

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES**

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UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. 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).

Uptown Youth Services was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to take over the assets and activities of Uptown UK a company limited by guarantee.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to act as a resource for young people in the borough of Merton by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of helping young people by

- a) developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals
- b) advancing education
- c) relieving unemployment
- d) providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for young people who have need by reason of their youth, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving their conditions of life.

Significant activities

Uptown Youth Services operates three days a week at The Leyton Road Community Resource Centre in Colliers Wood and one day a week at the South Mitcham Community Centre in a youth club type format for young people from the surrounding areas and an additional Thursday session offering one-on-one individual mentoring to young people who need a little extra help. Uptown has a strong focus on mentoring the young people and providing support to them and their families. Uptown works in close conjunction with other parties, including the police and social services, in identifying young people who may benefit from attending Uptown. In a safe environment, which gets the young people off the streets, they can socialise with friends and take part in a range of typical youth club activities whilst also having access to a quiet room to do homework.

Young people with learning difficulties are encouraged to attend, participate and develop their social skills while making new friends.

Public benefit

In planning the activities of the charity, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation to public benefit.

UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Uptown Youth Services is a registered charity supporting young people aged from 7 to 18, or up to 25 for those with disabilities, in a free to access fully inclusive youth club environment. Uptown has been operating within Merton for over 30 years.

Uptown provides a safe venue to get young people off the streets and develop their social skills, meet with friends, play pool and partake in positive activities such as music, dance and drama, sports, and arts and craft. An integral part of our provision is to encourage education and training. This includes providing homework support and the use of a quiet room with access to computers and printers. Uptown also runs workshops on issues such as budgeting, health, cooking, substance misuse, alcohol, domestic violence, mental health, bullying and anger management. From time to time, we offer first aid training programmes tailored to specific issues such as knife crime.

The core philosophy of Uptown is to provide mentoring to the young people - providing them with strong role models and helping them to make good life choices. The key outcomes we seek to achieve are for our young people to be: safe and happy; active members of their community; and moving onto positive destinations.

Uptown's core operations deliver three weekly 3-hour sessions (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday afternoon) during term time at the Leyton Road Centre plus a Tuesday 2-hour session for our younger cohort at the South Mitcham Community Centre.

Uptown also runs some sessions during school holidays, including participation in the HAF (Holiday, Activities and Food) programmes for children who are eligible for free school meals facilitated by grants from Merton Council. We have actively engaged young people in menu planning and cooking as well as 'buying food in' from restaurants alongside the other activities. Uptown has continued its free to all policy by extending HAF attendance to other young people who we deem to be vulnerable or hungry or simply want to be with their friends in a safe place - but who do not qualify for free school meals.

Uptown's CEO has been supported during the year by three trainee youth workers (one with a disability) and volunteers - including parents and former Uptown members as well as Trustees. Our Trainee Youth Workers have enjoyed working, taking responsibility and earning income and this experience has enabled them to take on leadership roles to help build their CVs and self-confidence. Uptown pays its staff in compliance with The London Living Wage guidelines.

Uptown continues to broaden and deepen its reach to increase the membership as there is demand from the police and Merton Council staff for Uptown to work with more young people. To accommodate more of this hard to reach and potentially more difficult cohort, Uptown are seeking to add an experienced youth worker to spread the day-to-day workload of running sessions and free up some of our CEO's time to focus on strategic issues and multi-agency partnership work.

Over the past few months, Uptown has invested considerable time and effort in updating its IT infrastructure. Uptown transitioned its membership database system from a paper-based system to an online version which allows for better recording and reporting of data than the old paper records. Uptown also acquired new PCs and set up a cloud-based file storage system to facilitate easier sharing of documents and collaboration and have now employed a virtual administrator to support the CEO and Trustees in the running of Uptown.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

A summary of the financial position of the charity is provided in the balance sheet which forms a part of these accounts.

Principal funding sources

The principal sources of income for the charity are from donations and grants. Uptown's CEO and Trustees are regularly applying for grants to diversify our funding sources and finance our operations.

Grants used to fund Uptown's core activities during the year ended March 2024 were awarded by The National Lottery, Garfield Weston Foundation, Masonic Charitable Foundation, Merton's Investing in Neighbourhoods Fund and the Merton Community Panel. Uptown was also in receipt of funding from Merton Council for the running of Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programmes. The National Lottery awarded Uptown a five-year grant, which has added some very welcome financial certainty. We are very appreciative of the support offered by our donors and supporters.

UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to hold a sufficient level of reserves to allow the charity to meet its commitments as they fall due and to ensure it can continue to deliver services for the foreseeable future. Uptown Youth Services' Trustees have accordingly adopted a policy to hold unrestricted reserves covering at least six months core operating costs to try and provide a cushion when managing the lumpy and unpredictable nature of grant and donation income and minimise the risk of disruption to its services. The reserves held at year-end are as set out on the statement of financial activities.

The level of funding received allowed Uptown to fund its operations for the year ended March 2024 without recourse to reserves and has continued to do so. Uptown has a pressing need to secure further sources of funding without which Uptown expects to have to partially fund operations from its unrestricted reserves in calendar year 2026 and may breach its reserves policy.

Going concern

The trustees consider that the charity has adequate resources to meet its operational commitments for the foreseeable future and that it is a going concern.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with company number CEO11689 and registered charity number 1175689.

It was first registered with the charity commission in November 2017

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees when considered appropriate. Under its constitution, there is a requirement to have a minimum of three trustees.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1175689

Principal address

42 Veals Mead
Mitcham
Surrey
CR4 3SB

Trustees

L M Conway-Hughes Chair
C R Bradley
J A Craddock (resigned 19/11/24)
A Jakobsen
V McClean
M E Rhys-Evans
T L Simpson (resigned 31/8/24)

Independent Examiner

Jonathan Askew FCA
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
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UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 23 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

L M Conway-Hughes - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Uptown Youth Services

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Uptown Youth Services (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 material 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Jonathan Askew FCA

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23 December 2024

UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Notes				
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations		2,302	-	2,302	8,897
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		-	81,162	81,162	77,753
Total		<u>2,302</u>	<u>81,162</u>	<u>83,464</u>	<u>86,650</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	2				
Charitable activities		-	76,899	76,899	76,023
NET INCOME		2,302	4,263	6,565	10,627
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		51,876	22,977	74,853	64,226
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>54,178</u>	<u>27,240</u>	<u>81,418</u>	<u>74,853</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		61,267	27,240	88,507	87,689
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(7,089)	-	(7,089)	(12,836)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>54,178</u>	<u>27,240</u>	<u>81,418</u>	<u>74,853</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		54,178	27,240	81,418	74,853
NET ASSETS		<u>54,178</u>	<u>27,240</u>	<u>81,418</u>	<u>74,853</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				54,178	51,876
Restricted funds				<u>27,240</u>	<u>22,977</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>81,418</u>	<u>74,853</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 23 December 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

L M Conway-Hughes - Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, 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 Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

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.

Assets and liabilities were taken over from Uptown UK at 1st April 2017 and restated at their fair value as estimated by the trustees at the date of the transfer. The fair value of the net assets taken over is shown as income in these accounts.

Other than as disclosed above there has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities or income and expenditure in these accounts.

The charity relies significantly on the services of volunteers in carrying out its activities. The value of voluntary help is not reflected as income in these accounts but their contribution is acknowledged and appreciated by the trustees.

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.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Computers and equipment - at variable rates on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from 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.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial instruments of a kind that qualify as basic.

Cash at bank is measured at transaction price.

UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Financial instruments

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivables or payables within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 3) £	Totals £
Charitable activities	<u>72,797</u>	<u>4,102</u>	<u>76,899</u>

3. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance £	Information technology £	Other £	Totals £
Charitable activities	<u>2,048</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>1,703</u>	<u>4,102</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Finance

	2024 Charitable activities £	2023 Total activities £
Independent examiners fees Excl VAT	1,500	1,440
Bookkeeping and accountancy	548	461
	<u>2,048</u>	<u>1,901</u>

Information technology

	2024 Charitable activities £	2023 Total activities £
Computer and website	<u>351</u>	<u>-</u>

Other

	2024 Charitable activities £	2023 Total activities £
Postage and stationery	174	70
Other office costs	194	135
Payroll administration	984	651
Insurance	351	287
	<u>1,703</u>	<u>1,143</u>

UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations	8,897	-	8,897
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	-	77,753	77,753
Total	<u>8,897</u>	<u>77,753</u>	<u>86,650</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	-	76,023	76,023
NET INCOME	8,897	1,730	10,627
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	42,979	21,247	64,226
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>51,876</u>	<u>22,977</u>	<u>74,853</u>

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computers and equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	<u>1,080</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	<u>1,080</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	-
At 31 March 2023	-

UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	<u>7,089</u>	<u>12,836</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	51,876	2,302	54,178
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	22,977	4,263	27,240
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>74,853</u>	<u>6,565</u>	<u>81,418</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,302	-	2,302
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	81,162	(76,899)	4,263
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>83,464</u>	<u>(76,899)</u>	<u>6,565</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	42,979	8,897	51,876
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	21,247	1,730	22,977
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>64,226</u>	<u>10,627</u>	<u>74,853</u>

UPTOWN YOUTH SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	8,897	-	8,897
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	77,753	(76,023)	1,730
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>86,650</u>	<u>(76,023)</u>	<u>10,627</u>

The vast majority of Uptown Youth Services' income is derived from grants. The majority of our grants are for core funding (although some are designated for specific items of expenditure) and are awarded to contribute to paying our operating costs over a specific time period. The restricted funds balance represents the unspent portion of grants which are to be allocated for time periods falling after the balance sheet date.

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.