



## **VIDES UK (CIO)**

Charity Number: 1166876

**Trustees' Annual Report  
and Financial Report for the Period  
1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

January 2024

## Reference & Administration Details

**Charity name:** VIDES UK (a CIO)

**Charity number:** 1166876

**Charity's operating address:** VIDES UK, 61A Mansion Drive, Croxteth, Liverpool, L11 9DP

### Names of the Charity Trustees who Manage the Charity

	<i>Trustee Name</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Appointed</i>
1	Sr. Anne Frances McNamee	Director	2016
:			
2	Laura Whiteley	Chairperson	2019
:			
3	Samantha Cantillon	Vice-Chair	2021
:	David McCormick	Secretary	2023
4	Pamella Lambert	Treasurer	2023
:	Jack Lyon		2021
5	Charlotte Jones		2023
:			
6			
:			
7			
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### Names & Addresses of Advisors

**Bank** – Barclays Bank, 48-50 Lord St, Liverpool, L2 1TD

**Solicitor** – Wrigley's Solicitors LLP, 19 Cookridge St, Leeds LS2 3AG

**Independent Examiner** – Anne Quirk

## Structure, Governance & Management

### Description of the Charity's Trusts

**Type of Governing Document:** Constitution

**How the Charity is Constituted:** Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**Trustee Selection Methods:** Elected by Members

Every charity trustee must be a natural person.

No one may be appointed as a charity trustee:

- unless he or she is an active member of the CIO, of good standing;
- if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
- if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 15.

No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee.

The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- a copy of this constitution and any amendments made to it; and a copy of the CIO's latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.

## Objectives & Activities

### Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in its Governing Document

The education, development, and training of children and young men and women for the public benefit including by:

- encouraging and enabling young men and women to undertake voluntary work in accordance with the principles of Don Bosco in education, social service and similar activities in various parts of the world;
- providing formative activities and events for children and young people.

To collaborate and liaise with other voluntary agencies having similar aims

### Summary of the Main Activities Undertaken for the Public Benefit in Relation to the Charity's Objects

Formation, Training and development of Volunteers aged 17+ in order for them to provide services in areas of social and/or economic deprivation around the UK.

Activity weeks, play-schemes and residential experiences for children and young people aged 8-16.

We provide children and young people with an informal education; an opportunity to play and develop new skills; make new friendships and meet diversity in a safe, educative environment. We aim to encourage children and young people to become active citizens in their local area and to make a positive social impact through voluntary activities.

## Other Optional Information

### VIDES YOUTH COUNCIL

Established in 2022 our VIDES Youth Council continued to develop in 2023. They had a residential weekend meeting from 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January in the Irenaeus Centre, Waterloo. This was an opportunity for them to meet with Sr Anne Frances, Samantha Cantillon, David McCormick and Ellie Creighton to explore themes and topics which would inform planning for the next Anima project. The Youth Council bring the voice of the other young people attending VIDES projects and help to ensure that what we offer is relevant to the issues facing young people today. Over the weekend the team of Volunteers led the Youth Council through moments of Personal Development sessions, sharing, activities, games, walks and recreational activities. Time was also spent looking at possible fundraising activities which would contribute to their Italy trip. The weekend was a great success and an excellent experience of team building within the Youth Council.

The Youth Council also met monthly with the same volunteer team via Zoom. These sessions offered training, interactive games, and an opportunity to plan and prepare for both Anima and the pilgrimage to Italy.

## **ANIMA**

Our third ANIMA project took place in Pentrenant Hall, Churchstoke, between Saturday 1st and Saturday 8th April 2023. We were joined by young people from Scotland, Warrington, St Helens and Croxteth who attended the camp from Sunday 2nd – Friday 7th April. There were 24 young people in attendance.

ANIMA April 2023 was facilitated by Samantha Cantillon and David McCormick. They were supported by a fantastic team of volunteers; Ellie Creighton, Bobby Gray, Unathi Btokom and Charlotte Jones. Sr Anne Frances McNamee was present as Formator and Sr Gill McCambridge and Sr Bernie Cassidy supported as Mamma Margarets, organising mealtimes for the camp.

The themes for ANIMA 2023 were influenced by the voice of the young and the newly formed VIDES Youth Council were consulted to capture their opinion on topics and issues that are relevant to young people today. They helped the team to identify what areas they most needed our camp to explore. The Youth Council were also invited to join the team in the delivery of content during ANIMA as Youth Leaders. They were responsible for supporting in Cabin Groups and Big Games.

We had returning young people who had attended the previous two ANIMA projects, and some new people had joined. There was a real enthusiasm and excitement throughout the week, and the chosen themes generated lots of discussion and team building.

The themes covered during ANIMA 2023 were:

- Body image; young people explored the impact of social media on our view of ourselves and the value we give each other due to body shape and size.
- Peer pressure; our VIDES Youth Council had asked us to explore peer pressure as a topic so they could share their concerns around underage drinking and smoking as well as unacceptable and anti-social behaviours.
- Knife crime; this was as a result of young people being exposed to crimes in their community. As well as discussing the use of weapons amongst young people, there was an opportunity for each member of the project to take part in a First Aid training session provided by First Aid for Life.

It must be noted that this project took place with a smaller number of volunteers, which was not made easier by the reduced number of young people. Regardless of the number of participants, there is always a need for Salesian presence which meant that our team were more stretched than ever and with little room for covering each other the team worked tirelessly to ensure that camp ran as smoothly as possible. We thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm, both before and during camp this year.

ANIMA has become a loved project, and it is exciting to see so many young people with the potential to contribute to future VIDES initiatives with passion and enthusiasm. The team are looking forward to developing ANIMA further and finding new ways to involve Youth Leaders and help them to nurture their skills and develop new ones whilst working with other young people.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL PILGRIMAGE**

A Youth Council pilgrimage to Turin and Mornese, Italy, occurred from Monday 29th May to Saturday 3rd June 2023. Those in attendance were the four Youth Council members and were accompanied by Sr Anne Frances, Samantha Cantillon, David McCormick, Bobby Gray, Ellie Creighton, and Charlotte Jones. Other than Sr Anne Frances, Samatha Cantillon and David McCormick, nobody had visited either place before, which created an atmosphere of excitement for the whole group. Every day began with a Salesian good morning and ended with a Salesian goodnight. The good mornings followed a different theme each day: Response, Collaboration, Renewal, and Anima (Passion). These were planned and delivered by Samantha Cantillon, Bobby Gray, Ellie Creighton, and Charlotte Jones respectively, and goodnights were planned and delivered by Sr Anne Frances, Samatha Cantillon, and David McCormick. Throughout the week, time was designated each day to utilise the reflection booklet we had been given at the start of the week. The youth council responded to it well and were eager to express themselves in both the small group and wider group conversation that followed after each reflection.

In Turin, we stayed in local accommodation and visited the places where St John Bosco was born, lived, worked, and died. Some of these places had been transformed into museums, so we were given a real insight into his life and works, and the knowledge that could be found was furthered by Sr Anne Frances, Samantha Cantillon, and David McCormick who were charged with delivering inputs, setting any tasks, and offering thoughts for reflection. During any free time, we were encouraged to see the local area and time was set aside for any shopping and sight-seeing. We came together every day at meal times to share each other's company and share a meal together.

In Mornese, we stayed in the Salesian Sisters' house where we received a warm welcome. The time spent there saw us travel across Mornese to follow the life and work of St Mary Mazzarello. We were privileged enough to see the places she lived, worshipped, and worked. Those who had never been before were keen to visit the particular window that was so important to Mary Mazzarello, even if they had only learned about it whilst on pilgrimage. Due to the small size of the village, a lot of the travelling was done on foot, which provided an additional insight into the life of St Mary Mazzarello as we were able to walk the routes that she may have walked. Free time was spent at the Salesian Sisters' house; the large yard was used for different ball games, and the surrounding benches were occupied by card games and conversation. One evening was spent enjoying a quiz night social that Ellie and Bobby had planned and delivered. It was extremely successful; measured by the smiles and laughter that were ever-present.

The end of the week consisted of a group of tired but enriched individuals who had, in their own personal ways, experienced something wonderful. Upon arriving home, the parents of Youth Council members sent in their thanks and expressed how much their children had enjoyed their time. This sentiment was shared by the other members of the group and the general feeling was one of the desire to do it all again.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

This year the VIDES UK Committee have had updated in-house safeguarding training. This was an opportunity to explore the updates made to Keeping Children Safe in Education. There was a focus on social media and how we can promote the safe use of online platforms as part of our projects moving forward.

All team members taking part in ANIMA April 2023 took part in a safeguarding session before the arrival of any young people.

New members of committee were directed to take part in Safeguarding for Trustees to understand their responsibilities in relation to the safe keeping of all VIDES UK members, volunteers and beneficiaries.

Our organisation is committed to promoting an inclusive community where each person is valued and treated as a child of God, made in His image and likeness.

Now that our new Safeguarding Concern Forms are embedded into our practice, the committee have given time and attention to completing the 7 R Process for each completed form. We're pleased to say that following VIDES UK projects in 2023, there was no need for any Safeguarding Concern Forms to be completed or directed to the VIDES UK committee.

## **TEMPORARY RELOCATION**

Due to planned restructure of the Salesian Sisters of Great Britain, VIDES UK have temporarily changed location to allow for a complete renovation of the office and

house in Croxteth, Liverpool. Members of the Committee gathered on the 20th May 2023 to transfer the bulk of the resources of VIDES UK to its temporary facility in Blundellsands, Sefton. The team then spent time with the community of Sisters at Blundellsands who will be of great support throughout the temporary move. The remaining furniture was transferred during the summer of 2023. Space has been made available in Blundellsands for any VIDES meetings and gatherings to take place and volunteers have been encouraged to use the space as they would in Croxteth. We thank Sr Elizabeth and the Community of Blundellsands for opening their house to us during this time and for the many ways they continue to support and sustain VIDES UK. The renovation of the house in Croxteth began in September 2023, and is expected to be completed in late 2024 at which point, VIDES UK's resources will return to the house. Throughout the closure, VIDES UK will remain registered at the address in Croxteth, and any updates will be fed back to the committee.

## **OUTREACH**

In November Sr Ann Frances represented VIDES UK with a stall at the Career's Fair at De la Salle school, St Helen's. This was a wonderful event which allowed many young people to connect with VIDES UK and discover more of what we do and can offer. Isabel Jones, VIDES Youth Councillor and pupil at the school attended and was a great ambassador for VIDES UK through her enthusiasm and sharing some of her experiences with people.

From 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> December, Sr Anne Frances was joined by Srs Gill McCambridge and Bernadette Cassidy to deliver a training on the work of VIDES UK to the Salesian Brothers at Savio House, Bollington. This was a wonderful experience of sharing our work and objectives with an international group of people, many of whom were keen to know more or to become involved in some way.

## **FUNDRAISING**

As a non-profit charity, VIDES UK relies on fundraising/donations which allows us to carry out our work within the Salesian ethos.

Throughout 2023 we have held different fundraising events. Throughout March and April our Youth Council held many different events from Race nights to sweet sales. With the money raised from these events, they were able to go on a pilgrimage to Italy, allowing them to visit Salesian places in Mornese & Turin; this was an amazing opportunity for all who took part.

We have past and present volunteers who donate monthly by standing order or direct from employment, to help support the work of VIDES UK.

In December the committee held a fundraising event 'Daily Advent draw' which was an online event. Each person selected a day from 1st -25th, they were then allocated a number for the raffle held on their chosen day. An automated wheel would randomly select a winner, this was recorded each night and shared on social media platforms.

We take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the work of VIDES UK. By holding or attending an event, donating raffle prizes, buying raffle tickets or making a donation you made it possible for VIDES UK to continue our work.

We continue our focus on fundraising as we move in to 2024 with many events already in the VIDES calendar...watch this space!

2023 was, like many other years, a successful one in VIDES UK. The post-Covid era has had a huge impact on our volunteer numbers and availability, but we continue to offer as many engaging, relevant and formative experiences as possible to our Volunteers and the young people who attend our projects.

VIDES UK extends its thanks to all those who support, sustain and encourage our work. A special word of thanks must go to the Salesian Sisters for all they do and for all they give to VIDES UK. To the young people and local communities who attend and host our projects we thank you. However, the final and greatest word of thanks must go to all our volunteers who give so much, not only of their time but of themselves. Your commitment to serve young people through VIDES UK is greatly appreciated and never taken for granted. You and the ways you share your many gifts is what makes VIDES UK great and the impact of what you do now will positively influence the lives of the young for many years to come! THANK YOU!



**VIDES UK CIO**

**Registered Charity  
Number**

**No: 1166876**

**Financial Report  
1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 2023**

# Financial Report for 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

## Income and Expenditure Account Statement of Assets and Liabilities

**Balance as of 1/01/2023: 16,740.78**

### Income

VIDES Office General	£0.00
VIDES for Youth	£3,435.00
General Donation	£2,019.00
Subs	£55.00
Promotional Materials	£11.50
Youth Leadership	£3,204.22

Savings Account £ 65.08

**Total Income £8,724.72**

### *Direct Charitable Expenditure*

VIDES Office General	£1,868.83
Photocopier Expenses	£1,030.78
Phone & Broadband	£284.69
Insurance	£1,142.01
VIDES International	£378.50
Hospitality	£532.15
Vols Travel expenses	0.00
VIDES for Youth	£11,162.41

General Donation	£195.91
Youth Leadership	£7,315.67

### **Total Expenditure**

**£23,910.95**

### **Balance Breakdown at year end**

Current Account	£ 1,554.55
Savings Account	£ 65.05

### **Restricted Funds**

Abroad	£ 0
Provincial Council	£ 0

### **Total Restricted Funds**

**£ 0**

### **Total Unrestricted Funds**

**£ 1,619.60**

I have examined the accounts for vides UK CIO for 2025 and I find them to be a true and accurate record.

*Anne Quirk*

Anne Quirk

