



## **The Network CIO**

**Charity Number: 1167775**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

**for the Period**

**1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021**

## Reference & Administration Details

**Charity name:** The Network CIO

**Charity number:** 1167775

**Charity's operating address:** City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1DD

### Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity

<u>Trustee Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Retired</u>
1: Gail Dunn	Chair	June 2016	
2: Ben Rollett	Treasurer	June 2016	
3: Rosanne Kirk		June 2016	
4: Gavin Warhurst		July 2016	
5: Mike Johnson		July 2016	
6: Maggie Freeman		July 2016	
7: John Wiles		July 2016	
8: Amanda Bouttell		October 2016	

### Names & Addresses of Advisors

<u>Type of advisor</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address &amp; Postcode</u>
Bank	The Co-operative Bank	PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT
Independent Examiner	Saul Fairholm	12 Tentercroft street, Lincoln, LN5 7DB

## Structure, Governance & Management

### Description of the Charity's Trusts

<b>Type of Governing Document:</b>	Constitution
<b>How the Charity is Constituted:</b>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
<b>Trustee Selection Methods:</b>	Appointed by existing Trustees

## Objectives & Activities

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

The objects of the CIO are:

To act as a resource for young people aged 16-24 living in the City of Lincoln and the surrounding area by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of educational and other activities as a means of:

- a) advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
- b) advancing education;
- c) relieving unemployment.

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

The Network CIO has undertaken the following activities:

- Encouraged and supported young people with appropriate advice and guidance on training, education and/or employment.
- Developed the skills and knowledge amongst young people to enable them to participate in training, education and employment.
- Focused on researching and removing barriers to employment and training for young people, where possible.
- Developed employment opportunities for young people with employers.
- Raised employer awareness of the positive impact of employing and investing in young people.
- Provided facilities by which volunteer members can support young people.
- Ensured that the activities, opportunities and services that The Network may offer are open to all young people.
- Developed partnerships within The Network with local partners and providers and national organisations that assist young people in achieving their aims.

### Statutory Declaration

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the commission in exercising their powers or duties.

## Achievements & Performance

### Summary of the Main Achievements of the Charity for the Year

Young people supported during the year: 169

Confirmed into employment: 18

Confirmed to have engaged with training/education: 13

Confirmed into volunteering: 6

Signposted to education/training: 15

The beginning of the 2020 financial year saw us entering in the first of three lockdowns so far in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Youth unemployment drastically increased with sign-up to Universal Credit sky rocketing as young people became the hardest hit by the subsequent economic crisis.

On top of this challenging economy, mass unemployment and record-lows of job vacancies, we saw the complexity of barriers increase also. Isolation, toxic household situations and mental health issues have become more exacerbated with support harder to find and access. Digital poverty has been highlighted, with the vital part WiFi has to play in job searching and connectedness, but the price barrier that stops young people especially accessing this.

Transport, always a concern before in Lincolnshire, has become even more of an issue. Bus routes have been reduced and limited, and capacity on buses has made them a more unreliable form of transport. This is before factoring in the pandemic-anxiety that some young people were experiencing that put them off the idea of going on close-quartered buses even with social distancing. Driving tests and lessons have been on and off also, stagnating the process for those fortunate enough to be able to access this.

Education and training have been paused for many, and the resulting pause causing people to drop out and disengage. Those without access to tech, or with anxiety around tech and video chats for various reasons have faced even further barriers. Apprenticeships were especially disrupted at the beginning of the first lockdown, as apprentices struggled to find replacement roles to complete this.

Studies immediately spotted a trend in increased isolation and loneliness in young people, some due to living on their own, being university students, or being in households with toxic environments. From our perspective, the reporting of social anxiety increased drastically with some clients reporting in Jan 2021 that they hadn't left the house since Jan 2020 despite being technically "low risk".

None of this, at this stage, is likely to be surprising to anyone but it's important to highlight. This year has been one of unequalled challenges for The Network and its young people.

It is not however, all doom and gloom. The positive side was the rapidness with which we were able to adjust our services to working from home, using various platforms to contact young people including Discord and WhatsApp, the introduction of our Walk and Talks and the continuation of our volunteering opportunities, albeit online.

And despite the challenging job market, we have been able to progress young people into work, training and traineeships, especially with the launch of the Kickstart Scheme becoming a Gateway Provider.

### Projects in the year 2020-2021:

- Greater Lincs MOVE Project (delivery ended December 2020)
- CareerNet (Commenced April 2020)
- Flexible Support Fund (Commenced November 2020)
- Kickstart
- City of Lincoln Council provision
- Online workshops

### Flexible Support Fund

With the support of the DWP Partnership manager and Urban Challenge as the Lead Accountable Body we were offered a Flexible Support Fund contract focused on expanding our work and capacity for those young people on Universal Credit. In this regard, our outreach is even more expansive due to the referrals coming in from any area the Lincoln JCP covers meaning we've been able to reach people who normally wouldn't be able to get to our office (e.g. those in the Horncastle, West Lindsey and Woodhall Spa areas).

We continue with our person-centred focus, and while there have been challenges in terms of hitting KPIs with going in and out of lockdown, our support has still been there for people who have been struggling. As we start to exit the latest lockdown, we are seeing a positive uptick in our figures.

### CareerNet

We were also fortunate enough to have Jess start with us on the CareerNet project, allowing yet further support for young people. It has also allowed us to start expanding our outreach to the North Kesteven/Sleaford area with new links at the Sleaford JCP. Jess' unique position of sitting somewhere between training providers, and career advice has worked very effectively for clients who've required more of a run up and support to progress those last few steps.

### Kickstart

With the hard work of Jess, Rachel and Gail we have been set up as a Kickstart Gateway, helping to gather placements for young people to literally Kickstart their careers. This is a unique and wonderful opportunity for our young people, and some have already progressed into placements despite the scheme being less than a year old.

### City of Lincoln Council

We have also been given an extension of our City of Lincoln Council Funding, as well as an agreement that past this funding finish date we can continue to occupy our office at City Hall rent free. This funding allows us to continue supporting those Hidden NEETs not on Universal Credit, or young people at risk of dropping out.

### Greater Lincs MOVE Project

During this financial year, our delivery within the MOVE project came to an end. This contract has helped us to support some of our clients who have been furthest from the labour market, and this is something we hope to be able to continue further with some of the specialized post pandemic workshops we're planning, and future funding bids as we get more familiar and focused on the barriers young people are facing.

### Volunteering

We have been able to continue supporting volunteers over the pandemic through online opportunities. We were determined to ensure that we found a way to adjust, especially considering the amount that opportunities had disappeared. For roles like our University placements, we re-wrote them to be purely research based looking at the effect of the pandemic on barriers. These projects could be completed from home and would complement their studies with weekly check-ins with Rachel who would look at time management techniques with them to ensure they weren't being overwhelmed.

## Workshops

While we couldn't do our workshops in person, there were opportunities to do some workshops online via NCS with Lincoln City Foundation, and with the Prince's Trust. This was a new and interesting experience for us, but one through which we still got referrals and engagement. We're planning and drafting more group activities moving forward, to help encourage resocialization among young people who have spent over a year isolated/lonely. This will help to warm them up to routes into work and being around people again.

## Financial Review

### Brief Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves

The Trustees regularly review the reserves of the charity. This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams and the need to maintain adequate working capital for all core costs and liabilities. The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds held by the charity should include between three and six months core costs.

### Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

N/A

## Declaration

**The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.**

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

**Signature(s):**





**Full Name(s):**

Gail Dunn

Ben Rollett

**Position(s):**

Chair

Treasurer

**Date:**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

13<sup>th</sup> January 2022



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
The Network CIO

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**Charity no  
(if any)** 1167775

**Set out on pages**

8-10

*(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)*

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

**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 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 (other than that disclosed below \*) 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

**Date:**

20/12/22

**Name:**

Roger M White

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

ICAEW

**Address:**

Saul Fairholm Limited Chartered Accountants, 12 Tentercroft Street,  
Lincoln, LN5 7DB

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



## Receipts and Payments Accounts

Charity Name: The Network CIO  
 Charity Number: 1167775  
 Period from (start date): 01/04/2020

to (end date): 31/03/2021

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
City of Lincoln Council (Grant funding)	26,000	-	-	26,000	26,010
DWP (Grant Funding)	13,600	-	-	13,600	-
Other (Misc)	2,500	-	-	2,500	576
The National Lottery Community Fund	7,810	-	-	7,810	8,650
Geater Lincs MOVE Project	12,725	-	-	12,725	13,456
<i>Sub total</i>	62,635	-	-	62,635	48,692
<b>A2 Asset &amp; investment sales, etc</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	62,635	-	-	62,635	48,692
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Staff costs	36,135	-	-	36,135	28,090
Rent	11,536	-	-	11,536	11,287
Utilities (Telephone & broadband)	158	-	-	158	225
ICT	364	-	-	364	-
Staff travel & expenses	-	-	-	-	372
Stationery, printing & advertising	10	-	-	10	1,753
Professional fees	660	-	-	660	1,177
Resources & events	1,754	-	-	1,754	909
Participant Expenses	262	-	-	262	645
Other	-	-	-	-	100
<i>Sub total</i>	50,879	-	-	50,879	44,558
<b>A4 Asset &amp; investment purchases, etc</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	50,879	-	-	50,879	44,558
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	11,756	-	-	11,756	4,134
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	14,679	-	-	14,679	10,545
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	26,435	-	-	26,435	14,679

**Section B**
**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**
**B1 Cash funds**

Details	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £
Current account	26,435	-	-
<i>Total cash funds</i>	26,435	0	0

**B2 Other monetary assets**

Details	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £
	-	-	-

**B3 Investment assets**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-

**B4 Assets retained for the charities own use**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-

**B5 Liabilities**

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Name

Date of approval



Ben Rollett

13th January 2022



Gail Dunn

13th January 2022

#### **Notes to the accounts**

The Network CIO has nothing to disclose with regard to following:

- a) particulars of any guarantee given by the CIO, where any potential liability under guarantee is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities; and
- b) particulars of any debt outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any assets of the CIO.