CITIES FOR CHILDREN

England & Wales · Charity number 1170215

Details

Other names	CFC
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-11-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	27 Old Gloucester Street Holborn London WC1N 3AX
Phone	07545670396
Email	enquiries@citiesforchildren.co
Website	www.citiesforchildren.co

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE IN LIFE AND RELIEVE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THOSE IN THE URBAN SLUMS OF PAKISTAN THROUGH:(A) PROVIDING AND ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR EDUCATION;(B) THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE;(C) PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS;(D) SUCH OTHER MEANS AS FROM TIME TO TIME MAY BE DETERMINED SUBJECT TO THE PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE CHARITY COMMISSION.

Activities: We aim to protect the "right to a childhood" through three strands of work:The right to read - by supporting literacy and life skills relevant to a child's reality. The right to play - by creating child-friendly spaces with structured recreation programmes involving volunteer networks. The right to feel safe - by building staff/teacher capacity to offer protection and psychosocial support.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1170215

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Pakistan

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-30	£56,943	£34,756	-	-
2024-05-30	£20,160	£30,009	-	-
2023-05-30	£47,986	£40,630	-	-
2022-05-30	£19,182	£13,595	-	-
2021-05-30	£16,197	£8,432	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jetske van Dijk	Chair	2023-01-21
Ali Nabi Nur		2023-03-16
DAVID WALKER		2016-11-16
Nabeela Ijaz Khan		2020-01-11
Sehar Tariq		2024-01-31
Usman Qureshi		2024-11-30

Accounts

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1170215

CITIES FOR CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 MAY 2025

CITIES FOR CHILDREN
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 MAY 2025

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Legal And Administrative Information

Registered Charity Name: Cities for Children

Charity Registration Number: 1170215

Registered address: 13 Wynnstay Gardens
London
W8 6UP

Trustees:

- **Jetske van Dijk** - Chair (appointed 21 January 2023)
- **Usman Qureshi** - Treasurer (appointed 30 November 2024)
- **Nabeela Ijaz Khan** - (appointed for a three-year term on 21 January 2023)
- **David Walker** -(term renewed for three years on 13 February 2024)
- **Ali Nabi Nur** - (appointed 16 March 2023)
- **Sehar Tariq** - (appointed for a three-year term on 21 January 2024)

Bankers: Barclays Bank UK PLC

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 May 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 May 2025. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a CIO Foundation and governed by a constitution dated 02 July 2016. The charity registered with the Charities Commission on 16 November 2016 (Charity reg no 1170215).

Trustees are responsible for setting strategies and policies and for ensuring these are implemented.

Risk management

The charity's trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed potential risks. Systems and procedures have been put in place to manage the risks and to mitigate any adverse outcomes, and a risk register is being updated. A Child Safeguarding Policy is in place and has been adapted for work in both Pakistan and the UK.

Objectives and activities

Drawing from the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Cities for Children seeks to protect what we frame as the “right to a childhood” – the right to read, the right to play and the right to feel safe - for children facing the challenges of urban poverty. These include children from refugee and migrant backgrounds who experience risks of neglect, abuse, exploitation and exclusion from basic services like education.

Our model is based on partnering with small, under-resourced organisations giving crucial education or protection services to under-served children. We have been set up to improve the quality of what our partners offer through three interwoven strands of work, creating holistic programmes for child development and wellbeing:

- The Right to Read: non-formal education programming supporting literacy, numeracy and socioemotional learning particularly in early childhood.

- The Right to Play: structured recreation programmes, carefully designed to build socio-emotional skills and motivate children to continue learning.

- The Right to Feel Safe: resources and training to build adults’ capacity to create safe and nurturing learning spaces, free from violence and corporal punishment.

Achievements and Performance

During this financial year, our work was also recognised internationally: *Partners in Learning* was **selected for the HundrED Global Collection 2025** of the most impactful and scalable education innovations in the world, launched at a ceremony in Helsinki.

Our sister entity in Pakistan (**Chotay Shehri Education Foundation**) grew more independent, securing **a renewal of a grant from the Malala Fund.** This was a year of outreach within the UK, particularly in terms of providing services to **refugee and asylum-seeking children**. We were able to identify a niche in which we could add value to existing service provision, particularly in the realm of **supporting positive mental health and easing transitions for children**

A major breakthrough this year was our expansion of **Playful Learning for Refugees in transitional housing in West Sussex**. Following a short pilot, we were commissioned by the West Sussex Council to design and deliver sessions to ease the transition for newly arrived refugee children. Across 3 iterations, we delivered **52 sessions** across one and later two hotels, reaching approximately **450 children**. Many of these children were Afghan nationals arriving via third countries, living in hotels for 6-18 months with limited access to schooling. Our sessions offered **structured, creative learning opportunities**, supporting English language development, socioemotional learning (SEL), wellbeing, and positive peer interactions. Feedback from children, families, and hotel staff highlighted increased **joy, motivation, and confidence**.

<u>Highlights</u>

- Delivered three iterations of Playful Learning, expanding to two hotels in West Sussex for newly arrived refugee children
- Grew the UK team with the addition of a Development Officer and three new volunteers, enabling delivery at multiple sites and enhancing programme support.
- Raised £27,000 in grant funding and over £12,000 in commissioning income to support programme growth
- Selected for the HundrED Global Collection 2025, recognising *Partners in Learning* as a leading educational innovation
- Continued advocacy to end corporal punishment through a partnership with the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, Pakistan

Detail:

a) Playful Learning for Newly Arrived Refugees

One major highlight this year was the expansion of our **Playful Learning** programme in West Sussex, delivering three iterations of sessions across two hotels for newly arrived Afghan refugee children. Many of these children had been in transitional accommodation for **six months or longer**, often due to specialised housing needs or large families, and very few had access to formal schooling, during our time there.

The programme required careful planning to accommodate the uncertainty of resettlement, with children moving at short notice and group composition changing weekly. Our sessions focused on developing **spoken English and key vocabulary**, while supporting **mental wellbeing, creative expression, and peer interaction**. They provided structure and something to look forward to during a period of transition, helping children feel welcomed and engaged as they adapted to their new lives.

While attendance varied per session, we recorded reaching over 450 individual children, starting with one hotel and expanding to two by March 2025.

Programme Goals

- Build **English vocabulary** and **school readiness** for newly arrived children in transitional housing.
- Support **emotional wellbeing** through joy, belonging, and creative expression.
- Develop **SEL skills**: recognising emotions, communication, problem-solving, and confidence.

Highlights & Impact

- Children reported increased **joy, confidence, and engagement**, sharing statements such as *"I became clever"* and *"I am happy in this class."*
- Families observed **new routines and motivation** in daily life.
- Hotel staff noted a **"transformation in daily life"** for children.
- **Case Study - Ahmed (Age 9, Kandahar):** Arrived withdrawn and speaking only Pashto; over seven weeks, he became communicative, proudly created a puppet project, and shared aspirations to become an astronaut. His father said: *"He really looks forward to Thursdays now. He is very happy in your sessions."*

b) Programming in Pakistan
A total of £14,000/- GBP from Ave Fenix Albion fund was transferred to our sister entity to support early childhood programming in Pakistan.

“Dhanak Dheri”

Dhanak Dheri (“The Rainbow in Dheri”) was an Early Childhood Education (ECE) space we set up in the neighbourhood of Dheri Hassanabad, Rawalpindi, in collaboration with **Junior Jinnah Trust (JJT)**. This was in the aftermath of a Partners in Learning programme conducted in the neighbourhood with children at risk of being out of school, in which the preschool-aged “Little Partners” expressed their desire to go to school “every day.”

For those Little Partner alumni and others in their community too young to enrol in formal schools, Dhanak was established as an eight-month playful learning space in the absence of other early learning opportunities. Designed as a **model centre,** the centre provided children from underserved communities with foundational literacy, numeracy, and socioemotional skills to ensure smoother transitions into primary school. Elements of holistic support included biweekly meals; weekly playful learning sessions facilitated by our Programme Officer; Montessori learning materials and constant pedagogical support from our partners.

The **Dhanak Dheri programme** successfully demonstrated how **playful, community-based, and inclusive ECE models** can bridge critical gaps in early childhood education.

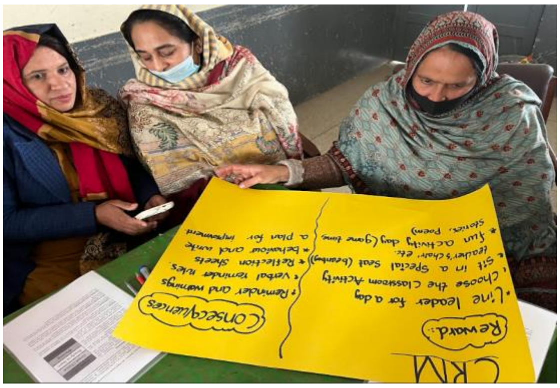
Outcomes and Impact

Progress was measured via a baseline and endline assessment, through which the younger cohort (age 3-4) showed substantial progress in both academic and socioemotional development and older learners (4.5-6) demonstrated strong readiness for primary school:

Following the “graduation” ceremony, alongside our partners we supported 44 out of 50 children to transition to neighbourhood schools. The younger cohort of 19 children was accommodated in the JJT school itself, and through AVF we supported their educational costs until they entered Grade 1. Both cohorts entered school with stronger foundational skills and further developed confidence, motivation, and fine motor abilities required for formal schooling.


c) Advocacy and Thought Leadership





We continued to build Cities for Children's niche as an organisation committed to creating safe, nurturing and playful spaces that not just enhance learning but also wellbeing and resilience for vulnerable children.

Building on our ongoing advocacy to end corporal punishment in learning spaces, our **"Maar**

Nahi Pyaar" campaign continued to gain momentum this year. Around the world, countries are grappling with the challenge of ending corporal punishment in schools and homes, and Pakistan is no exception. Despite progressive legislation, harmful disciplinary practices remain widespread. At Cities for Children, we remain committed to building safer, more nurturing learning environments and contributing to the global movement to end violence against children.

Through **media, advocacy, research, and international platforms**, we worked to ensure that Pakistan's experiences and lessons inform and benefit from global conversations on child rights and non-violent discipline.

Our **media engagements** brought national attention to the issue. Founder **Madeeha Ansari** appeared on *Zara Hat Kay* and participated in a podcast with the **Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development**, sharing perspectives on building nurturing, non-violent classrooms. Additionally, a **Maar Nahi Pyaar livestream** with Programme Officer **Syeda Ansa** helped further amplify the campaign's reach.

We maintained strong **partnerships with the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC)**, exploring joint advocacy efforts and co-branded awareness posts. Our participation in the launch of NCRC's *State of Children* report further reinforced our shared commitment to child rights and safeguarding.

We consolidated our project learnings and field experience into a research paper that was accepted for presentation at the **UKFIET Conference** in Oxford in September 2025. We also delivered a presentation titled *"Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools in Pakistan"* at a **Keeping Children Safe (KCS)** members-only webinar, engaging child protection professionals from Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Finally, we submitted a **Maar Nahi Pyaar** animation and abstract to the **Aga Khan University's 13th International Conference**, which was accepted for video presentation, marking another milestone in amplifying Pakistan's leadership in the global dialogue on ending violence against children.

In line with our commitment to child rights beyond the UK, we **collaborated with the creative learning organisation Seenaryo** to raise funds for **children in Gaza**, reflecting our belief in the shared responsibility to protect childhood everywhere. Additionally, we supported **community engagement initiatives**, including two Iftar events, one hosted at the Pakistan High Commission further deepening our relationships and raising awareness of our work with diaspora networks.

<u>Publications</u>

Title and theme	**Publication/Authors**	**Link**
A Gentler World	Madeeha Ansari for Dawn News paper a public call for compassionate approaches	https://www.dawn.com/news/1907675

	to discipline.	
Seekho Sikhao Stories: Making Heroes with Heart	Organisational	https://www.citiesforchildren.co/seekho-sikhao-stories-making-heroes-with-heart/
The Power of Connection – SEL as a Journey	Organisational	https://www.citiesforchildren.co/the-power-of-connection-sel-as-a-journey/
Policy brief on free and compulsory education	National Commission on the Rights of Child	https://ncrc.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/POLICY-Brief-on-Free-and-Compulsory-Education.pdf

Key Fundraising and Income Sources:

- National Lottery Fund (£10,000)
- Treebeard Trust (£10,000)
- Garfield Weston Trust (£5000)
- GilChrist Trust (£2000 raised)
- West Sussex Commission (£12,561 invoice raised, payment in next financial year)
- Iftar at Pakistan High Commission (£4,240 raised in aftermath)
- Iftar with Sisters Ventures Club
- Ramadan speaking event at Third Eye Consulting

Public Benefit Statement

The section of this report below entitled 'Objectives and activities' sets out the objects and aims of the charity. The trustees have considered this, in conjunction with the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and have concluded that:

1) the aims of the charity continue to be charitable;
2) the work done by the charity gives identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both directly
and
3) indirectly to individuals in need;
4) the benefits are for the public; not unreasonably restricted in any way;
5) there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.

Volunteers

We had one part-time Programme Officer, Fran Sharman and one part-time Development Officer, Maaha Suleiman during this time. We also built a partnership with the University of Sussex and had the support of a cohort of volunteers at the Masters Level including Irem Akbas, Wasfiya Sheikh and Wanda Eileen Achieng.

Financial review

During the period, the Charity received total income of £56.9k (2024: £20.1k). The charity incurred expenditure of £34.7k (2024: £30k). The carried forward cash fund balance is £60k (2024: £37.8k).

Reserves Policy
The trustees believe that the fund-raising plans in place are sufficiently robust to cover the next 12 months costs.

Trustees' responsibilities statement
The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities 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 of the charity for that period. 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 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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 on …31 January 2026… And signed on their behalf by:

……………………………………

Jetske van Dijk
Chair

CITIES FOR CHILDREN
Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of CITIES FOR CHILDREN

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 May 2025 which are set out on page 11 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
As the charity's trustees of CITIES FOR CHILDREN 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 CITIES FOR CHILDREN '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 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 CITIES FOR CHILDREN as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

Ali Arshad

Ali Arshad
(ACCA)

ACCOUNTAX ZONE LTD
20-22 Wenlock Road, London
N1 7GU

Cities for Children (Reg.1170215)
Receipts and Payments Accounts
As at 30 May 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts				
Donations	1,662	1,959	3,621	17,087
In-Kind donation	-	-	-	-
Grant	27,000	14,000	41,000	-
Gift Aid	3,510	-	3,510	-
Other Income	81	-	81	-
Zakat	1,456	7,276	8,732	3,073
Sub Total	33,709	23,234	56,943	20,160
Assets and Investment sales	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	**33,709**	**23,234**	**56,943**	**20,160**
Payments				
Fund raising /Events	3,350	-	-	636
Project cost	11,374	17,900	29,274	27,340
Support cost	1,123	16	1,139	1,973
Governance Cost	994	-	994	60
In-kind Spent				
Evaluation Framework	-	-	-	-
Sub-total	**16,840**	**17,917**	**34,756**	**30,009**
Assets and Investment Purchases	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	**16,840**	**17,917**	**34,756**	**30,009**
Net of receipts / Payments	**16,869**	**5,318**	**22,187**	**- 9,849**
Transfer between funds				
Cash funds last year end	36,921	927	37,848	47,697
Cash funds last year end	**53,790**	**6,245**	**60,034**	**37,848**

Cities for Children (Reg.1170215)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 30 May 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash Funds			
Cash at Bank	60,034	60,034	37,848
Total Cash Funds	60,034	60,034	37,848
Assets Retained for the Charity own use			
Freehold Land & Building	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-
Liabilities	420	420	420

Approved by the Board on …31 January 2026… And signed on its behalf by:

……………………………………

Jetske van Dijk
Chair

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 May 2025

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance.

(b) Charity status

Cities for Children is a CIO foundation and is registered with the Charity Commission under the reference of 1170215.

(c) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted 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. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(d) Receipts

All incoming resources are included in the Receipt & payment Accounts when the charity actually receives legally entitled income.

(e) Payments

All expenditure is accounted for on payments basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

CITIES FOR CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 1170215

Accounts

Docusign Envelope ID: DC081664-C0BB-4513-9D5C-CA609DFF2F07

Charity No. 1170215

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 30 May 2024

Docusign Envelope ID: DC081664-C0BB-4513-9D5C-CA609DFF2F07

Contents

Legal and Administrative Information

Charity number	1170215
Registered address	13 Wynnstay Gardens LONDON W8 6UP
Trustees	Jetske van Dijk (Chair – appointed 21 January 2023) Usman Qureshi (Treasurer – appointed 30 November 2024) Nabeela Ijaz Khan (appointed for a three-year term on 21 January 2023) David Walker (term renewed for three years on 13 February 2024) Cleo Fatoorehchi (Appointed on 17th March 2018) Ali Nabi Nur (Appointed 16 March 2023)
Bankers	Barclays Bank UK PLC

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 May 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 May 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a CIO Foundation and governed by a constitution dated 02 July 2016. The charity registered with the Charities Commission on the 16 November 2016 (Charity reg no 1170215).

Trustees are responsible of setting strategies and policies and for ensuring these are implemented.

Risk management

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Objectives and activities

Drawing from the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Cities for Children seeks to protect what we frame as the “right to a childhood” – the right to read, the right to play and the right to feel safe - for children facing the challenges of urban poverty. These include children from refugee and migrant backgrounds who experience risks of neglect, abuse, exploitation and exclusion from basic services like education.

Our model is based on partnering with small, under-resourced organisations giving crucial education or protection services to under-served children. We have been set up to improve the quality of what our partners offer through three interwoven strands of work, creating holistic programmes for child development and wellbeing:

- The Right to Read: non-formal education programming supporting literacy, numeracy and socioemotional learning particularly in early childhood.

- The Right to Play: structured recreation programmes, carefully designed to build socio-emotional skills and motivate children to continue learning.

- The Right to Feel Safe: resources and training to build adults’ capacity to create safe and nurturing learning spaces, free from violence and corporal punishment.

Achievements and Performance

During this financial year, our sister entity in Pakistan (Chotay Shehri Education Foundation) grew more independent with international grants, and our focus in the UK was to grow our footprint locally. This was a year of outreach, particularly with organisations providing services to refugee and asylum-seeking children. We were able to identify a niche in which we could add value to existing service provision, particularly in the realm of supporting positive mental health and easing the transition for children, through playful learning programmes.

This year, we decided to invest in staff for UK programming. For this, we drew upon savings from the previous year. Fundraising efforts continued, but raising from trusts and foundations was a greater challenge this year - one that was felt more widely in the sector.

Highlights

- Raised nearly £9,000 in Big Give Christmas Challenge to work with refugee children
- Delivered a second iteration of the signature Partners in Learning programme in Brent, forming new school partnerships
- Became the first organisation to deliver services to children in a West Sussex hotel for newly arrived refugee children, conducting a pilot playful learning programme
- Advocacy partnership on ending corporal punishment with the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, Pakistan

Detail:

a) Partners in Learning

Since its pilot in 2020, Cities for Children has implemented tailored variations of the Partners in Learning programme in diverse contexts, reaching over 4,000 children to date. This is based on a Child to Child model infused with our playful learning ethos, through which we train cohorts of older children to become champions of early learning for younger, preschool aged children within their communities.

In April 2023, we began tailoring and adapting our Partners in Learning programme to engage boys from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds at Newman Catholic College (NCC) - a secondary "School of Sanctuary"- to deliver playful learning sessions to about 40 children at the Reception level at a local school, Harlesden Primary School. The project began with sessions focused on the older boys,

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building their confidence and skills to become Big Partners and role models and eventually deliver science and SEL sessions with the Little Partners.

In this financial year, we completed the first project and initiated a second one with NCC, building a new partnership with another local school, Furness Primary School (FPS). This built on our experience from previous implementations in Pakistan as well as the UK, with modifications such as the creation of visual content and pre-session deoms to prepare the Big Partners rather than relying on them to be reading the manuals. This version featured introductory sessions to build connections and mentally prepare the older boys to support others, followed by sessions designed to blend playful learning, experiential science, and socioemotional learning to foster literacy, numeracy, and curiosity among younger children ("Little Partners") while developing leadership and confidence in older children ("Big Partners").

This was the sixth iteration of Partners in Learning as a model and the second to focus on refugee and asylum-seeking children in London. We reached 49 Little Partners through the support of 16 Big Partners, creating an inclusive, supportive learning environment.

Big Partner Highlights

A focused effort was made to nurture socioemotional skills among our 16 Big Partners. These older children acted as mentors, developing confidence, empathy, and leadership while engaging with the younger children. Some key outcomes were:

- 90% felt more confident in managing groups of children. One shared, *"I worked well with the children. Before, I felt nervous."*
- 82% reported an increase in confidence when leading activities, with one piece of feedback being "*I love to be a leader."*
- Many Big Partners brought creative ideas to sessions, demonstrating a sense of agency and ownership. They gained a sense of being able to create a positive change in their lives and communities, saying, *"I can play an important role in helping a group of children learn."* Another shared, *"I was always nervous during the sessions because I was worried about the children. I felt happy because I did a good job."*

Little Partner Highlights

For the 49 Little Partners, the sessions focused on reinforcing literacy, numeracy, and socioemotional skills through creative and hands-on activities. Our emotional learning sessions are aligned with national Personal, Social and Hygiene Education (PSHE) objectives, and we looked for evidence that children learnt to recognise and name different feelings, what others might be feeling and the different things they can do to manage big feelings. The weekly programme sessions were displayed on the PSHE board in the classroom, showing alignment with teaching goals.

Key outcomes included:

- 75% of Little Partners could confidently sequence the stages of a butterfly's life cycle by the end of the programme.
- 75% were able to name and recognise emotions confidently.
- Many Little Partners expressed admiration for their Big Partners, and some of their feedback is shared below:
    - "They know my name"

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- *"It was super duper fun!"*
- *"We were scientists."*

Teacher Observations

- *"Their more boisterous boys benefited from the programme, as they looked up to the Big Partners as big brothers, finding a space where they could be themselves."*
- *"The sessions allowed the Little Partners to express themselves more freely."*
- *"The Arab-speaking group felt comfortable speaking Arabic in front of others, enhancing both their English and Arabic skills."*

b) Playful Learning for Newly Arrived Refugees

One major breakthrough this year was building a connection with Home Office representatives working with refugee families, who invited us to do a series of pilot sessions in a West Sussex hotel for newly arrived children. These were Afghan children coming via third countries on a path to resettlement, who were not able to access local schools and had no other form of activities or access to learning. We started out tailoring sessions drawn from our pre-existing Partners in Learning and Happy Hoods content, and our CEO and Programme Officer went in to deliver two sessions a day for two different age ranges - 4-11 and 12-17 years.

This was challenging programming, as we had to factor uncertainty into the design - children could be resettled at any time, and the group could change on a weekly basis while some families with different needs could be there for a much longer time period. Our emphasis was on building spoken English skills and key vocabulary, while supporting positive mental health and wellbeing for the children. These weekly sessions helped add structure, gave them something to look forward to and provided opportunities for creative expression as well as meaningful interaction with peers. The purpose was to ease the transition and time of uncertainty, providing a welcoming environment to children as they entered their new lives.

Although we only delivered sessions over the summer, the feedback from the Home Office and the Council was overwhelmingly positive and we were able to open the doors for further collaboration.

c) Programming in Pakistan

A total of £10,000/- GBP was transferred to our sister entity to support core staff costs and signature programme activities in Pakistan. An additional £3,000/- was sent from Zakat funds, to provide direct support in terms of nutrition and early learning activities for out-of-school children. Reporting on these activities will occur in the next financial year.

d) Advocacy and Thought Leadership

We continued to build Cities for Children's niche as an organisation committed to creating safe, nurturing and playful spaces that not just enhance learning but also wellbeing and resilience for vulnerable children. In particular, we refined our impact and evaluation frameworks concerning socioemotional learning (SEL), and through our work in Pakistan and the UK began to really unpack what this means. This means we are part of a broader movement in the international development sphere to explore how to measure SEL and wellbeing, and are adding substantial value to broader discourse.

This was demonstrated by the renewal of government partnerships in Pakistan, and in the UK by the invitation to present our work on "Humanising Data" - analysing qualitative data on SEL at a panel event hosted at Cambridge University's PEDAL Centre.

Building on our work on "Maar Nahi Pyaar" – advocating for an end to corporal punishment in learning spaces, we also built a relationship with the National Commission on the Rights of the Child in Pakistan. This culminated in a joint social media campaign on the International Day to End Corporal Punishment (12 April 2024); the creation of a poster for display in schools, endorsed by NCRC; and the creation of

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an opportunity to delivery training workshops on safeguarding and ending corporal punishment in government schools in Islamabad Capital Territory. A notification was issued by NCRC for our training to be accommodated by the Federal Directorate of Education, and in May 2024 we began to roll out a two-part workshop series reaching 125 teacher participants from 60 schools.

Publications

Title and theme	Publication/Authors	Link
Case Study on Pakistan - Parenting Support for Flood-hit Families	Parenting for Lifelong Health Initiative at the University of Oxford	https://www.citiesforchildren.co/our-resources/university-of-oxford-case-study-parenting-in-crisis/
Born in Pakistan (identity for refugees)	Madeeha Ansari for Dawn Newspaper	https://www.dawn.com/news/1788356/born-in-pakistan
Partners in Learning UK	Organisational	https://www.citiesforchildren.co/our-resources/partners-in-learning-uk-report-2024/
Seekho Sikhao Saathi - Inspiring Out of School Children to Learn	Organisational	https://www.citiesforchildren.co/our-resources/out-of-school-children-2024/
Seekho Sikhao Saathi - Girls Leading Learning	Video (organisational)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5fr6sGi1_A&t=4s

Key External Engagements

Event	Date	Detail
UNstoppable Women: Breaking Barriers	13 March 2024	Panel event around International Women's Day, organised by P3 Connect
"Humanising Data"	7 May 2024	Panelist at Cambridge Faculty for Education, event organised by the "Quant Group"

Key Fundraising efforts

- Big Give Christmas Challenge (£8972 raised)
- Community Iftar event and Ramadan Fundraising (almost £3,000 raised)
- Regents Park 10k run involving team of runners from one corporate organisation (5,899 raised)

Public Benefit Statement

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The section of this report below entitled 'Objectives and activities' sets out the objects and aims of the charity. The trustees have considered this, in conjunction with the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and have concluded that:

1) the aims of the charity continue to be charitable;
2) the work done by the charity gives identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both directly
   and
3) indirectly to individuals in need;
4) the benefits are for the public; not unreasonably restricted in any way;
5) there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.

Volunteers

The growth during this time can be attributed almost entirely to voluntary contributions in terms of time from our our trustees and Founder/CEO.

Financial review

During the period, the Charity received total income of £20k (2023: £48k). The charity incurred expenditure of £ 30 k (2023: £40.6k). The carried forward cash fund balance is £37.8k (2023: £47.7k).

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that the fund-raising plans in place are sufficiently robust to cover the next 12 months costs.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities 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 of the charity for that period. 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 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding

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the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

28 March 2025

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

……………………………………

Jetske Van Dijk

Chair

Docusign Envelope ID: DC081664-C0BB-4513-9D5C-CA609DFF2F07

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of CITIES FOR CHILDREN

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 May 2024 which are set out on pages 13 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of CITIES FOR CHILDREN 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 CITIES FOR CHILDREN '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 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 CITIES FOR CHILDREN as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

Nasir Rafiq

....
Nasir Rafiq
ICAEW

Dua Governance
123-131 Bradford Street
Bradford Court
Birmingham
B12 0NS

29 March 2025
Date:............................

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Receipts and Payments Accounts

From 1 June 2023 to 30 May 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts				
Donations	17,087	0	17,087	37,335
In-kind donations	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	0	5,290
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0
Consultancies	0	0	0	0
Zakat	0	3,073	3,073	5,361
Sub total	17,087	3,073	20,160	47,986
Assets and Investment sales	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	17,087	3,073	20,160	47,986
Payments				
Fundraising/Events	636	0	636	214
Project costs	13,751	13,588	27,340	37,184
Support costs	1,973	0	1,973	2,032
Governance costs	60	0	60	1,200
In-kind spend				
Evaluation Framework	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	16,420	13,588	30,009	40,630
Assets and Investment purchases	0	0	0	0
Total payments	16,420	13,588	30,009	40,630
Net of receipts/(payments)	**667**	**(10,515)**	**(9,849)**	**7,356**
Transfers between funds				
Cash funds last year end	36,254	11,442	47,697	40,341
Cash funds this year end	**36,921**	**927**	**37,848**	**47,697**

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CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 30 May 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash Funds			
Cash at Bank	37,848	37,848	47,697
Total Cash funds	37,848	37,848	47,697
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use			
Freehold Land & Building	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
Liabilities	420	420	360

28 March 2025
Approved by the Board on ………………………………. And signed on its behalf by:

……………………………………..
Jetske van Dijk
Chair

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Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 May 2024

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance.

(b) Charity status

Cities for Children is a CIO foundation and is a registered with the Charity Commission under the reference of 1170215.

(c) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted 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. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(d) Receipts

All incoming resources are included in the Receipt & payment Accounts when the charity actually receives legally entitled income.

(e) Payments

All expenditure is accounted for on payments basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Accounts

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Charity No. 1170215

cities for children

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 30 May 2023

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Contents

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Legal and Administrative Information

Charity number	1170215
Registered address	13 Wynnstay Gardens LONDON W8 6UP
Trustees	Jetske van Dijk (Chair – appointed 21 January 2023) Madeeha Ansari (stepped down as Chair 21 January 2023 into CEO role) Nabeela Ijaz Khan (Treasurer – appointed for a three-year term on 21 January 2023) David Walker (term renewed for three years on 20 January 2021) Cleo Fatoorehchi (Appointed on 17th March 2018) Ali Nabi Nur (Appointed 16 March 2023)
Bankers	Barclays Bank UK PLC

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 May 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 May 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a CIO Foundation and governed by a constitution dated 02 July 2016. The charity registered with the Charities Commission on the 16 November 2016 (Charity reg no 1170215).

Trustees are responsible of setting strategies and policies and for ensuring these are implemented.

Risk management

The charity's trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed potential risks. Systems and procedures have been put in place to manage the risks and to mitigate any adverse outcomes, and a risk register is being updated. A Child Safeguarding Policy is in place and has been adapted for work in both Pakistan and the UK.

Objectives and activities

Drawing from the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Cities for Children seeks to protect what we frame as the "right to a childhood" – the right to read, the right to play and the right to feel safe - for children facing the challenges of urban poverty. These include children from refugee and migrant backgrounds who experience risks of neglect, abuse, exploitation and exclusion from basic services like education.

Our model is based on partnering with small, under-resourced organisations giving crucial education or protection services to under-served children. We have been set up to improve the quality of what our partners offer through three interwoven strands of work, creating holistic programmes for child development and wellbeing:

- The Right to Read: non-formal education programming supporting literacy, numeracy and socioemotional learning particularly in early childhood.

- The Right to Play: structured recreation programmes, carefully designed to build socio-emotional skills and motivate children to continue learning.

- The Right to Feel Safe: resources and training to build adults' capacity to create safe and nurturing learning spaces, free from violence and corporal punishment.

Achievements and Performance

During this financial year, we continued to cement our footprint in Pakistan, bringing more team members on board and formalising our relationship with the locally registered entity, (registered as

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Chotay Shehri Education Foundation, operating name Cities for Children Pakistan). We were able to respond to the devastating floods in Pakistan in July 2022, working to support two Temporary Learning Centres that offered a crucial space for over 250 children to learn, play and recover.

Highlights

- Charity of the Year award from corporate partner, Alpha FMC who raised over 30,000 GBP for us exclusively and also contributed thousands of pounds worth of pro bono time to create a “pitch deck” and provide a cost-effective solution to our data visualisation challenges.
- Conducted two iterations of Partners in Learning, one piloting science content and one tailored to engage out-of-school refugee girls.
- Ran two Temporary Learning Centres with local partners in Sindh for 6 months.
- Took our first steps towards geographical expansion by partnering with a School of Sanctuary supporting refugee children in London.
- Launched second animation in “Maar Nahi Pyaar” series against corporal punishment, endorsed by the Child Rights Caucus of the Pakistan Parliament.

In detail:

a) Flood response

Overall cost this financial year: £ 7731

For this, we raised £2660 from a grant from Heart Valve Bank, £630 from Oxford University under the international WHO Parenting for Lifelong Health (PFLH) initiative) and raised the remaining amount from an emergency online crowdfunding campaign.

In 2022, Pakistan experienced one of the most destructive floods in its history, displacing nearly 8 million people across the country. In the immediate aftermath, Cities for Children partnered with Charity Doings Foundation (CDF) to offer **lifesaving relief packs** in Sindh province, including food rations, water-purifying tablets and mosquito repellent to prevent disease, and mats and water coolers.

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In the medium term, we partnered with two local organisations, to set up Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) for children displaced by these devastating floods in Umerkot and Hyderabad, Pakistan. Both populations consist of families from minority Hindu communities and have experienced multiple forms of vulnerability. Amidst this crisis and the complete vacuum of services for children in these two districts, our TLCs provided the affected children with respite from the stress and trauma of displacement, as well as the opportunity to play, connect with their peers, make friends, and stay connected to education, in a safe environment.

The **Umerkot TLC** (with CDF) served nearly 200 children in a remote rural settlement of internally displaced children and families from neighbouring districts. As a result of the camp's activities, our team witnessed the improvements in early literacy and language, numeracy, fine and gross motor skills and socioemotional learning. One parent revealed that "I used to be worried about my son but now he goes to school himself and studies. I know that he is going to make my name shine." Similarly, one child noted that "I want to be a doctor and that's why I listen carefully to the teachers. I want to treat people for free...If we don't study then how do we know what injections to give?" As these quotes demonstrate, the Umerkot TLCs were an invaluable solution to the flood crisis in Umerkot, that promoted lifelong learning and curiosity for children that would have otherwise had little access due to the flood crisis.

The **Hyderabad TLC** (with the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, SPARC) served as a drop-in space for over 100 children from an urban settlement who were affected by the floods and disruption to education, as schools were hosting displaced families. Here, communities faced the long-term challenges of urban poverty, made worse by the floods. The Hyderabad TLC is our evidence-based solution to this: through it, we have been able to bridge the education gap for these children to prevent them from missing out on early years learning opportunities. It provided a safe space that added both structure and routine to children's lives, and connected them with the possibility of changing their lives. We shared and adapted some of our flagship Partners in Learning curriculum for the teaching staff, which helped to engage children in playful early learning and associate positive experiences with learning. This curriculum was relatable, engaging and tailored to meet the unique skills and experiences of the children affected; support their learning, and equip them with resilience and the skills to succeed in their academics and life. As one TLC teacher revealed, "Previously, they [the parents] did not value schooling and thought that their children would do the same jobs as them. However, after their children's engagement with the center, parents come to us ask us how to get their children enrolled in government schools."

We were able to send our Programmes Consultant to conduct a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation visit in February 2023, and also to deliver training of staff to support parents in positive caregiving techniques under the WHO Parenting for Lifelong Health (PFLH) initiative. Further details on impact of the TLCs can be found in the highlights documents on our website: https://www.citiesforchildren.co/blog/temporarylearningcentres2023/

b) Partners in Learning and Pakistan operations expansion

Overall cost this financial year: £15,300.

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The transfer to the Pakistan entity has included programme costs for Partners in Learning (Seekho Sikhao Saathi) and Happy Hoods (Hansti Basti) as well as staff, admin, governance and communication (website) costs). A separate financial update on this will be submitted by the Pakistan entity in September 2023.

Partners in Learning
Since its pilot in 2020, Cities for Children has implemented the Seekho Sikhao Saathi program with three different partners Our various iterations of the program have reached over 3379 children across Pakistan and have created champions of education among Pakistan's urban slum communities. As of June 2023, the program has been offered 6 times, with each iteration providing unique and nuanced lessons that has helped to solidify the program's foundational design. Through this engagement, we have learnt the impact of direct coaching on honing Baray Saathi's leadership skills as well as their confidence and ability to express themselves.

- **Partners in Learning – Science Content – Sep-Dec 2022**

We completed the layout of our Partners in Learning materials including science content, which we then piloted with Junior Jinnah Trust school located in Burma Town, Islamabad. This featured 13 sessions focusing on socioemotional learning, building literacy and numeracy skills, and inculcating a curiosity of science in Chotay Saathi and Baray Saathi that aimed to nurture their relationship with the world around them.

This was the fifth iteration of Partners in Learning as a model, and second iteration of the programme at this school. We reached 49 "Little Partners" via 11 "Big Partners."

Big Partner Highlights

In this programme, a deliberate coaching element was added to support our 11 Baray Saathi in growing their socioemotional skills. Some key indicators of success were:

- 100% felt that they could make a change in their household, school or larger community
- 100% reported an increased motivation to learn in class

- All reported an increase in confidence
- 77% felt they could "manage children better"

Little Partner Highlights
For our 49 Little Partners, we looked at recall of key concepts e.g.

- 65% remembered the key details of how sound travels
- 83% remembered the important things plants need to grow
- 60% remembered all the stages of a butterfly's life cycle

- **<u>Partners in Learning – Re-engaging Girls – May 2023 onwards</u>**

In May 2023, Cities for Children launched its sixth iteration of the Partners in Learning programme, with the Pehli Kiran School (Number 4). The Pehli Kiran School System (PKSS) is run by a local non-profit organization that has been working in Islamabad to provide street-connected children with quality education free-of-cost. They establish flexible and mobile operations in urban slum communities that are excluded and marginalized. Their focus is on providing a unique holistic support to these communities where urban migrants reside and live in extremely challenging circumstances.

The core focus is to support female Big Partners from conservative Afghan refugee or Pakistani Pashtun backgrounds who have dropped out of school to re-enroll, and to develop socioemotional skills like agency and confidence. We are engaging alumni of previous Partners in Learning projects and particularly in this iteration, we have onboarded the Big Partners as "Teaching Assistants," providing a small stipend to them as a means of incentivizing them to return to the school space.

Happy Hoods

For the first time after COVID-19, we restarted our Happy Hoods community volunteering project. This kicked off with the open-air Pehli Kiran School No. 3 in May 2023, involving 90 children from grades 2 and 3 and a cohort of 25 volunteers from Bahria University. Further details will be shared in the next financial report.

c) Expanding programmes to the UK

With the unrestricted funds raised from Alpha FMC, we hired a part-time Programmes Officer in the UK and began a partnership with Newman Catholic College, a secondary School of Sanctuary in Brent. We began with running one workshop and funding another session run by Archimake for their Syria Summer Camp.

From April 2023, we have been tailoring and adapting our Partners in Learning programme to engage 13 boys from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds at NCC to deliver playful learning sessions to about 40 children at the Reception level at a local school, Harlesden Primary School. The project began with 4 sessions focused on the older boys, building their confidence and skills to become Big Partners and role models. They are now in the process of delivering 6 science and SEL sessions with the younger partners. We will be conducting impact evaluation activities in July 2023.

d) Advocacy and Thought Leadership

As part of our 'Maar Nahi Pyaar' (Care Don't Scare) series, we released our animation to address the culture of violence in schools and spaces of learning on April 30 2023, International Day to End Corporal Punishment. This was officially endorsed by the Child Rights Caucus and Mehnaz Akber Aziz, the Member of the National Assembly responsible for bringing in anti-corporal punishment legislation for schools in Islamabad Capital Territory. The boosted animation got over 29,000 views and 560 "likes" on Instagram, raising awareness of the impact of corporal punishment on children's mental health, academic performance and school retention as well as alternative teaching and behaviour management methodologies. This animation is to be accompanied by a written resource and practical training module, which are being developed.

<u>Publications</u>

Title and theme	**Publication**
Partners in Learning – Impact on Girls Report	Organisational
Temporary Learning Centre – Highlights documents	Organisational
Junior Jinnah Trust – Science and SEL Pilot report	Organisational
Maar Nahi Pyaar	Video (organisational)

Key External Engagements and Media Coverage

Event	**Date**	**Detail**
British Council Pakistan ext Gen Pakistan report UK roundtable	14 March 2023	Roundtable featuring key diaspora leaders, chaired by the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Youth Affairs

BAICE Media Hub	23 February 2023	**"Combatting a poverty of play: revisiting the global landscape of post-pandemic play and learning" – blog by Sabilah Eboo Alwani featuring our work and our participation in the Global Symposium on Post-Pandemic Play** https://baice.ac.uk/hub/combatting-a-poverty-of-play-revisiting-the-global-landscape-of-post-pandemic-play-and-learning/

Progress against strategic objectives

Cities for Children was set up to plug identified gaps in awareness as well as service provision for children in urban poverty, including but not limited to street-connected children from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

There was progress against each of the strategic objectives set out for the period 2020-23 and upon review we found that many of our KPIs had been achieved.

1. *Developing and expanding signature programmes that promote learning, play and wellbeing.* 1.1 Developing a model for program selection based on impact vs effort (measured as time, effort, power, resources.) 1.2 Expanding our work under the Right to Read, particularly through playful learning in early childhood. 1.3 Conducting evidence-based advocacy around the importance of the Right to Play and carving a thought leadership role. 1.4 Expanding our work under the "Right to Feel Safe" strand, particularly with regard to protection from violence.	We substantially expanded our playful programming under the Right to Read strand, refining our implementation of what is now our signature early childhood programme. We were able to build our niche in terms of creating resources to counter the practice of corporal punishment and ensure safety for children. We also developed ways of responding to humanitarian emergencies and urgent concerns for children to which Zakat funds can be directed in future.
2. *Capturing evidence* 2.1 Laying the grounds for gathering evidence of impact from the very beginning, in order to demonstrate credibility to our partners as well as future donors.	We have an evaluation framework for Partners in Learning and have developed further observation tools. We now have ways of presenting our impact particularly in the domain of socioemotional learning (SEL).

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>3. Communicating effectively

3.1 Building a niche and brand awareness in the sector by engaging with relevant networks and participating in events and conferences.

3.2 Documenting our work and communicating stories of impact.

3.3 Conducting advocacy through our research and our existing communication platforms, creating a case for supporting our priorities especially in terms of play and wellbeing.</td><td>We began work on a new website to improve the way our brand is communicated. We also began gathering compelling case studies from our work in the flood response and other programmes.

We have surpassed our targets for audience on social media channels like Instagram, particularly due to the positive response to the “Maar Nahi Pyaar” animation. We have built a niche as an organisation promoting playful learning as well as wellbeing and safety for children.</td></tr>
<tr><td>4. Fundraising for sustainability

4.1 Raising adequate resources through grants, community philanthropy and events.

4.2 Exploring channels for income generation.</td><td>We had large input in terms of voluntary support from the Founder and Trustees, but less in-kind and more material fundraising this year from diverse sources:
Over £30,000 raised through corporate partnership with Alpha FMC (Charity of the Year Award). This was done through a range of events organised in-house by Alpha FMC, including runs, an auction, art workshops etc. They were supported by CfC staff, and we kept staff members engaged through the year through a series of Lunch and Learn events and online engagement.
We obtained a £4660 in grants from trusts and foundations.
Community philanthropy –
Over £5,000 raised by a team of runners in the Asics 10k run
Over £5,000 of Zakat raised for flood response.</td></tr>
<tr><td>5. Organisation building

5.1 Setting up policies and systems to ensure smooth functioning, including recognition of risks.

5.2 identifying resources and recruiting personnel (for programmes, administration, finance, communications).</td><td>We invested in systems for the Pakistan entity, and had one part-time Programmes Officer for the UK and two for Pakistan. We also set up a finance function for each entity.</td></tr>
</table>

Public Benefit Statement

The section of this report below entitled 'Objectives and activities' sets out the objects and aims of the charity. The trustees have considered this, in conjunction with the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and have concluded that:

1) the aims of the charity continue to be charitable;
2) the work done by the charity gives identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both directly
   and
3) indirectly to individuals in need;
4) the benefits are for the public; not unreasonably restricted in any way;
5) there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.

Volunteers

The growth during this time can be attributed almost entirely to voluntary contributions in terms of time from our trustees, particularly the Chair during this year, and the following:

- Gillian Huang, who helped with communications and design.

Financial review

During the period, the Charity received total income of £48k (2022: £19.2k) which includes £0 of in-kind donations (2022: £750). The charity incurred expenditure of £40.6k (2022: £13.6k). The carried forward cash fund balance is £47.7k (2022: £40.3k).

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that the fund-raising plans in place are sufficiently robust to cover the next 12 months costs.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities 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 of the charity for that period. 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 accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

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- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

07 July 2023

This report was approved by the trustees on…………………….and signed on their behalf by:

……………………………………

Jetske Van Dijk

Chair

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CITIES FOR CHILDREN

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of CITIES FOR CHILDREN

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 May 2023 which are set out on pages 15 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of CITIES FOR CHILDREN 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 CITIES FOR CHILDREN '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 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 CITIES FOR CHILDREN as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

Nasir Rafiq

....

Nasir Rafiq
ICAEW

Dua Governance
123-131 Bradford Street
Bradford Court
Birmingham
B12 0NS

07 July 2023

Date:............................

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)
Receipts and Payments Accounts
From 1 June 2022 to 30 May 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts				
Donations	37,335		37,335	6,716
In-kind donations			0	750
Grant		5,290	5,290	10,000
Gift Aid			0	1,415
Consultancies			0	300
Zakat		5,361	5,361	0
Sub total	37,335	10,651	47,986	19,182
Assets and Investment sales			0	0
Total receipts	37,335	10,651	47,986	19,182
Payments				
Fundraising/Events	214		214	454
Project costs	26,533	10,651	37,184	10,366
Support costs	2,032		2,032	1,599
Governance costs	1,200		1,200	426
In-kind spend				
Evaluation Framework			0	750
Subtotal	29,979	10,651	40,630	13,595
Assets and Investment purchases				
Total payments	29,979	10,651	40,630	13,595
Net of receipts/(payments)	**7,356**	**0**	**7,356**	**5,587**
Transfers between funds				
Cash funds last year end	28,898	11,442	40,341	26,988
Cash funds this year end	**36,254**	**11,442**	**47,697**	**34,754**

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CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 30 May 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash Funds			
Cash at Bank	47,697	47,697	40,341
Total Cash funds	47,697	47,697	40,341
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use			
Freehold Land & Building	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
Liabilities	360	360	360

Approved by the Board on 07 July 2023 And signed on its behalf by:

……………………………………

Jetske van Dijk

Chair

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Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 May 2023

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance.

(b) Charity status

Cities for Children is a CIO foundation and is a registered with the Charity Commission under the reference of 1170215.

(c) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted 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. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(d) Receipts

All incoming resources are included in the Receipt & payment Accounts when the charity actually receives legally entitled income.

(e) Payments

All expenditure is accounted for on payments basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

CITIES FOR CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 1170215

Accounts

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Charity No. 1170215

cities for children

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 30 May 2022

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Contents

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Legal and Administrative Information

Charity number	1170215
Registered address	Flat 98 Artillery Mansions Victoria Street LONDON SW1H 0HY
Trustees	Madeeha Ansari (Chair – term renewed for three years on 20 January 2021) Nabeela Ijaz Khan (Treasurer – appointed for a three-year term on 11 January 2020) David Walker (term renewed for three years on 20 January 2021) Jetske van Dijk (Appointed for three-year term on 10 September 2019) Cleo Fatoorehchi (Appointed on 17th March 2018) Muneezay Jaffery (term renewed for three years on 11 January 2020)
Bankers	Barclays Bank UK PLC

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 May 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 May 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a CIO Foundation and governed by a constitution dated 02 July 2016. The charity registered with the Charities Commission on the 16 November 2016 (Charity reg no 1170215).

Trustees are responsible of setting strategies and policies and for ensuring these are implemented.

Risk management

The charity's trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed potential risks. Systems and procedures have been put in place to manage the risks and to mitigate any adverse outcomes, and a risk register is being maintained. A Child Safeguarding Policy is in place and has been adapted for work in both Pakistan and the UK.

Objectives and activities

Drawing from the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Cities for Children seeks to protect what we frame as the "right to a childhood" – the right to read, the right to play and the right to feel safe - for children facing the challenges of urban poverty. These include children from refugee and migrant backgrounds who experience risks of neglect, abuse, exploitation and exclusion from basic services like education.

Our model is based on partnering with small, under-resourced organisations giving crucial education or protection services to under-served children. We have been set up to improve the quality of what our partners offer through three interwoven strands of work, creating holistic programmes for child development and wellbeing:

- The Right to Read: non-formal education programming supporting literacy, numeracy and socioemotional learning particularly in early childhood.
- The Right to Play: structured recreation programmes, carefully designed to build socio-emotional skills and motivate children to continue learning.
- The Right to Feel Safe: resources and training to build adults' capacity to create safe and nurturing learning spaces, free from violence and corporal punishment.

Achievements and Performance

During this financial year, we emerged as a significant player offering innovative programmes as well as insights into rights for street-connected children in Pakistan. Not only did we expand our Partners in Learning programme content to include experiential science sessions with the support of the Montessori Centre International, we also launched the first national level policy brief on street-connected children in collaboration with the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) and UNICEF. We spent time working on the quality of our programmes and evaluation processes, and further improved on our Partners in Learning delivery with a new partner school in Islamabad. In addition, our sister entity was formally registered in Pakistan as a non-profit company under the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in October 2021.

<u>Highlights</u>

- £10,000 grant received from Montessori Centre International to redesign Partners in Learning materials and curate science content.

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- Action planning sessions with practitioners and policy-makers generated recommendations for national policy brief on rights for street-connected children, which can be used for further advocacy.
- Partners in Learning programme taken to a new partner within Islamabad, Junior Jinnah Trust, engaging 60 children and creating a refined evaluation framework.
- Subject specialist (Science Fuse) engaged to curate experiential science content.
- Second animation in "Maar Nahi Pyaar" (Care Don't Scare) series initiated to address the culture of violence and corporal punishment in classrooms, as a follow-up to the positive caregiving animation and resources created during lockdown.
- Thought leadership role expanded through engagement in several events, including a presentation in the Global Symposium on Post-pandemic Play at Cambridge Faculty of Education.
- First appearance on broadcast media in Pakistan, on a major talk show.
- First major corporate partnership secured with UK consultancy Alpha FMC, that awarded us the Charity of the Year for 2022-2023. This will help us achieve fundraising targets and enable our plans for scaleup in the UK.

In detail:

a) Right to Read

Overall costs this financial year: £6,427.68.[1]

- **Building Quality Content - Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

Partners in Learning programme content already included a number of literacy, numeracy and sensory-motor play-based sessions, in Urdu and English, that were a combination of the Child to Child Getting Ready for School programme and Cities for Children original content. With the help of MCI, we worked to achieve the target of "Building Quality Content" to expand the scope of its subject content for the Partners in Learning program, contribute to the development of the "whole child" and have a set of science resources that can be easily tailored for programmes in different settings. We also wanted to conduct an internal review of our content, identify any gaps and have it professionally designed and laid out for future scaleup.

- **Junior Jinnah Trust project - Impact on Older Children**

Between December 2021 and March 2022, we implemented a 10-week iteration of Partners in Learning with Junior Jinnah Trust (JJT) that runs a school on the outskirts of Islamabad, in Burma Town. These are children at risk of dropping out of school, with parental income often depending on daily-wage labour, street hawking, or garbage and scrap collection. We ran the programme with 10 older children giving playful learning sessions to 50 younger children across three preschool classes.

In this as in the previous iterations of the programme, we saw significant difference in the younger children's foundational skills – e.g.

  - For Playgroup students, ability to count from 1-10 rose from 0% to 92%.
  - KG students showed improvement in "talking about a story," as the students at the highest level in this went from 21% to 65%.

However, there was also emphasis on closely monitoring Socio-emotional learning (SEL) for older children. There is evidence that SEL programmes lead to better academic outcomes in the long run, and we wanted to tap the leadership potential in JJT students. For this we continued to utilise the CASEL framework to analyse impact on various domains of socioemotional learning, particularly self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship skills. The Big Partners' responses to focus group discussions and a body-mapping tool were clustered according to these. Some illustrative responses pointing to key themes are shared below.

  - "In the beginning of the sessions, I was scared about how I would do it, everything seemed hard. But now I think nothing is hard and I am more confident. Now it feels like I can do anything. Nothing is too hard unless we make it hard." (Body Maps)

  - "I used to think that I won't be able to do the session, but when I did the activities I got to learn a lot." (Body Maps)

[1] The budget line "Project costs" in the accounts includes additional staff costs that were spread over the different strands of work.

- "At first I used to be angry at everything, was not able to control my anger and I used to hit when I was angry. Now I think first, I think that I want to respect everyone even if they are older or younger and I want to be nice to them." (Body Maps)
- "I learned how hard the job of a teacher is and how hard it is to make kids understand something. I also realized what I can do for the kids of this country." (Weekly Reflection)
- "Talking with respect helps, if you talk with anger then Chotay Saathi will respond with anger too." (FGD)

Lessons learnt:

- CfC in-person visits made a difference, as the programme was adapted according to observations.
- Teacher engagement and buy-in was key, particularly their open-mindedness to playful learning ideas.
- School management buy-in was key for programme success.
- More can be done to refine the evaluation framework and hone in on the specific socioemotional competencies we are looking to impact through the programme.

b) Right to Feel Safe

Overall cost this financial year: £1380

As the next component of our 'Maar Nahi Pyaar' (Care Don't Scare) series, we designed an animation to address the culture of violence in schools and spaces of learning, raising awareness of the impact of corporal punishment on children's mental health, academic performance and school retention as well as alternative teaching and behaviour management methodologies. This animation is to be accompanied by a written resource and practical training module, for which we began the process of exploring partnerships and had conversations with multiple stakeholders including the Global Partnership to End Violence. The next steps on this will be taken in the next financial year.

c) Advocacy and thought leadership

Overall cost this financial year: £2231

- **Policy events**

As part of our "Mera Haq Hai" (My right is…") campaign launched in the previous financial year, we created an animation as a public service message illustrating the barriers faced by street-connected children in accessing education.

Continuing on the advocacy work funded by the Consortium for Street Children in the last financial year, we hosted a **two-part policy event entitled "Policy Meets Practice,"** bringing together civil society with representatives from government and Parliament. We facilitated an action-planning exercise with civil society to generate key recommendations on education and protection for street-connected children, then collaborated with the SDGs Secretariat in Parliament to hold a roundtable discussion sharing these action points. Further information is available on our website (https://www.citiesforchildren.co/blog/policy-meets-practice/).

- **Policy brief**

Following this, we were approached by the **National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) to author a policy brief** on street-connected children in Pakistan. This was launched in collaboration with the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) and UNICEF, on 21st April at Margalla Hotel, Islamabad**.** The event was attended by over 150 guests including activists, civil society and government officials, as well as senior journalists. It was widely covered by broadcast as well as print media – the collated links to print media coverage from Dawn News, Gulf News and more (link below). While we agreed to do this project pro bono, we are hopeful that this will lead to further earned income in the future. This document will be a useful tool to garner support among policymakers to take the recommendations forward.

Publications

Title and theme	Date of publication	Publication	Link

Teachers' Power – op-ed addressing the culture of corporal punishment in classrooms	27 June 2021	Dawn newspaper (print)	https://www.dawn.com/news/1631751
Choosing the Street – op-ed on rights-based approach for street-connected children	22 March 2022	Dawn newspaper (print)	https://www.dawn.com/news/1681250/choosing-the-street
Street-Connected Children in Pakistan: Education and Protection Challenges	21 April 2022	Policy brief (print)	https://www.citiesforchildren.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Policy-Brief-on-Street-Connected-Children.pdf

Key External Engagements and Media Coverage

Event	Date	Detail
Appearance on "Zara Hat Kay" talk show, Dawn News channel	16 June 2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AonGwkqzsYw
Global Symposium on Post-pandemic play at Cambridge Faculty of Education	3 March 2022	Founder and Chair Madeeha Ansari was one of 11 speakers including representation from the Lego Foundation and the BRAC Institute of Educational Development (Bangladesh). This two-part symposium focused on how play can be incorporated into global post-COVID work with young children and their families and communities. The symposia were hosted virtually by the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge, with institutional support from Cambridge's REAL and PEDAL Centres, UCL's Centre for Education and International Development, BRAC University, and Early Start at the University of Wollongong. This year-long project was supported with a funding grant from BAICE. Recording available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aR92GQIEWU
Media coverage of NCRC policy brief launch event	21 April 2022	Collated links from national and international media coverage available here: https://linktr.ee/citiesforchildren

Progress against strategic objectives

Cities for Children was set up to plug identified gaps in awareness as well as service provision for children in urban poverty, including but not limited to street-connected children from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

There was progress against each of the strategic objectives set out for the period 2020-23:

1. *Developing and expanding signature programmes that promote learning, play and wellbeing.*	We substantially expanded our playful programming under the Right to Read strand, refining our implementation of what is now our signature early childhood programme.

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1.1 Developing a model for program selection based on impact vs effort (measured as time, effort, power, resources.) 1.2 Expanding our work under the Right to Read, particularly through playful learning in early childhood. 1.3 Conducting evidence-based advocacy around the importance of the Right to Play and carving a thought leadership role. 1.4 Expanding our work under the "Right to Feel Safe" strand, particularly with regard to protection from violence.	We also continued evidence-based advocacy by engaging with key national stakeholders, writing in mainstream media and communicating our ethos via social media. We were able to build our niche in terms of creating resources to counter the practice of corporal punishment and ensure safety for children. We also revisited our Theory of Change and added in a "policy" strand of work that encompasses our advocacy and policy work.
2. Capturing evidence 2.1 Laying the grounds for gathering evidence of impact from the very beginning, in order to demonstrate credibility to our partners as well as future donors.	For Partners in Learning, we developed an evaluation framework with our advisors and board that we have now further refined, based on our experience. We have created internal reports with lessons learnt, fed back to our partners and also laid out results in ways that we can share with donors.
3. Communicating effectively 3.1 Building a niche and brand awareness in the sector by engaging with relevant networks and participating in events and conferences. 3.2 Documenting our work and communicating stories of impact. 3.3 Conducting advocacy through our research and our existing communication platforms, creating a case for supporting our priorities especially in terms of play and wellbeing.	Our communication and policy advocacy efforts have culminated in the term "street-connected" being widely used to describe children who live or work on the streets in Pakistan. Our policy brief with the NCRC, "Street-connected children in Pakistan: Education and Protection Challenges" is being used as a key document in ongoing multistakeholder advocacy efforts for these children.

4. Fundraising for sustainability
 	
4.1 Raising adequate resources through grants, community philanthropy and events.
 	
4.2 Exploring channels for income generation.
	We had large input in terms of voluntary support from the Founder and Trustees, but less in-kind and more material fundraising this year.
	• We obtained a £10,000/- grant Montessori Centre International
	• Community philanthropy –
	    ○ Zakat donations and core costs donations
	    ○ Contribution to core costs via three runners in the Battersea Run
	• Short consultancy with the Nun Academy in Jeddah (£300 of earned income)
	• Financial sustainability ensured for the next year through the Alpha FMC Charity of the Year Award.

5. Organisation building 5.1 Setting up policies and systems to ensure smooth functioning, including recognition of risks.	Our sister entity in Pakistan was registered in October 2021, to streamline in-country project implementation. We set up a Board of Directors, worked on formalising the relationship between the two entities and hired our first in-country Programmes Support Officer.

5.2 identifying resources and recruiting personnel (for programmes, administration, finance, communications).	

Public Benefit Statement

The section of this report below entitled 'Objectives and activities' sets out the objects and aims of the charity. The trustees have considered this, in conjunction with the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and have concluded that:

1) the aims of the charity continue to be charitable;
2) the work done by the charity gives identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both directly and
3) indirectly to individuals in need;
4) the benefits are for the public; not unreasonably restricted in any way;
5) there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.

Volunteers

The growth during this time can be attributed almost entirely to voluntary contributions in terms of time from our trustees, particularly the Chair during this year, and the following:

- Development Intern Ruby Blower, who played a key role in programme development and fundraising
- Communications Intern Noor Khan
- Communications Intern Ushna Azeem, who helped us secure the Charity of the Year Award
- Evaluation Advisor Ali Nabi Nur, who contributed in-kind services worth £750.
- Business development advisor Aneeq Cheema, who contributed in-kind services worth £300.

Financial review

During the period, the Charity received total income of £19.2k (2021: £16.2k) which includes £750 of in-kind donations (2021: £750). The charity incurred expenditure of £13.6k (2021: £8.4k). The carried forward cash fund balance is £40.3k (2021: £34.8k).

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that the fund-raising plans in place are sufficiently robust to cover the next 12 months costs.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities 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 of the charity for that period. 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;

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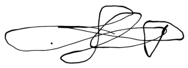
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

30 maart 2023

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



…………………………………….

Jetske van Dijk

Trustee

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CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)
Receipts and Payments Accounts
From 1 June 2021 to 30 May 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts				
Donations	4,880	1,836	6,716	2,318
In-kind donations	750		750	750
Grant		10,000	10,000	13,130
Gift Aid	1,415		1,415	0
Consultancies	300		300	0
Sub total	7,346	11,836	19,182	16,197
Assets and Investment sales			0	0
Total receipts	7,346	11,836	19,182	16,197
Payments				
Fundraising/Events	454		454	61
Project costs	4,311	6,055	10,366	6,655
Support costs	1,599		1,599	606
Governance costs	426		426	360
In-kind spend				
Evaluation Framework	750		750	750
Subtotal	7,540	6,055	13,595	8,432
Assets and Investment purchases				
Total payments	7,540	6,055	13,595	8,432
Net of receipts/(payments)	**-194**	**5,781**	**5,587**	**7,765**
Transfers between funds				
Cash funds last year end	29,092	5,662	34,754	26,988
Cash funds this year end	**28,898**	**11,442**	**40,341**	**34,754**

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 30 May 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Cash Funds			
Cash at Bank	40,341	40,341	34,754
Total Cash funds	40,341	40,341	34,754
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use			
Freehold Land & Building	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
Liabilities	360	360	360

30 maart 2023

Approved by the Board on ……………………………… And signed on its behalf by:

……………………………………

Jetske van Dijk

Trustee

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 May 2022

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

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All incoming resources are included in the Receipt & payment Accounts when the charity actually receives legally entitled income.

(e) Payments

All expenditure is accounted for on payments basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 May 2022

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Accounts

Charity No. 1170215

cities for children

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 30 May 2021

Contents

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Bankers	Barclays Bank UK PLC

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 May 2021

The Trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 May 2021.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a CIO Foundation and governed by a constitution dated 02 July 2016. The charity registered with the Charities Commission on the 16 November 2016 (Charity reg no 1170215).

Trustees are responsible of setting strategies and policies and for ensuring these are implemented.

Risk management

The charity's trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed potential risks. Systems and procedures have been put in place to manage the risks and to mitigate any adverse outcomes, and a risk register is being maintained. A Child Protection Policy has existed since 2016 and is being updated to a Child Safeguarding Policy for Board Approval in the next financial year.

Objectives and activities

Drawing from the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Cities for Children seeks to protect what we frame as the "right to a childhood" – the right to read, the right to play and the right to feel safe - for children facing the challenges of urban poverty. These include children from refugee and migrant backgrounds who experience risks of neglect, abuse, exploitation and exclusion from basic services like education.

Our model is based on partnering with small, under-resourced organisations giving crucial education or protection services to under-served children. We have been set up to improve the quality of what our partners offer through three interwoven strands of work, creating holistic programmes for child development and wellbeing:

- The Right to Read: education support, particularly through provision of books and materials that can constitute real barriers to accessing school.

- The Right to Play: structured recreation programmes, carefully designed to build socio-emotional skills and motivate children to continue attendance at places of learning.

- The Right to Feel Safe: staff capacity building to offer psychosocial support to children facing the trauma of displacement and stressors of urban poverty.

Achievements and Performance

During this financial year, we demonstrated the ability to adapt to an uncertain and rapidly changing world, as evidenced by our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdowns in 2020 disproportionately affected children in urban poverty, with economic pressures and school closures threatening their connection with learning as well as a safe and carefree childhood. Our "Seekho Sikhao Saathi" or "Partners in Learning" programme was piloted in Pakistan as a response to school closures, for children without access to digital learning options. Through this, we engaged over 1300 children in playful learning sessions that supported positive mental health as well as maintained a connection with education, for children at risk of dropping out. We also began our foray into advocacy for street-connected children, and held high-level events engaging policy-makers including the Minister for Human Rights in Pakistan.

Highlights

- "Partners in Learning" piloted across eight Pehli Kiran Schools during the uncertainty of COVID-19
- A version of "Partners in Learning" taken to a Malala Fund school in the rural Shangla valley in partnership with Zindagi Trust
- Positive caregiving animation and resources created to address the rise in protection risks for children during lockdown
- Thought leadership role expanded through engagement in several online events, including a webinar we co-hosted with British Council on the "Role of Play in Education"
- Grant from the Consortium for Street Children for formal advocacy activities in this and the next financial year
- Grant from Montessori Group to expand Partners in Learning

In detail:

a) Right to Read

Total costs on this strand of work were £5,413.15. This was achieved initially with minimal resources through crowdfunding for the pilot and obtaining a seed grant from SAPChangemakerXchange. The MCI grant was used for the second iteration with PKSS in the same financial year.

This financial year we implemented the Partners in Learning (Seekho Sikhao Saathi) programme with two partners. This was based on a tried and tested Child to Child school readiness programme in which older children between 10-14 years (who we called "Baray Saathi" or "Big Partners) were trained to deliver early learning sessions to preschool aged children ("Little Partners") in safe ways within their communities. We adapted the content to infuse our own ethos of playful learning; Montessori principles including sensory-motor learning; and local stories and materials.

The first iteration (June-August 2020) was in partnership with the Pehli Kiran School System (PKSS) in Islamabad, a network of eight nonformal schools serving children from refugee, migrant and internally displaced communities. We also implemented a shorter version of the programme with Zindagi Trust in the remote Shangla valley. While this was beyond the scope of "children in cities," the Board decided to move ahead in order to build a new strategic partnership and also to test the viability of delivering in a rural location. This was particularly powerful in terms of drawing upon the agency of children to become **champions of learning in their communities during a difficult time.** The playful ethos also added value, with many of the activities being built on the premise that "happy memories build resilience" for children.

The programme had several levels of impact:

- For "Little Partners," there was demonstrable impact particularly on numeracy during the pilot with PKSS, when there was no other form of learning available. Other domains of impact that were tracked in a baseline and endline assessment included literacy, motor skills and socioemotional skills, with some of the most significant results at the playgroup level where the number of children who:
  - Could count to 1-10 more than doubled.
  - Could interpret a 3-step story more than doubled.
  - Could sort objects by shape rose by 60%.

- For Big Partners, weekly reflection records and focus group discussions showed gains in socioemotional competencies. Some of the major themes identified were self-confidence, leadership, group management, empathy and problem-solving.
  - *'First I couldn't speak in front of other people. When I stayed with the kids and saw their confidence, I got confidence in me too.'*
  - *'First, my heart did not want to be a Big Partner. Now that I have been teaching the kids my heart says I want to stay with them.'*

- At the school and community level, there was a change in adults' perceptions of what children could achieve. In addition, many non-literate parents were engaged in their children's learning for the first time, as they were brought on board to supervise the sessions in a safeguarding role.
  - Parents' views of Big Partners changed and they started to view them more as "Grown Up".
  - *'Now they are more responsible and aware of being on time.'* - Mother
  - *'The kids had a routine and a mindset to learn. We also had a lot of new admission*s.' Principal Pehli Kiran School 2

- *'We learnt many things as a Bara Saathi. I learnt that I too can teach which means that I can become a teacher when I grow up*.' - Bari Saathi in Shangla Girls School
- The outgoing Acting School Director, Anam Palla, shared during the course of the project that ***this had been one of the most meaningful interventions they had undertaken during this time.***

Programme success was also shown by uptake - PKSS asked for a second iteration, delivered in May-June 2021 in which the **teachers stepped up to co-create content** in keeping with their learning priorities. This iteration had a greater emphasis on literacy and storytelling.

Lessons learnt:

- Delivery was tailored for each school context, and we learnt we needed to strike a balance between giving our partners the autonomy to adapt the programme according to their needs while also ensuring that certain standards were adhered to in terms of safeguarding, COVID-19 protocols and the principles of children's participation as well as playful learning.
- We developed an evaluation framework with support from the board and advisors, and in future want to build in more data collection around the impact on Big Partners - particularly in terms of agency and wellbeing.
- We offered a high level of support to partners on a weekly basis with calls and check-ins, but realised the need for having our own local programme staff.
- Weekly in-person touchpoints for Big Partners with teachers were seen as crucial for programme quality - while also offering constant support to teachers from the CfC side. With Zindagi Trust, lockdown in the valley meant that the support for Big Partners was entirely virtual (via Whatsapp), with weaker engagement from parents. While it was still a feat for the Big Partners to have delivered the programme in difficult circumstances, there were higher challenges and threats to programme quality. The project was especially valuable for the older girls who tapped into their own agency and perseverance to complete the program during a time of complete lockdown and no in-person support.

b) Right to Play

This year due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic we could not implement new iterations of the Happy Hoods programme. However, we included an element of play within the Partners in Learning programme, through games, story-telling, poems and the use of creative materials like playdough.

We continued to build our niche as thought leaders in the realm of playful learning, through engagement in multiple events and conferences. In August, we partnered with British Council Pakistan to co-host a webinar on the "Role of Play in Education," engaging Dr. Paul Ramchandani, Lego Professor of Play, Development and Learning at Cambridge University as well as Ms. Umbreen Arif, Education Advisor to the Federal Government of Pakistan. Through this - the first event of its kind on this theme in Pakistan - we had a ground-breaking conversation exploring the rationale behind promoting wellbeing for children in education, and how playful methods can help reinforce learning. We were also approached later in the year to present at multiple prestigious online events including the Keeping Children Safe Annual Conference; a Montessori Centre International webinar and the Consortium for Street Children Annual Conference 2020.

c) Right to Feel Safe

Overall cost this financial year: £641.36.

As a response to rising protection risks during COVID-19, we created a pack of positive caregiving resources and launched a campaign called 'Maar Nahi Pyaar' (Care Don't Scare). with the aim of building a case against violence and a case for love. This acknowledged the rise in parenting and caregiving responsibilities due to school closures, and the increased stress that the pandemic placed on the family unit. The animation and resources provided the rationale for positive caregiving, along with simple, practical strategies and alternatives to corporal punishment.

The campaign launching the animation and resource coincided with landmark legislation being passed against corporal punishment in Islamabad Capital Territory, and were widely shared and appreciated. After its release website visits spiked, with 80% of visits being from new individuals. During the two week campaign, our tweets earned 18.2K impressions and on Instagram, the number of accounts reached increased by 34%. At the same time, we were able to write in Pakistani mainstream media and communicate more widely about the importance of combining legislation with training, support, and resources for both parents and teachers to change the culture around corporal punishment.

Both the animation and online resources had Twitter engagement from relevant organisations globally, including the Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment, the Global Partnership to End Violence and Zindagi Trust (leading the charge against corporal punishment in Pakistan). The animation was also shared in Whatsapp groups/networks of teachers, in the Maple Advisory Group (international group for education practitioners) and used by researchers to facilitate discussions with teachers. It led to interest from The Citizens Foundation (TCF), the biggest education non-profit in Pakistan. They made an offer for collaboration, as a training session resource for teachers. We are now exploring developing the animation into a series, with the next one focusing on positive caregiving in the classroom.

d) Advocacy and thought leadership

Overall cost this financial year: £600.40.

- **Campaigns:** We started engaging in advocacy in response to what we saw as violations of the rights of street-connected children during the pandemic. Not only did we contribute opinion pieces in mainstream media, but also conducted a "Myth-buster" campaign challenging stereotypes in November 2020, linked to Universal Children's Day.

- **Engaging policymakers:** On 12 April 2021 – International Day for Street Children – Cities for Children along with the Special Parliamentary Group on the SDGs in Pakistan held a national consultation to review policies related to street-connected children and how best to support "Access for Street Children." The event was supported by the Consortium for Street Children, framed with a view to understanding who "street children" are, and how to facilitate access to fundamental rights, in particular access to education and justice. The event was moderated by Hon. MNA and Convenor of the Child Rights Group Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz, with keynote speakers being the Hon. Minister for Human Rights, Dr. Shireen Mazari and the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Mr. Hamza Shafqaat.

- **Documentary video:** For the policymaker event we created and released a short documentary video capturing some of the lived experiences of street-connected children in Pakistan, with a special focus on how the pandemic has impacted their lives. This was important in bringing the voices of "street children" into the "room" with policy-makers, highlighting their challenges in accessing justice and promoting empathy and a rights-based approach. The video is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uypucFKCis

Publications

Title and theme	**Date of publication**	**Publication**	**Link**
Protecting Childhood – mental health and play	July 3, 2020	Dawn newspaper (print)	http://www.citiesforchildren.co/protecting-childhood/
Criminalizing Poverty - Advocacy for street-connected children	November 4, 2020	Dawn (print)	http://www.citiesforchildren.co/criminalizing-poverty/
A case for love - Positive caregiving	February 28, 2021	Dawn (print)	http://www.citiesforchildren.co/a-case-for-love/
Changing the story - Advocacy for street-connected children	April 25, 2021	Dawn (print)	http://www.citiesforchildren.co/changing-the-story/

Events that we presented in:

Event	**Date**	**Detail**
Role of play in Education (British	4 August 2020	Co-hosted with British Council Pakistan, and moderated by

council, co-hosted)		Chair/Founder Madeeha, with panelists Dr. Paul Ramchandani (LEGO Professor of Play at Cambridge University); Umbreen Arif (Government Education Advisor); and Nishat Riaz MBE (British Council).
ITA webinar on "Early Years Learning in COVID-19: Global Response and Adaptations in Pakistan"	4 August 2020	Panel included representatives from government, regional ECD networks, academics from NYU and the Lego Foundation. Was given the opportunity as a "spotlight speaker" to present on Partners in Learning along at the end.
Beaconhouse "School of Tomorrow" Conference Panel on Supporting vulnerable & SEN learners during school closures: Negotiating Access and Inclusive Learning for All	12 July 2020	On panel including Maggie Atkinson, former Children's Commissioner for England, award-winning novelist Mohsin Hamid. Shared our experience in supporting learning for vulnerable children.
Keeping Children Safe (KCS) Summit	7 October 2020	Presented a webinar on "Protecting Childhood" – Engaging caregivers in safeguarding and encouraging children's participation through "Partners in Learning"
LSE Alumni event – "Innovating your Future"	30 July 2020	Spoke to current LSE students about careers in international development
Consortium for Street Children Conference	2 November 2020	Delivered a presentation and hosted an interactive session on "Innovative approaches to learning and wellbeing for Street Children"
MCI- Talking Montessori – Cities for Children	19 November 2020	Presented our work on ECD in a webinar with the Montessori group
National Parliamentarians' Consultation on International Day for Street Children	12 April 2021	Virtual consultation co-hosted with the Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat, engaging policy-makers and government officials in Pakistan
Teach for Pakistan- Learning to Lead	30 April 2021	Hosted session and presented on early childhood work for Teach for Pakistan Fellows and Alumni
"The Right" Podcast – Research Society of International Law (RSIL)	May 2021	Invited as a speaker on child rights and a rights-based approach for street-connected children

<u>Progress against strategic objectives</u>

Cities for Children was set up to plug identified gaps in awareness as well as service provision for children in urban poverty, including but not limited to street-connected children from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

There was progress against each of the strategic objectives set out for the period 2020-23:

1. *Developing and expanding signature programmes that promote learning, play and wellbeing.* 1.1 Developing a model for program selection based on impact vs effort (measured as time, effort, power, resources.)	We substantially expanded our playful programming under the Right to Read strand, piloting several iterations of what is now our signature early childhood programme. We also continued evidence-based advocacy by engaging in international events and webinars, writing in mainstream media and communicating our ethos via social media.

1.2 Expanding our work under the Right to Read, particularly through playful learning in early childhood. 1.3 Conducting evidence-based advocacy around the importance of the Right to Play and carving a thought leadership role. 1.4 Expanding our work under the “Right to Feel Safe” strand, particularly with regard to protection from violence.	Finally, we were able to work on the safety strand for the first time since our initial mental health workshops, and through the “Maar Nahi Pyaar” animation and resource have laid the basis for future work.
2. Capturing evidence 2.1 Laying the grounds for gathering evidence of impact from the very beginning, in order to demonstrate credibility to our partners as well as future donors.	For Partners in Learning, we developed an evaluation framework with our advisors and board that we have now further refined, based on our experience. We have created internal reports with lessons learnt, fed back to our partners and also laid out results in ways that we can share with donors.
3. Communicating effectively 3.1 Building a niche and brand awareness in the sector by engaging with relevant networks and participating in events and conferences. 3.2 Documenting our work and communicating stories of impact. 3.3 Conducting advocacy through our research and our existing communication platforms, creating a case for supporting our priorities especially in terms of play and wellbeing.	Since all communication moved online during this financial year, we worked on building our thought leadership role. We participated actively as presenters in 10 events, sharing our work and impact. Our advocacy focus shifted from a focus on learning and wellbeing to promoting a rights-based approach to street-connected children, in response to the emergence of what we saw as problematic policies. We also explored an effective new medium of communication, investing in our first animation and documentary video.
4. Fundraising for sustainability 4.1 Raising adequate resources through grants, community philanthropy and events. 4.2 Exploring channels for income generation.	We had large input in terms of voluntary support from the Founder and Trustees, but less in-kind and more material fundraising this year. We obtained our first grants from SAP as well as Montessori Centre International, and also received Zakat donations. The fundraising in this year enabled us to hire our first staff members in the next financial year.
5. Organisation building 5.1 Setting up policies and systems to ensure smooth functioning, including recognition of risks. 5.2 identifying resources and recruiting personnel (for programmes, administration, finance, communications).	We set up a process for recruitment in the next financial year.

<u>Public Benefit Statement</u>

The section of this report below entitled 'Objectives and activities' sets out the objects and aims of the charity. The trustees have considered this, in conjunction with the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and have concluded that:

1) the aims of the charity continue to be charitable;
2) the work done by the charity gives identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both directly and
3) indirectly to individuals in need;
4) the benefits are for the public; not unreasonably restricted in any way;
5) there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.

<u>Volunteers</u>

The growth during this time can be attributed almost entirely to voluntary contributions in terms of time from our trustees, and the following:

- Development Intern Nawaal Zareef contributed essential programme support for Partners in Learning
- Data Analysis Volunteer Zehra Mohsin enabled the quantitative analysis of results from Partners in Learning
- Research Intern Hajra Khan helped us with our campaign and rights-based advocacy for street-connected children

Financial review

During the period, the Charity received total income of £16.2k (2020: £21.4k). Income includes in-kind donations of £750 (2020: £6k). The charity incurred expenditure of £8.4k (2020: £10.2k). The carried forward cash fund balance is £35k (2020: £27k).

Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that the fundraising plans in place are sufficiently robust to cover the next 12 months costs.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

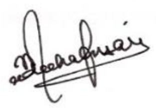
The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities 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 of the charity for that period. 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 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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 on…28 March 2022……….and signed on their behalf by:



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Madeeha Ansari

Trustee

CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Receipts and Payments Accounts

From 1 June 2020 to 30 May 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts				
Voluntary Donations	772	1,546	2,318	8,330
Events			0	4,885
In-kind donations	750		750	6,070
Grant	3,000	10,130	13,130	761
Gift Aid			0	1,376
Sub total	4,522	11,675	16,197	21,421
Assets and Investment sales	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	4,522	11,675	16,197	21,421
Payments				
Fundraising/Events	61		61	52
Project costs (Animations)	641	6,014	6,655	1,872
Support costs	606		606	2,160
Governance costs	360		360	0
In-kind spend				
Evaluation Framework	750		750	0
Videos			0	420
Consultation			0	1,200
Montessori course			0	750
Trustee Travel			0	700
Legal advice			0	3,000
Subtotal	2,418	6,014	8,432	10,154
Assets and Investment purchases			0	0
Total payments	2,418	6,014	8,432	10,154
Net of receipts/(payments)	**2,104**	**5,662**	**7,765**	**11,267**
Transfers between funds				
Cash funds last year end	26,988	-	26,988	15,721
Cash funds this year end	**29,092**	**5,662**	**34,754**	**26,988**

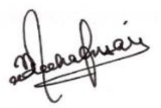
CITIES FOR CHILDREN (Reg. 1170215)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 30 May 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Cash Funds			
Cash at Bank	34,754	34,754	26,988
Total Cash funds	34,754	34,754	26,988
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use			
Freehold Land & Building	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
Liabilities	360	360	360

Approved by the Board on ………28 March 2022………………. And signed on its behalf by:



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Madeeha Ansari

Trustee

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 May 2021

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance.

(b) Charity status

Cities for Children is a CIO foundation and is a registered with the Charity Commission under the reference of 1170215.

(c) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted 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. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(d) Receipts

All incoming resources are included in the Receipt & payment Accounts when the charity actually receives legally entitled income.

(e) Payments

All expenditure is accounted for on payments basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.