

Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
	01	01	2023		31	12

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Common Change UK		
Other names charity is known by			
Registered charity number (if any)	1171076		
Charity's principal address	7 SAFFRON GROVE		
	CROWBOROUGH		
	EAST SUSSEX		
	Postcode	TN6 2GJ	

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	Matthew Wilson	Chair	Whole year	
2	Steven Ledgerwood		Whole year	
3	Darin Petersen		Whole year	

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Foundation Model Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by the existing board

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Common Change UK has invested in increased capacity to manage administrative functions related to donor onboarding and enquiries, and the processes for identifying, deciding upon and distributing outgoing gifts from group common funds.

Common Change USA continues to assist Common Change UK with book-keeping/accountancy services.

Board meetings continue to take place remotely via video conferencing software.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- a. the prevention or relief of poverty and/or financial hardship, either generally or individually, of people living anywhere in the world by making grants of money for providing or paying for items, services or facilities which they could not otherwise afford through lack of means;
- b. the prevention or relief of poverty and/or financial hardship, either generally or individually, of people living anywhere in the world by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, transportation, housing, healthcare and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The organisation carries out its purposes by:

- Forming Common Change groups in communities around the UK that will contribute their own personal finances and also raise money through other means (such as but not limited to sponsorship etc)
- Facilitating through digital technology a platform by which the members of the Common Change groups may deposit, combine and securely store their financial resources, until such time as they are withdrawn and distributed in accordance with accepted Charity Commission criteria relating to the relief of poverty (see list below).
- Encouraging the Common Change groups to meet in person and online to identify instances of individuals and families in poverty and/or crisis requiring assistance and discuss how their needs can be met through the financial resources that the group can raise or has already raised.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Common Change UK is committed to a principle of incurring minimum overhead costs by utilising volunteer time and expertise. However, in order to address the administrative workload of the charity now that it has grown considerably the services of a sub-contracted administrator are also utilised (part time).

Excerpt from the current CCUK Group Fund policy on grantmaking:

It is intended that recipients of assistance (“benevolence”) from the Group Fund shall:

- Be experiencing a financial hardship related to education, healthcare, housing, parental support, professional service/support, transportation, or basic living expenses
- Be nominated by at least one member of the Group through which the request is being made, and known to them by ‘one degree of separation’,
- Not be making a request on their own behalf,
- Be able to receive funds directly by cheque, bank transfer, moneygram or PayPal,
- Be able, upon request, to provide written confirmation of receipt of the assistance by email, fax, or mail.
- Common Change recognises common humanity and insists there be no discrimination in the giving of benevolence on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality, faith, or disability.

Ultimate responsibility for administration and distribution of funds rests solely with the Common Change UK Trustees.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Throughout 2023 Common Change UK continued to grow steadily in terms of both incoming donations and outgoing financial assistance to individuals and families experiencing hardship of various kinds.

- 4 new groups have become active, 3 in Manchester, 1 in Nottingham. 2 groups closed during the year, leaving 13 active groups in total.
- In addition to the above 2 new groups are in development.
- Group income increased to £26,095, up from £18,666 in 2022.
- Total donation income for the year (which includes one-off major donations) was £45,938, up from £35,404 last year.
- Outgoing gifts were up too, by over £13000, to £26,189. A similar number of beneficiaries were helped over 52 outbound gift requests processed, vs 53 in 2022 and 36 in 2021.
- The average value of an outgoing gift rose to £309.

Some examples of outgoing support included:

Emergency Child Care & Support; Money towards cancer treatment; Donations for those who have suffered bereavement, inc. funeral costs; Supporting Ukrainian Refugees in Poland; Funds for Community events Help with Home Office fees for Asylum Seekers; Cooker and other home appliances; Food parcels; Help following a house fire; Emergency Funds for struggling Family; Supporting a Refugee family to relocate; Refugee Food Project; Carpets to help home feel warmer; Supermarket vouchers; Heating costs; Donation to local church community centre stolen goods

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is the policy of the charity to maintain reserve funds not less than 6 months average monthly overhead (measured against the prior 12 mths)

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal source of funds remains the regular donations of Common Change group members.

Total income for the year (inc. interest) was: £46,486

Sub-contracted staff costs this year were £9,156

All combined expenses for the year including outgoing gifts, staff costs, financial transaction fees and misc office costs were: £ 35,780

A surplus of £10,706 is carried over into 2024

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)




Full name(s)

Matthew Wilson

Darin Petersen

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Trustee

Date

14-01-2024

14-01-2024

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Common Change UK

On accounts for the year ended

2023

Charity no
(if any)

1171076

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2023**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable 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.

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

Signed:

CR Givens

Date:

3/1/2024

Name:

COUNSON GRIEVESON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:

PGD Actuarial Science

Address:

15 PRESTON AVENUE
TYNEMOUTH
NE30 2BN

Section B**Disclosure**

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

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