

NEW NOTE PROJECTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1161284

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-04-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address New Note Projects
Concorde House
18 Margaret Street
Brighton BN2 1TS
BN2 1TS

Phone 07492734671

Email info@newnote.co.uk

Website www.newnote.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES.

Activities: NEW NOTE PROJECTS USES MUSIC TO COMBAT SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THEIR FIRST PROJECT IS NEW NOTE ORCHESTRA BASED IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE AND IS THE FIRST ORCHESTRA IN THE WORLD DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE IN RECOVERY FROM DRUGS AND ALCOHOL. AIMS ARE TO HELP PEOPLE STAY SOBER AND TACKLE STIGMAS SURROUNDING ALCOHOLISM AND ADDICTION. A PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL CONDUCTOR AND THERAPEUTIC FACILITATOR GUIDE WEEKLY REHEARSALS

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment, Armed Forces/emergency Service Efficiency
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£147,387	£91,298	-	-
2024-03-31	£101,063	£100,800	-	-
2023-03-31	£102,008	£83,487	-	-
2022-03-31	£48,184	£82,892	-	-
2021-03-31	£100,360	£70,340	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Claudia Clarkson		2024-04-01
David Martin		2023-06-01
Denis Byrne		2026-02-09
Julia Handelman-Smith		2024-04-01
Rachel Ayuba		2026-03-30
Sarah Erskine		2021-06-01

NEW NOTE PROJECTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161284

Accounts

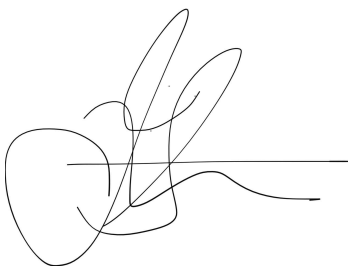
NEW NOTE PROJECTS

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number 1161284

Trustee Report and Financial Statements
Year ending 31 March 2025

New Note Projects
Concorde House
18 Margaret Street
Brighton
BN2 1TS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julia Handelman-Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Trustees Report Signed by Chair person Julia Handelman-Smith

19th November 2025

The Trustees of New Note Projects present their Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

1. Governance and Structure

New Note Projects (NNP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our constitution is a 'Foundation' model whose only voting members are its charity trustees.

New Note Projects was constituted on 14 April 2015 when the Charity Commission produced a unique charitable number: 1161284.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering the activities to be undertaken. These are detailed in this report.

New Note Projects was overseen by four trustees during the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025:

Chairperson:	Julia Handelman-Smith
Trustee:	Claudia Clarkson
Trustee:	Sarah Erskine
Trustee:	David Martin

The day-to-day operations were overseen by Founder and Chief Executive Molly Mathieson.

2. New Note Projects aims and objectives

New Note Projects (also known as New Note Orchestra) was founded in 2015 by Molly Mathieson to provide a creative response to the growing challenges of drug and alcohol addiction in Brighton & Hove. Our mission is to support people affected by addiction through music and storytelling. Many participants also face additional challenges, including rough sleeping, poor mental health, social isolation, deprivation, and experiences of prison.

Since our launch we have become nationally recognised as an exemplary model of how to sustain recovery from addiction. We are experts at engaging vulnerable adults using improvisation and co-creation, building trust and a sense of belonging by removing barriers and creating opportunities for participation and involvement in high quality music-making and performance. Participants stay with us for an average of 4.8 years, demonstrating the community that New Note provides.

Our methodologies have been recognised by the government after being cited as an ideal recovery model by the Centre for Social Justice (*Road to Recovery. Addiction in our Society - the Case for Reform*. 2019). Alongside this, we have won multiple awards, including the prestigious Kings Award for Voluntary Service - a lifetime MBE for charities.

By engaging with our services, the participants strengthen their recoveries from addiction by attending regular groups, forming new friendships, and developing new skills. Addiction

is rarely a choice; it often stems from trauma, poor mental health, and poverty. Breaking this cycle requires innovative, creative solutions, including providing safe, supportive spaces where marginalised individuals can express themselves and build sustainable recovery. The scarcity of person-centred support is not due to lack of value, but to systemic barriers and undervaluation. Since we launched in 2015, there have been drastic cuts to local and national drug and alcohol provision which has meant drug and alcohol deaths have been rising.

Rising addiction rates

Drug and alcohol addiction continues to rise across the UK. Between April 2023 and March 2024, 310,863 adults received treatment - a 7% increase from the previous year, marking the highest number since 2010 and the largest year-on-year rise since 2009.

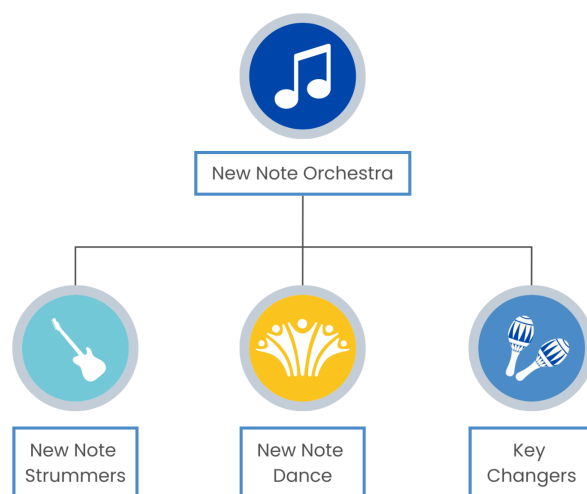
- In 2023, drug-related deaths in England and Wales rose to 5,448 - the highest on record. That's 93 deaths per million people (ONS, 2023).
- Brighton & Hove Council estimates the cost of substance misuse across the city at £107 million.
- At the same time, support facilities are disappearing. The city also has the highest rate of homelessness outside of London, with substance misuse affecting 62.5% of homeless individuals.
- The ONS figures also show that drug misuse deaths in Brighton & Hove have been consistently higher than the national average in recent years. The number of drug misuse deaths in the city remains "stubbornly high" compared to the 19 fatalities recorded five years ago.
- These deaths are poisoning by various illegal and legal drugs, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

Premature Deaths from Alcohol

- Drug and alcohol related deaths in Brighton & Hove remain a serious problem. There has been a chronic lack of funding for drug and alcohol treatment within the city and the local residential alcohol rehab ward was closed in 2015; the nearest one is in Essex, which is 90 miles away. There is an urgent need for early interventions, to offer beneficial diversionary activities to give people the best chance of a successful recovery.

New Note runs four projects for vulnerable adults. These are:

- The multi-award-winning New Note Orchestra: the first recovery orchestra in the world.
- New Note Strummers: a weekly guitar group for adults affected by addiction.
- New Note Dance: designed primarily to support vulnerable women. The facilitator is an ex-musician from the New Note Orchestra.
- New Note Key Changers: a brand-new leadership programme. We train up people affected by addiction to become community music workshop leaders.



Currently 75% of all our groups are being delivered by people with lived experience of addiction. This includes: Key Changers, New Note Dance and New Note Strummers.

Across all our groups we have some guiding principles which help our participants to strengthen their recoveries from addiction. They are:

- Offer safe spaces where people feel part of a creative community.
- Support to build confidence and challenge negative self-assumptions.
- Develop new skills.
- Raise awareness around behaviours.
- Encourage sober friendships, form new community links, and advocate volunteering.
- Instil purpose and direction.
- Produce life-defining creative opportunities through learning and performance.

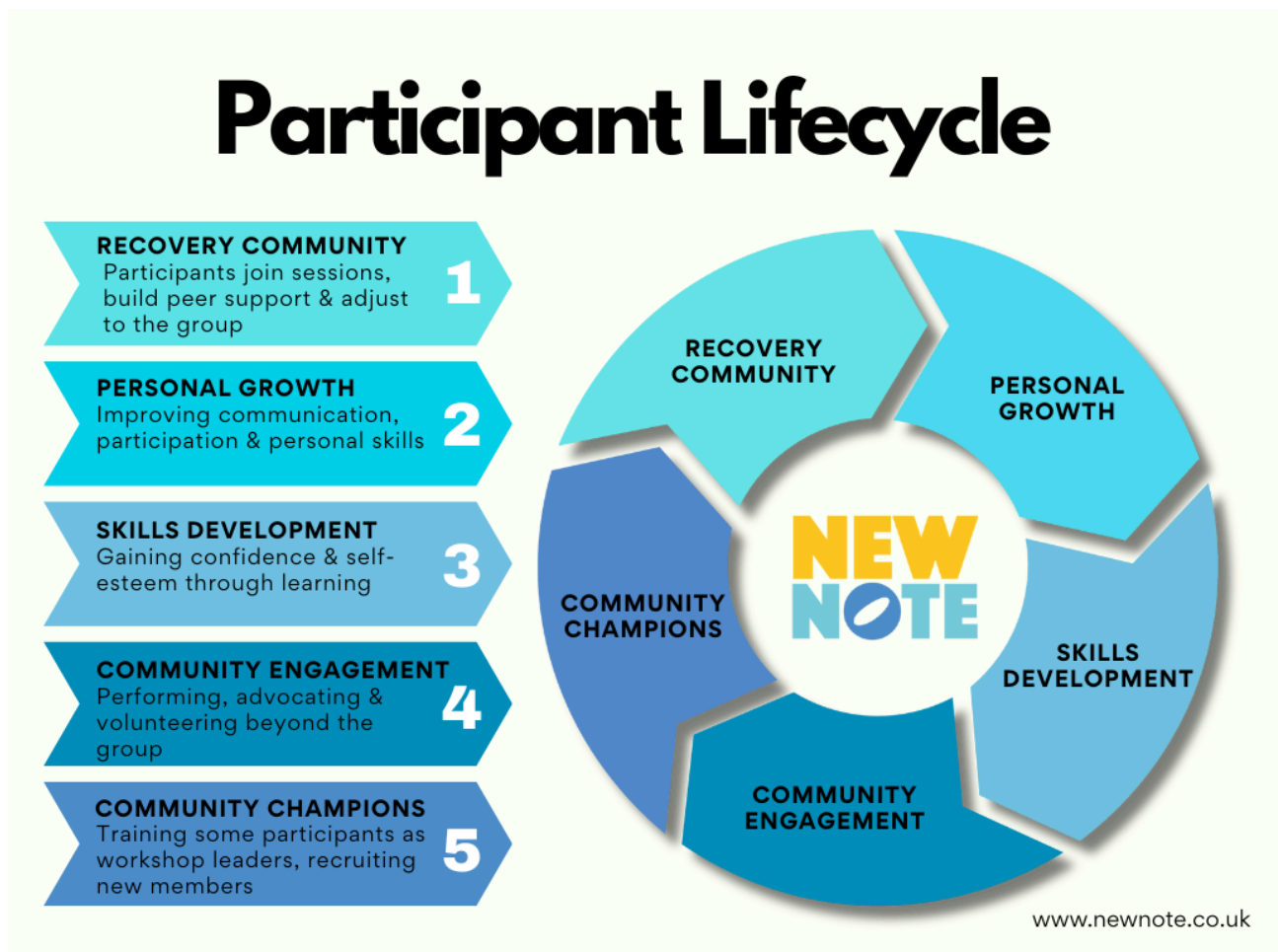
Anyone affected by addiction can access our groups, regardless of ability. We have created referral pathways with all of the statutory drugs/alcohol/homeless services in the city. Our groups are all free to attend.

People access our groups through the recovery community - for example, by seeing our leaflet at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings - or via referrals from statutory services. New participants often arrive anxious and unsure, sometimes experiencing a sober setting for the first time. We encourage them to arrive on time, build their confidence, and develop their personal skills.

Building confidence, creating community

Over time, participants grow socially, form friendships outside drugs and alcohol, and often begin volunteering with other charities. Some participants join our leadership programme and train as workshop leaders. This peer-led model, with workshop leaders with lived

experience of addiction, is a powerful way to connect with others still struggling with addiction. Our participant lifecycle model, which can take up to five years to complete, demonstrates how recovery can be sustained through creativity, support, and community.



PUTTING OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES INTO PRACTICE

Quantitative Evaluation

Registers are taken at every session for each project which allows us to measure our reach and monitor engagement with our participants.

The following measures are used:

Workshop sessions - the number of sessions held within the financial year.

People attending sessions - the number of unique participants attending at least one session within the financial year. This measures our total reach.

Overall attendances - number of sessions multiplied by the number of participants at each session. This allows us to monitor engagement by comparing with previous years.

Retention rate - the number of unique individuals who attended at least one session in the previous financial year, and returned for at least one session in the current year. For example, if 22 people attended in 2022/23, and 16 of them returned in 2023/24, this gives a retention rate of 73% (16/22). This allows us to monitor participants' long-term engagement with a project.

Performances - the number of live performances given in the financial year.

We often ask the participants to fill out feedback forms and questionnaires, to ask about how the sessions are helping with their recovery journeys and the development of musical skills. Alongside this, we gain informal feedback at every session. A summary of the formal qualitative data is included in the relevant sections.

Trustees Report Accounting Period - 2024-2025

Some highlights for this period include:

Partnerships: we continued our collaborative relationship with the following organisations:

- **The Royal Opera House** - we performed at the Paul Hamlyn Hall
- **Fallen Angels Dance Theatre** - we collaborated with them and created Inertia which was performed at the Royal Opera House
- **Create Recovery** - they co-fund New Note Dance
- **Soundcastle and Wishing Well** - networking days where we share community music practice and knowledge.
- **London Philharmonic Orchestra** - planning stages of a collaborative recording in Sept 2025

Programme Expansion: we launched our Key Changers leadership programme in January 2025. This is the first leadership programme for people affected by addiction to become community music facilitators.

This accounting period featured further great successes but was also a challenging year for us so we invested more in fundraising.

Research commissioned by Equity and carried out by the Autonomy Institute shows that overall arts funding for the UK from national bodies (Arts Council England, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Arts Council of Wales and Creative Scotland) has been cut by 16% in real terms since 2017.

Please see more information in the sections below.

For this report there are five key sections:

- New Note Orchestra (*See section 3*)
- New Note Strummers (*See section 4*)
- New Note Key Changers (*See section 5*)
- New Note Dance (*See section 6*)
- Review of Financial Position. Income and Expenditure (*See section 7*)

3. Operations summary: New Note Orchestra

What	How many
NNO workshop sessions	45
People attending the sessions	19
Overall attendances	442
Retention rate	57%
Performances	4

New Note Orchestra was launched in 2015 as the first of its kind in the world. Its aims are:

- To help people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction to stay sober by meeting regularly to compose and play music.
- To reduce the stigma around alcoholism and addiction in our communities by putting on public performances.
- To produce new and original music of high artistic value.

During this period, NNO performed 4 concerts across the UK:

- 1) Paul Hamlyn Hall, The Royal Opera House, London.
- 2) The Old Market, Hove.
- 3) Fabrica, Brighton.
- 4) St Lukes, Brighton.

Significant achievements during the period of this report

In May 2024, founder, Molly Mathieson, and our longest serving musician Roger, travelled to London to attend one of the garden parties at Buckingham Palace following the New Note Orchestra being awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. An MBE for volunteers, it is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life. Later in the month, Mr Andrew Blackman CStJ, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, presented the Award to members of the Orchestra at St Luke's church. An unforgettable experience.

The first concert for this reporting period was in June 2024 when New Note Orchestra returned to The Royal Opera House to perform *Inertia*, a brand-new collaborative piece with our friends at Fallen Angels Dance Theatre in the beautiful setting of the Paul Hamlyn Hall. This powerful work, part of the Creative Exchange programme, brought together professional artists and community performers to explore themes of trauma, healing, and recovery through music and dance. Inspired by the Royal Ballet's *Infra*, the project was developed in just eight weeks. Composer Chris Benstead worked closely with New Note's unique ensemble - including four guitars, two basses, and hand chimes - while adapting the music to support choreographed movement. The performance was part of the *Live at Lunch* series and played to a full house (in fact, many people were turned away due to capacity constraints), with a large number experiencing recovery arts for the first time.

Audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive, describing the show as “emotional”, “empowering” and “a wonderful experience that touched my soul”. For our newest member, Annie, it was an unforgettable debut, saying, “I am inspired, it is gold.” This project showcased not just artistic talent but the power of community, resilience, and creativity in addiction recovery.

In November, the Orchestra put on two shows of Glimmer Warning, a joy-filled show with brand new original music inspired by the small moments of goodness that spark joy and calm in our lives. For the sell-out performance at The Old Market in Hove we were once again joined by the fabulous Wham Jam Thank You Ma-am Community Choir, who performed original arrangements of much-loved hits. The Orchestra then did a second performance a few days later at the Fabrica Gallery in Brighton.

Our final event was ‘Winter Chill’, an atmospheric, candlelit performance where the Orchestra demonstrated their unique take on well-known carols as well as some brand new music.

4: Operations summary - New Note Strummers

What	How many
Strummers workshop sessions	42
People attending the sessions	30
Overall attendances	359
Retention rate	42%
Performances	0

New Note Strummers has been the cornerstone for many people seeking solace in the recovery community since its launch in January 2017. It is a drop-in guitar group, open to anyone in recovery from addiction, predominantly appealing to men aged between 35-60. This group is designed to support people in the early stages of their recovery journey and has continued to offer a safe, inclusive and non-judgmental space for some of the most vulnerable people within Brighton & Hove to explore music and build connections.

During the accounting period, New Note Strummers recorded their second album, ‘*Shabby Road*’, a heartfelt collection of 11 tracks featuring two originals and a range of carefully chosen covers. The album reflects the group’s journey through recovery, community, and creativity.

For vocalist Hannah, who features on every track, Strummers has been a source of confidence, friendship, and joy: “Strummers has become like a little family to me. It’s a lovely way to be musical, gently learn new skills and be with friends. Addiction is an illness of isolation, and recovery is very much about community and feeling part of something.” Marcus, who wrote the original track ‘*Ridin’ on the Number Seven*’, found the creative

process essential to his healing, saying, “It gave me the lift and impetus to get through my own mental and physical health challenges... all the laughter and the fact that everyone really just ‘went for it’ carried me through something I didn’t imagine possible before I came into recovery.”

The project also featured the amazing energy of Cascade Recovery Choir. Instead of recording vocal and instrument tracks separately and then mixing them in a studio, for this album Musical Director, Jon Rattenbury, wanted to capture a live performance with a gig atmosphere. *Shabby Road* is more than music - it’s a celebration of resilience, connection, and the power of recovery through creativity.

The recording took place at Brighton Electric Studios.

In September 2024 Crispin Gair, a musician in the New Note Orchestra took over the running of Strummers. Alongside this, Crispin entered the Key Changers leadership programme. He is still running Strummers on a weekly basis.

5: Operations summary - New Note Key Changers

What	How many
Key Changers workshop sessions	14
People attending the sessions	76
Overall attendances	95
Retention rate	N/A

Key Changers trains up and supports musicians with lived experience of addiction and other adverse life challenges as community music leaders who then go out into the community to deliver music workshops in homeless hostels and rehab centres such as our partners at Crawley Open House who support people affected by homelessness. During this period we also created a partnership with Shore House, a facility run by Brighton Housing Trust (BHT).

The benefits for music workshop participants include:

- A therapeutic and creative outlet which helps them cope with challenges.
- Social connections where they bond through a shared love of music, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- Improved self-confidence through participation and engagement.
- Increased positive mental and emotional well-being.
- Opportunities to learn both musical and social skills.
- The groups are open to anyone and can be accessed by clients who do not have musical skills.

Following the success of the pilot programme which led to three New Note Orchestra musicians facilitating workshops on a regular basis, engaging a wide variety of vulnerable

people and offering conversations around recovery from addiction, we were able to expand the project.

With the expertise of community music expert Fernando Mechardo, Lead Facilitator at Soundcastle, we formalised the training programme. In September 2024 we launched the Key Changers Programme, the first bespoke UK-based comprehensive training programme for musicians from marginalised backgrounds, extending beyond New Note. We promoted it throughout our networks and did an open recruitment throughout the Sussex area. One participant applied after their back to work coach saw an advert, another found it through a homeless network.

In January 2025 the participants, all of whom were male, embarked on a structured six month course designed to:

- Train them in community music facilitation, focusing on rhythm, harmony and musical form
- Teach ethical practice, giving and receiving feedback, and how to create safe spaces
- Provide mentorship and real-world placements in settings like homeless hostels and addiction centres.

Feedback via a mid-course survey was very positive, with participants saying: 'The course and its exercises are practical and easy to learn for anyone at any skill level', 'I'm really grateful for being on this and the quality of input and teaching has been very high', 'I have developed confidence that I can go and run something for sure. Which I definitely didn't have before. Confidence!!!', and 'This course has been very helpful in my recovery, and I've made solid progress. I feel I have a new sense of purpose.' Participants were provided with ongoing support which was well received and quite early on some participants were already thinking of how they would utilise what they had learned.

6: Operations summary - New Note Dance

What	How many
Workshop sessions	17
People attending the workshops	12
Overall attendances	157
Retention rate	38%
Performances	0

New Note Dance is a movement workshop in central Brighton for women overcoming addiction, mental health challenges, trauma and poverty. Founded in March 2023 by local recovery champion Lauren Dowse - herself a former New Note Orchestra participant - the group offers a mindful and creative space for women in recovery.

Initially, workshops were held weekly; however, during this accounting period they were moved to a monthly format. This change was made to allow participants a more immersive and therapeutic experience, giving them the time and space to explore movement more deeply between sessions. New Note supported Lauren as she developed her practice to become a full-time dance facilitator, using the Tamalpa Process to guide her work.

In Brighton & Hove, women can expect to live 25% of their life in poor health (significantly worse than the average for England). Over one in five local adults aged 20+ have two or more long-term health conditions and 8% have at least one physical/mental condition, strongly correlated with deprivation (Brighton & Hove Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-30).

Since its launch, New Note Dance has successfully engaged women with known barriers to physical activity - and particularly long-term mental health conditions including depression and substance use disorder. More than half of women engaged in the past year also had additional barriers (notably low incomes, unpaid caring roles, and physical health conditions/disabilities). Around two-thirds of women were aged 55 or over, and two members of the group (including the facilitator) have lived experience of homelessness.

Overall, the women New Note Dance engages are diverse - but all vulnerable in at least one aspect of their lives. In developing New Note Dance, facilitator Lauren has consistently (though not always intentionally) applied best practice approaches for successfully engaging underserved groups. For example, as a local recovery champion, she has engaged community peers as participants/volunteers and promoters of New Note Dance at local recovery meetings and events.

Lauren has also used distinctive facilitation techniques (emphasising a whole-group experience where everyone feels valued) alongside thoughtful branding emphasising creativity (over potentially off-putting sports/fitness themes). This has helped the group achieve steady growth in reach/attendance and excellent feedback from participants.

Independent evaluation of our pilot work in late 2023 found that whilst none of the participants surveyed had specifically signed up to improve their physical wellbeing, 75% reported this was a major benefit. Similar (unintentional) outcomes included increased physical activity (88% of participants), improved mental wellbeing (71%), increased connection to the community (100%) and healthier lifestyle choices (90%).

During this period, Lauren and filmmaker Angus Cameron, created *Found*, a short film inspired by Lauren's own recovery journey. It brings to life the spiritual principles of the 12-Step recovery programme through dance and storytelling, with each dancer embodying a principle - beginning with surrender, moving through hope, commitment and willingness, and ending with love and service. Through movement, the film shows how destructive behaviours can be transformed into meaningful connections with inner wisdom and higher power. The choreography emerged from somatic exercises, creative writing and image-making. With dancers of varied backgrounds, the focus was on authenticity rather than technical precision, creating movement that felt honest and accessible. Filmed in an

industrial warehouse in Lewes, the project was enriched by composer Ralf Hildenbeutel's evocative score and the dedication of a collaborative crew. Beyond the dance itself, the project fostered deep community and camaraderie. Mutual support and creative collaboration gave the film a strong collective spirit.

For Lauren, the work highlights how dance can unlock insights that words cannot. Addiction often disconnects people from their bodies; *Found* offers a way back, reminding participants that their bodies hold wisdom when given the opportunity to move. More than a dance film, it is an invitation to witness resilience, creativity and the transformative power of art in recovery.

Found premiered at The Depot Cinema in Lewes in September 2024, along with a post-screening Q&A hosted by New Note Founder Molly Mathieson. It was then screened during the CINECITY Brighton Film Festival in November at Fabrica.

7: Operational Outlook for the Next Reporting Period

Our next reporting period will run from **April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026**. We have written a three-year strategy, and during this period we will complete the first phase, which includes developing a new partnership for the orchestra and researching a new project designed for young people.

What We Aim to Achieve in This Period

- **Financial stability:** We will strengthen our financial position by increasing our reserves, with the goal of holding at least six months of operational costs in unrestricted funds. Alongside this, we will build our knowledge and capabilities around individual giving, while researching new trusts and foundations to support our work.
- **New partnership:** We will develop an exciting partnership with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra**, which will include opportunities for music recording and live performance.
- **New project for young people:** We will begin research and development for a brand-new project designed for young people. This will include consultations with young participants and exploration of funding options.
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8. Review of financial position

The New Note Projects accounts are independently examined by registered accountant Chris Tyler FCA, DChA, FCIE.

New Note Project accounts for 1st April 2024-31st March 2025.

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>RESTRICTED</u>
INCOME			
<u>GENERATED INCOME</u>			
CRAWLEY OPEN HOUSE	325.00	325.00	-
CREATE RECOVERY	1,704.17	1,704.17	-
DANCE FEE	217.32	217.32	-
JAM TARTS/WHAM DONATIONS	8,756.81	8,756.81	-
OTHER REVENUE	1,553.05	1,553.05	-
PUBLIC DONATIONS	112.67	112.67	-
	<u>12,669.02</u>	<u>12,669.02</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>GRANTS</u>			
ANOTHER WAY - WOMEN'S FUND	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING	44,160.00	-	44,160.00
CHALK CLIFF TRUST	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
CHAPMAN CHARITABLE TRUST	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
COMMON SONG FOUNDATION	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
ERNEST KLEINWORT CHARITABLE TRUST	4,000.00	-	4,000.00
GARFIELD WESTON	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
MASONS - MARK BENEVOLENT FUND	968.44	-	968.44
NATIONAL LOTTERY	19,850.00	-	19,850.00
SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY	940.00	-	940.00
SUSSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	12,000.00	5,000.00	7,000.00
ALBERT HUNT TRUST	3,500.00	-	3,500.00
THE BARING FOUNDATION	300.00	300.00	-
THE FOYLE FOUNDATION	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
THE RAYNE FOUNDATION	15,000.00	-	15,000.00
	<u>134,718.44</u>	<u>21,300.00</u>	<u>113,418.44</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>147,387.46</u>	<u>33,969.02</u>	<u>113,418.44</u>

EXPENDITURE

STAFF COSTS		64,355.12	-	64,355.12
OPERATING COSTS		22,513.97	9,582.20	12,931.77
INVESTMENTS		4,428.55	-	4,428.55

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	91,297.64	91,297.64	9,582.20	81,715.44
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NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	56,089.82	56,089.82	24,386.82	31,703.00
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FUND BALANCES B/FWD	41,319.00	41,319.00	19,672.00	21,647.00
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FUND BALANCES C/FWD	97,408.82	97,408.82	44,058.82	53,350.00
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RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES C/FWD

ANOTHER WAY - WOMEN'S FUND	1,000.00
ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING	16,000.00
CHAPMAN CHARITABLE TRUST	2,000.00
ERNEST KLEINWORT CHARITABLE TRUST	2,000.00
NATIONAL LOTTERY	19,850.00
SUSSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	3,000.00
ALBERT HUNT TRUST	3,500.00
THE RAYNE FOUNDATION	6,000.00

53,350.00

Reserves policy:

Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds to source the core operating capacity of the charity for four months. This means the charity can meet ongoing liabilities, sufficient to ensure that all delivery commitments can be met and to protect the long-term future of the operations.

Our reserves on 31 March 2025 were **£44,058.82** (unrestricted) and **£53,350.00** (restricted).

Assets:

The charity has assets in the form of musical instruments. Our total assets on 31 March 2025 were £22,000

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF NEW NOTE PROJECTS

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of New Note Projects for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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

C R Tyler FCA DChA FCIE
F1 CRT Limited
Chartered Accountant
Flat 24, Wellingtonia Court
Laine Close
Brighton
BN1 6TD
Date: 26th November 2025

NEW NOTE PROJECTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161284

Accounts

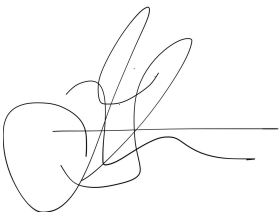
NEW NOTE PROJECTS

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number 1161284

Trustee Report and Financial Statements
Year ending 31 March 2024

New Note Projects
Concorde House
18 Margaret Street
Brighton
BN2 1TS



Reviewed and approved by Julia Handelman-Smith, Chair and Trustee, 12 December 2024

The Trustees of New Note Projects present their Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

1. Governance and Structure

New Note Projects (NNP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our constitution is a 'Foundation' model whose only voting members are its charity trustees. New Note Projects was constituted on 14 April 2015 when the Charity Commission produced a unique charitable number: 1161284.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering the activities to be undertaken. These are detailed in this report.

New Note Projects was overseen by three trustees during the period 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024:

Interim Chairperson: Helen Marsden
Trustee: Dan Blomfield
Trustee: Sarah Erskine
Trustee: David Martin

Dan Blomfield and Helen Marsden resigned from the board of trustees on 15 December 2023. The board then advertised for a new chair and another board member.

The day-to-day operations of New Note Projects were overseen by Founder and Chief Executive Molly Mathieson.

2. New Note Projects aims and objectives

New Note is a charity based in Brighton which uses music to support people affected by addiction and its supplementary issues such as challenging mental health, isolation, and poverty. Over 70% of our participants have experienced homelessness.

New Note was launched by Molly Mathieson in 2015 due to the drug and alcohol issues within Brighton and Hove, which had the gruesome label of being the drugs death capital of the UK.

New Note runs four projects for vulnerable adults. These are:

- The multi-award-winning New Note Orchestra: the first recovery orchestra in the world.
- New Note Strummers: a weekly guitar group for adults affected by addiction.
- New Note Dance: a new group designed to support mainly vulnerable women. The facilitator is an ex-musician from New Note Orchestra.
- New Note Key Changers: a brand-new leadership programme. We train up people affected by addiction to become community music workshop leaders.

Across all our groups we have some guiding principles which help our participants to strengthen their recoveries from addiction. They are:

- Offer safe spaces where people feel part of a creative community.
- Support to build confidence and challenge negative self-assumptions.
- Develop new skills.
- Raise awareness around behaviours.
- Encourage sober friendships, form new community links, and advocate volunteering.
- Instill purpose and direction.
- Produce life-defining creative opportunities through learning and performance.

Anyone affected by addiction can access our groups, regardless of ability. We have created referral pathways with all of the statutory drugs/alcohol/homeless services in the city. Our groups are free to attend.

Since our launch we have become nationally recognised as an exemplary model of how to sustain recovery from addiction. We are experts at engaging vulnerable adults using improvisation and co-creation, building trust and a sense of belonging by removing barriers and creating opportunities for participation and involvement in high quality music-making and performance. Our methodologies have been recognised by the government after being cited as an ideal recovery model by the Centre for Social Justice (*Road to Recovery. Addiction in our Society - the Case for Reform*. 2019). Alongside this, we have won multiple awards including the prestigious Kings Award for Voluntary Service – a lifetime MBE for charities.

Trustees Report accounting Period - 2023-2024

Some highlights for this period include:

Growth: We increased our reach to serve a total of 357 individuals.

Partnerships: We formed collaborations with other organisations including, Create Recovery, Fallen Angels Dance Theatre, and the Royal Opera House.

Recognition: We received the King's Award for Voluntary Service, an MBE for charities which is a prestigious honour recognising our contributions.

Programme Expansion: We launched New Note Dance and expanded our Key Changers leadership program.

This accounting period featured great successes alongside serious external challenges which included the cost of living crisis, reduced funding in the arts sector and toxic debates within the 'culture wars'.

Research commissioned by Equity and carried out by the Autonomy Institute shows that overall arts funding for the UK from national bodies (Arts Council England, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Arts Council of Wales and Creative Scotland) has been cut by 16% in real terms since 2017.

Alongside these very challenging external factors, New Note Projects doubled its engagement with people affected by addiction and challenging mental health. This was due to the launch of New Note Dance and the development of our pilot programme Key Changers.

On the 14th November New Note Orchestra was selected to receive The King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2023. This is a lifetime award and is the equivalent of an MBE for charities.

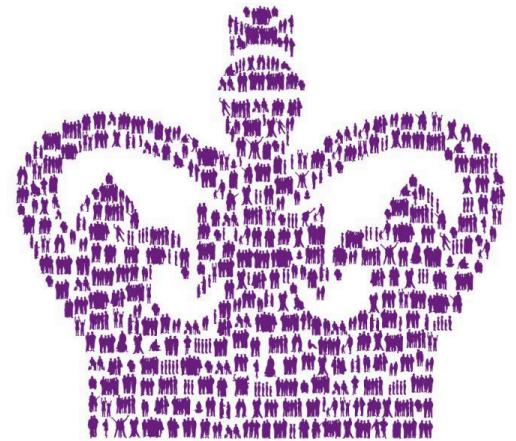
This period also saw New Note Projects enter into creative and financial partnerships with a range of different organisations.

We entered into a financial partnership with Create Recovery, who agreed to finance 50% of New Note Dance.

We entered into a creative partnership with Fallen Angels Dance Theatre and the Royal Opera House. Please see more information in the sections below.

For this report there are five key sections:

- New Note Orchestra (See section 3)
- New Note Strummers (See section 4)
- New Note Key Changers (See section 5)
- New Note Dance (See section 6)
- Review of Financial Position. Income and Expenditure (See section 7)



The King's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

PUTTING OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES INTO PRACTICE

Quantitative Evaluation

Registers are taken at every session for each project which allows us to measure our reach and monitor engagement with our participants.

The following measures are used:

Workshop sessions - the number of sessions held within the financial year.

People attending sessions - the number of unique participants attending at least one session within the financial year. This measures our total reach.

Overall attendances - number of sessions multiplied by the number of participants at each session. This allows us to monitor engagement by comparing with previous years.

Retention rate - the number of unique individuals who attended at least one session in the previous financial year, and returned for at least one session in the current year. For example, if 22 people attended in 2022/23, and 16 of them returned in 2023/24, this gives a retention rate of 73% (16/22). This allows us to monitor participant's long term engagement with a project.

Performances - the number of live performances given in the financial year.

Qualitative Evaluations.

We often ask the participants to fill out feedback forms and questionnaires, to ask about how the sessions are helping with their recovery journeys and the development of musical skills. Alongside this, we gain informal feedback at every session. A summary of the formal qualitative data is included in the relevant sections.

3. Operations summary - New Note Orchestra (NNO)

What	How many <i>(3-year average in brackets)</i>
NNO Workshop sessions	46 (46)
People attending the workshops	29 (23)
Overall attendances	445 (473)
Retention rate	73% (71%)
Performances	5

NNO was launched in 2015 as the first of its kind in the world. Its aims are:

- To help people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction to stay sober by meeting regularly to compose and play music.
- To reduce the stigma around alcoholism and addiction in our communities by putting on public performances.
- To produce new and original music of high artistic value.

NNO performed five concerts across the UK:

- 1) Brighton Fringe/Caravanserai in partnership with Hullabaloo Quire.
- 2) South East Dance, Brighton.
- 3) Storyhouse, Chester.
- 4) The Royal Opera House, London - full performance.
- 5) The Royal Opera House, London - Insights conference.

Significant achievements during the period of this report

The first concert for this reporting period was in May 2023 and as part of a partnership between NNO, Brighton Fringe and Hullabaloo Quire. NNO were invited to take part in the Fringe's landmark stage, Caravanserai. Artistic Director of Hullabaloo Quire, Kirsty Martin, wrote some lyrics to NNO's music. It was a successful collaboration and resulted in a sell-out show.



In September 2022, Molly Mathieson approached Fallen Angels Dance Theatre (FADT) and proposed that they collaborate to make a 10-minute piece for the [Addiction Recovery Arts Network](#) conference at the University of West London. This then kick-started a year-long collaboration process between these two leading recovery arts organisations.

The conference was a landmark moment which brought together other recovery arts organisations and led to FADT and NNO creating a brand new show called 'Traces Through Time'. Inspired by the 'recovery journeys' of the participants in both organisations, 'Traces Through Time' was developed in both Brighton and Chester and culminated in three performances including one at the Royal Opera House in London.

'Traces Through Time' was ambitious in scale and reach, and from the beginning had some logistical challenges, which included the two organisations being separated by over 200 miles.

The collaboration began through a series of Zoom meetings with participants and weekly one-to-ones with the creative team which included Claire Morris and Paul Bayes Kitcher from FADT and Molly Mathieson and Conall Gleeson from NNO. In July 2023, dancers from FADT travelled to Brighton to work together with the musicians from NNO in a series of workshops, to weave all the different segments together. After three days, a 45-minute performance was shown to the public at South East Dance in Brighton.

In November the musicians from NNO headed to Chester to perform with FADT at Storyhouse and then four days later the artists performed at The Royal Opera House in London.



NNO and FADT also held a conference, a panel discussion chaired by Dr Cathy Sloan, as part of the Royal Opera House Insights season highlighting our work transforming lives through music, dance and creativity to support artists in mental health and addiction recovery. The conference was filmed and has been viewed over 7000 times.

We asked audiences attending Traces Through Time whether they had seen FADT or NNO before?

DATE	NO	YES
01/11/2023 - Storyhouse	61%	39%
04/11/2023 - Royal Opera House	85%	15%
05/11/2023 - Insights Conference at ROH	78%	22%
TOTAL	70%	30%

This shows how we reached new audiences through collaboration with external partners.

Feedback from the New Note Orchestra Musicians:

Overall, people were very happy with the experience, people scored their enjoyment 9 out of 10.

People felt proud of the **performance**, saying it was ‘amazing’, ‘brilliant’, ‘fantastic’, and ‘excellent’, and noting the amazing reaction we got from the audience. Some said the music, sound, and staging was excellent, but others felt they needed more space on stage, more time to soundcheck properly, and more time to focus on individual elements of the performance such as the spoken word. There were many comments about the whole experience being rewarding, but also very tiring. The busy schedule meant there wasn’t much time to stop and think, and people were often in a rush to finish meals or travel between hotels and venues.

What did the musicians gain from the experience?

People said they gained confidence in themselves, their social skills, and their ability to perform. It made them realise what the orchestra is capable of and provided an opportunity to get out of their comfort zone and overcome personal challenges. People also gained a sense of connection and community; they were grateful for the new opportunities and experiences, including being able to perform in large venues, and some related that to being possible because of their sobriety. The experience also reinforced their appreciation of the orchestra and their fellow musicians.

4. Operations summary - New Note Strummers

What	How many (3-year average in brackets)
Strummers workshop sessions	43 (43)
People attending the workshops	36 (28)
Overall attendances	348 (301)
Retention rate	67% (60%)
Performances	0

New Note Strummers was launched in January 2017 and has been the cornerstone for many people seeking solace in the recovery community. It is a drop-in group with predominantly men aged between 35-60. This group is designed to support people in the early stages of their recovery journey.

This group continued to offer a safe place for some of the most vulnerable people within Brighton and Hove. This accounting period saw the New Note Strummers support some of the participants in stepping up to facilitate the group. This was a valuable step in their progression.

No public facing concerts were held during this period as many of the participants were dealing with challenging issues including acute anxiety.

5. Operations summary - New Note Key Changers

What	How many
Workshop sessions	41
People attending the workshops	109
Overall attendances	257
Retention rate	N/A

In 2021, a co-created strategy with the New Note Orchestra musicians identified a need to create an 'intervention' team who would engage people in the early stages of recovery or still in active addiction. The Key Changers Programme addresses this need by training up and supporting musicians with lived experience of addiction and other adverse life challenges as community music leaders. During the period of this report, three New Note Orchestra musicians were supported and trained as community music leaders. They facilitated a series of workshops in rehab centres and homeless hostels, engaging a wide variety of vulnerable people and offering conversations around recovery from addiction. We continued to pilot the programme by creating a network of other music organisations in Brighton, where we shared resources and learning methods around music facilitation. The network continues to support our Key Changers' development.

The Key Changers deliver music workshops in partnership with homeless hostels and rehab centres. During this period we entered into a partnership with Crawley Open House who support people affected by homelessness. Malcolm Nicholas, Service Manager at Crawley Open House says, "New Note facilitates music workshops for our clients, and it enables clients that may not be so confident in other forms of expression such as talking or writing to form positive social connections centred around a common love for music. The beauty about the music workshops is that you do not have to be proficient in your ability to make music but by the end of the session clients end up jamming together."

The benefits for music workshop participants include:

- A therapeutic and creative outlet which helps them cope with challenges
- Social connections where they bond through a shared love of music, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- Improved self-confidence through participation and engagement.
- Increased positive mental and emotional well-being.
- Opportunities to learn both musical and social skills.
- The groups are open to anyone and can be accessed by clients who do not have musical skills.

We have plans to expand this programme due to its success.

6. Operations summary - New Note Dance

What	How many
Workshop sessions	40
People attending the workshops	33
Overall attendances	396
Retention rate	N/A - this is the first year for New Note Dance.
Performances	1

New Note Dance was launched in March 2023. This weekly movement workshop in central Brighton engages women overcoming addiction, mental health adversity, trauma and poverty. Workshops are led by local recovery champion Lauren Dowse, who founded the group in 2023 after accessing music-making sessions with New Note Orchestra.

Lauren wanted to use her expertise in recovery and the Tamalpa Process to create a unique space for women in recovery to enjoy mindful, creative movement as a unique group experience and New Note wanted to support her in her creative practice of becoming a full time dance facilitator.

In Brighton & Hove, women can expect to live 25% of their life in poor health (significantly worse than the average for England). Over one in five local adults aged 20+ have two or more long-term health conditions and 8% have at least one physical/mental condition, strongly correlated with deprivation (Brighton & Hove Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-30).

Since its launch in 2023, New Note Dance has successfully engaged women with known barriers to physical activity - and particularly long-term mental health conditions including depression and substance use disorder. More than half of women engaged in the past year also had additional barriers (notably low incomes, unpaid caring roles, and physical health conditions/disabilities). Around two-thirds of women were aged 55 or over, and two members of the group (including the facilitator) have lived experience of homelessness.

Overall, the women New Note Dance engages are diverse - but all vulnerable in at least one aspect of their lives. In developing New Note Dance, facilitator Lauren has consistently (though not always intentionally) applied best practice approaches for successfully engaging underserved groups. For example, as a local recovery champion, she has engaged community peers as participants/volunteers and promoters of New Note Dance at local recovery meetings/events.

Lauren has also used distinctive facilitation techniques (emphasising a whole-group experience where everyone feels valued) alongside thoughtful branding emphasising creativity (over potentially off-putting sports/fitness themes). This has helped the group achieve steady growth in reach/attendance and excellent feedback from participants.

Independent evaluation of our pilot work in late 2023 found that whilst none of the participants surveyed had specifically signed up to improve their physical wellbeing, 75% reported this was a major benefit. Similar (unintentional) outcomes included increased physical activity (88% of participants), improved mental wellbeing (71%), increased connection to the community (100%) and healthier lifestyle choices (90%).

7. Review of financial position

The New Note Projects accounts are independently examined by registered accountant Chris Tyler FCA, DChA, FCIE.

New Note Project accounts for 1st April 2023-31st March 2024.

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
INCOME				
<u>GRANTS</u>				
LOTTERY	9,970	-	9,970	9,930
ARTS COUNCIL	51,601	-	51,601	37,800
CHALK CLIFF TRUST	-	-	-	4,500
POSTCODE LOTTERY	13,355	-	13,355	8,011
ERNEST KLEINWORT	-	-	-	3,000
CALYPSO BROWNING TRUST	-	-	-	1,000
GARFIELD WESTON	-	-	-	10,000
SPORT ENGLAND	-	-	-	9,950
CREATE RECOVERY	1,330	1,330	-	-
SUSSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	-	-	-	8,049
FOYLE FOUNDATION	-	-	-	-
LEIGH TRUST	2,500	-	2,500	2,500
MARTIN GEDDES TRUST	4,000	-	4,000	-
CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL	1,000	-	1,000	-
SUTTON PLACE FOUNDATION	2,500	-	2,500	-
FALLEN ANGELS - TRAVEL COSTS	1,292	1,292	-	-
<u>DONATIONS</u>				
DONATIONS	8,882	8,882	-	2,254
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>				
TICKETS	4,257	4,257	-	4,472
FEE	350	350	-	-
REFUNDS	26	26	-	542
	101,063	16,137	84,926	102,008

EXPENDITURE

STAFF COSTS	64,855	1,244	63,611	58,836
OPERATING COSTS	29,762	14,251	15,511	17,952
INVESTMENTS	6,183	4,027	2,156	6,699
	100,800	19,522	81,278	83,487
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	263	-3,385	3,648	18,521
TRANSFERS	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES B/FWD	41,056	23,057	17,999	22,535
FUND BALANCES C/FWD	41,319	19,672	21,647	41,056
BANK BALANCES	41,319	19,672	21,647	41,056

RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE

LOTTERY GROUP - STRUMMERS	9,970
SUTTON PLACE FOUNDATION	2,500
POSTCODE LOTTERY	6,677
LEIGH TRUST	2,500
	21,647

Reserves policy:

Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds to source the core operating capacity of the charity for four months. This means the charity can meet ongoing liabilities, sufficient to ensure that all delivery commitments can be met and to protect the long-term future of the operations. Our unrestricted reserves on 31 March 2024 were £19,672

Assets:

The charity has assets in the form of musical instruments. Our total assets on 31 March 2024 were £15,000

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF NEW NOTE PROJECTS**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of New Note Projects for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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



C R Tyler FCA DChA FCIE
F1 CRT Limited
Chartered Accountant
Flat 24, Wellingtonia Court
Laine Close
Brighton
BN1 6TD
Date: 13th December 2024

NEW NOTE PROJECTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161284

Accounts



(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number 1161284

Trustee Report and Financial Statements
Year ending 31 March 2023

New Note Projects
P.O. Box 5420
Brighton
BN50 8HS

Signed by: Date:
On behalf of the Board of Trustees

The Trustees of New Note Projects present their Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. This report is prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommendation Practice (SORP) document FRS102-2019a, and includes the statutory director's report required by UK company law.

1. Governance and Structure:

New Note Projects (NNP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our constitution is a 'Foundation' model who's only voting members are its charity trustees.

New Note Projects was constituted on 14 April 2015 when the Charity Commission produced a unique charitable number: 1161284

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering the activities to be undertaken. These are detailed in this report.

New Note Projects was overseen by five trustees during the period 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023:

Chairperson:	Bridget Taylor ¹
Interim Chairperson:	Helen Marsden
Trustee:	Dan Blomfield
Trustee:	Sarah Erskine
Trustee:	David Martin ²

¹Bridget Taylor stepped down as Chair of the Board of Trustees on 9th November 2022.

²David Martin joined the Board of Trustees on 13th March 2023, and remained on probation as of the 31st March 2023.

The day-to-day operations were overseen by Founder and Chief Executive Molly Mathieson.

2: New Note Projects aims and objectives.

NNP was founded in 2015 by Molly Mathieson as she wanted to find an alternative way to address the overwhelming drug and alcohol issues within Brighton and Hove. The charities main aim and objective is to support people affected by addiction through music and storytelling. Many of the people accessing the charity's services have also experienced supplementary issues which include rough sleeping, poor mental health, social isolation, deprivation and prison.

By engaging with New Note, the participants strengthen their recoveries from addiction by attending regular groups, forming new friendships, and developing new skills.

Drug Misuse Deaths in Brighton and Hove

- The Council estimates the cost of substance misuse across the city at £107 million.
- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reports that there were 30 "drug-related" deaths in Brighton and Hove in 2022.

- The ONS figures also show that drug misuse deaths in Brighton and Hove have been consistently higher than the national average in recent years. The number of drug misuse deaths in the city remains "stubbornly high" compared to the 19 fatalities recorded five years ago.
- These deaths are recorded as being a result of poisoning by various illegal and legal drugs, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

Premature Deaths from Alcohol

- Office for Health and Improvement Disparities figures show premature deaths from alcohol-related conditions led to a potential 2,587 years of life being lost in Brighton and Hove in 2020 – up from 2,083 in 2019.

Drug and alcohol related deaths in Brighton and Hove remain a serious problem. There has been a chronic lack of funding for drug and alcohol treatment within the city and the local residential alcohol rehab ward was closed in 2015; the nearest one is in Essex, which is 90 miles away. There is urgent need for early interventions, to offer beneficial diversionary activities to give people the best chance of a successful recovery.

New Note Projects runs four music-based initiatives to support people affected by addiction. These are:

- New Note Orchestra (*See section 3*)
- New Note Strummers (*See section 4*)
- New Note Key Changers (*See section 5*)
- New Note Dance (*See section 6*)

This report describes the activities of each of these initiatives over the course of the year, and provides a review of the charity's financial position (see section 7) as of the 31st March 2023.

PUTTING OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES INTO PRACTICE

3. Operations summary: New Note Orchestra

New Note Orchestra was launched in 2015 as the first of its kind in the world. Its aims are:

- To help people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction to stay sober by meeting regularly to compose and play music
- To reduce the stigma around alcoholism and addiction in our communities by putting on public performances.
- To produce new and original music of high artistic value

During the period of this report there were:

- 48 sessions
- 22 people
- 494 attendances

Significant achievements during the period of this report

- In May 2022 Brighton Mayor Lizzie Deane Chose New Note Orchestra be one of her mayoral charities
- During the period of this report New Note Orchestra performed in eight concerts across the South East.
- In November 2022 New Note Orchestra was nominated for a Kings Voluntary Award. We are awaiting a decision which will be announced in November 2023.

Working with vulnerable people, to compose and to perform music, has been at the heart of NNO since it was launched in 2015. All our usual working practices were adapted during the pandemic. During the period of this report, we saw the return of regular in person rehearsals, new compositions, and public performances.

In April 2022, New Note Orchestra held a music session with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as part of UEFA Women's EURO 2022 Cultural Programme. The programme included a series of panels discussing music and sport, a new official anthem created with contributions from the public, and several local anthems created in collaboration with schools and community groups. The orchestra was delighted to contribute. "The experience with the Royal Philharmonic was all-inclusive and gave everyone, including even the timid and bashful, an opportunity to join in," said handbell player Dawn. Euro 2022 took place between 6–31 July in England, with cities around the country hosting the matches.

Alongside this the orchestra musicians worked with Creative Producer Molly Mathieson and composer/conductor Conall Gleeson to create 'Green Recovery' an hour long show which included newly composed music and poetry. The idea for Green Recovery came from the orchestra musicians who wanted to explore how the pillars of recovery from addiction might be used to reframe and inform the debate around the climate crisis.

- New Note Orchestra's first performance was a live stream in conjunction with 'The Thursday Night Show', a recovery-based radio station. The show was transmitted to Facebook and reached nearly 5,000 people from around the world.
- Their second and third performances were sold out shows with the Jam Tarts Choir and the Wham Jam Choir, respectively. Both shows were at The Old Market, a theatre based in Brighton and were mainly attended by members of the public, friends and family, and the wider recovery communities.
- New Note Orchestra then joined other arts recovery organisations from around the country at the University of West London for the Addiction Recovery Art Network conference. They met, showcased their skills, and discussed ideas with Fallen Angels Dance Theatre, a dance company that supports people in recovery. New Note Orchestra and Fallen Angels Dance Theatre created a 10-minute collaboration that was performed at the conference. This collaboration has kicked off a much larger project called Traces Through Time and will be co-created and performed during summer/autumn 2023. Shows are planned in Brighton, Chester, and the Royal Opera House.

- Their fifth and sixth performances were in Crawley, where there was a low audience turnout. Crawley has a large substance misuse problem, and this is reflected in the number of ‘Cocaine Anonymous’ meetings there are in the area. Through conversations with Crawley Town Centre BID, Crawley Council and Creative Crawley, we have now concluded that it’s a very difficult place to build an audience due to the fact that there are limited music venues within the town. Unfortunately we hadn’t done enough work on the ground to encourage people who go to Alcoholic or Cocaine Anonymous meetings to attend the concerts.
- New Note Orchestra’s seventh performance was a collaboration with Not Saints, a newly formed record label in Brighton that supports artists in recovery. This was the first time New Note Orchestra had done a joint show, and it was a great opportunity to share resources and come together for the recovery community. After the performance, two new members joined the orchestra.
- New Note Orchestra’s eighth performance was part of a showcase event for this year’s mayoral charities. NNO and Molly Mathieson were asked to organize this event on behalf of the Brighton and Hove mayor. It was a great success, and it helped to raise awareness of the work that the orchestra is doing to support people in recovery.

4: Operations summary - New Note Strummers

In January 2017, the New Note Strummers group was launched. A weekly guitar group for people who are in recovery from addiction, this group attracts clients who are particularly vulnerable - including those in the early stages of recovery – and have experience of street homelessness and/or significant mental health issues. Many of the members have been socially excluded for long periods of time, including whilst in prison. With a National Lottery grant, Founder Molly Mathieson trialled a successful pilot from January-April 2017 and Strummers became a regular weekly group for people in recovery from addiction. The National Lottery has continued to financially support the group.

During the period of this report, Strummers began meeting regularly in the community. Membership had fallen significantly during the Covid pandemic and relationships with drug, alcohol and homeless services within the city needed to be re-established in order for new members to be referred to Strummers. Over this period, membership numbers steadily increase, however, people accessing this service had lots of very complex needs.

During the period of this report there were:

48 sessions

24 people

346 attendances

5: Operations summary - New Note Key Changers

In August 2021, Founder Molly Mathieson and Ex-Chair of Trustees Bridget Taylor invited the participants of New Note Orchestra to design a three-year strategy. This was an important step to co-designing a strategy with service users at the heart. One element of the strategy was to develop an outreach arm. Molly Mathieson then devised a new programme called New Note Key Changers which would train and support some of the musicians to become community music leaders.

In June 2022 we launched the pilot of New Note Key Changers where some of the New Note Orchestra musicians' developed skills around facilitation, rhythm, musical structure and presentation. They were trained by Graham Dowdell, a world leading expert in community music based at Goldsmiths University.

- Eight of our musicians completed five days of training. Three of the musicians then went onto do a placement within a partner organisation.
- We developed partnerships with three organisations who support people affected by homelessness: Crawley Open House, Brighton YMCA and Brighton Emmaus
- In feedback we found that 90% of attendees of the Key Changers workshops said they would take up creative activities in future.

Malcolm Nicholas, Service Manager at Crawley Open House states "...it was one of our more well-attended workshops. The people who participated wouldn't necessarily go to other workshops but they did really engage with these. There were one or two individuals who hadn't previously engaged with any form of workshops or groups at all".

Matt Francis who has been with the New Note Orchestra for five years says "Coming from such a dark history and stepping into the light and developing these skills and seeing a potential future for me on the horizon is all very novel for me...So to see some form of future, even if it's still very nebulous, is lifechanging"

During the period of this report there were:

- 22 sessions
- 23 people
- 111 attendances

6: Operations summary - New Note Dance

In the last few weeks of the reporting period, New Note launched a brand new project called New Note Dance. This weekly dance class was designed for people who have experienced addiction, homelessness, challenging mental health and trauma. Creating spaces that are specifically designed for people who have experienced challenging circumstances helps them to engage in activities that are positive for their physical and mental wellbeing.

New Note Dance Facilitator, Lauren Dowse, joined New Note Orchestra in 2019 and was a regular member and attended various performances. She has worked in the field of dance/performance for over 30 years and is well respected across the health and well-being sector, having taught many creative movement classes and workshops for vulnerable adults. In 2016, Lauren created The Life Art Course, a movement based expressive arts project to support people in abstinence-based recovery from all forms of addiction.

The ambitions of New Note Dance are to:

- Help support people in their recoveries from addiction through dance
- Improve cardiovascular health
- Develop better coordination, strength & balance
- Improve social & emotional health

- Reduce depression and social anxiety
- Develop healthier lifestyles by fostering a better relationship with the body
- Help support people in their recoveries from addiction through dance

New Note Dance is being co-funded by Create Recovery.

During the period of this report there were:

- 3 sessions
- 14 people
- 29 attendances

A more cohesive update of New Note Dance will appear in next year's Trustee's Report.

7. Review of financial position

The New Note Projects accounts are independently examined by registered accountant Chris Tyler FCA, DChA, FCIE.

New Note Project accounts for 1st April 2022-31st March 2023.

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
INCOME				
<u>GRANTS</u>				
LOTTERY	9,930	-	9,930	9,860
ARTS COUNCIL	37,800	-	37,800	14,850
CHALK CLIFF TRUST	4,500	-	4,500	-
POST CODE LOTTERY	8,011	-	8,011	-
ERNEST KLEINWORT	3,000	-	3,000	-
CALYPSO BROWNING				
TRUST	1,000	1,000	-	
GARFIELD WESTON	10,000	-	10,000	-
SPORT ENGLAND	9,950	-	9,950	-
CRI-SEREN	-	-	-	3,000
SUSSEX COMMUNITY				
FOUNDATION	8,049	-	8,049	4,040
FOYLE FOUNDATION	-	-	-	5,000
LEIGH TRUST	2,500	-	2,500	2,500
CLOTHWORKERS TRUST	-	-	-	7,900
DONATIONS	2,254	2,254	-	315
TICKETS	4,472	4,472	-	349
CD STRUMMER	-	-	-	217
REFUNDS	542	542	-	153
	102,008	8,268	93,740	£48,184

EXPENDITURE

STAFF COSTS	58,836	-	58,836	69,381
OPERATING COSTS	17,952	-	17,952	9,194
INVESTMENTS	6,699	-	6,699	4,317

	83,487	-	83,487	82,892
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NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	18,521	8,268	10,253	-34,708
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TRANSFERS	-	154	-154	-
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FUND BALANCES B/FWD	22,535	14,635	7,900	57,243
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FUND BALANCES C/FWD	41,056	23,057	17,999	22,535
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BANK BALANCES	41,056	23,057	17,999	22,535
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**RESTRICTED FUND
BALANCE**

SUSSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION			8,049	
SPORT ENGLAND			9,950	

17,999

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £83,485

- **Staffing Costs: £58,835**
- **Operating Costs: £17,951**
- **Investments: £6,699**

*Staffing costs include:
Chief Exec/Creative Producer
Music Director
Guitar Tutor
Sound Technicians
Directors
Producers
Freelance Musicians
Freelancers for comms and marketing.*

Investments break down into the following:

Musical equipment:

Computer support

Key Changers expenses

Reserves policy:

Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds to source the core operating capacity of the charity for four months. This means the charity can meet ongoing liabilities, sufficient to ensure that all delivery commitments can be met and to protect the long-term future of the operations. Our unrestricted reserves on 31 March 2022 were £23,057 and restricted reserves £17,999 making a total of £41,056

Assets:

The charity has assets in the form of musical instruments. Our total assets on 31 March 2023 were £18,000

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF NEW NOTE PROJECTS

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of New Note Projects for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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

C R Tyler FCA DChA FCIE
F1 CRT Limited
Chartered Accountant
Flat 24, Wellingtonia Court
Laine Close
Brighton
BN1 6TD
Date:

NEW NOTE PROJECTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161284

Accounts



(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number 1161284

Trustee Report and Financial Statements
Year ending 31 March 2022

New Note Projects
P.O. Box 5420
Brighton
BN50 8HS

The Trustees of New Note Projects present their Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

1. Governance and Structure:

New Note Projects (NNP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our constitution is a 'Foundation' model whose only voting members are its charity trustees.

New Note Projects was constituted on 14 April 2015 when the Charity Commission produced a unique charitable number: 1161284

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering the activities to be undertaken. These are detailed in this report.

New Note Projects was overseen by six trustees during the period 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022:

Chairperson – Bridget Taylor

Trustee - Dan Blomfield

Trustee – Marcus O'Dair

Trustee – Helen Marsden

Trustee – Becky Thomas

Trustee – Sarah Erskine

The day-to-day operations were overseen by Founder and Chief Executive Molly Mathieson.

2: New Note Projects aims and objectives.

NNP was founded in 2015 by Molly Mathieson and uses music and storytelling to help people strengthen their recoveries from addiction. She was motivated to combat drug and alcohol-related problems within Brighton and Hove in a unique and creative way.

Over the past two years, Brighton's drug and alcohol issues have deteriorated even further with drug misuse among the highest in the country. The Brighton City Coroner found that the deaths of 39 people were related to drugs or alcohol in 2020, a rise of over 30% on the previous year. The Council estimates the cost of substance misuse across the city at £107 million. There are over five times as many Alcoholic Anonymous meetings in the area compared to the rest of the country, yet local support facilities are disappearing. In 2020, at the start of the national lockdown, the Council's budget for substance misuse was cut by £340,000.

The local residential alcohol rehab ward was closed in 2015; the nearest one is in Essex, which is 90 miles away. There is urgent need for early interventions, to offer beneficial diversionary activities to give people the best chance of a successful recovery – or not turn to substance misuse in the first place.

New Note Projects has two music-based initiatives.

- New Note Orchestra (*See section 3*)
- New Note Strummers (*See section 4*)

Both programmes reach people who have experienced addiction issues. Many of the people accessing our services have also experienced rough sleeping, poor mental health, social isolation, deprivation and prison.

PUTTING OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES INTO PRACTICE

3. Operations summary: New Note Orchestra

New Note Orchestra was launched in 2015 as the first of its kind in the world. Its aims are:

- To produce new and original music of high artistic value
- To help people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction to stay sober by meeting regularly to compose and play music
- To reduce the stigma around alcoholism and addiction in our communities by putting on public performances.

Co-creation has been at the heart of NNO since it was launched in 2015. It is the foundation on which we have written and performed every composition to date. Our methodologies have been recognised by government after being cited as an exemplary recovery model by the Centre for Social Justice (*Road to Recovery. Addiction in our Society - the Case for Reform.* 2019)

During the period of this report, we began to emerge from the national lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In April 2021, we began meeting back within the community with Covid-19 restrictions in place. The restrictions stipulated that we were allowed to meet and work together because we were supporting people affected by drug and alcohol addiction and were categorized as a support group, as long as we didn't exceed 15 people in the room. This had some challenges as we were unable to have an open-door policy and we couldn't actively recruit new people. Our retention rate has increased very slightly. In 2020/21, it was 53% and during this period (2021/22), it was 56%.

Kind Rebellion Live Stream

On July 4th, we live streamed New Note Orchestra (NNO) from the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts. The musicians performed their show 'Kind Rebellion' and it was interspersed by short, filmed interviews of them talking about how kindness underpins their recoveries from addiction.



The performance was followed by a live panel discussion. The guests included Robin Banerjee, Professor of Developmental Psychology at the University of Sussex; Bernadette Russell, a kindness writer and campaigner; Molly Mathieson; Founder and Executive Producer of NNO; Conall Gleeson, NNO's Music Director; and orchestra musicians Warner, Lauren and Roger.

Both the performance and panel discussion were a huge success. The quality of the show was underpinned by a team of specialists in TV, sound and lighting design. We made a commitment to hiring local people, including Annie Murray, a camera person in recovery. She used to be a member of the orchestra and, since leaving, has flourished with her own film and editing business.

In order to elevate Kind Rebellion for a live streamed audience, we took the step of hiring in a string quartet. These were professional players who were known to the Music Director Conall Gleeson.

Before launching New Note Projects, Molly Mathieson had spent over 15 years as a TV producer. She oversaw the TV/filming aspects of the production, working alongside live studio director Phil Woodhead.



This project felt very innovative and that we were pushing the technology as far as it could go. It was the first time we had run a social media campaign to encourage a wider and more geographically diverse audience. More than 2000 people clicked through from Facebook to the ticket page and 117 of these converted into sales. Since it has been online, the performance has received over 1500 views.



International Overdose Awareness Day 2021

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on 31 August each year to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related death. It acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends, remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of overdose.

The rate of drug poisonings continues to increase. According to the Office for National Statistics, 4,561 deaths related to drug poisoning were registered in England and Wales in 2020; the highest number since records began in 1993, and 3.8% higher than in 2019 (4,393 registered deaths).



In 2021, New Note Orchestra was invited to be part of a national project led by Small Performance Adventures who created a film with a collective of eleven recovery organisations. New Note Orchestra created the soundtrack for the project. Fallen Angels Dance Theatre, the UK's only recovery-led dance company, created the choreography which was shared and taught over a series of creative Zoom meetings with participants from all of the arts and recovery organisations. The subsequent film featured members of the New Note Orchestra in Brighton and 100 participants took part across seven other cities. The film has been viewed over 35,000 times online.

No Olho da Rua

No Olho da Rua (In the Eye of the Street) is a long-term collaboration between young Brazilians living on the streets of Belo Horizonte and artists Julian Germain, Patricia Azevedo and Murilo Godoy. A vast archive of thousands of photographs produced over seventeen years charts the participants' lives over a period of unprecedented economic expansion in Brazil. The project demonstrates how photography has been used to intervene in the urban landscape and serves as a powerfully expressive platform for the socially and economically excluded. Photographer Julian Germain presented some of the photos for an event at Fabrica Gallery in September 2021. He invited two New Note Orchestra musicians to play music to accompany the photos and asked them to join a panel discussion about how the arts can play an important role in bringing marginalised voices into the mainstream.



Left to right: Annebella Pollen of Brighton University, Malcolm Lall (musician), Julian Germain (artist) and Roger Brophy (musician) in a Q&A at Fabrica's launch of the latest No Olho da Rua zine

4: Operations summary - New Note Strummers

In January 2017, the New Note Strummers group was launched. A weekly guitar group for people who are in recovery from addiction, this group attracts clients who are particularly vulnerable - including those in the early stages of recovery – and have experience of street homelessness and/or significant mental health issues. Many of the members have been socially excluded for long periods of time, including whilst in prison. With a National Lottery grant, Founder Molly Mathieson trialled a successful pilot from January-April 2017 and Strummers became a regular weekly group for people in recovery from addiction. The National Lottery has continued to financially support the group.

During 2021, the New Note Strummers recorded their first album. This came about due to the lack of performing opportunities during the final year of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a very successful project as it allowed each of our musicians to really concentrate on their individual musical skills as well as to come together and play as a group. Some developed their vocal skills and others percussion. They recorded 11 songs and released them online. We created a CD and dedicated it to Darrell Bath who sadly passed away in September 2021. Darrell made a huge contribution to the recording of the CD; he sings on two of the tracks and plays lead guitar.

5: New developments.

New Note Projects' Three-Year Strategy.

In August 2021, the Chief Executive Molly Mathieson and Chair of Trustees Bridget Taylor invited the participants of New Note Orchestra to design a three-year strategy. This was an important step to co-designing a strategy with service users at the heart.

There were four themes that came out of the three-year strategy meeting.

1) Expanding New Note into an internationally recognised exemplary recovery model by:

- Employing a new member of staff to help with strategy and marketing - whose role would be to raise New Note's profile.
- Doing more media appearances.
- Developing and promoting our assets such as Kind Rebellion by putting on events alongside Orchestra performances. For example, trailing Kind Rebellion on World Kindness Day; making Kind Rebellion into a podcast.
- Taking part in national and international conferences to reach a wider audience
- Performing at large venues with diverse audiences.
- Creating merchandise: bags, mugs, keyrings etc.
- Becoming an exemplary model that others emulate. Helping and supporting other organisations to use our practices.
- Creating a New Note sample pack or tool kit.

2) Increasing outreach by:

- Developing an outreach strategy.
- Challenging stigma around addiction by supporting and encouraging the orchestra musicians to do the outreach.

- Adapting the orchestra so we can play outside and be nimbler which would lead to performance opportunities. This could mean investing in new equipment that is easier to set up.

3) Growing the recovery community. Working more in partnership with other recovery organisations by:

- Developing a recovery arts consultancy.
- Creating a national recovery arts community.
- Creating opportunities to collaborate with others in the recovery field.
- Finding space locally where we could co-collaborate with others.
- Launching a UK National Recovery Festival.

4) Composition and music development

- Creating opportunities for co-design and co-creation outside of the Tuesday evening rehearsals.

During the consultation process, we asked our participants what New Note's biggest achievements had been. They responded with the following:

- We defy expectations around people who have addiction issues. We challenge the expectations of people in recovery and what they can achieve and look like.
- We are very creative - our music and performances are of very high quality.
- We look fantastic on stage!
- We help to destigmatise addiction and recovery.
- We develop musical skills.
- We instil discipline and structure. We give a routine.
- Taking part is often an achievement.
- Recording the music feels like a big achievement.

After this consultation, we co-designed a training programme called the New Note Key Changers. This new programme will provide training and support for some of our participants to become Community Music Facilitators. The New Note Key Changers will be piloted during 2022.

6. Review of financial position

The New Note Projects accounts are independently examined by registered accountant Chris Tyler FCA, DChA, FCIE.

Total income: £48,184

Expenditure: £82,892

Staffing costs: £69,381

Operating Costs: £9,194

Investments £4,317

Staffing costs include:

Chief Exec/Project Manager, Music Director, Guitar Tutor, Sound Technicians, Directors, Producers, Freelance Musicians, Freelancers for comms and marketing.

Investments break down into the following:

Musical equipment: £3,672.39

Computer support £440.39

Key Changers expenses £205

Reserves policy:

Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds to source the core operating capacity of the charity for four months. This means the charity can meet ongoing liabilities, sufficient to ensure that all delivery commitments can be met and to protect the long-term future of the operations. Our unrestricted reserves on 31 March 2022 were £14,635 and restricted reserves £7,900 making a total of £22,535.

Assets:

The charity has assets in the form of musical instruments. Our total assets on 31 March 2022 were £15,200.

NEW NOTE PROJECTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2022 TOTAL	2022 UNRESTRICTED	2022 RESTRICTED	2021 TOTAL
INCOME				
LOTTERY	9,860	-	9,860	9,750
ARTS COUNCIL	14,850	-	14,850	39,423
HENRY SMITH	-	-	-	10,000
BHCC	-	-	-	4,500
SSE	-	-	-	2,000
RAYNE FOUNDATION	-	-	-	8,000
MARTIN GEDDES	-	-	-	1,000
BARING FOUNDATION	-	-	-	12,000
MIND	-	-	-	11,060
CRI-SEREN	3,000	-	3,000	-
REFUND	58	58	-	-
SUSSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	4,040	-	4,040	-
REFUND	95	95	-	-
FOYLE FOUNDATION	5,000	-	5,000	-
TICKETS FROM LIVE STREAM	349	349	-	-
CD STRUMMER	217	217	-	-
DONATIONS	315	315	-	127
LEIGH TRUST	2,500	-	2,500	2,500
CLOTHWORKERS TRUST	7,900	-	7,900	-
	48,184	1,034	47,150	100,360

EXPENDITURE

STAFF COSTS	69,381		3,725	65,656	48,847
OPERATING COSTS	9,194		5,626	3,568	7,400
INVESTMENTS	4,317	-		4,317	14,093
	82,892		9,351	73,541	70,340
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	34,708	-	8,317	26,391	30,020
FUND BALANCES B/FWD	57,243		22,952	34,291	27,223
FUND BALANCES C/FWD	22,535		14,635	7,900	57,243
BANK BALANCES	22,535		14,635	7,900	57,243
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE					
CLOTHWORKERS TRUST				7,900	

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF NEW NOTE PROJECTS**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of New Note Projects for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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

C R Tyler FCA DChA FCIE
F1 CRT Limited
Chartered Accountant
Flat 24, Wellingtonia Court
Laine Close
Brighton
BN1 6TD
Date:

NEW NOTE PROJECTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1161284

Accounts



(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number 1161284

Trustee Report and Financial Statements
Year ending 31 March 2021

New Note Projects
P.O. Box 5420
Brighton
BN50 8HS

The Trustees of New Note Projects present their Annual Report for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

1. Governance and Structure:

New Note Projects (NNP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our constitution is a 'Foundation' model whose only voting members are its charity trustees.

New Note Projects was constituted on 14 April 2015 when the Charity Commission produced a unique charitable number: 1161284

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering the activities to be undertaken. These are detailed in this report.

New Note Projects was overseen by six trustees during the period 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2021

Chairperson – Bridget Taylor

Trustee - Dan Blomfield

Trustee – Marcus O'Dair

Trustee – Helen Marsden

Trustee – Becky Thomas

Trustee – Sarah Erskine

The day-to-day operations were overseen by Founder and Chief Executive Molly Mathieson.

2: New Note Projects aims and objectives.

NNP uses music to help people strengthen their recoveries from addiction. It was set up to combat drug and alcohol-related problems within Brighton and Hove in a unique and creative way. Brighton and Hove ranks the fourth highest of 152 local authorities for the proportion of adults who are drinking at increasing or higher risk levels. (*Brighton and Hove City Council 2019*)

Since 2010, there have been savage cuts to drug and alcohol services. Dame Carol Black's 'Review of Drugs' commissioned by Sajid Javid (then Home Secretary) and published in September 2020 paints a bleak picture of addiction services in the UK. The report claims "we have the highest number of rough sleepers dying on our streets from drug poisoning since records began.... Treatment services have been curtailed by local government funding cuts. Spending on treatment has reduced significantly because Local Government budgets have been squeezed and central Government funding and oversight has fallen away. There is significant local variation, with some Local Authorities having reduced treatment expenditure by 40%. A prolonged shortage of funding has resulted in a loss of skills, expertise and capacity from this sector."

Across the country, vulnerable people with addiction issues are being increasingly marginalised. Since the pandemic started in March 2020, there has been a steady rise in the number of people trying to access statutory services for drugs and alcohol addiction. In August 2020, the Office for National Statistics stated that alcohol-specific deaths were up 20% on the previous year and the highest annual death toll since records began in 2001.

New Note Projects has two music-based initiatives.

- New Note Orchestra (*See section 3*)
- New Note Strummers (*See section 4*)

Both programmes reach people who have experienced addiction issues. Many of the people accessing our services have also experienced rough sleeping, poor mental health social isolation, deprivation and prison.

PUTTING OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES INTO PRACTICE

3. Operations summary: New Note Orchestra

During the period of this report, we experienced three local and national COVID-19 lockdowns. For the majority of this period, we delivered our operations online. At the beginning of the pandemic, it became clear that many of the people we were supporting were experiencing a digital divide. Some didn't have broadband and were accessing the online world through an old handset. We managed to find engineers who were willing to enter people's homes to set up broadband and install telephone lines. Alongside this, we secured funds to equip our participants with new computers and technical support alongside our usual commitment to making music.

We are well aware that isolation kills vulnerable people. Many of our participants have spent long periods of their lives socially isolated. Some are at risk of suicide and have made multiple attempts in the past. Loneliness is as bad for health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and is likely to increase your risk of death by 29% (Holt-Lunstad, 2010, 2015). We knew that our work was critical at this time, as well as making sure that we stayed connected and engaged with our participants.

New Note Orchestra was launched in 2015 as the first of its kind in the world. Its aims are:

- To produce new and original music of high artistic value
- To help people in recovery from drugs and alcohol addiction to stay sober by meeting regularly to compose and play music
- To reduce the stigma around alcoholism and addiction in our communities by putting on public performances.

On March 17 2020, the board and senior management decided to stop holding community-based sessions as the UK headed into its first lockdown. Founder Molly Mathieson, Music Director Conall Gleeson and five orchestra members began testing various platforms to try

and migrate music-making online. It was impossible to achieve due to internet latency issues.



Warner, a musician in the New Note Orchestra, using his iPad to make music.

This meant that it was not feasible to play in time as an ensemble. Molly Mathieson applied to Brighton and Hove City Council and the Arts Council to invest in New Note in order to equip all the musicians with broadband, hardware and bespoke training. Founder Molly Mathieson decided to invest in GarageBand, an app which effectively gives you your own music creation studio with a complete sound library of instruments. Together with bespoke training from Drake Music and Chiltern Music Therapy, Molly Mathieson and Music Director Conall Gleeson upskilled the musicians in digital music-making.

The board took the difficult decision to not actively recruit new participants, instead New Note would support those who were accessing their services at the start of the national lockdown. This

meant that numbers were very static for this period.

We developed a new online meditation class, run by a mindfulness teacher every week. This was open to both the New Note Orchestra musicians and the Strummers. This was really effective during the first lockdown, as it gave people a safe space to reduce anxiety, stress and increase well-being.

- The 'average' number of people attending an NNO session over this period was 10
- NNO's retention rate for this period was 53% (**Retention rate:** *Percentage of people who attended in the previous year that are still attending in the current year*).
- NNO opened and closed the American-based Creative High Inspiration Series - an international online conference to honour the stories of artists who have faced addiction and demonstrate how the creative arts are a pathway for transformation.
- NNO, alongside Music Director Conall Gleeson, recorded a studio album 'Kind Rebellion' which is yet to be released.
- NNO collaborated with film maker Angus Cameron to produce two music videos: The Tree and The Wood. Both were released on YouTube and Facebook.
- These New Note Orchestra videos have received over 1000 views
- NNO created a brand new composition for Brighton Museum, to accompany an online exhibition of some of its best-loved artworks.
- During this period, New Note developed the musicians' digital skills.



New Note Orchestra came together to produce a unique recording for the Brighton Museum in July 2020, when restrictions on the national lockdown were lifted.

Case study:

Tricia has been in recovery for about four years and usually plays handbells and the djembe with New Note. She's the first to admit that she wasn't that comfortable using a computer before lockdown started but now she's in a different place altogether. "I wasn't very computer-oriented, I used to send emails and attachments on my phone, now I can do them on my computer and iPad so being with the orchestra has made me feel more confident about using the internet in general, and especially making music," she says.

"I made up a song using rock guitar and drums and keyboards," says Tricia. "It's really helped my mental health. I felt less isolated (during the pandemic) and more connected with people. I saw all my friends at New Note twice a week and it has given me a new sense of purpose as well. Music in general helps reduce the stigma about being in recovery."

Impact

New Note Orchestra participants were asked to complete a survey in February 2021 to discover the impact that the GarageBand training and online sessions had on enabling digital music production and upskilling them in general digital literacy (using the UK government's [Essential Digital Skills](#) framework), and maintaining mental wellbeing.

- 83% said learning digital skills through New Note supported their mental health, helped to reduce loneliness and helped them to stay connected to friends, peers, and the recovery community during lockdown.
- 92% said that the digital training received gave them something positive to focus on during lockdown.

- 100% said that the GarageBand training that New Note provided helped to improve digital music production skills.
- 67% said that New Note helped to improve basic computer skills.
- 50% said that the training helped them to improve online transacting skills (online banking, filling out forms online, downloading content, signing up to services such as Amazon, Netflix etc.)
- 67% said the training helped to improve their ability to handle information and content (find, manage, and store digital information and files, creating new folders).
- 58% said the training helped to improve awareness of online security (e.g. knowing how to manage passwords, keeping personal information secure, keeping device systems up to date).

4: Operations summary - New Note Strummers

In January 2017, the New Note Strummers group was launched. New Note Strummers is a weekly guitar group for people who are in recovery from addiction. This group attracts clients who are particularly vulnerable, including those in the early stages of recovery, have experience of street homelessness and those who have significant mental health issues. Many of the members have been socially excluded for long periods of time including prison. With a National Lottery grant, Founder Molly Mathieson trialled a successful pilot between Jan-April 2017 and Strummers became a regular weekly group for people in recovery from addiction. The National Lottery has continued to financially support the group.

The New Note Strummers migrated online very effectively during the pandemic. Jon Rattenbury, the Strummers' guitar tutor, would sing and play through a song and everyone joined in at home over Zoom. We changed the format to include a lot more one to one tutoring.

From 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, the New Note Strummers achieved the following:

- The 'average' number of people attending Strummers during this period was 7
- This periods retention rate was 45%

*(**Retention rate:** Percentage of people who attended in the previous year that are still attending in the current year)*

Impact

In anonymous feedback, we found that during this period:

- 66.7% said that our online Strummer sessions helped them to feel less isolated.
- 100% said that the sessions supported their recoveries from addiction.
- Anonymous feedback included: "The sessions gave me something to look forward to and to stay sober for" and "really helped with structure, connection and mental health. Brought some fun and joy also!"

5: New developments

The COVID-19 infection rate remained high in Brighton throughout 2021, especially during the summer period. As an organisation, we decided to not put on any public-facing events until 2022 due to the uncertainty and risks involved.

At the time of writing this report (September 2021) we are developing a 3-5 year strategy.

6. Review of financial position

The New Note Projects accounts are independently examined by registered accountant Chris Tyler FCA, DChA, FCIE.

Total income: £100,360.13

Expenditure: £70,340

Staffing costs: £48,847

Operating Costs: £7,400

Investments £14,093

Staffing costs include:

Chief Exec, Project Managers, Music Director, Guitar Tutor, Sound Technicians , Directors, Producers, freelancers for Comms and Marketing.

Investments break down into the following:

Musical equipment: £1, 386.18

Computer support £2,764.83

Computer hardware £9,706.43

Reserves policy:

Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds to source the core operating capacity of the charity for four months. This means the charity can meet ongoing liabilities, sufficient to ensure that all delivery commitments can be met and to protect the long-term future of the operations. Our reserves at March 31st 2021 were £22,952

Assets:

The charity has assets in the form of musical instruments. Our total assets at 31 March 2020 were £11,750

SPLIT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
INCOME			
LOTTERY	-	9,750	9,750
ARTS COUNCIL	-	39,423	39,423
HENRY SMITH	-	10,000	10,000
BHCC	-	4,500	4,500
SSE	2,000	-	2,000
RAYNE FOUNDATION	-	8,000	8,000
MARTIN GEDDES	1,000	-	1,000
BARRINGFOUNDATION	12,000	-	12,000
MIND	-	11,060	11,060
LEIGH TRUST	-	2,500	2,500
JUST GIVING	127	-	127
	15,127	85,233	100,360
EXPENDITURE			
STAFF COSTS	-	48,847	48,847
OPERATING COSTS	1,107	6,293	7,400
INVESTMENTS	-	14,093	14,093
	1,107	69,233	70,340
RECEIPTS LESS PAYMENTS	14,020	16,000	30,020
BANK BALANCES B/FWD	8,932	18,291	27,223
BANK BALANCES C/FWD	22,952	34,291	57,243
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES YEAR			
RAYNE FOUNDATION		8,000	
ARTS COUNCIL		8,000	
		16,000	
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES B/FWD			
ARTS COUNCIL		9,291	
BARRINGFOUNDATION		5,000	
LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS		2,000	
MARTIN GEDDES		2,000	
		18,291	

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF NEW NOTE PROJECTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (“the Act”).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

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

.....
C R Tyler FCA; DChA; FCIE
Flat 24 Wellingtonia Court,
Laine Close,
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 6TD

Date.....