

Levels

Annual Report

2023



Welcome to Levels' Annual Report for 2023

Our central focus during the year was on improving wellbeing, reducing isolation, and supporting healthier lifestyles across all age groups. We worked both in partnership with our amazing primary care and public health colleagues, and together, for and with our local population to improve health and wellbeing and tackle the health outcomes gap within the city.

We also continued to support and introduce a range of facilitated community peer support groups to bring together people experiencing mental health issues. We jointly provided a huge variety of free exercise groups, activities, and wellbeing opportunities, alongside engagement and education events.

Our methods remain resident-led, asset-based, grassroots community development and, together with a huge range of partnerships with other voluntary organisations, ensure that our communities benefit from all the city has to offer.

Equally important is the ongoing work with our partner Groundwork and in particular 'The Shed' project that runs from the old workshop and offices at West Dock Street. Our plans for 2024 include combining this constituted group and its charitable objectives into Levels-CIO in order the most of our joint assets, volunteers and fundraising experience.

We continue to play an active role in the VCSE Assembly to support co-production and co-design processes; enabling those with the experience to make the most impact to service development, commissioning, and review.

This Annual Report captures just some of the extraordinary work accomplished by the CIO and its partners over the past year. You can read about these accomplishments and more in this report.

During 2024 we are hoping to strengthen our collaboration with 'The Shed' project by updating our constitution and incorporating the two Boards so that we can make the most of our combined knowledge, experience, and valuable resources to help even more people in the city of Hull.

We want to thank all the people, volunteers, and Board members that are so committed to making a real difference, along with the incredible partners, funders, and donors for their support in making our work possible.

Highlights of 2023

April

In April, we played a big role in our infrastructure's Forum setting up the VCSE Assembly and 'Connect Hull Website- an exciting new development for the city.

Operating on the principles of inclusivity and collaboration, the Assembly brings a range of opportunities for VCSE organisations to be involved in, including service delivery opportunities and access to commissioning and grants available to the sector.

As part of this new assembly, Forum-CIO and CVS Hull also introduced a brand-new website called 'Sector Connect Hull, a one-stop-shop for information, advice and support for the people of Hull, in which Levels-CIO plays a pivotal role.



July

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.



November

During November we teamed up with Hull CVS and partners across the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to shine a light on loneliness at the Be Connected Loneliness Conference.

It brought together likeminded individuals (staff and volunteers) to explore the factors that lead to loneliness and some of the amazing solutions to this wicked issue being delivered by VCSE groups in our area.



December

'The Shed' started Winter Crafts in the warm space at West Dock Street, where Levels also supports a range of fun crafts to help keep you warm this winter. Thanks also to Ideal Heating and Hull City Council for supporting us to be able to provide additional essential items for winter.

One of our volunteers attended special training on the Affordable Warmth and Energy Saving Community Grant, funded by the Department of Work and Pensions (Household Support Fund) to help people apply for an additional £90 financial support over the winter months.

Placing a value on Community Development

In real monetary terms, the services we deliver continue to appear insignificant, however, as has become customary, we continue to assess and measure also how we improve the lives of the people we support in terms of added Social Value. The ability of Levels-CIO, to create social value stems from bringing together, and coordinating activities, events and support that are already embedded in our communities, so that they can make better use of available resources and become better accessible to more people. Compared to 2022, we have seen a slight increase in Social Return on Investment. This is mainly due to increased collaboration with partner organisations, particularly The Shed project, which has seen a significant increase in HCHA tenants attending their workshops and support sessions.

Many of Levels' activities are provided in line with a time-banking principle, thus reducing the need for high monetary investment. The key to this principle is nothing more than a group of people (our communities) and partner organisations contributing to service provision in exchange for services they may need, such as volunteering or providing training and knowledge sharing.

We feel we can be very proud of our achievement, and our success is mainly attributed to the commitment and loyalty of our many partnership organisations and volunteers, including Hull Churches Housing Association, who provide employer supported volunteering.

Levels uses HACT's Social Value Calculator to provide a basic assessment of the actual social value delivered through our activities. Our Social Return on Investment Ratio for 2023 is £84.11 for every £1 invested.

Activity	Overall budget	Overall social impact	Analysis of benefit	
			Budget : social impact	Net benefit
TOTALS:	£9,550	£803,257	1 : 84.11	£793,707
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	£300	£3,184	1 : 10.61	£2,884
Mental Health Awareness Training	£200	£9,553	1 : 47.77	£9,353
Tooled-up	£500	£98,638	1 : 197.28	£98,138
The Shed	£750	£107,946	1 : 143.93	£107,196
Winter Warmth	£2,600	£168,677	1 : 64.88	£166,077

Fig 1. HACT Social Value Calculator – results overview 2023

- To calculate investment and SROI, the average hourly rate for volunteering is set at £13.65/hour in line with the UK Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2023) and reflects 220 volunteer hours provided/ exchanged through above mentioned 'timebank' principle.
- 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 1st	Month April	Year 2022		Day 31st	Month March	Year 2023

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)
Petra van de Zande	Chair		
Kial Leigh Sigsworth	Secretary	August 2023 - present	
Tia Scutt	Treasurer	August 2023 - present	

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 2023

We have increased focus on working with community navigators, which links to the direction of travel Hull Churches Housing Association has also taken at a time where the cost-of-living crisis continues to affect us all.

The focus of our work remains on bringing together the signposting, advocacy and navigation to services that are ‘out there’ and helping people navigate their way in finding the support that suits them.

We focus on upcycling and re-use projects, improving DIY and ‘eating on a budget’ skills. We are in the process of expanding the number of warm spaces, winter warmth grant applications and green energy advice to reduce energy bills.

Supporting Organisations and Grant Support for this period

OPP-HER Partnership Organisations
Hull Food Partnership
Neighbourhood Network Hull
Groundworks Hull – The Shed project
Hull ICP – Hull Champions
Forum - CIO
Hull City Council

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

- 80 community residents supported to access the right community services.
- 8 training sessions on GDPR and Data Protection provided to grassroots VCS organisations.
- 2 community groups provided with support and advice to becoming constituted.
- Participated in 14 partnership Health and Wellbeing events aimed at combatting mental health decline including access to mental health awareness training.
- 6 training session provided on Social Return on Investment and the use of social value calculators.
- Co-produced the community impact strategy with Forum-CIO and Hull's VCSE assembly.
- Participated in 8 city-wide social inclusion and health inequality 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
Tia Scutt		Treasurer

Date: 26 January 2024

Balance at a Glance

LEVELS

Ending Balance:
£3,554.34

Lloyds Account Number: 77855168

Sort Code: 30-65-22

Date	Ref	Details	Fund	Category	Money In	Money Out	Balance
			Unrestricted	Balance Brought Forward	£2,234.61		£2,234.61
04/04/2022	366627518	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£16.17	£2,218.44
03/05/2022	368962611	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.74	£2,202.70
09/05/2022	4583365474687353	Amazon Smile	Unrestricted	Donations	£5.00		£2,207.70
31/05/2022	371308245	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.37	£2,192.33
04/07/2022	373666444	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.00	£2,177.33
08/07/2022	3602500909212200N	Rank Foundation - Hull Activity Grant	RF - Activity	Grant Income Charitable	£813.00		£2,990.33
19/07/2022	CD 7724	SP Vegepod	RF - Activity	Expenditure		£870.30	£2,120.03
02/08/2022	376032758	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.37	£2,104.66
02/10/2022	378382796	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.37	£2,089.29
03/10/2022	380761245	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.00	£2,074.29
01/11/2022	383125990	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.00	£2,059.29
10/11/2022	500005	Paypal Giving	Unrestricted	Donations	£105.00		£2,164.29
15/11/2022	9486395674867670	Amazon Smile	Unrestricted	Donations	£9.25		£2,173.54
05/12/2022	385496221	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.00	£2,158.54
15/12/2022	608301	Winter Warmth Grant	RF - Activity	Grant Income	£4,000.00		£6,158.54
03/01/2023	387872941	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£16.97	£6,141.57
31/01/2023	95874353348899487	Amazon Smile	Unrestricted	Donations	£5.99		£6,147.56
31/01/2023	390247547	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.37	£6,132.19
06/03/2023	392652696	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges Charitable		£15.37	£6,116.82
28/03/2023	CD 7724	Winter Warmth Grant	RF - Activity	Expenditure		£2,562.48	£3,554.34

LEVELS

Total Receipts & Payments for the year ending 31/03/2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Previous Year
Receipt				
Donations	125.24	0.00	125.24	109.53
Grant Income	0.00	4,813.00	4,813.00	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	125.24	4,813.00	4,938.24	109.53
Payments				
Bank Charges	(185.73)	0.00	(185.73)	(184.25)
Charitable Expenditure	0.00	(3,432.78)	(3,432.78)	(899.99)
Indirect Staff Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IT & Communications	0.00	0.00	0.00	(20.16)
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
	(185.73)	(3,432.78)	(3,618.51)	(1,104.40)
Net receipts / (payments)	(60.49)	1,380.22	1,319.73	(994.87)
Balance Brought Forward	1,813.13	511.48	2,324.61	2,808.00
Balance Carried Forward	1,752.64	1,891.70	3,644.34	1,813.13
Made up of:				
Bank	3554.34			
Cash	90			
	3644.34			