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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
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 2025. 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 (Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology) is a UK charity working to accelerate the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all. 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of the charity.

Since 2015, we have been supporting social impact organisations to make the fullest use of digital technology - and working with funders, partners, digital specialists, government and other stakeholders to create a networked environment of support for the sector. Over the past 12 months, CAST has been increasingly focusing on supporting the sector with AI.

Our mission is to ensure that every UK social impact organisation has the skills, confidence and opportunity to harness the full power of digital. We work directly with social impact organisations, helping them to become more responsive to their audiences' changing needs, behaviours and expectations, more test-driven, and more confident in embedding digital principles into their organisational strategy, culture and services.

We also work closely with funders, advisory bodies, advocacy collectives, sector leaders and digital specialists, to radically improve the quality and range of digital tools, training, funding and advice available to the sector - and to maximise the uptake of these offerings.

We continually strive to make connections between all parts of the sector, as well as across the supporting infrastructure - e.g. sharing needs, priorities, concerns and success stories with regard to AI across and between the social sector and funding community, in order to mobilise a collective support effort. 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 reuse. This reduces the costs of change, whilst enabling pace and scale.

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

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

How CAST contributes to the public benefit

CAST's vision is for 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 capacity for charities and social impact organisations to create public benefit relies increasingly on their access to - and effective use of - digital tools and approaches. The spaces where people gather, connect and access information are, in the main, continuing to shift from physical to digital. And so if charities do not have a strong digital presence - and the confidence and support to adopt new technology such as AI as it emerges - their vital services will become less visible and accessible, and their influence will be diminished.

This is where CAST comes in: we work with charities and social impact organisations to help them embed digital and design across their services, strategy and governance as standard - and to explore new technologies such as AI as they emerge. We also work closely with funders and sector leaders to create an environment which supports and encourages charities to explore the full potential of existing and emerging technologies.

As laid out in our Theory of Change, we support charities to develop their agency (developing skills, relationships and practices); presence (creating charity and sector owned technologies) and influence (supporting leaders to have greater voice within and beyond the sector) in the technologies that affect us all.

The way in which we deliver support can be described by three parts: we incubate sector and community-led interventions, building the best environments and teams to develop and scale social impact through digital; we design and deliver training, peer support and programmes that help develop the agency and capability of individuals and organisations to use digital, data and design to achieve their objectives - and we host and support collections of experiments into how emerging technology, particularly AI, can bring about social value: supporting shared testing and learning so the sector makes quicker progress in the ethical use of digital, data and design for positive social impact. At the heart of all three parts is CAST as a connector - between charities, funders, leaders and digital experts.

Our connection with multiple touchpoints across the sector means that we are at the forefront of understanding emerging trends and needs - and flexing our approaches accordingly, in order to offer the most valuable and timely support to the sector and the communities it serves. As such, a major part of our focus over the past 12 months has been working with thousands of social impact organisations, funders and sector leaders to identify the key challenges and opportunities with regard to AI, and design multiple strands of support and connection, engineered to meet the most pressing needs and priorities.

CAST's work revolves around the core aim of building up social impact 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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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of performance and achievements

Providing direct support via in-depth programmes

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

We have provided in-depth support via a number of in-depth, long-term programmes, namely the Youth Sector Innovation Incubator, Community Explore, Digital Campus and Deloitte Digital Connect.

The Youth Sector Innovation Incubator (YSII) saw CAST join forces with National Citizen Service Trust (NCS) to set up three projects (or 'Incubators'), each tackling a unique challenge, with the ultimate aim of creating a suite of innovative digital solutions to boost social cohesion among young people. Central to the programme was the specific design of the model: each challenge was tackled by a cohort comprising a digital partner, three youth sector organisations and a group of young people, whose valuable involvement was woven into every stage of the project: read more about this in our midpoint YSII blog.

The programme ran from November 2024 until March 2025 - and although just weeks into the programme, the government announced that NCS would be winding down from March 2025, we worked with the digital partners to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted running of each cohort. The programme resulted in three products: the cohort for Challenge 1 (tasked with creating online experiences designed to engage young people reluctant to attend in-person programmes) produced Youth Voice; Challenge 2 (tasked with supporting young people to better understand, and examine how they use and engage with, generative AI) produced Real Chat AI - and Challenge 3 (tasked with embedding the learnings that young people have gained from undertaking NCS experiences) produced the Brilliance tool.

Feedback from all of the groups involved in the programme was very positive: in a post-programme survey of the young people who participated in the project, 100% stated that not only had they felt involved in the design process in a meaningful way, but that they felt their contributions to the project had made a positive impact. And 94% stated that they were proud of their involvement in the project, and felt positive about the future of the tool. The youth sector organisations involved spoke positively about their experiences of co-designing with young people, as evidenced in these Q&A pieces with Beats Bus, Warrington Youth Zone and FotoNow. In a post-programme survey, 89% of participants from youth organisations stated that they felt more confident applying user-centred, test-driven design practices to their work, with the same number stating that they had built or improved their external networks as a result of taking part in the programme. Commenting as the programme wrapped up, NCS's outgoing Director of Delivery Services Chris Brown stated: 'This project surpassed our expectations. The prototypes that have come out not only add immediate value for the sector, in some cases they are truly ground-breaking. I really hope that CAST's way of working can become the blueprint for future developments in the sector.' [See testimonials reel for full quote.]

We are currently in the process of pulling together all the evaluation from the NCS project into a report to present to DCMS (the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) - and we'll be publishing findings and key learnings from each of the incubator teams, so that the wider sector can benefit from these. We'll also be actively seeking follow-on funding for each of the products created.

Community Explore is CAST's six-month Funder Plus programme, designed to help community businesses explore the development of Community Tech using user-centred design processes. The most recent version of the programme - provided as part of Power to Change and Promising Trouble's Discovery Fund - wrapped up in May 2024 and was delivered through a mix of content and learning experiences. As the programme wrapped, participants were encouraged to think about pitching for further funding, and supported to create short videos setting out their solution ideas to funders. We also made a library of Community Explore assets available to the wider sector. Feedback from programme participants was very positive, with 100% stating that the programme helped them increase their confidence in carrying out user research to better understand beneficiaries' needs.

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Digital Campus is a 13-month programme of support from CAST, which provides participants with access to tools, support and hands-on training to build their knowledge and confidence with digital. During the most recent version of the programme - which was rolled out for a consortium of organisations convened by Refugee Action, and wrapped up in December 2024 - we ran a series of three AI masterclasses designed specifically for the forced migration sector, and delivered a Housing Co-Design project with participating organisations.

Deloitte Digital Connect is a programme designed and delivered in partnership with Deloitte. Over the course of six months, participants are supported to make progress on an existing organisational digital challenge by putting their beneficiaries at the heart of the solution. The third edition of the programme wrapped up in May 2024, with 100% of participants reporting increased confidence in applying user-centred design, and 95% feeling more confident leading digital projects. More information can be found in the impact report and testimonials reel - as well as in post-programme interviews with The Brilliant Club and Advice NI.

Since the third edition of the programme wrapped up, Deloitte have been investing in the core capacity of the CAST team to deliver AI-related support that is targeted towards the most critical needs of the sector - and scaled to ensure that as many people as possible can benefit. Using learnings from post-programme surveys and wider sector research, as well as insights from the CAST and Deloitte panel session (in which nonprofits shared real-life AI use cases), we have worked together to develop a suite of events and resources designed to support the sector's response to AI.

Helping to improve digital skills and confidence across the sector

In addition to the longer-term support interventions as laid out above, we have also continued to run our short-course Design Hops, which teach participants a step-by-step method for user centred digital design. During the reporting period, we delivered a Design Hop funded via the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation initiative (see the 'Providing continuity for Catalyst-led services' section on page 9 of this report). We shared the Design Hop information and signup link via our newsletter and social media channels, as well as with more than 100 CVS organisations, in order to reach a wider diversity of participants. We also tweaked the delivery of the initiative in line with feedback we'd received from previous Design Hops.

22 people (from 21 organisations) participated in the Design Hop. In a post-programme survey, 69% of respondents indicated that they had shared the user research techniques and resources learnt on the Design Hop with colleagues, supporting the hypothesis that the Design Hop has a wider reach and impact, extending beyond the participants themselves. In addition, 77% of survey respondents indicated that, following the Design Hop, their thinking had shifted to some degree from solution thinking towards problem thinking - and 100% of participants stated that they felt more confident using a design process within the organisation they represent, following the Design Hop.

We've also continued our Digital Foundations work, supporting social sector staff to improve their digital skills and confidence, so that they are better equipped to support the individuals and communities they serve. A central component of this initiative has been testing essential skills resources developed as part of the Digital Skills Framework, created in partnership with Scouts. In the summer of 2024, we published an article outlining five strategies for boosting staff engagement with digital skills, based on the learnings from our research project with organisations piloting the Framework. During the reporting period, we were seeking funding, alongside maintaining the Framework's Steering Group, who were providing input on how to govern, develop and scale the framework. Due to a lack of funding, we have not been able to progress this at the scale we had hoped; however, one of the organisations that has embedded the Framework has provided suggestions and resources, so we will be implementing these, as well as further developing the new AI resources section - and we plan to make the Framework public in the coming months.

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The initiative also feeds into the work of the [Digital Poverty Alliance](#), which has shown core needs around raising public awareness about the importance of digital skills, and the range of support that is available. CAST has been an active member of the Digital Poverty Alliance (DPA)'s National Delivery Committee for the past two years. Throughout this time, we contributed to shaping national conversations and actions aimed at tackling digital poverty across the UK. Our involvement allowed us to collaborate with a wide range of partners and share insights from our work with civil society organisations to inform policy and practice. Our participation in the committee continued until December 2024, when the DPA undertook a strategic review of its governance and engagement structures. As part of this review, the National Delivery Committee was disbanded to make way for a new phase of activity and stakeholder engagement. CAST remains committed to supporting efforts to eliminate digital poverty and will continue to engage with the DPA and other sector partners in future initiatives, including contributing to its new Charity Network.

We've also made updates to our evergreen digital skills resources, including the [Digital Toolkit](#) - a collection of 30 free tools and resources, designed to support organisations moving through the process of researching, defining and developing a digital product, platform or service. Over the reporting period, we have redesigned sections and updated page layouts to improve the user experience, and added in two new AI resources, each with their own new workbooks in Google Slides. We've also been linking to the resources in the Toolkit more frequently - including in our Digital Skills Framework and self-serve AI course - which has led to an increase in traffic and page views to the site: throughout the reporting period, the site attracted 5,400 page views - a 41% increase on the same period last year.

Identifying needs - and mobilising support - around AI

Over the past year, we - along with many others across the sector - have observed a sharp rise in the prevalence of AI, to the point where it is now forming the basis for the majority of emerging needs, opportunities and concerns, across not only the social sector but also the supporting infrastructure of funders and other organisations.

We've seen this evidenced not just on a qualitative basis, through the regular conversations we're having with charities, social impact organisations, funders and sector leaders - but also via the quantitative data that comes in through our various communications channels: for example, the three most-accessed pages of our website from January to March 2025 were all AI-related, clearly demonstrating the rising demand for - and interest in - AI-related support and activity.

By way of response, we have focused much of our time over the past year into supporting charities, social impact organisations, funders and other stakeholders to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by AI, in order to bring about positive social change.

Central to this, has been our AI survey: a sector-wide study, designed to gauge needs, behaviours, priorities and concerns with regard to AI. We rolled out the first version early in 2024, and used the results - in conjunction with other research including the [Charity Digital Skills Report](#) - to provide support directly to charities and social impact organisations, as well as to influence the response from grantmakers: we summarised the survey results and our associated support offerings in this [AI blog](#). Naturally, AI is now a thread that weaves throughout many of our projects, programmes and peer groups as standard, and so it appears in other areas of this report - but in this section, we'll take a look at some of the key standalone AI support interventions offered by CAST over the reporting period.

AI for Grantmakers group: We set up the AI for Grantmakers group in December 2023 - and it has subsequently grown to comprise 270 people from more than 200 Trusts and Foundations across the UK. The group meets online every six weeks to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by AI - and in February 2025, we collaborated with The National Lottery Community Fund to host an in-person event at London's Bishopsgate Institute, designed to help align funders' efforts to support the sector with AI. The event was attended by 140 people from Trusts and Foundations around the UK; we have summarised the key insights and reflections shared in this [AI funder event summary blog](#).

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Charity AI Task Force: February's funder event (see above) saw the official launch of the Charity AI Task Force, set up and co-chaired by Dan Sutch (Director of CAST) and Zoe Amar (Founder, Zoe Amar Digital). The task force (which emerged as a concept following an in-person gathering of sector leaders in November 2024, convened by CAST and Zoe Amar) aims to champion the responsible, inclusive and collaborative use of AI across the social sector. The launch resulted in media coverage across a range of key sector titles - and prompted interest from more than 50 organisations interested in joining the current 20+ member organisations. One of the Task Force's first collective activities was to draft and deliver a response to the government's AI Opportunities Action Plan; discussion around this took place during the reporting period, with the resulting response being delivered at the start of May 2025 and generating coverage in key sector titles.

AI self-serve course: We've seen, through research results - and heard, through frequent conversations with organisations all over the UK - that one of the most common blockers in terms of starting to experiment with AI, is simply not knowing where to begin. To help address this, and support people to start taking the first steps towards responsible experimentation with AI, we launched a self-serve AI course in January 2025. The course consists of seven weekly emails, each containing a guided activity designed to help participants comfortably familiarise themselves with AI - and discover how it can make day-to-day work life easier.

Since launch, the AI self-serve course sign-up page has attracted more than 3,700 unique users, with more than 1,000 people starting the course - and an average open rate of 72% across the seven emails (it was particularly encouraging to note that this barely tailed off as the content progressed: the final email returned an open rate of 65%, which is exceptionally high for such a course). Feedback has been very positive: 97% of survey respondents described the course content as 'engaging and relevant' - and respondents returned an average result of 9 out of 10 when asked how likely they were to continue applying what they'd learned. Following the success of this course, we are planning a follow up offer that builds on this beginners' version and offers more intermediate learning.

Campus: We have put together a platform containing 70+ charity and funder AI-related pilot projects, 60+ free-to-access AI resources (including blogs, tutorials, guides, podcasts, toolkits and courses) and a 'Getting started with AI' hub, containing support information and events to help people along their AI journey. We're continuing to test and iterate the platform, and hope to roll it out for wider access later in the year.

Working with IVAR: In March 2025, we joined forces with The Institute For Voluntary Action Research, to strengthen lines of communication and connection across and between charities and grantmakers - with the ultimate aim of empowering more confident, robust and well-informed responses to AI across the board. Through the new collaboration - supported by IVAR's Research Development Fund - we'll be capturing and sharing stories, insights and practical examples of AI use, so that charities are informed and inspired to experiment safely with AI. And in order to create a continuous feedback loop, we will share developments between funding groups and charities, where agreed and feasible. We'll also look to strengthen connections between IVAR's 'Open and Trusting' community of 150 grant-making organisations and CAST's AI for Grantmakers peer group.

In addition, we have continued to update the 'living library' of frameworks, guides, case studies, courses, toolkits and other resources available in our online AI hub; added AI tools into both our Digital Toolkit and Digital Skills Framework; continued to share our AI Canvas and AI Spheres visual and worked with The Developer Society, Trust for London and Paul Hamlyn Foundation to develop and test a locally hosted 'Safe Sector AI' platform (soon to be available) - bringing the benefits of interacting with tools such as ChatGPT and Claude, with the absolute security of knowing where the data is stored and how it is being used. We are also actively involved in AI-related projects across the network: in March 2025, we took up an offer from DataKind UK to participate in their peer group on building responsible chatbots, and in the early part of 2025, we were involved in helping organisations to test Knowbot, an AI-powered website assistant for charities.

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We have also delivered AI-focused talks and workshops at more than 30 events, including The Civic AI Observatory Unconference, London Funders' Festival of Learning, the Superhighways conference, the Charity Digital AI Summit and the Connected by Data Unconference - as well as several AI 'Lunch and Learn' sessions for funders. In total, we have reached more than 2,000 people from social sector organisations directly through these sessions - but we've also endeavoured to share insights, learnings and useful links via our communications channels wherever possible, so that the wider sector can benefit. Since November of last year, CAST's Director Dan Sutch has also been acting as the National Lottery's AI innovator in residence, supporting the organisation's exploration into AI - and ensuring charity and community voice is at the heart of it.

During the reporting period, we launched and completed a new survey, incorporating questions from the previous version as well as new sections (e.g. on environmental impact and AI tools used), in order to capture an accurate and timely picture. The survey - which ran from December 2024 until February 2025 - received 266 responses (over 100 more than the previous version), which we synthesised to draw out key themes, needs and priorities. We shared the key findings - as well as associated support offerings - at an online event in April 2025, and in a survey blog in May 2025.

We will be using the results of this new survey - again, in conjunction with other sector research - to develop and curate support designed to meet the most pressing needs across the sector. In addition, we will be sharing learnings and recommendations from some of the experimental AI tools we've been developing in-house. We are also in the process of appointing two new roles: a Head of Design for AI, and a Head of Technical AI Experiments. These two roles will bring greater senior leadership in the design and testing of early stage products - which, once validated, will enable us to work with our development team to build out scalable products.

At CAST, we take a holistic approach when looking at AI, exploring the 'macro' picture alongside the 'micro'. We reflect - and encourage charities and funders to do the same - on what shifts in people's behaviours and expectations might mean for organisations' missions, and how changes in the socio-techno economic context will affect power dynamics and working conditions. We are committed to shaping conversations and designing support structures that ensure everyone has equal access to AI, and the power to use it for social good.

Providing continuity for Catalyst-led services

Catalyst was set up by CAST in 2019 with the aim of 'bringing a social purpose to the digital revolution'. Over the following five years, it grew to become a thriving network of nonprofits, digital support partners and funders, working together to collectively realise a digitally enabled and resilient social sector. On 1st April 2024, Catalyst transitioned to become a Community Interest Company (CIC), with a renewed vision, mission and model.

Catalyst now operates entirely independently of CAST: it is a separate legal entity, focused on creating a future where tech is fair, regenerative and life-enhancing. Naturally, there remains a degree of crossover in terms of our respective aims and ambitions, and we remain a part of the Catalyst network, collaborating on the Open IP for Funders initiative (see details further down this section). We are also committed to providing sustained support, wherever possible, for those initiatives previously overseen by Catalyst, in order that the sector can continue to benefit from the valuable service on offer.

To this end, we were delighted to receive funding in July 2024 from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to convene a network of support, comprising eight initiatives, which were previously receiving support from Catalyst. The network - which will be in place until at least July 2026 - comprises Agencies for Good, Design Hops, Digital Candle, the Digital Leads Network, Digital Trustees, Dovetail and The Curve - as well as a reuse infrastructure strand, providing support to enable reuse of open, sector owned technologies.

We will be working together to align activities, and to promote any support offerings widely: as part of this commitment, several members of the network attended SCVO's The Gathering in February 2025, co-hosting a session to showcase the various strands of support available.

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In addition, CAST has taken responsibility for the Shared Digital Guides platform (formerly managed by Catalyst), so that the sector can continue to benefit from a steady stream of step-by-step Guides - written by charities, for charities. During the reporting period, 11 new Guides were uploaded: six of these were sourced by CAST (three of which focused on AI), whilst five were contributed by Catalyst as part of a commitment set at the point of transition. During the reporting period, the site attracted 7,700 unique visitors, with a combined total of almost 15,400 page views: these figures remain almost unchanged, compared to the previous reporting period. However, the amount of people visiting a second Guide has increased to 5,300 (from 4,300 in the previous period).

Last Autumn, we also transferred two self-serve courses from Catalyst's platform to the CAST site: Learn User Research is a seven-week course with information on different types of user research, recruiting principles, question writing and interview synthesis, whilst Learn Design Thinking is a five-week course, with information on turning data into actionable ideas, testing ways to adapt services, and creating delivery roadmaps. Collectively, the sign-up pages have attracted 800 unique visitors since launching on the CAST site, with around 250 people signing up to take the courses. Over the coming months, we're planning to review each course in order to update the content and add any new topics as needed.

We are continuing to work with Catalyst on the Open IP for Funders initiative, which 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, the initiative continued to engage with funders - and an example of the Open IP work in practice, was a collaboration with Power to Change: all participants on their Discovery Fund were invited to take part in CAST's Community Explore programme (see the Providing direct support via in-depth programmes section on page 4), and working with National Citizen Service to ensure the outputs from the Incubators were open source and creative commons. A particular exploration here is aligning the 'community-owned' nature of digital products that emerge from co-design processes and the open-IP approach which underpins wider sharing and adoption.

Convening networks and sparking connections

We know that the role of digital lead can be an isolated and challenging one: 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. CAST's Digital Leads Network (DLN) connects social sector staff working on digital projects with each other, as well as with sector experts. The network provides participants with a range of resources and learning opportunities, including access to a network of like-minded professionals, and a variety of events and webinars.

The DLN experienced significant growth in 2024-25, expanding from fewer than 100 members at the start of 2024, to 283 members (from 248 UK charities) by April 2025. Between January and April 2025 alone, we welcomed 91 new members, averaging nearly 25 new sign-ups each month. Members span a wide range of charities: the network currently comprises 117 small-medium organisations (under £1m), 85 large organisations (£1m-£10m) and 46 major to super-major charities (over £10m). New members are diverse in seniority and specialisms, with 53% in executive or senior leadership roles, and others working across digital innovation, operations, communications, and data.

The DLN has become a vital space for charity digital leads to connect, learn and share. Throughout the reporting period, engagement has increased considerably, with new members joining, record attendance at meetups and strong participation in workshops and peer groups. Members report increased confidence, improved digital skills and stronger sector connections. And in June 2024, we responded to feedback from members by setting up a new dedicated AI peer group for the DLN. The group - which now comprises more than 100 members - acts as a space to collectively explore the opportunities and challenges of AI - and ensure inclusive impacts of AI in society. Throughout the reporting period, six AI peer group meetings took place, with members learning from peers at Access Social Care, Learning with Parents, Catch22, RSPCA and Friends of the Earth. Many members are now piloting AI tools such as responsible chatbots.

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The DLN has also platformed charity voices at events including the AI in Grantmaking conference, Charity Digital AI Summit, and CharityCamp UK, giving charity digital leads a stronger voice in sector-wide conversations. In 2025, we conducted a start-of-year survey to understand how the network is supporting members - and the responses were overwhelmingly positive, with high onboarding satisfaction and appreciation for the supportive peer environment, clarity of communications and ease of engagement.

Throughout the reporting period, we've showcased the activities of the DLN across our newsletter, social media channels and website - as well as with regular articles on Medium, including a piece [showcasing impact and next steps](#) - and spotlight interviews with members [Alice Kershaw](#), [Dan Farmer](#), [Magid El-Amin](#) and [Liam Sweeney](#). Looking ahead, the DLN will focus on enhancing peer connections, supporting smaller organisations, improving access to resources and aligning future activities with member priorities.

Alongside the more structured Digital Leads Network, we have continued to run the Coffee Connections service, matching peers within the social sector every two months for an informal chat about digital. Across the reporting period, matches took place in April, June, September and November 2024 - and January and March 2025, with 782 matches being made in total made across this time.

As well as making these ongoing matches with existing participants, we have worked with The Developer Society to develop a reusable version of [Coffee Connections](#), so that we can set other organisations up with their own instances. We've so far set up the service for the Trades Union Congress (TUC): they currently have 13 people signed up on their own instance and will be testing it out before we look at rolling it out more widely. CAST's Digital Leads Network also has plans to use the matching service with their members.

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 increasing efficiencies through saving social sector organisations time, resources and money, helping these organisations understand opportunities for service improvements, and ultimately helping communities to have a better service experience.

The incubators with National Citizen Service (see the Providing direct support via in-depth programmes section on page 3) provided a core part of this approach. In addition, this year saw the post-incubation transition of [Kompasi](#) from CAST into Disrupt Foundation. Having developed and tested Kompasi over the past 18 months, we worked to transition Kompasi to be led by a new team within Disrupt Foundation as part of the next phase - aiming to grow the number of people and organisations benefiting from this platform.

Working with The Developer Society, we have developed Worthwhile AI - a first example of 'sector and community owned' AI - an AI service provided to charities that provides a safe sandbox for them to experiment with generative AI in an environment that is governed by our charitable objectives and that prioritises data security. We're currently testing Worthwhile AI as a sandbox for charities to develop their experience and confidence with generative AI; as a tool within the grantmaking process, and as a tool to engage charity staff with case studies about AI usage. We'll be developing Worthwhile AI (and aligned sector-owned AI tools) as a priority in the coming year.

Additionally, in June 2024, we began work helping to shape [British Cycling's](#) Youth Development Awards - part of the organisation's ambition to help every child discover the lifelong joy of riding a bike. Due to staffing changes, British Cycling were looking for additional support to develop this new product. The aim was for CAST to build on British Cycling's existing research, design and testing so far, and provide digital, design and product expertise to take this work to the next stage.

Between June 2024 and February 2025, CAST supported British Cycling to: generate insight from coaches on what works well when supporting young riders; test, prototype and design a product that support clubs to create positive experiences for new riders; create and launch an MVP (which received 10,300 page views during the test period); test the proposition with coaches; recommend technical requirements to integrate with the existing British Cycling digital estate - and undertake a discovery phase with parents into their needs and motivations when supporting their child to learn and progress in cycling. For more information, see this co-written [British Cycling weeknote](#) from October 2024, looking back on MVP development and forwards to the testing phase.

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Opening up dialogue between fundraisers and grantmakers

GrantAdvisor UK is a free platform designed to encourage open dialogue between UK social impact organisations and grantmakers, by collecting authentic, real-time reviews and comments on grantseekers' experiences of working with funders.

Two years on from launch, the site now contains 570 anonymous reviews from grantseekers, with 44 funders registered on the service. Funders that registered during the reporting period include Francis Scott Trust, Barking and Dagenham Giving, Quilter Foundation, Foundation Scotland, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Richmond Foundation and Childwick Trust - and we also supported Joseph Levy Foundation to re-onboard.

In the spring of 2024, we interviewed four funders who had seen a significant increase in their reviews, to find out what they had learned - and hear about changes they were making as a result. As part of this work, we used AI to synthesise themes from the qualitative data and create reports for each of these funders, in order to support these reflective conversations and play back the impact that information gathered from anonymous review has on grantmaking practices and behaviours. We published the results of this analysis and conversations - with Steve Morgan Foundation, City Bridge Foundation, Yapp Charitable Trust and Joffe Charitable Trust - on our Medium platform in April and May of last year.

We continued to explore opportunities to engage the fundraising community in this initiative, including presenting at London Funders' Festival of Learning in May 2024 and the Fundraising Everywhere Trust and Major Donor Conference in December 2024. And we've made improvements to the platform, based on feedback and new learning from funders - e.g. we've included quotes from recent interviews with funders, to show the impact that gathering reviews has on funder practice. We find most funders who register want to have a conversation with the GrantAdvisor team, so we also updated our FAQs to respond to some of the commonly asked questions, and updated the Comms Pack for funders to include 10 tips to support funders to gather reviews.

During the reporting period, the platform attracted 3,600 unique visitors, and 12,000 page views. In January 2025, we ceased posting on X - and instead created Bluesky accounts for both CAST and GrantAdvisor UK.

We are also working on opening up lines of communication across and between charity and funder communities via our work with IVAR and through our AI for Grantmakers peer group: see the Identifying needs - and mobilising support - around AI section on page 6 for details.

Providing support and advice via consultancy work

In addition to programmes, resources, services and platforms, we also work on a one-on-one basis with organisations, providing a range of bespoke consultancy services which include modular support on project management, ways of working, MEL (monitoring, evaluation and learning), user-centred research and design, co-production, service delivery - and much more. During the reporting period, we worked with the organisations as below:

The Clothworkers' Foundation: In a 12-month project, which began in February 2025, we are providing support on all applications for digital infrastructure grants, both Large and Small, under the Open Grants Programme. We participated in training with Clothworkers to build understanding of - and confidence in - assessing and making decisions on digital applications - and from there, we completed the set up, to ensure we had accurate maintenance of data relating to decisions, grant amounts, and grant management contact.

In the first two months, up to and including March 2025, the CAST team assessed 24 grant applications for amounts between £15,000 and £50,000. From this, grants worth approximately £112,000 were made to 10 digital projects - from CRM integrations and web developments, to elearning platforms and app developments.

The programme is planned to continue until the end of January 2026 and during this period we expect that approximately £770,000 worth of grants will be made to between 70 - 80 organisations. As part of the process, we also plan to make contact with successful and unsuccessful applicants to introduce them to further support around digital infrastructure and to provide access to the Digital Leads Network for all suitable grantees. We would also like to support Clothworkers to use GrantAdvisor UK to capture feedback about applicants' experiences of applying for funding.

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Lucy Faithfull Foundation: In an ongoing project which began in 2023, we are helping the Foundation to deliver their groundbreaking Intercept project. Throughout the reporting period, we continued to support the Foundation to deliver the project and embed an innovation approach across the organisation through coaching, workshops and 'task and finish' activities that are deep dives to help move particular pieces of work on, such as making sense of chatbots and exploring games. This support will continue throughout 2025.

Refugee Council: In an eight-month project, which began in October 2024, we are exploring a practical way to support practitioners and young people navigating age disputes. We have been working with Refugee Council and the Childhood First partnership to develop a resource for anyone who comes across a child refugee who has been deemed to be an adult, and wants to help them. This includes staff and volunteers in accommodation such as hotels; charity sector volunteers and staff, and staff in semi-independent accommodation or other local authority settings - as well as those working in Health, Education and Housing.

We ran a co-design workshop for the partnership to shape the toolkit, undertook in-depth user research interviewing practitioners from across the sector, and tested prototypes with practitioners. The MVP was launched to the partnership in April 2025, and further iteration is planned for later this year with a bigger launch to the wider sector. Alongside this we have been working to support Refugee Council to co-design, with young refugees, a resource to help explain the process to the young people affected. This resource is expected to be ready for use by mid 2025.

Prudence Trust: Providing light touch support over three years as Prudence Trust supports two organisations using digital tools to support young people's mental health. This is a new area of work for Prudence Trust and our support aims to help both the charities they're funding and the Prudence Trust team.

Lawn Tennis Association and Deloitte: In early 2025, CAST began a collaboration with Deloitte and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to design a mobile-first digital skills platform for the LTA's 16-25-year-old community activators. The goal is to improve digital confidence, employability and long-term opportunities for young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds through tennis-themed, engaging content. The project runs from April to June 2025. Expected outcomes for the project include: a clear understanding of the target group's digital needs; prototypes of content and rewards, tested and validated by users - and a foundation for a scalable digital platform aligned with the Essential Digital Skills Framework. The project offers potential for wider application across other youth and sport-based programmes.

The Digital Services Consortium (DSC): In a two-year project, which began in February 2025, we are working as an Evaluation and Learning partner to the DSC - an alliance of 12 leading UK charities who work to support disabled and seriously ill young people and their families. We are working to embed shared principles, establish robust learning loops and impact measurement, and support true collaboration and evolution across the programme as they create and grow the digital and hybrid services. The work will result in two evaluation reports and a partnership that is more able to collaborate and learn from each other. We're working to co-design the programme's evaluation framework as well as offer support to develop the digital leads in the partnership.

Trades Union Congress (TUC): As part of the TUC's 'Leading Change' programme, we worked once again with the TUC Digital Lab to design and deliver a transformative digital change leadership module as part of the TUC's prestigious flagship leadership development programme. This two day module aims to empower union leaders with experience of digital leadership, design and transformation approaches.

The King's Fund: We continue to support The King's Fund to explore the role of digital, and AI in particular in their work, and in their mission to improve health and care for all. Our support has covered consultancy, supporting peer groups and providing resources and challenge at all levels of the organisation to engage critically with AI and digital tools.

Showcasing CAST's identity and purpose

Over the past year, we have strengthened our efforts to amplify the visibility and awareness of CAST: the organisation itself; the services we offer, and the networks and connections we are creating - so that our support can reach as many individuals and organisations as possible.

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Central to this storytelling has been our Medium platform, which acts as a hub to capture learnings, reflections and advice from all those within the CAST community. During the reporting period, 54 articles were published, collectively attracting more than 9,300 views: this is a significant increase on last year, both in terms of article numbers and views.

We're openly sharing stories and perspectives directly from the small but mighty core team involved in programme delivery, as well as from those in supporting roles. During the reporting period, eight of the CAST team wrote and submitted Medium articles, with topics including AI experimentation, AI and funding, digital transformation, AI for the refugee and forced migration sector, the power of co-design, AI and inclusion, capacity-building through networking, using data and AI for social good, tackling digital exclusion, grantseekers' perspectives on grantmaking and building human connection. As well as providing content designed to inform and inspire the sector, we highlighted aspects of CAST as an organisation, with details of our staff retreat and the development of our wellbeing policy, as well as a series of Q&A pieces introducing the CAST team.

We've continually updated our website with the latest projects, programmes, resources, events and opportunities - as well as with updated impact figures and organisational developments (e.g. our updated core values, which we redesigned collectively as a team in May 2024). Website figures for the reporting period are significantly higher than this time last year (19,600 unique users, compared to 6,800 for the previous period) - this is likely due to the fact that we started sending a regular (generally monthly) newsletter in June 2024 - which tends to generate thousands of click-throughs per issue, many of which are to the CAST site.

We also continue to share regular posts across social media: we post regularly on our LinkedIn channel, and until early this year we also posted almost daily on X. In February 2025, we ceased posting on X and focused instead on our Bluesky account: set up in September 2024, this has grown swiftly, and currently has more than 2,100 followers.

Throughout the reporting period, we reached more than 40,000 people via our communications channels (website, social media, newsletter, Medium and YouTube) alone. The infographic below provides a snapshot of our impact over the reporting period; see the impact page of our website for more information. As we move forward, we are building on the wealth of positive testimonials to further strengthen our presence and support.

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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CAST'S YEAR IN NUMBERS

WE HAVE DELIVERED
OR CONTRIBUTED TO

60

PROGRAMMES,
SERVICES, PLATFORMS,
PEER GROUPS & EVENTS

SUPPORTING

60,000

INDIVIDUALS

ACROSS

4,300

CHARITIES, SOCIAL IMPACT
ORGANISATIONS, FUNDERS
& SUPPORT ORGS

POST-INITIATIVE SURVEY STATISTICS FROM PARTICIPANTS ON CAST PROGRAMMES, PEER GROUPS AND COURSES



100% OF DESIGN HOP PARTICIPANTS STATED
THAT THEY FELT MORE CONFIDENT
USING A DESIGN PROCESS WITHIN
THEIR ORGANISATION



97% OF PEOPLE WHO COMPLETED THE SEVEN
WEEK AI SELF-SERVE COURSE DESCRIBED
THE CONTENT AS 'ENGAGING AND
RELEVANT'



94% OF DIGITAL LEADS NETWORK
MEMBERS FELT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE
TO SHARE HONEST REFLECTIONS AND
LEARNING WITH THEIR PEERS



100% OF YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE YOUTH
SECTOR INNOVATION INCUBATOR PROJECT
STATED THAT THEY FELT INVOLVED IN THE
DESIGN PROCESS IN A MEANINGFUL WAY



100% OF DELOITTE DIGITAL CONNECT PARTICIPANTS
REPORTED INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN
APPLYING USER-CENTRED DESIGN



91% OF ATTENDEES TO THE AI FOR
GRANTMAKERS MEETING FOUND THE
SESSION USEFUL OR VERY USEFUL

APRIL 1ST 2024 - MARCH 31ST 2025

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Total income of £1.0m is 39% below overall income for 2023/24, but is 10% above CAST-only income for 2023/24, excluding Catalyst - which became a separate entity from April 2024.

Income comprised £208k of grant funding from the Disrupt Foundation, £105k of grant income from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, service income of £575k, and a number of smaller grants and donations.

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 £1.1m during the year.

Of this expenditure, £157k was paid out as direct grants, and £289k was spent on sub-contracted digital support provided by external partners. In addition to the digital capacity development costs we incurred £103k on support costs and £13k on fund-raising.

Reserves policy

The Charity has a risk-based reserves policy.

This 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 £218,000.

Year end reserves were considerably below this target level, at only £108k in total (£48k unrestricted). This was due to a number of factors, primarily, the timing of funding and of the commencement of new projects; and a strategic decision to invest in the development of AI knowledge and services. The dip in reserves was anticipated, along with a post year-end increase in reserves, which had reached £168k in total (£72k unrestricted) by the end of June 2025. Unrestricted reserves are expected to be within the target range by January 2026. The trustees therefore regard CAST's year end reserves position as acceptable, whilst recognising the need to develop increased reserves in future periods.

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FUTURE OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The unprecedented pace of adoption of generative AI - and the opportunities and impacts that brings - demands that we continue to increase our focus on supporting mission-driven organisations to respond to these changes, and to get to a position where the communities they serve can be central to the decisions and uses around AI. We will continue to support charity practitioners, mission driven organisations and focus on sector-strengthening approaches that ensure that civil society has a stronger influence.

To do this, CAST will continue to focus on accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all. Developing the agency ensures charity practitioners can critically engage with digital and AI tools, appropriately using them to create greater impact in their work. We'll continue to invest in training; capacity building; leadership development and sharing examples of emerging practices. We'll continue to focus on strengthening the number and depth of relationships between charity digital leads - especially through the Digital Leads Network and the AI for Grantmakers peer group.

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. We will focus our efforts on creating and supporting sector- and community-owned technologies - those technologies built, designed with, and owned by the sector and those impacted by their use. This includes further development of safe tools for charity practitioners to build their confidence and experience, as well as the development of sector-owned tools that can be reused across the sector.

Ensuring social impact organisations have greater influence and reach remains a key part of our strategy, and demands even greater focus in the year ahead. We will continue to support initiatives that strive to platform sector leaders and connect them with those in positions of power and authority. As part of this, we will continue our work co-chairing the Charity AI Task Force and advocating for the responsible, inclusive and collaborative use of AI across the social sector.

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.

Governance

CAST has appointed trustees that bring a strong understanding of the potential of technology to address social challenges. The trustees who served during the period were as follows: Emma Thomas, Lara Burns, Kate Collins, Gaia Ines Fassò, Prue Quarcoo, Pema Radha, Ha Cole and Nic Granger OBE.

Current trustees (as of November 2025) are as follows: Lara Burns, Kate Collins, Gaia Ines Fassò (Chair), Pema Radha, Ha Cole and Nic Granger OBE. To aid the effective governance of the charity, we also operate a Finance and Audit committee (Chaired by Nic Granger OBE) with delegated authority as set out in an agreed Scheme of Delegation.

With huge thanks and gratitude, two of our trustees, Emma Thomas and Prue Quarcoo stepped down during this period. Both of these trustees have played a huge role in supporting and extending the impact of CAST, for which we are all incredibly grateful. In particular, Prue helped form and lead our Finance and Risk committee. Emma Thomas was one of our founding trustees, having served on CAST's Board for ten years, including one year as Chair, and has been instrumental in our formation and development.

In mid 2024 we undertook a recruitment exercise as a result of our Governance review to recruit two new trustees to the Board, specifically in the following areas: digital and social innovation, charity and social enterprise, grant-making and social investment, financial and risk management. Through this process we recruited Ha Cole, Chief AI Officer, Tech for Social Impact, Microsoft EMEA and Nic Granger OBE, Chief Information and Financial Officer for the North Sea Transition Authority to the Board.

The Board has adopted the Charity Governance Code and ensures compliance through regular review.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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 the risks faced by the charity, reviewing the detailed risk register on a quarterly basis. A strong risk management process is in place whereby delivery, strategic, and organisational risks are identified, recorded, and, where appropriate, escalated to the management team and trustees. Risks are also discussed weekly at Platform Team meetings and reflected in evolving organisational priorities.

The key risks to the Charity are:

- **Strengthening financial resilience and securing long-term funding.** CAST continues to maintain a strong reputation with funders and a growing pipeline of opportunities, particularly in areas such as AI and digital capability. As our work often leads sector innovation, we recognise that funding can follow in cycles, with peaks of investment often arriving after CAST has already stepped into new spaces. While the timing of funding decisions can be unpredictable, we are actively managing this through strong oversight of cashflow, a flexible reserves policy, and by deepening relationships with both existing and new funders. We are focused on building multi-year, core funding partnerships and aligning business development more closely with our strategic areas of impact.
At the same time, CAST remains responsive to risk, in a prioritised way, should unexpected dips in revenue occur.
- **Navigating ethical complexity and pace of AI development.** The speed of change in generative AI presents both opportunity and risk. CAST must maintain a balanced position, advancing sector capacity for 'worthwhile AI' while also acknowledging potential harms. Our belief is that supporting charities to develop a critical understanding of AI best supports the sector to have a louder voice in championing the needs of our communities - and that to get to this critical understanding the sector must be supported to engage with, experience and understand the opportunities and challenges of AI. We have strengthened our leadership in this area with new AI focussed hires, continued development of the Charity AI Task Force, and strong engagement with funders and sector organisations. We remain committed to a thoughtful, collaborative approach to shaping the sector's role and voice in AI innovation.
- **Strategic influence and relevance.** Delivering on the third pillar of CAST's strategy, sector-wide and beyond-sector influencing, requires us to strengthen our external engagement and align our influencing activity with our internal expertise. We are building this capability through partnerships; networked influencing through the Charity AI Task Force; working in partnership with sector-leading organisations, and increased participation in sector events and forums. Our ongoing work to centre the voices of charities and communities in the national digital conversation is a critical part of this risk mitigation.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
09544506 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1161998

Registered office
Broul Cottage Bath Road
Nailsworth
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 0QL

Trustees

Emma Thomas	(resigned 30 April 2025)
Mary McKenna MBE	(resigned 30 June 2024)
Kathryn Collins	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Gaia-Ines Fassio	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Prue Quarcoo	(resigned 24 September 2024)
Pema Radha	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Lara Burns	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Ha Thi Thu Cole	(appointed 24 September 2024)
Nicola Granger OBE	(appointed 24 September 2024)

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.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

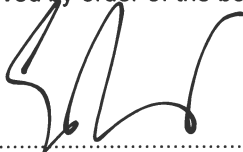
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

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.

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 on19th November 2025..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Gaia-Ines Fasso - 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 2025 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 2025 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
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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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and sector, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to breaches of employment law, data protection and anti-bribery and corruption legislation, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Charities acts, Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to overstate profit and management bias in accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and Trustee Directors, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations;
- As required by ISA 240, incorporating an element of unpredictability into our audit testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**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: 

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	1,232	-	1,232	119,993
Charitable activities	3				
Digital capacity development		<u>625,152</u>	<u>415,375</u>	<u>1,040,527</u>	<u>1,582,865</u>
Total		<u>626,384</u>	<u>415,375</u>	<u>1,041,759</u>	<u>1,702,858</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	13,068	-	13,068	21,292
Charitable activities	5				
Digital capacity development		<u>738,670</u>	<u>367,525</u>	<u>1,106,195</u>	<u>2,218,523</u>
Total		<u>751,738</u>	<u>367,525</u>	<u>1,119,263</u>	<u>2,239,815</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(125,354)	47,850	(77,504)	(536,957)
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>173,409</u>	<u>12,138</u>	<u>185,547</u>	<u>722,504</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>48,055</u></u>	<u><u>59,988</u></u>	<u><u>108,043</u></u>	<u><u>185,547</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	3,016	4,127
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	230,675	106,893
Cash at bank		<u>39,853</u>	<u>387,771</u>
		270,528	494,664
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(165,501)	(313,244)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>105,027</u>	<u>181,420</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>108,043</u>	<u>185,547</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>108,043</u>	<u>185,547</u>
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		48,055	173,409
Restricted funds		<u>59,988</u>	<u>12,138</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>108,043</u>	<u>185,547</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 on19th November 2025..... and were signed on its behalf by:



 Gaia-Ines Passo - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(346,618)</u>	<u>(320,998)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(346,618)</u>	<u>(320,998)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,300)	(2,166)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		<u>-</u>	<u>560</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(1,300)</u>	<u>(1,606)</u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(347,918)	(322,604)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>387,771</u>	<u>710,375</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>39,853</u></u>	<u><u>387,771</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 2025**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(77,504)	(536,957)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,280	1,410
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	1,131	583
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(123,782)	201,915
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>(147,743)</u>	<u>12,051</u>
Net cash used in operations	<u><u>(346,618)</u></u>	<u><u>(320,998)</u></u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.25 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>387,771</u>	<u>(347,918)</u>	<u>39,853</u>
	<u>387,771</u>	<u>(347,918)</u>	<u>39,853</u>
Total	<u><u>387,771</u></u>	<u><u>(347,918)</u></u>	<u><u>39,853</u></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 2025**

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 financial risks are manageable, through appropriate monitoring of new income streams, and readiness to respond promptly in the event of adverse variances. 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.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure

- 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.
- 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 2025**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Donations	<u>1,232</u>	<u>119,993</u>

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Grants	465,469	1,403,164
Service income	<u>575,058</u>	<u>179,701</u>
	<u>1,040,527</u>	<u>1,582,865</u>

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Refugee Action	31,294	14,463
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	22,500	220,000
Esmee Fairbairn	105,000	15,000
City Bridge Trust	10,000	230,800
The National Lottery Community Fund- Catalyst	-	593,736
Sport England	-	30,177
Tides Foundtion	57,299	-
Yapp Charitable trust	-	2,500
Tudor Trust	-	5,000
The Disrupt Foundation	208,076	255,738
Joffle	-	10,500
Power to Change	-	25,250
Digital Skills Consortium	8,800	-
Trust for London	<u>22,500</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>465,469</u>	<u>1,403,164</u>

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Staff costs	<u>13,068</u>	<u>21,292</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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	<u>845,730</u>	<u>157,117</u>	<u>103,348</u>	<u>1,106,195</u>

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Staff costs	513,738	452,675
Subcontractors	289,090	945,417
Travel and subsistence	8,618	13,583
Other direct costs	<u>34,284</u>	<u>103,482</u>
	<u>845,730</u>	<u>1,515,157</u>

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Digital capacity development	<u>157,117</u>	<u>328,445</u>

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
The Developer Society	132,000	90,000
Deloitte Digital Connect	(3,445)	108,060
We the Catalysts CIC	-	130,385
Platypus	7,050	-
Third Sector Lab	<u>21,512</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>157,117</u>	<u>328,445</u>

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

The Developer Society

Onward grants to the Developer Society were for the Disrupt Foundation project and the AI Knowledge Hub.

Esmee Fairbairn Project

Onward grants to Platypus Digital and Third Sector Lab were part of the Esmee Fairbairn project.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Digital capacity development	<u>96,326</u>	<u>7,022</u>	<u>103,348</u>

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

Management

	31.3.25 Digital capacity development £	31.3.24 Total activities £
Wages	53,240	279,756
Social security	12,378	30,133
Pensions	4,169	13,791
Rent	4,088	5,534
Telephone	-	380
Postage and stationery	574	371
Sundries	519	856
Equipment repairs and renewals	242	76
Software and licence expenses	2,607	-
Administration services	13,060	21,969
Bank charges	1,286	1,351
Training	300	5,111
Professional fees	-	3,306
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	1,452	2,834
Recruitment costs	-	600
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	1,280	1,410
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	<u>1,131</u>	<u>583</u>
	<u>96,326</u>	<u>368,061</u>

Governance costs

	31.3.25 Digital capacity development £	31.3.24 Total activities £
Auditors' remuneration	6,960	6,660
Trustee meeting and expenses	28	160
Legal fees	<u>34</u>	<u>40</u>
	<u>7,022</u>	<u>6,860</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,960	6,660
Depreciation - owned assets	1,280	1,410
Other operating leases	4,088	5,534
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	<u>1,131</u>	<u>583</u>

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year no trustees received remuneration from the charitable company (31.3.24: £nil).

Trustees' expenses

During the year nil trustee (31.3.24: one trustee) was reimbursed expenses by the charity for travel totalling £nil (31.3.24: £121).

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Wages and salaries	513,873	688,578
Social security costs	55,604	73,551
Other pension costs	<u>27,116</u>	<u>35,518</u>
	<u>596,593</u>	<u>797,647</u>

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Charitable	8	8
Support	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	119,993	-	119,993
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	<u>227,164</u>	<u>1,355,701</u>	<u>1,582,865</u>
Total	<u>347,157</u>	<u>1,355,701</u>	<u>1,702,858</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	21,292	-	21,292
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	<u>774,960</u>	<u>1,443,563</u>	<u>2,218,523</u>
Total	<u>796,252</u>	<u>1,443,563</u>	<u>2,239,815</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(449,095)	(87,862)	(536,957)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>622,504</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>722,504</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>173,409</u>	<u>12,138</u>	<u>185,547</u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £
COST	
At 1 April 2024	8,718
Additions	1,300
Disposals	<u>(1,697)</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>8,321</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2024	4,591
Charge for year	1,280
Eliminated on disposal	<u>(566)</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,305</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,016</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,127</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR				
			31.3.25	31.3.24
			£	£
Trade debtors			183,868	58,000
Other debtors			<u>46,807</u>	<u>48,893</u>
			<u>230,675</u>	<u>106,893</u>
15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR				
			31.3.25	31.3.24
			£	£
Trade creditors			22,430	38,328
Social security and other taxes			-	36,944
VAT			52,362	9,904
Other creditors			<u>90,709</u>	<u>228,068</u>
			<u>165,501</u>	<u>313,244</u>
Deferred income				
Deferred income comprises grant received for future financial periods.				
			31.3.25	31.3.24
			£	£
Balance brought forward			-	-
Amount release to incoming resources			-	-
Amount deferred in the year			<u>27,500</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance carried forward			<u>27,500</u>	<u>-</u>
16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.3.25 Total funds	31.3.24 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,016	-	3,016	4,127
Current assets	171,416	99,112	270,528	494,664
Current liabilities	<u>(126,377)</u>	<u>(39,124)</u>	<u>(165,501)</u>	<u>(313,244)</u>
	<u>48,055</u>	<u>59,988</u>	<u>108,043</u>	<u>185,547</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	173,409	(125,354)	48,055
Restricted funds			
Power to Change	12,138	(12,138)	-
AI Knowledge Hub	-	11,448	11,448
Esmee Fairbairn	-	48,540	48,540
	<u>12,138</u>	<u>47,850</u>	<u>59,988</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>185,547</u>	<u>(77,504)</u>	<u>108,043</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	626,384	(751,738)	(125,354)
Restricted funds			
The Disrupt Foundation	208,076	(208,076)	-
Power to Change	-	(12,138)	(12,138)
Okta	57,299	(57,299)	-
AI Knowledge Hub	45,000	(33,552)	11,448
Esmee Fairbairn	105,000	(56,460)	48,540
	<u>415,375</u>	<u>(367,525)</u>	<u>47,850</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,041,759</u>	<u>(1,119,263)</u>	<u>(77,504)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	622,504	(449,095)	173,409
Restricted funds			
City Bridge Trust	100,000	(100,000)	-
Power to Change	-	12,138	12,138
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>(87,862)</u>	<u>12,138</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>722,504</u>	<u>(536,957)</u>	<u>185,547</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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	347,157	(796,252)	(449,095)
Restricted funds			
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	220,000	(220,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	230,800	(330,800)	(100,000)
TNLCF - Growing Great Ideas	593,736	(593,736)	-
Sport England	30,177	(30,177)	-
The Disrupt Foundation	255,738	(255,738)	-
Power to Change	25,250	(13,112)	12,138
	<u>1,355,701</u>	<u>(1,443,563)</u>	<u>(87,862)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,702,858</u>	<u>(2,239,815)</u>	<u>(536,957)</u>

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

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) - 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.

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 multifaceted 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.

Power to Change

Our Community Explore programme supported 20 community businesses over six months to delve into Community Tech using a user-centred, test-driven design approach. This work was part of the Power to Change Discovery Fund.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

AI Knowledge Hub

Working with Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Trust for London to create and test an 'AI archivist' that has access to internal documents (such as board papers, discussions, minutes and decisions made) to be used to bring past-information into current meetings. The aim of this work is to understand how AI might usefully support institutional memory. A further part of this project is to look for alignment between the two organisations, to identify additional opportunities for knowledge sharing across the sector.

Esmee Fairbairn

Working to sustain and further develop the key digital infrastructure of support helping charities make best use of digital, data and design. Funding from Esmee Fairbairn supports the continuation of services developed as part of Catalyst, and aims to increase the number of charities benefiting from this support.

Okta

Under their Okta for Good Fund, Okta is a long-term supporter of CAST, aiming to continue to build the sector's capacity around digital, data and AI. With Okta's support we are building spaces, resources and tools that enable charities to collectively develop their confidence and skills in AI.

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 £27,116 (31.3.24: £33,318). There was £5,176 of outstanding contributions at 31 March 2025 (31.3.24: £5,961).

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025 (31.3.24: none).

20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

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

