

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FOR
CONNECTIONS GROUP EXETER

CONNECTIONS GROUP EXETER

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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CONNECTIONS GROUP EXETER
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Aim and Purpose

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit and relieve the needs of people in Exeter (and the surrounding area), who require Health and Social Care services. We do this by providing access to community and leisure facilities with the aim of relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. Socially excluded means being excluded from society or parts of society as a result of experiencing serious and enduring mental health problems.

Objectives and Activities

To reduce social isolation and improve quality of life, by enabling our members access to community facilities for leisure and social reasons. To include the following:

- One to One work, that breaks down barriers that might prevent participation.
- Activities that include walks, ten pin bowling, meals out, coach trips, quizzes and visiting the local area.

How our activities deliver public benefit

All our charitable activities focus on our objective to promote social inclusion for those people that experience serious and enduring mental health problems. The work that we undertake furthers our charitable purposes and in doing so the Trustees have paid special regard to the Charity Commission statement on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

During the year ending 31st of March 2023 Connections had 58 Members. The trend for an increased number of referrals each month for people interested in joining us since the Covid pandemic continued.

Our new Events Manager, Nigel Scarr began work on February the 1st, thus bringing to fruition a key step in our plan to make Connections more resilient. He has proved a popular choice. Having two workers means we will have cover for holidays and absence, and a second pair of hands will help us fulfil our health and safety and safeguarding obligations on our most well attended events.

The workers have put energy into providing a varied programme of events and this has been reflected in the numbers attending each event and the feedback from members. Innovations included a visit to the circus in Paignton, crazy golf, bowls and cricket and increasing the number of shorter walks offered each month.

Connections one to one enablement work continued to be available throughout the year, but as we only had one part time worker until February, there was a limit to what could be done.

Our core funding for the past financial year mainly came from Devon Partnership NHS Trust (£15,300) and the National Lottery Community Fund (£10,000). We also succeeded in obtaining smaller but no less vital grants from The Norman Family Charitable Trust (£2,000) and Exeter City Councils Exeter Small Grants Fund (£2,000). We are tremendously grateful to our funders for their support.

Financial Review

Total receipts for the year to 31 March 2023 amounted to £31,649 (year ended 31 March 2022 £15,394).

Total payments for the year to 31 March 2023 amounted to £26,455 (year ended 31 March 2022 £26,400).

The charity holds £9,187 in their bank account as at 31 March 2023 (£3,993 at 31 March 2022).

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Reserves Policy

The Trustees agree that the level of reserves to be held should be 2 months expenses, to include the facilitators salary.

Risk Management Policy

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations and finances of the Charity and are satisfied that there are systems in place to mitigate their exposure to major risks.

Plans for Future Periods

Once we have recruited a replacement for Alison, who left us in July 2023 after 2 years' service, the priority is to strengthen the Board of Trustees. This is vital to ensure good governance and to ensure that the members are represented at Board level. Also, we need more Trustees to meet the demands of potential funders.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity's objects and regulations are set out in the charity's Memorandum and Articles, which were first agreed in January 2018. The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation.

The method of identifying and appointing trustees is through recommendations by Connections' members. The Connections Group Exeter newsletter is also sent to care managers in the mental health team. This leads to potential trustees being found and invited to stand.

Reference and Administration Details

Registered Charity Number:	1176763
Elected Members:	Miss S Hall - Chair A Alker - Treasurer (to July 2023) K Fox - Trustee
Administrator:	A Alker (to July 2023)
Bankers:	Natwest Bank, 59 High Street, Exeter, EX4 3DL Lloyds, PO BOX 1000, Andover
Address (postal only):	C/O Colab Exeter, Wat Tyler House, 3 King William Street, Exeter, EX4 6PD
Independent Examiner	G M Corby BSc FCA Merlin Accountancy Services Ltd 2 nd Floor, 33 Longbrook Street, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6AW

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	31 March 2023		31 March 2022	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants	29,300		15,288	
Events	2,349		-	
Donations	-		106	
		31,649		15,394
Payments				
Refreshments	1,988		3,368	
Telephone	94		522	
Post and Stationery	930		1,571	
Travelling	4,285		4,814	
Admissions	1,994		1,142	
Room Hire/Storage	334		230	
Staff Costs:				
- Salaries	11,040		12,399	
- Working from home allowance	560		480	
- Taxes	953		-	
Accountancy	887		965	
Insurance	641		433	
IT Costs	99		250	
Miscellaneous Expenses	791		15	
Training	234		165	
Professional Fees	1,625		46	
		26,455		26,400
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS		5,194		(11,006)
Cash Funds at 01 April 2022		3,993		14,999
Cash Funds at 31 March 2023		9,187		3,993

Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

During the year one of the trustees, Alison Alker, was paid for her role as the Administrator of the charity. The total remuneration for this role was £9,825 (2022: £4,530).

Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees for the year ended 31st March 2023 was 1.17 (1 for year ended 31st March 2022)

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31 MARCH 2023

	31 March 2023		31 March 2022	
	£	£	£	£
CASH FUNDS				
Bank Current Account		<u>9,187</u>		<u>3,993</u>
OTHER ASSETS				
Other Debtors – HMRC PAYE		<u>1,049</u>		<u>-</u>
LIABILITIES				
Staff Expenses	-		161	
Accruals	<u>620</u>		<u>590</u>	
		<u>620</u>		<u>751</u>

The members declare that they approve the financial statements and confirm that they have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Signed on behalf of the members

Sylvia Hall
Sylvia Hall - Chairman

Date: 18/07/2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

CONNECTIONS GROUP EXETER

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 3 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

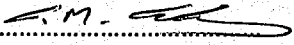
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to these matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or
2. to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

G M Corby BSc FCA
Merlin Accountancy Services Ltd
2nd Floor
33 Longbrook Street
Exeter
EX4 6AW

Signed: 

Date: 20/9/23