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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
FOR
CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Introduction

CAST is a UK charity that supports social impact organisations to make the fullest use of digital technology, in order to be as responsive and resilient as possible. We work to remove barriers, create opportunities, spark connections and nurture the supporting conditions that enable social impact organisations to accelerate their agency, presence and influence in the technologies that affect us all.

The pandemic proved beyond doubt that there is a direct correlation between an organisation's use of digital technology, and its ability to thrive and survive. An organisation that is at the forefront of researching and adopting the latest digital, data and design methods is almost certain to be more efficient, better able to respond to users' needs, and more resilient to volatility, than one which is not. And so it is that larger, more digitally-robust organisations tend to dominate the spaces and services which bring people together - at the expense of smaller, less powerful - but no less important - organisations.

It is CAST's mission to level the playing field and ensure that every UK social impact organisation, no matter what their size or structure, has the knowledge, confidence and opportunity to harness the full power of digital - both organisationally, in terms of improving services, strategy and governance, and on an external level, in terms of better supporting the individuals and communities they serve.

This is our sole focus and mission - but we work towards it via a network of interwoven strands of activity. Naturally, we work directly with charities and social impact organisations, helping them to become more responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of the individuals and communities they serve, more test-driven in the way that they deliver value to those audiences, and more confident in embedding digital principles into their organisational strategy, culture and services.

But the social sector cannot exist in a vacuum: critical to its development and growth is the ongoing dialogue between itself and all parts of the supporting infrastructure. And so we work closely with key agents within that wider environment: with funders, trusts and foundations; with training and advisory bodies; government; with policy and advocacy collectives; with influential partners; with sector leaders and with digital, data and design agencies and specialists, to radically improve the quality, range and uptake of social organisations' digital tools, training, funding and advice.

We strive to play a key role in connecting these parts of the network to each other, and in improving the flow of dialogue and understanding in all directions. Central to this is our commitment to working in the open: we share what we are learning; and build on the work of others through our strong commitment to reusing content, tools and resources. This reduces the costs of change, whilst enabling pace and scale.

By building the digital capacity of social sector organisations, CAST helps them to become better equipped to thrive in the face of rapid social, economic and technological change.

As the sector continues to evolve in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that the effective and appropriate use of digital remains critical to ensuring the success and sustainability of social impact organisations - and the continuation of relevant and timely support to the communities they serve.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

How CAST contributes to the public benefit

CAST seeks to address our society's most pressing challenges through the effective use of digital, data and design, with a new and central focus on artificial intelligence (AI). We work with other social impact organisations to help them embed digital and design across their services, strategy and governance - and with sector leaders and funders to create an environment which supports and encourages this.

Whether digital or physical, our world is better when the voice and influence of civil society is stronger and louder. For this reason, CAST works to bring about a vision of an empowered, vocal and influential civil society, resilient and responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of their communities, confidently using digital tools to achieve individual and collective impact.

The way in which charities create public benefit relies increasingly heavily on their access to, and use of, digital tools and approaches. The pandemic precipitated a rapid shift in the location of the spaces where people gather, connect and access information - from physical to digital. And so if charities do not have a strong digital presence - and the confidence and support to continually adopt new tech trends as they emerge - their services will be largely inaccessible, and their voice will be lost.

CAST's work in identifying opportunities, devising initiatives and sparking connections is all designed with the core aim of building up social organisations' digital agency, presence and influence - so that they become stronger and more sustainable within themselves, and better able to deliver consistent value to the public.

In accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the associated Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties in the year under review.

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ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Review of performance and achievements

Supporting the development and evolution of Catalyst

Catalyst is a network of nonprofits, digital support partners and funders working to collectively realise a digitally enabled and resilient social sector. Catalyst was initiated - and remains incubated - by CAST.

Catalyst has spent the 12 months in review focussing on ensuring the continued delivery, development and evaluation of 20 core Catalyst initiatives, led by partners from contributing organisations. These services, communities and infrastructures support thousands of nonprofits, digital experts and funders. Initiative leads have been encouraged and supported by Catalyst to optimise their offers based on feedback and insight; improve diversity and inclusion; collaborate with each other, and embed tools to capture impact.

Full details of Catalyst's impact can be found in this report ; highlights have included: thousands of participants attending The Curve and DigiShift's digital skills workshops; hundreds of charities being matched with a volunteer digital expert via Digital Candle; hundreds of charities and digital specialists attending Third Sector Lab's Digital Trustee events; thousands of new users accessing Dovetail's digital agency directory; hundreds of active agencies, consultancies and freelancers connecting via the Agencies for Good platform, and thousands of unique visitors to the Shared Digital Guides (formerly Service Recipes) site. In addition, more than 20 new articles and resources have been added to the Catalyst website - and there has been a successful focus on increasing the diversity of contributors.

Naturally, there continues to be a high level of alignment between CAST and Catalyst's work: CAST has continued to incubate this work whilst also contributing specifically to a number of well-established initiatives, including Coffee Connections, Design Hops, Shared Digital Guides (formerly Service Recipes) and the Digital Leads Network - as well as on emerging and evolving pieces of advocacy and sector support work, most notably the Open IP for Funders and Digital Foundations initiatives.

The Open IP for Funders initiative aims to encourage and support funders to implement open IP (intellectual property) within grant agreements, and to encourage open IP amongst the charities they support. Over the reporting period, two more funders have engaged with this approach; presentations have been given at two conferences; a new collaboration has been put in place with Power to Change's Discovery fund (acceptance onto which includes a place on CAST's new Community Explore programme) - and various positive outcomes have been observed, including an instance of two charities saving significant amounts of time and money by adopting a peer organisation's support tool.

The Digital Foundations work is focused on helping charity staff improve their digital skills and confidence, so that they are better equipped to support the individuals and communities they serve. Central to this has been testing the 'essential skills' elements of the digital skills framework originally created with Scouts. (This original framework was recently named as the runner-up in the Digital Leaders DL100 Awards, Digital Skills or Talent Initiative of the Year category.) Over the reporting period, the framework was tested by three charities, and amendments made based on their user experience feedback. It is currently in testing with eight refugee and asylum support organisations: we will make amendments based on the feedback received. It is expected that the full framework will be available to the sector by the summer of 2024 .

The initiative also feeds into the Digital Poverty Alliance National Delivery Plan, which has shown core needs around raising public awareness about the importance of digital skills, and the range of support that is available. CAST took part in three board meetings and two round tables as part of the Digital Poverty Alliance Community Board - and we have now been invited to join the DPA National Delivery Committee. As part of this work, we also accepted an invitation to contribute to Essential Digital Skills round table consultation from Future Dot Now in July 2023.

The Catalyst Producers (Ellie Hale, Jo Morfee and [until March 2023] Siana Bangura) have also been testing and developing new collective governance models and consent based decision-making methods, with the aim of enabling a more equitable, collaborative and values-led approach to delivery. New forums for participatory budgeting have been set in place, and a steering group has been convened, with the purpose of co-designing a new strategy and model together with the Producers.

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In 2022, the Producers embarked on a strategic review of Catalyst's existing portfolio of work - and the network's future role in the sector. This review - which is currently in its final stages has been an active test of new ways of working and organising, and has encompassed an evaluation of existing activities, research into sector needs, and liaison with individuals throughout the Catalyst network to assess the best avenues in terms of response. The Producers have met regularly with the CAST board to explore learnings from this review, and the implications for Catalyst's future modelling and governance. Based on the work to date, it is expected that Catalyst will be set up as a new independent organisation to wholly focus on its renewed purpose, with CAST continuing to contribute as part of the Catalyst ecosystem. A final decision is expected to be made by the end of the year.

Providing direct support to the sector

Over the reporting period, CAST has worked directly with hundreds of social impact organisations, helping them to harness the full power of digital - and with funders, partners, digital specialists and other key stakeholders to create an environment that supports this.

In May 2022, we wrapped up Tech for Good Build, an 11-month programme designed and delivered by CAST (funded by Comic Relief and Paul Hamlyn Foundation), which supported 20 organisations to explore new digital approaches to improving people's lives.

The programme supported participants to produce a wide range of innovative solutions: see these [animations](#) ([Tech for Good Build 1](#) and [Tech for Good Build 2](#)) for more information. We also made much of the valuable information and advice shared throughout the programme available to the sector, in the form of blogs written by workshop hosts, on topics including prototyping, user research ethics, safeguarding and managing agencies.

We have delivered in-depth and sustained support throughout 2022 and 2023 via two core partnership initiatives: Deloitte Digital Connect, in partnership with Deloitte, and the Innovation & Digital Accelerator programme, in partnership with Sport England.

Deloitte Digital Connect has so far delivered two six-month support programmes (January - June 2022, and November 2022 - April 2023) to a total of 63 charities and social enterprises. Support - delivered by 100 Deloitte volunteers alongside CAST staff members - consisted of one-to-one mentoring, troubleshooting, workshops, peer support, device donations and pro bono assistance. 100% of 2023 survey respondents found the volunteer support helpful in improving their skills, knowledge and confidence. The support enabled charities to develop digital strategies, improve website accessibility, and ensure their support aligned with beneficiary needs. See the [Deloitte Digital Connect animation](#) for a snapshot of programme testimonials.

Deloitte Digital Connect has been shortlisted as one of just three finalists in this year's [Charity Times Awards](#) (Corporate Social Responsibility Project of the Year category). Applications for the third cohort of the programme will open in the autumn of 2023.

The Innovation & Digital Accelerator (May 2022 - June 2023) was developed by CAST for Sport England's B2022 Fund, with the aim of helping National Governing Bodies tap in to the full potential of digital, to improve access to sport for all. Over the space of 12 months, 22 National Governing Bodies (NGBs) explored innovative new approaches to digital, data, design and ways of working - helping them to engage with under-represented groups, with a view to improving participation rates in their respective sports. This was achieved via a structured programme of specialist workshops, peer support sessions, bespoke resources and in-depth data and open working support - as well as a total of 130 calls with CAST 'connectors' (staff supporting NGBs on the programme).

Of the participants who responded to the end of programme survey, 100% reported that they learned new digital and innovation tools, skills and processes - and the same amount stated that their project will contribute - or has already contributed - towards improved engagement with underrepresented groups. See the [Innovation & Digital Accelerator animation](#) for a snapshot of programme testimonials.

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In line with CAST's commitment to ongoing connection and support, all participants from Deloitte Digital Connect and the Innovation & Digital Accelerator have been invited to join the Digital Leads Network: 11 individuals have already accepted to join the growing network of digital leads. And in keeping with our culture of sharing openly, many of the assets, learnings and resources from both programmes have been made available to all, for the benefit of the wider sector: over 60 free tools, template and guides on a wide range of digital topics are available via the [Deloitte Digital Connect Resource Hub](#), whilst more than 20 blogs have been shared on the dedicated [Innovation & Digital Accelerator Medium](#), with specialist advice on topics including open working, data, user research and journey mapping.

We have also spent time developing the first version of the new [CAST Digital Campus](#), a 13-month programme which is being rolled out from May 2023 for a consortium of organisations convened by Refugee Action. The programme provides participants with access to tools, support and hands-on training to build their knowledge, experience and confidence with digital.

In addition to these longer-term support interventions, we have also continued to run our short-course Design Hops, which teach participants a step-by-step method for user centred digital design. Seven standard Design Hops (which are open to participants from any UK charity) have taken place in 2022 / 23, as well as three organisational versions, designed specifically for the staff and affiliates of Volunteering Matters, Scouts and Refugee Action.

CAST has also been able to work behind the scenes with vital civil society organisations such as The Kings Fund - continuing to support and facilitate their Digital Practice Group, which brings together peers to explore how digital, data and design can be harnessed, whilst also being invited to join the College of Experts for the new ESRC funded Digital Good Network. We're also working in depth with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation to help them develop and adopt approaches to innovation that help them accelerate towards their charitable mission.

Convening networks and sparking connections

We know that the role of digital lead can be an isolated and challenging one: many such positions within social organisations sprang up during the pandemic as a necessary response to the rapid digitisation of services, and involved either shifting the specification of existing roles, or appointing a new person to a role that was not necessarily clearly defined. Many people with responsibility for digital within charities lack support - and yet across the charitable sector there exists a wealth of rich insight and generous leadership.

We're keen to bring together those people that have worked on digital projects and programmes, so that they can share their experiences, achievements and challenges - and learn from and support one another. Our Digital Leads Network (DLN) which launched in February 2022, connects social sector staff working on digital projects with each other, as well as with sector experts. Home to a growing community of 100+ digital leads (all of whom have completed a CAST or Catalyst digital programme), it provides participants with quarterly masterclasses, informal meetups - and a range of other exclusive opportunities.

A particular highlight over the past year was the 'AI 101' masterclass, held in January 2023. The 60-minute session, hosted by AI experts Doug Ayres and Jack O'Connell from EBM, focused on helping participants better understand the nature of AI - and the ways in which it could help their respective organisations and beneficiaries. Doug and Jack ran through the different types of AI, and shared real life case studies involving charities and other organisations. The event was very well received by participants, with an average feedback rating of 4.5 stars (out of 5).

Other highlights over the past year have included a meetup in which DLN member Magid El-Amin shared the ways in which AI was being used internally to improve productivity; member Ben Sykes (Blood Cancer UK) joining CAST's director Dan Sutch at the #BeMoreDigital conference to talk about service redesign; the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust receiving funding to apply for the Charity Times Awards (for which they were subsequently shortlisted as finalists) and member Liam Sweeney (Hubbub) joining our Director for a Digital Leaders Week talk. In addition, eight members responded to the call to join a Digital Leads Network development working group, designed to help shape the future of the network.

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Research carried out with DLN members has resulted in the development of a new EDI monitoring framework and a new onboarding journey, which is currently being tested. An official membership hub has also been developed in Notion, making it easier for members to connect with each other. We are grateful to Okta for Good for the support given to help refine and develop the network this year, to offer maximum value to current and future members.

As well as the more formal DLN network, we have also relaunched the Coffee Connections service, after months of careful redevelopment. The first matches for the renewed service were sent out in April 2023 - with much positive feedback received. This was followed by another round in June 2023, which resulted in a total of 151 matches.

Developing innovative digital products

As well as supporting social organisations directly, we are keen to identify gaps in which the development of new digital products or platforms could play a role in helping communities, improving services, increasing efficiencies and / or saving social sector organisations time, resources and money.

We're excited to have been approached - and funded - by Disrupt Foundation to collaborate on just such a project. Commissioned in early 2023 and currently in the design phase, the project centres around the development of a digital product for migrant advice organisations, which will enable better signposting and referral routes so that migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum can access services as quickly and safely as possible.

Our project partner Step Change will work with us to ensure the new solution is informed by the frontline needs of the sector. The platform will be rolled out over the rest of this year, with the ambition of making it available for others to implement by the summer of 2024. Ultimately, we hope this tool will generate valuable sector-level insights into the broader challenges faced across the UK by migrants, refugees, people seeking asylum and those seeking to support them.

In addition, we are working on a new platform (working title: Space for Reuse), which provides direct support to social impact organisations and funders, helping them to reuse best-in-class ethical technology and sector-developed research, insight and assets. Organisations are invited to share their project idea, to receive free help and advice on research, design, tools, code and connections that could be reused, to save time and money.

Opening up dialogue between fundraisers and grantmakers, with GrantAdvisor UK

After a successful pilot stage and a thorough research, redevelopment and testing process from the summer of 2022 until the spring of 2023, GrantAdvisor UK rolled out as a permanent service in May 2023. The free platform encourages open dialogue between UK social impact organisations and grantmakers, by collecting authentic, real-time reviews and comments on grantseekers' experiences of working with funders.

It is commonly reported that the lack of feedback loops in grantmaking practice is a significant barrier to a more effective sector. This approach aims to tackle that, by gathering honest and public feedback on grantmakers' work, whilst also creating stronger peer sharing between social organisations. GrantAdvisor UK has been designed to act as grantseekers' direct line into funders: every review is submitted to the funder concerned, so they can understand what they're doing well - and what they may need to address and refine.

All feedback is anonymous and public by design, enabling honest, granular and timely feedback on funders and their funding processes. Funders can also reply to grantseekers' feedback, thus improving the lines of communication. The site also acts as a useful tool for grantseekers to use as part of their research when applying for funding - grantseekers can read their peers' comments and pick up valuable information - from length of submission process, to accessibility, to overall funder relationship.

In the two months since launch, the site has attracted 3,000 visitors (2,700 of which have been unique) and 10,000 page views. Three new funders have registered, and 63 new reviews have been submitted. A wealth of positive feedback has been received from funders and grantseekers alike; a sample quote is available in [this article](#), written after the new platform was showcased at the Third Sector Fundraising Summit.

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A renewed focus on CAST's identity and purpose

Throughout 2020 and 2021, much of CAST's time was directed towards support for pandemic crisis response initiatives, such as the large-scale Catalyst and The National Lottery Community Fund COVID-19 Digital Response. The priority during this time was to ensure the delivery of urgent and timely support to charities, end users and all within the sector, in the face of a rapidly shifting landscape of needs.

As the situation began to settle and the social sector entered a period of recovery and regrowth, so CAST has been able to reflect, take stock - and reshape the suite of available support, in line with a new set of post-pandemic sector needs and priorities. This has meant regenerating and breathing new life into existing initiatives (such as Coffee Connections, Design Hops and GrantAdvisor UK), as well as launching new programmes of work with partners such as Deloitte, Sport England and Disrupt.

And with this shift in focus and associated uplift in activity, has come a strengthening of CAST's identity - and an increase in our visibility and presence. Some of this has happened incidentally, through partner mentions and word of mouth - but much has been by design: there has been a renewed and conscious focus on spotlighting CAST's activities, in order that our support can reach as many individuals and organisations as possible.

Central to this storytelling has been our Medium platform: set up in June 2022, it acts as a central hub to capture stories, learnings, reflections and advice from all those within the CAST community: staff, partners, programme participants and those specialists delivering expert support. In the 12 months since launch, more than 40 articles have been published, collectively attracting in excess of 2,200 views. The stories showcase a diverse range of voices, with over 30 contributors represented - including all three of the newest CAST staff members (the Programme Leads, who joined between November 2022 and January 2023).

We're openly sharing more of the stories about CAST - directly from the small but mighty core team involved in the work. We began the year with a fireside interview piece, in which CAST's outgoing and incoming chairs, Lord Jim Knight and Professor Kerensa Jennings, met to discuss all things CAST. And Programme Lead Natalie Marshall has just shared the journey taken to develop our new Theory of Change, which will guide our monitoring and evaluation processes, as well as helping to communicate the nature and value of our work.

We have also increased our presence at sector events, presenting at Charity Digital's #BeMoreDigital conference (at which David Scurr joined the keynote panel to discuss how charities are addressing the cost of living crisis, and Dan Sutch hosted a session on digital service delivery), Digital Leaders Week and the Third Sector Fundraising Summit, amongst others.

We have a new website in development, and share regular posts across our popular Twitter and LinkedIn channels, promoting new opportunities, blogs, news and events - as well as linking to evergreen content and resources such as our Digital Toolkit and Digital Principles.

And we were delighted, in March of this year, to be handed the Founders Award at the 2023 Digital Leaders Impact Awards ceremony. Whilst our aim in increasing the visibility of CAST is simply to make more people aware of the support available, this award felt particularly special, representing as it did not just all that had been achieved by CAST and Catalyst, but also by every single partner, participant, funder and other specialist that has helped move our shared mission forward, collectively working towards a fair and equitable digital future.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Results for the year

Total income for the year was £2.0m, and expenditure £2.0m. Reserves of just over £600k at 31 March 2023 represent a very healthy basis for continuing development and delivery during 2023/24 and beyond.

Income

Total income of £2.04m is some 43% above income in 2021/22.

Income for Catalyst comprised grants from Esmée Fairbairn of £220k, Paul Hamlyn Foundation of £230k, City Bridge Trust of £200k, and The National Lottery Community Fund of £500k - the latter being new funding which had not commenced in 2012/22.

Non-Catalyst income comprised £260k of grant funding for the new Sport England project (which was completed shortly after the year end), service income of £223k, a donation of £98k from Deloitte (passed on to participants in the Deloitte Digital Connect programme as grants of £5k for each participating organisation), and a number of smaller grants.

This reflects CAST's period of transition from the National Lottery Community Fund Covid-19 Digital Response (EDA) programme to new grants and other income streams, and the ongoing development of Catalyst as a distinct aspect of the charity's operations.

Expenditure

The charity's primary expenditure continues to be incurred on supporting charities and social enterprises to improve their services with digital technology. Expenditure on digital capacity development was £2.00m during the year - a slight reduction from the prior year.

Of this expenditure, £114k was paid out as direct grants, and £1,043k was spent on sub-contracted digital support provided by external partners. In addition to the digital capacity development costs we incurred £326k on support costs, £7k on governance and £21k on fund-raising.

Reserves policy

Following an extensive review, the Charity has now adopted a risk-based reserves policy.

The new approach entails assessing the ideal reserve level through review of a number of key elements.

These elements at present (excluding restricted funds) are :-

- Any funds received as time-limited, unrestricted income, which have not yet been spent
- A basic working capital buffer, equivalent to one month's operating costs - this is not to cover loss of income, but simply a timing buffer
- Potential loss of income cover - this will reflect the income pipeline at the point of annual budget finalisation, on a risk basis - with no cover needed for 100% certain income, then 10% cover needed for income included in the budget with a 90% likelihood, etc.
- Potential unforeseen cost income - this element will be hardest to estimate, but will be assessed on a risk basis for known risk areas - for example, a risk of additional costs relating to the possible Catalyst transition, or the excess of insurance policies

These are cumulative, i.e. added to give a total reserves requirement, within a margin of +/- 20%.

Applying this policy indicates a reserves target for the year end of £384,626.

Actual reserves exceed this level by more than 20%. This is considered reasonable as 2023/24 will be a year of transition, with the expected transfer of Catalyst to a new, separate organisation, and with some funding streams coming to an end, and new funding being negotiated. Starting the new financial year with strong reserves is therefore very prudent.

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FUTURE OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Our first priority remains to create the best environment and support for Catalyst to thrive: contributing spaces, roles and resources. We will continue to support and contribute to the aims of Catalyst, creating the conditions and support for its success. As part of this, we will conclude the review into how Catalyst can best be organised and through the coming financial year ensure it has the best operating model to increase the reach and impact of Catalyst.

Beyond Catalyst, and as a continued contribution towards its aims, CAST will continue to focus on accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all. We have a particular focus on how emerging technologies, such as Generative AI, challenge/can be used by charities to bring about positive social change.

To foster greater agency amongst civil society organisations we'll continue to create, deliver and scale interventions that develop skills, capabilities, relationships and opportunities for those working within social impact organisations. We'll continue to focus on supporting organisations to develop their digital skills, as well as their use of design and data. We'll put renewed focus on supporting charities to respond to new and emerging technologies and ensure they have the skills, understanding and experience to use them.

Developing the presence of social impact organisations in technology aims to ensure the values of civil society are embedded within digital tools. We'll continue to support social impact organisations to develop digital services and products; we'll continue to incubate technologies and initiatives that help to create the digital infrastructure for civil society, and we'll continue to focus on growing the use and reuse of open, sector and community owned technologies.

Ensuring social impact organisations have greater influence and reach will be achieved by continuing to support the growth of the Digital Leads Network; connecting civil society organisations with opportunities to inform business and government, and continuing to deliver products like Grant Advisor to create feedback loops and share insight. We recognise that disruptive technologies, such as generative AI, place even greater importance on the voice and influence of civil society to ensure justice and fairness are central to the impact of new technologies. We';

As civil society organisations rebuild from the past years and address the cost of living crisis, we'll continue to work towards our charitable objectives by accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The charity's trustees are also directors and members of the company.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

CAST has appointed trustees that bring a strong understanding of the potential of technology to address social challenges.

The names of the trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details within this annual report and accounts, and brief biographical details on each of the current trustees are given below.

Professor Kerensa Jennings FRSA	Chair of the Board since December 2022. Storyteller, strategist, writer, digital impact specialist. Previously Head of Strategic Delivery at BBC and CEO of iDEA at the Royal Household, now BT Group Director of Data Platforms.
Emma Thomas	Deputy Chair of the Board, Emma has worked in the youth sector since 2010, passionate about young people having a greater voice in society and in the development of services to meet their needs, both face-to-face and through digital. This includes as Chief Executive of The Mix (formerly known as YouthNet), one of the UK leading support services for young people via online, social and mobile and as Chief Executive of YoungMinds, the UK's leading children and young people's mental health charity. She has also supported a range of youth organisations as a consultant on digital adoption and strategic development and brings wide-ranging experience across commercial, third sector and BBC, where she was involved in developing new digital services and campaigns.
Mary McKenna MBE	Mary is a technology entrepreneur and angel investor. She co-founded the online learning company Learning Pool in 2006 which she exited in 2014. She is a resident expert at Said Business School and an Entrepreneur in Residence at the Northern Ireland Science Park. Mary was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to digital technology, innovation and learning.
Lord Jim Knight	Chair of the Board until December 2022, Jim works in education, digital technology and as a legislator. Jim is a founder of xRapid, an AI diagnostic business now based in the US. He is the Chair of E-Act Multi Academy Trust, the Digital Poverty Alliance and CAST. He is a board member of Century-Tech, MACAT International and GoBubble and sits on the advisory bodies for Nord Anglia, and BETT. As a government minister and MP, Jim's portfolios included rural affairs, schools, digital and employment. He was a member of Gordon Brown's Cabinet, before joining the Lords in 2010.
Lara Burns	Lara is Chief Digital Officer of The Scouts, where she leads the digital transformation strategy across an organization of 165,000 volunteers in a network of 8,500 local groups, who deliver weekly Scouting to nearly half a million young people to help develop their Skills for Life. She has spent 25 years delivering digital innovation across diverse sectors. In the last decade Lara has driven digital transformation and strategic change in the charity sector, where she is passionate about using technologies to increase the effectiveness of the charities.
Kate Collins	Kate has worked in UK charities for nearly 20 years and in 2009 joined Teenage Cancer Trust leading Fundraising of which she became Director in 2013. Kate was then successful at achieving Chief Executive in March 2018. Teenage Cancer Trust has led the way in the creation of world-class cancer services for young people, providing life-changing care and support. Kate is leading a strategy to ensure the charity can reach all young people with cancer in the UK and is ensuring that young people and their needs remain at the heart of everything the charity does.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Gaia Ines Fasso	Advisor on digital innovation strategy, programmes and operating models. Working with multinational companies, social impact incubators and startups. CareerTech founder, curator of THRIVEatLearning community and contributor to EdSurge.
Prue Quarcoo	A finance professional, Prue is VP Finance & Accounting, EMEA for Wasserman Media Group. Prue is passionate about equity in society and social mobility. She is a mentor and also a secondary school Governor.
Pema Radha	Chief of Staff, Global Managed Services @EY. Organisational change, business operations and HR expertise. Passionate about diversity and inclusion.

The trustees are committed to ensuring that the Board has the combination of skills necessary to support the effective provision of access to capital to charities and social enterprises. In particular, the Board of Trustees includes skills and expertise in the following areas: digital and social innovation, charity and social enterprise, grant-making and social investment, financial and risk management. The Board has adopted the Charity Governance Code and ensures compliance through regular review.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Board of Trustees systematically reviews risks faced by the Charity, reviewing the detailed risk register on a quarterly basis, with a strong risk management process in place where delivery related risks are identified and recorded and can be escalated to the management and trustees where appropriate.

The key risks to the Charity are:

- **Longer term funding risk for CAST** - particularly as established links to Catalyst funders change with transition. We are exploring new funders for CAST, particularly looking to establish long term (ideally core) funding and have already started working with funders who are new to CAST. We are further mitigating this risk by increasing our focus on generating income from service delivery.
- **Inability to raise required funding levels.** We have ongoing discussions with prospective new funders including corporates and an increased focus on service income which is progressing, alongside further regular board discussion about use of reserves and/or to create dates for reviewing organisation structure and cost base.
- **Failure to manage legal transition of Catalyst out of CAST, or find the appropriate legal vehicle to continue.** CAST works closely with Catalyst Producers, Steering Group and Board Members on a fortnightly basis to support the transition, alongside regular CAST management team meetings to manage transition and understand the resource required. We continue to closely monitor the agreed legal transition and ensure resources available for legal/structural support at the appropriate time.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

09544506 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1161998

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Registered office

Broul Cottage Bath Road
Nailsworth
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 0QL

Trustees

Lord Jim Knight	(Chair until December 2022)
Professor Kerensa Jennings	(Chair from December 2022)
Emma Thomas	(appointed 15 April 2015)
Mary McKenna MBE	(appointed 7 April 2016)
Kathryn Collins	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Gaia-Ines Fasso	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Kerensa Jennings	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Prue Quarcoo	(appointed 1 March 2021)
Pema Radha	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Lara Burns	(appointed 25 November 2020)

Auditors

Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
London
WC1B 3LN

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16th October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:
13th September 2023

Kenneth Jennings
Professor K Jennings - Trustee

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

Use of our report

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



Gavin Whitter FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Date: 19/10/23

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	13,250	85,000	98,250	200,000
Charitable activities	3				
Digital capacity development		480,378	1,469,151	1,949,529	1,232,195
Total		<u>493,628</u>	<u>1,554,151</u>	<u>2,047,779</u>	<u>1,432,195</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	21,043	-	21,043	19,350
Charitable activities	5				
Digital capacity development		529,836	1,468,589	1,998,425	2,121,525
Total		<u>550,879</u>	<u>1,468,589</u>	<u>2,019,468</u>	<u>2,140,875</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
Transfers between funds	17	(57,251) (8,938)	85,562 8,938	28,311 -	(708,680) -
Net movement in funds		(66,189)	94,500	28,311	(708,680)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		688,693	5,500	694,193	1,402,873
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>622,504</u></u>	<u><u>100,000</u></u>	<u><u>722,504</u></u>	<u><u>694,193</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	4,514	1,498
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	308,808	59,805
Cash at bank		710,375	823,176
		<u>1,019,183</u>	<u>882,981</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(301,193)	(190,286)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>717,990</u>	<u>692,695</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>722,504</u>	<u>694,193</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>722,504</u></u>	<u><u>694,193</u></u>
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		622,504	688,693
Restricted funds		100,000	5,500
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>722,504</u></u>	<u><u>694,193</u></u>

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16th October 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:
13th September 2023

Kevin Jennings
Professor K Jennings - Trustee

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(108,569)	(2,018,649)
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(108,569)</u>	<u>(2,018,649)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,232)	(1,659)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	325
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(4,232)</u>	<u>(1,334)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(112,801)</u>	<u>(2,019,983)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>823,176</u>	<u>2,843,159</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>710,375</u></u>	<u><u>823,176</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	28,311	(708,680)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,216	3,053
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	81
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(249,003)	59,235
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	110,907	(1,372,338)
Net cash used in operations	<u>(108,569)</u>	<u>(2,018,649)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	823,176	(112,801)	710,375
	<u>823,176</u>	<u>(112,801)</u>	<u>710,375</u>
Total	<u>823,176</u>	<u>(112,801)</u>	<u>710,375</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves, for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charitable Company's accounting policies, the trustee directors may be required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on the historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. There are currently no critical estimates or judgements requiring disclosure in addition to the accounting policies described.

Income

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Such income is only deferred when:

- the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from activities to generate funds, such as services provided, and investment income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Volunteers and donated services

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where goods or services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements are recognised as goods or services are supplied.

- Expenditure on raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure to support the wider and more effective use of technology to drive social change. Charitable activities include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure

- Support costs include central functions and governance costs and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery - 33% on cost

Individual assets costing £500 or more are capitalised.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Donations	98,250	200,000

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Grants	1,726,106	1,005,000
Service income	223,423	227,195
	<u>1,949,529</u>	<u>1,232,195</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Refugee Action	8,333	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	230,000	220,000
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	-	10,000
Esmee Fairbairn	220,000	275,000
City Bridge Trust	200,000	150,000
The National Lottery Community Fund- Catalyst	500,000	-
TNLCF - EDA grant	-	100,000
Fidelity	265,000	240,000
Somerset Community Foundation	-	10,000
Sport England	260,823	-
Tides Foundtion	21,122	-
Yapp Charitable trust	2,500	-
Tudor Trust	5,000	-
The Disrupt Foundation	13,328	-
	<u>1,726,106</u>	<u>1,005,000</u>

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Staff costs	21,043	19,350

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6) £	Grant funding of activities (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Digital capacity development	1,550,143	114,438	333,844	1,998,425

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Staff costs	468,294	445,515
Subcontractors	1,043,030	739,494
Travel and subsistence	9,070	-
Other direct costs	29,749	24,954
	<u>1,550,143</u>	<u>1,209,963</u>

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Digital capacity development	114,438	556,740
The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:		
	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Kingston Voluntary Action	15,000	-
Comic Relief - Explore	14,438	5,000
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2A	-	(1,361)
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2B	-	3,151
TNLCF- EDA Sector Challenge	-	(1,791)
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2D	-	10,000
TNLCF- EDA Development - Continuation	-	161,833
TNLCF- EDA Development - Momentum	-	195,510
Digital Code Practice	-	9,398
Deloitte Digital Connect	85,000	175,000
	<u>114,438</u>	<u>556,740</u>

Comic Relief- Explore

41 grantees applied and received grant funding for the explore programme in 2020/21 and 2021/22 with 5 further grants paid during 2022/23..

EDA- Development Programme

Following the EDA Discovery and Definition stages, Development funding provides more in-depth support to build and apply the solutions to realise the charities' communities. Across the EDA programme were Development 2A and 2B - differentiated by when charities were ready for this funding and support. 18 Grantees were supported in phase 2A, 11 grantees in phase 2B and 55 grantees in 2C. Sector Challenges Funding to support charities to work together on shared sector problems, particularly aiming to address challenges that individual charities cannot solve alone, but that need to be addressed by groups of charities working together. Sector Challenges covered four areas: Mental Health and Wellbeing, Early Years, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence and Financial Wellbeing. 31 grantees received grant funding. This work includes EDA Clusters, Continuation and Momentum.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

7. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

Charity Digital Code of Practice

The Charity Digital Code of Practice is a set of principles to benchmark charities' progress in digital, inform key decisions and start making change. Work in 2021/22 involved co-delivering a series of webinars for leaders as part of a wider programme of support for leaders, initiated as a response to the pandemic. We also explored who might own and maintain the Code longer term. After a series of discussions with various interested parties, Charity Digital became the main grant holder and will continue to work on the main goals of sustainability and scaling the adoption of the Code across the sector. Remaining funds were therefore transferred as a grant to Charity Digital.

Deloitte Digital Connect

This programme is run in partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 28 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects. The support included:

- Mentoring and troubleshooting on their named project. (Delivered by over 30 Deloitte UK volunteer digital experts via 52 one-to-one calls).
- Group training sessions: 24 workshops on digital and design practices (delivered by Deloitte UK and CAST)
- Peer support sessions: 14 peer support and Lunch & Learn sessions. (Delivered by CAST)
- Self-serve support: over 100 bespoke digital resources shared with digital leads

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Digital capacity development	326,607	7,237	333,844

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	31.3.23 Digital capacity development £	31.3.22 Total activities £
Wages	242,517	262,624
Social security	31,804	42,843
Pensions	12,592	20,936
Rent	5,835	7,488
Telephone	540	462
Postage and stationery	378	687
Sundries	1,302	338
Equipment repairs and renewals	459	454
Software and licence expenses	7,200	188
Administration services	11,088	2,628
Bank charges	696	428
Training	4,186	2,086
Professional fees	2,160	40
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	2,235	1,757
Recruitment costs	2,399	2,731
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	1,216	3,053
Carried forward	326,607	348,743

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

8. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Management - continued

	31.3.23 Digital capacity development £	31.3.22 Total activities £
Brought forward	326,607	348,743
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	-	81
	<u>326,607</u>	<u>348,824</u>

Governance costs

	31.3.23 Digital capacity development £	31.3.22 Total activities £
Auditors' remuneration	6,324	5,760
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	900	-
Trustee meeting and expenses	-	225
Legal fees	13	13
	<u>7,237</u>	<u>5,998</u>

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Auditors' remuneration	6,324	5,760
Taxation compliance services	900	-
Depreciation - owned assets	1,216	3,053
Other operating leases	5,835	7,488
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	-	81
	<u>14,275</u>	<u>16,382</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year no trustees received remuneration from the charitable company (31.3.22: £nil).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS - continued

Trustees' expenses

During the year no trustee (31.3.22: no trustee) was reimbursed expenses by the charity for travel totalling £nil (31.3.22: £nil).

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	672,926	687,299
Social security costs	70,006	66,217
Other pension costs	33,318	37,752
	<u>776,250</u>	<u>791,268</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
Charitable	8	10
Support	3	3
	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	-	200,000	200,000
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	502,195	730,000	1,232,195
Total	<u>502,195</u>	<u>930,000</u>	<u>1,432,195</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	19,350	-	19,350
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	127,346	1,994,179	2,121,525
Total	<u>146,696</u>	<u>1,994,179</u>	<u>2,140,875</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	355,499	(1,064,179)	(708,680)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	333,194	1,069,679	1,402,873
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>688,693</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>694,193</u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £
COST	
At 1 April 2022	11,114
Additions	4,232
Disposals	(7,085)
At 31 March 2023	<u>8,261</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2022	9,616
Charge for year	1,216
Eliminated on disposal	(7,085)
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,747</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,514</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,498</u>

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Trade debtors	52,800	10,200
Other debtors	256,008	49,605
	<u>308,808</u>	<u>59,805</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Trade creditors	102,383	54,881
Social security and other taxes	-	18,713
VAT	8,800	10,065
Other creditors	190,010	106,627
	<u>301,193</u>	<u>190,286</u>

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises grant received for future financial periods.

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Balance brought forward	-	13,243
Amount release to incoming resources	-	(13,243)
Amount deferred in the year	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
Fixed assets	4,514	-	4,514	1,498
Current assets	919,183	100,000	1,019,183	882,981
Current liabilities	(301,193)	-	(301,193)	(190,286)
	<u>622,504</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>722,504</u>	<u>694,193</u>

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	688,693	(57,251)	(8,938)	622,504
Restricted funds				
City Bridge Trust	-	100,000	-	100,000
Comic Relief - Expore	5,500	(14,438)	8,938	-
	<u>5,500</u>	<u>85,562</u>	<u>8,938</u>	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>694,193</u>	<u>28,311</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>722,504</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	493,628	(550,879)	(57,251)
Restricted funds			
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	230,000	(230,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	200,000	(100,000)	100,000
Comic Relief - Expore	-	(14,438)	(14,438)
Fidelity	265,000	(265,000)	-
Deloitte Digital Connect	85,000	(85,000)	-
TNLCF - Growing Great Ideas	500,000	(500,000)	-
Sport England	260,823	(260,823)	-
The Disrupt Foundation	13,328	(13,328)	-
	<u>1,554,151</u>	<u>(1,468,589)</u>	<u>85,562</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,047,779</u>	<u>(2,019,468)</u>	<u>28,311</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	333,194	355,499	688,693
Restricted funds			
TNLCF - Catalyst	22,100	(22,100)	-
TNLCF- EDA	367,341	(367,341)	-
TNLCF - Services	657,420	(657,420)	-
Comic Relief - Expore	10,500	(5,000)	5,500
Cisco	12,318	(12,318)	-
	<u>1,069,679</u>	<u>(1,064,179)</u>	<u>5,500</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,402,873</u>	<u>(708,680)</u>	<u>694,193</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	227,195	128,304	355,499
Esmee Fairbairn	275,000	(275,000)	-
	502,195	(146,696)	355,499
Restricted funds			
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	220,000	(220,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	150,000	(150,000)	-
TNLCF - Catalyst	-	(22,100)	(22,100)
TNLCF- EDA	100,000	(467,341)	(367,341)
TNLCF - Services	-	(657,420)	(657,420)
Comic Relief - Expore	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Cisco	-	(12,318)	(12,318)
Fidelity	240,000	(240,000)	-
Somerset Community Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
Deloitte Digital Connect	200,000	(200,000)	-
	930,000	(1,994,179)	(1,064,179)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,432,195	(2,140,875)	(708,680)

Esmee Fairbairn

This unrestricted grant is to support the continued development of the Catalyst. Specifically, it will enable the Catalyst to galvanise a cross-sector network in providing digital support to voluntary and charitable organisations across the UK.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

This grant from Joseph Rowntree Foundation was to cover costs associated with the development of Grant Advisor UK, including collaborating with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, UK Trusts and Foundations, to further develop the Grant Advisor UK platform and its use.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

This grant is to support the continued development of the Catalyst. Specifically, it will enable the Catalyst to galvanise a cross-sector network in providing digital support to voluntary and charitable organisations across the UK

The National Lottery Community Fund (Catalyst)

This funding from TNLCF was provided so that the Catalyst network could continue to help civil society organisations, including small and medium sized groups, embed digital tools across their practice, respond to the needs of users, and be more resilient in the face of technological change.

City Bridge Trust

This grant was provided towards the London elements of the continuing development of the Catalyst network, which will make civil society more resilient by embedding digital in their strategy, services and governance.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- External Delegated Authority (EDA)

To provide grant funding to nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Covid response.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- Services

Funding to complement the aforementioned EDA to provide digital, data and design services to support nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Digital Covid response fund.

Comic Relief - Explore

Early stage digital funding and tailored support to help charities explore digital service delivery challenges and prototype solutions.

Cisco

Contribution to the development of the Charity Digital Code <https://charitydigitalcode.org/>

Fidelity Foundation

A grant to explore the shared technical infrastructure that can enable charities to reuse existing digital tools, and to explore the development of a network of digital leaders to continue to develop their own learning and the digital practice within their own charities.

Somerset Community Foundation

A grant for CAST to provide support to a range of Somerset-based youth organisations to explore digital options to provide high-quality, youth-led activities across Somerset.

Deloitte Digital Connect

This programme was a new partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 28 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multifomed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects.

Sport England

This grant is to design and deliver an Innovation and Digital Accelerator to support Sport National Governing Bodies to amplify their legacy ambitions associated with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The grant enabled CAST to develop support and resources for NGBs and the wider sporting sector to develop their use of digital, data and design.

Disrupt Foundation

This grant is to develop a scalable and reusable digital product (or set of digital products) that can support civic society organisations to overcome shared challenges in providing better access, support and services to migrants and those seeking asylum.

Transfer of funds

The transfer between the general fund and Explore was because grants paid out via the Explore programme were partly funded by the general fund.

18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the charitable company to this scheme and amounted to £33,318 (31.3.22: £37,752). There was £10,224 of outstanding contributions at 31 March 2023 (31.3.22: £8,499).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023 (31.3.22: none).

20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charitable company is under the control of its members. No one member has control of the charitable company.

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charitable company's financial instruments may be analysed as follows:

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>966,383</u>	<u>872,781</u>
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>190,010</u>	<u>106,627</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised costs comprise cash and other debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised costs comprise other creditors, deferred income and accruals.