

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Registered Charity No.1167084
[England & Wales]

PURSUIT
INTERNATIONAL

2024 AT A GLANCE

1

New vision and
mission statement in
action



17

Young Adults
Supported through
RAMP

4

RAMP graduates

2

**New RAMP
members**

2

**New project
partnerships in
process**



5

**UK Team
members or
Trustees visited
partners projects
in Kolkata**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Welcome to the Pursuit Annual report for 2024.

2024 has been an exciting year of changes for Pursuit.

Following the finalising of our new vision and mission in 2023 and the move by our partners in India to a more community-centred approach in the work they do with children and families, members of our UK Team visited our partners to discuss where we could work together to improve holistic outcomes for children, young people and their families.

By the end of the year, we agreed funding for a new project in Kolkata (Ashar Kiron) which provides quality, day time care for children in poverty. You can read more about this project in this report or on our website.

In the meantime, the work of RAMP continued to support young people coming out of residential care to become independent adults. We are very grateful for the work of RAMPs mentors, whose dedication to the project is instrumental in its success.

The other big change this year was that our Chair of Trustees, Andy Hickford, came to the end of his third term and therefore had to step down in accordance with our governing document. Andy has been Chair since the inception of Pursuit and we will miss his invaluable input. We wish him all the best in his new ventures.

2025 promises to be a year of growth and expansion with all the challenges that it brings.

As always, thank you for your interest in the work of Pursuit and we hope you find this report an encouragement.

Andy Hickford
Chair of Trustees

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDERS

2024 has been an enormously exciting year for Pursuit.

A couple of years ago, we began to feel that our vision and mission for Pursuit needed a revamp. Over time, our direction of travel had to change, so the landscape we navigated had to change too. We felt it was time to find something more fitting for where we had grown to as an organization. By the end of 2023, in consultation with the team in the UK, India and our trustees, we developed some new statements to direct us.

Armed with these new statements (which you can read later on in the report), 2024 has been characterised by looking for opportunities to put them into practice.

This was the focus of our trip to Kolkata in December. We were keen to explore how we could resource and equip families in poverty to care for their children at home and provide early intervention for vulnerable children and young-people, particularly for children cared for by alternative carers such as kinship carers.

It was a really fruitful trip, and we are delighted to share that one of the outcomes of this was a new partnership. We introduce you to our new partner project, Ashar Kiron, later in the report. In addition to this partnership, there were many other avenues explored which we look forward to pursuing further in 2025.

Visiting our beloved RAMP project, and sharing in yet another graduation ceremony, was also another highlight. As ever, it was profoundly moving and completely riotous in equal measure! It was particularly special sharing all this with our youngest daughter, who was visiting with us for the first time.

We are enormously grateful for the army of support in the form of team, trustees, staff in partner projects in India and faithful financial givers, who enable us the privilege of continuing on in our Pursuit. We hope you are as encouraged and inspired as we are, by the stories of our beneficiaries, as you read on.

Until next year,
Janealam and Naomi Sheikh
Co-Founders

OUR PURSUIT



OUR OFFICIAL CHARITY OBJECTIVE

Pursuit International works for the prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship anywhere in the world by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

OUR VISION

Pursuing a world where every child and young person belongs and thrives

OUR MISSION

With children and young people at the heart of all we do, we support them, their care-givers and their communities, and work to break cycles of disadvantage, trauma and injustice.



OUR VALUES:

We are relational

Community and personal relationships underpin all that we do. We put the needs of others before ourselves and are stronger when we work together.

We are dignifying & respectful

Our words and actions have power. We treat everyone with dignity and respect, recognising that we all add value with equal worth.

We are innovative

We will be creative in our approach, not letting the fear of making mistakes stop us from trying.

We have integrity

We tell the truth and are open about our motivations. We will be good stewards of what we have, strive to act ethically and take our social responsibility seriously.

We are loving

We will show grace and perseverance in all that we do. We believe in countless second chances, and dedicate ourselves to a love that goes the extra mile.

WHAT OUR PURSUIT LOOKED LIKE IN 2024

RAMP

It has been our privilege this year to walk alongside 17 young people through our RAMP programme, which exists to support young people leaving residential care settings. RAMP provides personalised, transitional support through 1:1 mentoring, so that young people leaving care can become independent, self-sufficient and responsible adults.

Our brilliant mentors, Dennis and Nisha, provide a holistic programme, tailored to the individual, focusing on physical, emotional and spiritual well-being, life-skills and employability.

Summing up the year, our RAMP mentors say:

“I’ve had a truly rewarding experience working with the young individuals in our project RAMP. One of the most fulfilling aspects was being able to listen to their challenges and personal situations, which allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of their unique struggles and aspirations. By doing so, I was able to provide guidance and support that helped them tap into their inner potential, empowering them to grow and develop in meaningful ways.”

[Dennis, our boys mentor]



“It’s a great joy to work for young people whom I’m passionate about, it’s a blessing to have an environment which is more like family. It’s an opportunity to work with RAMP girls, to be with them and also learn from them.”

[Nisha, our girls mentor]

In 2024, we had the joy of celebrating four young people graduating from the RAMP programme. We always strive to ensure that the event is led by the graduates themselves- an opportunity for them to reflect on their remarkable achievements and their journey to date. It’s extremely important to us that our young people feel ownership and control over how their stories are shared, and so it is always their choice to share whatever they want

to share, however they wish to share it. We are always profoundly humbled by how much gratitude the young people choose to express, for all sorts of different significant individuals who have positively impacted their lives. However Dennis and Nisha’s names come up time and time again.

As ever, there was an abundance of food, cake, confetti cannons, tears and laughter.

In addition to the graduation celebrations, some other highlights of the year included Christmas caroling door to door in December. Our young people always love this occasion, where they are able to bring joy and cheer to the communities they visit, but also have a brilliant time being together, laughing, singing and getting into the festive spirit!

As a critical part of our RAMP programme, young people are encouraged to look at ways they can be a positive force for good in the city. It's always one of the young people's favourite parts of the programme, and we're humbled and inspired to see how many get involved, giving so willingly of their time, efforts and also their own money. Once again this year, our RAMP young people chose to distribute blankets in winter to people in the homeless community. They were all very moved to be a part of it, and grateful for the experience. We know it

will have a powerful impact on not only the recipients of the blankets, but the young people themselves too.

It's always exciting for us to look at the diversity of the different paths our young people are pursuing. It's testament to the groups wonderful diversity, but also to the hard-work and efforts of our mentors, helping the young people find courses and part-time work that reflects their brilliant individuality and helps them follow their skills, strengths and areas of interest.

This year has been no different, with young people doing all sorts of things ranging from working in cafes, teaching in Kindergarten, learning to cook the perfect pizza, training as a refrigeration engineer, to dog-training! The best way to report on all that they have been working towards in 2024, is to share what the young people have to say about it themselves.

STORIES FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

“

I've accomplished many small things this year. But the one thing that I'm so proud of is that now I'm living a happy life ... I'm really happy for the work I'm doing right now . That is working in a café- and learning more good things.

”

[A member of RAMP]

“

I found great joy in learning new life skills and expanding my horizons. I dedicated time to developing a better work-life balance, which allowed me to be more present and more focused in my professional endeavours. One of my accomplishments was getting graduated and also doing my AIFF 'D' License. It was challenging at first, but with consistent effort, I began to converse more comfortably, which brought a sense of accomplishment. As I reflect on this journey, it's a reminder that growth happens gradually, and every small step leads to something big.

”

[A member of RAMP]



“

'The RAMP program has been instrumental in my academic journey. I am thrilled to be joining the prestigious George Telegraph Institute, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to RAMP for their invaluable support and guidance throughout my studies. I am forever grateful to RAMP for the numerous skills and values I acquired in 2024, including effective money management, family care, balancing part-time work, and fostering meaningful relationships with my peers. These experiences have not only shaped me into a more responsible individual but also broadened my perspective on life.

”

[A member of RAMP]

“

In 2024 I have joined (work) in a cafe and I am happy and learning new things and also making new friends.

”

[A member of RAMP]

“

I am a Pre-kindergarten Teacher. But due to an emergency situation, I got the privilege of teaching the Kindergarten Children from the mid-term and it has been a good time for me to teach them and learn so many things from them as well.

”

[A member of RAMP]

“

I'm learning new skills, such as cooking a variety of dishes like pizza and burgers. I'm really enjoying the process and I'm hopeful that it will lead to a better life for me. I believe that my dreams can become a reality as long as I don't give up on them.

”

[A member of RAMP]

NEW IN 2024

ASHAR KIRON

We are delighted to share that at the end of 2024, Pursuit began supporting a new project, Asha Kiron-A day care centre in Kolkata.

In India, it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of children, potentially even millions, are growing up in institutionalised care. More often than not, children are placed in homes, simply because of poverty. We work to ensure that poverty is never a reason for a child to be separated from their family.

Asha Kiron is a simple but powerful solution to a significant problem faced by many families in poverty: choosing between keeping children safe and working to earn for the family.

Some of our team were able to visit Asha Kiron in December. They arrived just after school closing hours, a time

when children would otherwise be returning home to their communities alone while their care-givers worked, leaving them enormously vulnerable. Instead, Asha Kiron is a safe-haven to see children through the after-school hours while their care-givers work. Our team had the chance to join a big group of children for a cricket match, share nutritious snacks, and watch as a group of 20+ children sat with a Hindi tutor providing additional learning support. It was a privilege to experience how this project is not just able to provide safety, but is also finding ways to meaningfully enrich the lives of the children it protects, during the hours they spend there.

We look forward to reporting on its impact in 2025.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The end of 2024 held the opportunity to begin exploring other opportunities to get behind community-based support that aims to:

- Resource and equip families in poverty to care for their children at home.
- Provide early intervention for vulnerable children and young-people, to prevent situations escalating into unsafe living situations.
- Resource and equip alternative carers such as kinship carers, and

explore fostering and adoption opportunities, to ensure children and young people who are unable to be cared for by biological parents, remain within family settings.

- Ensure that residential care homes, where necessary, provide the highest level of care possible.

We look forward to sharing next year how some of these opportunities have developed further.

GIVING AT A GLANCE

TOTAL INCOME
£28,599

REGULAR DONORS
55
at the end of 2024

TOTAL EXPENDITURE
£30,426



£142

- Promotion
- Communication
- Fundraising

This was mainly undertaken free of charge by volunteers

£11,248

- Administration

£19,000

- Spent directly on our projects and those we support

We have a reserves policy that states our reserves must not fall below our running costs for six months.

Primary Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC, Chapel House, 1 Chapel Road, Worthing BN11 1EX
Unity Trust Bank PLC, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

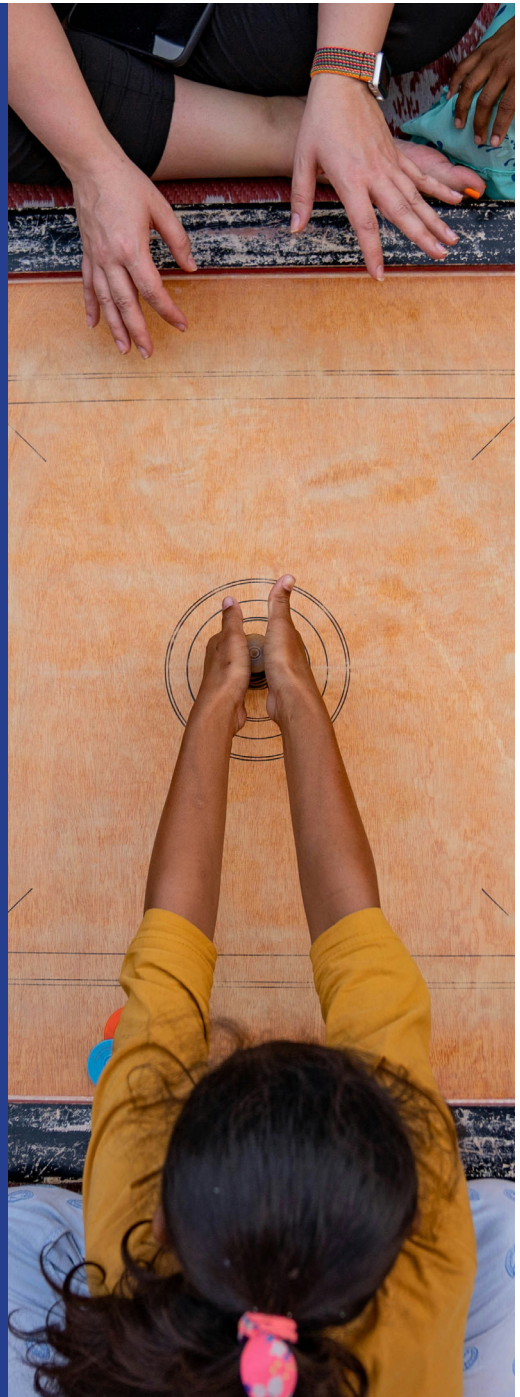
OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees recognise their obligation to ensure that the funds of the charity are used for public benefit.

In 2024 the following served as trustees:

Andrew Hickford (to 25/11/24)
Sue Jenkins
Steve Tucker

Pursuit International is a CIO - Foundation (registered 26th October 2016) with a Governing Document. The minimum number of trustees is three. Trustees are appointed by resolution at a properly convened trustees meeting. In selecting trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed by Pursuit International.



OUR TEAM

As well as a Board of Trustees, Pursuit International has an Executive Management Team who looks after communications, finance and other day-to-day activities that make the organisation run.

In 2024, the following served on the team:

Jane'alam Sheikh
Naomi Sheikh
Ruth Brown
James Cobbett
Rebecca Little
Phil Papps
Piero Regnante
Chloe Satchell-Cobbett

The team comprises both volunteer and paid members.

JOIN THE PURSUIT

FOLLOW

If you're down with the kids you can check us out on Facebook and Instagram. But the real magic happens when you sign up to our mailing list:

contact@pursuitinternational.org

FUNDRAISE

If you want to get involved and spread the word, that sounds flipping brilliant to us. Head to our website to download our fundraising pack.

pursuitinternational.org/fundraise

GIVE

On average, an entire month of RAMP costs just £100 for one young person. You don't have to give us £100 (although if you would like to that would be lovely) but a little goes a long way in Kolkata. £12 provides a month's rent in safe accommodation, and £30 could give a month of life-skills training and mentoring. But whatever you can afford would be brilliant.

pursuitinternational.org/donate

Pursuit International
Charity Number 1167084
Receipts and Payments Accounts
Including Independent Examiner's Report
Year to 31st December 2024



	2024 General Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 General Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS						
Receipts						
Donations - General	£ 22,514		£ 22,514	£ 14,096		£14,096
Donations for Projects		£ 6,085	£ 6,085		£ 6,322	£ 6,322
Total Receipts	£ 22,514	£ 6,085	£ 28,599	£ 14,096	£ 6,322	£ 20,418
Payments						
Charitable Activities-						
Grants Disbursed to Projects	£ 12,100	£ 6,900	£ 19,000	£ 6,533	£ 8,467	£15,000
Promotion & Fundraising	£ 142	£ -	£ 142	£ -	£ -	£ -
Administration- Note 1	£ 11,284	£ -	£ 11,284	£ 6,228	£ -	£ 6,228
Total Payments	£ 23,526	£ 6,900	£ 30,426	£ 12,761	£ 8,467	£ 21,228
Net Receipts/(Payments)	(£ 1,012)	(£ 815)	(£ 1,827)	£ 1,335	(£2,145)	(£ 810)
CASH FUNDS AT 1.1.23	£73,626	£ 922	£ 74,548	£ 72,291	£ 3,067	£ 75,358
CASH FUNDS AT 31.12.24	£72,614	£ 107	£ 72,721	£73,626	£ 922	£ 74,548
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES						
Assets						
Barclays Bank PLC						
Account 70610968	£53,459	£ 107	£53,566	£73,626	£ 922	£74,548
Unity Trust Bank						
Account Number 20515274	£10,788	£ -	£10,788	£ -	£ -	£ -
Account Number 20515287	£ 9,159	£ -	£ 9,159	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total Assets	£73,406	£ 107	£73,513	£ 73,626	£ 922	£ 74,548
Liabilities (Cont'd Page 2)						

Pursuit International
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Year to 31st December 2024



	2024 General Funds	2024 Restrictd Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 General Funds	2023 Restrictd Funds	2023 Total Funds
Liabilities						
Invoices & Payments Due	(£ 792)	£ -	(£ 792)	£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 31.12.24	£72,614	£ 107	£ 72,721	£73,626	£ 922	£ 74,548

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees

Signed: *Sue Jenkins*

Print Name: Sue Jenkins

Date: 24th March 2025

Pursuit International
Charity Number 1167084
Receipts and Payments Accounts
Including Independent Examiner's Report
Year to 31st December 2024



NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

1. Administration Costs	2024	2023
Operations Manager (i)	£ 7,562	£3,792
Project Audit Visits (ii)	£ 2,728	£1,788
Insurance	£ 194	£ 179
Subscriptions, Software & Training	£ 317	£ 241
General	£ 198	£ 96
Bank & Other Finance Charges	<u>£ 285</u>	<u>£ 132</u>
Total Administration Costs	<u>£11,284</u>	<u>£6,228</u>

- (i) The Operations Manager post is part-time and the current post holder is contracted on a self-employed basis.
- (ii) During 2024, there were 3 visits to Projects funded in whole or part by the Charity and to potential new funding opportunities. These visits were undertaken by the Operations Manager and 3 volunteer team members who reported back to the Trustees.

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Pursuit International ("the Trust") on pages 1 to 3, for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity trustees of Pursuit International, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signed: *D. Doherty*

Print Name: David Doherty

Date: 31st March 2025

Address: 32, BN11 7ER