

DSACHIEVE

England & Wales · Charity number 1176873

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-01-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 55 Watford Road
St. Albans
AL1 2AE

Phone 07824467471

Email info@DSAchieve.org

Website www.dsachieve.org

Activities

Objects: The object of the CIO is the relief of children and young people up to age 25, with Down's Syndrome or other additional needs, particularly by providing appropriate support to their parents or guardians, so that such children and young people may achieve their full potential.

Activities: DS Achieve is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation formed by parents of children with Down Syndrome. Our vision is that every child with Down Syndrome in our community has the opportunity to thrive and reach their potential.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£82,152	£68,596	-	-
2023-12-31	£68,465	£71,465	-	-
2022-12-31	£57,569	£56,525	-	-
2021-12-31	£71,923	£32,338	-	-
2020-12-31	£18,732	£23,691	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gillian Margaret Warwick-Thompson		2018-01-29
Huw James Watkins		2023-01-26
Kelly Anne Harris		2025-03-20
MICHELLE LOUISE BOLTON		2025-09-01
Vitina Guagenti-Birkin		2023-11-09

DSACHIEVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176873

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

DS ACHIEVE

No (if any)

1176873

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start date
01 / 01 / 2024

To

Period end date
31 / 12 / 2024

CC16a

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	20,096	0	0	20,096	23,264
Event Income	5,610	0	0	5,610	5,401
Hertfordshire Libraries	3,288	0	0	3,288	5,533
The National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region)	0	9,165	0	9,165	17,891
Grant from BBC Children In Need	0	0	0	0	9,955
Grant from The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund	0	0	0	0	5,000
Grant from Tesco Community Grants	0	0	0	0	1,000
Hertfordshire Community Foundation	0	10,000	0	10,000	0
Shanly Group	0	3,000	0	3,000	0
The Hobson Charity	0	4,699	0	4,699	0
Albert Hunt	0	2,000	0	2,000	0
MCF	0	4,316	0	4,316	0
Postcode Places	0	19,000	0	19,000	0
Interest Received	978	0	0	978	421
Sub total	29,972	52,180	0	82,152	68,465
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	29,972	52,180	0	82,152	68,465
A3 Payments					
Event costs	1,654	1,304	0	2,958	2,872
Little Achievers Classes	0	18,058	0	18,058	18,230
Young Achievers Sessions	1,618	9,500	0	11,118	11,930
Resources into Schools	4,347	3,052	0	7,399	5,541
EHCP Support Service	0	0	0	0	5,010
My Voice - Hertfordshire Library Project	3,582	0	0	3,582	4,142
Resources into Homes	34	236	0	270	764
Website and IT costs	90	1,235	0	1,325	1,156
Insurance costs	0	573	0	573	573
Subscriptions	110	218	0	328	508
Marketing	0	0	0	0	425
Sundry Expenses	233	1,376	0	1,609	300
Salaries and Staff costs	9,079	12,223	0	21,302	19,591
					-
Sub total	20,821	47,775	0	68,522	71,042
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Office/Other Equipment	74	0	0	74	0
Sub total	74	0	0	74	0
Total payments	20,895	47,775	0	68,596	71,042

Net of receipts/(payments)	9,151	4,405	0	13,630	(3,001)
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	40,447	15,192		55,639	58,640
Cash funds this year end	49,598	19,597	0	69,269	55,639

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	15,699	19,597	0
	Savings accounts	33,899		0
	Total cash funds	0 49,598	19,597	0
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Gift aid due	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Childrens Play Equipment	Restricted	3,349	1,884
	Childrens Play Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Office/Other Equipment	Restricted	-	-
	Office/Other Equipment	Unrestricted	753	438
		-	-	
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Payroll taxes	Restricted	902	Jan 25
	Pension costs	Restricted	114	Jan 25
	Payrol services	Unrestricted	92	Jan 25
	Little Achievers Teacher costs - Restricted	Restricted	600	Jan 25
	Young Achievers - Hall Hire	Unrestricted	176	Jan 25
	Little Achievers Therapist Costs	Restricted	300	Jan25
	RiS Advisory Teacher Visit	Unrestricted	147	Jan 25
Signed by one or two trustees on t	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1st	January	2024		31st	December	2024

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 who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Gillian Warwick-Thompson	Chair	
2	Huw Watkins	Treasurer (until September)	
3	Rachel Angus	Trustee	21 March 2024 (resigned)
4	Selena Chapman	Trustee	
5	Vitina Guagenti-Birkin	Trustee	
6	Robert Angus	Treasurer (from September)	21 March 2024 (appointed)
7	Bhavika Bhurtun	Trustee	13 June 2024 (appointed)
8			
9			
10			

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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)	Constitution dated 29.1.2018
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing Trustee Board

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

The Trustees have considered the risk appetite of the charity. They have adopted a zero-risk tolerance to legal and regulatory risk. Their appetite for risk can be characterised as low reflecting the nature of the charitable organisation and their responsibilities to service users. The Trustees maintain and regularly review their risk register and take actions to reduce or eliminate risk where possible.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The object of the CIO is the relief of children and young people up to age 25, with Down's Syndrome or other additional needs, particularly by providing appropriate support to their parents or guardians, so that such children and young people may achieve their full potential.

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)

2024 represented the sixth full year of operational activity for DS Achieve having officially launched to the public on 2nd September 2018 following registration with the Charity Commission on 29th January 2018.

In order to plan and execute suitable activities which meet the charity's objectives, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. To help us review our progress and plan for our next steps, we held a trustee and employee Away Day in November 2023. We used this as an opportunity to gather views and perspectives from the team to help us look forward to the next steps. We set a new strategy for the period 2024-2026.

We decided to continue to run our **Little Achievers** (0-5 year olds) and **Young Achievers** (5-18 year olds) programmes. These programmes are proving to have a positive impact on the children and young people and are valued by their families. We also continued with our **Resources into Schools** service to ensure that local schools have access to the specialist advice they need to enable them to successfully include children and young people with Down Syndrome in their classrooms. These three programmes are our core, highest priority services.

Our **Resources into Homes** project began at the end of 2023 targeting children in the early years providing practical training for their parent carers on specialist evidence based programmes that support their child's development. We continued the project with a further topic in 2024.

We continued to support the **Volunteering Futures** project with Herts Libraries for young people aged 16-24. We have supported 5 volunteers with Down Syndrome and delivered specialist training to over 300 library staff to ensure inclusive and supportive environments for the young volunteers.

Little Achievers

Little Achievers is a weekly teaching class during term time for children, aged five years and under, with Down Syndrome. It focuses on early skills in the areas of literacy, numeracy, fine motor skills, physical development and communication. The teacher is a highly professional individual who has extensive experience in teaching and working with children and young people with Down Syndrome. Progress is monitored by the class teacher and reported at the end of each term.

The teaching class is accompanied by a wraparound 'Stay and Play' session which includes a number of focused developmental and fun play activities, as well as sing and sign sessions using Makaton. Visiting professionals also join the Stay and Play at regular intervals to offer advice to parents.

Three part time employees deliver the group – a manager and two support workers.

In 2024 we supported 19 families and delivered 55 hours of teaching classes. Feedback continues to be extremely positive with parents particularly valuing the high quality teaching classes and access to professionals. Parents are also appreciative of the supportive nature of the group - from staff and other families.

Young Achievers

Young Achievers is a Social Development programme that is led weekly during term time by an experienced Youth Leader with support from an Assistant Leader, a Support Worker and a team of volunteers. Young Achievers has continued throughout 2024 with 34 different children joining the programme for some or all of the three terms with most of them returning each term.

The children have had a lot of fun while learning new skills to help them develop friendships, join in social activities and to understand the social world a little better. Feedback continues to be positive with parents valuing the structure and content of the sessions as well as the social opportunity provided to their child.

Resources into Schools

This service combines specialist advisory teacher advice to schools with the delivery of a resource to help teachers better support the individual children with Down Syndrome with specific aspects of their learning. During 2024, 23 different children at 20 schools have been supported through this initiative. School staff have hugely valued the opportunity to receive expert advice from the specialist teachers and to learn from them.

Resources into Homes

This new service launched in April 2023, provides direct training from a specialist Down Syndrome advisory teacher to parents on how to use a specialist resource to enable their child to achieve maximum progression with their learning. During 2024, parents of 7 children accessed the service which covered the topic of Number and Memory. Feedback from parents confirmed that they felt they had better understanding and knowledge to support their child as a result of the training.

Other activities

We ran our 'Supporting Pupils with Down Syndrome in Education' training again in the Autumn term, this training continues to have high demand from schools in Hertfordshire and the surrounding counties. Thank you to Helen Long for delivering this course on our behalf.

Twice in 2024, we have had the privilege of delivering a training day on Down Syndrome to over 100 student midwives at City University. Our goal was to educate and empower the next generation of midwives and medical professionals to approach future families with greater knowledge, balanced views, compassion, and positivity. Thank you to parent and Speech and Language Therapist Emma Vaughan for joining us to debunk myths around Down Syndrome, and highlight how using the right language has enormous power, which can make the world of difference to the parents midwives support.

We hosted a free workshop for parent carers on making an EHCP application with 12 attendees, thank you to Tracey Allen for running the workshop and sharing her expertise with our families.

We have provided bespoke 'whole school' training on Down Syndrome for two schools and delivered internal training to our staff and volunteers on effectively using sign language as a communication tool.

We also attended 10 local community events to increase awareness of our services and to provide sign posting and support to attendees.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

The Trustees give their time voluntarily to run the charity and to support the delivery of services. In addition, the Trustees gratefully accepted voluntary support from the Board Secretary and other support from volunteers to help with the delivery of services described above.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Trustees of DS Achieve are delighted to report a number of key achievements during 2024.

- In January 2024 we held a hugely successful family party with 120 members of our community joining together to celebrate our 5th anniversary as a charity. This proved very popular with attendees, who encouraged us to make this an annual event.
- We have continued to empower parents and professionals through our social media (763 followers of our Facebook page and 238 parents in our closed Facebook group), newsletters (20 newsletters to 288 subscribers) and WhatsApp groups providing information and signposting and providing a platform for peer support. We have also had an average of 784 unique visitors each month to our website. We have seen our following continue to grow and have been delighted to welcome new families to our community.
- Our Little Achievers programme welcomed two new families in 2024, with one of the children with Down Syndrome old enough to join our specialist teaching classes. We were sad to say goodbye to three children who have been with the group for a number of years

and left to start Reception Year at school. We could not be more proud of them!

- Hannah McEwen, our Little Achievers manager left us in September with plans for emigration. We were sad to see her go but wished her well for the future. We were delighted to internally promote Eve Wainwright into the Manager role and welcome Emma Gilby as a new support worker.
- Young Achievers has continued to go from strength to strength and we are grateful to our team of volunteers which continues to grow alongside some volunteers who have been with us from the start. We have been delighted that so many of the children have returned each term and have built some wonderful friendships.
- Our original Young Achievers Group Leader, Avril Prosser, sadly left us in April as she took on a new role with her main employer. We are grateful for all she contributed since the start of the programme. We were delighted to appoint Emma Gilby as her replacement.
- We welcomed the appointment of two new Trustees to the Board with complimentary skills and professional experience. We were grateful to Rachel Angus who stood down as treasurer for her dedication to DS Achieve during her tenure. Rachel joined as a finance volunteer in 2018 when the charity began and then served as treasurer from October 2019. We are very grateful for her significant contribution to the charity.
- We have continued to increase our professional network this year, building links with health and education professionals locally, giving them information about how we can support both them and the families they are working with and so they can signpost new families to us.

The Trustees of DS Achieve are extremely pleased with the achievements during 2024 and the feedback from service users about the positive impact the charity has delivered.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

DS Achieve aims to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to ensure that any training courses committed to, alongside any administrative costs of the charity can be met for the following six months at any point in time.

It is expected that both the Little Achievers and Young Achievers programme will be largely funded by grant income and the delivery of the programmes will be dependent on successful grant applications.

At the year end, unrestricted reserves totalled **£49,597** thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Not applicable

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

RECEIPTS

Income has been received via four channels: donations, event income, project income and grants.

Donations

DS Achieve were delighted to be the recipient of a number of generous donations during 2024 Total donations received amounted to £20,096.

Event income

Income was received from attendees to the Little Achievers classes, Young Achievers sessions and training events. All events were subsidised by DS Achieve either through unrestricted reserves or specific grant awards.

Hertfordshire Libraries

Income was received from Hertfordshire Libraries to run the My Voice project.

Grants

DS Achieve successfully applied for six grants during 2024.

Postcode Places Trust - £19,000 towards our core costs.

Masonic Charitable Foundation - £4,316 pa for 3 years towards our core costs.

Shanly - £3,000 towards Young Achievers.

Albert Hunt - £2,000 towards our work with parent carers.

Hertfordshire Community Foundation (£10,000) and the Hobson Charity (£9,398) towards Little Achievers for the academic year 24-25.

All grants that have been awarded are restricted funds, meaning they must be spent in accordance with each of their terms and conditions.

PAYMENTS

The majority of the expenditure of the charity fell into seven areas:

Event costs

These costs relate to our schools' and parent training events including trainer costs, venue hire and expenses, our Young Achievers support worker salary, our family anniversary party and our team awayday.

Little Achievers Classes

Costs for the Little Achievers programme for the Spring, Summer and Autumn terms relate to venue hire, the teacher, visiting therapists, staff costs, salary and resources.

Young Achievers Sessions

Costs were incurred for venue hire, activity providers, refreshments, staff costs, salary and resources.

Resources into Schools

Costs were incurred for specialist advisory teachers and specific educational resources.

Resources into Homes

Costs were incurred for specialist advisory teachers and specific educational resources.

My Voice - Hertfordshire Libraries Project

Costs relate to staff salaries attributable to the project and training provided to Hertfordshire Libraries staff by a specialist advisory teacher.

Administration

Administration costs were met through a combination of restricted and unrestricted funds and were necessary for the effective running of the charity.

Section F

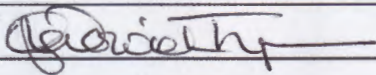
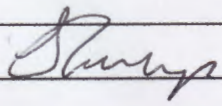
Other optional information

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Statement

Environmental Sustainability – we are committed to working in a responsible manner to reduce our impact on the environment. We are a remote organisation with our employees either based at home or delivering services via hired premises. This ensures that we only use energy and physical resources in a targeted way for our front line delivery. We aim to be a paperless organisation but where paper based resources are required, we limit the amount we produce and recycle surpluses. When hiring premises, we consider the suitability for our beneficiaries and undertake risk assessments to ensure they are fit for purpose and meet high standards for careful use of resources.

Social Performance - as a charity our purpose is to provide public benefit and performing a social good is our fundamental role. We welcome all families with a child or young person with Down Syndrome in our community and seek to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment. We have a strong focus on equality, diversity and inclusion and strive to ensure our organisation and the services we offer are accessible for all. We have organisational policies to support our ways of working and to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safeguarded. We offer employment and volunteering opportunities for people with Down Syndrome. We ensure we pay a fair and living wage and ensure that any out of pocket expenses incurred by employees and volunteers are reimbursed. We have an Employee Assistance Programme to help ensure that we look after the wellbeing of our employees.

Governance - we use an Independent Examiner to review our accounts, we implement data protection measures, and have an ambitious culture that drives rigorous review, training and improvement of the trustee board. We follow the Charity Governance Code and undertook an audit in 2020 and implemented improvements as a result. We undertake regular self assessments and skills audits of our Board and use the findings to improve our performance. We create strategic plans on a three yearly cycle and use our annual awaydays to help us develop and review our plans incorporating feedback from our stakeholders.

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)	G. WARWICK-THOMPSON	S. CHAPMAN	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TRUSTEE	
Date	16/15/25	16/05/2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
DS ACHIEVE No (if any)
1176873

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from **01 / 01 / 2024** To **31 / 12 / 2024**

CC16a

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	20,096	0	0	20,096	23,264
Event Income	5,610	0	0	5,610	5,401
Hertfordshire Libraries	3,288	0	0	3,288	5,533
The National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region)	0	9,165	0	9,165	17,891
Grant from BBC Children In Need	0	0	0	0	9,955
Grant from The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund	0	0	0	0	5,000
Grant from Tesco Community Grants	0	0	0	0	1,000
Hertfordshire Community Foundation	0	10,000	0	10,000	0
Shanly Group	0	3,000	0	3,000	0
The Hobson Charity	0	4,699	0	4,699	0
Albert Hunt	0	2,000	0	2,000	0
MCF	0	4,316	0	4,316	0
Postcode Places	0	19,000	0	19,000	0
Interest Received	978	0	0	978	421
Sub total	29,972	52,180	0	82,152	68,465
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	29,972	52,180	0	82,152	68,465
A3 Payments					
Event costs	1,654	1,304	0	2,958	2,872
Little Achievers Classes	0	18,058	0	18,058	18,230
Young Achievers Sessions	1,618	9,500	0	11,118	11,930
Resources into Schools	4,347	3,052	0	7,399	5,541
EHCP Support Service	0	0	0	0	5,010
My Voice - Hertfordshire Library Project	3,582	0	0	3,582	4,142
Resources into Homes	34	236	0	270	764
Website and IT costs	90	1,235	0	1,325	1,156
Insurance costs	0	573	0	573	573
Subscriptions	110	218	0	328	508
Marketing	0	0	0	0	425
Sundry Expenses	233	1,376	0	1,609	300
Salaries and Staff costs	9,079	12,223	0	21,302	19,591
					-
Sub total	20,821	47,775	0	68,522	71,042
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Office/Other Equipment	74	0	0	74	0
Sub total	74	0	0	74	0
Total payments	20,895	47,775	0	68,596	71,042

Net of receipts/(payments)	9,151	4,405	0	13,630	(3,001)
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	40,447	15,192		55,639	58,640
Cash funds this year end	49,598	19,597	0	69,269	55,639

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	15,699	19,597	0
	Savings accounts	33,899		0
	Total cash funds	49,598	19,597	0
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

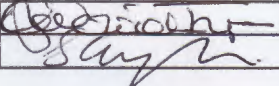
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Gift aid due	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

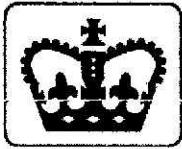
Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Childrens Play Equipment	Restricted	3,349	1,884
	Childrens Play Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Office/Other Equipment	Restricted	-	-
	Office/Other Equipment	Unrestricted	753	438
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Payroll taxes	Restricted	902	Jan 25
	Pension costs	Restricted	114	Jan 25
	Payrol services	Unrestricted	92	Jan 25
	Little Achievers Teacher costs - Restricted	Restricted	600	Jan 25
	Young Achievers - Hall Hire	Unrestricted	176	Jan 25
	Little Achievers Therapist Costs	Restricted	300	Jan25
	RiS Advisory Teacher Visit	Unrestricted	147	Jan 25

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	G. WARWICK-THOMPSON	16.05.25
	S. CHAPMAN	16.05.25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Trust Name
DSAchieve

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2024 **Charity no
(if any)** 1176873

Set out on pages

8 - 9
(optional) to include the page numbers of additional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

**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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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: K. J. Ingrams

Date: 25/09/2025

Name: Kate Ingrams

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

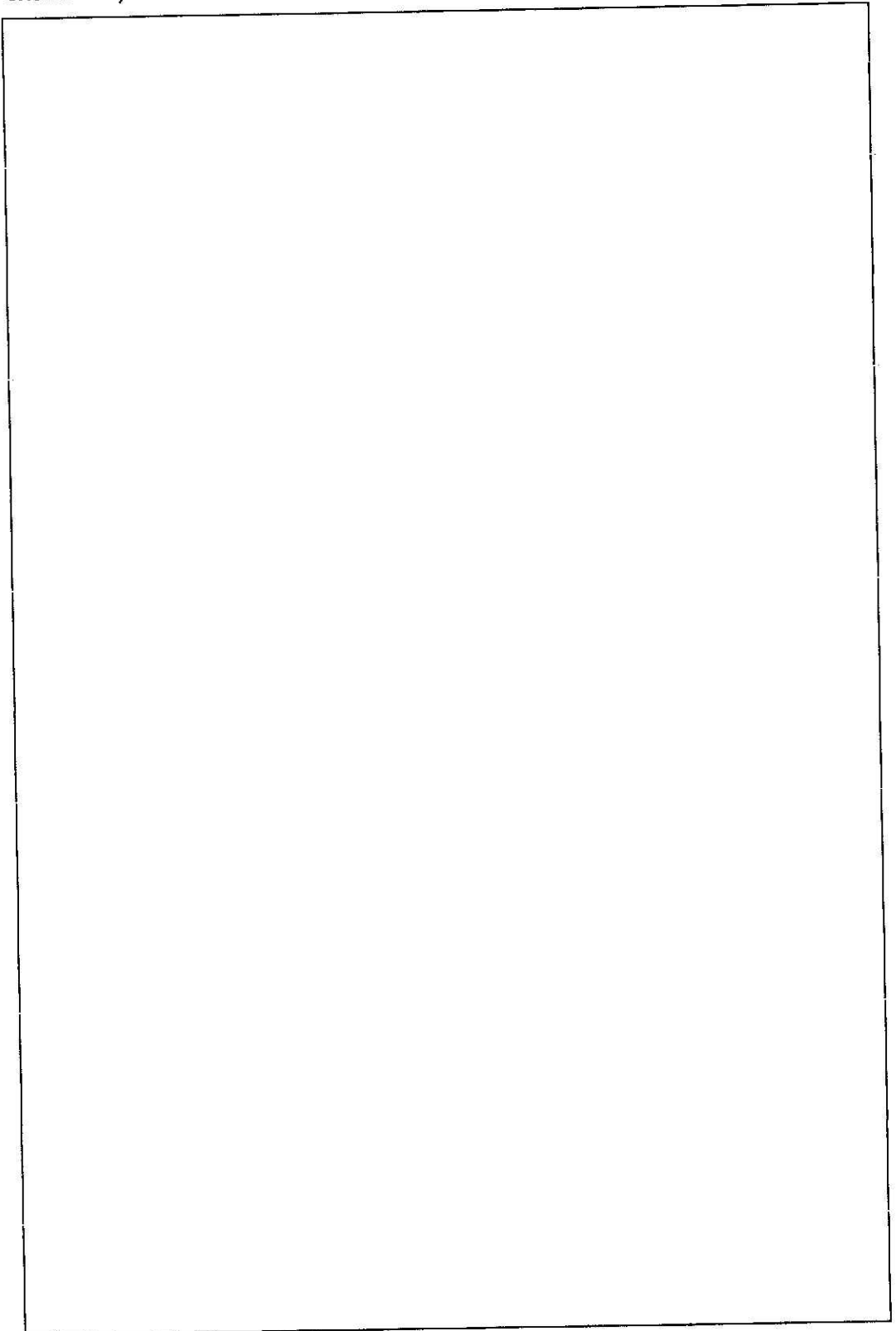
ACA (retired)

Address:

89 Oakwood Drive
St Albans
AL4 0UL

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.



DSACHIEVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176873

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date					
From	1st	January	2023	To	31st	December	2023

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 who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Gillian Warwick-Thompson	Chair	
2	Huw Watkins	Treasurer	Appointed 26.1.2023
3	Rachel Angus	Trustee	
4	Abbie Hollick	Trustee	Resigned 31.12.2023
5	Anna Crispin	Trustee	Resigned 5.10.2023
6	Selena Chapman	Trustee	
7	Tina Guagenti-Birkin	Trustee	Appointed 9.11.2023
8			
9			
10			

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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)	Constitution dated 29.1.2018
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing Trustee Board

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

The Trustees have considered the risk appetite of the charity. They have adopted a zero-risk tolerance to legal and regulatory risk. Their appetite for risk can be characterised as low reflecting the nature of the charitable organisation and their responsibilities to service users. The Trustees maintain and regularly review their risk register and take actions to reduce or eliminate risk where possible.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

In March 2023, the Trustees amended the original object of the CIO to now include young people up to age 25. As such, the object of the CIO is the relief of children and young people up to age 25, with Down's Syndrome or other additional needs, particularly by providing appropriate support to their parents or guardians, so that such children and young people may achieve their full potential.

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)

2023 represented the fifth full year of operational activity for DS Achieve having officially launched to the public on 2nd September 2018 following registration with the Charity Commission on 29th January 2018.

In order to plan and execute suitable activities which meet the charity's objectives, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. These guidelines were discussed and used to plan seven main areas of activity for 2023:

- 1) Continuation of the pre-school teaching class for children with Down Syndrome aged five years or under, called **Little Achievers**.
- 2) **Training sessions** for parents and carers of children with Down Syndrome and professionals working with children with Down Syndrome.
- 3) Continuation of the weekly social development programme during term time for primary-aged and secondary-aged children with Down Syndrome, called **Young Achievers**

- 4) The continuation of the **Empowerment Group**, a programme of social and educational activities carefully designed to give parents/carers of children with Down Syndrome the opportunity to take a break from daily life, strengthen their social networks and to focus on their wellbeing.
- 5) The continuation of - the **Resources into Schools** service which combines special advisory teacher advice to nurseries and schools with the delivery of an educational resource to help teachers better support the individual children with Down Syndrome with specific aspects of their learning.
- 6) The continuation of the **EHCP Support Service** which provides assistance for parent carers with a child or young person with Down Syndrome to navigate the system around Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- 7) The development of a new service - **Resources into Homes** which is a service providing direct training from a Specialist Down Syndrome Teacher, to parents, on how to use a specialist resource to enable their child to achieve maximum progression with their learning.

In addition to these seven areas of activity, DS Achieve also continued a partnership agreement with Hertfordshire Library Services - the **My Voice Project**, which aims to create volunteering opportunities for young people with Down Syndrome. This work will continue into 2024.

Little Achievers

Little Achievers is a weekly teaching class during term time for children, aged five years and under, with Down Syndrome. It focuses on early skills in the areas of literacy, numeracy, fine motor skills, physical development and communication. The teacher is a highly professional individual who has extensive experience in teaching and working with children and young people with Down Syndrome. Progress is monitored by the class teacher and reported at the end of each term.

The teaching class is accompanied by a wraparound 'Stay and Play' session which includes a number of focused developmental and fun play activities, as well as sing and sign sessions using Makaton. Visiting professionals also join the Stay and Play at regular intervals to offer advice to parents.

Three part time employees deliver the group – a manager and two support workers.

Feedback continues to be extremely positive with parents particularly valuing the high quality teaching classes and access to professionals. Parents are also appreciative of the supportive nature of the group - from staff and other families.

Training sessions

2023 saw the continuation of our high-quality training events with a focus this year on specialist topics that could add the most value to our families and avoided duplication of more widely offered topics from other organisations. These have been delivered online and face to face and have included Supporting Children with Down Syndrome in Education, Dental Care for Children with Down Syndrome and Supporting Siblings of Children with SEND. We are thankful for the expertise of Helen Long, Hertfordshire Special Care Dental Service and SIBs in delivering these courses on our behalf. Feedback from course attendees (both parents and professionals) has been hugely positive.

Young Achievers

September 2021 saw the launch of the new Young Achievers Social Development programme that is led weekly during term time by an experienced Youth Leader with support from an Assistant Leader, a Support Worker and a team of volunteers. Young Achievers has continued throughout 2023 with 30 different children joining the programme for some or all of the three terms with most of them returning each term.

The children have had a lot of fun while learning new skills to help them develop friendships, join in social activities and to understand the social world a little better. Feedback continues to be positive with parents valuing the structure and content of the sessions as well as the social opportunity provided to their child.

Empowerment Group

The Empowerment Group was launched in February 2020 and is a programme of activities carefully designed to give parents/carers the opportunity to take a break from daily life and to focus on their wellbeing.

In June 2021, parents were invited to share their views to determine the future offering of the Empowerment Group. In response, a new programme of events was devised and the Empowerment Group relaunched in January 2022.

The Empowerment Group offering for 2023 has included two social sessions with 20 parents attending across the two events with some choosing to attend both sessions and a programme of Facebook Lives for parent carers on a range of parenting and education related topics in our closed Facebook group which have had 233 views over the year.

Resources into Schools

This service combines specialist advisory teacher advice to schools with the delivery of a resource to help teachers better support the individual children with Down Syndrome with specific aspects of their learning. During 2023, 25 different children have been supported through this initiative. School staff have hugely valued the opportunity to receive expert advice from the specialist teachers and to learn from them.

EHCP Support Service

During 2023, this service provided information and training through four workshops, with 33 different parent carers attending one or more sessions. A small pilot was also run which provided legal EHCP support for individual parents. At the end of 2023, it was concluded by the Trustees that this pilot would not be renewed as support to parents could be provided through other specialist services.

Resources into Homes

This new service launched in April 2023 and provides direct training from a specialist Down Syndrome advisory teacher to parents of children on how to use a specialist resource to enable their child to achieve maximum progression with their learning. During 2023, parents of 10 children accessed the service which covered the topics of Speech and Language and Reading. Feedback from parents confirmed that they felt they had better understanding and knowledge to support their child as a result of the training.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

The Trustees give their time voluntarily to run the charity and to support the delivery of services. In addition, the Trustees gratefully accepted voluntary support from the Board Secretary and other support from volunteers to help with the delivery of services described above.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Trustees of DS Achieve are delighted to report a number of key achievements during 2023.

- We have continued to empower parents and professionals through our social media, newsletters and WhatsApp groups providing information and signposting and providing a platform for peer support. We have seen our following continue to grow and been delighted to welcome new families.
- We have run seven training courses, with 83 places booked, for professionals and parent carers and delivered seven shorter training videos for parents to watch (and rewatch at their convenience) on a variety of relevant topics, all of which have had consistently strong feedback.
- Our Little Achievers programme welcomed nine new families in 2023, with four of the children with Down Syndrome old enough to join our specialist teaching classes. We were sad to say goodbye to two children who have both been with the group for a number of years and left to start Reception Year at school. We could not be more proud of them!
- In May 2023, we welcomed an additional Little Achievers Support worker to the team who is a qualified teacher. She has been a valuable addition to the Little Achievers programme and has formed great relationships with the children and families who attend.
- In April 2023, the Young Achievers programme changed venue and moved to a school in Welwyn Garden City which is much better suited to the needs of the attendees and the group. The programme has continued to go from strength to strength and we are grateful to our team of volunteers which continues to grow alongside some volunteers who have been with us from the start. We have been delighted that so many of the children have returned each term and have built some wonderful friendships.
- We were happy to see our original Young Achievers Group Leader return from maternity leave in September 2023 and we were grateful to the fantastic youth leader who provided cover in her absence.
- We welcomed the appointment of two new Trustees to the Board with complimentary skills and professional experience. We were grateful to the two departing trustees for their dedication to DS Achieve during their tenure.
- In September 2023, we implemented a structural change which saw the Head of Operations role reduce in hours, the removal of the Operations Coordinator role, and the introduction of an Operations Manager role to run the Charity day to day. The Trustees are grateful to the Operations Coordinator for her contribution to the charity during her employment. We were delighted to welcome the new Operations Manager to the team and see her pick up the reins

quickly to deliver our new and existing programmes. This structural change better meets service user needs and delivers a team model which provides enhanced stability for the future.

- We have continued to increase our professional network this year, building links with health and education professionals locally and giving them information about how we can also support both them and the families they are working with so that they signpost new families to us.

The Trustees of DS Achieve are extremely pleased with the achievements during 2023 and the feedback from service users about the positive impact of services the charity has delivered.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

DS Achieve aims to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to ensure that any training courses committed to, alongside any administrative costs of the charity can be met for the following six months at any point in time.

It is expected that both the Little Achievers and Young Achievers programme will be largely funded by grant income and the delivery of the programmes will be dependent on successful grant applications. The Trustees were able to successfully secure grant funding for the next three academic years for these programmes in 2021.

At the year end, unrestricted reserves totalled £40,447 thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

RECEIPTS

Income has been received via four channels: donations, event income, project income and grants.

Donations

DS Achieve were delighted to be the recipient of a number of generous donations during 2023. Total donations received amounted to £23,264.

Event income

Income was received from attendees to both the Little Achievers classes, Young Achievers sessions, social, and training events. All events were subsidised by DS Achieve either through unrestricted reserves or specific grant awards.

Hertfordshire Libraries

Income was received from Hertfordshire Libraries to run the My Voice project.

Grants

DS Achieve successfully applied for two grants during 2023.

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund awarded £5,000 in grant funding towards core costs for 2023. A £1,000 grant was also awarded from Tesco Community Grants to support the new Resources into Homes project.

In addition, DS Achieve continued to receive grants from:

- The National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region) to specifically fund the Little Achievers Programme for three academic years from September 2021.

- BBC Children in Need to specifically fund the Young Achievers Programme for three academic years from September 2021.

All grants that have been awarded are restricted funds, meaning they must be spent in accordance with each of their terms and conditions.

PAYMENTS

The majority of the expenditure of the charity fell into eight areas:

Event costs

These costs relate to ten training events including trainer costs, venue hire and expenses, our Young Achievers support worker salary, two Empowerment Group socials and an end of year family social.

Little Achievers Classes

Costs for the Little Achievers programme for the Spring, Summer and Autumn terms relate to venue hire, the teacher, visiting therapists, staff costs, salary and resources.

Young Achievers Sessions

Costs were incurred for venue hire, activity providers, refreshments, staff costs, salary and resources.

Resources into Schools

Costs were incurred for specialist advisory teachers and specific educational resources.

EHCP Support Service

Costs were incurred for venue hire for training and for professional services.

Resources into Homes

Costs were incurred for specialist advisory teachers and specific educational resources.

My Voice - Hertfordshire Libraries Project

Costs relate to staff salaries attributable to the project and training provided to Hertfordshire Libraries staff by a specialist advisory teacher.

Administration

Administration costs were met through a combination of restricted and unrestricted funds and were necessary for the effective running of the charity.

Section F

Other optional information

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Statement

Environmental Sustainability – we are committed to working in a responsible manner to reduce our impact on the environment. We are a remote organisation with our employees either based at home or delivering services via hired premises. This ensures that we only use energy and physical resources in a targeted way for our front line delivery. We aim to be a paperless organisation but where paper based resources are required we limit the amount we produce and recycle surpluses. When hiring premises we consider the suitability for our beneficiaries and undertake risk assessments to ensure they are fit for purpose and meet high standards for careful use of resources.

Social Performance - as a charity our purpose is to provide public benefit and performing a social good is our fundamental role. We welcome all families with a child or young person with Down Syndrome in our community and seek to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment. We have a strong focus on equality, diversity and inclusion and strive to ensure our organisation and the services we offer are accessible for all. We have organisational policies to support our ways of working and to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safeguarded. We offer employment and volunteering opportunities for people with Down Syndrome. We ensure we pay a fair and living wage and ensure that any out of pocket expenses incurred by employees and

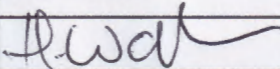
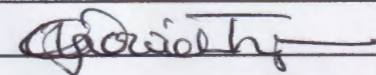
volunteers are reimbursed. We have an Employee Assistance Programme to help ensure that we look after the wellbeing of our employees.

Governance - we use an Independent Examiner to review our accounts, we implement data protection measures, and have an ambitious culture that drives rigorous review, training and improvement of the trustee board. We follow the Charity Governance Code and undertook an audit in 2020 and implemented improvements as a result. We undertake regular self assessments and skills audits of our Board and use the findings to improve our performance. We create strategic plans on a three yearly cycle and use our annual awaydays to help us develop and review our plans incorporating feedback from our stakeholders.

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)	H. WATKINS	G. WARWICK-THOMPSON
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	TREASURER	CHAIR
Date	21/3/24	21/3/24



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/1/2023		31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to the nearest £	Restricted to the nearest £	Endowment to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	14,264	9,000	-	23,264	17,072
Event Income	5,401	-	-	5,401	7,441
Hertfordshire Libraries	5,533	-	-	5,533	4,043
The National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region)	-	17,891	-	17,891	15,258
Grant from BBC Children In Need	-	9,955	-	9,955	10,455
Grant from The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Grant from Tesco Community Grants	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Grant from The Childwick Trust	-	-	-	-	3,000
Grant from HCC - Festive Grant	-	-	-	-	300
Interest Received	421	-	-	421	-
Sub total	25,619	42,846	-	68,465	57,569
A2 Asset and investment sales					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	25,619	42,846	-	68,465	57,569
A3 Payments					
Event Costs	2,254	618	-	2,872	8,451
Little Achievers Classes	-	18,230	-	18,230	14,281
Young Achievers Sessions	1,017	10,913	-	11,930	9,912
Resources into Schools	593	4,948	-	5,541	3,143
EHCP Support Service	5,010	-	-	5,010	699
My Voice - Hertfordshire Libraries Project	4,142	-	-	4,142	426
Resources into Homes	-	764	-	764	-
Website & IT Costs	244	911	-	1,156	1,092
Insurance	-	573	-	573	568
Subscriptions	104	404	-	508	359
Marketing	53	372	-	425	272
Sundry Expenses	98	202	-	300	881
Salaries & Staff Costs	14,053	5,537	-	19,591	16,381
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	60
Sub total	27,569	43,473	-	71,042	56,525
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Storage Shed	423	-	-	423	-
Little Achievers Sensory Library	-	-	-	-	892
Sub total	423	-	-	423	892
Total payments	27,992	43,473	-	71,465	57,417
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,373	- 628	-	- 3,001	152
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	42,820	15,820	-	58,640	58,488
Cash funds this year end	40,447	15,192	-	55,639	58,640

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

Categories
B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Bank Account	20,026	15,192	-
Savings Account	20,421	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	40,447	15,192	-

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Gift Aid Due	464	-	-
		-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

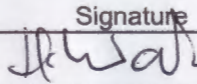
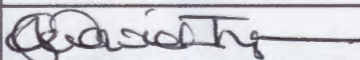
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Little Achievers Equipment	Restricted	-	1,620
Projector Screen	Unrestricted	-	86
Event Banners	Unrestricted	-	157
Playgroup Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Projector	Unrestricted	-	-
Little Achievers Sensory Library	Restricted		892
Storage Shed	Unrestricted	423	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Staff Costs - Unrestricted	Unrestricted	281	
Young Achievers - Staff Costs	Restricted	104	
Young Achievers - Hall Hire	Restricted	80	
Little Achievers Therapist Costs	Restricted	480	
RiS Advisory Teacher Visit	Restricted	222	

Signed by one or two trustees on

Signature	Print Name	Date of
	H. WATKINS	21/3/24
	G. WARWICK-THOMPSON	21/3/24



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
DSAchieve

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1176873

Set out on pages

9-10

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2023**.

**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 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

27/09/2023

Name:

Kathryn Coxon

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

Address:

39 Station Road

Harpenden

AL5 4XD

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

DSACHIEVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176873

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date	
From	1st January 2022	To	31st December 2022

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 who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Gillian Warwick-Thompson	Chair	
2	Rachel Angus	Treasurer	
3	Abbie Hollick	Trustee	
4	Anna Crispin	Trustee	
5	Selena Chapman	Trustee	Appointed 19.5.2022
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Education Adviser	Anne Gullick	

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)	Constitution dated 29.1.2018
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing Trustee Board

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

The Trustees have considered the risk appetite of the charity. They have adopted a zero-risk tolerance to legal and regulatory risk. Their appetite for risk can be characterised as low reflecting the nature of the charitable organisation and their responsibilities to service users. The Trustees maintain and regularly review their risk register and take actions to reduce or eliminate risk where possible.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The object of the CIO is the relief of children with Down Syndrome or other additional needs, particularly by providing appropriate support to their parents or guardians, so that such children may achieve their full potential.

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)

2022 represented the fourth full year of operational activity for DS Achieve having officially launched to the public on 2nd September 2018 following registration with the Charity Commission on 29th January 2018.

In order to plan and execute suitable activities which meet the charity's objectives, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. These guidelines were discussed and used to plan six main areas of activity for 2022:

- 1) Continuation of the pre-school teaching class for children with Down Syndrome aged five years or under, called **Little Achievers**.
- 2) **Training sessions** for parents and carers of children with Down Syndrome and professionals working with children with Down Syndrome.
- 3) Continuation of the weekly social development programme during term time for primary-aged and secondary-aged children with Down Syndrome, called **Young Achievers**

- 4) The continuation of the **Empowerment Group**, a programme of social and educational activities carefully designed to give parents/carers of children with Down Syndrome the opportunity to take a break from daily life, strengthen their social networks and to focus on their wellbeing.
- 5) The development of a new service - **Resource Packs into School** - combining special advisory teacher advice to nurseries and schools with the delivery of an educational resource to help teachers better support the individual children with Down Syndrome with specific aspects of their learning.
- 6) The development of a new **EHCP Support Service** to provide assistance for parent carers with a child or young person with Down Syndrome to navigate the system around Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

In addition to these six areas of activity, DS Achieve also began a partnership agreement with Hertfordshire Library Services - the **My Voice Project**, which aims to create volunteering opportunities for young people with Down Syndrome. This work will continue into 2023 and 2024.

Little Achievers

Little Achievers is a weekly teaching class during term time for children, aged five years and under, with Down Syndrome. It focuses on early skills in the areas of literacy, numeracy, fine motor skills, physical development and communication. The teacher is a highly professional individual who has extensive experience in teaching and working with children and young people with Down Syndrome. Progress is monitored by the class teacher and reported at the end of each term.

The teaching class is accompanied by a wraparound 'Stay and Play' session which includes a number of focused developmental and fun play activities, as well as sing and sign sessions using Makaton. Visiting professionals also join the Stay and Play at regular intervals to offer advice to parents.

Two part time employees deliver the group – a manager and a support worker - supported by a volunteer.

Feedback from parents continues to be extremely positive with praise focusing on the highly organised nature of the class, the approachability of the staff and volunteers, and the access to professionals that would otherwise prove difficult for families to achieve. The opportunity to meet regularly with other parents of young children with Down Syndrome is also a great benefit, based on parents' feedback.

Training sessions

2022 saw the continuation of our high-quality training events. These have been delivered online and face to face this year and have included Developing Positive Behaviour and Social Interaction, Number Sense, DSEI Reading and Language Intervention, Professionals working with Pupils with Down Syndrome, Transition to Special School & Transport, Supporting Children with Down Syndrome in Education (four-session course) and Visual Development in Babies, Children & Young People with Down Syndrome. We are thankful for the expertise of Helen Long, Anne Gullick and Dr Maggie Woodhouse in delivering these courses on our behalf. Feedback from course attendees (both parents and professionals) has been hugely positive.

Young Achievers

September 2021 saw the launch of the new Young Achievers Social Development programme that is led weekly during term time by an experienced Youth Leader with support from an Assistant Leader, a Support Worker and a team of volunteers. Young Achievers has continued throughout 2022 with 29 different children joining the programme for some or all of the four terms with most of them returning each term.

The children have had a lot of fun while learning new skills to help them develop friendships, join in social activities and to understand the social world a little better. It has been great to receive feedback from parents about how the children are putting what they have learnt into practice in other areas of their lives.

Empowerment Group

The Empowerment Group was launched in February 2020 and is a programme of activities carefully designed to give parents/carers the opportunity to take a break from daily life and to focus on their wellbeing.

In June 2021, parents were invited to share their views to determine the future offering of the Empowerment Group. In response, a new programme of events was devised and the Empowerment Group relaunched in January 2022.

The Empowerment Group offering for 2022 has included two social sessions with 19 parents attending across the two events with some choosing to attend both sessions and a programme of Facebook Lives for parent carers on a range of parenting and education related topics in our closed Facebook group which have had approximately 400 views over the year.

Resource Packs into Schools

This service combines special advisory teacher advice to schools with the delivery of a resource to help teachers better support the individual children with Down Syndrome with specific aspects of their learning. During 2022, 14 different children have been supported through this initiative. School staff have hugely valued the opportunity to receive expert advice from the specialist teachers and to learn from them.

EHCP Support Service

Much of 2022 was spent researching and developing this new service which aims to provide assistance for parent carers with a child or young person with Down Syndrome to navigate the system around Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The service will provide information and training to parent carers and will pilot support for new EHCP applications or annual reviews by a qualified legal professional. The first training and information session is scheduled for January 2023.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

The Trustees give their time voluntarily to run the charity and to support the delivery of services. In addition, the Trustees gratefully accepted voluntary support from the Board Secretary and other support from volunteers to help with the delivery of services described above.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Trustees of DS Achieve are delighted to report a number of key achievements during 2022.

- We have continued to empower parents and professionals through our social media, newsletters and WhatsApp groups providing information and signposting and providing a platform for peer support. We have seen our following continue to grow and been delighted to welcome new families.
- We have run ten training courses, with 98 places booked, for professionals and parent carers on a range of topics.
- Our Little Achievers programme welcomed some new babies into the group at the beginning of the 2021/22 academic year as we returned to in person classes after the online classes we had put in place during the covid pandemic. These babies have now joined our teaching groups for the 2022/23 academic year bringing these teaching groups back up to 10, close to our maximum capacity of 12. We have more new babies joining the group regularly and we have been delighted to welcome them and their families to DS Achieve.
- We welcomed a new Little Achievers Manager to the team who had previously volunteered at the group and she was able to pick up the reins quickly from the previous manager and has continued to take the group from strength to strength.
- The Young Achievers programme settled well during 2022 as the leaders developed the programme to suit the needs of the children attending. We were able to establish a good volunteer team and appointed a support worker to further strengthen the team. We were delighted that so many of the children have returned each term and have built some wonderful friendships.
- Our Young Achievers Leader went on maternity leave during 2022 and we were delighted to appoint a great youth leader to cover her leave. Our previous Young Achievers Assistant Leader left at the end of the academic year and we appointed a brilliant replacement from the volunteer team giving some continuity into the new academic year.
- The appointment of one new Trustee to the Board with complimentary skills and professional experience, and lived experience of parenting a child with Down Syndrome.
- The creation and recruitment of an Operations Co-ordinator role to support our Head of Operations in the delivery of our new and existing programmes.
- We have increased our professional network this year building links with health and education professionals locally and giving them information about how we can also support the families they are working with so that they signpost new families to us.

The Trustees of DS Achieve are extremely pleased with the achievements during 2022 and the feedback from service users about the positive impact of services the charity has delivered.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

DS Achieve aims to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to ensure that any training courses committed to, alongside any administrative costs of the charity can be met for the following six months at any point in time.

It is expected that both the Little Achievers and Young Achievers programme will be largely funded by grant income and the delivery of the programmes will be dependent on successful grant applications. The Trustees were able to successfully secure grant funding for the next three academic years for these programmes in 2021.

At the year end, unrestricted reserves totalled £42,820 thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

RECEIPTS

Income has been received via three channels: donations, event income and grants.

Donations

DS Achieve were delighted to be the recipient of a number of generous donations during 2022. Total donations received amounted to £17,072.

Event income

Income was received from attendees to both the Little Achievers classes, Young Achievers sessions, social, and training events. All events were subsidised by DS Achieve either through unrestricted reserves or specific grant awards.

Hertfordshire Libraries

Income was received from Hertfordshire Libraries to run the My Voice project.

Grants

DS Achieve successfully applied for two grants during 2022.

The Childwick Trust awarded £3,000 in grant funding towards core costs for 2023. A £300 Festive Grant was also awarded from Hertfordshire County Council which subsidised the family social in December.

In addition, DS Achieve continued to receive the following grants from:

The National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region) to specifically fund the Little Achievers Programme for three academic years from September 2021.

BBC Children in Need to specifically fund the Young Achievers Programme for three academic years from September 2021.

BBC Children in Need also awarded a £500 additional 'Cost of Living' Grant to support the running costs of the charity.

Apart from the BBC Children in Need 'Cost of Living' Grant, all grants that have been awarded are restricted funds, meaning they must be spent in accordance with each of their terms and conditions.

PAYMENTS

The majority of the expenditure of the charity fell into four areas:

Event costs

These costs relate to ten training events including trainer costs, venue hire and expenses, two Empowerment Group socials and an end of year family social

Little Achievers Classes

Costs for the Little Achievers programme for the Spring, Summer and Autumn terms relate to venue hire, the teacher, visiting therapists, staff costs, salary and resources.

Young Achievers Sessions

Costs were incurred for venue hire, the activity provider, refreshments, staff costs, salary and resources.

Resource Packs into School

Costs were incurred for specialist advisory teachers and specific educational resources.

EHCP Support Service

Costs were incurred for venue hire for training and for professional services.

My Voice - Hertfordshire Libraries Project

Costs relate to staff salaries attributable to the project.

Administration

Administration costs were met through a combination of restricted and unrestricted funds and were necessary for the effective running of the charity.

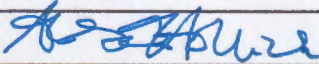
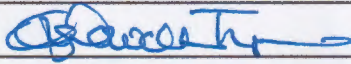
Section F**Other optional information**

--

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)	ABBIE HOLLICK	GILLIAN WARWICK-THOMPSON
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	TRUSTEE	CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
Date	23/3/2023	23.3.2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

DS Achieve

1176873

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2022	To	Period end date 31/12/2022
---------------------	-------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	17,072	-	-	17,072	22,062
Event Income	7,442	-	-	7,442	5,589
Hertfordshire Libraries	4,043	-	-	4,043	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region)	-	15,258	-	15,258	8,717
Grant from BBC Children In Need	500	9,955	-	10,455	9,955
Grant from The Childwick Trust	-	3,000	-	3,000	-
Grant from HCC - Festive Grant	-	300	-	300	-
Grant from Groundworks	-	-	-	-	2,000
Grant from The Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-	6,900
Grant from Albert Hunt Trust	-	-	-	-	1,000
Grant from Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	-	-	-	1,000
Grant from Postcode Places Trust	-	-	-	-	14,700
Sub total					
	29,057	28,513	-	57,569	71,923
A2 Asset and investment sales					
Sub total					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	29,057	28,513	-	57,569	71,923
A3 Payments					
Event Costs	8,152	300	-	8,452	4,844
Little Achievers Classes	-	14,281	-	14,281	12,748
Young Achievers Sessions	68	9,844	-	9,912	4,469
Resource Packs into Schools	1,643	1,500	-	3,143	-
EHCP Support Service	699	-	-	699	-
My Voice - Hertfordshire Libraries Project	426	-	-	426	-
Website & IT Costs	-	1,092	-	1,092	807
Insurance	18	550	-	568	522
Subscriptions	168	191	-	359	217
Marketing	80	193	-	273	164
Sundry Expenses	459	422	-	881	285
Salaries & Staff Costs	4,129	12,252	-	16,381	7,747
Professional Services	60	-	-	60	535
Sub total					
	15,900	40,625	-	56,525	32,338
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Little Achievers Sensory Library	-	892	-	892	-
Sub total					
	-	892	-	892	-
Total payments	15,900	41,517	-	57,417	32,338
Net of receipts/(payments)	13,157	- 13,004	-	152	39,585
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	29,663	28,825	-	58,488	18,903
Cash funds this year end	42,820	15,821	-	58,640	58,488

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	42,820	15,821	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	42,820	15,821	-



Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Hall Hire Deposit	300	-	-
	Gift Aid Due	423	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Little Achievers Equipment	Restricted	-	1,620
	Projector Screen	Unrestricted	-	86
	Event Banners	Unrestricted	-	157
	Playgroup Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Projector	Unrestricted	-	-
	Little Achievers Sensory Library	Restricted	892	892

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Visiting Therapists - Little Achievers	Restricted	240	
	Intervention Teacher - Little Achievers	Restricted	600	
	Hall Hire - Young Achievers	Restricted	216	
	Staff Costs - Young Achievers	Restricted	212	
	Salaries and Staff Costs	Unrestricted	201	
	Venue - Event Costs	Unrestricted	192	
	Trainer Costs - My Voice Herts Library Project	Unrestricted	200	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ABBIE HOLLICK	23/3/2023
	GWARWICK-THOMPSON	23/3/2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
DS Achieve

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1176873

Set out on pages

3 to 8

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2022**.

**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**

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:

28/9/2023

Name:

Edward Reeve

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

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

Address:

10 Salisbury Road, Harpenden, HERTS, AL5 5AY

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.

DSACHIEVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176873

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	1st	January	2021	To	31st	December	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 who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Gillian Warwick-Thompson	Chair	
2	Rachel Angus	Treasurer	
3	Nicholas Dunn	Trustee	Resigned 7.10.2021
4	Abbie Hollick	Trustee	
5	Anna Crispin	Trustee	Appointed 7.10.2021
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Education Adviser	Anne Gullick	

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)	Constitution dated 29.1.2018
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing Trustee Board

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

The Trustees have considered the risk appetite of the charity. They have adopted a zero-risk tolerance to legal and regulatory risk. Their appetite for risk can be characterised as low reflecting the nature of the charitable organisation and their responsibilities to service users. The Trustees maintain and regularly review their risk register and take actions to reduce or eliminate risk where possible.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The object of the CIO is the relief of children with Down Syndrome or other additional needs, particularly by providing appropriate support to their parents or guardians, so that such children may achieve their full potential.

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)

2021 represented the third full year of operational activity for DS Achieve having officially launched to the public on 2nd September 2018 following registration with the Charity Commission on 29th January 2018.

In order to plan and execute suitable activities which meet the charity's objectives, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. These guidelines were discussed and used to plan four main areas of activity for 2021:

- 1) Continuation of the pre-school teaching class for children with Down Syndrome aged five years or under, called **Little Achievers**.
- 2) **Training sessions** for parents and carers of children with Down Syndrome and professionals working with children with Down Syndrome.

- 3) Continuation of the existing **Young Achievers** Programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 academic year. From September 2021, the Young Achievers programme is to be relaunched to provide a weekly social development programme during term time for primary-aged and secondary-aged children with Down Syndrome.
- 4) The continuation of the **Empowerment Group**, a programme of activities carefully designed to give parents/carers of children with Down Syndrome the opportunity to take a break from daily life, strengthen their social networks and to focus on their wellbeing.

Little Achievers

Little Achievers is a weekly teaching class during term time for children, aged five years and under, with Down Syndrome. It focuses on early skills in the areas of literacy, numeracy, fine motor skills, physical development and communication. The teacher is a highly professional individual who has extensive experience in teaching and working with children and young people with Down Syndrome. Progress is monitored by the class teacher and reported at the end of each term.

The teaching class is accompanied by a wraparound 'Stay and Play' session which includes a number of focused developmental and fun play activities, as well as sing and sign sessions using Makaton. Visiting professionals also join the Stay and Play at regular intervals to offer advice to parents.

Two part time employees deliver the group – a manager and a support worker - supported by a volunteer.

In response to COVID-19, the entire Little Achievers Programme was successfully moved to online delivery from April 2020 until July 2021. Teaching classes took place via screens and therapists arranged 1:1 appointments via telephone or online meeting options. Little Achievers returned to face to face delivery from September 2021.

Feedback from parents continues to be extremely positive with praise focusing on the highly organised nature of the class, the approachability of the staff and volunteers, and the access to professionals that would otherwise prove difficult for families to achieve. The opportunity to meet regularly with other parents of young children with Down Syndrome is also a great benefit, based on parents' feedback.

Training sessions

2021 saw the continuation of our high-quality training events. A wide variety of topics were offered to parents and professionals, including sensory processing training, a speech and language workshop, Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) sessions, supporting children with Down Syndrome in education and introduction to Down Syndrome.

Throughout 2021, our training events were hosted online in response to COVID-19 and there were 83 places booked at training events. Feedback was incredibly positive across the board, with requests for repeat sessions from those who were not able to attend and additional topics to be scheduled from those who did.

Young Achievers

Young Achievers is a programme of activities which are carefully designed to give children the ability to interact, develop social skills and have fun with

peers. The beginning of 2021 saw the continuation of the Young Achievers Programme that was launched in October 2019 for primary-aged and secondary-aged children with Down Syndrome

With all sessions taking place online for the first two terms, we provided nine fun activity sessions; a six-week cooking course, two gymnastics sessions and one arts and crafts session.

At the start of the new academic year, we were delighted to launch our new Young Achievers Social Development programme that is led weekly during term time by an experienced Youth Leader with support from an Assistant Leader and a team of volunteers. It has been a great first term with 26 places filled across the two classes and a wide-ranging curriculum filled with fun, focused activities.

Empowerment Group

The Empowerment Group was launched in February 2020 and is a programme of activities carefully designed to give parents/carers the opportunity to take a break from daily life and to focus on their wellbeing.

During the spring term, we were pleased to continue partnering with The Mindful Squad to deliver an online Mindfulness course.

In June this year, parents were invited to share their views to determine the future offering of the Empowerment Group. In response, a new programme of events has been devised and the Empowerment Group will relaunch in January 2022.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

The Trustees give their time voluntarily to run the charity and to support the delivery of services. In addition, the Trustees gratefully accepted voluntary support from the Board Secretary and other support from volunteers to help with the delivery of services described above.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Trustees of DS Achieve are delighted to report a number of key achievements during 2021.

- We have continued to empower parents and professionals through our social media, newsletters and WhatsApp groups providing information and signposting and providing a platform for peer support. We have seen our following continue to grow and been delighted to welcome new families.
- We have run eight training courses, with 83 places booked, for professionals and parent carers on a range of topics including positive behaviour support, sensory processing and supporting children in education.
- We ran an online Mindfulness course for parents in the Spring helping them with the challenges of repeated lockdown restrictions.
- We ran a brilliant online 6 week cooking skills course for school aged children and their families in the Spring. In the summer we arranged two gymnastic sessions and a creative arts class for the school aged children under our Young Achievers programme.
- We continued to offer our Little Achievers programme using online delivery through to the end of the 20/21 academic year. The children were able to make fantastic progress as a result of our specialist teacher, attend Sing & Sign sessions online, and parents were supported by the therapists and DS Achieve team.
- September brought a big change with a return to face to face delivery in new venues, wonderful new employees joining (Young Achievers Leader, Young Achievers Assistant and Little Achievers Support Worker) and the launch of our Young Achievers Social Development programme which has secured grant funding from Children in Need for the next three academic years.
- Our Little Achievers programme is now in its 4th academic year and we have secured grant funding from the National Lottery for the next three academic years which really transforms our ability to provide a stable and valuable service for the very youngest children and their parent carers. We are sorry to be losing our Little Achievers Manager but are very grateful for her contribution to Little Achievers over the past 2 years.
- The appointment of one new Trustee.
- The creation and recruitment of an Administrative Assistant role to support our Head of Operations.

The Trustees of DS Achieve are extremely pleased with the achievements of our fourth year and the feedback from service users about the positive impact of services the charity has delivered.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

DS Achieve aims to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to ensure that any training courses committed to, alongside any administrative costs of the charity can be met for the following six months at any point in time.

It is expected that both the Little Achievers and Young Achievers programme will be largely funded by grant income and the delivery of the programmes will be dependent on successful grant applications. The

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Trustees were able to successfully secure grant funding for the next three academic years for these programmes in 2021.

At the year end, unrestricted reserves totalled £29,663 thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

RECEIPTS

Income has been received via three channels: donations, event income and grants.

Donations

DS Achieve were delighted to be the recipient of a number of generous donations during 2021. Total donations received amounted to £22,062.

Event income

Income was received from attendees to both the Little Achievers classes, Young Achievers sessions and training events. All events were subsidised by DS Achieve either through unrestricted reserves or specific grant awards.

Grants

DS Achieve successfully applied for six grants during 2021.

The National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region) awarded a grant to specifically fund the Little Achievers Programme for three academic years from September 2021.

BBC Children in Need awarded a grant to specifically fund the Young Achievers Programme for three academic years from September 2021.

The Foyle Foundation awarded £6,900 in grant funding towards core costs for 2021. Further awards of £1,000 each from the Arnold Clark Community Fund and the Albert Hunt Trust have supported the administrative expenditure of the charity.

Trustees secured a grant of £14,700 from Postcode Places Trust at the end of 2021 to spend on core costs for 2022.

Apart from the Arnold Clark Community Fund, all grants that have been awarded are restricted funds, meaning they must be spent in accordance with each of their terms and conditions.

PAYMENTS

The majority of the expenditure of the charity fell into four areas:

Event costs

These costs relate to eight training events and include trainer costs and expenses.

Little Achievers Classes

Costs for the Little Achievers programme for the Spring, Summer and Autumn terms relate to venue hire, the teacher, visiting therapists, staff costs, salary and resources.

Young Achievers Sessions

Costs were incurred for venue hire, the activity provider, refreshments, staff costs, salary and resources.

Administration

Administration costs were met through a combination of restricted and unrestricted funds and were necessary for the effective running of the charity.

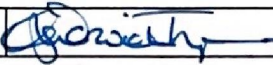

Section F**Other optional information**

--

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)	GILLIAN WARWICK-THOMPSON	ABBIE HOLLICK
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TRUSTEE
Date	17/03/2022	17/03/22



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

DS Achieve

1176873

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2021	To	Period end date 31/12/2021
---------------------	-------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	20,562	1,500	-	22,062	7,523
Event Income	5,589	-	-	5,589	3,901
Grant from Groundworks	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Grant from The Foyle Foundation	-	6,900	-	6,900	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (RC London and South East Region)	-	8,717	-	8,717	-
Grant from BBC Children In Need	-	9,955	-	9,955	-
Grant from Albert Hunt Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Grant from Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Grant from Postcode Places Trust	-	14,700	-	14,700	-
Grant from HCF	-	-	-	-	5,000
HMRC - Furlough Scheme	-	-	-	-	308
Sub total	27,151	44,772	-	71,923	18,732
A2 Asset and investment sales					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	27,151	44,772	-	71,923	18,732
A3 Payments					
Event Costs	4,844	-	-	4,844	2,558
Little Achievers Classes	2,404	10,344	-	12,748	9,520
Young Achievers Sessions	1,204	3,264	-	4,469	4,713
Website & IT Costs	-	807	-	807	740
Insurance	-	522	-	522	522
Subscriptions	157	60	-	217	287
Marketing	9	155	-	164	135
Sundry Expenses	234	51	-	285	71
Salaries & Staff Costs	1,443	6,304	-	7,747	4,369
Professional Services	535	-	-	535	-
Resources Bursary	-	-	-	-	776
Sub total	10,830	21,508	-	32,338	23,691
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	10,830	21,508	-	32,338	23,691
Net of receipts/(payments)	16,321	23,264	-	39,585	- 4,959
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,342	5,561	-	18,903	23,862
Cash funds this year end	29,663	28,825	-	58,488	18,903

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	29,663	28,825	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	29,663	28,825	-

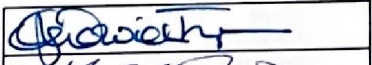

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Hall Hire Deposit	300	-	-
	Hall Hire Refund Due	-	55	-
	Gift Aid Due	33	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Little Achievers Equipment	Restricted	2,160	1,620
	Projector Screen	Unrestricted	115	86
	Event Banners	Unrestricted	209	157
	Playgroup Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Projector	Unrestricted	-	-
				-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Visiting Therapists - Little Achievers	Restricted	200	
	Intervention Teacher - Little Achievers	Restricted	780	
	Expenses - Young Achievers and Little Achievers	Restricted	125	
	Hall Hire - Young Achievers	Restricted	144	
	PAYE due - Young Achievers	Restricted	185	
	PAYE due - Administration	Unrestricted	100	
	Expenses - Administration	Unrestricted	26	
	Event Costs - Course Facilitator	Unrestricted	85	
	Staff Costs - Administration	Unrestricted	99	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	G WARWICK-THOMPSON	17/03/22
	ABBIE HOLLICK	17/03/22



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
DS Achieve

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1176873

Set out on pages

3 to 8

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 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

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:

Ed Reeve

Date:

29/9/2022

Name:

Edward Reeve

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

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

Address:

10 Salisbury Road, Harpenden, HERTS, AL5 5AY

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.

DSACHIEVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1176873

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
		Period start date			Period end date	
From	1st	January	2020	To	31st	December 2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

55 Watford Road	
St Albans	
Hertfordshire	
Postcode	AL1 2AE

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1 Michelle Bolton	Trustee	Resigned 9.3.2020
2 Kelly Harris	Trustee	Resigned 9.3.2020
3 Gillian Warwick-Thompson	Chair	
4 Nicole Clarke	Trustee	Resigned 13.7.2020
5 Rachel Angus	Treasurer	
6 Andrew Luck	Trustee	Appointed 22.4.2020, Resigned 14.12.2020
7 Nicholas Dunn	Trustee	Appointed 12.10.2020
8 Abbie Hollick	Trustee	Appointed 20.11.2020
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Education Adviser	Anne Gullick	

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

Michelle Bolton – Head of Operations

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution dated 29.1.2018
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing Trustee Board

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

The Trustees have considered the risk appetite of the charity. They have adopted a zero-risk tolerance to legal and regulatory risk. Their appetite for risk can be characterised as low reflecting the nature of the charitable organisation and their responsibilities to service users. The Trustees maintain and regularly review their risk register and take actions to reduce or eliminate risk where possible.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

The object of the CIO is the relief of children with Down Syndrome or other additional needs, particularly by providing appropriate support to their parents or guardians, so that such children may achieve their full potential.

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)

2020 represented the second full year of operational activity for DS Achieve having officially launched to the public on 2nd September 2018 following registration with the Charity Commission on 29th January 2018.

In order to plan and execute suitable activities which meet the charity's objectives, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. These guidelines were discussed and used to plan four main areas of activity for 2020.:

- 1) Continuation of the pre-school teaching class for children with Down Syndrome aged five years or under called Little Achievers

- 2) **Training sessions** for parents and carers of children with Down Syndrome and professionals working with children with Down Syndrome.
- 3) Continuation of **Young Achievers**, a monthly social skills and interaction programme for primary-aged and secondary-aged children with Down Syndrome and on occasion, their siblings.
- 4) The launch of the **Empowerment Group**, a programme of activities carefully designed to give parents/carers of children with Down Syndrome the opportunity to take a break from daily life and to focus on their wellbeing.

In addition to these four main areas of activity, the Trustees responded to COVID-19 by offering a **Resources Bursary** to assist parents and carers with homeschooling.

Little Achievers

Little Achievers is a weekly teaching class during term time for children, aged five years and under, with Down Syndrome. It focuses on early skills in the areas of literacy, numeracy, fine motor skills, physical development and communication. The teacher is a highly professional individual who has extensive experience in teaching and working with children and young people with Down Syndrome. Progress is monitored by the class teacher and reported at the end of the term.

The teaching class is accompanied by a wraparound 'Stay and Play' session which includes a number of focused developmental and fun play activities, as well as sing and sign sessions. Visiting professionals also join the Stay and Play at regular intervals to offer advice to parents.

Two part time employees support the group – a manager and a support worker.

In response to COVID-19, the entire Little Achievers Programme was successfully moved to online delivery from April 2020. Some additional support was made available to parents from the therapists during the initial period of online delivery and the parents continued to access their advice each term.

Feedback from parents continues to be extremely positive with praise focusing on the highly organised nature of the class, the approachability of the staff and volunteers and the access to professionals that would otherwise prove difficult for families to achieve.

Training sessions

2020 saw the continuation of our high quality training events beginning with expert advice from a Specialist Advisory Teacher who delivered face to face training for parents, carers and professionals on supporting children with Down Syndrome with numeracy.

Once services moved online, we hosted a variety of training sessions including courses on reading, maths and behaviour for parents, carers and professionals from an expert Specialist Advisory Teacher and two courses, delivered by speech and language specialists Symbol UK, one tailored for parents and carers, and the other for professionals.

All courses were well attended and feedback was excellent. A particular achievement was the high number(40+) of professional attendees registering for the Symbol UK training.

Young Achievers

2020 saw the continuation of the Young Achievers Programme that was launched in October 2019 for primary-aged and secondary-aged children with Down Syndrome. Young Achievers is a programme of activities which are carefully designed to give children the ability to interact, develop social skills and have fun with peers.

The first two sessions of 2020 were hosted face to face – the first focusing on cooking skills and the second focusing on being active.

In response to COVID-19, the remaining sessions of 2020 were delivered online. A range of activities were successfully delivered in this format including cooking, arts and crafts, dance and movement, and a disco.

In addition to the various activities described above we also ran an online Creative Arts Therapy Group for teenagers. This involved weekly sessions over 10 weeks in the Autumn term delivered by qualified music and drama therapists providing the youngsters with the opportunity to build social skills, explore emotional wellbeing and be creative.

Although 2020 saw limited face to face opportunities, the children enjoyed the alternative online activities and feedback for the events was positive. An assessment of the Young Achievers programme was completed at the year end with a refocus on skills based activities planned for 2021.

Empowerment Group

The Empowerment Group was launched in February 2020 and is a programme of activities carefully designed to give parents/carers the opportunity to take a break from daily life and to focus on their wellbeing.

After offering a number of 'one-off' sessions earlier in the year, DS Achieve were pleased to be able to partner with The Mindful Squad in the Autumn term to deliver a six week mindfulness course to parents and carers.

Feedback from Empowerment Group events has been positive with service users appreciating the beneficial impact on their wellbeing.

Resources Bursary

During the COVID-19 lockdown starting in March we were pleased to be able to provide a bursary arrangement for parents to obtain physical resources to help them with homeschooling their child. These were specialist teaching resources, such as See & Learn and Numicon, that the children could not access while staying at home and enabled their learning to continue. Feedback on the resources bursary was hugely positive. Parents expressed gratitude for the quality of the resources received and many reported that the bursary arrangement enabled them to feel supported during this challenging time.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

The Trustees give their time voluntarily to run the charity and to support the delivery of services. In addition, the Trustees gratefully accepted voluntary support from the Board Secretary and other support from volunteers to help with the delivery of services described above.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Trustees of DS Achieve are delighted to report a number of key achievements during 2020.

- The appointment of three new Trustees.
- The creation of and recruitment to a Head of Operations role to support the growth of the charity.
- July 2020 saw the completion of the second full academic year of Little Achievers. The Little Achievers classes are now at maximum capacity with high levels of satisfaction from the families that the classes support.
- The continuation of our high quality training events.
- Engagement with our users to shape future services. These have been used to set the strategic and operational plan for 2021.
- July 2020 saw the completion of the first full academic year of The Young Achievers programme.
- The launch of the Empowerment Group
- Provision of the Resources Bursary during lockdown and school closures
- The response to the COVID-19 pandemic which ensured that there were no operational failures. All previously planned activities were delivered successfully online, with positive feedback received from service users.
- The creation of a user database via MailChimp which enables communication of our services directly to parents/carers, professionals and supporters.

The Trustees of DS Achieve are extremely pleased with the achievements of our third year and the feedback from service users about the positive impact of services the charity has delivered.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

DS Achieve aims to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to ensure that any training courses committed to, alongside any administrative costs of the charity can be met for the following six months at any point in time.

It is expected that both the Little Achievers and Young Achievers programme will be largely funded by grant income and the delivery of the programmes will be dependent on successful grant applications. The Trustees were able to successfully secure grant funding for these programmes in 2020. The Trustees will seek to secure grants in a timely

manner to mitigate the risk of Little Achievers and Young Achievers not having sufficient funds to operate on a forward looking basis.

At the year end, unrestricted reserves totalled £13,342 thanks to the generosity of our donors..

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

RECEIPTS

Income has been received via three channels: donations, event income and grants.

Donations

DS Achieve were delighted to be the recipient of a number of generous donations during 2020. Total donations received amounted to £7,523.

Event income

Income was received from attendees to both the Little Achievers classes, face to face Young Achievers sessions and training events. All events were subsidised by DS Achieve either through unrestricted reserves or specific grant awards.

Grants

DS Achieve successfully applied for two grants (from HCF and Groundworks in 2020). These grants were both awarded to specifically fund the Little Achievers Programme. The grants were awarded for specific periods reaching into 2021 and are all restricted funds, meaning they must be spent in accordance with each of their terms and conditions.

PAYMENTS

The majority of the expenditure of the charity fell into four areas:

Event costs

These costs relate to eight training events that were delivered over five days, and include trainer costs and expenses, and venue hire.

Little Achievers Classes

Costs for the Little Achievers programme for the Spring, Summer and Autumn terms relate to venue hire, the teacher, visiting therapists, staff costs, salary and resources .

Young Achievers Sessions

Costs were incurred for venue hire, the activity provider and refreshments.

Administration

All administration costs were met through unrestricted reserves and were necessary for the effective running of the charity.

Section F

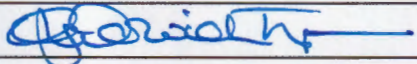
Other optional information

--

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)	GILLIAN WARWICK-THOMPSON
--------------	--------------------------

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR
-------------------------------------	-------

Date	19 March 2021
------	---------------



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

DS Achieve

1176873

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/1/2020		31/12/2020

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	5,273	2,250	-	7,523	10,070
Event Income	3,901	-	-	3,901	3,061
Grant from HCF	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Grant from Groundworks	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
HMRC - Furlough Scheme	308	-	-	308	-
Grant from Watford Borough Council	-	-	-	-	1,200
Grant from Baily Thomas	-	-	-	-	5,000
Grant from Local Giving	-	-	-	-	500
Grant from WHSmith Community Fund	-	-	-	-	200
Sub total	9,482	9,250	-	18,732	20,031
A2 Asset and investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,482	9,250	-	18,732	20,031
A3 Payments					
Event Costs	2,558	-	-	2,558	4,080
Little Achievers Classes	-	9,520	-	9,520	10,002
Young Achievers Sessions	-	4,713	-	4,713	332
Resources Bursary	775	-	-	775	-
Website & IT Costs	740	-	-	740	1,087
Insurance	522	-	-	522	473
Subscriptions	287	-	-	287	151
Marketing	135	-	-	135	605
Sundry Expenses	71	-	-	71	109
Salaries & Staff Costs	4,369	-	-	4,369	-
Sub total	9,458	14,233	-	23,691	16,839
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Little Achievers Equipment	-	-	-	-	1,738
DS Achieve Banners	-	-	-	-	89
Projector Screen	-	-	-	-	115
Sub total	-	-	-	-	1,942
Total payments	9,458	14,233	-	23,691	18,781
Net of receipts/(payments)	24	4,983	-	4,959	1,250
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,318	10,544	-	23,862	22,612
Cash funds this year end	13,342	5,561	-	18,903	23,862

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	13,342	5,561	-
	Total cash funds	13,342	5,561	-

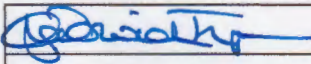
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Facilitator in Advance - Young Achievers	-	155	-
	Training Income	1,208	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Little Achievers Equipment	Restricted	2,160	2,160
	Projector Screen	Unrestricted	115	115
	Event Banners	Unrestricted	209	209
	Playgroup Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Projector	Unrestricted	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Visiting Therapists - Little Achievers	Restricted	938	
	Intervention Teacher - Little Achievers	Restricted	825	
	Faciliator Costs - Young Achievers	Restricted	170	
	Faciliator Costs - The Empowerment Group	Unrestricted	684	
	Faciliator Costs - Training Courses	Unrestricted	1,530	
	Expenses - Little Achievers	Restricted	50	
	Expenses - Administration	Unrestricted	40	

Signed by one or two trustees on

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	G. WARWICK-THOMPSON	11/03/2021