



**Registered Charity Number: 1172145**

## **CAMDEN SPARK**

### **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT**

**AND**

### **STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**31 MARCH 2025**

# Camden Spark

## Trustee Annual Report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

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INDEX	Page
Legal and Administrative Information	1
Report of the Board of Trustees	2 - 7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Receipts and Payments Account	9
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	10
Notes to the Accounts	11
Accounting Policies	12

## Legal and Administrative Information

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**Charitable Incorporated Organisation No:** 1172145

**Address:** Fitzjohn's Primary School  
86A Fitzjohn's Avenue  
London NW3 6NP

**Trustees:**

Ria Bartlett  
Zerritha Brown (resigned 31.03.25)  
Rob Earrey – Chair  
Gareth Keith Gay (appointed 08.07.24)  
Richard Harrison (deceased)  
Amy McGann  
Tina Ramdeen  
Deborah Rees (resigned 18.03.24)

**Independent Examiners:**

Brenda Peers-Ross  
29 Drift Road  
Selsey  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO20 0PW

# **Camden Spark**

(Registered CIO No: 1172145)

Page 2

## **Trustee Annual Report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

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The members of the Board of Trustees of Camden Sparks present their report together with Receipts and Payments Accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Camden Spark is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) who's only voting members are its charity trustees.

### **Structure, Governance**

Trustees are appointed as individuals, but where feasible, with representation from: a Camden primary school, a Camden secondary school; a higher education provider in Camden; Camden Learning; Camden Council's Culture Service; Camden Music Service; small and large Camden-based cultural organisations, a freelance cultural education practitioner, and other contributors to the cultural education ecosystem in the borough. This is to ensure that the board represents the viewpoints of the stakeholders it strives to represent and engage.

Camden Spark has a Trustee Induction Pack to support the induction and training of trustees. Induction and training are led by the Chair of the Board of Trustees with the support of the other trustees.

The charity is led by the Board of Trustees.

The charity's work in this period was managed by a 0.5 FTE Arts Development Officer (on secondment from Camden Council, with support from a freelance Programme Manager to deliver our STEAM Work Experience programme). This support ended during the reporting period and to cover this, a freelance Programme Manager was recruited. Camden Spark has also engaged a freelance Development Consultant to support it in exploring funding opportunities and undertaking refreshed business planning.

The charity works closely to align aims with various Camden Council departments, including Culture, Inclusive Economy and Youth Service as well as Camden Learning and STEAM.

The charity is a member of Knowledge Quarter London Ltd and A New Direction's Local Partnerships Forum, as well as being represented on the Camden STEAM Board. charity works closely to align aims with various Camden Council departments, including Culture, Inclusive Economy and Youth Service as well as Camden Learning and STEAM.

The charity is a member of Knowledge Quarter London Ltd and A New Direction's Local Partnership Forum, as well as being represented on the Camden STEAM Board.

## **Trustee Annual Report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

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### **Objectives & Activities and Public Benefit**

The advancement of education in the arts and culture for children and young people in Camden and surrounding areas.

Camden Spark undertakes the following activities for public benefit:

- provision of a brokerage service between schools, colleges, and cultural organisations to provide cultural education opportunities for children and young people in Camden.
- provision of CPD and networking opportunities for teachers of cultural education subjects and cultural education practitioners in cultural organisations.
- project management of cultural education opportunities for schools with cultural and business partners.
- support to, and encouragement of, Camden schools considering embarking on an Artsmark application.
- research surrounding ways of engaging young people and organisations in offering Arts Award.
- support to London Borough of Camden in the delivery of its cultural programming.
- advocacy within Camden's schools, local authority, and cultural organisations for the benefits of rich and broad cultural education provision for all the borough's children and young people.

The trustees of Camden Spark confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The past year has presented both opportunities and challenges for Camden Spark. Despite a difficult funding environment, the charity has continued to deliver meaningful impact, demonstrating resilience and efficient use of resources.

A key focus has been strengthening governance and operational capacity. Trustees formalised governance processes to provide a foundation for long-term stability, while recruitment practices were reviewed and updated to attract a broader pool of candidates. A freelance Programme Manager was appointed to support delivery, although the contract ended earlier than planned

## Trustee Annual Report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

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due to unforeseen circumstances. The Board has reflected on the learning from this and reallocated the unspent budget towards programme and communications work.

Camden Spark also successfully delivered its work experience programme, providing valuable opportunities for young people and furthering its mission to widen access to the cultural and creative industries.

In April 2025, Trustees received the devastating news that Camden Spark's Chair, Richard Harrison, passed away unexpectedly. Richard was instrumental in the founding of Camden Spark and had played an active role since its inception. Thanks largely to his leadership, Camden Spark has a robust governance system in place, giving Trustees the tools needed to guide the charity forward. Although his passing occurred in the financial year following the period covered by this report, it has had a significant impact on the charity's trajectory. The risk register has been updated in consideration of this development, and Trustees are working diligently to ensure Camden Spark remains a going concern while honoring Richard's vision and commitment.

### Activity Over the Year

Camden Spark's 2023 - 2028 Business Plan sets out four priorities:

- Amplifying the voices of young people
- Creating a talent pipeline into the creative and cultural industries
- *Advocating for cultural education as a right*
- Building organisational resilience

Planned activity to deliver these priorities includes:

- **Camden Cultural Charter** – Developed through consultation with young people, schools and cultural organisations. The Charter will inform future commitments to cultural education across the borough, alongside the development of a 'Spark Mark' for cultural education quality.
- **Cultural Education Conferences** – Biennial events informed by the Charter, with increasing levels of youth leadership (50% target for the first, 75% for the second).
- **Work Experience Programme** – Delivered in partnership with Camden STEAM, offering around 30 young people annually a broad introduction to careers in the creative and cultural industries. The programme engages a range of cultural partners and provides a replicable model of delivery.

## Trustee Annual Report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

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- **Trustee Development** – Ongoing recruitment and annual appraisals to ensure a broad mix of skills and expertise across the Board.

In support of this, in July 2024, Camden Spark delivered the second iteration of its Arts and Culture work experience week for Camden STEAM. Twenty-three young people participated, engaging with a wide range of organisations, including Ambassador Theatre Group, Roundhouse, Universal Music, October Gallery, London Film School and Celebro Media. Feedback from participants highlighted the value of exposure to diverse career paths within the sector and included:

*"I wanted to be a musician but Camden Spark has opened more opportunities for me which I would also want to work in."*

*"I really love the creative sector in general and I'd love to get into more of the creative places."*

### Fundraising and Income Generation

Over the past year, Camden Spark's fundraising focused on Trusts and Foundations and Corporate Sponsorship. Despite submitting strong applications, no new Trust or Foundation grants were secured, reflecting the highly competitive funding climate. For example, the John Ellerman Foundation awarded fewer than 50 of over 400 arts applications last year.

Between 2018 and 2022, Camden Council supported Camden Spark through a part-time secondment and an annual financial contribution. In 2023–24, this was replaced with in-kind support for the work experience programme with Camden STEAM. During this year, the Council confirmed that no further support will be available.

In response, the charity has increased its focus on developing corporate partnerships and is in discussions with several local organisations. Individual Giving has also been strengthened, with improvements to the online donation process already generating income.

Camden Spark remains well established in the borough, with a recognised track record and an experienced Board. With clear business and activity plans in place, the charity is working towards stabilising income and diversifying funding streams in the year ahead.

## Trustee Annual Report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

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### Financial Review

The charity carried forward £28,225 into this reporting period. Reserves are not held. Unspent income is carried forward into the next reporting period. Camden Spark currently relies entirely on grant income and donations. Sufficient funding has been raised to continue the charity's activities, but should grant income or donations not be available, the charity would cease to be a going concern. This is, however, not a current consideration.

### Reserve Policy

Reserves are not held. Unspent income is carried forward into the next reporting period. The charity has not been in a financially secure enough position to hold reserves.

### Risk Policy

The charity has public, employer and professional indemnity insurance to protect it in case of a claim and a policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable beneficiaries, which are reviewed annually along with various other policies.

The principal risk facing the charity is our current lack of sustained funding. The charity continues to engage readily in strategic conversations and drawing on support from a freelance fundraising professional to minimise this risk.

Our key next steps during the remainder of 2025 include:

- continuing to deliver against our strategic objectives and business plan;
- moving to a mixed-ecology model of fundraising in place of a single large grant and adjusting our operating model in response to this;
- sustaining relationships with all stakeholders, including strategic and delivery, to ensure we remain able to support all those contributors to Camden's cultural and creative education sector;

utilising the outcomes of our youth voice engagement work to form the basis of our youth engagement activities and future youth-led programmes



## Trustee Annual Report 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

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### Financial Review

The charity carried forward £37,597 into this reporting period. Reserves are not held. Unspent income is carried forward into the next reporting period. Camden Spark currently relies entirely on grant income and donations. Sufficient funding has been raised to continue the charity's activities, but should grant income or donations not be available, the charity would cease to be a going concern. This is, however, not a current consideration.

### Reserve Policy

Reserves are not held. Unspent income is carried forward into the next reporting period. The charity has not been in a financially secure enough position to hold reserves.

### Risk Policy

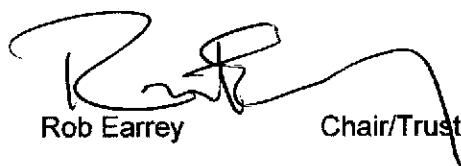
The charity has public, employer, and professional indemnity insurance to protect it in case of a claim and a policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable beneficiaries, which are reviewed annually along with various other policies.

The principal risk facing the charity is our current lack of sustained funding beyond March 2024. The charity continues to engage readily in strategic conversations and drawing on support from a freelance fundraising professional to minimise this risk.

Our key next steps during the remainder of 2024 include:

- continuing to deliver against our strategic objectives and business plan.
- moving to a mixed-ecology model of fundraising in place of a single large grant, and adjusting our operating model in response to this.
- sustaining relationships with all stakeholders, including strategic and delivery, to ensure we remain able to support all those contributors to Camden's cultural and creative education sector.
- utilising the outcomes of our youth voice engagement work to form the basis of our youth engagement activities and future youth-led programmes.

This report was approved virtually by Trustees on 13 October 2025 and signed on their behalf.

  
Rob Earrey      Chair/Trustee

**Brenda Peers-Ross  
29 Drift Road  
Selsey  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO20 0PW**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of:  
CAMDEN SPARK  
Registered Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Number: 1172145**

**Page 8**

I report on the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, which are set out on the attached Receipts & Payments Account and the Statement of Assets & Liabilities on pages 9 to 12.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under charity law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145(1) of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, as amended; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures of the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act 2011; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Brenda Peers-Ross*

**Brenda Peers-Ross FMAAT, ACIE  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

**For the Period 31st March 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
<b>Total Income from:</b>					
Donations and Legacies	<b>1</b>	208.48	-	208.48	20,000.00
Charitable Activities	<b>2</b>	-	-	-	7,500.00
Other		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>208.48</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>208.48</b>	<b>27,500.00</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising Funds		3,000.00	-	3,000.00	1,950.00
Charitable Activities	<b>3</b>	6,740.63	-	6,740.63	34,921.82
Other		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>9,740.63</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,740.63</b>	<b>36,871.82</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>(9,532.15)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(9,532.15)</b>	<b>(9,371.82)</b>
Transfer between funds		39.27	(39.27)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(9,492.88)</b>	<b>(39.27)</b>	<b>(9,532.15)</b>	<b>(9,371.82)</b>
Total funds brought forward		28,185.86	39.27	28,225.13	37,596.95
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>18,692.98</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,692.98</b>	<b>28,225.13</b>

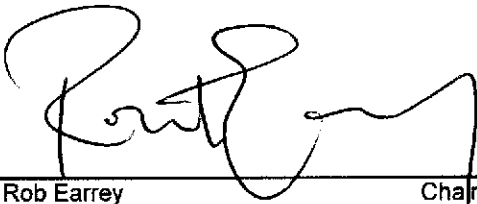
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**At 31st March 2025**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Assets:</b>				
Bank Current Account	18,692.98	-	18,692.98	28,225.13
Debtors:	318.40	-	318.40	-
	<b>19,011.38</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,011.38</b>	<b>28,225.13</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Independent Examination	(400.00)	-	(400.00)	(350.00)
	<b>(400.00)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(400.00)</b>	<b>(350.00)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>18,611.38</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,611.38</b>	<b>27,875.13</b>

Charity Cash Funds		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 31.03.25 £	Total 31.03.24 £
Unrestricted Funds	4	18,692.98	-	18,692.98	28,185.86
Restricted Funds	5	-	-	-	39.27
		<b>18,692.98</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,692.98</b>	<b>28,225.13</b>

Presented and approved by the Trustees at a committee meeting held on 13th October 2025  
and signed on their behalf.

  
Rob Earrey Chair/Trustee

For the Period 31st March 2025

**Notes to the Accounts**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Note 1</b>				
<b>Donations and Legacies</b>				
Donation	208.48	-	-	20,000.00
	<b>208.48</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>

<b>Note 2</b>				
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Grant: A New Direction	-	-	-	7,500.00
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>

<b>Other Income:</b>				
Other	-	-	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>

<b>Note 3</b>				
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Programme managers fees	1,875.00	-	1,875.00	8,500.00
Insurance	234.64	-	234.64	234.64
Creative Collaboration	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	6,350.00
STEAM work experience	331.64	-	331.64	2,250.00
Other expenditure	300.00	-	300.00	698.73
IT , emails, website, broadband	1,144.36	-	1,144.36	1,057.08
Regent High School charges	-	-	-	199.95
Membership, subscriptions	399.99	-	399.99	563.07
Camden Arts Centre	-	-	-	12,000.00
Events including refreshments	-	-	-	2,664.35
Independent Examination	455.00	-	455.00	404.00
	<b>6,740.63</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,740.63</b>	<b>34,921.82</b>

<b>Note 4</b>					
<b>Unrestricted and Designated funds</b>					
	Opening Balance 01.04.24	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer Between Funds £	Closing Balance 31.03.25 £
Unrestricted General Reserve	(2,514.14)	208.48	(9,740.63)	39.27	(12,007.02)
Designated - Camdonian Project	30,700.00	-	-	-	30,700.00
	<b>28,185.86</b>	<b>208.48</b>	<b>(9,740.63)</b>	<b>39.27</b>	<b>18,692.98</b>

<b>Note 5</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
	Opening Balance 01.04.24	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer Between Funds £	Closing Balance 31.03.25 £
New Direction	39.27	-	-	(39.27)	-
	<b>39.27</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(39.27)</b>	<b>-</b>

**For the Period 31st March 2025**

**Notes to the Accounts**

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**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements of the CIO, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Reporting by Charities issued January 2015, applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

**Ultimate Controlling Party**

Camden Spark is a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is controlled by the Management Committee/Trustees individually named in the Annual Report.

**Income**

Income is brought into account on when received.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is brought into account in the year it is spent.

**Risk**

The trustees do not believe the charity is subject to any substantial risk beyond the liabilities disclosed in its Annual Report and Accounts.

**Format**

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payment basis.