

## **The Network CIO**

Charity Number: 1167775

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

**for the Period  
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**

## 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:	Gavin Warhurst		July 2016	
4:	Mike Johnson		July 2016	
5:	Amanda Bouttell		October 2016	
6:	Diane Slapp		August 2023	
7:	Tina Ramsay		August 2023	
8:	Graham Metcalfe		August 2023	

### 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**

**Type of Governing Document:** Constitution

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

**Trustee Selection Methods:** 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: 243

Young people supported into employment: 35

Confirmed to have engaged with training/education: 24

Confirmed into volunteering: 27

### Year in Review

We continue to see the fallout of the Covid pandemic, and continuing impact of the Cost of Living Crisis. We continue to see increasing engagement and need for our service and an increasing number of long term/returning clients, which prompted our increase in age range to 29. Due to the compounding effects of the Pandemic and Cost of Living Crisis, in essence we've seen almost a developmental pause of 2-3 years at least for young people as they transition into adulthood. In essence, the normal opportunities, milestones etc. that would be expected or available were put on pause, and we're seeing the consequences of this. This prompted us to increase our age range, so that those who need us can still receive our support.

We have been funded across various streams, with some being demographically focused e.g. deprivation, lack of maths etc. We continue to work in close partnership with the DWP, with Youth Employability Coaches still hosted in our office. We have found this partnership to be highly effective in supporting young people to navigate complex barriers and enable joint, holistic working between ourselves and the work coaches.

Alongside our 1-1 support, we've also started delivering more group sessions. Social anxiety, loneliness and isolation continue to be significant barriers for our young people, and there is a gap in the community for 18-29 group spaces that are affordable and social anxiety friendly.

We have been establishing support in a variety of forms to fit with staff delivery strengths, and client demographic interests. This includes Nerd Herd, Crafternoon and Hairy Violets.

### Barriers and trends

Health condition	Percent
Health condition	44%
No health condition	13%
Undiagnosed but suspected	16%
Unknown	27%

Barrier	Percent
Mental health	46%
Social anxiety	70%
Confidence	34%
Transport	52%
Physical health	8%
Substance misuse	4%
Housing	16%
Benefits	3%
Debt	14%
Lack of maths/English	34%
Convictions	3%
Autism/ASD	25%
ADHD	15%
Dyslexia/dyscalculia	12%
Other	9%

Barrier tracking is pulled from initial assessment data. As such, there may be some gaps as issues unveil themselves further along a clients support journey. It also fails to capture the complexity of other things such as difficult home environments, previous emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), and the layering of issues for those experiencing multiple barriers.

## **Projects**

### **SHINE Innovation-Hairy Violets**

In response to our young people's increasing social anxiety, isolation and low aspirations/hope, we test ran a creative writing project in collaboration with Wildflower Storytelling's Tanya Akrofi. This project focused on using creative writing to flip negative life-scripts, supporting young people to develop toolkits to reframe their life experiences, and resilience. Alongside this, young people received the 1-1 person-centred support that is core to The Network.

This project was successful, with unexpected additional outcomes. We utilized various green spaces across the city to host the sessions, which led some of our young people to start volunteering in these same spaces, such as Liquorice Park.

This project created a peer-shaped space that allowed young people to explore their creativity and develop their resilience.

### **Nerd Herd and Crafternoon**

Nerd Herd and Crafternoon's were formed in response to the increasing social anxiety and isolation of our young people. Starting with small groups, we test-ran one shot Table Top Role Playing Games, using boundaries and staff facilitation to create an inclusive space for young people to engage.

At first, these groups were very quiet and required intense facilitation to pull the young people out of their shells. However, as time has gone by, the group has become a peer-led space with some of the original members now volunteering to help run games, organize the lore of the sessions they're running etc. The response and growth of our young people in this group has been beyond our wildest expectations. The nature of table top games, with their clear structure, problem solving and elements of chance and randomness, has really helped our young people to thrive.

Alongside Nerd Herd, we also developed Crafternoon so that we could create options that cater to different demographics. These were both funded under Awards4All as the test run at first as part of a Resocialisation Scheme.

Crafternoons create a space for "parallel play" where people can bring their own crafts, or learn new techniques alongside Georgia. This is a space to create and "go wrong" whilst engaging in gentle conversations. Again, seeing the connections forged in this group has been amazing to see, with the importance of peer-to-peer facilitated spaces being undeniable.

Nerd Herd and Crafternoons has received various funding, depending on the eligibility criteria of the participants. This has included Multiply, A4A, Winter Pressures and Community Action Fund.

### **Catalyst Counselling**

We continue to strive to provide non-clinical, integrative counselling via Georgina at Nurture Garden Therapy to our marginalized clients who don't fit typical NHS Talking Therapy support (e.g. socially anxious, bereaved, trauma-informed etc.)

Finding funding for this has been an ongoing challenge, not many funders will cover counselling support despite what we see to be a clear gap in provision for integrative counselling locally, especially for those who are financially disadvantaged.

Fortunately, we were able to find funding via Evan Cornish to fund Catalyst Counselling, and the 1-1 mentoring work The Network team do alongside to support young people to engage with this counselling, and apply the transformative self-lessons they learn as part of it.

## Support

Our 1-1 support continues to be the heart and soul of our work. We continue to deliver in a person-centred style, whilst adapting to increased needs for advocacy for our young people navigating health services, housing etc. Our partnership work and networking has been integral to this, and compliments our 1-1 work in the ways that our connections can help untangle situations our clients find themselves in.

We have received funding from various sources, but all aligned with the themes and barriers we see. For example, many of our clients come from postcodes that fall into areas of high deprivation, as evidenced by our time on Health Inequalities, a fund targeted on supporting people from these postcodes.

Our fund over the winter months was under Winter Pressures with the NHS, which we exceeded our targeted numbers with minimal outreach required. The natural flow of young people from partnership routes and word of mouth continues to be steadily increasing.

In January we were successful in receiving WLDC funding, which is allowing us to explore and increase capacity for delivery in the West Lindsey outskirts of Lincoln where there is an ongoing support gap.

What is clear to us is that having an "open door" service to anyone who falls in the socio economic footprint of Lincoln, continues to be essential. Young people have also returned to us, as they hit their next life stage or come across new barriers and we have been honoured to be able to support them to continue to thrive. For those who lack social or familial support networks, it feels like The Network forms a space for them to come and gain the advice and guidance they need as they move into and through early adulthood.

This has all been funded in parts by: Evan Cornish, ICB Winter Pressures, Multiply (budgeting support), WLDC Community Action Fund and SHINE.

## Client Feedback

*"The Network are supportive and helpful with giving you the knowledge and resources you need with networking and job searching. They have empathy and understanding with their clients."*

*"The Network gave me something to leave my house and socialise for. One of the things that really pulled me through 2023."*

*"Gabby was - and is - absolutely wonderful. So welcoming, empathetic and kind. She could not do enough for my son and continues to do so...Just keep going. the support Gabby and The Network provides is incredible and has saved my son from his isolation and loneliness"*

*"Its good to know that you can talk to people about anything you want advice on"*

*"I have been provided with a lot of useful links and info to support me. Gabby knows straight away what will be useful to me"*

*"The Network allowed me to access services I wouldn't have know about otherwise also all working me grow as a person which helped me overcome personal obstacles of getting into work"*

*"The network has gotten me to be more sociable and it does make a difference"*

*"They helped me explore new opportunities and hobbies as well as giving me advice. A while after I joined I explored some new options and they allowed me to speak to another member who knows more about the subject(s). They also show every step I have taken which makes me appreciate my process even if it seems small."*

## 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

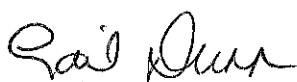
N/A

## 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: 30-01-2025

30-01-2025



**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 2024

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1167775

**Set out on pages**

9-11

(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 31/03/2024.

**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:**

09/01/2025

**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



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):** 01/04/2023 **to (end date):** 31/03/2024

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
City of Lincoln Council (In-kind)	-	11,500	-	11,500	10,701
DWP (FSF Grant Funding)	-	-	-	-	13,040
DWP (KickStart)	-	-	-	-	2,088
Other (Misc)	1,500	-	-	1,500	2,500
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	-	9,475
CareerNet Project	4,634	-	-	4,634	5,709
Multiply Project	9,130	-	-	9,130	4,125
WLDC	7,000	-	-	7,000	-
Shine - Innovation Fund	9,850	-	-	9,850	-
NHS Winter Pressures	9,875	-	-	9,875	-
Evan Cornish Fund	5,480	-	-	5,480	-
LVET Health Inequalities Fund	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
Beyond Shame Fund	-	-	-	-	5,000
UK Community Renewal Fund	-	-	-	-	9,019
<i>Sub total</i>	52,469	11,500	-	63,969	61,657
<b>A2 Asset &amp; investment sales, etc</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	52,469	11,500	-	63,969	61,657
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Staff costs	51,936	-	-	51,936	67,096
Rent	-	11,500	-	11,500	10,701
ICT	490	-	-	490	-
Staff travel & expenses	200	-	-	200	267
Stationery, printing & advertising	104	-	-	104	135
Professional fees & insurance	1,481	-	-	1,481	1,204
Resources & events	78	-	-	78	711
Participant Expenses	140	-	-	140	10
Training	-	-	-	-	300
Other (Counselling Support & workshops)	7,536	-	-	7,536	5,000
<i>Sub total</i>	61,965	11,500	-	73,465	85,424
<b>A4 Asset &amp; investment purchases, etc</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	61,965	11,500	-	73,465	85,424
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	- 9,496	-	-	- 9,496	- 23,767
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-

A6 Cash funds last year end

Cash funds this year end

15,860	-	-	15,860	39,627
6,365	-	-	6,365	15,860

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	6,365	-	-
<i>Total cash funds</i>	6,365	-	-

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

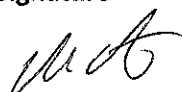
Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	-

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

Signature

Name

Date of approval



Ben Rollett

30-01-2025



Gail Dunn

30-01-2025

### **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.