

Levels

Annual Report

2021



Welcome to Level's Annual Report for 2021

A YEAR OF PIVOTING

We couldn't have imagined a situation that would see our face-to-face work stopped for 18 months and counting.

We've spent the last 5 years advocating for communities to be involved in co-designing services and community development events and providing direct support to older people, families with complex needs, and children.

We were just starting to fight for sustainable and increased funding, always making the case for individuals who would otherwise be isolated, when we got abruptly stopped in our tracks and had to adapt our ways of working. Levels was never set up to work in isolation, it is meant to function within communities and networks of support.

We have, once again adapted to our new working environment, with training and encouragement and the continued support from many partner organisations to continually improve and expand the reach of our virtual presence.

As an organisation, we are still emerging from the challenges brought about by the impact of the pandemic, which has disproportionately affected individuals and communities that already face disadvantage and inequality.

This makes our work mobilising practical community action against social isolation and poverty more important than ever before.

The fact that we still exist tells us that the years of advocacy, networking and mutual support within our sector have paid off.

Despite the circumstances, we have continued to coordinate and deliver some wonderful projects and initiatives to ensure members of our communities had the support they needed during this challenging time.

This review highlights some of our projects that helped communities during the pandemic. It also illustrates how we found new ways to deliver services, introducing distance learning and creating a new online presence with new ways to share information.

As always, there is a silver lining, and we are immensely grateful for it. Our core support networks remain intact, and the larger Community and Voluntary Sector has enthusiastically embraced us, our virtual networking and events programming.

We have been able to take the time we needed, early in the pandemic, to learn the necessary skills to engage with our stakeholders online.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our partners and board members for their support and patience through what has been a challenging time for everyone. We have really valued the understanding and cooperation they have shown and continue to show as we work through new and ongoing challenges.

Petra van der Zande

Chairperson

Highlights of 2021

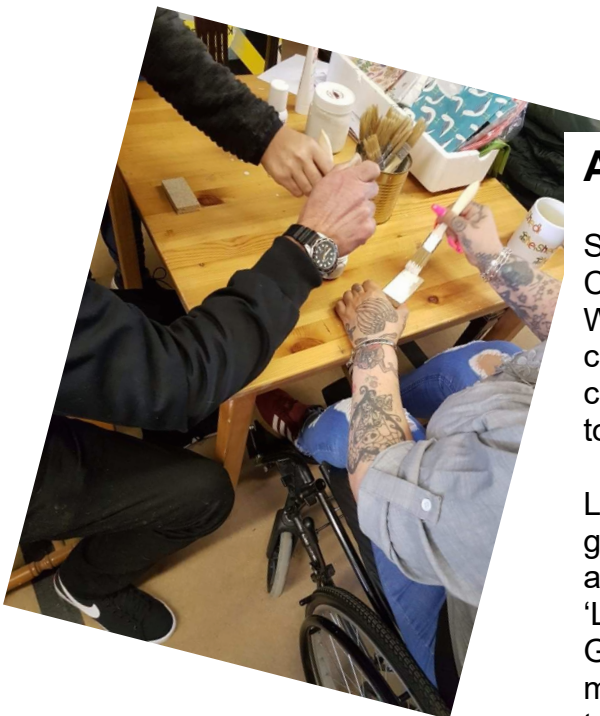


April

In April, on behalf of our partner Groundworks, we launched our 'Tooled-up' campaign, where we collect, repair, and redistribute old DIY tools to those wanting to explore new hobbies. The aim of the project is to give unwanted and forgotten tools a new lease of life and many more years of good use in hobbies and craft activities.

June

Once again, Levels took part in Global Pride using **online** platforms to broadcast **Pride** events, including musical performances, speeches and more to represent LGBTQI+ people in our communities in a massive celebration of equality and diversity.



August

Saw the official launch of the 'Shed Project' in Hull Churches Housing Association's old workshop. Working with the local communities, Groundwork creates a community space for people to connect, converse, create and pass on skills and knowledge to others.

Levels' volunteers are members of the working group to help set up the workshop and social areas. The project has started off with a weekly 'Ladies that Lunch' group organised by Groundwork Hull, making decoupage fridge magnets and is attended by Hull Churches HA tenants.



September

Following on from our successful 'Tooled-up' project, we started a similar campaign for gardening tools. To get us in the mood, 2 of our Board members got involved in facilitating 'Down-to-Earth' workshops, including one on building birdboxes and one on creating bee feeder areas.

Down-to-Earth is one of our partners in providing training and development activities, volunteering opportunities and improved employability skills to tenants.

October

Since 2014, Levels, as part of the Older People's Partnership Hull & East Riding have celebrated International Older Peoples Day on the **1st of October** by organising a week-long celebration for older people and their carers across Hull and East Riding Villages.

The annual celebration was hosted across 3 local locations as well as online. It was a fantastic event with lots of entertainment, social activity & information on local services.



November

In December we received a Food Partnership Hull Award in recognition of our commitment and dedication to combat food inequality in the city. There was also an added bonus of a £500 grant for the purchase of 2 chest freezers, allowing for even more activity and involvement in our 'Cooking-up-a-Community' project.



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Placing a value on Community Development

Assessment and evaluation of our projects and activities is a key priority for us.

In real monetary terms, the services we deliver seems insignificant, however when assessing and measuring how we improve the lives of the people we support, we show tremendous impact. The ability of Levels, as a very small charity in its infancy, to create the added value stems from offering support that is embedded in our communities, through volunteering and sharing knowledge and expertise.

As a charity working for the benefit of Hull Churches Housing Association's tenants and their environs, Levels has adopted use of the HACT Social Value Calculator.

The calculator provides a basic assessment of the actual value delivered through our activities in terms of social impact. As a result, we are able to provide a ratio of how many pounds we generate in social value, for the amount of money invested. Our Social Return on Investment Ratio for 2021 is £69.03 for every £1 invested.

Activity	Overall budget	Overall social impact	Analysis of benefit	
			Budget : social impact	Net benefit
TOTALS:	£ 8,100	£ 526,633	1 : 65.02	£ 518,533
Cooking up a Community	£ 2,000	£ 79,833	1 : 39.92	£ 77,833
Online events	£ 1,500	£ 82,270	1 : 54.85	£ 80,770
Older people partnership	£ 1,500	£ 109,702	1 : 73.13	£ 108,202
Walking Group	£ 200	£ 143,451	1 : 717.26	£ 143,251
Cancer Champion Training	£ 200	£ 3,184	1 : 15.92	£ 2,984
Dementia Awareness training	£ 200	£ 9,553	1 : 47.77	£ 9,353
Tooled-up	£ 2,500	£ 98,638	1 : 39.46	£ 96,138

HACT Social Value Calculator – results overview 2021

- Compared to 2020, we have seen a small decline in Social Return on Investment. This is mainly due to a slight increase in hourly rate of volunteering and the fact that many of our services, activities and resources must be provided in line with Covid19 restrictions. We feel we can still be very proud of our achievement and our success is mainly attributed to the commitment and loyalty of our many partnership organisations, including Hull Churches Housing Association, who provide employer supported volunteering.
- For the purpose of calculating investment ad SROI, the average hourly rate for volunteering is set at £19.96/hour in line with UK Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2020) and the above overview (fig.1) reflects 340 volunteer hours. These hours are provided/ exchanged through a 'timebank' principle, where time, knowledge and experience are exchanged freely between partnership organisations.
- For transparency of accounting, 'timebank' credits are not expressed in monetary value in Levels' balance sheet and accounts below.

‘Levels’ Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
	Day 17th	Month June	Year 2020		Day 17th	Month May

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Levels

Other names charity is known by

NA

Registered charity number (if any)

1170752

Charity's principal address

Studio 701

17 Princess Street

Hull

Postcode

HU2 8BJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1 Petra van de Zande	Chair		
2 Linda Johnson	Secretary		
3 Richard Davies	Treasurer		
4 Lincoln Marfoy			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	Elected by members of management committee

Section C Objectives and activities

The development of the capacities and skills of the inhabitants of the economically and socially disadvantaged communities of the City of Kingston upon Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire with a high percentage of social housing ("the Area of Benefit") and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are tenants of Hull Churches Housing Association ("Tenants of HCHA") in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs, and to participate more fully in society; and

2. To promote social inclusion by preventing people living in the Area of Benefit and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are Tenants of HCHA from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people living in the Area of Benefit and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are Tenants of HCHA who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society in such ways as the Trustees of the CIO shall think fit; and

For the purpose of this clause 3(2) "socially excluded" means being excluded from the society, or part of society, as a result of being a member of an economically and socially deprived community.

3. The relief of unemployment amongst individuals living in the Area of Benefit and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are Tenants of HCHA in such ways as the Trustees of the CIO shall think fit including, but not limited to the provision of education, training, re-training, volunteering and work experience opportunities and assistance to find employment; and
4. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals living in the Area of Benefit and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are Tenants of HCHA who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Summary of the main activities undertaken in 2021

2021 has been no less challenging than the previous year. However, we were better set up and able to adapt rapidly and to provide events and activities online.

Local communities are at the heart of everything we do and delivering a successful service depends on how well we understand the needs of our tenants. It became clear very early on that we needed the resources and expertise of our partnership organisations in terms of providing technology and digital support. We were also fortunate to be able to call on the knowledge and expertise of our Board members for this.

We continue to be active in Hull's Voluntary and Community Sector Liaison group, the Older People Partnership- Hull and East Riding and CCG's Hull 2020 Champions group. The lived realities of the people and communities with whom we speak reaffirm for the need to amplify our voice – speaking about the impact of local policies and practices on some of the most vulnerable groups in society, so in addition we have become an active member of NorthBank Forum, allowing for even better integration in and collaboration with Hull's communities and the Community and voluntary Sector.

Our ambition for 2022 remains to extend our fundraising activities. We have made strong foundations but there are still challenges ahead. Our plans to focus on providing training in writing bid and grant funding applications for Hull Churches Housing Association's support workers and housing management staff were once again put on hold during 2021 but are most certainly not off the agenda.

Supporting Organisations and Grant Support for this period

OPP-HER
Hull Food Partnership
Neighbourhood Network Hull
Groundworks Hull
Hull Clinical Commissioning Group – Hull2020 Champions
Asda
North Bank Forum

Our thanks and appreciation also go to tenants, customers and staff of Hull Churches Housing Association, the Supporting and Membership Organisations' staff and volunteers from Older People Partnership Group and Groundwork Hull, who have given their time freely in support of the Charity's objectives and events throughout the past year.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- In February we received the Hull2020 Champions' award in recognition of our commitment and dedication to the partnership. There was also an Individual award for one of our Support Workers.
- In April we celebrated with the Hull2020 Champions as they welcomed their 100th member to the partnership. For Levels it meant 10 minutes of fame as we were invited to talk about the work with do with 'Burnsy' (David Burns) on radio Humberside.
- In July one of our support workers attended the Cancer Champion programme. Having conversations around cancer aren't always the nicest or easiest. The Cancer Champion Programme aims to get the conversation about cancer into our communities.
- Increased support for our 'Community Investment projects'
- As part of Older people's week in October, we worked with Hull's Older People's Partnership to put together and support a programme of fun activities, entertainment and information events

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We follow the recommendation in the Charity Commission guidance RS3 which states our Reserves Policy must quantify and explain the purpose of any designated funds, along with the likely timing of that expenditure. Additionally, that the amount of any funds held as designated funds is appropriate to the purpose or use for which the funds have been designated.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NA

Further financial review details

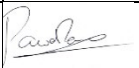
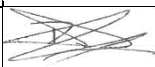
See attached Statement of Financial Position.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Chairs report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Full Name	Signature	Position
Petra van der Zande		Chair
Richard Davies		Treasurer

Date: 20th January 2021

Balance at a glance

LEVELS

Lloyds Account Number: 77855168

Sort Code: 30-65-22

Date	Ref	Details	Fund	Category	Money In	Money Out	Balance
			Unrestricted	Balance Brought Forward	£2,729.48		£2,729.48
06/04/2021	337065457	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.00	£2,714.48
04/05/2021	340017898	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.80	£2,698.68
24/05/2021	7345496683354697	Amazon Smile	Unrestricted	Donations	£6.99		£2,705.67
01/06//2021	342122092	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.00	£2,690.67
05/07/2021	345190210	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.37	£2,675.30
02/08/2021	347778865	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.00	£2,660.30
17/08/2021	5969466753958936	Amazon Smile	Unrestricted	Donations	£7.56		£2,667.86
31/08/2021	349993186	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.00	£2,652.86
10/09/2021	PPRD000000000A88AE	PayPal Giving Fund Authentication Code	Unrestricted	Donations	£0.01		£2,652.87
04/10/2021	352361890	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.37	£2,637.50

LEVELS

Total Receipts & Payments for the year ending 31/03/2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Previous Year
Receipt				
Donations	14.56	14.56	0.00	0.00
Grant Income	0.00	14.56	14.56	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	14.56	0.00	14.56	0.00
Payments				
Bank Charges	(106.54)	0.00	(106.54)	(82.82)
Charitable Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00	(8.69)
Indirect Staff Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	(927.50)
IT & Communications	0.00	0.00	0.00	(40.32)
Marketing & Recruitment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rates & Rent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Salaries & N.I.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stationery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundry Items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Travel & Subsistence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(106.54)	0.00	(106.54)	(1,059.33)
Net receipts / (payments)	(91.98)	0.00	(91.98)	(1,059.33)
Balance Brought Forward	2,808.00	11.48	2,819.48	3,878.81
Balance Carried Forward	2,716.02	11.48	2,727.50	2,819.48
Made up of:				
Bank	2637.5			
Cash	90			
	2727.5			
Check:	0.00			

Accounts Prepared by: Tia Scutt

Date: 25.05.2021

Accounts Approved by:

Date: