

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07742739 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1172680

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

FOR

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

Hewitt Card Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
70-72 Nottingham Road
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 1BN



www.lifeskillseducation.co.uk

Charity Public Benefit The Difference we Made in 2022 – 2023

Why We Exist

At Life Skills, we know education has the power to change behaviour

Our vision is to create cohesive communities, improve lives and build a safer future for everyone.

We're on a mission to empower every child with the resilience and skills to make safe choices in any risky situation. Our work provides the foundational skills that underpin fulfilled, happy lives by increasing access to high-quality social skills education for those who need it most

That is why we believe all young people should have access to the tools to grow and thrive. We do this by:

Developing and delivering a suite of programmes that use our SKILL Decision-Making Model, a tool to help young people think about their choices and the consequences they have on themselves and others.

Empowering young people with the confidence to open up meaningful conversations around tricky subjects with their parents, schools and broader support networks.

Creating more resilient communities with improved health outcomes by reducing the effects of anti social behaviour on people and shared spaces.

Young people are at the heart of what we do, and our aim is for every child to be less affected by the dangers around the misuse of drugs, alcohol, knife and hate crimes. They tell us they have far more confidence to make well-informed, less risky decisions, speak up about issues affecting them and know where to find help. We want to build upon these skills every year and remain committed to offering a wide range of resources to aid all young people; aged 6 through to 16 years old.

Our Products

We have a range of programmes from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 3.

- STaRS 1 - KS1
- STaRS 2 – KS2 (Autumn 24)
- Life Skills Primary – KS2
- Web Warriors – KS2
- Life Skills Games Modules – KS3
- Keepin it REAL – KS3
(Currently under development)



The SKILL Decision-Making Model

Our unique SKILL DECISION-MAKING MODEL teaches young people to make safe and healthy choices by working through problems and issues one step at a time. It teaches young people to consider various options, balance risk against consequences, manage stress and resist pressure. These are all critical tools in ensuring they develop into positive and proactive young adults who can adapt to life's challenges. At the core of this is young people realising the risk to themselves and others, especially around their physical and emotional health.

We know that significantly increasing access to high-quality social skills and prevention education in the areas that need it most can have a significant effect on resilience and well being. Through the provision of long-term (multiple-year), evidence-informed, impact-driven programmes we can make a tangible difference to the outcomes of young people in the long term.

The Year in Numbers

Measuring the Difference we Make

How do we use this data?

We collect and analyse many data sets. It informs us what we are doing right and what we need to improve to be better; the development of our SEND resources this year is a clear example of this.

- Our evidence base:
 - o Our primary programme feedback showed that 99.5% of **teachers** rated us as **outstanding** (73.3%) or **good** (26.2%) in our Quality Standards evaluation.
 - o When asked, **parents** rated us:
 - 3.5/5 on how much the programme was a catalyst for further discussion at home.
 - 4.1/5 on the appropriateness of the content and its delivery.
 - 3.7/5 on the programme's influence on their child's life skills in general.
 - 3.9/5 on their child's improved ability to make and evaluate decisions.
 - 78% of young people took their workbook home for discussion
 - o **Young people** scored:
 - 3.8/5 on their development of confidence and skills.
 - 3.8/5 on their increased understanding of the law.
 - 0.27/5 on their likelihood to abuse alcohol, drugs, knives or others in the future.
 - o In our annual **staff** survey:
 - 91.2% of staff said they enjoy working with us.
 - 95.6% said that they enjoy delivering our materials.
 - 91.3% feel respected.
 - 95.6% felt well supported.
 - 91.2% said their training prepared them for the role, and
 - 86.8% felt the charity is well led.

- 12,772 Young people received a life skills intervention, in
- 432 Classes
- Within 302 Schools
- 4,752 hours of drug, alcohol and resilience training delivered
- Into 45 Local Authority Areas and 3 overseas schools
- 28 Quality Assurance visits
- 37 safeguarding concerns resolved in partnership with schools
- Over 69,000 visitors on the website (11,000 new users)
- Completed the STaRS 1 Resources (Years 1 and 2)
- Developed a new Outcomes Framework as part of a new Impact Evaluation Strategy
- Recruited a new CEO
- Recruited 6 new Trustees
- Achieved a combined 2404 followers on our social media channels
- £56,752 in grants and voluntary donations
- £174,775 of in-kind donations from Google, Amazon, Slack, Plesk, cPanel and Microsoft
- £40,000 funding from Nottinghamshire Police
- £2,000 from the J N Derbyshire trust
- £8,000 from the STaRS Trust.

64% of schools that we worked with were in the top 50% of deprived areas in the country.

Our Impact

Safer, Happier Young People

- Children make safer decisions, reducing the risk of them coming to harm.
- More confident young people, prepared for their transition into secondary school.
- More considerate young people, thinking about difference and how their actions can affect others.

A Safer Space for All

- Shared spaces are safer and less affected by anti social behaviour. Young people are able to resolve conflict and deal with bullying on themselves and others.
- Safer spaces to play outside, allowing young people to socialise with peers away from home and their phones.
- Young people are able to recognise the benefit of giving and receiving help from others.

Facilitating Partnership and Engagement

- We work in partnership with schools and other agencies, recognising the need for an effective, joined up plan to deliver quality interventions that develop emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills across an academic lifetime.
- Our resources help those in contact with young people discuss tricky subjects that they may not otherwise have the knowledge to address fully.

Why it Matters

Parent comments:-

“So glad my son was able to be part of this course. I remember doing DARE back in the 90's and how valuable the course was. So glad it is still running, the new format clearly works well.”

“I did this as a child and have remembered the skills from it. I hope my child will do the same. I can see the programme has changed with the times, which is brilliant!”

“I think this is a very important programme for the children to receive. We have been very impressed with what we have seen and heard.”

“As a mum who still remembers doing DARE many years ago, I am thankful my son has been able to do this programme too!”

“It has been helpful at introducing a range of topics to instigate conversation.”

“He has been very animated by the topics and has enjoyed the homework. We have talked through a number of the topics at home.”



Quotes from the feedback of young people (aged 10-11) about the knowledge and skills they have learned:

- I am nicer to people
- I think about how other people might feel
- Can see how bullying is bad for me and others
- Be helpful, positive and less negative
- How much pressure/stress can affect another person
- Learnt how drugs can physically effect you
- Know consequences of what will happen
- I know what non verbal communication is
- I know what to do if in a peer pressure or dangerous situation
- Taught me who I need to go to for help
- If theres an emergency I know what to do

The Challenges

- Annually, around 768 young people (aged 15 – 19) die from substance misuse. There are 48,000 recorded offences and 244 young people die every year from knife related incidents.
- There are over 300,000 young people under the care of at least one parent undergoing treatment for some form of alcohol or drug dependency.
- Drug misuse poisoning deaths have increased by nearly 80% since 2012.
- Hospital admissions due to drug dependency, drug-related mental and behaviour disorders and misuse poisonings are 5-6 times higher in the most deprived areas.

The Cost

- The annual cost of substance misuse treatment is around £3.5 billion.
- The costs associated with the broader implications of alcohol-related disorder are around £21 billion.



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LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Cash Flow Statement	11
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 to 19
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	20

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Under the direction of the trustees, we develop, deliver and continuously evaluate age-appropriate resources for use in primary and secondary schools as well as community organisations within England and Wales.

All resources are delivered by specially trained staff or schoolteachers and community leaders who undergo specific training in the resources they wish to provide.

We continuously evaluate the impact and effectiveness on outcomes of all our resources resulting in updates, amendments and improvements as discovered.

The staff team work closely with gathering feedback from all stakeholders, such as children, schools, parents, relevant local government departments and partner organisations.

The direct benefits of our work are:

- * Young people are less likely to become addicted to or dependent upon drugs and other harmful substances reducing the impact on their communities and families.

- * Schools benefit from young people who are better able to communicate and reason, independent research has shown that the primary school programme improves knowledge surrounding drugs, communication and listening skills, increases confidence in getting help from others and helps young people make safe and responsible choices.

- * Communities benefit from less anti-social behaviour and crime associated with drug and substance addiction or dependency.

Objectives for the year

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The board in setting out their objectives and financial strategy have focused on ensuring the Charity is based on a sustainable business model. Recognising that many Charities that are dependent on receiving grants or providing commissioned services are susceptible to large swings in funding provision which can threaten the longevity of the delivery of services to meet the Charitable Aims.

Life Skills Education will seek grants for two main purposes, development and updating of our products, including reviewing the effectiveness of all methods of delivery and our impact. Secondly, enabling schools to directly benefit from a cost reduction. Will we seek full funding for the programme where schools are in need, however, our experience shows that where a school directly invests in the programme there are improved outcomes for all parties.

Only in exceptional circumstances will we fundraise for core costs.

We benefit from the voluntary contributions of the board and a youth advocate. These contributions are welcome and enable the programme to be delivered efficiently and to be seen as a good value investment by our clients, donators and funders.

We are currently in the process of setting up a Youth Board of between 6 and 8 members, to give us an insight into the lived experiences of young people. This board will be an integral part of our development process, including actively engaging with focus groups of young people as part of our new impact evaluation strategy.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The trustees have due regard for the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

For the public benefit, the advancement of education of young people aged 6 to 16 throughout England and Wales, and British Forces Schools overseas who are in danger of becoming addicted to or dependent upon drugs particularly but not exclusively by providing information and raising awareness through evidenced-based Life Skills programmes.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

The 2022-23 Financial and Academic Year.

The 2022 - 2023 academic year (also our financial year) has been tough. Despite this, we remain confident in the demand for our products and continue to work on providing solid data sets to prove their efficacy. To this end, we have started the process of developing a new Outcomes Framework that encompasses all of our programmes as part of a wider impact study that will provide a rich and varied data set on the impact of the work we are doing.

This financial year saw the final delivery to those schools that benefited from funding from Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner. This work was part of the extension project of £40,000 to cover 25% of the costs for schools to partake in the primary programme.

Strategic Summary of the Outcomes:

94% of young people who responded said the programme helped them to develop or gain confidence or skills.

88% of young people who responded felt that the programme helped them improve their knowledge of the law around using drugs, alcohol, and knives and treating people differently.

98% of young people who responded said they were now less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, carry a knife or abuse or disrespect other people.

The course was rated either good or outstanding in the teacher feedback quality standards assessment.

The project outputs were exceeded on all levels, with 194 classes against a target of 192 and 5590 young people against a target of 5376.

Feedback across the board was positive, with young people engaging fully with the programme, outcomes showing that they feel more knowledgeable, better equipped and less likely to abuse drugs, knives and people. Parent and teacher responses were equally positive, showing that where we can solicit feedback, the overarching response shows impact, efficacy and engagement. This is consistent with our larger randomised control trial (RCT) data.

We delivered the rewrite of our Key Stage 1 resource, On Track (Now Life Skills STaRS), early in the autumn of 2023. We have decided to offer this resource for free to all Life Skills Primary schools, potentially trebling the number of young people we can deliver to overnight (it is a year 1 and 2 resource). Funding to rewrite Keep On Track for years 3 & 4 has been secured; this resource will be ready for delivery in September 2024, and will be similarly offered for free to Life Skills Primary Schools.

On top of rewriting our On Track programme, we have also developed a full set of SEND (Special Educational Needs) materials to accompany our primary programme. This was consistently highlighted in feedback from teachers as a deficit within our programme, and we were proud to be able to address this at the start of the academic year in September 2023. Feedback so far has been good, and we will continue to work on updates based on this.

Finally, from a development perspective, we also made significant updates to our Web Warriors programme based on feedback from schools, young people and our delivery staff. This continues to be delivered in primary schools and well received.

Our CEO of 8 years retired in May, we have recruited a replacement with a background in fundraising. This year also saw 3 long standing trustees retire, which has allowed us to recruit 6 new board members throughout this period. This has allowed us to bring in some exceptional talent to the board to help guide us through the next phase of our growth. We also moved our offices back into Nottingham from Mansfield.

We trained a number of City of London police to deliver the primary programme in their local schools and have plans to do the same with the Cypriot police next year.

Financially, the last 12 months have been more challenging than we anticipated; we had hoped that this year would allow us to manage our growth towards delivering our programmes to 20,000 young people per year within 3 years. However, the post-COVID period has provided new challenges with which to work, and we have seen a slight decline in the number of young people receiving our programmes to 12,772 for the year. This was, for the most part, due to the inflationary pressures that have affected all organisations over this period; schools finding that their budgets are not stretching as far as they had forecast, subsequently reducing our orders for the year.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2023

Having delivered to 14,500 young people in the 2021 - 2022 academic year, which was up from the previous year, we were confident in our projections coming out of the COVID period. We could not have predicted the financial upheavals that followed, with schools affected by unfunded pay raises for teachers and the cost of everything from consumables to utilities rising considerably. In this climate, we found that schools that have purchased our services for many years were no longer able to afford to do so. Orders that were already placed were cancelled, and getting new schools onboard became a lot harder. That we delivered to 302 schools was an enormous achievement.

Despite our best efforts over the last 12 months, we have seen our staff team shrink. Our delivery team now stands at 20 members of staff (down from 27), and we have reduced our head office team by 3 people, down to 6 (4 Full-Time Equivalent) from 9 (5.5 FTE). This reorganisation should strengthen our position going forward, balancing the books and ensuring we can stay lean and effective.

Here are some of our other headlines for the year:

1. We delivered to 12,772 pupils comprising 432 classes in 302 different schools. This was a downward trend on our previous year of just under 2000 pupils.
2. Generated £56,752 of income from grants, donations and voluntary contributions from business partners:
 - JN Derbyshire trust: £2000
 - STAR Trust East Mids: £8,000
 - The Grocers Charity: £5,000
 - Notts Police top up project: £40,000
3. We completed the project with Nottinghamshire Police, who made available £360k over 4 years years to support Nottinghamshire schools to receive the Life Skills Primary Programme.
4. Recruited and inducted a new CEO and 6 new trustees.
5. Received over £174,775 in 'in kind' donations from suppliers such as Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Slack, Plesk, and Hotjar through the Charity Digital Exchange/Tech Trust.
6. Our quality assurance systems continue to ensure we deliver to our high standards, guaranteeing a product that is consistently delivered to all schools. The management team carried out 28 QA visits during the year and took feedback direct from teachers of which 26 took the time to complete our quality standards questionnaire which continues to show us being assessed as over 69% outstanding and 99% either good or outstanding.
7. Our system logged, and our designated safeguarding lead reviewed, discussed with schools and signed off on 37 safeguarding submissions, disclosures of which were picked up by a DAART Officer.
8. Over 69,000 users (11,000 new) visited the website over the last 12 months.
9. We are now more engaged with social media, and now have 574 Facebook followers, 925 Twitter followers, 104 Instagram Followers and 801 LinkedIn Followers.
10. Continued to engage MPs to support our programmes resulting in specific questions being asked in the House of Commons about our products and their use in primary schools to reduce crime.

Financial review

Principal funding sources

The Charity's business model is based on seeking grants and or donations to pay for the development of our product range. We then sell the product to the schools. We will also seek opportunities to help schools with the funding to pay for the programme. We can keep the cost of delivery at the cost to the charity, ensuring that we offer an excellent value for money product which is sought by teachers and applauded by parents' careers and students.

The Charity Trustees ensure that our funding sources do not compromise our ability to provide fair and objective information to young people about the uses of drugs and alcohol. We will care about our environmental impact and seek to use cost effective materials and delivery methods which have minimal impact on the environment.

Investment policy and objectives

Most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are few funds for long-term investments. This will be reviewed throughout the following year and any excess of funds generated will be invested appropriately by the trustees in line with our Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Charities Act.

Reserves policy

Our business model enables the Charity to operate with low reserves ensuring Life Skills Education make full use of its income while allowing our customers and service users to benefit from low costs which cover our basic running costs making the products accessible to more young people. This is achieved through careful cash flow management and ensuring that we operate an order book two terms in advance of expenditure. Effectively giving us a six month reserve window.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future Developments

We have three major goals for the future:

1. We are still focused and committed to finding the funding to launch an all-new 'digital' secondary programme,
2. To review and rework our impact evaluation process from the ground up, and
3. To create a Youth Advisory Board and empower them with the tools and resources to be the voice of young people within our organisation, allowing us a window into the challenges that they face today, tomorrow and into the future.

During 2023-24 we will continue to find a funding partner for the secondary programme. This year has continued to be frustrating in that we had another application rejected for the funding we need to take the content we have onto a digital platform for the secondary market. Our work on the YAB and our impact evaluation work will hopefully help us in this endeavor.

For a relatively small charity we solicit and analyse an impressive range of feedback and evaluation. The data we collect every day aligns with the findings of the randomised control sampled trials we have been subject to, and together this data does a lot of heavy lifting. However, we know it can be better. Working with Community Impact CIC we are looking to overhaul our entire impact evaluation process, looking at how and what we collect, longer term self-efficacy data and expanding the methods across a number of data points, to include more than just questionnaires/surveys. All of this will help support business development and performance improvement as well as focus our marketing messages.

Our final goal will be setting up our very first Youth Advisory Board / Peer Research Group (working titles) that will work with young people on these projects to help inform our development work from the perspective of young people. The first chair of the Youth Board has been selected, a 22-year-old whose brother was stabbed to death whilst on holiday; she will be instrumental in the formation of this board and its selection process. Candidates for the board will be selected as part of a full recruitment process, and they will have input into the development of the Terms of Reference for the group.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Life Skills Education Charity is a company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission, registration number 07742739. Its affairs are governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Company has to comply with both the Companies Act 1985 and the Statement of Recognised Practice.

The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £10 each

The Memorandum of Association restricts the use of the charity's income and property, such that they must be applied solely toward the objects of the charity and specifically disallows the payment of dividends, bonuses or profits to the members.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the board.

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the board are appointed to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual general Meeting.

All members of the board give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

The number of trustees shall not be less than three.

Induction and training of new trustees

Potential trustees are identified according to criteria set by the board, so that there is a varied range of abilities, skills and experience.

Most trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity, having been encouraged to take up roles by existing trustees or staff.

Additionally, new trustees are invited and encouraged to attend an initial induction training session to familiarise themselves with the charity and the context within which it operates. Each trustee is also encouraged to attend lessons delivered by DAART officers and a graduation ceremony to experience the programme first hand.

The main documents which set out the operational framework for the charity, including the Memorandum and Articles, business plan and accounts are supplied to new trustees and explained by the CEO and Chairman. A Question & Answer pack has also been prepared drawing information from the various Charity Commission publications signposted through the Commission's guide "the Essential Trustee" as a follow-up to these sessions. This is distributed to all new trustees. Feedback from new trustees about their induction has been very positive.

Organisational structure

The Trustees meet on a regular basis throughout the year. Relevant staff, to ensure clarity of operation and joint understanding of the issues involved, attend these meetings.

A scheme of delegation is in place, and day-to-day responsibility for the provision of the services rests with the Chief Executive and the two non-board Directors.

The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met. The Director of Finance and Operations and The Director of Sales & Marketing have responsibility for the day-to-day operational management of the charity, individual supervision of the staff team and ensuring that the team continue to develop their skills and working practices in line with good practice.

Risk management

The board has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually and reviewed at each board meeting. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which allows for the diversification of funding and activities. Risks relating to internal controls are minimised by the implementation of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety and other legal obligations such as GDPR covering all staff, volunteers and clients. We have an up-to-date Safeguarding Policy and all staff are subject to DBS checks

In so far as it is complimentary to the charity's objects, the charity is guided by both local and national policy. At a national level, drug and alcohol education is steered by principles set out by Mentor ADEPIS. The charity contributed to the monitoring procedures of those standards and was held as good practice in Ministerial papers. Teachers are asked to complete a survey to measure the delivery of the programme against national standards. 97.6% of the surveys rate our delivery as good or outstanding.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07742739 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1172680

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2023

Registered office

6 Sherwood Rise
Nottingham
NG7 6JF

Trustees

L Ayoola
A P Camilleri Chairman (resigned 28.9.22)
P S Chadbourne (resigned 5.6.23)
A Cresswell (resigned 17.7.23)
R A Lord Interim Chairman
L M J Freeman
C T Cooke Chairman (appointed 3.10.22)
R J Cox (appointed 3.10.22)
S Desai (appointed 3.10.22)
T R Wheatley (appointed 3.10.22)
M S Phillips (appointed 5.6.23)
C C Wright (appointed 18.10.23)

The Trustees present their annual report together with the unaudited financial statements of the year ended 31 August 2023.

Company Secretary

S Longcroft

Independent Examiner

Hewitt Card Chartered Certified Accountants
Hewitt Card Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
70-72 Nottingham Road
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 1BN

Solicitors

Shoosmiths LLP
100 Avebury Boulevard
Milton Keynes
MK9 1FH

Human Resource Services

Citation Ltd
King Court
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AR

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr P Moyes	Chief Executive until 31 May 2023
Mrs L Ellis	Chief Executive from 1 August 2023
Mr S Longcroft	The Director of Finance and Operations and Interim Chief Executive from 1 June 2023 until 31 July 2023
Mrs A Sheard	The Director of HR and product development
Mrs K Burke	Sales & Marketing Manager

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 24/01/2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:


.....
C Cooke - Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Life Skills Education Charity ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Hewitt Card Chartered Certified Accountants

Hewitt Card Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
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Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
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Date:

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	1,752	55,000	56,752	147,118
Activities for generating fund	3	255,194	-	255,194	268,512
Total		<u>256,946</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>311,946</u>	<u>415,630</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	2,323	-	2,323	2,632
Charitable activities	5	320,097	57,294	377,391	454,638
Total		<u>322,420</u>	<u>57,294</u>	<u>379,714</u>	<u>457,270</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(65,474)	(2,294)	(67,768)	(41,640)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		102,397	14,694	117,091	158,731
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>36,923</u>	<u>12,400</u>	<u>49,323</u>	<u>117,091</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

BALANCE SHEET 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	5,224		5,224	17,232
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	23,877	-	23,877	58,230
Cash at bank and in hand		59,365	12,400	71,765	132,470
		<u>83,242</u>	<u>12,400</u>	<u>95,642</u>	<u>190,700</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(27,416)	-	(27,416)	(56,799)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>55,826</u>	<u>12,400</u>	<u>68,226</u>	<u>133,901</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>61,050</u>	<u>12,400</u>	<u>73,450</u>	<u>151,133</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(24,127)	-	(24,127)	(34,042)
NET ASSETS		<u>36,923</u>	<u>12,400</u>	<u>49,323</u>	<u>117,091</u>
FUNDS	14				
Unrestricted funds				36,923	102,397
Restricted funds				12,400	14,694
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>49,323</u>	<u>117,091</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24/01/2024 and were signed on its behalf by:


C Cooke - Chair of Trustees

The notes form part of these financial statements

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(51,604)	(103,208)
Interest paid		(989)	(801)
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(52,593)</u>	<u>(104,009)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(5,316)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		1,548	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>1,548</u>	<u>(5,316)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loan repayments in year		(9,660)	(6,298)
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(9,660)</u>	<u>(6,298)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(60,705)</u>	<u>(115,623)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>132,470</u>	<u>248,093</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>71,765</u></u>	<u><u>132,470</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31 August 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(67,768)	(41,640)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4,090	15,044
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	6,370	-
Interest paid	989	801
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	34,353	(18,314)
Decrease in creditors	(29,638)	(59,099)
Net cash used in operations	<u>(51,604)</u>	<u>(103,208)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.9.22 £	Cash flow £	At 31.8.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	132,470	(60,705)	71,765
	<u>132,470</u>	<u>(60,705)</u>	<u>71,765</u>
Debt			
Debts falling due within 1 year	(9,660)	(255)	(9,915)
Debts falling due after 1 year	(34,042)	9,915	(24,127)
	<u>(43,702)</u>	<u>9,660</u>	<u>(34,042)</u>
Total	<u>88,768</u>	<u>(51,045)</u>	<u>37,723</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 August 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and on the assumption that the charity will continue its operations for the foreseeable future. Should this basis not be appropriate, adjustments would have to be made to reduce the value of assets to their recoverable amount, to provide for any further liabilities that might arise and to reclassify fixed assets as current assets. The validity of the going concern basis is dependant upon the financial support from funders. Expenses have been cut wherever possible and new sources of funding have been sourced. Changes in Trustees and CEO have brought in new people with backgrounds in fundraising and talent applicable to the growth of this charity. Funding partners are also being sourced to be able to deliver the programme into secondary schools

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 15% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- Straight line over 3 years

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Voluntary help and gifts in kind

The Charity benefits from the many voluntary hours contributed by it's supporters. In addition, companies and organisations have provided the use of facilities and equipment without charge. It would be impossible to place a value on these gifts in kind for which the Charity is extremely grateful, and without which, much of the work undertaken could not be achieved.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **for the year ended 31 August 2023**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	56,752	147,118

3. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUND

	2023	2022
	£	£
School programme	248,926	262,070
Other income	6,268	6,442
	255,194	268,512

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Marketing and advertising	2,323	2,632

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £
Charitable activities	377,391

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	4,090	15,044
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	6,370	-

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2023 nor for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2023 nor for the year ended 31 August 2022.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 August 2023

8. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	246,497	300,533
Social security costs	7,865	10,449
Other pension costs	3,859	4,186
	<u>258,221</u>	<u>315,168</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Total staff	<u>27</u>	<u>37</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 September 2022	12,828	47,238	60,066
Disposals	(7,462)	(15,005)	(22,467)
At 31 August 2023	<u>5,366</u>	<u>32,233</u>	<u>37,599</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 September 2022	2,404	40,430	42,834
Charge for year	638	3,452	4,090
Eliminated on disposal	(1,295)	(13,254)	(14,549)
At 31 August 2023	<u>1,747</u>	<u>30,628</u>	<u>32,375</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 August 2023	<u>3,619</u>	<u>1,605</u>	<u>5,224</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>10,424</u>	<u>6,808</u>	<u>17,232</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,375	5,217
Prepayments	21,502	53,013
	<u>23,877</u>	<u>58,230</u>

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 August 2023

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 13)	9,915	9,660
Trade creditors	57	26,937
Social security and other taxes	1,290	2,877
Monies received in advance	12,517	13,717
Accrued expenses	3,637	3,608
	<u>27,416</u>	<u>56,799</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 13)	<u>24,127</u>	<u>34,042</u>

13. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	<u>9,915</u>	<u>9,660</u>
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Bank loans - 1-2 years	<u>10,170</u>	<u>9,915</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Bank loans - 2-5 years	<u>13,957</u>	<u>24,127</u>

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.8.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	102,397	(65,474)	36,923
Restricted funds			
City of London schools	1,793	(1,793)	-
Awards for All	9,901	(7,501)	2,400
JN Derbyshire Trust	-	2,000	2,000
Police & Crime Commissioners	3,000	(3,000)	-
The Grocers Charity	-	5,000	5,000
STAR Trust East Midlands	-	3,000	3,000
	<u>14,694</u>	<u>(2,294)</u>	<u>12,400</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>117,091</u>	<u>(67,768)</u>	<u>49,323</u>

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 August 2023

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	256,946	(322,420)	(65,474)
Restricted funds			
City of London schools	-	(1,793)	(1,793)
Awards for All	-	(7,501)	(7,501)
JN Derbyshire Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Police & Crime Commissioners	40,000	(43,000)	(3,000)
The Grocers Charity	5,000	-	5,000
STAR Trust East Midlands	8,000	(5,000)	3,000
	<u>55,000</u>	<u>(57,294)</u>	<u>(2,294)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>311,946</u>	<u>(379,714)</u>	<u>(67,768)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.8.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	151,938	(49,541)	102,397
Restricted funds			
City of London schools	1,793	-	1,793
Awards for All	-	9,901	9,901
Clothworkers Foundation	5,000	(5,000)	-
Police & Crime Commissioners	-	3,000	3,000
	<u>6,793</u>	<u>7,901</u>	<u>14,694</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>158,731</u>	<u>(41,640)</u>	<u>117,091</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	395,630	(445,171)	(49,541)
Restricted funds			
Awards for All	10,000	(99)	9,901
Clothworkers Foundation	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Police & Crime Commissioners	10,000	(7,000)	3,000
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>(12,099)</u>	<u>7,901</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>415,630</u>	<u>(457,270)</u>	<u>(41,640)</u>

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 August 2023

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.9.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.8.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	151,938	(115,015)	36,923
Restricted funds			
City of London schools	1,793	(1,793)	-
Awards for All	-	2,400	2,400
JN Derbyshire Trust	-	2,000	2,000
Clothworkers Foundation	5,000	(5,000)	-
The Grocers Charity	-	5,000	5,000
STAR Trust East Midlands	-	3,000	3,000
	<u>6,793</u>	<u>5,607</u>	<u>12,400</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>158,731</u>	<u>(109,408)</u>	<u>49,323</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	652,576	(767,591)	(115,015)
Restricted funds			
City of London schools	-	(1,793)	(1,793)
Awards for All	10,000	(7,600)	2,400
JN Derbyshire Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Clothworkers Foundation	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Police & Crime Commissioners	50,000	(50,000)	-
The Grocers Charity	5,000	-	5,000
STAR Trust East Midlands	8,000	(5,000)	3,000
	<u>75,000</u>	<u>(69,393)</u>	<u>5,607</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>727,576</u>	<u>(836,984)</u>	<u>(109,408)</u>

Each restricted and designated fund has sufficient resources to enable the fund to be applied in accordance with the restrictions imposed.

iii) City of London Schools - The local unit closed, this fund was set aside for if the City of London ever wanted to use it again.

v) Awards for All - this is for the redevelopment of the Ontrack programme.

vii) Clothworkers Foundation - This was for purchase of computer equipment and has been fully expended in 2022.

viii) Police & Crime Commissioners - for the development of a football based game.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 August 2023.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION CHARITY
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 August 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	56,752	147,118
Activities for generating fund		
School programme	248,926	262,070
Other income	6,268	6,442
	<u>255,194</u>	<u>268,512</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>311,946</u>	<u>415,630</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Marketing and advertising	2,323	2,632
Charitable activities		
Wages	246,497	300,533
Social security	7,865	10,449
Pensions	3,859	4,186
Rent	27,980	2,185
Insurance	1,995	1,755
Telephone	2,254	2,405
Postage and stationery	2,661	3,163
Travel costs	14,667	21,468
Workbooks and direct costs	14,282	36,264
Teacher training costs	4,808	13,873
Website and IT costs	14,082	16,453
Repairs and maintenance	694	571
Accountancy	4,260	4,222
Professional fees	12,357	16,429
Other costs	6,130	3,339
Recruitment	1,551	1,498
Fixtures and fittings	638	1,578
Computer equipment	3,452	13,466
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	6,370	-
Bank loan interest	989	801
	<u>377,391</u>	<u>454,638</u>
Total resources expended	<u>379,714</u>	<u>457,270</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(67,768)</u>	<u>(41,640)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

