-----
	24,815	16,900
	=====	=====

CONGENS GROUP **(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12 Restricted Funds

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

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at	Incoming	Resources	Transfers	Balance at
	01-Jan-23	Resources	Expended		31-Dec-23
	£	£	£	£	£
Black Country Consortium	100			-	
Severn Trent Water		7,260		-	
NHS Black Country		300		-	
Main Grants (National Lottery Fund)		112,778		-	24,815
Postcode local	16,800			-	
Wolverhampton City Council		910		-	
Wolverhampton Homes		3,359		-	
NGED SW Main		3,845		-	
WBADCAR&M BCA		800		-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	16,900	129,252	-	-	24,815
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

13 Designated Funds

No funds have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes

14 Commitments under operating leases

At 31st December 2023 the company had no commitments under non- cancellable operating leases

15 Reserves Policy

The trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfill its charitable objectives even if there is temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.