

Charity number: 1163658

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

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Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.
Charity Reference and Administrative Details
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity information

Charity Registration Number	1163658
Trustees:	J.P. Douglas-Hughes OBE DL M.J. Dyer MBE G.P. Middleton FCA P. Drummond D. Springett Mrs J. Fosh L. Blissett R.C. Mills (appointed 19/05/23)
Principal place of business:	Harway House Rectory Lane Chelmsford Essex CM1 1RQ
Auditor:	Ashings Chartered Accountants Northside House Cockfosters Parade Barnet EN4 9EB
Solicitor:	Gepps Solicitors 5 Springfield Lyons Approach Chelmsford Essex CM2 5LB
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ Lloyds Bank plc High Street Chelmsford Essex CM1 1DU CCLA Investment Management Limited Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4BT NatWest Bank plc Chelmsford Branch 4-5 High Street Chelmsford Essex CM1 1FZ

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Registered Charity No. 1163658

Trustees Report

The Trustees hereby present the financial statements of the Essex Boys & Girls' Clubs for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared using applicable accounting standards consistent with previous years and in accordance with the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting by Charities).

The legacy of the Covid 19 Virus pandemic that impacted the UK over two years from March 2020, although significantly abating, has impacted both the availability of youth work funding and the resources available to deliver opportunities to young people. It may take some time before the full affect is fully negated. This changed situation is now being considerably exacerbated by the impact the current "cost of living crisis" is having on vulnerable sectors of the community. This Charity is committed and determined to continue to execute its aims and objectives, it remains flexible in its ability to meet changing needs and continues to be well placed to do so.

Constitution and Objectives

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs was formerly known as The Essex Association of Boys' Clubs prior to 2009. With effect from 1st January 2016, it transferred its assets into a charitable incorporated organisation.

The general objectives of the charity are to further the development and education of boys and young men and girls and young women, primarily but not exclusively in a single gender setting so as to help them achieve their physical, mental and spiritual potential enabling them to grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society, and for this purpose to:

- Encourage the formation of new clubs for young people and render assistance and guidance to existing clubs.
- Provide a comprehensive programme of adventurous, sporting, and creative activities to bring young people together to appreciate, learn and develop their personal skills.
- Promote an interest in boys and girls work, by maintaining contact with other bodies, statutory and voluntary, interested in the welfare of young people.
- Promote co-operation between affiliated clubs for their mutual benefit and foster their contact with the national body.
- Arouse public interest, recruit, and arrange for the training of leaders and helpers.
- Raise funds for the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

We have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in the planning of future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Organisation and Trustees

The organisation employs a number of full time and part-time staff to deliver its services, headed by a County Director. The trustees are elected by the members at the AGM. The Chief Constable of Essex and the Bishop of Chelmsford are each entitled to appoint one committee member. The trustees who served during the year are listed in the Legal and Administrative details.

The organisation keeps under constant reviews the desirability of strengthening the skills and experience of its board of trustees by further recruitment. Newly appointed trustees are likely to have experience of working with young people and receive induction training and written information about the organisation's constitution and work, and guidance on their duties and responsibilities as trustees.

Related Parties

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs is a founder member of the National Association of Boys & Girls Clubs, an organisation formed to promote inter-county relationships and national events.

Review of the Year

Activities and Performance

A more detailed review of Essex Boys & Girls Clubs activities and outcomes is published separately in the Annual Review, a printed report accompanying these accounts.

The charity has historically delivered and expects to continue to deliver its objectives in a number of ways:

Member Club Support programme – Trained club support officers regularly visit all affiliated youth clubs during operational periods to advise and assist with constitutional, regulatory and governance guidance and promote opportunities for young members to participate in the organisation's activity programmes.

The challenges of re-establishing and supporting affiliated youth groups post pandemic continued in 2023. The enforced lock-downs broke continuity generally and although a recovery of demand is in evidence, getting young people and volunteers back into clubs remains a vital part of this Charity's ambitions.

Activities and Events programme – A wide range of adventurous, sporting and arts-based activities are being re-established and staged regularly to encourage team spirit, competitive fair play and creative skills in the young people participating, and their leaders. These are delivered locally, county wide, and in concert with other county-based youth organisations, regionally and nationally. A portion of the programme is delivered at the organisation's own outdoor activity centres at High Row in Cumbria, Maes-y-Lade in Powys and Layer Marney Outdoors in Essex. Specifically funded school Holiday Hunger Activity programmes are increasingly in demand and comprised a meaningful part of the Charity's programme in 2023.

Education and Training – Programmes continually in hand, many individually funded, include leadership, first aid, child protection and drug awareness courses for club leaders and members, activity qualifications for staff and youth workers, apprentice youth worker training schemes and "Respect", the charity's flagship initiative which over many years has proven to be an exceptionally successful life skills and behaviour appreciation and modifying experience benefiting many hundreds of young people. The Charity's successful "Respect" life skills programme continues to attract good funding and continues to deliver very positive benefits to those participating.

Achievements in the year

We continue to expand and support our affiliated clubs across Essex and East London and their 15,000+ members and add exciting new activities increasing the numbers of young people engaging with us. We also helped communities looking to establish a club and activities in their area. We also provided vital training and support to the 1,600 volunteers and committee members who do an amazing job running the clubs, delivering over 100 Level 2 Safeguarding training and First Aid qualifications to volunteers, and offering other training in youth work, leadership, and adventurous outdoors activities.

Our events calendar grew, offering members a range of activities, including well-established long-standing events such as the National Cross-Country Championships, which in 2023 had 104 runners, and new events such as the Water Activity Day held at Layer Marney Outdoors, which welcomed 47 young people for a day, of activities.

Our Arts offer continued to grow and develop, with 2023 including Theatre trips where 63 young people visited London and watched a West End Performance. A particular highlight was delivering the first EBGC Arts residential at Maes y Lade, where the group also visited the Hay Festival.

Residential experiences remained a crucial part of our programme, with over 2,000 young people taking part in residential to Maes y Lade or High Row to engage in activities such as caving, canoeing, paddleboarding, mountain walking and archery.

The Respect Project, first established in 2000, is still in high demand and 2023 saw us deliver 12 projects engaging with 34 schools and 456 young people at the initial stage, with 163 young people completing the project.

The EBGC staff team remains busy delivering programmes such as The National Citizen Service (NCS), Transform Our World and Sports Leadership Training amongst many other projects. We delivered the school holiday activities and food programme (HAF) in partnership with Active Essex and the London Borough of Redbridge and saw over 6,000 attendances.

Looking ahead to 2024, we will continue to provide events, activities, and training opportunities for all our affiliated clubs and members. We also plan to reintroduce our international expeditions and cultivate new links through the World Federation of Youth Clubs.

We thank all our affiliated clubs, club leaders, volunteers, young people for supporting our programme, and our funders and partners who make this possible.

Financial Review

2023 saw an anticipated reduction in income from donations and grants as post pandemic economic factors and political uncertainty restrained many grant making organisations from renewing future funding. Throughout the year projects affected by past events were concluded and although considerable success in raising funds to continue flagship activities was achieved, funds originating from Central Government sources were much reduced. Voluntary income fell some 26% to £969,468 and total income fell some 17% to £1,380,492.

However, the volume of prefunded and unfunded work increased with activity funding increasing slightly despite the reduction in income and inflationary pressures.

The net effect was an aggregate surplus of revenue reduced from £376,008 in 2022 to £23,781 this year, at operating level.

Invested core cash reserves performed well in the year, the unrealised gain in value adding £185,884 to the overall increase in funds carried forward to 2024. The net impact of unrealised investment gains and losses produced a reported net movement in funds of £209,665 compared to £283,574 in the previous year.

The analysis of overall net movements on Restricted Funds was an encouraging increase of £103,814 to £462,588 carried forward to 2024 and Designated Project Funding increased £213,435 to £1,706,590. Included in this latter sum are reserves prudently set aside for both contingent and contractual liabilities as well as sums set aside to fund projects and innovations yet to be specifically funded. These reserves, all held in cash and invested funds, protects the charity from any threat to its going concern and underwrites its flexibility to respond to demands on its resources.

Unrestricted reserves were called upon in the sum of £107,584 to fund unfinanced activity affirming the Charity's commitment to delivering its objectives during changing times. Unrestricted reserves at the year-end amounted to £1,330,302, of which some £818,900 was invested in freehold Outdoor residential centres that were well used during the year.

With core costs forecast at £648,000 in 2024, the charity has some 9 months' worth of cash reserves, well within its 12-month operating reserves policy and more than adequate to preserve any unfunded anticipated operating capability.

Principal Funding Sources

In 2023 income from the Government's National Citizens Scheme fell from £277,387 to £10,133. Funding from the Big Lottery also fell by £144,055 as a major Youth Endowment Fund project concluded. Both events were finite and much of the impact mitigated by increased funding, especially for the highly reputed "Respect" life skills flagship projects.

Substantial funding continued to be received from Essex County Council and the London Borough of Redbridge and the Jack Petchey Foundation in support of Holiday Hunger activities and residential programmes at Maes Y Lade designed to offset the effects of covid lockdown on young people and offer opportunities away from home.

It is anticipated that funding for Holiday Hunger programmes may come to an end in 2025.

The Organisation is substantially supported by the Jack Petchey Foundation (major sponsors of the "Respect" programme), the Essex Youth Trust, Essex Community of Voluntary Youth Services, The Rank Foundation, the Police Commission through the Violence and Vulnerability Unit, and a number of other local and national Charitable Trusts who continue to place great value in the type of work and successful outcomes EBGC undertakes and obtains with young people. This Charity is clearly indebted to these Trusts and very appreciative of all this support for its initiatives.

EBGC continues to be active and resourceful in generating appropriate income from other sources and this is a perpetual quest. Meanwhile it retains sufficient reserves which are available to bridge possible funding gaps so as to maintain its regular resourced delivery programmes and enable it to invest in future opportunities.

Plans for Future Periods

Essex Boys & Girls Club's intends to continue to develop its work in creating and supporting youth activity groups and programmes giving young people opportunities to reach their full potential into adulthood. It will continue to work with its funding partners to achieve outcomes commensurate with its stated objectives. It will seek to engage in both small and large-scale projects to provide facilities and opportunities for young people to participate in meaningful educational and physically challenging activities and events to better influence their character and life skills.

The demand for more and better youth provision in the present post Covid, economically difficult time continues to grow. The charity has a core of innovative, enterprising and experienced employees, highly motivated and able to respond to new demands. Opportunities to engage are constantly sought and taken, and the finances are sufficiently secure to ensure a strong and responsive presence in the pursuit of its charitable objectives.

It also has permanent resources in its residential centres to offer potentially life changing opportunities and experiences to young people away from their local environs. It is in the process of delivering its flagship "Respect" projects across the UK and is also underwriting the formation of new youth groups, including new premises, that will become valuable assets to many local communities.

It is the opinion of the trustees that Essex Boys & Girls Clubs has both the reputation and resources to make a considerable positive difference to young lives and has excellent developmental prospects for the future.

Policies of Trustees

Reserves – Given that virtually none of its funding is secured in the medium to long term and therefore carries a high risk of volatility and sensitivity to changing circumstances, the trustees, after careful consideration of the organisation's future planned expenditure and probability of maintaining its income, believe it to be prudent to maintain unrestricted reserves of not more than 12 months' expenditure incurred from unrestricted funds.

Grant making – Grants are made to affiliated clubs out of the General Fund on the basis of merit at the discretion of the trustees.

Fundraising – The organisation seeks to obtain grants and donations for its activities. A number of events are staged regularly with the purpose of raising funds for core activities. The majority of funds raised are from appeals for voluntary donations from partnering organisations and charitable trusts.

Risk Assessment and Monitoring - Risks are continually assessed and monitored by both senior staff and trustees who meet regularly. The principal risk areas recognised by the association are categorised as:

Governance and Management –

Composition of trustees – Trustees are recruited from all sectors of the county and broadly represent affiliated clubs, the Youth Service, the Church, industry and business, and the police.

Direction and forward planning – The organisation has a strategic plan covering three years forward operational development.

Key Personnel – The trustees regularly review performance, appropriateness and succession.

Reporting to Trustees – Each officer of the organisation reports directly to the trustees at least four times each year, either verbally or in writing.

Operational risk –

Services to affiliated clubs – constant feedback is sought from clubs. All projects are planned, monitored and evaluated.

Quality control – the use of trained, qualified personnel and de-briefing procedures ensures quality maintenance of activities. Complaints procedures are in place to identify deficiencies.

Fundraising – fund-raising staff are employed to ensure adequate revenue is sourced from a variety of benefactors, minimising dependency on any one source.

Employment issues – There is a formal recruitment process which ensures equal opportunity. References are taken up and all relevant checks made. There are grievance procedures and defined channels of communication. The charity has also engaged with a professional HR organisation for further support.

Health & safety - Compliance with statutory regulation is reviewed regularly.

Disaster recovery planning – All critical computerised data is adequately replicated off site. Plans are in place to implement essential procedures during any period of disruption, and to rebuild normal operational capacity.

Financial Risk –

Budgetary control and reporting - The finance officer prepares annual budgets forecasting monthly cash flows which are approved by the trustees. These form comparatives against actual reports delivered to the trustees four times annually. Annual accounts are prepared in accordance with appropriate accounting requirements. The accounts are audited, approved by the trustees and distributed to members together with a written review. A full time qualified finance officer ensures that all information and monitoring systems across the group are maintained and developed to a very high standard.

Cash flow sensitivity analysis – Cash flow performance is continually monitored to ensure adequate funding of activities at all times. No money is borrowed.

Dependency checks on income sources – most projects are directly related to specific funding, which are usually time limited. The organisation has, and continually seeks to enlarge, the number of benefactors.

Insurance – Indemnity and liability insurance appropriate to the organisation's activities is purchased. The organisation minimises claims by effective awareness and prevention training.

Pension commitments - The organisation, in addition to a statutory workplace pension plan, supports defined contribution plans operated for key eligible employees. The funding of and investment performance of these plans is kept under regular review to ensure they meet the expectations of the participants.

Investment policy – Monies held are invested in an instant access COIF Charities Deposit Fund account provided by CCLA Investment Management Ltd and deposit accounts operated by CAF Bank Limited. CCLA also provide a charity approved investment fund carrying investment risk into which only unrestricted funds are held as a primary hedge against the impact of inflation.

Environmental / External Factors – Maintenance of the organisation's good reputation is a principal factor in its ability to continue to deliver its objectives. The areas most considered posing risk, and the measures taken to safeguard the organisation in this regard are:

Public perception – The success enjoyed in the pursuit of the association's objectives, continues to retain support from members, benefactors, agency partners, and the community at large. Every opportunity is therefore taken to publicise events and achievements and to communicate and advise on issues relating to young people in the county. This process, which is constantly under review, is aimed at attracting new partners and participants.

The Annual Report and Review is presented to members and distributed widely, alongside progress and out-come reports, to partner agencies and project sponsors.

Government policy – Gift aid schemes provide benefit to the organisation and affiliated member clubs, but their withdrawal would result in only a small reduction in income to affiliated clubs.

Policies of government agencies and local government relating to the provision of youth services greatly influences the organisation's strategic planning and development. The organisation remains aware of potential change and opportunity by working with relevant agencies.

Law and Regulation – Failure to comply with the law and regulations relating to the organisation is a risk. This risk is reduced by ensuring that:-

-Compliance at all levels is fundamentally trained into all staff.

-Particular attention is paid to compliance and codes of good practice and conduct, whether or not statutorily enforceable, relevant to contact with young people. The organisation provides support, advice and training to youth leaders and workers as a part of its core activities.

-Risk of non-compliance is minimised by effective communication with partner agencies and the expertise derived from individual trustees as well as frequent review of best practice.

Non-disclosure of Grants – All monetary grants are accounted for at the time of receipt. It is the policy of the trustees not to publicise grant makers unless requested to do so.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

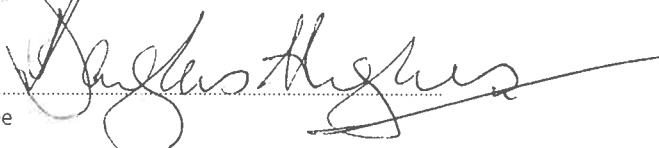
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Trustee

Date


17th May 2024

Independent auditor's report to trustees of

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Essex Boys & Girls Clubs for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 10 to 22. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note 1.15 to the financial statements which describes the uncertainty related to the Coronavirus outbreak and the associated lockdowns carried out by both the UK and overseas governments and their impact upon the charity.

Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

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 group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the parent charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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 Auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which 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 group's and the charity'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 parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' 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 an Auditors' Report 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. 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: In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the Charity's remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal specialists, including tax, real estate and pensions regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in management's incentive to overstate profit. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, pensions legislation and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Financial Services and Markets Act.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we did not identify any key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance, reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

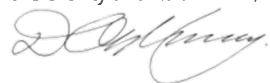
Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Darryl Ashing FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Ashings Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Date **17 May 2024**

Ashings Limited is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted fund	Designated fund	Restricted fund	Endowment fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3.	30,456	628,932	310,080	-	969,468	1,309,978
Charitable activities:							
Activities and course fees		29,411	18,112	-	-	47,523	46,840
Camping, accommodation and catering		307,440	-	-	-	307,440	290,532
Fundraising Events		16,061	-	-	-	16,061	14,522
Bank interest receivable		40,000	-	-	-	40,000	8,799
Total income		423,368	647,044	310,080	-	1,380,492	1,670,671
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	68,199	-	-	-	68,199	32,436
Cost of charitable activities in furtherance of objectives		450,501	452,980	240,005	-	1,143,486	1,131,543
Management and administration		45,854	-	99,173	-	145,027	130,684
Total expenditure	5.	564,554	452,980	339,178	-	1,356,712	1,294,663
		(141,186)	194,064	(29,098)	-	23,780	376,008
Net gains on investments							
Unrealised		185,884	-	-	-	185,884	(92,434)
Net income/(expenditure)		44,698	194,064	(29,098)	-	209,664	283,574
Transfers between funds		(152,282)	19,371	132,911	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(107,584)	213,435	103,813	-	209,664	283,574
Total funds brought forward		1,437,886	1,493,158	358,771	129,497	3,419,312	3,135,738
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2023	13.	1,330,302	1,706,593	462,584	129,497	3,628,976	3,419,312

The results shown above represent the continuing activities of the charity.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

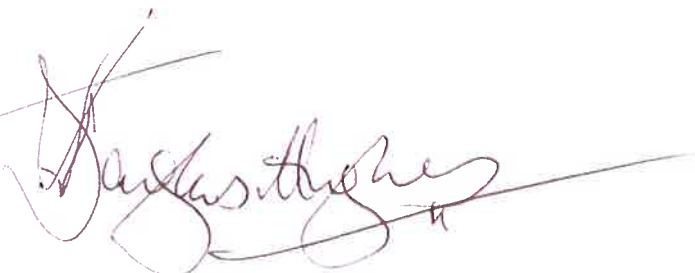
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8.	818,990	845,075
Investments	9.	1,807,600	1,121,715
		<u>2,626,590</u>	<u>1,966,790</u>
Current assets			
Stocks		161	161
Debtors	10.	66,346	47,660
Cash at bank and in hand		1,123,769	1,649,981
		<u>1,190,276</u>	<u>1,697,802</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11.	(187,890)	(245,280)
Net current assets		<u>1,002,386</u>	<u>1,452,522</u>
Net assets		<u>3,628,976</u>	<u>3,419,312</u>
Funds			
Endowment funds		50,000	50,000
Unrestricted funds:		3,036,895	2,931,044
Restricted funds		542,081	438,268
Total funds	13.	<u>3,628,976</u>	<u>3,419,312</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

and signed on its behalf by

Trustee


17th May 2024

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Statement of Cashflows for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating activities		
Net income	209,664	283,574
Depreciation	31,291	21,530
Gains on investments	(185,884)	92,434
Bank interest received	(40,000)	(8,799)
Movement in:		
Stock	-	-
Debtors	(18,686)	(3,740)
Creditors	(57,390)	(344,531)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	<u>(61,005)</u>	<u>40,468</u>
Investing activities		
Bank interest received	40,000	8,799
Purchase of fixed assets	(5,206)	(115,704)
Sale of fixed assets	-	1,706
Purchase of investments	(500,000)	-
Cash outflow from investing activities	<u>(465,206)</u>	<u>(105,199)</u>
(Decrease)/Increase in cash balances	<u><u>(526,211)</u></u>	<u><u>(64,731)</u></u>

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

1.1 Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on 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.

1.2 Charity information

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England and Wales on 21 September 2015, and its registered office is Harway House, Rectory Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1RQ.

By order of The Charity Commission for England and Wales, the assets and liabilities of Essex Boys & Girls Clubs (charity number 301447) were transferred to the CIO on 6 January 2016.

1.3 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.4 Reporting currency

The reporting currency of the company is Sterling. The level of rounding is to the nearest pound.

1.5 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations are credited to the statement of financial activities as and when they are received.

Activities for generating funds is made up mainly of income generated from activities, camping accommodation. The booking fees for these activities are received in advance of the activity taking place. This is therefore treated as deferred income until the date of the event at which point the receipts are then recognised as income in the statement of financial activities.

The charity receives grants from external sources, which are recognised as and when they are received.

Investment income is in the form of bank interest received.

Other income represents rent receivable.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1.6 Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes advertising, printing and the remuneration of employees engaged in fund raising.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct cost of activities provided, employee wages and training thereon, and the general maintenance and utility costs of the site.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

1.7 Support and governance costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Fund raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

1.8 Pension costs

The charity contributes into a defined contribution stakeholder plan. This plan has a specific long term funding objective requiring contribution levels to be reviewed regularly.

The charity also contributes to a workplace pension scheme.

1.9 Designated and restricted funds

Although the charity invites certain donations to fund specific projects, these invariably fall within the pursuance of the general objectives of the charity and are not considered by it, unless otherwise specified by the donor, to represent restricted funds as defined by the Charity Commissioners.

Certain grants and donations have been received pursuant to the general objectives of the charity which the trustees have designated for application to specific activities. The income and expenditure in respect of these activities has been separated from general funds. There is no legal requirement to do this, and the trustees retain the power to reallocate such funds within unrestricted funds unless and until they are expended.

Designated funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds are for specific future purposes or projects.

Funds earmarked as restricted have been treated as such at the request of the donor or by the terms of the appeal for particular projects and accounted for separately.

1.10 Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1.11 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

The rates of depreciation applicable to fixed assets are:

Plant and Machinery	20% straight line
Motor Vehicles	25% reducing balance
Computer Equipment	20% straight line
Furniture and Equipment	40% straight line
Recently acquired freehold buildings are not depreciated.	

1.12 Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities such as trade and other receivables payable.

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.13 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts that are available on demand.

1.14 Going concern

The charity's financial backers remain well placed to support future activities and the underlying financial resources are sufficient to ensure the charity remains a going concern.

2. Net incoming resources for the year

	2023 £	2022 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	31,291	21,530
Auditors' remuneration – audit of the financial statements	8,021	6,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
and after crediting:		
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted general funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations received	30,456	628,932	310,080	-	969,468	1,309,978
Grants received	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>30,456</u>	<u>628,932</u>	<u>310,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>969,468</u>	<u>1,309,978</u>

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Analysis of expenditure for raising funds

	Unrestricted general funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wages and Salaries	64,186	-	-	-	64,186	31,688
Venue Hire	4,013	-	-	-	4,013	748
	<u>68,199</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,199</u>	<u>32,436</u>

5. Total resources expended

	Members Support Club	Activity Programme	Education & Training	Fund Raising	High Row Centre	Governance	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Costs directly allocated to activities:								
Staff costs	231,305	200,926	222,973	-	-	99,172	754,376	777,269
Purchased materials and services	4,397	33,490	353,271	-	-	-	391,158	321,822
Staff travel expenses	5,102	3,116	7,605	-	-	-	15,823	18,547
Grants to Members Clubs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit fees	-	-	-	-	-	11,530	11,530	11,611
Annual review	-	-	-	-	-	4,074	4,074	638
Support costs allocated to activities:								
Premises	-	-	130,528	-	-	-	130,528	136,540
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General administration staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Communications	-	-	13,606	-	-	-	13,606	9,934
Bank charges	-	-	545	-	-	818	1,363	(3,541)
Depreciation	-	8,903	20,773	-	-	1,614	31,290	19,550
Profit on sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other support costs	2,964	-	-	-	-	-	2,964	2,293
	<u>243,768</u>	<u>246,435</u>	<u>749,301</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,208</u>	<u>1,356,712</u>	<u>1,294,663</u>

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

6. Emoluments of employees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs of the charity were as follows:		
Salaries	656,983	612,151
Social security costs	59,269	51,510
Employers pension contributions and life assurance costs	38,124	113,607
	<u>754,376</u>	<u>777,268</u>
One employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2022: Nil).		
The average number of employees was including part time staff is as follows:		
	No.	No.
County Director	1	1
Assistant County Directors	2	2
Events and Activities Organisers	4	5
Club Servicing Officers	5	6
Educating and Training Officer	5	5
Apprentices	7	7
Administration and support staff	2	2
Total	<u>26</u>	<u>28</u>

The Charity administer defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. The total contributed by the charity for the year amounted to £33,254 (2022: £109,846) of which £45,000 (2022: £80,000) was outstanding at the year end.

7. Trustee remuneration

No trustee received any remuneration or was reimbursed expenses either in this year or the previous year.

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Motor Vehicles £	Minibuses General £	Computer equipment £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 January 2023	778,283	26,005	174,837	33,324	5,884	1,018,333
Additions	-	-	-	-	5,206	5,206
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>778,283</u>	<u>26,005</u>	<u>174,837</u>	<u>33,324</u>	<u>11,090</u>	<u>1,023,539</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2023	30,097	1,084	102,888	33,305	5,884	173,258
Released on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	6,504	23,173	19	1,595	31,291
At 31 December 2023	<u>30,097</u>	<u>7,588</u>	<u>126,061</u>	<u>33,324</u>	<u>7,479</u>	<u>204,549</u>
Net book value						
At 1 January 2023	<u>748,186</u>	<u>24,921</u>	<u>71,949</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>845,075</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>748,186</u>	<u>18,417</u>	<u>48,776</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,611</u>	<u>818,990</u>

9. Investments

In January 2020 an account was established with CCLA Investment Management Limited for a charities investment fund acquisition of accumulation units.

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance as at 1 January 2023	1,121,715	1,214,149
Investments additions at cost	500,000	-
Revaluation to market value	-	-
Net gain/(loss) on investments unrealised	<u>185,885</u>	<u>(92,434)</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2023	<u>1,807,600</u>	<u>1,121,715</u>

10. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	29,988	18,677
Prepayments	36,358	28,983
Other debtors	-	-
	<u>66,346</u>	<u>47,660</u>

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

11. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	10,984	20,794
Other taxes and social security	17,756	15,486
Accruals and deferred income	139,517	182,634
Other creditors	19,633	26,366
	<u>187,890</u>	<u>245,280</u>

Movement in Deferred Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2023	94,299	431,361
Amount released to incoming resources	(94,299)	(431,361)
Amount deferred in the year	78,326	94,299
	<u>78,326</u>	<u>94,299</u>
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>78,326</u>	<u>94,299</u>

Deferred income comprises booking fees for activities received in advance of the event taking place.

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Restricted capital funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	818,990	-	-	818,990
Investments	1,757,600	-	50,000	1,807,600
Cash at bank and in hand	581,688	542,081	-	1,123,769
Other net current liabilities	(121,383)	-	-	(121,383)
Total	<u>3,036,895</u>	<u>542,081</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>3,628,976</u>

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

13. Movement in funds

	At 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Members Club Support	311,122	89,840	(251,839)	263,619	412,742
Activity and Events Programme	127,146	220,240	(87,339)	(130,708)	129,339
Education and Training	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Total restricted funds	488,268	310,080	(339,178)	132,911	592,081
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Activities and Events	3,174	863	(1,353)	(2,684)	-
Education and Training	409,984	646,181	(451,627)	162,055	766,593
Outdoor Activity Centres, Administration and Development	1,080,000	-	-	(140,000)	940,000
	1,493,158	647,044	(452,980)	19,371	1,706,593
General fund	1,437,886	609,252	(564,554)	(152,282)	1,330,302
Total unrestricted funds	2,931,044	1,256,296	(1,017,534)	(132,911)	3,036,895
Total Funds	3,419,312	1,566,376	(1,356,712)	-	3,628,976

Purposes of restricted funds

Member Club Support: Grants and donations are regularly sought and received to fund the salaries and expenses of officers appointed to visit member clubs to promote leadership skills and activity programmes for young people, and to encourage and assist club development and fundraising needs.

Activity and Events Programme: This fund finances the salaries and expenses of posts dedicated to the organisation of character building competitive sports and creative and arts based activities and events targeted at young people in various age groups, in pursuance of the charity's primary objectives.

Education and Training: Funds are raised by and held on behalf of social partners engaged in projects to create new opportunities and facilities for the benefit of young people.

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

General Income: The general income fund represents grants received which are to fund expenditure relating to a particular aspect of the objects of the charity, as specified by the donor. Any unspent amounts are carried forward to the following year to be expended in accordance with that specified by the donor.

Purposes of Designated Funds

Activities and Events: Funds raised specifically for events and purchasing equipment to be used by young people in adventurous, creative and sporting activities have been designated for this purpose.

Education and Training: Funds are raised from stakeholders and social partners to enable the charity to take disadvantaged young people and impart life skills and self-esteem through a structured course entitled and encouraging "respect". Additionally, funds are specifically raised and designated to finance apprenticeships in the delivery of youth work and services and the further education and training of the charity's core staff and affiliated club members, to maintain competences and enhance knowledge in the delivery of support and services to young people.

Outdoor Activity Centres: The charity's outdoor and adventurous activity centres at High Row in Cumbria and the freehold premises at Maes-y-Lade, Herefordshire are maintained and supported by appeals and grants designated expressly for this purpose.

Purpose of endowment fund

Robert Laurie Memorial Fund: Col. Robert Laurie O.B.E. J.P. served the Essex Charity of Boy's Clubs from 1973 until his death in August 2005. As its President for many years his leadership inspired the Charity to attain its objectives with great success. As a permanent testimony the Trustees have created a fund from General Reserve to be maintained for the benefit of young people from affiliated member clubs selected to broaden their education and character by reciprocal interaction with other young people from overseas countries by way of International Exchange schemes. This Fund is classified as an Education and Training Restricted Fund.

In 2023 no exchange visits to the USA took place and no funds from general funding were transferred to restricted funds to ensure the fund is maintained. Further programmes are planned for 2024.

Member Clubs Outdoor Centre Bursary Fund: The sum of £100,000 has been set aside in 2014 out of general reserves specifically to provide financial assistance to member clubs to take young people on activity and training programmes offered at the charity's remote facilities.

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs C.I.O.

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

14. Related party transactions

Key management comprises of the Directors & Trustees and the County Director.

		2023			2022		
		Purchases	Sales	Grants Received	Purchases	Sales	Grants Received
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Frenford Clubs	1	112,475	579	-	-	-	-
North Avenue Youth Club	1	90	3,707	-	-	-	-
National Association of Boys & Girls Clubs	1	1,013	200	1,000	-	-	-
Crown and Manor	1	50	364	-	-	-	-
Essex Youth Trust	2	-	-	38,000	-	-	66,000
Chelmsford Boys and Girls Clubs	3	6,684	560	-	-	-	-
Jack Petchey Foundation	4	-	190,508	-	-	-	-

Related Parties

1. The County Director.
2. M.J. Dyer and J.P. Douglas-Hughes
3. P. Drummond
4. R. Mills

The trustees of Essex Association of Boys Clubs in 2006 agreed to assume certain pension objectives relating to an employee mutually removed from a former underfunded National Association of Boy's Clubs group final salary pension scheme. These objectives mean that future contributions into a replacement personal pension plan are not fixed and in certain circumstances may crystallise further liabilities. At the present time the trustees anticipate the current level of contributions to be sufficient to meet the objectives.

15. Contingent liabilities

In late 2019 Essex Boys & Girls Clubs ceded control of Stubbers Adventure Centre as a consequence of the en-bloc resignation of all mutual trustees and directors of Stubbers to enable both charities to pursue their separate and disparate charitable objectives.

As part of this arrangement Essex Boys & Girls Clubs has provided a guarantee to the London Borough of Havering to a maximum liability of £500,000 as a condition a 25 year lease dated 31st July 2019 granted by the Borough to Stubbers Adventure Centre. This contingent liability is matched by a contingent asset in the form of a deed of indemnity provided by Stubbers' new sponsors in the unlikely event that Stubbers Adventure Centre vacates its premises within the term of the lease, the lease will revert to this Charity. These circumstances have been considered and outline contingency planning is in preparation.

We refer to note 14 regarding the arrangements around the County Director's pension arrangement. At the present time the trustees anticipate the current level of contributions to be sufficient to meet the objectives and no liability is expected to arise.

