

The Arts of Change Trust

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

---

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1177257

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the year  
Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023  
For  
The Arts of Change Trust**

Contents

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Reference and administrative details | page 3    |
| Report of the Trustees               | page 4-8  |
| Statement of Financial Activities    | page 9-11 |

The Arts of Change Trust

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

---

TRUSTEES

Jennifer Gregory

Allyson Vowles

Richard Morris

REGISTERED OFFICE

27 Holloway Chambers

Priory Street

Dudley

West Midlands

DY1 1HA

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1177257

NON-VOTING MEMBERS Christian Dixon

The trustees of the charity for the present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

### Objectives and aims

The principal objective and aim of the Trust as defined in its Constitution is:

“The relief of persons suffering from physical and mental health issues in particular but not exclusively emotional, social, spiritual and psychological difficulties by providing counselling and therapy services.” is to work for the benefit of young people and by such methods, as the Trust shall determine.

## ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

### Achievements and performance

The AOC Trusts aim is to support vulnerable & at risk young people & adults who cannot access mainstream counselling services. The AOC Trust helps children, young people, adults & families by providing first rate counselling & creative arts therapies including dramatherapy, play therapy & art therapy. It also devises & facilitates interactive & evidence based courses ranging from motivation & empowerment to mindfulness & relaxation to anger management. A registered charity the AOC Trust is a community driven organisation whose ethos is about community empowerment, social cohesion & works to improve the lives of disadvantaged people. Through our current work especially in local schools, with families & young children & with our partner organisations we have discussed about their needs & identifying new approaches to help support a wider range of people.

During the year we continued our Better Days Project, providing disadvantaged children and their wider networks with a programme of therapy sessions to help them overcome mental health issues that they face, this includes:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Schizophrenia
- Bi Polar
- ADD
- ADHD
- Body Dysmorphic Disorder
- Hearing Voices

Working with children from 3 to 16 years and either gender: male or female, who may have one or several mental health issues are supported in the project by qualified/therapists. Working with up to 120 children and adults each year the project provides a range of therapy and counselling models to suit the client: including traditional 'talking' models such as integrative counselling or person-centred counselling and a range of creative arts models including art therapy and dramatherapy. This project has been supported by a National Lottery Grant to run over a 3 year period.

During the year the AOC Trust also continued the ACC Child Contact Centre. ACC provides a contact centre for children to see their non-resident parent(s) or other non-resident family members. It offers a professional, safe, caring and supportive environment for all families who are having trouble seeing their children.

Our contact centre is open daily and also during evenings and weekends and is affiliated and regulated by the National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) which ensures all of our team and volunteers are fully trained and will provide the best practice, experience and quality assurance for all children and families that visit our centre. The only such centre within the Dudley Borough.

The Centre provides:

Supervised Contact Service

Supported Contact Service

Indirect Contact Service

Supervised Handover Service

Escorted Contact Service

Preparing Children & Young People via an Introduction to Contact Services

Parenting Plan Service

Counselling & Therapy Service

Life Story Service

Mediation Service

Miscellaneous Report Writing Service

Attachment in Play & Drama

Teaching Parenting Skills Service

Emotional Management Service

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Financial position

The financial situation for the Trust remains challenging, in common with many similar smaller third sector organisations. However, recent bequests and the provision of consultancy services continue to ease the situation somewhat in meeting our core costs.

The Trustees will continue to keep a close eye on cash-flow.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Partnerships

The Trust has entered into various partnership arrangements with a number of organisations both as delivery partners and funders. These are itemised below:

#### Delivery Partners

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service

National Lottery

The Arts of Change Ltd

Holloway Chambers

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Royal Shakespeare Company

Royal Society of Arts

Lutley Primary School

Bramford Primary School

National Association of Child Contact Centres

Beacon Centre for the Blind

The What? Centre

Phase Trust

Black Country Mental Health

#### Reserves policy

As the Trust has no direct employees, there are no liabilities for the costs associated with this aspect and it is considered that the current level of free reserves will be sufficient for the organisation to operate effectively during the current period.

Ongoing costs of rent, telephone, IT and insurance are the only core costs that the organisation needs to cover on an ongoing basis. As such the organisation will aim to increase its current two months of reserves to 4 months by the end of next year and to 6 months the following year.

Although the trustees are constantly looking for sources of funding to enable the Trust to continue to deliver its projects.

#### FUTURE PLANS

##### The Way Forward

Through consultancy arrangements, the Trust continues to identify future projects and sources of funding.

The Trustees also agreed that the Trust should continue to identify project delivery potential partners as a strategic aim.

A number of bids continue to be submitted to a variety of funders but the environment is continually becoming increasingly difficult as more and more organisations are applying for a diminishing pot and concerns over the current cost of living crisis and ongoing global uncertainty. However, several other projects are being explored involving a wide range of partners. During the year the Trust was supported by kind donations from a variety of sources which were gratefully received.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Governing document

The affairs of The Arts of Change Trust ("the Trust"), which is a community organisation with charitable status, are governed by its Constitution and are the responsibility of the Trust's Board of Trustees.

### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Board currently comprises three individuals who have an interest or expertise in working through therapy and the arts with at risk people. There are, in addition, two non-voting members, who act as consultants to the board. The Review of the Trust has identified a need for additional expertise and perspectives: accordingly, approaches are currently being made to a number of other field experts to join the Board.

### Organisational structure

The Board is responsible for the affairs of the Trust. The Chief Executive and consultant team deal with the day-to-day operation of the organisation.

### Induction and training of new trustees

Board members are experienced individuals in the fields of the arts, local government, therapy and vulnerable people and most are also members of boards and management committees of similar organisations. Full induction is offered to all new Board members. Ongoing training is organised and delivered to deal with the strategic development of the organisation and to address any outstanding identified needs.



The Arts of Change Trust

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

---

|                                | Unrestricted<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Funds | 2023<br>Total Funds |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Opening Balance                | £7,425.65             | £13,960.36          | <b>£21,386.01</b>   |
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS          |                       |                     |                     |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>   |                       |                     |                     |
| ACC Contact Centre             | £2845.50              | £0                  | £2845.50            |
| Better Days                    | £0                    | £92,200.00          | £92,200.00          |
| Other income                   | £5,100.00             | £0                  | £5,100.00           |
| Total Income                   | £7,945.50             | £92,200.00          | <b>£100,145.50</b>  |
| Total Funds available          |                       |                     | £121,531.51         |
| EXPENDITURE ON                 |                       |                     |                     |
| Charitable activities          | £11,793.73            | £91812.30           | £103,613.23         |
| Total                          | £11,793.73            | £91812.30           | <b>£103,613.23</b>  |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)       | £3,577.42             | £14,340.86          | £17,918.28          |
| Transfers between funds        | £0                    | £0                  | £0                  |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS        |                       |                     |                     |
| Total funds brought forward    | £3,577.42             | £14,340.86          | £17,918.28          |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS             | £0                    | £0                  | £0                  |
| TOTAL FUNDS<br>CARRIED FORWARD | £3,577.42             | £14,340.86          | £17,918.28          |

## ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on a cash basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

### Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor and/or when funds are raised for a particular restricted purpose.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

|                          | Insurance | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Other resources expended | £0        | £0    |

The Arts of Change Trust

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

---

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

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2023

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2023

STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

|       |      |
|-------|------|
|       | 2023 |
| Staff | 0    |

No employee was paid more than £60,000

Signed

Richard Morris  
Treasurer