



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
<b>From</b>	Day 1st	Month April	Year 2020	<b>To</b>	Day 31st	Month March	Year 2021

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

Postcode

### Names of the charity trustees and officials who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dawson Lane	Chair		Membership
2	Sharon Hall	Secretary		Membership
3	Jackie Lane	Trustee		Membership
4	Colin Higham	Trustee		Membership
5	Paul Callaghan	Treasurer		Membership
6	Margaret Sidebottom	Trustee		Membership

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
None	

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Council Officer	Janine	Byron
Council Officer	Nicola	Carter

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

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(eg. trust deed, constitution)	
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Dated 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Voluntary application and selection by membership election

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

The charity is ultimately managed at a strategic level by the 6 Trustees with support currently provided by 2 local government officers as part of the local council's community asset transfer agenda. Operationally, the organisation is managed and operates through a team of trustees and volunteers who all have specific job roles and responsibilities.

There are a number of other provider organisations that operate from the centre, namely The Shed (Tameside), Noah's A.R.T, the Stroke Association, St Antony's and Active Tameside. Members of these groups are also trustees of the CIO. A formal partnership arrangement is in place with Active Tameside to deliver a community café and health and wellbeing activities within the centre.

Tameside MBC provides a commissioned Day Service for people with disabilities from the centre with an employed team of 3 care staff and one Senior.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, the centre has operated at a reduced capacity and for most of the current financial year was unable to deliver face to face services owing to Covid restrictions. Risk assessments were carried out during the summer of 2020 prior to services re-opening towards the end of the year. The assessments were approved by Tameside Council's Health and Safety and Public Health team. Consideration of risk is also given within the business plan in terms of overall management of the charity and its priorities. Specific risk assessments are completed as and when required in terms of events and activities. All other risks eg Fire, Health and Safety etc are managed within the relevant documents and policies.

## Section C

## Objectives and activities

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

**The objects of the CIO according to the constitution are:**

To further or benefit the residents of Tameside and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents

In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power:

To establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above object.

Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with

(Section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005) and (Section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008)

**The Centres Vision Statement is:**

We want to be a place of possibility. We want to be a place where people can come together, feel safe, well and happy. Where people can learn and grow and feel a sense of pride and ownership.

**The Centres Strategic Aims are:**

- To provide a community resource and facilities for all to use.
- To provide a range of activities for all to participate in.
- To provide a healthy food offer available and accessible for all.
- To help people to access services and facilities which will help to improve their wellbeing.

**Summary**

The Together Centre at Loxley House seeks to develop a range of health and wellbeing activities over time in order to achieve our social objectives, as well as generate sufficient income to manage and maintain the centre in the longer term.

Key activities of the Trust will be:

- Managing the Together Centre as an accessible, community facility hosting a range of services to the community, including people with a disability and / or sensory impairment.
- Providing a range of services to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

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

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

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

We currently do not have a policy on grant making, however, this is something that we will be working on more detail with our colleagues at Action Together Tameside. We have submitted a number of successful grants for specific projects within the centre and are working hard to deliver the projects.

We recognise the importance and the crucial contribution that is made by our volunteers and this is reflected in the centres Volunteer Strategy that is in place. This covers all aspects of volunteering ensuring that all our volunteers have a positive experience whilst being involved at the centre.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As with the rest of the country, the Together Centre spent the first 3 months of the year in lockdown as a result of the pandemic. During the summer of 2020 as restrictions were gradually eased the Trustees undertook a series of conversations with the local authority around the safety measures to be put in place that would permit a re-opening of the premises.

Given the highly vulnerable nature of most of the centre's service users the decision was taken to re-introduce existing services on a gradually phased and socially distanced basis.

As key service providers such as The Shed and Noah's Art were unable to deliver activity to generate income and/or meet grant and contract targets the Board of Trustees agreed to reduce rental costs by 50%. The ongoing suspension of most services meant that rent represented the bulk of the Together Centre's income for 2020-21.

**Volunteers** – Despite the pandemic, the Together Centre was able to retain a core group of 16 volunteers who were instrumental both in reconfiguring the premises so that a limited range of activities could be re-established, cleaning and sanitising the premises after use and supporting general operations.

**Trustees** – The break in operations gave the current Board time both to continue working on a Community Asset Transfer with the local authority and to assess current levels of representation. Conversations have been held with a number of local residents, service users and volunteers with a view to expanding the make-up of the Board during the coming year, bringing in a wider set of skills and experience to help develop the CIO.

**Council Support** – The Centre received ongoing advice and support from local council officers, particularly in the context of making the premises safe for people to meet in small numbers in line with government regulations and guidance. Work also continued on a draft business plan for the Centre as one of the key requirements to effect transfer of the asset to the Together Centre.

**Donations and Funding** – no new grants were secured during the year, partly due to the premises not being available for the safe delivery of services and partly due to the need to prioritise the delivery of projects, services and initiatives funded by previously secured grants. Plans are in hand to appoint a new Centre Manager who will lead on the development and submission of new grant applications, and building the level of donations and commercial income into the organisation.

**Activities Timetable** – This will be re-established once the Centre is able to return to normal operations and will continue to include; exercise classes for a range of abilities and interests, a weekly singing session, music workshops, drama workshops and language sessions.

**Community Café** – The purchase of new ovens is required in order to bring the café back into full operation. This is subject to ongoing negotiation with Tameside MBC and Active Tameside who currently manage the kitchen and café area.

**Winter Pressures for vulnerable people** – During the winter we again worked in partnership with Active Tameside using funding from the local council to support vulnerable people. We were able to provide free hot meals and activities to those in need and this also included delivery to people's homes.

**Room hire** – other than core tenants room hire was static for the year owing to the pandemic restrictions.

**Membership** – A membership system is well established with members clear about what they can expect from becoming a member. Administrative systems are in place to support this. The membership offer has been expanded by the improved activity offer. We have also introduced a "suspended membership scheme" which is an anonymous "pay it forward" scheme for people to purchase memberships on behalf of others who are finding the cost difficult for whatever reason to ensure the centre is as inclusive as possible.

**Partnership working** – We have continued to work with Action Together on building the capacity of the organisation by setting out plans to increase the number of volunteers and Trustees and finalise a job description for our first paid employee. Action Together will also be providing payroll support once an employee is appointed.

**Outreach work** – Outreach activities will resume once government restrictions arising from the pandemic ease sufficiently to allow such engagement.

**Fareshare** — Active Tameside, with whom we work in partnership to run the Together Café, is a full member of Fareshare. This continues to allow the café to offer a range of foods that would not normally be available to the members at a reduced rate and is helping to support our value of providing healthy and ethical food.

**Grow Together** – Following work in previous years to develop this initiative, further work is planned during 20-21 to promote wider involvement in the gardens, including the creation of a commemorative garden for former users and stakeholders of Loxley House and an allotment project to grow food and flowers to be used to prepare meals in the community café and for the general benefit of service users.

**Animals from Noah's A.R.T** – Noah's A.R.T. is a social project that operates out of the centre. Their purpose is to provide animal assisted therapy for anybody who loves animals, nature and creativity as an alternative to talking therapies. The animals based at the centre provide a warm, welcoming and homely environment which is enjoyed by all members at the centre.



## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Social evenings** – We will resume Social evenings at the centre once pandemic restrictions are ease. These will continue to reflect members' interests and include games, pub quiz, 3 course meal and a pop up bar.

**Christmas Celebrations** – Unfortunately, these were not possible during 2020 owing to Greater Manchester being in Tier 3 restrictions.

## Section E

## Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

As the TTC is in its formative and development years, any surpluses and reserves shall be dedicated to expand and further its ambitions as stated in the Objects section of the Constitution.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

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

The charities principal sources of funds and income will be derived from:

- Rental income
- Room Hire
- Community Café
- Service Delivery
  - Grants
  - Contracts
  - Direct Payments
- Fundraising (Fairs, events, socials etc)
- Voluntary income and donations

Expenditure is focused primarily on the purchase of equipment to enhance and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation.

A business plan forming the basis of a Community Asset Transfer with the local authority is well advanced and reflects our policy objectives. Reserves and working resources will, wherever possible, be employed in an ethical manner.

To develop and maintain a healthy reserve it is our policy to retain a reserve fund supplemented by a minimum of 25% of the year-end surplus. The Trust Board may increase this at any time as it sees fit and appropriate, under advisement of the Treasurer.

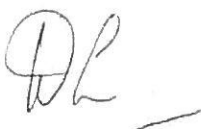

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dawson Lane	Paul Callaghan
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	27/01/22	





## 2020 - 2021 - Year-end Account Summary

### 2019-20 Year-end

Cash Carried FWD from 2019-20	£3,295.27
Bank Carried FWD from 2019-20	£58,380.67
<b>Total carried FWD from 2018/19</b>	<b>£61,675.94</b>

### 2020-21 Income

2020-21	Members' fees	£0.00
2020-21	Grants & donations	£950.00
2020-21	Lunch club	£0.00
2020-21	Room hire	£3,000.00
2020-21	Fund raising	£830.00
2020-21	<b>Total income</b>	<b>£4,780.00</b>
2020-21	Bank Balance	£62,040.67
2020-21	Cash Balance	£2,256.56

### Balance

<b>Total Income in-year</b>	<b>£4,780.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditure in-year</b>	<b>£2,158.71</b>
<b>In-year, end Balance</b>	<b>£2,621.29</b>

<b>Running Balance as at 31/3/2020</b>	<b>£64,297.23</b>
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(including last years surplus)

### 2020-21 Expenditure

Rent	£0.00
Rates	£0.00
Grant expend.	£0.00
Water & sewerage	£0.00
Gas/Elec.	£0.00
Maint/ Repairs	£0.00
Lunch club expenses	£0.00
Fundraising expenses	£100.00
Refreshments	£0.00
Postage	£0.00
Office / catering equipment	£0.00
Stationery & printing	£0.00
Phone & Internet	£0.00
Motor/ Travel exp.	£0.00
Insurance	£0.00
Misc.	£1,958.73
Garden	£0.00
Licences	£99.98
<b>Total Cash Expenditure</b>	<b>£2,158.71</b>
<b>Total Cheque Expenditure</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>In-year Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£2,158.71</b>





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

The Together Centre

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Charity no  
(if any)

1173335

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed:

Date:

25/01/2022

Name:

J V Fidler

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

FCCA

**Address:** 80 Joel Lane  
Gee Cross, Hyde  
Cheshire SK14 5LF

## Section B

### Disclosure

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

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