

21 TOGETHER

England & Wales · Charity number 1165305

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-01-25

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

Contact

Address Maidstone Community Support Centre
39-48 Marsham Street
Maidstone
ME14 1HH

Phone 01622230720

Email info@21together.org.uk

Website www.21together.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. To relieve the needs of people with Down's syndrome, living particularly but not exclusively in Kent and their families and carers through provision of training, support, education and practical advice, and by such other means as the trustees may determine. 2. To advance the education of the public and in particular the parents and carers of people with down's syndrome and professionals involved in their care and education, in the specific needs and abilities of people with down's syndrome.

Activities: Raising Expectations in the Down's syndrome community. We provide training, therapy/interventions for children and young people, parent support and awareness sessions for the wider community.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£248,666	£363,999	-	-
2024-03-31	£319,305	£256,294	-	-
2023-03-31	£319,305	£256,294	-	-
2022-03-31	£252,369	£218,048	-	-
2021-03-31	£235,204	£123,164	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ian Caplan		2025-05-07
Melissa Jones		2021-06-16
Rebecca Clark		2021-06-16
Sinead Patricia Mary Ainsworth		2018-11-02
Stephen Sibbald		2025-03-05
Toyin Olukoya		2023-03-01

21 TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1165305

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 -
2025

Supporting children and young
people with Down's syndrome
and their community.

CHAIR REPORT

This year has been one of challenge and resilience. Like many, we have felt the impact of a difficult financial climate, with rising costs and increased pressure on funding. Despite these challenges, our commitment to children and adults with Down’s syndrome, and their families, has remained unwavering.

I am particularly proud that, even in such testing circumstances, we successfully opened our Thanet service. This has been a significant step forward in reaching families who have previously found it harder to access support. Early engagement has reinforced the importance of local, community-based provision. While uptake has developed gradually, reflecting the local context, we are encouraged by the foundations being laid and look forward to building strong, lasting relationships in Thanet in the years ahead. The introduction of S-Club+, our post-19 programme, reflects a growing focus on supporting young adults as they move towards greater independence and self-advocacy. In addition, the launch of our outreach education service has broadened our impact by supporting professionals within educational settings, helping to promote inclusive practice beyond our direct services.

The Board of Trustees has remained focused on strong governance, financial oversight and sustainability, ensuring that the charity continues to deliver high-quality services while navigating an uncertain external environment. We are committed to careful stewardship of resources and to supporting the staff and volunteers who make our work possible. I would like to thank our dedicated staff, volunteers, trustees and supporters. Your passion, resilience and belief in our mission have made it possible to navigate a challenging year while continuing to grow our impact. Together, we are building a more inclusive future in which people with Down’s syndrome and their families are supported to thrive.

Rebecca Clark
Chair of Trustees



OUR VISION

Everyone has the right to live their lives to the fullest of their potential, regardless of disability or disadvantage.

OUR AIMS

At 21 Together, we believe that every person with Down's syndrome has the right to live a happy, rich and fulfilling life.

Our mission is to support children and young people with Down's syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work with them, ensuring they can reach their full potential—educationally, socially, and emotionally. We are proud to:

- 01.** Support our community through advocacy, empowerment and resilience building.
- 02.** Deliver high-quality, innovative education and therapy programmes that remove barriers to progress.
- 03.** Enable every child and young person to achieve the future they deserve.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- 01.** To relieve the needs of people with Down's syndrome, living particularly but not exclusively in Kent, and their families and carers through the provision of training, support, education, and practical advice, and by such other means as the trustees may determine.
- 02.** To advance the education of the public and, in particular, the parents and carers of people with Down's syndrome and professionals involved in their care and education, in the specific needs and abilities of people with Down's syndrome.

OUR VALUE

At 21 Together, our **community is at the heart** of everything we do. This year, we continued to take a holistic approach — supporting children and young people with Down’s syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work alongside them — while strengthening connections across Kent. Our visibility and recognition within the community have grown significantly through meaningful partnerships and shared experiences.



As **Medway Rotary’s Charity of the Year**, we were able to offer families unforgettable opportunities, from inclusive boat trips and panto outings to a restorative family residential weekend focused on wellbeing and connection. The weekend garnered overwhelmingly positive feedback, reflecting the power of coming together and being truly seen

and supported. Other partnerships provided new opportunities for families to come together, including **Ashford United** football match, **Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway** trips, and memorable concert night for our young people, thanks to **Dreamland**, where tailored sensory support turned challenges into moments of confidence and joy. Our commitment and impact were recognised with a finalist nomination for Community Charity of the Year at the **Kent Charity Awards 2024** and as Winners of the Maidstone Disability Charity Award at the **Kent Mental Wellbeing Awards**. We rounded off the year with our biggest **World Down’s Syndrome Day celebration** yet, uniting over 200 people for a day filled with laughter, music, and connection. From inclusive performances by **Singing Hands** to the launch of our new community video, the day truly embodied the spirit of 21 Together — empowering, joyful, and united.

OUR SERVICES

At 21 Together, we take a holistic approach to support – empowering children and young people with Down’s syndrome, strengthening families and carers, and equipping professionals to build inclusive environments across Kent. Our services are designed to grow with each individual, fostering connection, confidence, and lifelong learning.

Children & Young People

From birth to 25 years old, our intervention services provide specialist, evidence-based support across all areas of development. Through group and individual sessions, we focus on **speech and language therapy, educational assistance, social engagement, and life skills development.** Our young people also benefit from access to advice from wider professionals such as **occupational therapists and physiotherapists,** ensuring a joined-up approach that supports each child’s unique learning profile.



Families & Carers

We recognise that every family’s journey is unique. We empower families with the knowledge, tools, and connections they need including **training, workshops, and tailored guidance around EHCPs and local services.** We also provide opportunities for **peer connection and community engagement** through local networks and events, ensuring that no family ever feels alone on their journey.



OUR SERVICES



Professionals

Our work with professionals aims to build sustainable expertise across education, health, and community settings. Through **training, networking, and our new outreach programme**, we provide practical tools and insight into effective Down’s syndrome support. The role of our Education Team has expanded beyond direct intervention groups to include **outreach visits and holistic support**, working collaboratively with teachers, SENCOs and support staff to help every child thrive.

Networks & Partnerships

21 Together’s impact is strengthened through the power of collaboration. Our reach continues to grow through strong relationships across Kent including valued relationships with the **Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Colgrain**, and her Deputies, **Clive Stevens and Frank Martin**, who serve as Patrons and champions of our work. We have been honoured to be the **Mayor of Broadstairs’ Charity of the Year**, to receive dedicated fundraising and partnership support from **Medway Rotary**, and to work alongside the **Thanet Freemasons** and staff at **Hornby Hobbies**, who have generously volunteered their time. We also deepened our partnership with **Leeds Castle**, collaborating on accessibility and inclusion initiatives. Our families provided valuable feedback during special day trips, helping to test and refine the Castle’s new **Fidget Backpacks** designed for children with sensory needs. These partnerships reflect our belief that inclusion grows strongest when we build it together – across communities, organisations, and shared values.

OUR COMMUNITY

“There's very little support and help available for the parents whose children are born with Down's syndrome and the support, help and care we receive from 21-Together is second to none..”



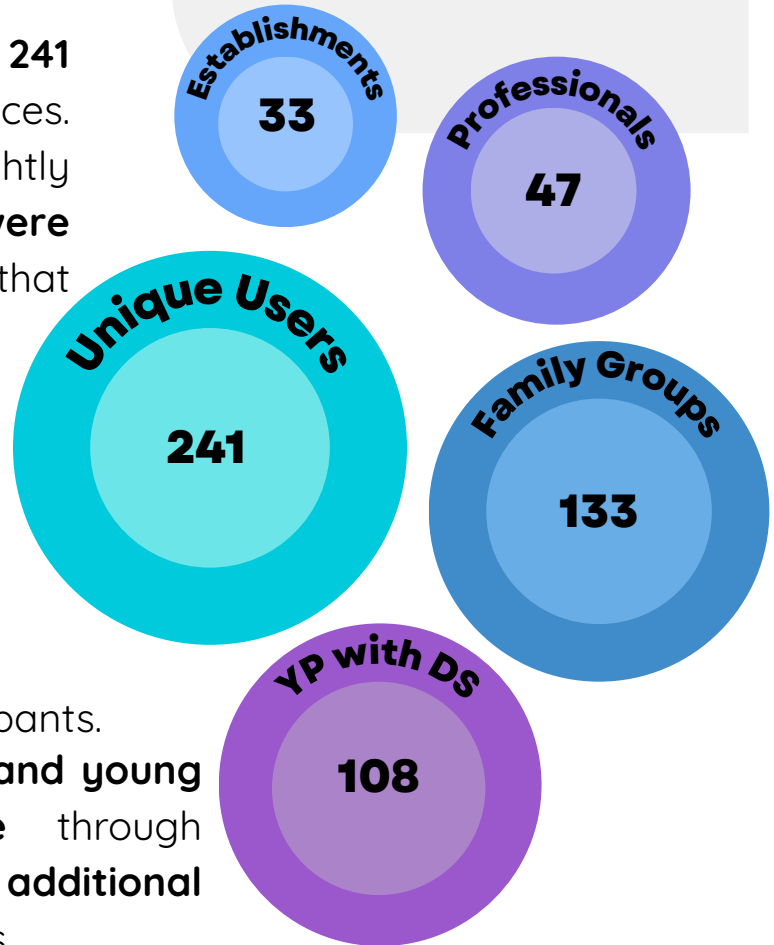
“This is our safe place, we attend every session with confidence and joy.”

OUR IMPACT

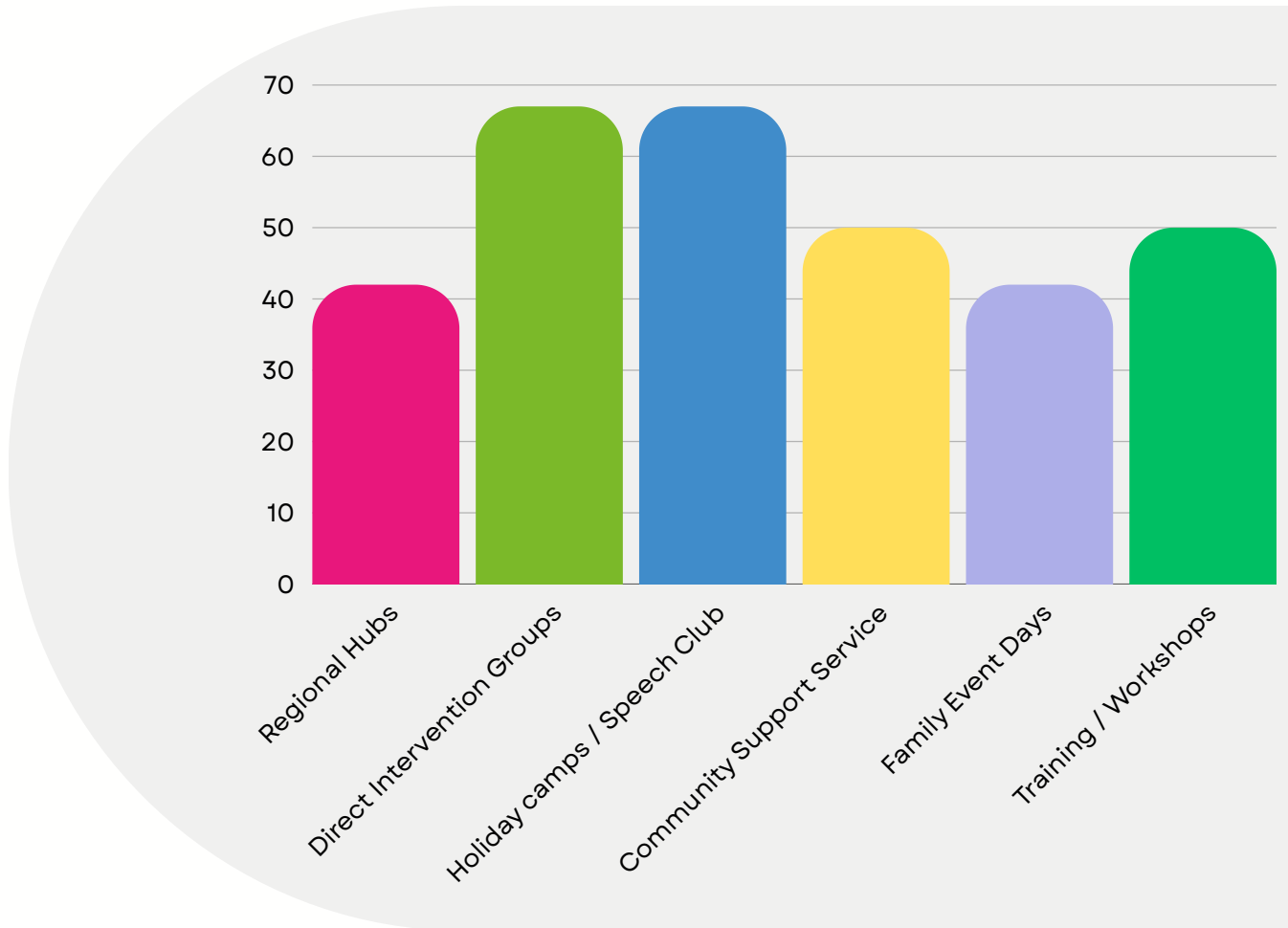
This year, 21 Together supported **241 unique individuals** across our services. While overall user numbers were slightly lower than last year, **29% of these were new to the charity**, demonstrating that our reach continues to extend to families who have not previously engaged with us. We also welcomed over **750 attendees** to our events, fundraisers, and Regional Hub socials – despite running fewer, smaller-scale activities to ensure quality and accessibility for all participants.

We directly supported **108 children and young people with Down’s syndrome** through intervention groups, alongside **25 additional families** who accessed wider services.

The opening of our Thanet centre has been an important step forward in increasing accessibility across Kent, though initial uptake has been slower than expected. This highlights a clear need to build awareness and strengthen connections in the area so more families can benefit from our support. Encouragingly, engagement from professionals and establishments has grown significantly – a **38% increase in professionals** and a **106% rise in schools and organisations** – reflecting growing confidence in our expertise and collaborative approach. Beyond direct service users, community engagement continues to thrive. Our **Regional Hub WhatsApp groups** now connect **173 families** (a 17% increase), and our **online training bank** saw a **62% rise in access** compared to last year. These figures show that while the nature of engagement is evolving, the sense of connection and community remains strong – with more families, professionals, and partners interacting with us in flexible, meaningful ways.



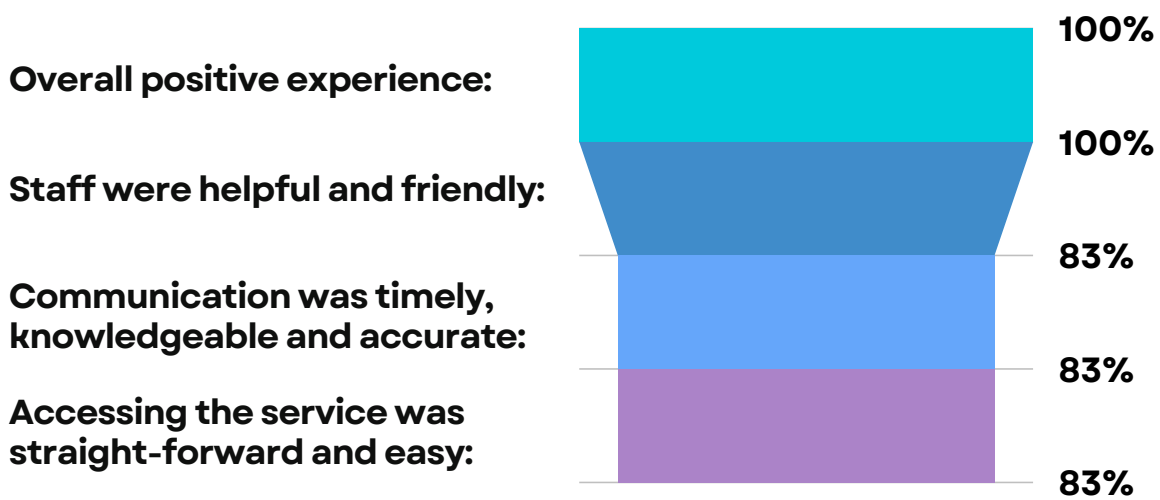
SERVICE OVERVIEW



21 Together delivers **14 services** across three core divisions: **Intervention** (specialist intervention groups and speech clubs for young people with Down’s syndrome aged 0–25), **Community** (Community Support Service, Outreach, and Regional Hubs), and **Enrichment** (Training, Workshops, Community Events, and Ad Hoc clubs). The accompanying chart illustrates the percentage of users accessing each service, based on the 2024/25 survey responses. Most families engaged with **more than one service** during the year, reflecting the holistic and interconnected nature of our support. Our **Intervention Groups and Speech Clubs** were the most frequently accessed, each used by **67% of respondents**. As the cornerstone of our work, these services demonstrate the ongoing and vital demand for specialist, direct support for children and young people with Down’s syndrome across Kent.

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Service users are regularly asked to rate their experiences of accessing and using 21 Together. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all users agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statements, aside from a few neutral responses. On review, these neutral responses largely reflected requests for additional services beyond those currently offered, highlighting areas for potential growth and development.



“The amount of help and support provided by organisations like 21 Together is simply outstanding... and they deserve all the appreciation, recognition and funding they could get to continue their extended help above and beyond! 21 Together and its staff genuinely do make enormous difference in both children and parents life to improve their day to day living.”

DELIVERING ON OUR AMBITIONS

In 2024/25, our ambitions were clear: expand services into Thanet, grow post-16+ provisions, and enhance our community support through a holistic approach, including school outreach for professionals.

We are proud to have made significant progress on all fronts. In September 2024, our **Thanet Classroom** opened in The WonderWorks building, welcoming a new cohort of children with Down’s syndrome, thanks to the generous support of the community, corporate partners, and Lady Colgrain, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent.

January 2025 saw the launch of **S-Club+**, our post-19 programme for young adults, designed to offer engaging, age-appropriate experiences that develop independent living and self-advocacy skills through monthly evening socials and intensive 3-day sessions.

This year also saw the introduction of our **outreach service**, supporting professionals in education, local authorities, healthcare, and other settings.



Already, our education team has worked with 17 education settings, meeting face-to-face with key staff, leading to an **average 28% increased understanding** of their students’ learning profiles, demonstrating the effectiveness of tailored professional support.

This year demonstrates how 21 Together turns ambitious plans into meaningful, measurable impact.

COMMUNICATE TOGETHER

In 2023/24, we laid the foundations for Communicate Together – a long-term campaign designed to secure the future of our core intervention services while extending access to more children and young people across Kent. In 2024/25, that vision became reality.



Communicate Together campaigns to deliver our life-changing social and communication groups for children and young people with Down's syndrome from birth to 25 years old, based at our Maidstone centre and our newly opened centre in Thanet. Over the last nine years, we have consistently seen the transformational impact these sessions have on communication, confidence, relationships, and quality of life for both children and their families.

During 2024/25, we secured £157,458 in grant funding from valued supporters alongside £36,000 of in-kind support made possible through the support of our Campaign Patrons – Lady Colgrain, Lord Lieutenant of Kent, and her Deputies Clive Stevens and Frank Martin. This investment has enabled us to stabilise and expand our services while continuing to build awareness and engagement in Thanet.

As we look ahead, Communicate Together remains central to our mission – ensuring that communication, the cornerstone of connection and inclusion, is accessible to every child and young person who needs it.

OUR COMMUNITY

“The staff were incredibly supportive and encouraging, and their understanding of the behaviour of a child with Down's syndrome was invaluable as they were able to persevere with him and win him round so that he could be included in the activities and groups and enjoy himself too.”



“21 Together are fantastic in what they do. I cannot access this type of support anywhere else and would be lost without it”

BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR THE FUTURE

Like many charities, 21 Together has navigated a challenging financial landscape this year, with grant funding becoming increasingly competitive, and community fundraising continues to feel the effects of wider economic pressures.

In response, we reviewed how we deliver and sustain our services to ensure families continue to receive high-quality support. By prioritising frontline provision, streamlining delivery, and exploring new income streams – including professional outreach packages, stronger corporate partnerships, and increased community engagement – we protected and strengthened our impact.

These challenges have driven positive change, enabling us to work more efficiently, collaborate more widely, and sharpen our focus on quality, outcomes, and sustainability. Remaining transparent, adaptable, and community-led ensures children, young people, and families across Kent continue to benefit from specialist, trusted support.



FUTURE OUTLOOK

As we look ahead to 2025/26, 21 Together remains grounded in its mission, ensuring our **core 0-18 years intervention services** continue to provide the gold-standard support, giving every child the opportunity to thrive.



We will review and refine these services to ensure every child and young person receives specialist, high-quality support tailored to their needs.

Our **outreach provision** will grow sustainably, with clear expectations and structured support packages and delivery models to enable professionals to maximise their impact on children’s development. Following the successful **S-Club+** trial, our post-19 programme will be embedded and expanded to offer young adults exciting opportunities to build confidence, independence, and lasting friendships.

We will **revitalise our Community Support Service**, making syndrome-specific guidance more accessible online while continuing personalised support for parents and carers. At the same time, we will raise awareness of our **Thanet centre**, ensuring even more children can benefit from our inclusive services.

These steps will strengthen outcomes, increase reach, and empower families, allowing 21 Together to innovate while staying true to our commitment to children and young people with Down’s syndrome.

TREASURER'S REPORT

21 Together has weathered a difficult financial year in 2024/25. Our strong reserves position and policy has allowed the Charity to sustain core services to our users. Having seen the impact of disruption to our intervention services during the COVID pandemic on our community, it is important that we are structured resiliently to be able to continue these core intervention services to our users in spite of difficult financial landscapes.

Whilst our compelling case for providing targeted support for children and young people with Down syndrome continues to be well received by funders, many are seeing applications far outstrip the funding available, so there has been a significant drop in grant funding for the current year compared to the prior year. This also reflects the end of two significant multi-year grants, which ended in the prior financial year, so was in line with expectations for the period.

Ensuring we build resilience in our funding strategy and diversifying our funding streams was a priority for this year but has been slower progress than we had initially anticipated. However, we have seen success in getting our new Thanet hub set up with a new community of supporters there and are extremely grateful for the support in getting this centre off the ground. We need to continue to expand our community of supporters over the next 24 months to ensure we are diversifying our funding streams and expanding our unrestricted funding sources. This is not an easy challenge but one we are working hard towards.



TREASURER'S REPORT CONT'D...

Alongside income challenges, costs of the charity have also risen during the period as a result of the cost of living crisis; an increase in staff costs and expansion into Thanet. I am proud that we have been able to expand our services to a hard to reach and a more vulnerable part of our community. Additionally, the cost of living challenge makes our services even more vital to many in our community with significant cuts being seen in services provided in schools; therefore ensuring continuity of services is even more imperative. Being mindful of the Charity's cost base and ensuring value for money in all areas of the Charity's spend will be a focus in the coming year in light of these cost challenges to ensure we can continue to support our children and young people and allow them to continue to reach their individual potential.

I know that our hardworking team will continue to support our children, young people and families in spite of these more challenging financial times and am grateful for all their hard work in the past year in supporting our children and young people.

Melissa Jones

Treasurer



21 TOGETHER

A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2025

21 TOGETHER

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees

Robin Smith
Ian Caplan
Stephen Sibbald
Toyin Olukoya
Melissa Jones
Rebecca Clark
Sinead Ainsworth

Charity Number

1165305

Registered Office

Maidstone Community Support Centre
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1HH

Independent Examiner

Finance Box Limited
128B The Street
Rustington
BN16 3DA

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees' report and financial statements

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).

Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Robin Smith (Ceased On: 18/01/2025)
Ian Caplan (Appointed On: 07/05/2025)
Stephen Sibbald (Appointed On: 05/03/2025)
Toyin Olukoya
Melissa Jones
Rebecca Clark
Sinead Ainsworth

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also the directors of Charity For 21 Together for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Melissa Jones *Rebecca Clark*

Melissa Jones
Trustee

Rebecca Clark

Date : **23 January 2026**

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of 21 Together

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which consists of the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and the related notes

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

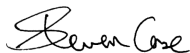
Independent Examiner's Statement

Although the charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000 in the current year, the trustees consider that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of AAT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Name: **Steven Case**
for and on behalf of **Finance Box Limited**

Date: **23 January 2026**

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		16,521	165,458	181,979	342,800
Charitable activities		30,682	35,535	66,217	45,853
Other trading activities		-	-	-	403
Investments		470	-	470	668
Total		47,673	200,993	248,666	389,724
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		975	43	1,018	6,734
Charitable activities		33,884	326,181	360,065	312,712
Other		2,916	-	2,916	13,655
Total		37,775	326,224	363,999	333,101
Net income/(expenditure)		9,898	(125,231)	(115,333)	56,623
Net movement in funds		9,898	(125,231)	(115,333)	56,623
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		96,148	249,025	345,173	288,550
Total funds carried forward		106,046	123,794	229,840	345,173

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BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	2	-	2,916
Total fixed assets		-	2,916
Current assets			
Debtors	3	5,706	1,515
Cash at bank and in hand		230,922	343,779
Total current assets		236,628	345,294
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	6,788	3,037
Net current assets/(liabilities)		229,840	342,257
Total net assets		229,840	345,173
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	5	106,046	96,148
Restricted funds	5	123,794	249,025
Endowment funds	5	-	-
Total funds		229,840	345,173

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 23 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Melissa Jones *Rebecca Clark*

Melissa Jones
Trustee

Rebecca Clark

Date : **23 January 2026**

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Charity, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts 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 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income from donations or grants

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal offer is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

1.4 Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

1.5 Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

1.6 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

1.7 Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

**Computer
Equipment**
£

2.1 Cost or valuation

At 01 April 2024	2,916
Additions	-
Disposals	-
Revaluations	-
Transfers	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,916</u>

2.2 Depreciation and impairments

At 01 April 2024	-
Charge for the year	2,916
Disposals	-
Revaluations	-
Transfers	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,916</u>

2.3 Net book value

At 01 April 2024	<u>2,916</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>

3. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,673	1,515
Other debtors	33	-
Total	<u>5,706</u>	<u>1,515</u>

4. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£
Social Security and Other Tax	4,748	637
Accrued Expenses	2,040	2,400
Total	<u>6,788</u>	<u>3,037</u>

5. Charity funds

5.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Fund	Funds Brought Forward	Funds In	Funds Out	Transfers	Funds Carried Forward
103 - Sainsbury's Neighbourly - S-Club	1,500	-	(1,500)	-	-
107 - Colyer Fergusson - Regional Hubs	19,365	20,000	(27,064)	-	12,301
109 - TNL - CSS COL	3	-	(3)	-	-
110 - Co-op Local - S-Club	2,203	-	(2,203)	-	-
111.112 - Tesco/Groundwork - S-Club	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
113 - Hale Trust - S-Club	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
115 - St James Place - Complex Needs(Comms)	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
118 - TNL - Early Intervention	20,000	50	(20,050)	-	-
119 - Garfield Weston - preschool	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
120 - Thanet DC - Infants	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
121 - Maidstone Resilience - SClub+	-	3,993	(3,993)	-	-
122 - KCC Member - New Romney Train Day	-	1,585	(1,585)	-	-
123 - Tesco/Groundwork - Comms	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
125 - Gibbons Trust - Resources Thanet	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
126 - Blakemore - Resources Thanet	-	100	(100)	-	-
127 - Arnold Clark - Resources Thanet	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
128 - Active Sport KCC - Xmas24	-	500	(500)	-	-
129 - Medway Council - S-Club	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
130 - Toy Trust - Resources Thanet	-	2,000	(1,014)	-	986
131 - Alchemy Foundation - EI 7-11	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
132 - Percy Bilton - Resources Thanet	-	1,940	(1,940)	-	-
133 - Mercers - Outreach	-	9,799	-	-	9,799
134 - KCF - Regional Hubs	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
136 - Cole Trust - Learning Needs Training	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
138 - Alpkit Foundation - Xmas 24	-	400	(400)	-	-
140 - Joanies Fund HCC - S-Club	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
27 - The National Lottery - EFL	8,530	-	(8,147)	-	383
90 - Peoples Lottery - CFL	37,768	-	(36,471)	-	1,297
92 - Co-op - Youth Voices	30,000	30,000	(54,128)	-	5,872
94.95.96.97 - KCC Members - Regional Hubs	1,750	-	(1,750)	-	-
GROUPS - GENERAL	80,914	33,131	(53,544)	12,572	73,072
OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT	19,400	37,328	(47,741)	-	8,987
Training - GENERAL	2,423	2,167	(4,591)	-	-
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	(2,572)	-
Activities for C&YP	6,797	-	-	-	6,797
Outreach	300	-	-	-	300
Communicate Together	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-
	249,025	200,993	(326,224)	-	123,794

5.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

Fund	Funds Brought Forward	Funds In	Funds Out	Transfers	Funds Carried Forward
103 - Sainsbury's Neighbourly - S-Club	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
107 - Colyer Fergusson - Regional Hubs	-	20,001	(636)	-	19,365
109 - TNL - CSS COL	-	22,947	(22,944)	-	3
110 - Co-op Local - S-Club	-	2,203	-	-	2,203
111.112 - Tesco/Groundwork - S-Club	10,000	5,170	(13,170)	-	2,000
113 - Hale Trust - S-Club	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
115 - St James Place - Complex Needs(Comms)	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
118 - TNL - Early Intervention	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
27 - The National Lottery - EFL	5,446	72,214	(69,130)	-	8,530
90 - Peoples Lottery - CFL	-	68,353	(30,585)	-	37,768
92 - Co-op - Youth Voices	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
94.95.96.97 - KCC Members - Regional Hubs	-	1,750	-	-	1,750
GROUPS - GENERAL	65,965	31,086	(16,137)	-	80,914
OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT	73,018	38,938	(92,556)	-	19,400
Training - GENERAL	4,180	2,377	(4,134)	-	2,423
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	-	2,572
Activities for C&YP	3,767	4,496	(1,466)	-	6,797
Outreach	-	300	-	-	300
Communicate Together	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
FSG	862	-	(862)	-	-
Whitehead Monckton	420	1,600	(2,020)	-	-
Awards for All	375	-	(375)	-	-
Canticorum	1,396	1	(1,397)	-	-
KCC - Railways	1,541	-	(1,541)	-	-
Beacon Lodge	6,510	-	(6,510)	-	-
Garfield Weston	4,627	-	(4,627)	-	-
Groundworks - Comic relief	(937)	937	-	-	-
The Wakeham Trust	835	-	(835)	-	-
Edward Gosling	5,000	1	(5,001)	-	-
B&Q	886	1	(887)	-	-
Cole Charitable Trust	1,300	-	(1,300)	-	-
Awareness	336	-	(336)	-	-
	188,099	337,375	(276,449)	-	249,025

5.4 Designated funds

6. Transactions with trustees and related parties

6.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

6.2 Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

6.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

There were no transactions with related parties for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

7. Average Number of Employees

	This year	Last year
Employees	17	18



21 Together Reserve Policy

April 2024/2025

21 Together is a charity supporting people with Down's syndrome, their families and the professionals that support them. We deliver a wide range of projects to fulfil our charitable purposes with wide variations in cost and expense. We run direct intervention sessions for children aged 0 - 25, parents support groups, training programmes, awareness programmes and individualised support. We have an office base and 9 members of core staff, including a Charity Manager. We also have a therapy room base and classroom, to run our other services we regularly hire additional hall space within our building. We have core running costs and additional project costs. Additionally, we currently employ 12 members of staff, all on a part-time basis to run our direct contact projects. We contract with Speech Therapists, OT's, specialist teachers and Physios to provide supervision and support for our staff. Our training is delivered by outside expert speakers and is contracted on a course-by-course basis. Therefore, we have ongoing staff liabilities in addition to externally contracted liabilities. We also have a minimum three month rent and overhead liabilities to consider.

21 Together are committed to ensuring that we act in the charity's best interests and manage the charity's resources responsibly. As a charity, we are directly supporting vulnerable children and young people. It is vital that we can sustain our support over prolonged periods without the need to pause/cease support if funding streams fluctuate or stop. 21 Together has a fluctuating funding structure. Much of our income is derived through trusts/grants along with corporate supporters. A smaller proportion comes through individual giving and other routes. This means that we could be significantly financially impacted if any of our corporate partners decide not to support the charity in that year or if the trust/grant market becomes even more competitive, as is the case since the pandemic. Both these funding streams are unpredictable in nature. We also have multi-year restricted projects funded by a specific trust that are a large proportion of our cost, one of these ceased in April 23 and the other ends in June 2024. Alongside that, we have seen a big increase in requests for financial support for our paid services, and we expect this to increase over the next few years. All these areas mean our income has become more unpredictable. We need to consider gaps in funding for key projects that directly deliver young people coming up in the next year that require significant levels of financing as a proportion of total outgoings. This will be considered when setting our reserves target level.

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

21 Together have ongoing liabilities and overheads. We rent office space, rooms and employ staff. We must recognise the stable nature of our outgoings compared to the relative instability of our income. This does not mean that this approach is not appropriate for the charity, but it does mean that we must ensure our reserve policy can build the necessary stability into the charity finances. Therefore, it is vital that our reserve policy builds in staged alerts to changes in reserve levels and that it identifies clear steps to be taken to ensure financial stability.

These factors have led us to set a reserve level of £100,000; this considers the decrease in multi-year funding. It also considers the increase in running costs associated with significant growth the last year and the likelihood of continued increases in demand for services. It incorporates the need to increase the reserves from previous years in line with charity growth and the current economic backdrop. We must also consider plans to duplicate services in Thanet and the additional financial strain this will carry with it. Our reserve limit reflects the 3-6 months running cost guidance set out by the charity commission.

As a charity supporting children and young people with disabilities, it is sensible and prudent to acknowledge that unforeseen costs can often be expensive. Costs are likely to include specialist equipment as well as expensive expert contractors to supervise projects or deliver training. We also have highly trained staff which means the loss of a staff member would be expensive to cover and would also cost the charity significant sums to train a new member of staff to the appropriate level. Our reserve limit is designed to be a dynamic figure and should be reviewed whenever the budget is reviewed and at least annually.

Our current reserve target is £100,000. This is using the projected year budget of £325,000 outgoing for the 2024/2025. It is important to note that this relates to free reserves and does not include restricted monies.

Reserve Level	Steps to be taken
More than £130,000	Trustees to formally review charitable purposes and plan how they will spend the money to best meet the charitable purposes. It may be necessary to review and alter charitable purposes to allow the money to be spent effectively.
Reserve target - £130,000	To be kept under review by manager – no action needed. Trustees to continue using the information to plan future spending.
£80,000 – reserve target	Trustees to be alerted. Trustees to consider future spending and fundraising opportunities and to record their plans in the minutes. Action to be taken in accordance with their plans.

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

Below £80,000	Trustees to be alerted – Review of the financial plans, activities and future activities of the charity. Substantial steps to improve/change the funding streams and considered removing some services to save funds. Should be viewed as a high alert and needs a significant and unified response by the trustee board. Trustees must agree on a financial plan with immediate effect.
Less than £60,000	High level alert. Emergency Trustee meeting to be called if it is unexpected or unplanned for. Approx. 3 months of running cost left. Steps should be taken immediately to give notice on any contractual obligations including office rent and staff unless a clear, substantial and concrete finance plan is in place and the trustees are in agreement to continue the charities activities. To be reviewed monthly until the reserve goes above £40,000

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful to all the trusts and foundations, organisations, and individuals who have provided funding and resources to our charity throughout the year. **Your invaluable support enables us not only to sustain our work but to grow.** Below is just a selection of our incredible supporters who have contributed not only financial assistance but also resources, workspaces, and partnership opportunities that help place inclusion at the heart of Kent.

Finally, to our individual fundraisers and donors — whose generosity accounts for 16.8% of our total funding — thank you. You are not only vital to our financial sustainability but also serve as inspiring ambassadors, raising awareness and championing our cause every day. **We couldn't do it without you!**



Charity Number:	1165305
Charity Constitution:	Foundation CIO
Trustee Selection Methods:	Appointed by existing trustees
Trustees:	<p>Rebecca Clark - Chair Melissa Jones - Treasurer Sinead Ainsworth Robin Smith Toyin Olukoya Stephen Sibbald - Appointed 05/03/2025</p>
Trustee Standing Down:	Robin Smith - 18/01/2025
Key Management Personnel:	Trustees and CEO - John Keeley
Contact Details:	info@21together.org.uk 01622 230720
Registered Office:	Maidstone Community Support Centre, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1HH
Independent Examiner:	Steven Case - Finance Box Limited 128B The Street, Rustington, West Sussex, BN16 3DA
Bank:	CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA
Governance and Structure:	Type of governing document Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2019 as amended on 25 Sept 2020

DECLARATION

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES:

Rebecca Clark
Chair

Rebecca Clark

Melissa Jones
Treasurer

Melissa Jones

“This charity is worth its weight in gold. It makes me more confident as a parent knowing I have 21 Together behind me to help and support us.”



CERTIFICATE *of* SIGNATURE

REF. NUMBER
BCDXQ-FBCK2-ZXMWZ-AMOXa

DOCUMENT COMPLETED BY ALL PARTIES ON
27 JAN 2026 18:50:12
UTC

SIGNER

TIMESTAMP

SIGNATURE

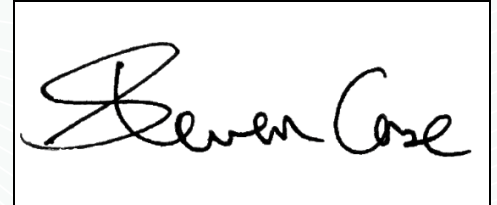
STEVEN CASE

EMAIL
STEVEN.CASE@FINANCEBOX.CO.UK

SENT
27 JAN 2026 08:15:30

VIEWED
27 JAN 2026 08:21:17

SIGNED
27 JAN 2026 08:21:34



IP ADDRESS
86.156.108.150

LOCATION
CITY OF LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
27 JAN 2026 08:21:17

REBECCA CLARK

EMAIL
BECKY@21TOGETHER.ORG.UK

SENT
27 JAN 2026 08:15:30

VIEWED
27 JAN 2026 11:54:39

SIGNED
27 JAN 2026 11:56:51



IP ADDRESS
88.97.213.84

LOCATION
TIPTON, UNITED KINGDOM

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
27 JAN 2026 11:54:39



CERTIFICATE *of* SIGNATURE

REF. NUMBER
BCDXQ-FBCK2-ZXMWZ-AMOXa

DOCUMENT COMPLETED BY ALL PARTIES ON
27 JAN 2026 18:50:12
UTC

SIGNER

MELISSA JONES

EMAIL
MELISSA@21TOGETHER.ORG.UK

TIMESTAMP

SENT
27 JAN 2026 08:15:30

VIEWED
27 JAN 2026 18:46:35

SIGNED
27 JAN 2026 18:50:12

SIGNATURE



IP ADDRESS
90.196.251.227

LOCATION
DAGENHAM, UNITED KINGDOM

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
27 JAN 2026 18:46:35



21 TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1165305

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT



2023/2024

Supporting
children and
young people
with Down's
syndrome
and their
community.

Message from the Chair



Rebecca Clark

Chair of Trustees

This year at 21 Together we have focused on making our services as accessible as possible to our community, expanding our reach across the county, ensuring that the young people with Down's syndrome and their families continue to be at the centre of everything we do. I am proud to say we have made significant progress in this area, whilst continuing to maintain and develop our high quality education service provision. Our Regional Hub project expanded this year, providing numerous social events, active WhatsApp groups; offering the chance for families to form more meaningful local connections and support networks.

Our Community Support Co-ordinator has been central to this, travelling around the county to be present at events, offering practical support, information and fostering those networks in each area. This has led to an increase in people accessing our services who haven't previously done so, a key goal of this year. In the face of financial pressures facing families, we have endeavoured to keep the cost of our core services the same despite rising costs and continue to provide a financial support policy to ensure access to all. We have continued our work on ensuring our groups and social events are accessible to those with more complex needs, something which has been well received and will be an ongoing focus in the next year.

Behind the scenes we are working on duplicating our service provision in Thanet from 2024/2025, this is a huge project but one we truly believe will provide essential services in an area where many struggle to access us currently.

Some highlights of our year have been our community events, which are always well attended, particularly our Choo Choo and Tunes day in the summer, and seeing our supporters and community come together and vote for us to win The National Lottery's People's Project. This was a huge win for us and we are grateful for everyone who voted for us to secure our communication group funding for another year.

My sincere thanks to our wonderful staff, volunteers, trustee board, supporters and donors, who make 21 Together the organisation it is, we couldn't do it without you. As ever we will continue to provide high quality, specialist services and support to our children and young people and their families, to give them the best opportunity to thrive in today's world.

Trustees' Annual Report



Objectives

CIO - Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2016 as amended on 25 Sep 2020.

1. To relieve the needs of people with Down's syndrome, living particularly but not exclusively in Kent, and their families and carers through the provision of training, support, education, and practical advice, and by such other means as the trustees may determine.
1. To advance the education of the public and in particular the parents and carers of people with Down's syndrome and professionals involved in their care and education, in the specific needs and abilities of people with Down's syndrome.

Vision

Everyone has the right to live their lives to the fullest of their potential, regardless of disability or disadvantage.

Mission

To support children and young people with Down's syndrome and their families to access the right support to live full and vibrant lives.

Our Aims



Enable people with Down's syndrome to be fully included in society by giving them access to the early intervention and skills needed to achieve the best possible outcomes in their lives.

Educate families and professionals to enable them to provide the best possible support for people with Down's syndrome.

Support families through peer networks, parent support groups and online forums.

Advocate and build awareness of the achievements of people with Down's syndrome. Recognising the positive impact of our community on the wider world is key in promoting true inclusion and cohesion.

Promote raised expectations of what is possible within our community and the wider community.

“The team at 21 Together are incredibly supportive, passionate and knowledgeable when it comes to Down's syndrome. They have gone above and beyond to help my son in his communication development and in supporting us as a family. Thank you for all that you are doing and continue to do.”

Community At Heart

Community is truly at the heart of everything we've done at 21 Together. Whether it's bringing people together through fun-filled events, supporting young individuals, or gaining recognition for our contributions, none of this would be possible without the incredible support and involvement of our community. Highlights include our [People's Project Win](#) in May 2023, where thanks to over 3,500 votes from our supporters, we were thrilled to win £68,352 in The National Lottery's People's Project. This funding ensured our communication sessions continued for another year. It was a huge win for us, made possible by our incredible community. During the summer, our S-Club members took [trip to Deal](#), where they had the chance to practice the real-world skills they'd been learning. From train rides to arcade games, our young people had a fantastic day out, supported by staff and each other. Despite a little rain, our Summer Community Fun Day "[Choo Choo's & Tunes](#)" at Bredgar & Wormshill Light Railway was a hit. Families enjoyed train rides, live music, and more, proving that nothing can dampen the spirit of our community. It was a joyful day full of smiles and togetherness. We were honored to win the [2023 Kent Mental Wellbeing Award](#), recognising our work supporting children with Down's syndrome and raising awareness in the community. This award is a testament to the impact of our services and the people who help make them possible. This year, we expanded our [Regional Hubs](#), assisting families across Kent to connect more locally. By creating smaller, more personal networks, we've strengthened the bonds within our community. Finally, our [World Down Syndrome Day](#) fundraiser was a huge success: from casino games to raffles, the event was filled with excitement and generosity. The participation of our young adults with Down's syndrome was a highlight and we raised over £7,000. From fundraisers to community days, to expanding our reach, this year has been a testament to the power of community. Every event, every vote, every smile shared has helped us grow stronger together. Here's to another year of building connections, empowering young people, and making a difference—together!



Cost of Living Impact

The UK has been facing a severe cost-of-living crisis during 2023/24, which has had a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, including families with disabled children and young people. This period has seen escalating inflation, soaring energy bills, and food price hikes, exacerbated by geopolitical events such as the war in Ukraine; creating severe financial strain for many families. For those raising disabled children, the pressures are even greater. These families not only face higher living costs but often struggle with additional, disability-related expenses, pushing many disabled families deeper into financial hardship. Disability-related benefits like Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance play a crucial role in supporting these families. However, these payments often do not cover the full extent of disability-related costs, leaving families with significant financial shortfalls. The Family Fund reported that by late 2023, nearly 85% of families with disabled children they surveyed were struggling to make ends meet. The financial pressures caused by the cost-of-living crisis go far beyond monetary issues, placing immense emotional and mental strain on parents and caregivers of disabled children.

In response, 21 Together has taken proactive steps to support families by keeping service prices unchanged and making the financial support policy more accessible. With support from The National Lottery, 21 Together created a short-term webinar series, **21Together Talks**, to address the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis. It featured speakers from Family Fund on grants for families with disabled children, a cost-of-living toolkit from Crosslight Advice with budgeting and money management tips, guidance from Citizens Advice on unpaid bills and debt, and energy-saving tips from Green Doctor. The series also included a workshop on stress management and building resilience in difficult times. All webinars and resources are now available on the website for ongoing access.



Disabled people in the UK face extra costs averaging

£975 per month

To achieve the same standard of living, disabled families need

60% more income

Felt "ignored and overlooked" by decision-makers when it came to financial support

76% of families

Challenges

Meeting the Need



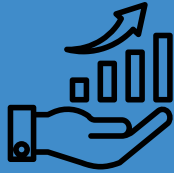
Our waiting lists have grown, yet participation in some of our services has not followed suit. Whilst families are eager to connect, financial pressures and limited budgets make it challenging. Engaging a diverse community spread across a large geographical area, especially where funds are tight, has made it increasingly difficult for us to address the rising demand for our services.

Economic Impact and Cost of Living



Despite not increasing our service prices for three consecutive years, we are facing rising costs in service delivery due to economic instability and the cost-of-living crisis. Our primary focus has been on securing enough staff to maintain high-quality services. However, like many charities, the rising costs are limiting our ability to expand or develop new services to meet growing community needs.

Growth



While our continued growth reflects a positive impact on the community and drives our ambition for further expansion, sustainability is essential. We are committed to developing clear, strategic plans that maintain the quality of our interventions, adapt to new ways of working, and ensure long-term success as we extend our services.

Fundraising



As we move forward, the rising inflation and the energy crisis seen this past year, still present significant challenges for charities across the UK. While we are developing strategies to navigate these economic pressures, we must also recognise that local businesses, grant-making trusts, and community fundraisers are facing similar financial constraints. To sustain our work, we are focused on enhancing and diversifying our income streams to better withstand these external challenges and have recruited a Partnerships Manager to aid this direction.



Our Impact

Our process for tracking unique users has changed this year, as we have not included individuals attending fun days or fundraisers in the count. This reflects a more focused measurement of those who have been directly impacted by 21 Together through targeted support and intervention. Notably, of the 295 unique users recorded, 48% were new and had not accessed any services in the previous year (2022/23). Additionally, over 1,200 people attended events, fundraisers, and Regional Hub socials.

This year, we supported 110 children and young people with Down's syndrome, the same number as last year, however, with a growing waiting list for many of our direct intervention services. This highlighted a need to expand our offerings into a second location to allow space for new families to access our specialist services.

We supported 182 family groups, 110 of which included an individual with Down's syndrome accessing our direct intervention groups. 72 families accessed a service not directly aimed at children and young people, such as Community Support, Regional Hubs or Training; solidifying our continuous commitment to supporting the wider networks.

To ease the financial pressures faced by many, we delivered most workshops online; recorded, and added them to a training library for unlimited access. However, from this, we observed a decline in establishments and professionals accessing our services. Only the three full-day in-person training sessions were attended by professionals. Moving forward, we will need to reassess our approach to engagement and explore offering more direct support within the establishments that serve our children and young people.

Unique Users

295

Individuals with Down's syndrome

110

Family Groups

182

Professionals

34

Establishment Settings

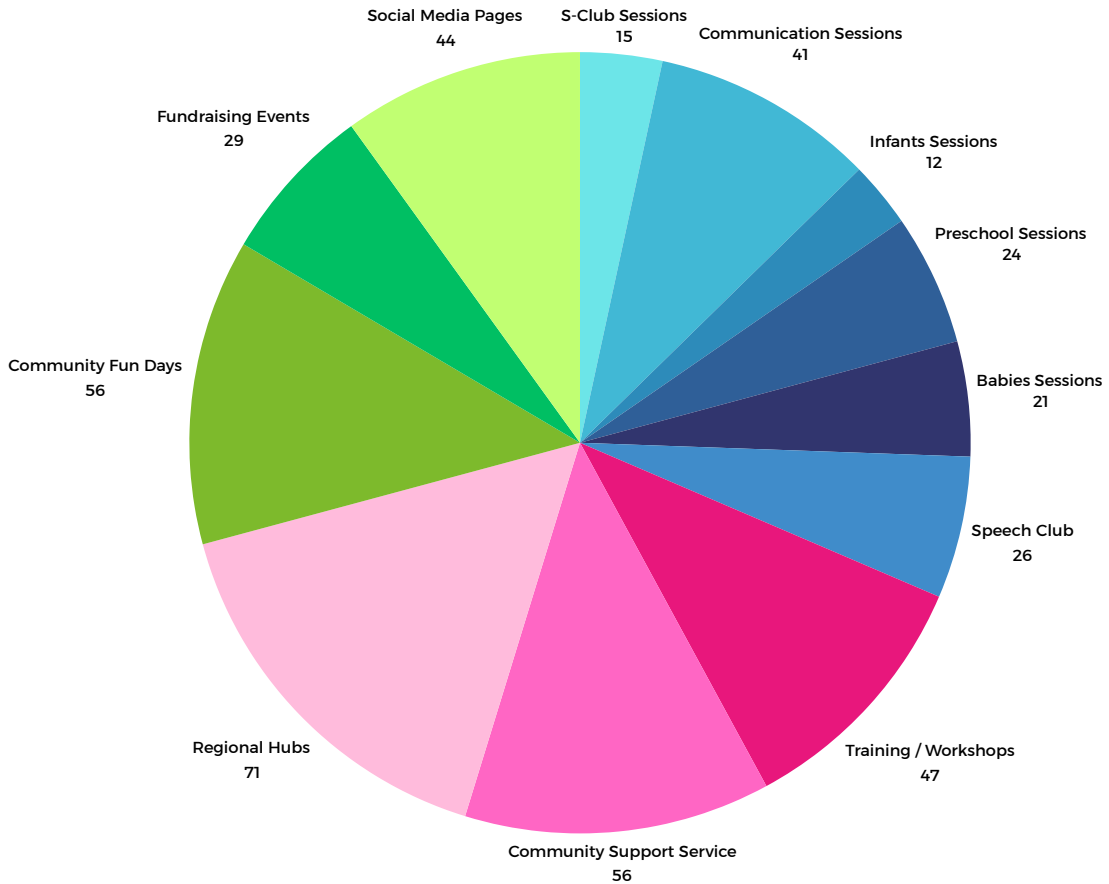
16

Not accessed a service last year

134



Service Overview



The pie chart above shows the percentage of users who accessed each of the services as per the 23/24 survey responses. The majority of our users have accessed more than one service throughout the year. Our newest service, Regional Hubs was the most accessed with 71% of our users accessing it this year. This was closely followed by both Community Fun Days and the Community Support Service highlighting the community's growing need for connection, support, and guidance as families navigate challenges together.

Service users were asked to rate their experiences accessing and using 21 Together's services. All responses either agreed or strongly agreed with all statements bar one whom stated a neutral overall positive experience. Unfortunately, this user provided no further comments for this rating and agreed with the three other statements.

Overall positive experience:

97%

Communication was timely, knowledgeable and accurate:

100%

Staff were helpful and friendly:

100%

Accessing the service was straightforward and easy:

100%

Service Overview

All of our services are designed to support children and young people with Down's syndrome in reaching their full potential, while empowering and uplifting the networks around them. We recognise that no child exists in isolation, so we focus on equipping parents, caregivers, and professionals with the tools and skills they need to provide positive, effective support. By fostering this strong foundation, we give our children and young people the best opportunity to thrive and lead fulfilling, vibrant lives.

Children and Young People



Our comprehensive intervention services, available from birth to age 25, are designed to support every critical stage of a child's journey into adulthood. We offer a wide range of support, including speech and language therapy, educational assistance, wellbeing and social engagement groups, and development of essential life skills. As we continue to evolve, we are focussing on our post-16 services, with an emphasis on broader community inclusion and work skills development.

Families / Carers



We know that for the parents and carers of our community, finding time for themselves is often a challenge. That's why 21 Together's designed a range of services, including training, advice, and community events for parents to connect with others who understand their experiences. Our aim is to empower families to navigate challenges at home and overcome barriers in accessing education, health, and social care. Our Regional Hubs have helped to foster local networks and peer groups that provide ongoing connection and friendship. While we will continue offering events and information, our ultimate goal is to help families build lasting relationships that extend beyond 21 Together, creating supportive communities for the future.

Professionals



Professionals are essential to our network, to help us deliver a child-centred approach that ensures each child and young person receives the tailored support they need to thrive. Our Community Support Coordinator has strengthened connections with these networks, and we are further expanding and enhancing the roles of our Education team to expand our reach and provide greater support and share their expertise across schools, health, and social care. From SENCO networks to health visitors, we ensure professionals are aware of our services and how we can assist them.

Future Outlook

New Horizons

We are committed to continuous improvement, ensuring that our services evolve to meet the growing and changing needs of our community. Innovation and high-impact approaches are at the heart of what we do, as we strive to lead the sector with our education, therapy, and personal development programmes. Additionally, we aim to create new avenues of support that strengthen our impact. By advocating for families and helping them build resilience, we will continue to support them in meaningful ways, empowering them to overcome challenges and thrive.



Communicate Together

In 2023/24, we have been laying the groundwork for our "Communicate Together" campaign. This initiative is focused not only on securing funding for our Maidstone centre for the next three years but also on expanding into a new centre in Thanet. Our mission for 24/25 is to extend these valuable opportunities to more children, while continuing to enhance the excellent programmes and services we already offer.

Community & Education

In response to community feedback, a key focus for the upcoming year will be expanding our post-16+ provisions through the development of a new service. We will also be revising our community support services to ensure the assistance we provide is both tailored to each child's specific needs and holistic in its approach, offering comprehensive support for families and professionals.

"21 Together is such a huge support for our family and have helped us in so many ways, practically and emotionally. The event has been brilliant, so welcoming to the entire family, and so well thought out. Dietary needs catered for and all the children have had a fantastic time. Thank you 21 Together!"

Volunteers

Our Unsung Heroes

Volunteers remain the backbone of 21 Together, and their contributions this year have been invaluable. We were thrilled to welcome Amy into our office team for six months through Bemix, an organisation that supports young people in gaining workplace experience through supported employment. Amy quickly adapted to the daily tasks of office life, becoming an essential part of the team, and her dedication made a significant impact on our work.



In addition to Amy, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers who generously give their time. Their efforts have been instrumental in supporting our education team, helping to deliver high-impact, personalized intervention programmes to children and young people across our weekly groups.

We also wish to express our deep gratitude to our dedicated Board of Trustees. Their ongoing commitment of time, energy, and expertise ensures we continue to fulfill our mission and drive forward our ambitious goals for the future.

“Volunteering has helped me with being confident around colleagues, completing tasks that have been asked of me, while being sure to speak up and ask for a hand if there is something I need help with. It has also helped me with making sure that I am on time in a professional environment” - Amy

Finance Statement



Melissa Jones

Treasurer

2023/24 has seen another challenging financial climate in the wider economy, so I am proud to say that the Charity has been able to continue to provide and grow high quality core services to our children and young people with Down syndrome that are at the heart of what we do. Ensuring the continuity and quality of these services will be at the heart of our financial planning for the next 12-36 months as we continue to expect both income and cost challenges. In addition, continual review of attendance and feedback of ongoing and new services to ensure the success and value for money of services provided by the Charity will be important.

Whilst we have seen a growth in our income over the last 12 months of 23%, our costs have increased by 30% and so prudence is required to ensure the financial stability of the charity. The last 12 months has seen a continued reliance on grant funding and diversifying our income streams will be crucial for securing the financial stability of the charity going forwards. The employment of a Partnership Manager and the commencement of the Communicate Together project to secure wider funding streams for our communication groups in Maidstone and our new hub in Thanet are important to this.

Careful cost management will also be important over the next 12 months in light of the continued cost of living crisis and a review of our financial processes over the last 12 months is part of our commitment to ensure good financial governance and that financial risks are managed in a way appropriate for the size of the charity.

Our reserves policy has remained the same for this financial year with unrestricted reserves of £110k at the end of FY 2023/24. This provides coverage for our core services for 6 months.

Like many charitable organisations, the next 12 months will continue to provide a financial challenge for both costs and income but by managing our income streams, forecasting and cost controls this will allow us to secure the continued provision of high quality services to the Down syndrome community in Kent.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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21 TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 2024. 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).

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.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

CE005262 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1165305

Registered office

Maidstone Community Support Centre

Maidstone

Kent

ME14 1HH

Trustees

R Smith

M Jones

R Clark

S P M Ainsworth

T Olukoya

Company Secretary

Independent Examiner

Ashdown Hurrey

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers

20 Havelock Road

Hastings

East Sussex

TN34 1BP

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

R Clark - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF 21 TOGETHER

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 21 Together ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

S Rosling FCCA

Ashdown Hurrey
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

10 January 2025

21 TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations, legacies and grants		11,432	331,373	342,805	277,618
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		9,372	36,481	45,853	39,949
Other trading activities	2	388	15	403	1,341
Investment income	3	668	-	668	397
Total		<u>21,860</u>	<u>367,869</u>	<u>389,729</u>	<u>319,305</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		6,605	130	6,735	1,886
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		18,626	294,089	312,715	240,162
Other		935	12,721	13,656	14,246
Total		<u>26,166</u>	<u>306,940</u>	<u>333,106</u>	<u>256,294</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(4,306)	60,929	56,623	63,011
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		100,450	188,099	288,549	225,538
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>96,144</u></u>	<u><u>249,028</u></u>	<u><u>345,172</u></u>	<u><u>288,549</u></u>

21 TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	2,916	-	2,916	2,916
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	1,515	-	1,515	4,145
Cash at bank		94,754	249,025	343,779	287,176
		<u>96,269</u>	<u>249,025</u>	<u>345,294</u>	<u>291,321</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(3,038)	-	(3,038)	(5,688)
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>93,231</u>	<u>249,025</u>	<u>342,256</u>	<u>285,633</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>96,147</u>	<u>249,025</u>	<u>345,172</u>	<u>288,549</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u><u>96,147</u></u>	<u><u>249,025</u></u>	<u><u>345,172</u></u>	<u><u>288,549</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	11			96,147	100,450
Restricted funds				249,025	188,099
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u><u>345,172</u></u>	<u><u>288,549</u></u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

21 TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2024

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 by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10 January 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

R Clark - Trustee

M Jones - Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

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.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Fundraising events	-	259
Shop income	403	1,063
Christmas cards	-	19
	<u>403</u>	<u>1,341</u>

21 TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Interest received	<u>668</u>	<u>397</u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Other operating leases	<u>29,344</u>	<u>21,851</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations, legacies and grants	34,581	243,037	277,618
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	1,522	38,427	39,949
Other trading activities	1,341	-	1,341
Investment income	<u>397</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>397</u>
Total	<u>37,841</u>	<u>281,464</u>	<u>319,305</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	2,025	(139)	1,886
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	3,583	236,579	240,162
Other	<u>1,350</u>	<u>12,896</u>	<u>14,246</u>
Total	<u>6,958</u>	<u>249,336</u>	<u>256,294</u>
NET INCOME	30,883	32,128	63,011
Transfers between funds	<u>(35,000)</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	(4,117)	67,128	63,011
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	104,567	120,971	225,538
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>100,450</u>	<u>188,099</u>	<u>288,549</u>

21 TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

		Computer equipment £
COST		
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024		<u>2,916</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 March 2024		<u><u>2,916</u></u>
At 31 March 2023		<u><u>2,916</u></u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trade debtors	<u>1,515</u>	<u>4,145</u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 10)	-	937
Trade creditors	-	104
Social security and other taxes	638	3,747
Accrued expenses	<u>2,400</u>	<u>900</u>
	<u><u>3,038</u></u>	<u><u>5,688</u></u>

10. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	<u>-</u>	<u>937</u>

The above overdraft relates to funds where funds were spent prior to the grant being received. This has since been received and is no longer overdrawn.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	100,450	(4,303)	96,147
Restricted funds			
Operations and Development - Core Costs	73,018	(53,618)	19,400
Training	4,180	(1,757)	2,423
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	2,572
FSG	862	(862)	-
Whitehead Monckton	420	(420)	-
Activities for C&YP	3,767	3,030	6,797
The National Lottery - EFL	5,446	3,084	8,530
Groups - General	65,965	14,949	80,914
Awards for All	375	(375)	-
Canticorum	1,396	(1,396)	-
Tesco - Groundworks	10,000	(8,000)	2,000
KCC - Railways	1,541	(1,541)	-
Beacon Lodge	6,510	(6,510)	-
Garfield Weston	4,627	(4,627)	-
Groundworks - Comic Relief	(937)	937	-
The Wakeham Trust	835	(835)	-
Edward Gosling	5,000	(5,000)	-
B&Q	886	(886)	-
Cole Charitable Trust	1,300	(1,300)	-
Awareness	336	(336)	-
Outreach	-	300	300
Sainsburys	-	1,500	1,500
Colyer Ferguson	-	19,365	19,365
TNL - CSS COL	-	3	3
TNL - Early Intervention	-	20,000	20,000
Co Op Local	-	2,203	2,203
Hale Trust	-	1,000	1,000
St James Place	-	2,500	2,500
Peoples Lottery	-	37,768	37,768
Youth Voices	-	30,000	30,000
Communicate Together	-	10,000	10,000
KCC - Members	-	1,750	1,750
	<u>188,099</u>	<u>60,926</u>	<u>249,025</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>288,549</u>	<u>56,623</u>	<u>345,172</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	21,860	(26,163)	(4,303)
Restricted funds			
Operations and Development - Core Costs	38,938	(92,556)	(53,618)
Training	2,377	(4,134)	(1,757)
FSG	-	(862)	(862)
Whitehead Monckton	1,600	(2,020)	(420)
Cobtree	538	(538)	-
Activities for C&YP	4,496	(1,466)	3,030
The National Lottery - EFL	72,214	(69,130)	3,084
Groups - General	31,086	(16,137)	14,949
Awards for All	-	(375)	(375)
Canticorum	1	(1,397)	(1,396)
Tesco - Groundworks	5,170	(13,170)	(8,000)
KCC - Railways	-	(1,541)	(1,541)
Beacon Lodge	-	(6,510)	(6,510)
Garfield Weston	-	(4,627)	(4,627)
Groundworks - Comic Relief	937	-	937
The Wakeham Trust	-	(835)	(835)
Edward Gosling	1	(5,001)	(5,000)
B&Q	1	(887)	(886)
Cole Charitable Trust	-	(1,300)	(1,300)
Awareness	-	(336)	(336)
Outreach	300	-	300
Roger De Haan	2,500	(2,500)	-
KCC - Active Sport	496	(496)	-
Gibbons Trust	3,000	(3,000)	-
Sainsburys	1,500	-	1,500
Maidstone Resilience	5,000	(5,000)	-
Landsec Futures	1,000	(1,000)	-
Colyer Ferguson	20,001	(636)	19,365
TNL - CSS COL	22,947	(22,944)	3
TNL - Early Intervention	20,000	-	20,000
Co Op Local	2,203	-	2,203
Hale Trust	1,000	-	1,000
St James Place	2,500	-	2,500
Thanet Development	1,500	(1,500)	-
Felicity Wilde	2,000	(2,000)	-
WCAT	900	(900)	-
Rotary Club of Medway	320	(320)	-
Peoples Lottery	68,353	(30,585)	37,768
Youth Voices	30,000	-	30,000
Gatwick Airport	1,000	(1,000)	-
Barbara Wards	5,000	(5,000)	-
Tonbridge TC	2,000	(2,000)	-
Communicate Together	10,000	-	10,000
Mr & Mrs Mount	5,000	(5,000)	-
Jazz Apples	240	(240)	-
KCC - Members	1,750	-	1,750
	<u>367,869</u>	<u>(306,943)</u>	<u>60,926</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>389,729</u>	<u>(333,106)</u>	<u>56,623</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	104,567	30,883	(35,000)	100,450
Restricted funds				
Communication for Life	25,427	(25,427)	-	-
Operations and Development - Core Costs	66,906	6,112	-	73,018
Training	789	3,391	-	4,180
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	2,572
Community Support Service	(51)	51	-	-
FSG	1,170	(308)	-	862
KCC Reconnect	9,502	(9,502)	-	-
Morrisons	(5,183)	5,183	-	-
Whitehead Monckton	1,200	(780)	-	420
KCC Strategic Fund	6,704	(6,704)	-	-
Cobtree	223	(223)	-	-
Kent Police	200	(200)	-	-
Activities for C&YP	2,320	1,447	-	3,767
CIN - Money Heroes	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
The National Lottery - EFL	8,192	(2,746)	-	5,446
Groups - General	-	30,965	35,000	65,965
Awards for All	-	375	-	375
Canticorum	-	1,396	-	1,396
Tesco - Groundworks	-	10,000	-	10,000
KCC - Railways	-	1,541	-	1,541
Beacon Lodge	-	6,510	-	6,510
Garfield Weston	-	4,627	-	4,627
Groundworks - Comic Relief	-	(937)	-	(937)
The Wakeham Trust	-	835	-	835
Edward Gosling	-	5,000	-	5,000
B&Q	-	886	-	886
Cole Charitable Trust	-	1,300	-	1,300
Awareness	-	336	-	336
	<u>120,971</u>	<u>32,128</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>188,099</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>225,538</u>	<u>63,011</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>288,549</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. 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 fund	37,841	(6,958)	30,883
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	34,056	(59,483)	(25,427)
Operations and Development - Core Costs	35,506	(29,394)	6,112
Training	3,410	(19)	3,391
Community Support Service	5,800	(5,749)	51
FSG	-	(308)	(308)
KCC Reconnect	-	(9,502)	(9,502)
Morrisons	7,000	(1,817)	5,183
Whitehead Monckton	-	(780)	(780)
KCC Strategic Fund	-	(6,704)	(6,704)
Cobtree	-	(223)	(223)
Kent Police	1	(201)	(200)
Activities for C&YP	2,265	(818)	1,447
CIN - Money Heroes	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
The National Lottery - EFL	73,560	(76,306)	(2,746)
Groups - General	34,403	(3,438)	30,965
Awards for All	8,016	(7,641)	375
Canticorum	2,000	(604)	1,396
Tesco - Groundworks	10,000	-	10,000
KCC/KCF - Digital Inclusion	7,800	(7,800)	-
KCC - Railways	1,686	(145)	1,541
KCF - Micro John Hobson	2,001	(2,001)	-
Beacon Lodge	10,000	(3,490)	6,510
Garfield Weston	10,000	(5,373)	4,627
Clothworkers	7,301	(7,301)	-
Michael Cornish	1,000	(1,000)	-
Groundworks - Comic Relief	8,433	(9,370)	(937)
Comic Relief - Cost of Living	4,793	(4,793)	-
Card Factory	1,014	(1,014)	-
The Wakeham Trust	835	-	835
Edward Gosling	5,000	-	5,000
B&Q	1,630	(744)	886
Arnold Clark	1,000	(1,000)	-
Cole Charitable Trust	1,300	-	1,300
Canterbury Members	250	(250)	-
KCC - Resource Library	850	(850)	-
Awareness	554	(218)	336
	<u>281,464</u>	<u>(249,336)</u>	<u>32,128</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>319,305</u>	<u>(256,294)</u>	<u>63,011</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	104,567	26,580	(35,000)	96,147
Restricted funds				
Communication for Life	25,427	(25,427)	-	-
Operations and Development - Core Costs	66,906	(47,506)	-	19,400
Training	789	1,634	-	2,423
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	2,572
Community Support Service	(51)	51	-	-
FSG	1,170	(1,170)	-	-
KCC Reconnect	9,502	(9,502)	-	-
Morrisons	(5,183)	5,183	-	-
Whitehead Monckton	1,200	(1,200)	-	-
KCC Strategic Fund	6,704	(6,704)	-	-
Cobtree	223	(223)	-	-
Kent Police	200	(200)	-	-
Activities for C&YP	2,320	4,477	-	6,797
CIN - Money Heroes	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
The National Lottery - EFL	8,192	338	-	8,530
Groups - General	-	45,914	35,000	80,914
Tesco - Groundworks	-	2,000	-	2,000
Outreach	-	300	-	300
Sainsburys	-	1,500	-	1,500
Colyer Ferguson	-	19,365	-	19,365
TNL - CSS COL	-	3	-	3
TNL - Early Intervention	-	20,000	-	20,000
Co Op Local	-	2,203	-	2,203
Hale Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000
St James Place	-	2,500	-	2,500
Peoples Lottery	-	37,768	-	37,768
Youth Voices	-	30,000	-	30,000
Communicate Together	-	10,000	-	10,000
KCC - Members	-	1,750	-	1,750
	<u>120,971</u>	<u>93,054</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>249,025</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>225,538</u>	<u>119,634</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>345,172</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	59,701	(33,121)	26,580
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	34,056	(59,483)	(25,427)
Operations and Development - Core Costs	74,444	(121,950)	(47,506)
Training	5,787	(4,153)	1,634
Community Support Service	5,800	(5,749)	51
FSG	-	(1,170)	(1,170)
KCC Reconnect	-	(9,502)	(9,502)
Morrisons	7,000	(1,817)	5,183
Whitehead Monckton	1,600	(2,800)	(1,200)
KCC Strategic Fund	-	(6,704)	(6,704)
Cobtree	538	(761)	(223)
Kent Police	1	(201)	(200)
Activities for C&YP	6,761	(2,284)	4,477
CIN - Money Heroes	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
The National Lottery - EFL	145,774	(145,436)	338
Groups - General	65,489	(19,575)	45,914
Awards for All	8,016	(8,016)	-
Canticorum	2,001	(2,001)	-
Tesco - Groundworks	15,170	(13,170)	2,000
KCC/KCF - Digital Inclusion	7,800	(7,800)	-
KCC - Railways	1,686	(1,686)	-
KCF - Micro John Hobson	2,001	(2,001)	-
Beacon Lodge	10,000	(10,000)	-
Garfield Weston	10,000	(10,000)	-
Clothworkers	7,301	(7,301)	-
Michael Cornish	1,000	(1,000)	-
Groundworks - Comic Relief	9,370	(9,370)	-
Comic Relief - Cost of Living	4,793	(4,793)	-
Card Factory	1,014	(1,014)	-
The Wakeham Trust	835	(835)	-
Edward Gosling	5,001	(5,001)	-
B&Q	1,631	(1,631)	-
Arnold Clark	1,000	(1,000)	-
Cole Charitable Trust	1,300	(1,300)	-
Canterbury Members	250	(250)	-
KCC - Resource Library	850	(850)	-
Awareness	554	(554)	-
Outreach	300	-	300
Roger De Haan	2,500	(2,500)	-
KCC - Active Sport	496	(496)	-
Gibbons Trust	3,000	(3,000)	-
Sainsburys	1,500	-	1,500
Maidstone Resilience	5,000	(5,000)	-
Landsec Futures	1,000	(1,000)	-
Colyer Ferguson	20,001	(636)	19,365
TNL - CSS COL	22,947	(22,944)	3
TNL - Early Intervention	20,000	-	20,000
Co Op Local	2,203	-	2,203
Hale Trust	1,000	-	1,000
St James Place	2,500	-	2,500
Thanet Development	1,500	(1,500)	-
Felicity Wilde	2,000	(2,000)	-

21 TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

WCAT	900	(900)	-
Rotary Club of Medway	320	(320)	-
Peoples Lottery	68,353	(30,585)	37,768
Youth Voices	30,000	-	30,000
Gatwick Airport	1,000	(1,000)	-
Barbara Wards	5,000	(5,000)	-
Tonbridge TC	2,000	(2,000)	-
Communicate Together	10,000	-	10,000
Mr & Mrs Mount	5,000	(5,000)	-
Jazz Apples	240	(240)	-
KCC - Members	1,750	-	1,750
	<u>649,333</u>	<u>(556,279)</u>	<u>93,054</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>709,034</u>	<u>(589,400)</u>	<u>119,634</u>

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

21 TOGETHER

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations, legacies and grants		
Donations	18,883	35,426
Gift aid	1,406	1,184
Grants	322,516	241,008
	<u>342,805</u>	<u>277,618</u>
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	-	259
Shop income	403	1,063
Christmas cards	-	19
	<u>403</u>	<u>1,341</u>
Investment income		
Interest received	668	397
Charitable activities		
Communication groups	2,299	4,989
Circle groups	2,823	3,993
Courses	2,334	3,485
Education services	2,400	-
Early intervention fees	5,511	10,288
Celebrate together	-	(230)
S-Club	6,489	10,997
50/50 Lottery Sales	2,962	2,185
Events	5,183	1,081
Awareness sessions	-	675
Summer camp	-	2,486
Fundraising events	15,852	-
	<u>45,853</u>	<u>39,949</u>
Total incoming resources	389,729	319,305
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Products for fundraising	6,196	988
50/50 winners	539	898
	<u>6,735</u>	<u>1,886</u>
Charitable activities		
Wages	204,696	156,770
Social security	5,491	(1,099)
Pensions	3,181	2,111
Other operating leases	29,344	21,851
Staff training	7,296	2,589
Venues	8,317	10,873
Travel	297	268
Carried forward	258,622	193,363

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

21 TOGETHER

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	258,622	193,363
Symbol costs	3,116	4,847
Supervision	8,178	9,409
Early years intervention	-	806
Holiday camp costs	-	271
Apprenticeship	-	(1,302)
Paypal fees	116	128
Stripe fees	468	127
Workshops & activities	3,934	-
	<u>274,434</u>	<u>207,649</u>
Other		
Trustee and volunteer expenses	570	373
General resources	13,086	13,657
	<u>13,656</u>	<u>14,030</u>
Support costs		
Management		
Insurance	639	778
Telephone	-	106
Postage and stationery	200	754
Advertising	624	1,354
Website	-	500
Computer expenses	83	9,218
Accountancy	2,400	900
Bank charges	60	72
Legal and professional	25,680	12,237
Payroll, recruitment and staff costs	1,876	4,276
Subscriptions	4,019	1,672
Office Furniture	-	862
Prior year accountancy	2,700	-
	<u>38,281</u>	<u>32,729</u>
Total resources expended	<u>333,106</u>	<u>256,294</u>
Net income	<u>56,623</u>	<u>63,011</u>



21 Together Reserve Policy

April 2023/2024

21 Together is a charity supporting people with Down's syndrome, their families and the professionals that support them. We deliver a wide range of projects to fulfil our charitable purposes with wide variations in cost and expense. We run direct intervention sessions for children aged 0 - 25, parents support groups, training programmes, awareness programmes and individualised support. We have an office base and 7 full members of office staff, including a Charity Manager. We also have a therapy room base and classroom, to run our other services we regularly hire additional hall space within our building. We have core running costs and additional project costs. Additionally, we currently employ 8 - 10 members of staff, all on a part-time basis to run our direct contact projects. We contract with Speech Therapists, OT's, specialist teachers and Physios to provide supervision and support for our staff. Our training is delivered by outside expert speakers and is contracted on a course-by-course basis. Therefore we have ongoing staff liabilities in addition to externally contracted liabilities. We also have a minimum three month rent and overhead liabilities to consider.

21 Together are committed to ensuring that we act in the charity's best interests and manage the charity's resources responsibly. As a charity, we are directly supporting vulnerable children and young people. It is vital that we can sustain our support over prolonged periods without the need to pause/cease support if funding streams fluctuate or stop. 21 Together has a fluctuating funding structure. Much of our income is derived through trusts/grants along with corporate supporters. A smaller proportion comes through individual giving and other routes. This means that we could be significantly financially impacted if any of our corporate partners decide not to support the charity in that year or if the trust/grant market becomes even more competitive, as is the case since the pandemic. Both these funding streams are unpredictable in nature. We also have multi-year restricted projects funded by a specific trust that are a large proportion of our cost, one of these ceased in April 23 and the other ends in June 2024. Alongside that, we have seen a big increase in requests for financial support for our paid services, and we expect this to increase over the next few years. All these areas mean our income has become more unpredictable. We need to consider gaps in funding for key projects that directly deliver young people coming up in the next year that require significant levels of financing as a proportion of total outgoings. This will be considered when setting our reserves target level.

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

21 Together have ongoing liabilities and overheads. We rent office space, rooms and employ staff. We must recognise the stable nature of our outgoings compared to the relative instability of our income. This does not mean that this approach is not appropriate for the charity, but it does mean that we must ensure our reserve policy can build the necessary stability into the charity finances. Therefore, it is vital that our reserve policy builds in staged alerts to changes in reserve levels and that it identifies clear steps to be taken to ensure financial stability.

These factors have led us to set a reserve level of £100,000; this considers the certainty of multi-year funding. It also considers the increase in running costs associated with significant growth last two years and the likelihood of continued increases in demand for services. It incorporates the need to increase the reserves from previous years in line with charity growth and the current economic backdrop. Our reserve limit reflects the 3-6 months running cost guidance set out by the charity commission.

As a charity supporting children and young people with disabilities, it is sensible and prudent to acknowledge that unforeseen costs can often be expensive. Costs are likely to include specialist equipment as well as expensive expert contractors to supervise projects or deliver training. We also have highly trained staff which means the loss of a staff member would be expensive to cover and would also cost the charity significant sums to train a new member of staff to the appropriate level. Our reserve limit is designed to be a dynamic figure and should be reviewed whenever the budget is reviewed and at least annually.

Our current reserve target is £100,000. This is using the projected year budget of £330,000 outgoing for the 2023/2024. It is important to note that this relates to free reserves and does not include restricted monies.

Reserve Level	Steps to be taken
More than £130,000	Trustees to formally review charitable purposes and plan how they will spend the money to best meet the charitable purposes. It may be necessary to review and alter charitable purposes to allow the money to be spent effectively.
Reserve target - £130,000	To be kept under review by manager – no action needed. Trustees to continue using the information to plan future spending.
£80,000 – reserve target	Trustees to be alerted. Trustees to consider future spending and fundraising opportunities and to record their plans in the minutes. Action to be taken in accordance with their plans.
Below £80,000	Trustees to be alerted – Review of the financial plans, activities and future activities of the charity. Substantial steps to improve/change the funding streams and considered removing some services to save funds. Should be viewed as a high alert and needs a significant and unified response by the trustee board. Trustees must agree on a financial plan with immediate effect.

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

Less than £60,000	High level alert. Emergency Trustee meeting to be called if it is unexpected or unplanned for. Approx. 3 months of running cost left. Steps should be taken immediately to give notice on any contractual obligations including office rent and staff unless a clear, substantial and concrete finance plan is in place and the trustees are in agreement to continue the charities activities. To be reviewed monthly until the reserve goes above £40,000
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This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

THANK YOU To our funders



Gatwick Airport
Community Trust



The Beacon Lodge
Charitable Trust

Administrative and Legal Information

Charity Registration Number:

1165305

Charity Constitution:

Foundation CIO

Trustee Selection Methods:

Appointed by existing trustees

Trustee Standing Down:

None

Trustees:

Rebecca Clark - Chair
Melissa Jones - Treasurer
Sinead Ainsworth
Robin Smith
Toyin Olukoya

Key Management Personnel:

Trustees and Charity Manager - Johanna Aiyathurai

Registered Office:

Maidstone Community Support Centre, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HH

Independent Examiner:

S R Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA, Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited, 20 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP

Bank:

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Governance and Structure:

Type of governing document
Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2016 as amended on 25 Sep 2020



Declaration

“Somewhere where I don't feel like the odd one out, and somewhere where I am understood.”



The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Rebecca Clark
Chair

Signature

Date

Melissa Jones
Treasurer

Signature

Date

21 TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1165305

Accounts



2022/2023

ANNUAL REPORT



**Supporting children and young people with
Down's syndrome and their community.**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to report that we have continued to grow over the past year and are supporting more young people and their families than ever with a wider range of service provision.

As the cost of living crisis continues to disproportionately affect disabled children and their families, it has also made obtaining funding much more competitive. In light of this, this year we have focused on ensuring our services are both sustainable and accessible. We have built resilience into our staffing team and financial policies to ensure that we maintain quality and consistency in our services.

21 Together are committed to ensuring our services are accessible to as many people in our community as possible, we have reduced the costs associated with many of our groups and have continued to make sure financial support is available to all who need it. We have made good progress in providing groups to support those with more complex needs and this is an area we will continue to build on as part of our 3-year strategy.

This year also marked the start of our Regional Hubs, the goal of which is to provide more localised support in what is a vast county, enabling more local connections to be made by families. We will continue to improve these services to better support more young people.

Thanks, as ever, to our incredible staff and volunteers, whose dedication and ambition to provide the best for our young people is unwavering, and to our trustee board who give their time and experience so willingly. To all our supporters who fundraise, donate, share and vote for us - thank you for helping us to continue to provide vital services, we couldn't do it without you. We look forward to further growth in the next year, we are excited for our plans going forward, and our continued ambition to ensure we provide wide-ranging, meaningful opportunities and support for young people with Down's syndrome and their families in Kent.

Becky Clark - Chair of Trustees

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT



"We are genuinely grateful for all the help you have provided to Mabel and us as a family. This past 5 years wouldn't have been the same without your support."

Nina (Parent)

Objects of the Charity

CIO - Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2016 as amended on 25 Sep 2020.

1. To relieve the needs of people with Down's syndrome, living particularly but not exclusively in Kent, and their families and carers through the provision of training, support, education, and practical advice, and by such other means as the trustees may determine.

2. To advance the education of the public and in particular the parents and carers of people with Down's syndrome and professionals involved in their care and education, in the specific needs and abilities of people with Down's syndrome.



VISION

Everyone has the right to live their lives to the fullest of their potential, regardless of disability or disadvantage.

MISSION

To support children and young people with Down's syndrome and their families to access the right support to live full and vibrant lives.

OUR AIMS



Enable people with Down's syndrome to be fully included in society by giving them access to the early intervention and skills needed to achieve the best possible outcomes in their lives.

Educate families and professionals to enable them to provide the best possible support for people with Down's syndrome.

Support families through peer networks, parent support groups and online forums.

Advocate and build awareness of the achievements of people with Down's syndrome. Recognising the positive impact of our community on the wider world is key in promoting true inclusion and cohesion.

Promote raised expectations of what is possible within our community and the wider community.

Regional Hubs

Together we are stronger!

Letting our families lead the way



After much consultation and discussion, we have launched the beginnings of our regional hub project.

The project will split the vast area of Kent and Medway into 5 smaller regions, allowing families to connect and share on a much more local level.

Building support networks and peer groups with those who not only understand their journey but live close enough to become part of their everyday lives.

While we will be delivering events and information, the real aim is to help people connect outside of 21 Together, building friendships for the future.



"Just wanted to say a huge thank you for today. We loved the groups. It's so important to have a chance to listen to others' experiences and know that you're not alone, to be honest, and share in a space that is safe and supported. It is inspiring and incredibly positive to be with all of the children you are so resilient and you can see them shining and growing.

Thank you for welcoming us and we cannot wait to see you all again. Love Jade, Ollie and Ottie x"

Impact of the Cost of Living Crisis

The aftershocks of the Covid-19 pandemic have plunged our community, particularly families relying on disability benefits, into unprecedented challenges. Shockingly, 42% of these families now live in poverty, demanding urgent attention to address this stark reality. Over the past fifteen years, an additional 1.8 million people in families with a disabled member have fallen into poverty. Despite efforts to lighten caseloads, the numbers of those relying on disability benefits remain persistently high.

The disability employment gap, exceeding 40 percentage points for many, paints a poignant picture of the barriers faced by those with mental health conditions and learning disabilities.

The financial strain is palpable, with real-term costs of disability benefits soaring by £16 billion (48%) from 2000/01 to 2018/19, with an anticipated £4 billion increase by 2024/25.

In response, we've intensified our commitment to providing support. By reducing the costs of our services, we aim to ease the financial burden on families relying on disability benefits. No family should face the heartbreaking choice between supporting their disabled child with us and meeting basic needs. We have also seen our financial support requests more than double during this year, further impacting our ability to provide services and maintain our commitment to providing services for every child that needs it.

However, the current cost of living crisis has not spared us. Our operational costs have surged, while fundraising has seen a decline at the community level. Grants and Trusts fundraising has become hugely more competitive and this has significantly impacted our success levels. This poses an additional challenge in maintaining our support initiatives. As we navigate these turbulent waters, your support becomes even more critical.

Together, let's ensure that no family in our community is left to face these challenges alone.



"The team at 21 together are incredibly supportive, passionate and knowledgeable when it comes to Down Syndrome. Sam and the team have gone above and beyond to help my son in his communication development and in supporting us as a family. Thank you for all that you are doing and continue to do."

Revti - Parent

Challenges



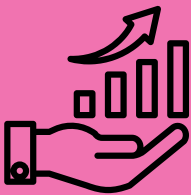
Meeting the Need

We have seen a significant increases in our waiting lists, events have been booked out very quickly with families unable to access some events due to numbers. In a post pandemic world, families are now looking to reconnect at a time when household incomes are low and budgets stretched. This is all impacting our ability to meet the growing need.



Economic Impact and Cost of Living

We have successfully managed the staff needs during this time and ensured we have protected staff as much as possible both in their wellbeing and the financial aspects. However, like most charities the cost of delivering services has rocketed which further squeezes our ability to build new services and expand others to help fulfil the needs in our area.



Growth

Our continued growth reflects our positive impact on the community. While we aim for further expansion, sustainability remains paramount. We emphasise clear and strategic plans to uphold the quality of interventions and adapt to new ways of working. As we consider extending services, our commitment to a sustainable and impactful future remains unwavering.



Impact Measurement and Evaluation

While services thrive and are busier than ever, the internal staff team endeavour to maintain our very high standard of service evaluation. Quality is a key pillar of our offer and everything we do must be done with the voice of our community. We have trialled external evaluators during this time but found the quality of provision is better held internally.



Fundraising

As we move into 23/24, we anticipate challenges with rising inflation and the ongoing energy crisis. While developing plans to navigate these uncertainties, we recognise that local businesses, grant-making trusts, and community fundraising will also be exploring cost-saving measures. We are looking at new ways to enhance and diversify our income.

WHO DO WE HELP?

USER TYPE	TOTAL
UNIQUE USERS * ↑42%	408
INDIVIDUALS with DOWN'S SYNDROME	110
FAMILY GROUPS	187
PROFESSIONALS	49
ESTABLISHMENTS/SETTINGS	32
PREVIOUSLY KNOWN INDIVIDUALS *	99



*Compared to last year's figure.





408
TOTAL CHARITY
USERS IN KENT

Our overall number of unique individuals being supported by the charity continued to rise, with a 42% increase on last year.

We directly supported 110 children and young people (CYP) with Down's syndrome, 49 professionals, and 249 individuals made up of family members/carers/supporters of a person with Down's syndrome. This included 187 family groups, meaning 77 families accessed services not directly aimed at CYP, like training, wellbeing, and community support. This sits well with our commitment to supporting wider networks as well as the CYP.

This year, we saw an increase in the number of establishments and professionals accessing services. Last year, we saw a decrease in this and so worked hard to review how we interacted with professionals and what the barriers were to accessing support. We contacted more schools directly with training opportunities and made more connections through our Community Support Service. This resulted in double the number of establishments accessing our services this year.

We are very happy to report that we are continuing to increase the number of children and young people with Down's syndrome accessing direct support from us. This is something we are continually reviewing, and are in the early stages of researching the possibility of opening a second centre in the Thanet region so as to be accessible to even more of our community.

Words used to describe our groups:

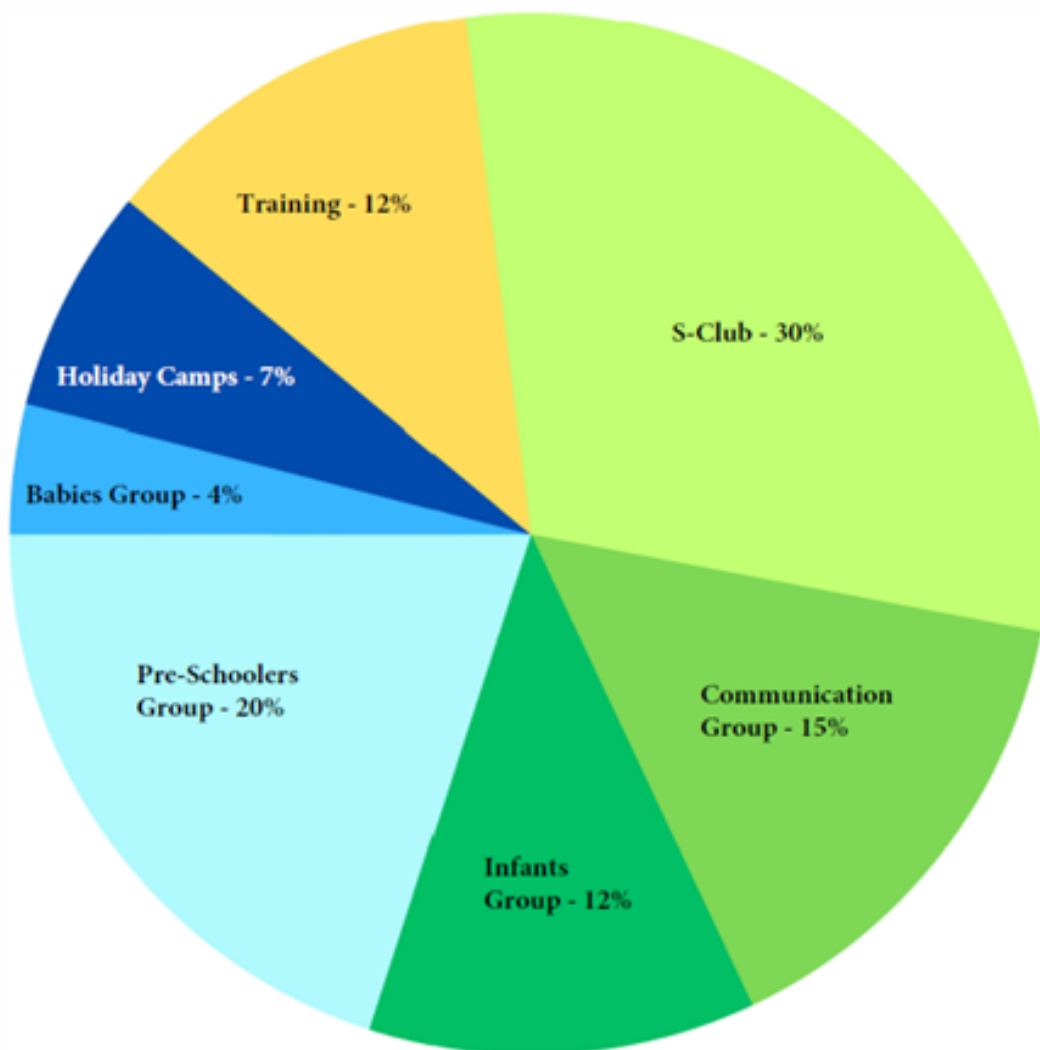
Rewarding Life-Skills Inspiring Available Appropriate Friendly
 Syndrome-Specific Useful Inclusive **Amazing**
Friendly Building Esteem Important Enriching
 Important Communicative **Reliable** Social Educational
 Helpful Needed **Confidence-Building** **Vital**
 Reinforcing Flexible Brilliant Encouraging Hollistic
 Life-Saving **Fun** Supportive Involving
 Engaging Making Friends **Wonderful**
 Caring Knowledgeable
 Accessible Excellent Relaxed Essential Informative
Welcoming

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Below is a breakdown of the services accessed based on the survey responses. S Club was our most accessed service, with Pre-school groups being the second most accessed.

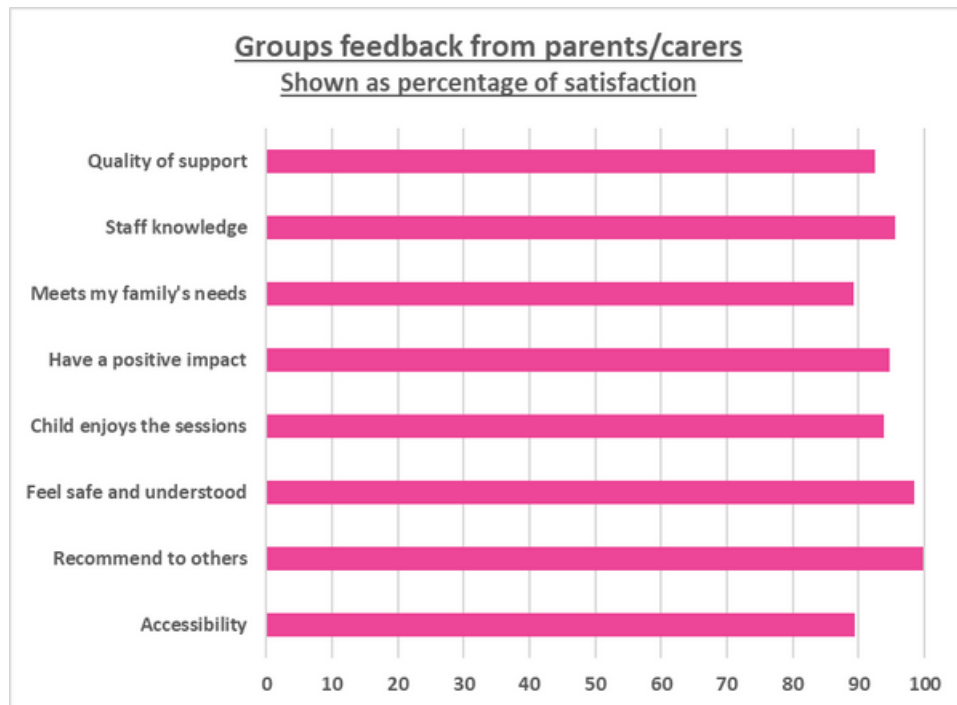
The volume numbers are very impressive showing that individuals and families accessed services multiple times because they find them to be so useful and engaging. In the last year there were almost 2000 attendances at groups, camps and training courses.

Breakdown of the 2000 attendances by service type



SERVICE OVERVIEW

Service users were asked to rate their experiences when accessing our direct intervention groups. On average across the groups, all responses were at least 89% satisfied with the areas specified below, with most over 90%. The scores recorded less than 90% tended to be for 'Accessibility' and 'Meets my family's needs' for all groups. We are aware of the geographical challenges we face, which is why we are in the early stages of researching a potential second centre based in Thanet which will replicate our services. We are also looking to make accessibility easier through the development of our Regional Hubs. This will involve providing more services in key areas around Kent so that parents/carers will not have to travel so far to access services such as information sessions with our Community Support Coordinator and social meetups with other people in the community. Of the 49 families asked, ALL parents/carers asked would recommend our services to others.



We remain committed to being as accessible and inclusive as possible. Since the appointment of our Community Support Co-ordinator, we have been actively seeking new and improved ways to better access hard-to-reach communities. This has been successful and is shown by the 42% rise in unique users this year, including doubling the number of professional establishments that we have supported. We will continue to build on this success in the coming year, by offering more 'outreach' sessions to schools of our children to ensure that professionals working with them have the best knowledge of how to support.

"Fantastic facility, has such a positive impact. Vital provision for my young man. He has made so much progress in his communication and social skills. He thoroughly enjoys meeting up with other young people and has made great friends. All staff are professional, knowledgeable and helpful plus lots of fun!!" - Sarah (Parent)

"Can't thank you and the team enough for the sessions last term. It's an absolutely essential part of Matthew's week since he gets no independence support at school." - Parent/carers

WHAT'S NEW

After extensive consultation and discussion, we have updated our vision for the future. Improvement plans are a pillar of our approach and we are always looking for ways to improve services and create new support. Here are some of the things we will be working on:



Here is what the community said:

"I cannot really put into words the difference this service made for my family in Lockdown. I really don't think my son would have progressed as well as he has and as a family, we would have struggled so much more."

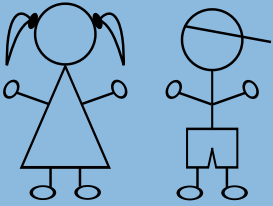
"Accessing the services from 21 Together have absolutely made our daughter more confident and got her ready for starting school. Without this support the gap between her and the other children would have been so much larger, even from a starting age."

"I love that my son gets so excited at seeing the other children and has a real chance to just be himself without worrying about being judged. I also get the chance to relax for a bit and talk to other parents about any concerns without feeling like a failure."

"What can I say, 21 Together are just an amazing service and their staff are so caring and supportive. At times it can be very lonely facing all these additional problems with our children and they just get that and seem to have the right words to help."

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Each service we offer aligns seamlessly with our overarching objective: nurturing children and young individuals to realise their full potential while empowering and supporting the networks that surround them. Recognising that no child exists in isolation, our approach emphasizes equipping parents, caregivers, and professionals with the necessary skills to effectively and positively support the holistic development of our children and young people.



Children and Young People

Our comprehensive intervention services, spanning from birth to 25 years old, are designed to address each crucial step into adulthood. Our offerings encompass a spectrum of support, including speech and language services, educational support, wellbeing groups, social engagement opportunities, life skill development programs, and access to expert guidance on personal safety, friendships, and relationships.



Families / Carers

For busy parents and carers, finding time for themselves is a rarity. That's why 21 Together's support sessions are tailored for those who need a moment to recharge. Our offerings include training services, advice and support, and community events for parents to connect with others. We empower families to navigate challenges at home and address difficulties in accessing education, health, and social care.

Our new plans for regional hubs will continue to develop this thread and provide even more support.



Professionals

Professionals play a crucial role in our network for children and young people. The Community Support Co-ordinator has enhanced connectivity with these networks, and we are expanding the roles of our Education Lead and specialists to support professionals and disseminate their expertise across schools, health, and social care. We have cultivated extensive professional connections, from SENCO networks to health visitors, ensuring that professionals are aware of our presence and the ways in which we can provide assistance.

Feedback:

"Thank you so much for a brilliant presentation yesterday! It was so lovely to hear all the amazing things you are doing to support!!! The Sencos found it extremely insightful."

- Ifield School

"21 Together provide invaluable support to my daughter and to us as a family. They have been there for us since our daughter's birth - weekly sessions, Early Intervention Groups, advice and support, training and events, supporting us at meetings. They are incredible and we are so thankful to have them."

- Andrea (Parent)

Volunteers

OUR UNSUNG HEROS



Helen H
Supporting our teens at Deal



Trustees and supporters
QHOF Ball

Volunteers are a vital driving force propelling 21 Together forward. Our diverse volunteer base, ranging from medical students to fully qualified teachers, contributes to a variety of roles, from working directly with children to wrapping gifts, organising resources, and engaging in fundraising efforts. This collective effort allows us to instill our message of hope in the professionals of the future.

A special thank you goes to those working behind the scenes, enhancing IT systems and aiding with building maintenance and equipment.

Finally, our dedicated Trustee board persists in investing time and energy, steering the charity with diligence to fulfill its objectives and fortify foundations for the future.



Tabitha
Volunteer

"Sincere thanks go to our incredible volunteers, especially Tabitha, whose unwavering support on World Down's Syndrome Day embodies the spirit of generosity that makes our events so special."

- Charity Manager

Finance Statement

21 Together has continued its work to be the go to, inclusive, Kent based charity promoting skills for life to allow individuals with Down's syndrome to be able to actively participate in society.

It is important to the Charity that, despite increasing costs in all areas currently, we continue to provide affordable, quality services to users so that they are accessible to all users within our remit. Reducing the costs of our services proves our commitment to this and these decisions are carefully balanced with the need to ensure attendance and maintain quality.

It is also a key aim from a financial perspective to ensure continuity of core services to its users as the impact of losing these services was evidenced during the Covid lockdowns. For core services to be maintained, the Charity needs stability of income and conscious cost management; both of which are a challenge in today's economic climate with inflation having reached double digits in this financial year.

The majority of the Charity's income is received from grant and trust funding, and this has continued to be the case this year with an increase of 40% on prior year's income; providing the Trustee's with security of services over the next 12 months. However, the charity has started to see a decrease in success rates with grant applications due to the sheer volume of applications to funders. It is anticipated that this trend will continue in the next 12 months.



The charity's biggest expense is staff and professional services. These costs are essential to allow the Charity to continue to provide high-quality and syndrome-specific services to its users with highly trained, specialist staff running our groups. We are proud to be a living wage employer and recognise the challenging economic times faced not only by our service users but also by our valued employees. Continuing to ensure we are a living wage employer is core to our values but will mean a continued increase to our cost base in the next 12 months.

To ensure the continued financial stability of the Charity's core services, the decision has been taken to restrict £35,000 of currently unrestricted funds to a restricted Core Group fund. This gives better financial stability to these core services and allows the Charity to continue planning for these services over the next 12 months in light of the above challenges to income and costs. This further restriction of funds reduces the Charity's unrestricted funds to £104,567, in line with the Charity's reserves policy.

Over the next 12 months, the Charity is seeking to continually improve its financial governance by setting up a Finance Subcommittee including subject matter experts to give a fresh perspective on the financial risks, review of management accounts and financial policies. This is part of the Charity's ongoing commitment to adhere to the Charity Commission's Governance Framework and apply best practices in our financial risk management as appropriate to the size of the Charity.

We look forward to being able to continue to provide high-quality services to our users over the next 12 months with our robust financial policies providing the financial stability to be able to do so.

Melissa Jones - Treasurer



REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE005262 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1165305

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
FOR
21 TOGETHER**

Ashdown Hurrey
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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21 TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

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.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

CE005262 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1165305

Registered office

Maidstone Community Support Centre
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1HH

Trustees

R Smith (appointed 25.5.22)
R Butcher
M Jones
J Kemp
R Clark
S P M Ainsworth

Company Secretary

Independent Examiner

Ashdown Hurrey
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

R Clark - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF 21 TOGETHER

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 21 Together ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

S.R. SAMPSON BFP FCA FCIE DChA

Ashdown Hurrey
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

5 January 2024

21 TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations, legacies and grants		34,581	243,037	277,618	199,808
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		1,522	38,427	39,949	41,489
Other trading activities	2	1,341	-	1,341	11,072
Investment income	3	397	-	397	-
Total		<u>37,841</u>	<u>281,464</u>	<u>319,305</u>	<u>252,369</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		2,025	(139)	1,886	1,451
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		3,583	236,579	240,162	212,087
Other		1,350	12,896	14,246	4,510
Total		<u>6,958</u>	<u>249,336</u>	<u>256,294</u>	<u>218,048</u>
NET INCOME		30,883	32,128	63,011	34,321
Transfers between funds	11	<u>(35,000)</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(4,117)</u>	<u>67,128</u>	<u>63,011</u>	<u>34,321</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		104,567	120,971	225,538	191,217
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>100,450</u>	<u>188,099</u>	<u>288,549</u>	<u>225,538</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

21 TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	2,916	-	2,916	2,916
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	4,145	-	4,145	1,454
Cash at bank		98,140	189,036	287,176	227,806
		<u>102,285</u>	<u>189,036</u>	<u>291,321</u>	<u>229,260</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(4,751)	(937)	(5,688)	(6,638)
		<u>97,534</u>	<u>188,099</u>	<u>285,633</u>	<u>222,622</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>100,450</u>	<u>188,099</u>	<u>288,549</u>	<u>225,538</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>100,450</u>	<u>188,099</u>	<u>288,549</u>	<u>225,538</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>100,450</u>	<u>188,099</u>	<u>288,549</u>	<u>225,538</u>
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				100,450	104,567
Restricted funds				188,099	120,971
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>288,549</u>	<u>225,538</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

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 by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 4 January 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

R Clark - Trustee

M Jones - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

21 TOGETHER

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

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

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

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.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Fundraising events	259	10,396
Shop income	1,063	469
Christmas cards	19	207
	<u>1,341</u>	<u>11,072</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Interest received	397	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Other operating leases	21,851	16,853
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations, legacies and grants	31,370	168,438	199,808
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	4,823	36,666	41,489
Other trading activities	11,072	-	11,072
Total	<u>47,265</u>	<u>205,104</u>	<u>252,369</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	1,451	-	1,451
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	9,121	202,966	212,087
Other	1,331	3,179	4,510
Total	<u>11,903</u>	<u>206,145</u>	<u>218,048</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	35,362	(1,041)	34,321
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	69,205	122,012	191,217
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>104,567</u>	<u>120,971</u>	<u>225,538</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

		Computer equipment £
COST		
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023		<u>2,916</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 March 2023		<u>2,916</u>
At 31 March 2022		<u>2,916</u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Trade debtors	<u>4,145</u>	<u>1,454</u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 10)	937	5,234
Trade creditors	104	-
Social security and other taxes	3,747	504
Accrued expenses	<u>900</u>	<u>900</u>
	<u>5,688</u>	<u>6,638</u>

10. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	<u>937</u>	<u>5,234</u>

The above overdraft relates to funds where funds were spent prior to the grant being received. This has since been received and is no longer overdrawn.

21 TOGETHER

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

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	104,567	30,883	(35,000)	100,450
Restricted funds				
Communication for Life	25,427	(25,427)	-	-
Operations and Development - Core Costs	66,906	6,112	-	73,018
Training	789	3,391	-	4,180
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	2,572
Community Support Service	(51)	51	-	-
FSG	1,170	(308)	-	862
KCC Reconnect	9,502	(9,502)	-	-
Morrisons	(5,183)	5,183	-	-
Whitehead Monckton	1,200	(780)	-	420
KCC Strategic Fund	6,704	(6,704)	-	-
Cobtree	223	(223)	-	-
Kent Police	200	(200)	-	-
Activities for C&YP	2,320	1,447	-	3,767
CIN - Money Heroes	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
The National Lottery - EFL	8,192	(2,746)	-	5,446
Groups - General	-	30,965	35,000	65,965
Awards for All	-	375	-	375
Canticorum	-	1,396	-	1,396
Tesco - Groundworks	-	10,000	-	10,000
KCC - Railways	-	1,541	-	1,541
Beacon Lodge	-	6,510	-	6,510
Garfield Weston	-	4,627	-	4,627
Groundworks - Comic Relief	-	(937)	-	(937)
The Wakeham Trust	-	835	-	835
Edward Gosling	-	5,000	-	5,000
B&Q	-	886	-	886
Cole Charitable Trust	-	1,300	-	1,300
Awareness	-	336	-	336
	<u>120,971</u>	<u>32,128</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>188,099</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>225,538</u>	<u>63,011</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>288,549</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	37,841	(6,958)	30,883
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	34,056	(59,483)	(25,427)
Operations and Development - Core Costs	35,506	(29,394)	6,112
Training	3,410	(19)	3,391
Community Support Service	5,800	(5,749)	51
FSG	-	(308)	(308)
KCC Reconnect	-	(9,502)	(9,502)
Morrisons	7,000	(1,817)	5,183
Whitehead Monckton	-	(780)	(780)
KCC Strategic Fund	-	(6,704)	(6,704)
Cobtree	-	(223)	(223)
Kent Police	1	(201)	(200)
Activities for C&YP	2,265	(818)	1,447
CIN - Money Heroes	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
The National Lottery - EFL	73,560	(76,306)	(2,746)
Groups - General	34,403	(3,438)	30,965
Awards for All	8,016	(7,641)	375
Canticorum	2,000	(604)	1,396
Tesco - Groundworks	10,000	-	10,000
KCC/KCF - Digital Inclusion	7,800	(7,800)	-
KCC - Railways	1,686	(145)	1,541
KCF - Micro John Hobson	2,001	(2,001)	-
Beacon Lodge	10,000	(3,490)	6,510
Garfield Weston	10,000	(5,373)	4,627
Clothworkers	7,301	(7,301)	-
Michael Cornish	1,000	(1,000)	-
Groundworks - Comic Relief	8,433	(9,370)	(937)
Comic Relief - Cost of Living	4,793	(4,793)	-
Card Factory	1,014	(1,014)	-
The Wakeham Trust	835	-	835
Edward Gosling	5,000	-	5,000
B&Q	1,630	(744)	886
Arnold Clark	1,000	(1,000)	-
Cole Charitable Trust	1,300	-	1,300
Canterbury Members	250	(250)	-
KCC - Resource Library	850	(850)	-
Awareness	554	(218)	336
	<u>281,464</u>	<u>(249,336)</u>	<u>32,128</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>319,305</u>	<u>(256,294)</u>	<u>63,011</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	69,205	35,362	-	104,567
Restricted funds				
Communication for Life	7,762	17,665	-	25,427
Operations and Development - Core Costs	77,086	(10,382)	202	66,906
Training	7,196	(6,407)	-	789
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	2,572
Community Support Service	(230)	179	-	(51)
FSG	2,283	(1,113)	-	1,170
Teach Me Too	25,343	(25,343)	-	-
KCC Reconnect	-	9,502	-	9,502
Morrisons	-	(5,183)	-	(5,183)
Whitehead Monckton	-	1,200	-	1,200
KCC Strategic Fund	-	6,704	-	6,704
Cobtree	-	223	-	223
Kent Police	-	200	-	200
Activities for C&YP	-	2,320	-	2,320
CIN - Money Heroes	-	1,000	-	1,000
The National Lottery - EFL	-	8,394	(202)	8,192
	<u>122,012</u>	<u>(1,041)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,971</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>191,217</u>	<u>34,321</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>225,538</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	47,265	(11,903)	35,362
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	75,019	(57,354)	17,665
Operations and Development - Core Costs	11,990	(22,372)	(10,382)
Training	409	(6,816)	(6,407)
Community Support Service	5,000	(4,821)	179
FSG	-	(1,113)	(1,113)
Teach Me Too	(16,895)	(8,448)	(25,343)
KCC Reconnect	9,764	(262)	9,502
Morrisons	-	(5,183)	(5,183)
Whitehead Monckton	2,000	(800)	1,200
KCC Strategic Fund	8,000	(1,296)	6,704
Cobtree	984	(761)	223
Kent Police	500	(300)	200
Activities for C&YP	3,599	(1,279)	2,320
CIN - Money Heroes	1,000	-	1,000
The National Lottery - EFL	103,734	(95,340)	8,394
	<u>205,104</u>	<u>(206,145)</u>	<u>(1,041)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>252,369</u>	<u>(218,048)</u>	<u>34,321</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	69,205	66,245	(35,000)	100,450
Restricted funds				
Communication for Life	7,762	(7,762)	-	-
Operations and Development - Core Costs	77,086	(4,270)	202	73,018
Training	7,196	(3,016)	-	4,180
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	2,572
Community Support Service	(230)	230	-	-
FSG	2,283	(1,421)	-	862
Teach Me Too	25,343	(25,343)	-	-
Whitehead Monckton	-	420	-	420
Activities for C&YP	-	3,767	-	3,767
The National Lottery - EFL	-	5,648	(202)	5,446
Groups - General	-	30,965	35,000	65,965
Awards for All	-	375	-	375
Canticorum	-	1,396	-	1,396
Tesco - Groundworks	-	10,000	-	10,000
KCC - Railways	-	1,541	-	1,541
Beacon Lodge	-	6,510	-	6,510
Garfield Weston	-	4,627	-	4,627
Groundworks - Comic Relief	-	(937)	-	(937)
The Wakeham Trust	-	835	-	835
Edward Gosling	-	5,000	-	5,000
B&Q	-	886	-	886
Cole Charitable Trust	-	1,300	-	1,300
Awareness	-	336	-	336
	<u>122,012</u>	<u>31,087</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>188,099</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>191,217</u>	<u>97,332</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>288,549</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	85,106	(18,861)	66,245
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	109,075	(116,837)	(7,762)
Operations and Development - Core Costs	47,496	(51,766)	(4,270)
Training	3,819	(6,835)	(3,016)
Community Support Service	10,800	(10,570)	230
FSG	-	(1,421)	(1,421)
Teach Me Too	(16,895)	(8,448)	(25,343)
KCC Reconnect	9,764	(9,764)	-
Morrisons	7,000	(7,000)	-
Whitehead Monckton	2,000	(1,580)	420
KCC Strategic Fund	8,000	(8,000)	-
Cobtree	984	(984)	-
Kent Police	501	(501)	-
Activities for C&YP	5,864	(2,097)	3,767
CIN - Money Heroes	1,000	(1,000)	-
The National Lottery - EFL	177,294	(171,646)	5,648
Groups - General	34,403	(3,438)	30,965
Awards for All	8,016	(7,641)	375
Canticorum	2,000	(604)	1,396
Tesco - Groundworks	10,000	-	10,000
KCC/KCF - Digital Inclusion	7,800	(7,800)	-
KCC - Railways	1,686	(145)	1,541
KCF - Micro John Hobson	2,001	(2,001)	-
Beacon Lodge	10,000	(3,490)	6,510
Garfield Weston	10,000	(5,373)	4,627
Clothworkers	7,301	(7,301)	-
Michael Cornish	1,000	(1,000)	-
Groundworks - Comic Relief	8,433	(9,370)	(937)
Comic Relief - Cost of Living	4,793	(4,793)	-
Card Factory	1,014	(1,014)	-
The Wakeham Trust	835	-	835
Edward Gosling	5,000	-	5,000
B&Q	1,630	(744)	886
Arnold Clark	1,000	(1,000)	-
Cole Charitable Trust	1,300	-	1,300
Canterbury Members	250	(250)	-
KCC - Resource Library	850	(850)	-
Awareness	554	(218)	336
	<u>486,568</u>	<u>(455,481)</u>	<u>31,087</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>571,674</u>	<u>(474,342)</u>	<u>97,332</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

21 TOGETHER

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

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations, legacies and grants		
Donations	35,426	(3,372)
Gift aid	1,184	1,399
Grants	241,008	201,781
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	277,618	199,808
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	259	10,396
Shop income	1,063	469
Christmas cards	19	207
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,341	11,072
Investment income		
Interest received	397	-
Charitable activities		
Communication groups	4,989	6,365
Circle groups	3,993	-
Courses	3,485	3,473
Education services	-	420
Early intervention fees	10,288	2,740
TMT 1st edition pack	-	11,342
Camp revenue	-	4,828
Celebrate together	(230)	-
S-Club	10,997	8,650
50/50 Lottery Sales	2,185	2,410
WDSO 2022	-	244
Events	1,081	592
Awareness sessions	675	425
Summer camp	2,486	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	39,949	41,489
Total incoming resources	<hr/>	<hr/>
	319,305	252,369
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Products for fundraising	988	960
50/50 winners	898	491
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,886	1,451
Charitable activities		
Wages	156,770	90,755
Social security	(1,099)	19,771
Pensions	2,111	2,694
Other operating leases	21,851	16,853
Staff training	2,589	4,761
Venues	10,873	10,910
Carried forward	193,095	145,744

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

21 TOGETHER

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

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	193,095	145,744
Travel	268	469
Symbol costs	4,847	-
Speakers and trainers	-	7,925
Bought-in services	-	20,392
Supervision	9,409	8,449
Early years intervention	806	-
Holiday camp costs	271	893
Saturday communication group	-	92
Apprenticeship	(1,302)	33
Paypal fees	128	263
Stripe fees	127	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	207,649	184,260
Other		
Trustee and volunteer expenses	373	933
Sundry expenses	-	489
General resources	13,657	2,188
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,030	3,610
Support costs		
Management		
Insurance	778	334
Telephone	106	616
Postage and stationery	754	325
Advertising	1,354	499
Website	500	448
Computer expenses	9,218	14,080
Accountancy	900	900
Bank charges	72	96
Legal and professional	12,237	3,600
Payroll, recruitment and staff costs	4,276	4,877
Subscriptions	1,672	852
Consulting	-	2,100
Office Furniture	862	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	32,729	28,727
Total resources expended	<hr/>	<hr/>
	256,294	218,048
Net income	<hr/>	<hr/>
	63,011	34,321



21 Together Reserve Policy

April 2023/2024

21 Together is a charity supporting people with Down's syndrome, their families and the professionals that support them. We deliver a wide range of projects to fulfil our charitable purposes with wide variations in cost and expense. We run direct intervention sessions for children aged 0 - 25, parents support groups, training programmes, awareness programmes and individualised support. We have an office base and 7 full members of office staff, including a Charity Manager. We also have a therapy room base and classroom, to run our other services we regularly hire additional hall space within our building. We have core running costs and additional project costs. Additionally, we currently employ 8 - 10 members of staff, all on a part-time basis to run our direct contact projects. We contract with Speech Therapists, OT's, specialist teachers and Physios to provide supervision and support for our staff. Our training is delivered by outside expert speakers and is contracted on a course-by-course basis. Therefore we have ongoing staff liabilities in addition to externally contracted liabilities. We also have a minimum three month rent and overhead liabilities to consider.

21 Together are committed to ensuring that we act in the charity's best interests and manage the charity's resources responsibly. As a charity, we are directly supporting vulnerable children and young people. It is vital that we can sustain our support over prolonged periods without the need to pause/cease support if funding streams fluctuate or stop. 21 Together has a fluctuating funding structure. Much of our income is derived through trusts/grants along with corporate supporters. A smaller proportion comes through individual giving and other routes. This means that we could be significantly financially impacted if any of our corporate partners decide not to support the charity in that year or if the trust/grant market becomes even more competitive, as is the case since the pandemic. Both these funding streams are unpredictable in nature. We also have multi-year restricted projects funded by a specific trust that are a large proportion of our cost, one of these ceased in April 23 and the other ends in June 2024. Alongside that, we have seen a big increase in requests for financial support for our paid services, and we expect this to increase over the next few years. All these areas mean our income has become more unpredictable. We need to consider gaps in funding for key projects that directly deliver young people coming up in the next year that require significant levels of financing as a proportion of total outgoings. This will be considered when setting our reserves target level.

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

21 Together have ongoing liabilities and overheads. We rent office space, rooms and employ staff. We must recognise the stable nature of our outgoings compared to the relative instability of our income. This does not mean that this approach is not appropriate for the charity, but it does mean that we must ensure our reserve policy can build the necessary stability into the charity finances. Therefore, it is vital that our reserve policy builds in staged alerts to changes in reserve levels and that it identifies clear steps to be taken to ensure financial stability.

These factors have led us to set a reserve level of £100,000; this considers the certainty of multi-year funding. It also considers the increase in running costs associated with significant growth last two years and the likelihood of continued increases in demand for services. It incorporates the need to increase the reserves from previous years in line with charity growth and the current economic backdrop. Our reserve limit reflects the 3-6 months running cost guidance set out by the charity commission.

As a charity supporting children and young people with disabilities, it is sensible and prudent to acknowledge that unforeseen costs can often be expensive. Costs are likely to include specialist equipment as well as expensive expert contractors to supervise projects or deliver training. We also have highly trained staff which means the loss of a staff member would be expensive to cover and would also cost the charity significant sums to train a new member of staff to the appropriate level. Our reserve limit is designed to be a dynamic figure and should be reviewed whenever the budget is reviewed and at least annually.

Our current reserve target is £100,000. This is using the projected year budget of £330,000 outgoing for the 2023/2024. It is important to note that this relates to free reserves and does not include restricted monies.

Reserve Level	Steps to be taken
More than £130,000	Trustees to formally review charitable purposes and plan how they will spend the money to best meet the charitable purposes. It may be necessary to review and alter charitable purposes to allow the money to be spent effectively.
Reserve target - £130,000	To be kept under review by manager – no action needed. Trustees to continue using the information to plan future spending.
£80,000 – reserve target	Trustees to be alerted. Trustees to consider future spending and fundraising opportunities and to record their plans in the minutes. Action to be taken in accordance with their plans.
Below £80,000	Trustees to be alerted – Review of the financial plans, activities and future activities of the charity. Substantial steps to improve/change the funding streams and considered removing some services to save funds. Should be viewed as a high alert and needs a significant and unified response by the trustee board. Trustees must agree on a financial plan with immediate effect.

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

Less than £60,000	High level alert. Emergency Trustee meeting to be called if it is unexpected or unplanned for. Approx. 3 months of running cost left. Steps should be taken immediately to give notice on any contractual obligations including office rent and staff unless a clear, substantial and concrete finance plan is in place and the trustees are in agreement to continue the charities activities. To be reviewed monthly until the reserve goes above £40,000
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This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number: 1165305
Trustees during the reporting period:

Rebecca Clark - Chair

Melissa Jones - Treasurer

Sinead Ainsworth

Robin Smith

Toyin Olukoya (appointed March 23)

Trustees standing down during the reporting period:

None

The Key Management Personnel are the Trustees and the Charity Manager:

Johanna Aiyathurai – Charity Manager

Registered Office & Operational Addresses:

MCSC, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HH

Independent Examiner:

S R Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA, Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited, 20 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP

Bank:

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Governance and Structure:

Type of governing document

Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2016 as amended on 25 Sep 2020

How the charity is constituted

Foundation CIO

Trustee selection methods

Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees



DECLARATION:

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Rebecca Clark
Chair

Signature *Rebecca Clark*

Date *8th Jan 24*

Melissa Jones
Treasurer

Signature *Melissa Jones*

Date *8th Jan 24*



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



Foundation



The Beacon Lodge Charitable Trust

21 TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1165305

Accounts



2021/2022

ANNUAL REPORT



**Supporting children and young people with
Down's syndrome and their community.**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This year has been one of change at 21 Together. We have grown rapidly over the past few years and this has necessitated some restructuring behind the scenes to ensure our growth is sustainable in the long term. As we have emerged from the pandemic into a cost of living crisis, our focus has been on ensuring the charity is resilient and can continue to provide quality services during these turbulent times, in the face of growing demand.

We have still been feeling the after effects of the pandemic this year, particularly as many in our community are vulnerable - not only in health but also to the loss or disruption of their education. It has been nice to see our groups back face to face for the majority of the year, providing that much-needed community connection that has been missing.

We are acutely aware of the strain on people's finances and have endeavoured to make our service provision accessible for all; reducing the cost of many of our services and ensuring our financial support policy is available. We have always believed no one should be unable to access our support due to financial concerns, and this is something that feels even more important in today's climate.

We were finally able to celebrate with our World Down syndrome day events, which were a great success. There are plans in place for an increasing number of community and social events in the future to help our community continue to reconnect after an isolating couple of years. It is clear from our feedback that this is something we have all been missing.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone who has supported 21 Together in the last year. To our incredible staff team who always go above and beyond for our community, our wonderful volunteers and the board of trustees who so willingly give their time to support the charity. Our people are what makes 21 Together the charity it is. With your support, we will continue to try and provide services and support for even more families in Kent.

Becky Clark - Chair of Trustees

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT



"My young man has made amazing progress attending 21 Together groups, his confidence and communication has vastly improved."

Objects of the Charity

CIO - Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2016 as amended on 25 Sep 2020.

1. To relieve the needs of people with Down's syndrome, living particularly but not exclusively in Kent, and their families and carers through the provision of training, support, education, and practical advice, and by such other means as the trustees may determine.

2. To advance the education of the public and in particular the parents and carers of people with Down's syndrome and professionals involved in their care and education, in the specific needs and abilities of people with Down's syndrome.



VISION

Everyone has the right to live their lives to the fullest of their potential, regardless of disability or disadvantage.

MISSION

To support children and young people with Down's syndrome and their families to access the right support to live full and vibrant lives.

OUR AIMS



Enable people with Down's syndrome to be fully included in society by giving them access to the early intervention and skills needed to achieve the best possible outcomes in their lives.

Educate families and professionals to enable them to provide the best possible support for people with Down's syndrome.

Support families through peer networks, parent support groups and online forums.

Advocate and build awareness of the achievements of people with Down's syndrome. Recognising the positive impact of our community on the wider world is key in promoting true inclusion and cohesion.

Promote raised expectations of what is possible within our community and the wider community.

Nothing for us, without us!

Putting the communities voice at the heart of everything we do.



This remains a priority area, with staff and volunteers tasked to continually gather feedback from children and young people using communication techniques that allow them to voice their view and be heard.

It is not enough just to listen, we have to make real changes with the information we gather. We have seen sweeping changes to the way we manage parent feedback with our younger groups, as well as plans to re-structure our parent support services. The Trustees and staff have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning all services and ensure the services delivered are in line with our Objects and Mission Statement.



"This year we have continued to develop how we engage with our community, with a particular focus on those families from socioeconomic backgrounds that are less likely to seek out extra support " - Charity Manager



"21 together training is an absolute godsend for us and Elodie's school. The school have adapted their teaching significantly based on the training . Thank you so much, please keep doing your fabulous work." - Claire Canham, parent.

Pandemic and cost of living

The impact of Covid continues to ripple through our community. Many children and young people are seeing the long-term effects of losing services, support, and learning during the lockdowns. For our younger generation, we are seeing many coming to us with more behavioural difficulties and cognitive challenges. For our young people, we are finding that the impact on their social skills and ability to build meaningful friendships remains an issue.

We can't change the past but we can ensure these children have access to language-rich social experiences, with access to professionals with the right skills to support their journey and start to fill some of the void left by Covid.

This is particularly evident in our baby and pre-school groups where families have lacked that real face-to-face interaction with other families and children.

Scope's "Disability Price Tag" research showed "Families with disabled children, on average, face extra costs of £581 a month and for almost a quarter (24%) of families with disabled children, extra costs amount to over £1,000 a month." We have certainly seen this issue becoming more and more prevalent. With increasing numbers accessing our financial support and many struggling to meet day-to-day costs, we took the decision to slash the costs of any paid-for services (these costs were already low). We took this approach rather than expanding our financial support scheme to reflect the fact that nearly all our families are struggling with increasing costs, not just those on a low income.

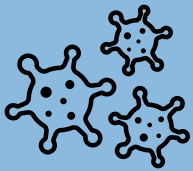
No family should have to choose between supporting their disabled child with us and putting their heating on!



"21 Together are a vital part of the Down's syndrome community and offer a standard of support and care not found elsewhere in Kent. Everyone is made to feel part of the 21 Together family and the resources they provide are invaluable. We would be lost without the support they provide."

Karen - Parent

Challenges



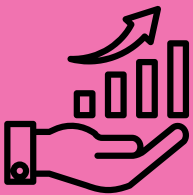
Covid -19

Covid-19 mortality incidence in vaccinated individuals is highest for those with Down's syndrome (12.7-fold increase). Many of our children and young adults were considered extremely clinically vulnerable and spent long periods in isolated situations. This continues to impact our sessions and the numbers of children we can include in each group.



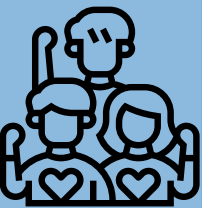
Economic Impact and Staffing Shortage

While we remain very aware of the potential impact on finances of the economic instability, our main challenge has been recruiting enough staff to keep providing high-quality services. The Trustees have been actively involved in this process, reviewing pay and conditions, and promoting our values to support our recruitment processes.



Growth

While growth is positive and we endeavour for this to continue, we must be mindful of the sustainability of projects and ensure that with growth also comes clear and strategic plans for maintaining this growth and ensuring we can continue to provide the same quality of intervention as well as adapting to the new ways of working.



Volunteers

The economic impact has had a direct impact on the availability of our usual volunteer base. Previously, we have had consistent uptake of volunteer positions from students from local universities. As there are now so many vacancies and an increase in the cost of living, these people are tending to dedicate much less time to volunteering.



Fundraising

As we go forward we have to be mindful of a likely recession, increasing inflation and the cost of the energy crisis. Whilst we can put plans together about how we will weather that storm, we must be aware that the local business, as well as grant-making trusts, will also be needing to find ways to save money. This is equally true of community fundraising.

WHO DO WE HELP?

USER TYPE	TOTAL
UNIQUE USERS *  33%	288
INDIVIDUALS with DOWN'S SYNDROME	90
FAMILY GROUPS	127
PROFESSIONALS	30
ESTABLISHMENTS/SETTINGS	16
PREVIOUSLY KNOWN INDIVIDUALS	112



*Compared to last year's figure.

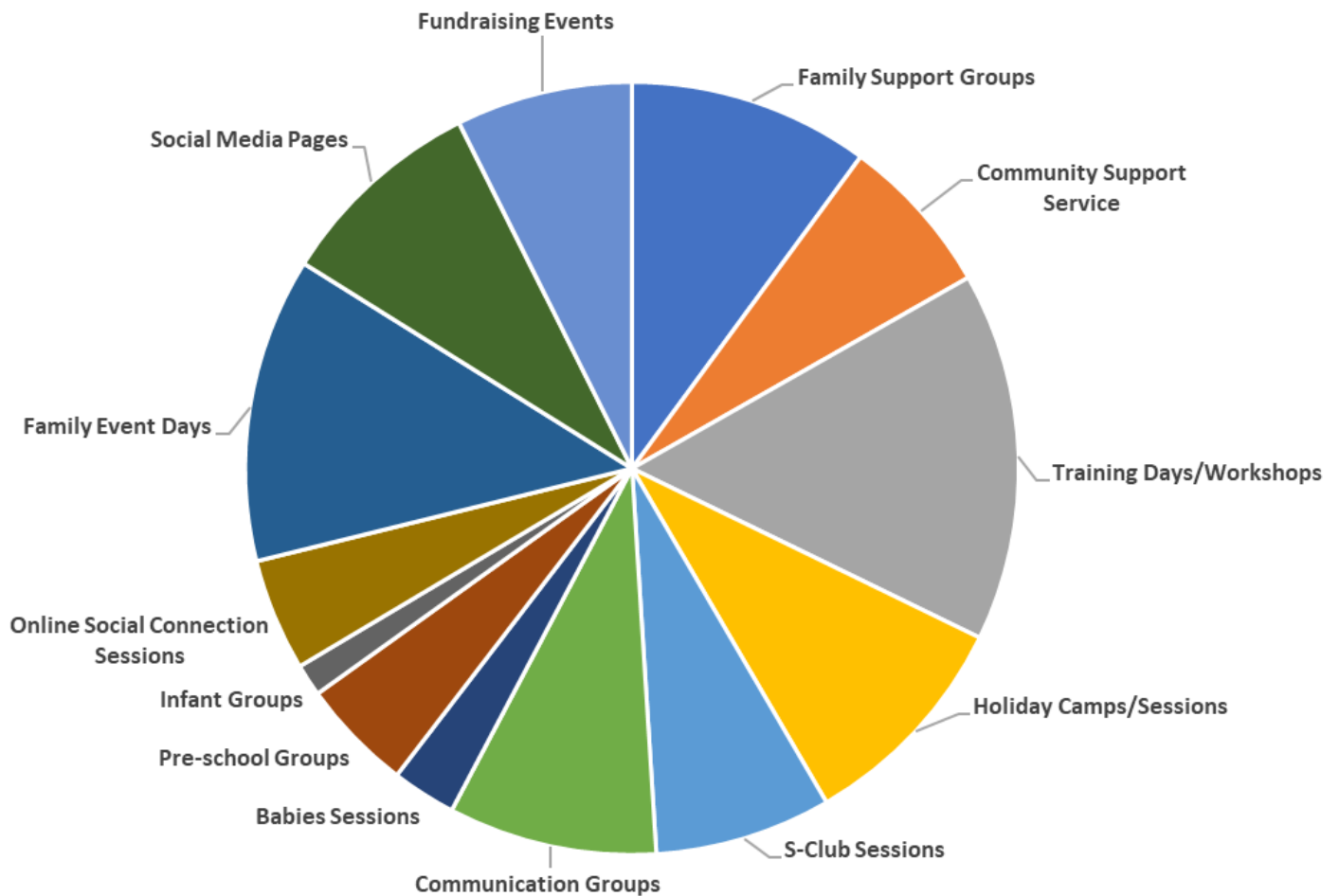


SERVICE OVERVIEW

Below is a breakdown of the services accessed based on the survey responses. Training Days/Workshops were our most accessed service, with family Event Days being the second most accessed.

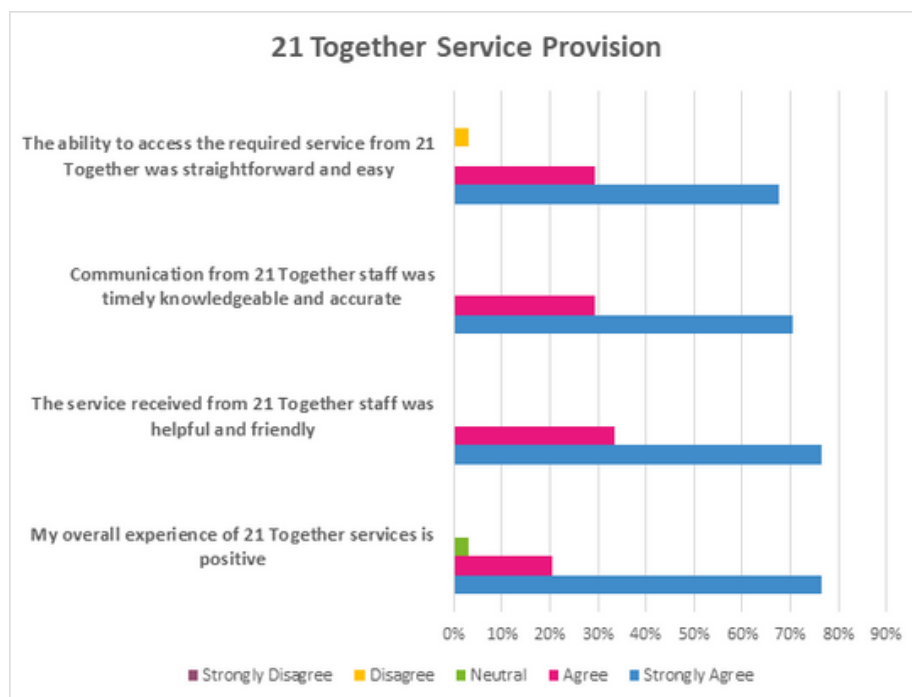
Services Accessed

- Family Support Groups
- Community Support Service
- Training Days/Workshops
- Holiday Camps/Sessions
- S-Club Sessions
- Communication Groups
- Babies Sessions
- Pre-school Groups
- Infant Groups
- Online Social Connection Sessions
- Family Event Days
- Social Media Pages
- Fundraising Events



SERVICE OVERVIEW

Service users were asked to rate their experiences with accessing services. At least 97% of survey responses either Strongly Agreed or Agreed with all statements. However, there was one response which disagreed with the statement, *"the ability to access the required service from 21 Together was straightforward and easy."* This is the same user that responded neutrally to *"my overall experience of 21 Together services is positive"*. They qualified their response by stating that they did not live locally to Maidstone and that the date and time of the service they would like to access was not convenient to them. We are aware of the geographical challenges we face, and as the charity grows we hope to replicate services across Kent to allow improved access.



We remain committed to being as accessible and inclusive as possible. We are also actively seeking new and improved ways to better access hard-to-reach communities, particularly those from different cultural backgrounds. The recent appointment of a Community Support Co-ordinator means that we can now work more closely with statutory services, community groups and individuals to ensure our services are offered and advertised within all communities in Kent.

"21 together is like having that old friend, you don't have to be in regular contact, but if you need them they're there." - Parent/carer

"You have been a lifeline to us parents please continue to provide all your services you help us to see all the possibilities that our children can achieve and bring fun and laughter back into our lives among all the stress we have to put up with fighting for all our children's needs, educationally and physically. You show us and the world that they have a place in this world." - Parent/carer

THE FUTURE

It's not just feedback we have been reviewing this year! We have also been ensuring that the voice of the community is the single most important driving force behind our plans for the future. So our community survey provided the foundations for our most recent Trustee strategy day which saw the board agree on the main areas for development for the next 3 years being: Post 16 support, sibling services, and improved provision for those with more complex needs.



Here is what the community said:

"More social events for our children to connect with their peers."

"The social days that have recently started have been brilliant, if these could continue that would be fantastic"

"It would be good to have a buddy service whereby young people could go out together in small groups to visit things like the cinema or bowling, especially for those that don't have access to a PA or support"

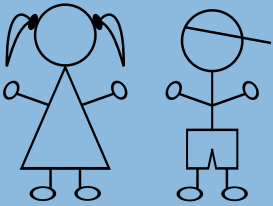
"More mixed age gathering. My experiences have only been in my child's age group and it would be valuable to be able to interact with families of all ages."

"Youth club for our young people from Secondary School age upwards."

"Provide sibling services / a group for siblings."

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Every service we provide fits into our goal of supporting children and young to reach their potential, whilst simultaneously empowering and supporting the surrounding networks. No one child exists in isolation, if we can give the parents, carers and professionals the skills to successfully and positively support our children and young people we have the best possible chance of reaching their potential and living full and vibrant lives.



Children and Young People

With direct intervention services now available from birth to 25 years old, we have different services for each step into adulthood. This includes speech and language, education services, wellbeing groups, social groups, life skill groups and access to expert teaching on personal safety, friendships and relationships. We now plan to shift our focus to post-16 provisions and looking at wider community inclusion and work skills.



Families / Carers

As parents and carers, life is always busy - they rarely have time to focus on themselves! Therefore, 21 Together's support sessions are specifically aimed at those parents/carers/family members who deserve a little time to recharge and regroup. Parents also access our training services, and our advice and support service, alongside many community events where they can meet other families and build new connections. Empowering our families to face the struggles they face at home, and the difficulties accessing education, health and social care remains a focus.



Professionals

Professionals form a vital part of our network around the children and young people. With a new job role planned to better connect with these networks and more provision made for our education lead and specialists to support professionals and spread their knowledge and skills into school, health and social care. We continue to have excellent connections with Canterbury Christchurch University and provide guest lectures to undergraduate health professionals

Feedback:

"I feel with the help of 21 Together that we can better support our son. Thank you, 21 Together for all your help."

"When my daughter was first born, my mental health suffered as I was extremely anxious she was going to become ill because of some of the conditions associated with having the additional chromosome. I was able to talk to one of the Trustees on a personal call and was invited to the meet up where I could meet other parents, which really helped with my anxiety."

Volunteers

OUR UNSUNG HEROS

rganisations are
are always trying to
ver and whenever
less.

ewater



Volunteers continue to be a vital lifeblood of 21 Together. This year we saw our university student volunteers formalised as we started delivering access to practical learning and assessment for 1st year Speech and Language students. As well as these placements, we continue to thank many volunteers for their time.

We are very thankful for those volunteers working in the background to help build more efficient IT systems and help with building maintenance and equipment.

Finally, our Trustee board continues to diligently give their time and energy to ensure the charity is fulfilling its objectives and building firm foundations for the future.



"This year we have loved seeing our young people continuing their volunteering online and as well as face-to-face. They do a fantastic job, supporting us at events, while simultaneously being the role models that our younger children need and deserve." - Charity Manager

Finance Statement

21 Together aims to be the go to, inclusive, Kent based charity promoting skills for life to allow individuals with Down's syndrome to be able to actively participate in society.

In spite of the backdrop of economic uncertainty following the Covid-19 pandemic over the course of the financial year 2021/22, this has continued to be a sustainably funded charitable organisation. The vast majority of income for the Charity is from grants and trusts which allows the Charity to continue to plan its services over the short to medium term. The pipeline of grants and trust applications coupled with the Charity's closing reserves gives the Trustees' certainty over the Charity's ability to continue providing its existing core services to users. Therefore, these accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Following the end of this financial year, there has been further economic uncertainty following the invasion of Ukraine and the UK's cost of living crisis. This economic uncertainty increases the financial risk of the Charity in future periods given:

- the increase in cost of providing services to users;
- potential reduction of income where funding streams are reduced or redirected by funders; and
- reduction in income for services where more users apply for financial hardship.

The Charity continues to closely monitor budgets prepared for grant funding to ensure these accurately represent the full cost of services being provided. New and one-off services only commence once they have sufficient funding available. This helps to mitigate the financial risk to the Charity. The Teach Me Too project has been successfully handed over to Learn and Thrive to continue its good work and build on the success of the project. That fund is now closed.



As at year end, the Charity's reserves were £104,567, which is in excess of the Charity's reserves policy. The main reason for this was due to a number of unfilled staff vacancies. The recruitment difficulties (which are in line with the charity sector as a whole) have since been resolved and the expectation is that, with a full headcount, and increased costs due to the cost of living crisis and expansion of the Charity's services within its objects, the reserves will reduce back in line with the Charity's reserves policy.

The Trustees continue to keep the Charity's reserves under review, particularly within the context of the wider economic uncertainty to ensure continuity of services to users. The Charity will continue to provide its core services in line with its objects and will seek to expand services to include complex needs; 16-25 year olds and sibling support over the next 12-24 months.

Trustees are recruited from various pools including adverts to carers and families and to wider volunteer networks. Specific skill sets are reviewed to ensure a breadth of knowledge across the Board and a balance of parent and carer Trustees and non-parent and carer Trustees which allows the Charity to ensure its purpose is meeting the needs of its users whilst also allowing objectivity in its governance. Appropriate professional references and DBS checks are undertaken for all Trustees.

In addition to financial risks, recruitment and staff retention is the other main risk for the Charity and its ability to continue to provide high-quality services to users. Ensuring staff vacancies are filled has proven a challenge over the last 12 months and this recruitment challenge has been seen across the Charity sector. The Charity ensures roles are attractive to potential applicants; salaries and benefits are benchmarked whilst also ensuring recruitment and staff performance process continue to be robust to ensure the right applicants are employed and use of Charity's funds is appropriate.

We look forward to being able to continue to provide high quality services to our users over the next 12 months with our robust financial policies providing financial stability to be able to do so

Melissa Jones - Treasurer



REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE005262 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1165305

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
FOR
21 TOGETHER**

Ashdown Hurrey
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

21 TOGETHER

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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21 TOGETHER (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE005262)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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 2022. 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).

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.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

CE005262 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1165305

Registered office

Maidstone Community Support Centre
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1HH

Trustees

R Smith (appointed 25.5.22)
R Butcher (appointed 16.6.21)
M Jones (appointed 16.6.21)
J Kemp (appointed 16.6.21)
R Clark (appointed 16.6.21)
S P M Ainsworth

Company Secretary

Independent Examiner

Ashdown Hurrey
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 19 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

R Clark - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF 21 TOGETHER

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 21 Together ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

S.R. SAMPSON BFP FCA FCIE DChA
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Ashdown Hurrey
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

19 January 2023

21 TOGETHER**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations, legacies and grants		31,370	168,438	199,808	213,603
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		4,823	36,666	41,489	18,349
Other trading activities	2	11,072	-	11,072	3,252
Total		<u>47,265</u>	<u>205,104</u>	<u>252,369</u>	<u>235,204</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		1,451	-	1,451	775
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		9,121	202,966	212,087	119,442
Other		1,331	3,179	4,510	2,947
Total		<u>11,903</u>	<u>206,145</u>	<u>218,048</u>	<u>123,164</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		35,362	(1,041)	34,321	112,040
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		69,205	122,012	191,217	79,177
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>104,567</u></u>	<u><u>120,971</u></u>	<u><u>225,538</u></u>	<u><u>191,217</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

21 TOGETHER (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE005262)**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	2,916	-	2,916	2,916
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	-	1,454	1,454	-
Cash at bank		102,551	125,255	227,806	188,531
		<u>102,551</u>	<u>126,709</u>	<u>229,260</u>	<u>188,531</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(900)	(5,738)	(6,638)	(230)
		<u>101,651</u>	<u>120,971</u>	<u>222,622</u>	<u>188,301</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>104,567</u>	<u>120,971</u>	<u>225,538</u>	<u>191,217</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>104,567</u>	<u>120,971</u>	<u>225,538</u>	<u>191,217</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>104,567</u>	<u>120,971</u>	<u>225,538</u>	<u>191,217</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	10			104,567	69,205
Restricted funds				120,971	122,012
				<u>225,538</u>	<u>191,217</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>225,538</u>	<u>191,217</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

21 TOGETHER (REGISTERED NUMBER: CE005262)

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2022

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 by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 19 January 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

R Clark - Trustee

M Jones - Trustee

21 TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

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.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Fundraising events	10,396	2,565
Shop income	469	97
Christmas cards	207	590
	<u>11,072</u>	<u>3,252</u>

21 TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Other operating leases	<u>16,853</u>	<u>10,678</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations, legacies and grants	29,391	184,212	213,603
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	5,333	13,016	18,349
Other trading activities	<u>3,247</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3,252</u>
Total	<u>37,971</u>	<u>197,233</u>	<u>235,204</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	775	-	775
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	33,085	86,357	119,442
Other	<u>1,333</u>	<u>1,614</u>	<u>2,947</u>
Total	<u>35,193</u>	<u>87,971</u>	<u>123,164</u>
NET INCOME	2,778	109,262	112,040
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	66,427	12,750	79,177
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>69,205</u>	<u>122,012</u>	<u>191,217</u>

21 TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**Computer
equipment
£**COST**

At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022

2,916

NET BOOK VALUE

At 31 March 2022

2,916

At 31 March 2021

2,916

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

31.3.22

31.3.21

£

£

Trade debtors

1,454

-

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

31.3.22

31.3.21

£

£

Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 9)

5,234

230

Social security and other taxes

504

-

Accrued expenses

900

-

6,638

230

9. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

31.3.22

31.3.21

£

£

Amounts falling due within one year on demand:

Bank overdrafts

5,234

230

The above overdraft relates to funds where funds were spent prior to the grant being received. This has since been received and is no longer overdrawn.

21 TOGETHER

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	69,205	35,362	-	104,567
Restricted funds				
Communication for Life	7,762	17,665	-	25,427
Operations and Development - Core Costs	77,086	(10,382)	202	66,906
Training	7,196	(6,407)	-	789
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	2,572
Community Support Service	(230)	179	-	(51)
FSG	2,283	(1,113)	-	1,170
Teach Me Too	25,343	(25,343)	-	-
KCC Reconnect	-	9,502	-	9,502
Morrison's	-	(5,183)	-	(5,183)
Whitehead Monckton	-	1,200	-	1,200
KCC Strategic Fund	-	6,704	-	6,704
Cobtree	-	223	-	223
Kent Police	-	200	-	200
Activities for C&YP	-	2,320	-	2,320
CIN - Money Heroes	-	1,000	-	1,000
The National Lottery - EFL	-	8,394	(202)	8,192
	<u>122,012</u>	<u>(1,041)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,971</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>191,217</u>	<u>34,321</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>225,538</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	47,265	(11,903)	35,362
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	75,019	(57,354)	17,665
Operations and Development - Core Costs	11,990	(22,372)	(10,382)
Training	409	(6,816)	(6,407)
Community Support Service	5,000	(4,821)	179
FSG	-	(1,113)	(1,113)
Teach Me Too	(16,895)	(8,448)	(25,343)
KCC Reconnect	9,764	(262)	9,502
Morrison's	-	(5,183)	(5,183)
Whitehead Monckton	2,000	(800)	1,200
KCC Strategic Fund	8,000	(1,296)	6,704
Cobtree	984	(761)	223
Kent Police	500	(300)	200
Activities for C&YP	3,599	(1,279)	2,320
CIN - Money Heroes	1,000	-	1,000
The National Lottery - EFL	103,734	(95,340)	8,394
	<u>205,104</u>	<u>(206,145)</u>	<u>(1,041)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>252,369</u>	<u>(218,048)</u>	<u>34,321</u>

21 TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	66,427	2,778	69,205
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	-	7,762	7,762
Operations and Development - Core Costs	638	76,448	77,086
Training	9,527	(2,331)	7,196
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	2,572
Community Support Service	13	(243)	(230)
FSG	-	2,283	2,283
Teach Me Too	-	25,343	25,343
	<u>12,750</u>	<u>109,262</u>	<u>122,012</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>79,177</u>	<u>112,040</u>	<u>191,217</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	37,971	(35,193)	2,778
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	44,713	(36,951)	7,762
Operations and Development - Core Costs	76,448	-	76,448
Training	3,098	(5,429)	(2,331)
Community Support Service	6,200	(6,443)	(243)
FSG	7,000	(4,717)	2,283
Teach Me Too	59,774	(34,431)	25,343
	<u>197,233</u>	<u>(87,971)</u>	<u>109,262</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>235,204</u>	<u>(123,164)</u>	<u>112,040</u>

21 TOGETHER**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	66,427	38,140	-	104,567
Restricted funds				
Communication for Life	-	25,427	-	25,427
Operations and Development - Core Costs	638	66,066	202	66,906
Training	9,527	(8,738)	-	789
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	2,572
Community Support Service	13	(64)	-	(51)
FSG	-	1,170	-	1,170
KCC Reconnect	-	9,502	-	9,502
Morrisons	-	(5,183)	-	(5,183)
Whitehead Monckton	-	1,200	-	1,200
KCC Strategic Fund	-	6,704	-	6,704
Cobtree	-	223	-	223
Kent Police	-	200	-	200
Activities for C&YP	-	2,320	-	2,320
CIN - Money Heroes	-	1,000	-	1,000
The National Lottery - EFL	-	8,394	(202)	8,192
	<u>12,750</u>	<u>108,221</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,971</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>79,177</u></u>	<u><u>146,361</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>225,538</u></u>

21 TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	85,236	(47,096)	38,140
Restricted funds			
Communication for Life	119,732	(94,305)	25,427
Operations and Development - Core Costs	88,438	(22,372)	66,066
Training	3,507	(12,245)	(8,738)
Community Support Service	11,200	(11,264)	(64)
FSG	7,000	(5,830)	1,170
Teach Me Too	42,879	(42,879)	-
KCC Reconnect	9,764	(262)	9,502
Morrisons	-	(5,183)	(5,183)
Whitehead Monckton	2,000	(800)	1,200
KCC Strategic Fund	8,000	(1,296)	6,704
Cobtree	984	(761)	223
Kent Police	500	(300)	200
Activities for C&YP	3,599	(1,279)	2,320
CIN - Money Heroes	1,000	-	1,000
The National Lottery - EFL	103,734	(95,340)	8,394
	<u>402,337</u>	<u>(294,116)</u>	<u>108,221</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>487,573</u>	<u>(341,212)</u>	<u>146,361</u>

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS





Working together with
the Down's Syndrome
Community in Kent to
raise expectations and
realise potential

21 Together Reserve Policy

April 2022

21 Together is a charity supporting people with Down's syndrome, their families and the professionals that support them. We deliver a wide range of projects to fulfil our charitable purposes with wide variations in cost and expense. We run communication groups, early intervention, parents support groups, training programmes, awareness programmes and individualised support. We have an office base and 6 part time members of office staff, including a Charity Manager. We also have a therapy room base and parent support space. We have core running costs and additional project costs. Additionally, we currently employ 8 - 10 members of staff, all on a part-time basis to run our direct contact projects. We contract with Speech Therapists, OT's, specialist teachers and Physios to provide supervision and support for our staff. Our training is delivered by outside expert speakers and is contracted on a course-by-course basis.

21 Together are committed to ensuring that we act in the charity's best interests and manage the charity's resources responsibly. As a charity, we are directly supporting vulnerable children and young people. It is vital that we can sustain our support over prolonged periods without the need to pause/cease support if funding streams fluctuate or stop. 21 Together has a fluctuating funding structure. Much of our income is derived through trusts/grants along with corporate supporters. A smaller proportion comes through individual giving and other routes. This means that we could be significantly financially impacted if any of our corporate partners decide not to support the charity in that year or if the trust/grant market becomes even more competitive, as is the case since the pandemic. Both these funding streams are unpredictable in nature. We also have multi-year restricted projects funded by a specific trust that are a large proportion of our costs and are due to cease in April 2023. Alongside that, we have seen a big increase in requests for financial support for our paid services, and we expect this to increase over the next few years. All these areas mean our income has become more unpredictable. We need to consider gaps in funding for key projects that directly deliver young people coming up in the next year that require significant levels of financing as a proportion of total outgoings. This will be considered when setting our reserves target level.

21 Together have ongoing liabilities and overheads. We rent office space, rooms and employ staff. We must recognise the stable nature of our outgoings compared to the relative instability of our income. This does not mean that this approach is not appropriate for the charity, but it does mean that we must ensure our reserve policy can build the necessary stability into the charity finances. Therefore, it is vital that our reserve policy builds in staged alerts to changes in reserve levels and that it identifies clear steps to be taken to ensure financial stability.

These factors have led us to set a reserve level of £80,000; this considers the certainty of multi-year funding for specific projects from The National Lottery and Children in Need over the next two/three years. It also considers the increase

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

in running costs associated with significant growth last two years and the likelihood of continued increases in demand for services. It incorporates the need to increase the reserves from previous years in line with charity growth and the current economic backdrop. Our reserve limit reflects the 3-6 months running cost guidance set out by the charity commission.

As a charity supporting children and young people with disabilities, it is sensible and prudent to acknowledge that unforeseen costs can often be expensive. Costs are likely to include specialist equipment as well as expensive expert contractors to supervise projects or deliver training. We also have highly trained staff which means the loss of a staff member would be expensive to cover and would also cost the charity significant sums to train a new member of staff to the appropriate level. Our reserve limit is designed to be a dynamic figure and should be reviewed whenever the budget is reviewed and at least annually.

Our current reserve target is £80,000. This is using the projected year budget of £230,000 for the 2021/2022 and then considering the certainty of multi-year funding for specific projects from The National Lottery and Children in Need. Current confirmed grant funding is also considered. It is important to note that this relates to free reserves and does not include designated monies.

Reserve Level	Steps to be taken
More than £100,000	Trustees to formally review charitable purposes and plan how they will spend the money to best meet the charitable purposes. It may be necessary to review and alter charitable purposes to allow the money to be spent effectively.
Reserve target - £100,000	To be kept under review by manager – no action needed. Trustees to continue using the information to plan future spending.
£60,000 – reserve target	Trustees to be alerted. Trustees to consider future spending and fundraising opportunities and to record their plans in the minutes. Action to be taken in accordance with their plans.
Below £60,000	Trustees to be alerted – Review of the financial plans, activities and future activities of the charity. Substantial steps to improve/change the funding streams and considered removing some services to save funds. Should be viewed as a high alert and needs a significant and unified response by the trustee board. Trustees must agree on a financial plan with immediate effect.

This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

Less than £40,000	High level alert. Emergency Trustee meeting to be called if it is unexpected or unplanned for. Approx. 3 months of running cost left. Steps should be taken immediately to give notice on any contractual obligations including office rent and staff unless a clear, substantial and concrete finance plan is in place and the trustees are in agreement to continue the charities activities. To be reviewed monthly until the reserve goes above £40,000
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This policy must be reviewed in line with any significant budget changes or at least annually.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number: 1165305

Trustees during the reporting period:

Rebecca Clark - Chair

Melissa Jones - Treasurer

Rachel Butcher

Jemma Kemp

Sinead Ainsworth

Robin Smith (appointed 26/05/2022)

Trustees standing down during the reporting period:

Sarah Wildgoose (stood down 31/12/2021)

Katerina Pollard Stood down (31/01/2022)

Diane Jenner 16/06/2021 - 18/04/2022

The Key Management Personnel are the Trustees and the Charity Manager:

Johanna Aiyathurai – Charity Manager

Registered Office & Operational Addresses:

MCSC, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HH

Independent Examiner:

S R Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA, Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited, 20 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP

Bank:

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Governance and Structure:

Type of governing document

Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2016 as amended on 25 Sep 2020

How the charity is constituted

Foundation CIO

Trustee selection methods

Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees



DECLARATION:

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Rebecca Clark
Chairman

Signature

Date

Melissa Jones
Treasurer

Signature

Date



21 TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1165305

Accounts



2020/2021

ANNUAL REPORT



**Supporting children and young people with
Down's syndrome and their community.**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This has been another challenging year for all charities who have had to navigate service provision in a pandemic and also maintain close contact with the communities that they serve. I am very proud and pleased to be able to report that our Charity Manager and the team at 21 Together have worked very hard to overcome these obstacles and have ensured that the charity has continued to support our local Down's syndrome community in Kent throughout this year. The team have managed to not only maintain services, but they have exceeded expectations and delivered better and more innovative provision despite the challenging circumstances. Much of the year has fluctuated between online and face to face provision, and I am delighted to report that the team have all worked very hard to ensure continuity of service and to re-evaluate the services that we can offer to allow for the flexibility needed due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our many volunteers and, of course, the Trustee board, without whose freely offered time and support, the charity simply could not continue to go from strength to strength.

In the coming year we are seeking to add new staff members to the team and to grow our Trustee board. This will allow us to continue to expand our services and offering both face to face and online. One positive that has come from the changes brought about by the pandemic, is that we can now support our community online in addition to the face to face offering and this allows us to support more families within Kent and especially those for whom distance was a barrier to accessing the charity's services. We will continue to work to provide this expanded and inclusive service into the forthcoming year.

I wish to congratulate and thank the whole team at 21 Together for another successful year and look forward to seeing the progress and growth continue into the next year.

Sarah Wildgoose, Chair of Trustees

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



The
Henry Smith
Charity

founded in 1628



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION



TESCO

Bags of Help



O'KEEFE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT



""Regular group sessions and holiday camps have provided a fantastic opportunity to socialize and learn communication skills. There is nowhere else our children can benefit from this interaction with peers and specialists."

Objects of the Charity

CIO - Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2016 as amended on 25 Sep 2020. Amendments made in Sept 2020 to allow digital projects to reach a wider audience. The projects remain focused on Kent based families but benefit a national community. Therefore, our Objects were changed to allow us to open up digital projects to a wider audience with great success.

1.To relieve the needs of people with Down's syndrome, living particularly but not exclusively in Kent and their families and carers through provision of training, support, education and practical advice, and by such other means as the trustees may determine.

2. To advance the education of the public and in particular the parents and carers of people with Down's syndrome and professionals involved in their care and education, in the specific needs and abilities of people with Down's syndrome.

VISION

Everyone has the right to live their lives to the fullest of their potential, regardless of disability or disadvantage.



MISSION

To support children and young people with Down's syndrome and their families to access the right support to live full and vibrant lives.

OUR AIMS



Enable people with Down's syndrome to be fully included in society by giving them access to the early intervention and skills needed to achieve the best possible outcomes in their lives.

Educate families and professionals to enable them to provide the best possible support for people with Down's syndrome.

Support families through peer networks, parent support groups and online forums.

Advocate and build awareness of the achievements of people with Down's syndrome. Recognising the positive impact of our community on the wider world is key in promoting true inclusion and cohesion.

Promote raised expectations of what is possible within our community and the wider community.

Nothing for us, without us!

OUR WORK IS LED BY OUR COMMUNITY



Our work is rooted in the needs of our community.

We are committed to continuing a cycle of feedback and reform, so our community and stakeholders can see the impact of our work.

It is not enough just to listen, we have to share our findings, and how we use the information to plan for the future. The Trustees and staff have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning all services and ensure the services delivered are in line with our Objects and Mission Statement.



"Co-production and community engagement lies at the heart of all decision-making at all levels within the organisation." - Charity Manager



"21 Together are doing a great job adapting to this ever-changing and challenging environment, to support our young people and their families. Well done and thanks." - Parent / Carer

COVID-19 IMPACT

In a year of such disruption and change, we are proud to say that 21 Together stepped up. We continued a vast majority of services, either online or through other means. The needs within our community rocketed due to the impacts of the loss of learning, social isolation, and the collapse in access to public services.

The devastating impact on access to government help and support for our community inspired new services, as well as new ways of working. We took all our sessions online as live video conferencing sessions, as well as developing a pre-recorded approach to support parents at home in lockdown.

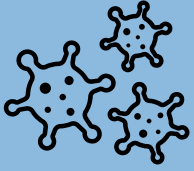
We constantly spoke to our community about the support they needed and updated our approach. As part of these discussions, it became clear that those families with pre-school children were really struggling to access any form of structured learning and that families were struggling to cope. Those discussions led to the development of Teach Me Too, a new project to ease the pressure on families and support professionals to keep delivering learning through this time. Teach Me Too was developed as an online video learning library designed for children with Down's syndrome. The response from the national Down's syndrome community was so strong that in January 2021 we were able to open up the digital content to support a wider national and international cohort of children and young people.

We remained Kent Children's charity of the year supported by the Kent Community Foundation and Wards.



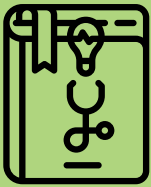
"21 Together have been doing great to support the community remotely as best they can over the past months/year! So thank you - as it's not easy!!"
– Parent/Carer

Challenges



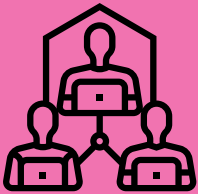
Covid -19

Covid-19 mortality incidence in vaccinated individuals is highest for those with Down's syndrome (12.7-fold increase). Many of our children and young adults were considered extremely clinically vulnerable and spent long periods in isolated situations.



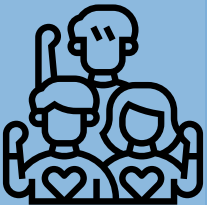
Decreased access to education, health and social care

The disintegration of social/health care services for people with learning disabilities, created the perfect storm for additional mental health issues alongside the negative impact on health, education, and social care outcomes.



Remote Working

A team of professionals with no experience in online working or the necessary tech skills needed to re-train and in new ways of working. Keeping our community safe, but still delivering gold standard care is down to the sheer dedication of the staff



Volunteers

Volunteers have been a key part of this successful transition to remote working, with technical expertise hours donated to the charity exceeding 200 hours this year by one individual. Other volunteers took their skills online to provide support and friendship to young adults in isolated situations.



Fundraising

With our key planned events cancelled, we were able to access additional grant funding to go alongside some passionate fundraisers who wouldn't let Covid win! Their sheer tenacity helped ensure we had some community income to continue supporting our work.

WHO DO WE HELP?

USER TYPE	TOTAL
ALL CONTACTS	217
INDIVIDUALS	183
FAMILY GROUPS	130
PROFESSIONALS	34
ESTABLISHMENTS	28
PREVIOUSLY KNOWN INDIVIDUALS	110





FINANCIAL SUPPORT POLICY

EQUAL ACCESS

This year we have continued to support families pursuant to our Financial Support Policy which enables families to apply for financial support to access our services. This is a critical part of the support that the charity provides to ensure that our services are available to everyone within our community, irrespective of means.



SERVICE OVERVIEW

Communication for Life Project

Communication for Life	Total Users	60
	Unique Users	40
Communication Groups	Number of sessions offered	21
	Number of Hours	126
	Unique Users	22
Circle Groups	Number of sessions offered	20
	Number of Hours	12
	Unique Users	17
Social connection	Number of sessions offered	9
	Number of Hours	20
	Unique Users	21

Our Communication for Life project continues to provide communication groups, circle groups, and holiday camps, which all focus on building the communication skills you need for real life. This can range from specialised speech therapy to social communication and friendship support.

This year the project has been funded through Children in Need for our 4 – 18-year-olds with additional support from independent donors and corporate donations from Wards to help us deliver this project to the over 18's. Children in Need are supporting the project for three years giving us stability and space to start building a longer-term future and looking at other projects.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to run any camps this year. All other services ran online.

To ease isolation and lack of connection – Social Connections sessions were introduced to replace Circle groups in the interim until a new service provision could be created post-pandemic.

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Education for Life Project

Education for Life, has progressed significantly. Early intervention groups were due to launch in March 2020, but this was cancelled due to lockdown. In response to this, we built the Teach Me Too project which enabled pre-school children, as well as school-aged children to access specialised learning in their own homes. Over 50 families accessed this resource before Jan 2021 when it became nationally available. Our objects were updated to enable us to deliver this support to a wider audience and maximise the benefit given it was an online resource.

Training continued online with great success. It included sessions like Learning Needs of a pupil with Down's syndrome, Managing Behaviour of a pupil with Down's syndrome, Maths Workshops and Me, My Body, My Friends, My Life (SRE).

Attendance at these training sessions:

- attended by a total of 131 users (145 including staff)
- 98 unique users
- attended by 29 professionals from 20 establishments
- 19 users attended 2 or more training sessions
- The most training sessions attended by one user was 4

"Fantastic course... learnt so much and so thankful to have a much clearer understanding of how my child with DS learns and the tools I can use to help her. Thank you!!"

"I loved the course being online as it's always really difficult to attend training days in person."

"The passion from the tutors really showed through which I loved. Their knowledge & experience was fantastic."

"Amazing course and only hope that anyone who has or involved with a child with Down syndrome has access to this course. It is a real eye opener as to how our beautiful little girls mind works"

"It is a lifeline to be able to learn, discuss, compare notes with others in the same situation, and improves the children's lives by helping their carers feel more together and capable."

"I have never been so engrossed in an online workshop! But I am a bit of a maths nerd too! It was excellent"

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Community Support

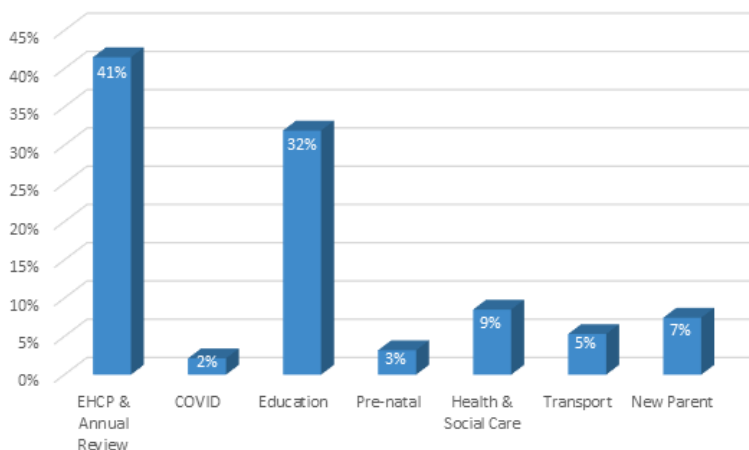
Community Support has been busy with a change in how the service is delivered. Due to Covid-19 the service was delivered solely by phone and via online video calls. We also increased the service available on our closed social media pages answering questions and supporting individuals to improve ease of access. In addition to our usual service, we also developed additional advice pages on our website that guided families through the ever-changing complex legal changes to SEN law during lockdown. Colyer Fergusson Charitable Trust continues to support this service for the second year and we are looking at additional support to enable specialist teacher support for schools where needed.

The Community Support Service has been accessed 109 times by 44 unique users. Total time spent on the service was 172.75 hours separated as:

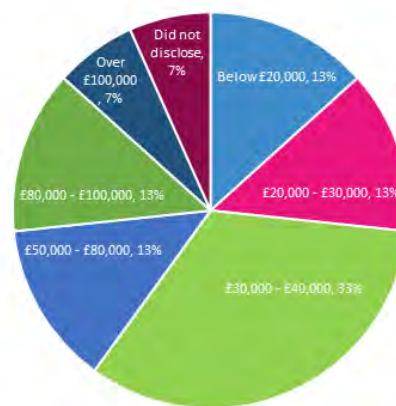
- 125.75 hours on direct service support split as:
 - 95 hours contact time
 - 30.75 hours admin time
 - 15 hours on social media
 - 11 hours on support groups
 - 11 hours on training and research
 - 10 hours on service review

Support was provided in 7 different areas and accessed as detailed in the chart below:

Total Support Received:



Approximate household income per year of service users:



Support provided:



SERVICE OVERVIEW

Community Support

Service quality, importance, and impact

- 100% rated the quality of the service as very high (maximum rating).
- 100% found it extremely important to have a syndrome specific service (maximum importance).
- 100% thought the service was definitely needed (maximum importance).
- 100% found the level of impact the service have on them and their family was extremely positive (maximum rating).

"The advice was very clear and helpful and the encouragement to persevere with our approach to social services to try and access social care support was valuable too, intellectually and emotionally"

"I was feeling desperate after the antenatal diagnosis. Two people from 21 Together listened to me over the phone and talked to me in a way that calmed me down and made the situation more normal, easier to accept. After that, a video conference was organised in order for me and my wife to get introduced to other parents and hear their stories. They made us feel in good company and a lot less alone."

"Access to expertise and talking to a person who has been in similar situations and being able to TALK not just write."

"To have somebody who understands the profile (of T21) and who is independent from KCC to offer guidance/advice on the process."

"I received valuable advice and support in pressing for our daughter to receive help from the Disabled Children's Service which encouraged us to persevere and has resulted in substantial support being promised despite the Social Services' initial misgivings about our daughter's eligibility"



SERVICE OVERVIEW

Family Support Groups

Supporting the people who are caring for the person with Down's syndrome is just as important as the person with Down's syndrome. We create a space where we can come together to share our stories, share our lives, and sometimes not share at all. A place where we can talk about our loved ones, or simply time to listen. A time that can be whatever the community needs it to be.



Play and Stay

Our Play and Stay sessions are specifically for those with younger children and expecting families. We have a new programme planned with regular speakers and expert guidance, as well as time to connect with families. When we are back together there will be areas for the little ones to engage in toys, books, and sensory play!



Wellbeing

As parents and carers life is always busy - They rarely have time to focus themselves! Therefore, 21 Together's Wellbeing Sessions are specifically aimed at those parents/carers/family members who deserve a little time to recharge and regroup. These sessions allow the opportunity to take a break from caring and focus on their well-being. Activities led by instructors/speakers trained to build resilience and provide stress-relieving techniques.



Empowerment

Our Empowerment sessions are there to provide the knowledge and tools to best support their children and young people. Aimed at those with children of school age and beyond we will have regular speakers to provide expert guidance on various areas of social care and support. Trained 21 Together staff are available at all these sessions to provide individualised and tailored support to families that need it.

Overall statistics

- 58 unique users of the service (data on parents/carers only)
- 181 total users attended Family Support Groups. Of these users:
- 47 users were children
- 134 users were parents/carers
- 32 users attended two or more Family Support Group sessions
- 21 users attended three or more Family Support Group sessions
- The greatest number of Family Support Groups sessions attended by one user was 8

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Family Support Groups

Parent Views



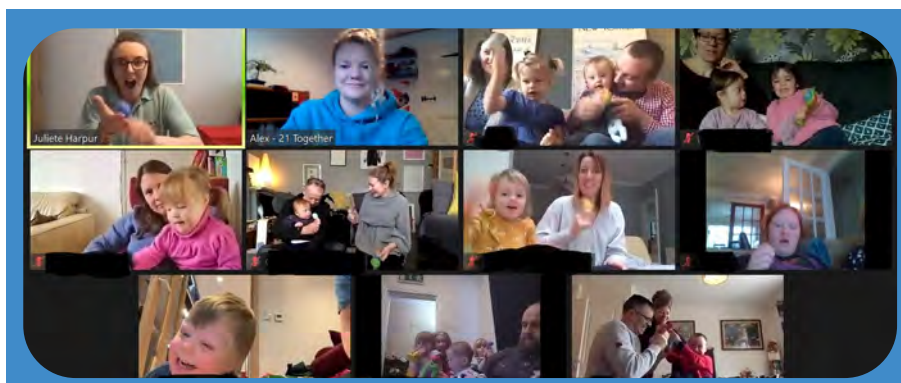
"I think this is a fantastic service which allows parents and carers to have a space where they can talk about their concerns with other parents without feeling judged."



"I've thoroughly enjoyed the wellbeing sessions. There's been a great mix of activities and I've attempted things i would have never done and found I really enjoy them. its great opportunity to do something for myself. I close the door and let the chaos continue the other side of it. Thank you"



"Really great to be able to discuss a topic such as transport in detail with the expert and to have my questions answered. Such a great resource!"



Volunteers

OUR UNSUNG HEROS



This year our work with volunteers was limited by Covid-19. We are very thankful for those volunteers working in the background to help build more efficient IT systems and help with building maintenance and equipment. We were able to utilise some new volunteers through our online programmes. This gave us access to regular individuals who developed peer support sessions and enabled projects like "Take Over" week, which saw our young adults with Down's syndrome taking over our social media to showcase their lives. Having a volunteer of a similar age to the young people to support them goes a long to improving confidence and ensuring age-appropriate interactions.



"This year we have loved seeing our young people continuing their volunteering online and outside. They do a fantastic job, supporting us at events, while simultaneously being the role models that our younger children need and deserve." - Charity Manager

About The Finances

The financial year 20/21 saw a significant growth of our charity income due to the planned increase in services funded by grants and trusts, such as the 'Communication for life' project funded by Children in Need. This saw an income of £33,454 from Children in Need to provide vital support services within this financial year. We secured grants from The National Lottery totaling over £53,700, including £36,200 dedicated to core running costs and liquidity cover. Multiple other grant makers with grant values of between £1000- £5000 have also had a significant impact. This has led to a big jump in restricted funds as we move into the next financial year. Our unrestricted reserves stay within our reserve policy guidelines and currently sits at £66,289. Our reserve policy considers the stability of forecasted income, economic factors, as well as the complex needs of our beneficiaries and the impact of gaps in provision of services.

As the charity has continued to expand, the Board of Trustees has undertaken an entire organisation restructure and staff review. We have also accessed resilience funding from Kent County Council via the Kent Community Foundation to work with a professional fundraising consultant who helped us produce and start to action a robust fundraising strategy to secure the charity's financial future. Restricted funding in core costs will enable us to deliver on that strategy, increase the number of staff responsible for fundraising, and relieve pressure on the current Charity Manager. Alongside this decision-making, the board also agreed to fund a full-time admin role to support the projects and teams. This allows charity leaders to spend more time on strategic planning, resilience building, and quality assurance.

In April 2021, it appears we have a very high level of funds available in core costs. However, this money is already assigned to support these new staff and restructure its first year. We anticipate that this fund will be depleted by the end of March 2022, and we will need to ensure the team we have in place are supported to find new funding to support further projects and cover the cost of their employment.



The increase in staffing costs was a vital exercise carried out to build future fundraising capacity and resilience, whilst ensuring the skills of the current staff are utilised effectively, and the charity sees good value in the tasks completed by each team member.

We remain confident that our current levels of both restricted and unrestricted funds put us in a position where we can continue to build resilience for the difficult years ahead while growing and enabling more families to access our services. We need to make use of this year to fully diversify and explore other fundraising options by delivering our fundraising strategy. We are aware that the next few years will be challenging, and we have planned to ensure we maintain safe financial levels and excellent services.

Not only that, but we ended the year with exceptional news in March 2021 that the National Lottery have awarded us three years of funding to allow us to design, implement and evaluate a much wider education for life programme including groups from birth through to age seven, alongside delivering our training and learning programmes. We are hugely grateful for this support, and we have great plans for the future. As we come out of lockdown, we will have a generation of children with even less access to early interventions. This programme will help us provide the much-needed support those families who need it.



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF 21 TOGETHER

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 21 Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of 21 Together for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

S.R. Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA
Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

14/12/2021

Date:

21 TOGETHER

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Year Ended 31.03.2021 Total funds	Year Ended 31.03.2020 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Grants	2	8,522	129,599	138,121	24,456
Donations	3	20,869	54,613	75,482	25,796
Fundraising	4	3,247	5	3,252	2,107
Charitable Activities	5	5,333	13,016	18,349	9,854
Total		<u>37,971</u>	<u>197,233</u>	<u>235,204</u>	<u>62,213</u>
PAYMENTS					
Costs of Generating Funds	6	775	-	775	4,002
Charitable Activities	7	24,794	81,959	106,753	83,165
Management and Administration Costs	8	8,291	4,398	12,689	6,254
Other Expenditure	9	1,333	1,614	2,947	2,218
Total		<u>35,193</u>	<u>87,971</u>	<u>123,164</u>	<u>95,639</u>
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)		<u>2,778</u>	<u>109,262</u>	<u>112,040</u>	<u>(33,426)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		63,511	12,750	76,261	109,687
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>66,289</u></u>	<u><u>122,012</u></u>	<u><u>188,301</u></u>	<u><u>76,261</u></u>

21 TOGETHER

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.03.2021 Total funds £	31.03.2020 Total funds £
Monetary Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand	66,289	122,012	188,301	76,261
	<u>66,289</u>	<u>122,012</u>	<u>188,301</u>	<u>76,261</u>
Debtors				
Accounts Receivable	20	-	20	3,215
	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>3,215</u>
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	180	-	180	-
	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Assets				
			31.03.2021 Cost £	31.03.2020 Cost £
Computer Equipment			2,916	2,055
			<u>2,916</u>	<u>2,055</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
S Wildgoose - Trustee

.....
S Ainsworth - Trustee

21 TOGETHER

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. GRANTS

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Grants	138,121	-
Training Income / Grant	-	22,248
Speech Camps Grant / Revenue	-	2,208
	<u>138,121</u>	<u>24,456</u>

3. DONATIONS

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Donations	75,482	-
Direct Public / Corporate Support	-	536
Virgin Money Gving	-	8,532
Other Donations	-	16,728
	<u>75,482</u>	<u>25,796</u>

4. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Fundraising	2,565	2,107
Christmas Cards	590	-
Shop	97	-
	<u>3,252</u>	<u>2,107</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Communication Groups	5,922	5,796
Circle Groups	1,975	3,498
Courses	3,153	560
Education Services	236	-
Early Intervention Fees	1,415	-
Early Years Resource Packs	583	-
TMT 1st Edition Pack	5,065	-
	<u>18,349</u>	<u>9,854</u>

6. COST OF GENERATING FUNDS

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Fundraising Events	-	4,002
Products for Fundraising	432	-
50/50 Winners	343	-
	<u>775</u>	<u>4,002</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Summer Camp	-	4,224
General Training Costs	-	12,597
Staff Training	620	3,376
Venues	(99)	7,447
Travel	1	1,154
Groups	636	4,507
Rent	10,678	7,844
Wages	52,380	42,016
Symbol Costs	1,000	-
Speakers / Trainers	6,633	-
Bought-in Services	30,990	-
Supervision	3,748	-
Early Years Intervention	140	-
Cleaning	31	-
Easter Fun Day 19 Resources	(5)	-
	<u>106,753</u>	<u>83,165</u>

21 TOGETHER

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

8. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Website	595	2,248
Advertising	223	520
Office Costs	-	1,097
Insurance	69	426
Printing, Postage & Stationery	2,579	383
Computer Expenses	2,191	-
Accountancy	1,380	1,344
Bank Charges	233	236
Legal and Professional	3,450	-
Payroll, Recruitment and Staff Costs	856	-
Subscriptions	609	-
Telephone and Internet	504	-
	<u>12,689</u>	<u>6,254</u>

9. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Trustee and Volunteer Expenses	66	135
Sundry Expenses	166	2,083
General Resources	2,715	-
	<u>2,947</u>	<u>2,218</u>

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund Name	At 31.03.2020	Receipts	Payments	At 31.03.2021
	£	£	£	£
Communication for Life	-	44,713	(36,951)	7,762
Core Costs	638	76,448	-	77,086
Training	9,527	3,098	(5,429)	7,196
Early Years Full Project	2,572	-	-	2,572
Community Support Service	13	6,200	(6,443)	(230)
FSG	-	7,000	(4,717)	2,283
Teach Me Too	-	59,774	(34,431)	25,343
	<u>12,750</u>	<u>197,233</u>	<u>(87,971)</u>	<u>122,012</u>

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number: 1165305

Trustees during reporting period:

Sarah Wildgoose (Chair)
Sinead Ainswoth (Treasurer)
Katerina Pollard
Barbara Makie (Dec 2020 – Feb 2021)

Trustees joined after the reporting period:

Rachel Butcher 16/06/2021
Diane Jenner 16/06/2021
Rebecca Clark 16/06/2021
Jemma Kemp 16/06/2021
Melissa Jones 16/06/2021

The Key Management Personnel are the Trustees and the Charity Manager:

Johanna Aiyathurai – Charity Manager

Registered Office & Operational Addresses:

Registered Office: MCSC, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HH

Independent Examiner:

S R Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA, Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited, 20 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP

Bank:

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Governance and Structure:

Type of governing document

Foundation Registered 25 Jan 2016 as amended on 25 Sep 2020

How the charity is constituted

Foundation CIO

Trustee selection methods

Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees



DECLARATION:

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Sarah Wildgoose
Chairman

Signature *S Wildgoose*

Date 14.12.21

Sinead Ainsworth
Treasurer

Signature *Sinead Ainsworth*

Date 15.12.21

