

**COMMUNITY CIRCLES**  
**CHARITY REGISTERED NO. 1163149**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

**COMMUNITY CIRCLES**  
**CHARITY REGISTERED NO. 1163149**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The Charity is registered with the Charities Commission, its registration number is 1163149.

The principal office of the Charity is 1 Church View, Knutsford, WA16 6DQ.

**TRUSTEES**

The Trustees of the charity are:-

Mrs J Harvey – resigned 28 February 2021  
Dr H Sanderson  
Mr A Gitsham – resigned 28 February 2021  
Ms E McArdle – appointed 3 March 2021  
Mr B Rosamond – appointed 3 March 2021  
Ms M Livesley – appointed 3 March 2021  
Mrs V Jones – resigned 28 February 2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

The Charity's independent examiner is Mr James Wheelan FCCA of James Wheelan Accountancy, Minshull House, 67 Wellington Road North, Stockport, SK4 2LP.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Charity is constituted as a body corporate under Part 11 of the Charities Act 2011 and is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 14 August 2015. Community Circles is run by its board of trustees and is governed by its constitution. The trustees are supported with the day to day running of the charity by the development team, made up of a team of development workers and freelance consultants, working with some of our initial partners. The trustees meet quarterly and the development team meet bi-monthly at our 'community of practice' meetings, to ensure that we are working towards our charitable objectives and we are following through on our strategic objectives. The board of trustees currently consist of Vicky Jones, Joanne Harvey and Helen Sanderson. Helen Sanderson is the CEO of Community Circles and is ultimately responsible for the management of the organisation as a whole with Martin Routledge taking on operational lead responsibilities.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Directors and Trustees**

The trustees of the Charity are appointed in accordance with Charity's constitution.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The primary charitable objective of Community Circles is:

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are social excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. For the purpose of this clause, 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

We achieve this by delivering Community Circles across the UK. Community Circles are a way for friends and family to support someone, through conversation and actions, supported by a facilitator. The facilitator helps the friends' and family's conversation to move to action, through person-centred practices. Community Circles are a way for us to support each other in our local community. Each Community Circle has a purpose – this is the reason why the person wants a circle. It may be to meet new people, get practical support, feel stronger, or help with managing a change. No two circles are alike. In a Community Circle people come together to talk and plan with a person about what they can

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do together, A Community Circle can be held in someone's home, in a church, temple, or school, a restaurant or a pub: anywhere where the person is comfortable, and is a safe place to talk.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

2020-21 was significantly disrupted by the Covid pandemic, with impact on both charity activity and finances. Nevertheless we adapted in order to deliver to people and projects and we were able to sustain sufficient finances to move forward into 2021/2 with some confidence. Here is an outline of activity:

### **We'll Meet Again**

Lottery grant funding enabled this short partnership with Social Care Future and In Control. The two main activities and products were: 1. an on-line resource sharing approaches and resources enabling people to stay connected during lockdowns, in particular to support older and disabled people 2. Some direct support to people experiencing isolation and separation for loved ones and usual activities including provision of tablets

### **Doncaster Partnership**

We are continuing to support and mentor local Age UK staff on the lottery funded project and assist with development and evaluation. A successful fourth year for the project included the scheme's continuing expansion. In addition to continued support for operational staff we have been offering advice to senior staff relating to post-lottery sustainability

### **Circles Connected**

Our two part time community connectors continued to support older people to connect to each other in Abingdon and Ashton. The Abingdon project was coming to the conclusion of Lottery Support and a report on its successful work was submitted. The major development was driven by the pandemic. In the early stages of the first lockdown the decision was taken to move the projects on-line. Instead of a programme of community based activities these are now offered on-line. In the context of Covid this has been very successful. Daily and weekly programmes of activities and connections have been provided by staff, volunteers, freelancers and members. Advantages of the on-line offer have included the ability to include members beyond the two geographical areas (numbers quickly grew to more than 500) and to sustain an offer in Abingdon after the end of Lottery funding. As the financial year was coming to an end we started to plan how to return to face to face support in Ashton when Covid conditions allow.

### **Warwickshire project**

We continued to support to the County Council to share Circles methodology with statutory and voluntary sector partners. This project has now concluded.

### **Suffolk project**

The pandemic hit just as we were getting properly started with this two-year project. In agreement with the Suffolk Community Connected team and leadership we adapted so that our first year support shifted to on-line. This has included the provision of significant on-line training directly to the Suffolk Team and also to partner organisations including both statutory and community and voluntary sector partnerships. We have given direct advice on specific projects and activities to a range of groups within the three target areas and made our tools and resources available as appropriate. We have given specific support to a local hospice, in particular on the "one page profile" approach and we have assisted the development of a public facing video animation for their outreach project. Moving into the next year we are likely to provide significant support to extra care housing partners in developing Circles approaches.

### **Shared Lives project**

Some funding from the Shared Lives charity allowed us to work with them offering e-learning and on-line training to interested Shared Lives carers to use Circles approaches in their support to people living with them as part of Shared Lives schemes



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**Oxfordshire Project**

Our OCC funded project to support the development of Circles within three residential homes was significantly disrupted by Covid and the consequent infection control activity of the homes. We provided significant initial design and training support to homes staff and mentored the community connector to the project. During the early stages we were able to offer some virtual support but eventually the project was suspended. We subsequently agreed to shift resources in support for a Community Catalysts project in the City.

**Communications and influence**

We have continued to offer the bi-monthly newsletter to keep members connected and able to share and support each other. We have further developed our social media presence and continue to produce regular blogs and other communications for the sector. We continue to be active members of sector coalitions including Think Local Act Personal and are part of the new Social Care Future Movement  
The community of practice has moved on-line with weekly opportunities for sharing and problem solving and email and slack communication

**Recent developments**

In the second half of the year we reviewed our position and offers in the context of the continuing pandemic. As a result two developments emerged 1. The development of a series of on line training courses 2. A partnership offer of annual support

Both have developed and a number of courses started. We were also successful in recruiting six partners for 12 month projects of various types

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The attached receipts and payments accounts show the current state of the finances, which the Trustees considers to be acceptable. Total incoming resources were £99,274 (2020 - £284,137) and total outgoing payments amounted to £154,739 (2020 - £166,430) the net expenditure for the year was £55,465 (net income 2020 - £117,707). Restricted funds carried forward amounted to £142,362 (2020 - £86,897).

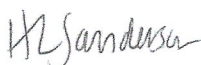
**Reserves Policy**

In light of the main risks to the Charity the Trustees have made a decision that the Charity should keep funds at a suitable level in order to meet its ongoing liabilities.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning the future activities of the Charity, These are shown above in the section 'Objectives and activities'.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



**Dr H Sanderson**  
**Chair**

**Date: 21/12/2021**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**COMMUNITY CIRCLES**  
**CHARITY REGISTERED NO.1163149**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the receipts and payments accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

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

**Independent examiners' statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



James Wheelan FCCA  
James Wheelan Accountancy Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Minshull House,  
67 Wellington Road North,  
Stockport, SK4 2LP

Date: 21-12-2021

**COMMUNITY CIRCLES**  
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**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations, legacies and grants	-	99,274	99,274	284,137
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	<b>99,274</b>	<b>99,274</b>	<b>284,137</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Wages and National Insurance	-	120,011	120,011	89,392
Pension contributions	-	6,078	6,078	4,017
Insurance	-	-	-	2,086
Printing, postage, stationery and computer supplies	-	2,458	2,458	12,780
Consultancy fees	-	18,817	18,817	43,659
Professional fees	-	1,435	1,435	1,363
Travel	-	714	714	4,981
Telephone, internet and postage	-	1,836	1,836	1,210
Bank interest and charges	-	1	1	39
Other expenditure	-	2,505	2,505	6,903
<b>Sub total</b>	-	<b>153,855</b>	<b>153,855</b>	<b>166,430</b>
<b>Asset and investment purchases</b>	-	884	884	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	<b>154,739</b>	<b>154,739</b>	<b>166,430</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	-	(55,465)	(55,465)	117,707
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds brought forward at 1 April 2020	-	142,362	142,362	24,655
<b>Cash funds carried forward at 31 March 2021</b>	-	<b>86,897</b>	<b>86,897</b>	<b>142,362</b>

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**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
Treasurers account	-	86,897	86,897	142,363
<b>Total cash funds</b>	-	86,897	86,897	142,363
<b>ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITIES OWN USE</b>				
Computers and other equipment	-	748	748	160
Amounts owed	-	46,286	46,286	5,479
<b>Total</b>	-	47,034	47,034	5,639
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accruals	-	600	600	895
Other taxes	-	2,795	2,795	2,023
<b>Total liabilities</b>	-	3,395	3,395	2,918

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf



..... Dr H Sanderson - Chair

21/12/2021

..... Date

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

**1. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Charity has transacted with related parties as follows:-

Wellbeing Teams Group Ltd, a company under the control of Dr H Sanderson (chair and trustee) paid £8,305 (2020: £8,435) to Community Circles in respect of salary and expense recharges and was paid £1,136 (2020: £1,661) in respect of training. At the end of the year a balance of £nil was owed to the charity (2020: £nil).

Helen Sanderson Ltd, a company under the control of Dr H Sanderson (chair and trustee), granted £2,500 (2020: £Nil) to Community Circles in respect of Small Sparks.