



# Stretford Children's Theatre

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1175334

## 2023 / 2024

# Annual Report

## Financial Year End 31.8.24

(Period covered 01.09.23-31.08.24)

Stretford Children's Theatre

Stretford Public Hall

Chester Road

Stretford

Manchester

M32 0LG

Email: [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com)

Instagram: [stretfordchildrenstheatre](https://www.instagram.com/stretfordchildrenstheatre)

Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPoAngRLXlhN6h\\_u57i4fA?app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPoAngRLXlhN6h_u57i4fA?app=desktop)

Website: [www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk](http://www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SCTStretford/>

X: @SCT\_Stretford



### ***Mission Statement:***

To inspire, educate and enrich our community by providing high quality accessible performing arts sessions and through public productions.

### ***Our Vision:***

To build a valued community organisation that is well-known for its high quality, inclusive, participant-led performing arts offer; an environment where everyone feels valued and supported to unlock talent and reach their potential.

### ***Our Values:***

*Our values, below, inform our work and guide our attitudes and behaviours:*

We value:

We encourage:



### ***Our Aims:***

- To provide fun, creative opportunities
- To be participant led
- To increase confidence, resilience and independence for participants
- To develop social and emotional skills to support mental health and well-being
- To develop confidence and leadership skills in order to enhance employability
- To develop skills, knowledge and appreciation of the arts
- To promote an understanding of the significance of the arts in our shared cultural heritage
- To encourage participants' connection to their community: a sense of belonging
- To provide a safe and healthy environment for all
- To work together with residents, community users, local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to be a positive part of the community
- To be a robust and sustainable organisation



### **Our Charitable Objects:**

To advance education for the public benefit among children and young people aged 4 and above and adults in all aspects of the performing arts by the provision of workshops and opportunities to participate in artistic performances.

Established in 1945 by Bertram H. Holland, Stretford Children's Theatre became an integral part of the community for over 35 years. However, it ceased operations in the early 1980s. In 2015, a dedicated group of local individuals successfully revived the theatre, choosing one of its original venues, Stretford Public Hall, as the backdrop for its resurgence.

Stretford Children's Theatre [SCT] is dedicated to offering accessible, high-quality drama experiences for individuals aged 4 and above, extending to adults within our community. Our drama sessions are delivered by professional theatre practitioners, specialists at working with our different age groups. We think we meet our aims at every session we deliver and hope that everyone feels the same. If you feel differently, please speak to any member of the Board or staff and highlight any concerns you may have.

As a foundation CIO, we are governed by our Constitution. If you wish for a copy of the Constitution which details more information about our group's governance and rules, please ask any of the Board Members who can give you a copy, it can also be found on our website.

We have had no serious or reportable accidents or incidents this year.

Our public liability insurance is held with Markel Insurance.

All our drama practitioners are DBS checked and follow our child protection policy and procedures. All our policies can be found on our website.

We conduct risk assessments for each group, and each place we visit to ensure everybody's safety.

We continuously review policies during the year, our financial controls are monitored and adjusted accordingly to ensure robust processes are adhered to and trustees remain accountable.

Our registered address is: Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, M32 0LG

**Our active bank details are:**

Natwest, Trafford Park, Third Avenue, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1NW

- General Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- General Account Number: 56057687      Sort Code: 010881
- Savings Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- Savings Account Number: 56057695      Savings Sort Code: 010881

**Natwest Business Account**

- General Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- General Account Number: 56126778      Sort Code: 010881

**Thank you from us all for helping to make Stretford Children's Theatre work.**



***If you are able to support us any further, through donations, volunteering your time or offering specific skills that might be useful, please do get in touch via email at [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com) or get in touch through our Facebook page (Stretford Children's Theatre), or speak to any of the Board Members, staff, volunteers, or leaders.***



## **Group Structure 2023/2024**

### **Our Charity Trustees / Board Members are:**

Trustee Name	Date of appointment to the board	Current Position held	Term of Office	Date of office up for renewal	Number of terms served currently
Kirsty Thomas	23.10.17	Treasurer	3 years	23.10.25	2
Sophie Bowden	21.02.22	Trustee	3 years	21.02.25	0
Shelly Quinton-Hulme	23.10.17	Chairperson	3 years	29.04.26	2
Niall Brennan	19.01.23	Trustee	3 years	19.01.26	0
Rachel Stevens	08.02.24	Trustee	3 years	Retired 04.07.24	0
Ian Beard	08.02.24	Secretary	3 years	08.02.27	0
Michelle Calame-Bell	12.08.20	Trustee	3 years	12.08.26	1
Keith Broom	10.05.18	Trustee	3 years	Retired 17.01.24	2
Janice Rendel	23.10.17	Trustee	3 years	Retired 28.12.23	2
Jessica Loveday	29.04.20	Trustee	3 years	Retired 30.10.23	1

No changes to the Board are known about at this time but strengthening our capabilities is on the agenda and this may mean increasing the number of Trustees to the Board. We will advertise for new trustees looking for skills we need that have been identified using a trustee skills audit and any appointments will be made by the current board members.

If you need to contact any of the Board Members please email:  
stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com stating who you would like the email to go to.

**Natwest Cheque Signatories are:** Kirsty Thomas; Shelly Quinton-Hulme; Niall Brennan



## **A Year in Review**

This has been a hard year for us as trustees to keep the group moving forwards with few resources at our disposal – but we have managed it and we hope for a better year next year.





We have opportunities for volunteering within our groups, as well as wider opportunities within the charity, and we love assisting our volunteers to be the best they can be and for what they help us to achieve.



### **Volunteers, we need you!**

We're on the search for volunteers to help our fabulous facilitators deliver our fun, energetic drama sessions.

Sessions run each Thursday during school term times  
from 4-8pm hourly for our infant and junior classes

Seniors run from 6-7.30pm

Youth Theatre and Adult Community Theatre run from 7.30-9pm

If you're looking to learn new skills, work with your local community, and have a passion for drama then get in touch! Contact us via our website or email us

at [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com)

We can't wait to hear from you. We will carry out all DBS checks.



## **Stretford Children's Theatre - 12 week Young Person Volunteer Programme**

This programme will give a minimum of 22 hours volunteering over 12 weeks. There will be more opportunities for the young person to volunteer if they so wish such as coming to observe a board meeting, or carrying out a fundraising project for the group, and the programme can be extended to 6, 12 months or longer if so desired.

Our experienced Board members, Sessional Leaders, Sessional Manager and Fundraising Staff will support the young person whilst they are volunteering with us and ensure they are well looked after, safe, happy and learn as much as they can. You can find more information at our website: [www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk](http://www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk)

We are based at Stretford Public Hall in the heart of Stretford town centre and the building is fully accessible.

This would be a perfect placement for those doing the Duke of Edinburgh scheme or a young person wishing to enhance their CV for college or university or their first job. We ask that the young person is aged 14 years as a minimum.

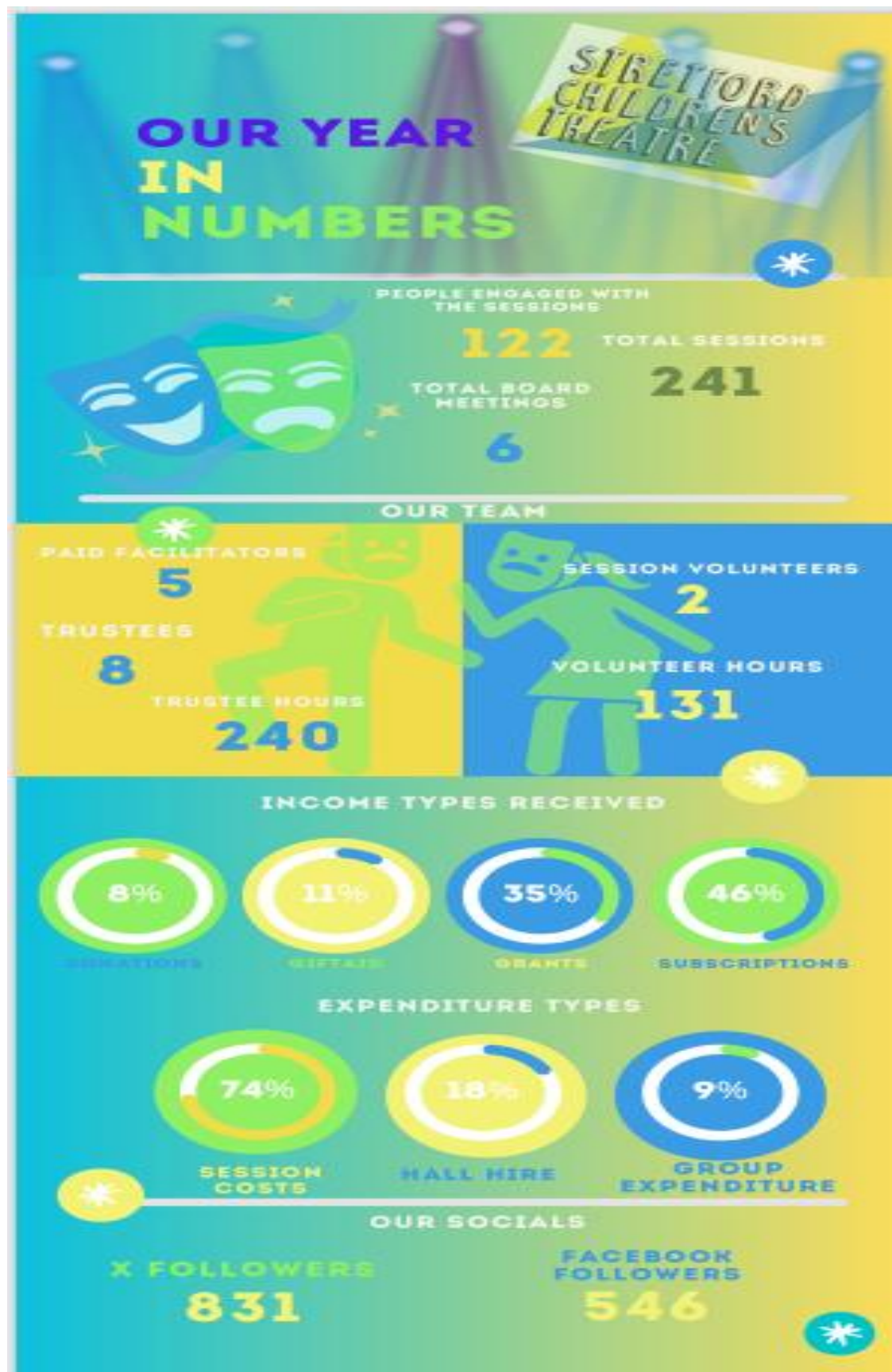
Week		<b><u>More Detail</u></b>
1	Initial Meeting with Board Member – 1 hour	This meeting will be about what the young person hopes to achieve whilst volunteering with us, and how we can best support them, and introductions to the team and sessions themselves. Plus identifying any specific additional areas they are interested in, planning how they might gain experience in those areas with SCT.
2	Understanding our charity – 2 hours	Who we are; why we formed; our history; vision/values/aims; what we do; what a board does; our constitution; The Charity Commission & our responsibilities; policies and procedures; managing personnel/ volunteers; management systems [OSM, Go Cardless ,iZettle]; financial management; funding/ fundraising; health and safety; safeguarding; monitoring, evaluation; measuring impact.
3	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	These weekly volunteering sessions will be spent in either the infant or junior drama sessions assisting the Sessional Leaders and the attending children.
4	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	
5	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	The young person will never be left alone with the children and will not be responsible for anything other than their own behaviour. We would expect them to follow all our policies and procedures as discussed with them in weeks 1 and 2.
6	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	
7	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	These sessions are fun and consist of drama games and often involve producing pieces leading up to a performance – we hope the young person would get fully involved in these sessions.
8	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	
9	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	A board member is usually available weekly and as such progress reports will be gathered and any issues for the young person or Sessional Leader will be addressed as they arise.
10	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	
11	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	All Sessional Leaders are DBS checked, and SCT is fully insured and has strict H&S and safeguarding policies in place.
12	Close out meeting with Board Member – 1 hour	

The sessional volunteering hours are either Thursdays from 4-6pm or Thursdays from 5.30-7.30pm.

We can accommodate 2 volunteers on each of the sessions at any one time. Other volunteering opportunities are also available that do not involve being in the sessions, such as communications & social media, fundraising, policies and procedures if that is of interest to any of the young people.

Please get in touch if you wish to discuss any of the opportunities with us: [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com)





## OUR SURVEY SAYS....

**98% WOULD RECOMMEND  
SCT to their friends**

What makes SCT different?

inclusive local **Safe**  
**WELCOMING** New skills  
Performances

**DESCRIBE SCT IN 3  
WORDS!**  
**FUN** **Creative**  
**FRIENDLY!**

**98% of parents/carers  
agree that SCT**

**IS GOOD VALUE  
FOR MONEY**

**is well  
organised**

**benefits  
their young  
person**

## THE BENEFITS OF SCT

**INCREASED SELF ESTEEM AND  
POSITIVE MOOD**

**CONNECTED TO OTHER  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE  
COMMUNITY**

**CONTRIBUTE IDEAS  
AND FEEL  
LISTENED TO**

**To learn  
new skills**

**Improvisation  
SOCIAL SKILLS**

**MEMORY SKILLS TO  
REMEMBER LINES**

**Self Confidence  
Express myself**



## Our Impact

### NICOLA'S STORY

When Nicola joined Stretford Children's Theatre she was so shy and withdrawn that she would not say her name when it was called out on the register.

In just a couple of months, the games and imagination-led storytelling in the sessions allowed Nicola to 'come out of herself'.

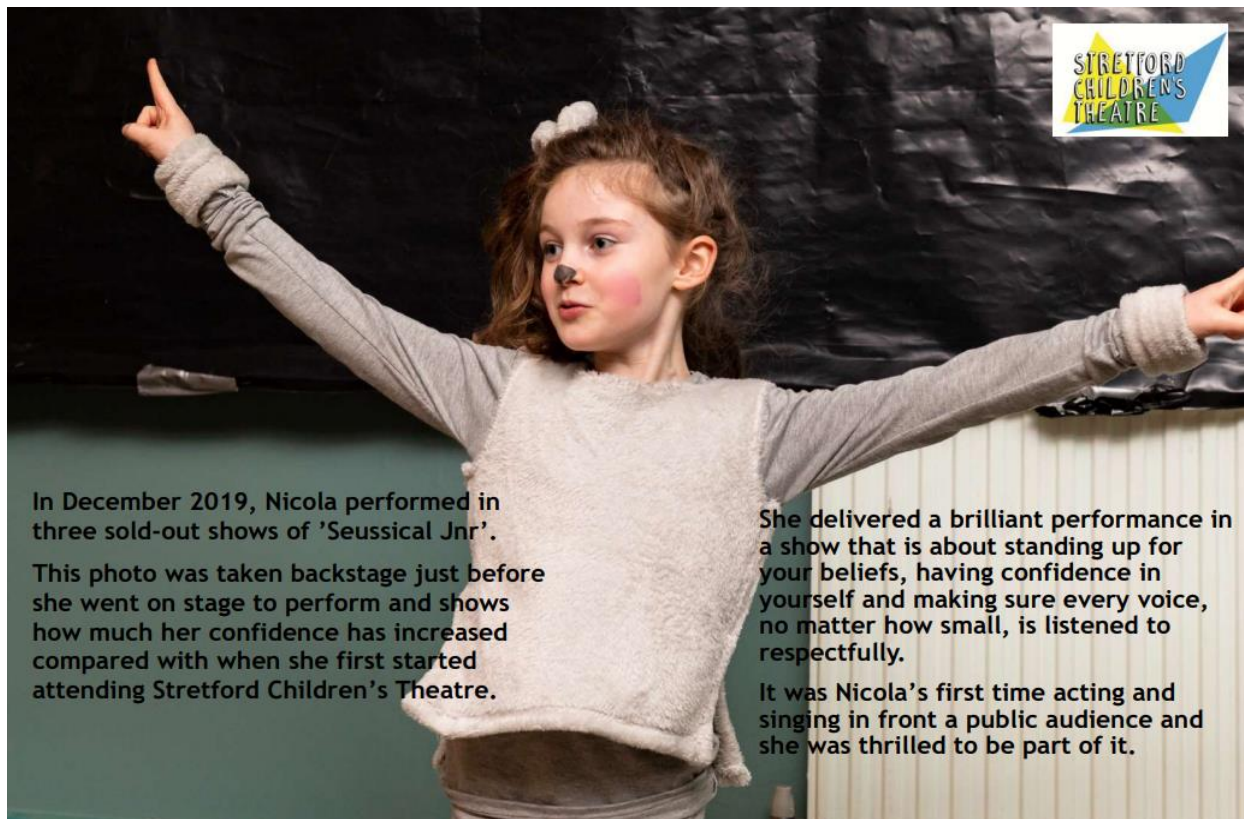
Nicola's mum and school started to see a real improvement in her self-confidence.

Her school embraced this change, recognising Nicola's love of storytelling and using this to help increase her self-belief.

Her mum has loved seeing the change in her daughter and credits much of her progress to our drama sessions.

"Drama club is the best activity Nicola does and is the highlight of her week"

"Now I have been in a school assembly, been in shows for parents and won a part in 'Seussical' our Christmas show!"



In December 2019, Nicola performed in three sold-out shows of 'Seussical Jnr'.

This photo was taken backstage just before she went on stage to perform and shows how much her confidence has increased compared with when she first started attending Stretford Children's Theatre.

She delivered a brilliant performance in a show that is about standing up for your beliefs, having confidence in yourself and making sure every voice, no matter how small, is listened to respectfully.

It was Nicola's first time acting and singing in front a public audience and she was thrilled to be part of it.



## DAISY'S STORY

Daisy likes to have fun and has a playful side to her, but she is also quite anxious and struggles with self-doubt.


Daisy's anxiety and self-doubt was paralysing. In the past, she often gave up when she thought she could not do something.

Her parents and grandparents have noticed how much her confidence and self-belief have increased since attending our sessions, and this is also being reflected in her school work.

Now, her anxiety affects her work much less because her confidence and self-belief have improved so much.

A large blue speech bubble pointing towards the top right.

**FUN**

A photograph of Daisy performing on stage. She is wearing a colorful, patterned top, a red skirt, and a headband with a green feather. She is looking to the side with an open mouth, as if singing or speaking. Another child is partially visible behind her.

In December 2019, Daisy performed in three sold-out shows of Seussical Jnr. She played a key ensemble part in a show that is about standing up for your beliefs, having confidence in yourself and making sure every voice, no matter how small, is listened to and included. It was her first time acting and singing in front a public audience, and she will never forget the experience and the applause from those shows.

A large yellow speech bubble pointing towards the bottom right.

**SAFE**



# Creativity

## JACK'S STORY

Jack is one of Stretford Children's Theatre's original members and his confidence and abilities have greatly improved since he joined. He often speaks rapidly and sometimes 'fumbles' his words which lowered his self-confidence. Our supportive environment means Jack can slow his speech down and concentrate on his enunciation.

"I feel more confident and able to talk to people"

"I like to come here to see my friends, meet new people and help the younger kids out. We have fun. I never get bored!"

Jack's parents are proud of the changes they have seen during his time at Stretford Children's Theatre. Jack's father told us he loves attending because it's so inclusive and helps Jack to express himself. As Jack is at an all-boys school, it's important that he mixes with girls in a semi-social setting, which is exactly what Stretford Children's Theatre allows him to do.

# Imagine



In December 2019, Jack played the part of The Mayor in three sold-out public shows of Seussical Jnr.

The Mayor was an integral part of a show that's about standing up for your beliefs, having confidence in yourself and making sure every voice, no matter how small, is listened to and included.

"I'm so pleased to see how much difference it makes to my Jack as Mr Mayor - he's been so excited about doing this show."

Peter, Jack's father



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W

## ORLA'S STORY

Orla is one of our original members and has dyspraxia. This means she has challenges around spatial awareness and learning skills. She also has some difficulties with social skills, which led to her being bullied at primary school.

Drama enabled Orla to cope with the profound negative effects of the bullying and gave her techniques to deal with it. Being in a group of like-minded people who don't judge or tease benefits her greatly.

The physical challenges Orla faces are never belittled by the group or facilitators, and she has found ways to work around them and ensure she is able to fully join in all the activities.

Both her parents report that there has been a great change in Orla's confidence and abilities. Her confidence has improved so much that she took part in our 'Misguided Misfits' film project, something she would never have been able to do previously.

In December 2019, Orla (left) performed in three sold-out shows of Seussical Jnr. She worked hard and delivered a brilliant performance in a show about standing up for your beliefs, having confidence in yourself and making sure every voice, no matter how small, is listened to and included. It was her first time acting and singing in front of a public audience, which shows how much her confidence has improved.



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A  
B



# STRETTFORD CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Age 4-16

S

Support  
children's learning  
and encouraging  
creativity

C

Creating  
confident  
young people

T

Theatre  
for All

Led by experienced  
facilitators and practitioners  
Committed to providing fun,  
affordable and high quality  
drama and theatre  
experiences for  
young people  
**All abilities welcome**

STRETTFORD  
CHILDREN'S  
THEATRE



SCAN ME

For more information:

@SCT\_Stretford

StretfordChildrensTheatre

Stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk

stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com

Stretford Public Hall  
Chester Road, Stretford, M32 0LG

Stretford Children's Theatre is a Registered Charity, no. 1175334



# STRETTFORD YOUTH THEATRE

Age 16-25

S

Supporting  
young people's  
learning, creativity  
and experiences

Y

Young People  
changing their  
lives through  
the Arts

T

Theatre  
for change  
Theatre  
for All

Led by experienced facilitators and practitioners.  
Committed to providing fun, affordable and  
high quality drama and theatre experiences for  
teens and young adults **All abilities welcome**

STRETTFORD  
CHILDREN'S  
THEATRE



SCAN ME

**For more information:**

@SCT\_Stretford

StretfordChildrensTheatre

[Stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk](http://Stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk)

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These classes, led by Rosarie, a familiar face from our board of trustees, garnered positive feedback and have successfully continued without additional funding. The overwhelming popularity of the sessions has solidified their place as a permanent fixture.

Moving forward into the next financial year, the group plans to organize small performances, with funding provided by the charity. As part of a broader strategy aimed at engaging larger sections of the community, we will actively seek grant funding to expand and enhance this particular aspect of our charitable activities.

Below are some comments from the attendees


I love that it feels like a safe and supportive space.

I love this class  
- I really like the ad lib games and acting.

I like all of the laughing and the fun. It's great. Rosarie is brilliant at leading the group.

I always go home with a smile on my face - I've made friends and look forward to the weekly sessions.

This is a perfect way to meet new people with similar interests, I'm looking forward to doing a performance.



**LIFE IS FULL OF DRAMA**


## Join Adult Drama Classes with Stretford Community Theatre

**When:** Thursdays 7.30pm-9pm  
Starting 20th April 2023

**Where:** Stretford Public Hall  
Chester Road  
Stretford, M32 0LG

Led by professional and experienced drama facilitators. Stretford Community Theatre is part of Stretford Children's Theatre

Sign up at [www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk](http://www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk)  
Or email [stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com) to enquire





## Treasurer's Report

This financial year ended with a surplus of £4,651 which is an increase of £3,407 against prior year. We have been fortunate enough to receive four separate grants from a variety of funders;

- Greater Manchester GMCVO £1,000
- Awards for All £10,000
- Forever Manchester £1,000
- Groundwork UK - £500

Awards for All, GMCVO and Forever Manchester have been used towards the running of the Adult and Infant classes during the year. These grants are all closed out as per the restricted grant spend highlighted as £12,303 allowing for £500 of Groundworks unspent.

Groundworks monies are expected to begin use for the performance in the next financial year.

Our subscriptions increased by £5,271 against prior year. This is due to an increase in our attendees and a change in the pricing structure beginning in September 2023.

Our total expenditure increased by £2,471 which is inline with the increase in grant funding for the adult classes.

Our GiftAid claim looks to be reduced against prior year, however, we made a decision in 2022 to ensure that our GiftAid claim for the academic year was submitted before the end of the financial year. In 2022/23 our claim spanned over two financial years which gave us an inflated amount. This has skewed the figures as if our claim is less, actually, in a single year it has increased in line with the attendees and increased subscriptions.

In addition to the positive impact of GiftAid, our organization experienced a healthy amount of donations in the year. The bulk of these funds have been generously donated by locals within the community that see the good works we do. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all involved for their consideration and support. For anyone who would like to donate or find out more about donations please see below.

# SCAN TO DONATE





## **Ways to donate**

### **Give as you earn/Donate as you earn**

As an employee you can set up a direct payment from your gross pay to Stretford Children's Theatre under a scheme called 'Give as You Earn' – ask your HR or Payroll Manager whether your company has signed up to CAF Give As You Earn and if so, how you can join the payroll giving scheme.

In terms of our balance sheet, as of August 31, 2024, our bank holds £4,651 in total. This comprises £4,151 in unprotected funds (free reserves) and £500 in protected funds (remaining from the grant received from Groundworks UK).

Our trustees are committed to a reserves policy, retaining funds to cover 12 weeks (one academic full term). Despite challenges in the past financial year, we aim to restore reserves to the agreed-upon value in 2024/25 - £6k?. This plan involves increasing grant applications to cover core costs and allowing subscription revenue to replenish the deficit by the end of the financial year.





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Stretford Children's Theatre

1175334

## Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	01/09/2023	To	31/08/2024
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Subscriptions	16,240	-	-	16,240	10,969
Grants	-	12,500	-	12,500	1,000
Donations	2,770	-	-	2,770	3,622
GiftAid	3,869	-	-	3,869	4,464
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>22,879</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,379</b>	<b>20,055</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>22,879</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,379</b>	<b>20,055</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Session Leaders	15,295	5,320	-	20,615	21,131
Session Managers	1,286	1,638	-	2,924	3,134
Hall Hire	690	5,130	-	5,820	3,535
External Activities	100	-	-	100	-
Insurance	361	-	-	361	336
Administrative Charges	1,287	-	-	1,287	903
Payment Charges	650	-	-	650	462
Equipment Purchase	-	215	-	215	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>19,669</b>	<b>12,303</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,972</b>	<b>29,501</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>19,669</b>	<b>12,303</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,972</b>	<b>29,501</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>- 9,446</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>8,691</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,454</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>755</b>





**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	4,151	500	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>4,151</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



**Annual Report accepted at the Annual General Meeting  
of Stretford Children's Theatre  
on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Signed:** *S. Quinton-Hulme*

**Full Name: Shelly Quinton-Hulme MBE**

**Position: Chairperson**

**Signed:** *Kirsty Thomas*

**Full Name: Kirsty Thomas**

**Position: Treasurer**