

Afrocats

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 5th June 2023

Afrocats

Reference and administrative information for the year ended 5th June 2023

Charity number 1173334

Registered office and operational address 83 Ducie Street,
Manchester,
M1 2JQ

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Reina Euphemia Jukon Yaidoo	Chair
Linzi Jane Stirrup	Secretary
Pauline Adjemo	Trustee
Ruth Alison Bellhouse	Trustee (left in July 2022)

Key management personnel Magdalen Bartlett Chief Executive Officer

Bankers Lloyds
42-46 Market St,
Manchester
M1 1PW

Independent Examiner Catherine Hall FCCA DChA
Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill,
Jersey St,
Manchester, M4 6JG

Afrocats
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 5th June 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 5th June 2023.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

For the purpose of this clause, 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth; ill-health (physical or mental); discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed; poor educational and skills attainment.

Our vision: A robust and more inclusive society for asylum-seekers, refugees and diverse young people.

Our mission: To build agency, aspiration and opportunity for women and young people to improve their overall life chances through creative engagement.

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report on the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to the charity beneficiaries. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities have remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Our programmes

All Afrocats charitable activities are programmes for work refugees, asylum seekers and young people from diverse backgrounds. Afrocats' activities focus on three thematic strands:

- Inclusion
- Health and wellbeing
- Opportunities for development

Our programmes are guided by our theory of change which outlines how we will achieve our vision for society. All activities are delivered to further Afrocats' charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Natives of the World

On our Natives of the World programme, we work with adults from marginalised backgrounds. Through our activities, everyone can feel included and part of society. We aim for the adults we work with to access volunteering and creative activities to improve their well-being and employability skills.

Afrocats Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 5th June 2023

The adult refugees and asylum seekers we work with often experience complex health and social care needs. Our support is focused primarily on newly granted stay, low-wage or unemployed adults who suffer from low self-esteem and confidence, and those that have poor mental health.

Youth of the World

Youth of the World is our programme for young people to broaden their horizons. We work with children and young people aged 5 to 18 who do not have access to activities and education support. Without this, young people have low aspirations and limited future employment opportunities.

The children and young people we work with are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The children and young people who access our programmes include young refugees and asylum seekers, home-schoolers, children from low-wage households and young carers.

Achievements and performance

From 2022 to 2023 Afrocats worked with:

- 187 adults
- 78 children and young people
- 26 volunteers
- 15 diverse facilitators
- 33 commissioners who were schools, businesses and cultural organisations
- 8 partners

To deliver:

- 29 Saturday sessions for Youth of the World
- 107 events for women on Natives of the World
- 8 events for families
- 30 wellbeing boxes
- 28 outdoor experiences
- 8 commissioned activities for school children
- 4 training sessions for organisations

A highlight of our year was the opportunity for the children and young people on Youth of the World to walk with Little Amal at the Manchester Day Parade thanks to our partners, Walk The Plank. This also gave Afrocats a platform to promote our charity to the thousands of people who lined the streets of Manchester to watch the parade.

We continued to deliver our Saturday youth programme funded with thanks to BBC Children in Need and the Didymus Trust. The sessions provided creative, cultural activities for children and young people who have little or no access to supplementary education. We focused on giving diverse artists to deliver creative activities such as circus skills, crafts and animation for children aged 5 - 11 and youth leadership and debate with the young people aged 12+. Our Christmas party was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the young people on our programmes with a showcase of work. We commissioned the production of a film to act as a legacy of our work over the year so the children could have a record of how their confidence has grown.

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"My hopes for the future are to be successful, be confident, and speak about the things that need to be spoken about."

This year we were awarded a Spirit of Manchester Award for our work with communities, where we use creative facilitation and cultural sensitivity to help women develop connections and networks. With funding from Arnold Clark Community Fund and support from Cross Street Chapel, every Friday women on our Natives of the World programme join together for two hours to talk, dance and have good conversations at our Table Talk group, an initiative led by an Afrocats beneficiary.

"I want to get a paid job and leading Table Talk helps give me the confidence to make that happen. It helps me develop day-by-day because Afrocats believes in me."

We were delighted to end this year working with Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, the Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN), and Ardwick and Longsight Primary Care Network to explore ways to improve maternity care for women from Eastern African backgrounds living in Longsight. 15 women from Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia took part in weekly sessions to begin to dismantle the communication barriers they experience in their journey to motherhood. The sessions aimed to connect pregnant women and mothers with local health and social services to improve their lifestyles.

"Here you can get help, ask about anything you want, before I did not know about Surestart, I only hear about Sure Start here. In this group you can get support if your child can't speak, we now know about speech therapists. My wellbeing has improved and I will keep coming and also tell people to come."

Strategic partnerships

Our strategic partnerships have helped us to further opportunities for the people we work with across our thematic strands.

We developed a new partnership with The Menopause Charity to deliver information, advice and guidance to asylum seekers and refugees facing considerable barriers to healthcare access. Through our work, we offered a friendly and safe place for women to talk about their reproductive health, raise much-needed awareness around the menopause experience, and dismantle widespread illusions surrounding it.

"Very motivating and answers a lot of my doubts and concerns about the menopause."

Our partnership with the Whitworth Art Gallery aims to make the gallery a place of sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers. During each school holiday of 2022, 1674 families engaged in the activities, a record number of visitors since re-opening after the pandemic. 90% of families visiting had never visited the gallery before. For our takeover in April, we took our partnership outside with 600 families participating over three days, braving the Manchester weather. At our final gallery takeover of the year, drumming and storytelling artist Godfrey told participants:

"you don't have to be a good singer or dancer, from Africa if you can walk or talk you can sing and dance."

The partnership has led to a change in practice at the gallery. Which now provides family information and activity signage in Urdu, Farsi and Persian. Afrocats artists have helped diversify the Whitworth artist practitioner team. And Afrocats delivered training to all staff so they have the knowledge, understanding and empathy needed to welcome those seeking asylum in the city.

We were pleased to continue to develop our partnership with Women Asylum Seekers Together to deliver cultural dance workshops funded by the Caribbean and African Health Network. The sessions gave the women something to look forward to each week, supporting their health and wellbeing.

Afrocats Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 5th June 2023

We have worked with WAST on My Community, My Cookbook; a National Lottery Community Fund project to build connections and cooking skills amongst women seeking asylum. And, thanks to funding from Sport England and the Canal and River Trust we have been able to develop a walking project for women across both of our networks.

School workshops

We have been commissioned to deliver Afrocats workshops in schools across Greater Manchester, during the period we worked with 663 children in schools:

- 26% were white British
- 73% were from other backgrounds
- 23% had a disability
- 72% were girls

Training and mentoring

During this year we have developed a new strand of work, training for cultural organisations and businesses and mentoring for diverse artists. Working with our partners such as MADE and Whitworth we have delivered training in arts and trauma and improving accessibility for people seeking asylum and refugees.

"Magdalen provided an exceptional session for us. It gave us the opportunity to learn more about Afrocats and different approaches to delivering and documenting trauma-informed work. The space was safe, creative and allowed the group opportunities to reflect on their own practice."

This is an area of work that we plan to grow next year and have begun fundraising so we can develop this work further.

Fundraising achievements

In June 2022 we were delighted to have been successfully awarded funding from The National Lottery Community Fund to develop our capacity as an organisation. This news kickstarted a year of successful fundraising performance for Afrocats. With thanks to our corporate and community partners, individual donors and a gift-in-kind donation from Cash For Kids Mission Christmas we raised over £4,000 for our Christmas appeal and were able to provide a gift for every child we work with.

- 8 new grant funders
- 1 regular giver
- 11 donors
- 3 new community partners
- 3 corporate donations

Marketing and audience development

Over 2022 - 2023 we continued to develop our reach and engage our audiences.

Social media statistics

Facebook	Page visits	Impressions	Reactions	Post Reach	New Fans
	377	4,376	655	2,898	21

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	Up 63.2%	Up 37%	Up 41%	Up 15%	Up 61.5%
Twitter	Impressions 21,00 Up 73%	Engagements 173 Up 18%	New followers 211 Up 53%		
LinkedIn	Engagement Rate 6.48% Up 25%	Clicks 114 Up 14%	Impressions 3,467 Up 37%	New Followers 28 Up 43%	
Instagram	Reach 19,204 Up 10.7%	Profile visits 1,942 Up 159.6%	New followers 7 Up 15%		

Website statistics

Users 1,408 Up 94%	Unique visitors 708 Up 65%	Avg. session duration 5m 29s
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Financial review

Expenditure for the year is £98,957.00. From 2022 to 2023, we secured £88,478.00 in charitable funds to continue to deliver our programmes of work and develop our capacity as an organisation. Funding from The National Lottery Community Fund has helped us to continue to grow our reach and maintain a sustainable team of freelancers and staff. In January 2023 we began to implement our fundraising plan to maximise our income across charitable trusts and foundations and build on our successes with individual giving, corporate partnerships and community fundraising.

During this period we have continued to grow our partnership work which has established an income stream from commissioned work that contributes to our financial sustainability by building our reserves. We are confident that our approach will continue to attract significant, long-term grants and donations that will enable our organisation to grow financially and deliver our much-needed work to service users.

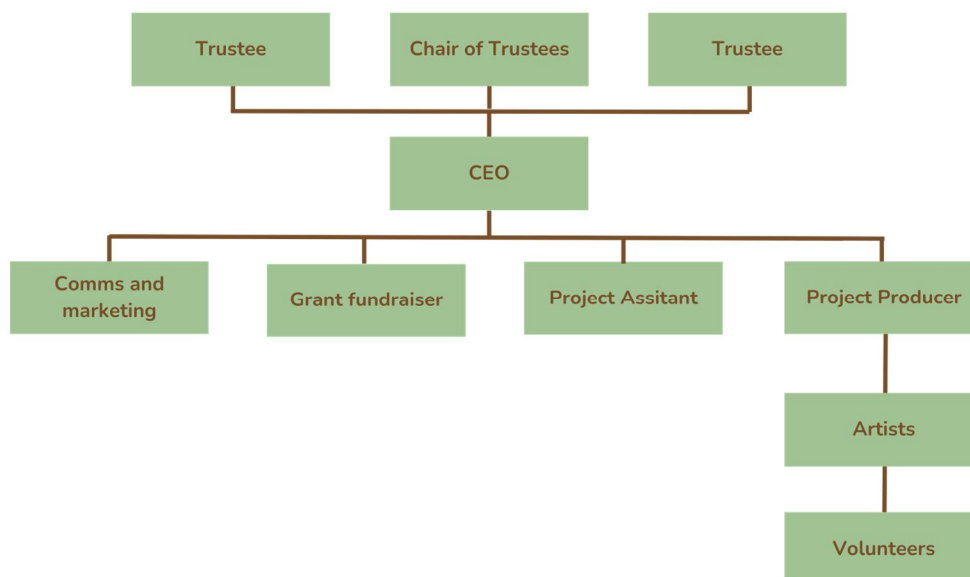
Reserves policy

Our reserve policy stipulates that we aim to have enough unrestricted cash to cover operating expenses for three to six months' expenses. As we are still a young and small charity we currently run on a grant-by-grant basis but we have continued to diversify our income streams to grow our reserves and financial sustainability.

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Structure, governance and management

Afrocats Structure



Afrocats' leadership is made up of the board of trustees and the charity CEO. 100% of the leadership team are women and 75% are from a Black background.

Governance

Our board of three trustees are passionate about creating change for the people Afrocats support. The board of trustees have strategic oversight of the charity and its running, the trustees make critical decisions by majority vote. The trustees specify who can become a director, call board meetings, and decide how the board elects the charity officers.

The trustees are volunteers and don't share in any operating surplus. Afrocats elect trustees to be board members through advertisement and invitation. Each individual must undergo an interview and selection process with long-standing Board members and the CEO. In June 2022 Pauline Adjemo joined the Afrocats board of trustees. Pauline has experienced the asylum system and uses her lived experience to shape the strategic decision-making of our charity.

Management

Afrocats was founded by Magdalen Bartlett, she is the charity's CEO and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity. Magdalen uses her lived experience of migration and culture shock to build programmes of work that will create meaningful change for the communities that Afrocats represents.

Afrocats has a team of freelancers and volunteers who are managed by the CEO. The charity currently does not have contracted staff but once core funding is secured the Board of Trustees will contract part-time roles. Funding from The National Lottery Community Fund has enabled Afrocats to commission regular freelancers who give the charity's programmes, marketing and grant fundraising stability and consistency.

Magdalen organises regular team meet-ups consisting of a board member, one or more staff and groups of volunteers. The staff team are offered training opportunities to develop their skills and their personal development.

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Operations

Afrocats CEO oversees the day-to-day operations with project management, managing volunteers, finance and budgets, and reporting to funders and the trustees.

Magdalen Bartlett does this with support from volunteers and freelance project assistants. Ali Gunn provides Communications and Marketing support on a voluntary and freelance paid basis. Edel Fernandez Vanaclocha provides project coordination support on a freelance basis.

Magdalen Bartlett reports to trustees at monthly meetings with the Chair to ensure the smooth running of the charity's aims and finances according to our constitution and newly completed business plan. Any surplus Afrocats has is reinvested into our charity.

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered as a charity on 08/06/2017 in England and Wales. The charity is constituted under a trust deed date. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 5 of the accounts.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Reina Euphemia Jukon Yaidoo (Chair)

Date

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Afrocats

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 5th June 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street
Manchester, M4 6JG

Date

Afrocats
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 5 June 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts					
Donations		4,575	-	4,575	1,691
Grants	3	500	41,249	41,749	38,152
Commission		42,154	-	42,154	12,675
Total receipts		47,229	41,249	88,478	52,518
Payments					
Project Management		12,863	23,421	36,284	9,438
Website, Marketing and Publicity		2,112	2,815	4,927	3,438
Equipment and Materials		1,515	322	1,837	1,280
Freelance Artists		18,209	10,572	28,781	16,455
ACCESS Costs		3,779	7,515	11,294	3,016
Overheads		64	1,833	1,897	382
Postage, Print and Stationery		169	109	278	443
Venue Hire		1,400	1,845	3,245	1,465
Food Parcels		-	-	-	858
Freelance Fees		-	1,000	1,000	15,980
Information Technology		193	3,658	3,851	133
Travel		-	-	-	2,667
Translator Costs		-	-	-	180
Refreshments		-	-	-	1,571
Gift Vouchers		1,160	430	1,590	-
Telephone and Internet		241	134	375	2,389
Volunteer Costs		256	403	659	891
Training		324	460	784	-
Administration		-	-	-	720
Project Slip		-	-	-	200
Other Freelance Costs		1,155	1,000	2,155	1,865
Total payments		43,440	55,517	98,957	63,371
Net receipts/(payments)		3,789	(14,268)	(10,479)	(10,853)
Transfer between funds		(347)	347	-	-
Surplus/(deficit)		3,442	(13,921)	(10,479)	(10,853)

Afrocats
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 5 June 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds</i> <i>2022</i> <i>£</i>
Cash funds					
Bank and cash balances at start of year		3,292	23,173	26,465	37,318
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account		3,442	(13,921)	(10,479)	(10,853)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Bank and cash balances at end of year		6,734	9,252	15,986	26,465
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Approved by the Trustees on ____/____/____ and signed on their behalf by:

Reina (Chair)
Euphemia
Jukon Yaidoo

Afrocats

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 5 June 2023

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis.

2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

3 Grants received

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
10GM Ltd	-	5,505	5,505	-
Arnold Clarke	-	-	-	1,000
Arts Council England	-	-	-	1,500
BBC Children in Need	500	-	500	9,998
Canal and River Trust	-	5,438	5,438	-
Community Arts North West	-	-	-	990
Community Fund	-	-	-	4,400
Didymus	-	-	-	2,000
Event Brite	-	-	-	142
Greater Manchester Mental Health	-	-	-	3,000
Manchester Alliance	-	-	-	920
Market St Manchester	-	-	-	390
Manchester Metropolitan University	-	-	-	1,358
Plan International	-	800	800	-
Reaching Communities	-	21,620	21,620	2,300
School Workshops	-	-	-	385
Spirit of Manchester	-	1,000	1,000	-
The Charity Service	-	3,000	3,000	1,000
This Girl Can	-	-	-	8,025
Walk the Plank	-	-	-	744
We Love Manchester	-	3,886	3,886	-
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	500	41,249	41,749	38,152
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Afrocats

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 5 June 2023 (continued)

4 Receipts from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
Donations	4,575	-	4,575	1,691
Commission	42,154	-	42,154	12,675
	<u>46,729</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,729</u>	<u>14,366</u>

5 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

No trustees or other persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year .

Trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £nil (2022: £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

6 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 6 June 2022	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 5 June 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
10GM Ltd	-	5,505	(4,875)	-	630
Albert Hunt Trust	71	-	-	-	71
Arnold Clarke	1,000	-	(993)	-	7
Arts Council England	492	-	-	-	492
BBC Children in Need	9,180	-	(9,314)	134	-
Canal and River Trust	-	5,438	(3,616)	-	1,822
Community Arts North West	15	-	(11)	(4)	-
The Community Fund	4,024	-	(4,200)	176	-
Didymus	2,000	-	(1,965)	-	35
D'Oyly Carte	100	-	-	-	100
Greater Manchester Mental Health	2,141	-	(2,134)	-	7
GMCVO	2	-	-	-	2
Manchester Youth and Play Fund*	-	-	(2,020)	-	(2,020)
Plan International	-	800	-	-	800
Reaching Communities	780	21,620	(22,051)	-	349
Spirit of Manchester	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
The Charity Service	800	3,000	(1,084)	-	2,716
This Girl Can	2,568	-	(2,609)	41	-
We Love Manchester	-	3,886	(645)	-	3,241
	<u>23,173</u>	<u>41,249</u>	<u>(55,517)</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>8,622</u>

*Manchester Youth and Play Fund deficit is due to a grant being received in 2023-2024.

Afrocats

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 5 June 2023 (continued)

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
10GM Ltd	Our test and learn site will allow space for PCN representatives to hold consultations around social prescribing and maternity with women in the community to identify their needs and work collaboratively to find out barriers rather than making cultural assumptions about the needs of women.
Albert Hunt Trust	To provide access and project management for our Natives of the world programme
Arnold Clarke	Arnold Clarke funds Afrocats to provide travel expenses and refreshments for our Natives of the World Programme
Arts Council England	The £1500 was a percentage that Arts Council England retained until the completion of the project
BBC Children in Need	Three-year fund to support our Youth of the World programme to support creative activities
Canal and River Trust	Funding for this project will allow us to continue to fund our cultural dance workshops, which support 15 women weekly to engage in cultural dance, creative movement, and fitness programs whilst exploring Manchester canals.
Community Arts North West	Contracts to contribute to creative activities in Manchester with children and young people
The Community Fund	To Support our food and creative activities
Didymus	To support our creative activities with our children and young people
D'Oyly Carte	To support our creative activities with our children and young people
Forever Manchester	To provide essential items for women and their families
Greater Manchester Mental Health	To provide creative and well-being activities for women
GMCVO	To provide creative activities for participants in our Natives of the Wold programme
Manchester Youth and Play Fund	To partner with Whitworth Art Gallery to provide a large outdoor Art Studio for children, young people, and their families to enjoy and contribute to.
Plan International	To provide an opportunity for youth to have an experience to improve their health and wellbeing.
Spirit of Manchester	To provide access to support for our service users to take part in well-being and creative activities in Manchester.
The Charity Service	Afrocats engaged with women, children and young people across Manchester to visit cultural and social interest places such as local parks, museums, art galleries, and events and festivals
This Girl Can	To provide cultural dance classes online or face-to-face with women and girls
We Love Manchester	To offer cultural dance classes to refugee and asylum seeker women in Manchester.

Afrocats

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 5 June 2023 (continued)

7 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 6 June 2022 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	As at 5 June 2023 £
Donations	183	4,575	(3,946)	-	812
Commission	1,960	42,154	(38,324)	-	5,790
Grants	1,149	500	(1,170)	(347)	132
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	3,292	47,229	(43,440)	(347)	6,734
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Restricted			9,252		
General			6,734		
			<hr/>		
Total			15,986		
			<hr/>		