

LEVEL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1178223

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-05-03

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

Contact

Address Uniform Exchange
Unit 2g
The Mall
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU1 2TW

Phone 07480753905

Email admin@leveltrust.org

Website www.leveltrust.org

Activities

Objects: THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY IN LUTON AND THE UK BY PROVIDING: GRANTS, ITEMS AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS IN NEED AND/OR CHARITIES OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO PREVENT OR RELIEVE POVERTY.

Activities: Level Trust provides material support to children to help them overcome the devastating impact that poverty can have on their educational outcomes. We do this by providing children with free school uniform, school shoes, winter coats, learning resources and free holiday activities. Alongside this, we help parents access the support they need to provide good care for their children.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Luton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£380,516	£293,577	-	-
2024-08-31	£307,386	£366,406	-	-
2023-08-31	£318,278	£333,478	-	-
2022-08-31	£269,095	£281,728	-	-
2021-08-31	£449,536	£445,614	-	-
2020-08-31	£318,625	£196,359	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rachel Warwick	Chair	2023-06-26
Anisah Akthar		2022-01-10
Bina Briggs		2019-03-01
CHRIS CURTIS		2014-09-24
Mostaque Koyes		2017-02-09
Sufian Sadiq		2021-02-03
Wasim Akhtar		2022-09-27

LEVEL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1178223

Accounts

Level Trust Trustees' Report and Accounts

September 2024 to August 2025

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Charity Information

As of 31st August 2024

Charity name:	Level Trust
Charity number:	1178223 (formally 1153936)
Principal address:	Level Trust The Uniform Exchange 2G Luton Point Luton LU1 2TW
Trustees:	Ms Anisah Akthar Mr Wasim Akhtar Mrs Bina Briggs Mr Christopher Curtis Mr Altaf Hussain (Chair) (until 22.07.25) Mr Mostaque Koyes Mr Sufian Sadiq Ms Rachel Warwick (Chair) (from 22.07.25)
Bankers:	Metro Bank 10–20 Castle Street Luton LU1 3AJ

Chair's Foreword

Stepping into the role of Chair of Trustees this year has been a genuine privilege. The extraordinary work Level Trust delivers every single day is only becoming more vital as more families in our town face deepening financial pressure. Nearly half of Luton's children are growing up in poverty, and behind every statistic in this report is a child trying their best in circumstances no young person should have to navigate. Throughout the year, I've been struck by the honesty and courage of the families and children who shared their experiences with us. Many told us they were going without essentials, struggling to afford food, or worrying constantly about not having the right things for school. One young person summed it up starkly in the quote at the beginning of this report; "Our blazer is compulsory... not everyone has a spare £45 just laying around." These are not small worries; they shape a child's confidence, their attendance, and ultimately their ability to learn.

And yet, what shines through this report is not just the scale of the challenge, but the impact that kindness, dignity and practical support can have. This year, Level Trust supported children more than 13,000 times, providing uniform, shoes, coats, learning resources, digital devices and holiday activities that offered safety, joy and belonging. Families told us that this support eased pressure at home, helped their children attend school

more regularly, and gave them breathing space at moments when everything felt overwhelming.

I have also been deeply moved by the dedication of our staff and volunteers. Families consistently describe feeling respected, welcomed and understood and that is no accident. The staff and volunteers at Level Trust are a team who lead with empathy, listen without judgement, and believe wholeheartedly in the potential of every child who walks through our doors.

Looking ahead, the coming years for Level Trust will be shaped by determination and hope. Determination, because no child's education should be shaped by the contents of their family's bank account. Hope, because every day we see the difference that community, compassion and practical action can make. To our partners, funders and supporters: thank you. Your generosity and commitment make this work possible, and your belief in our mission strengthens us as demand continues to grow.



Rachel Warwick
Chair of Trustees, Level Trust

Trustees' Report

1. Background

In 2025, Level Trust continued its unwavering commitment to alleviating the effects of poverty on children's education in Luton. Through a blend of innovative programmes, strategic partnerships, and grassroots engagement, we reached more beneficiaries than ever before, delivering tangible improvements in educational access, wellbeing, and community cohesion.

25 out of 29 children surveyed by Level Trust said they worried about not having the right things for school and **92 out of 98 parents** said they worried about it too. Young people told us that they felt anxious about getting in trouble with teachers or being bullied for looking different.

"When I was younger, I didn't know we were poor. All my friends were the same. Now I am at high school, it just gets worse and worse. I don't let anyone come to my house. I don't want them to make fun of me."

Year 9 child, Luton

Over 2024/25 we worked with children on **13,603** occasions, **1,339** more than the year before. In 2025, approximately 4.5 million children were growing up in poverty across the four UK nations – 3 in 10 of all children. In Luton this figure is considerably higher with almost **5 out of every 10 children** growing up in poverty. This is an inexcusable figure, with consequences that can cast a long shadow over a young person's life. We know that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds face systematically worse outcomes at every stage in the journey from school to work.

They're 2.5 times more likely to be persistently absent from school, five times more likely to be permanently excluded from school, **30%** less likely to get good GCSEs, and twice as likely to be not in education, employment, or training (NEET). These outcomes get worse the longer a young person spends on Free School Meals, yet the poverty rate across the UK has not meaningfully improved in 14 years.

Level Trust works tirelessly to work towards eradicating child poverty.



Partnership. Dignity. Fun. Generous. Luton

2. Our aims

The aims of Level Trust are to:

- give children living in poverty what they need to thrive in their learning;
- help schools provide quality support to poor children;
- empower children, young people and parents to lead the changes they believe will make the greatest difference in alleviating poverty in the longer term.

3. Values

Our values are incredibly important to us. They underpin everything we do. At Level Trust, we:

- are committed to true **partnership** working, believing it brings about the best results
- treat all people, especially those affected by poverty, with the utmost **dignity**
- believe that all children deserve to be safe, happy and have fun, and try to have **fun** ourselves
- are **generous** and try to give other people the best of what we have to offer
- are passionate about **Luton**, celebrate its attributes and contribute towards making it even better



4. The team

Level Trust is run day to day by a skilled and compassionate team of staff and volunteers, without whom we would not be able to fulfil our important aims. The increased demand for our services driven by the cost of living crisis has brought challenges to us in terms of capacity but, throughout, the team have been highly resilient, flexible and committed and have made sure that every family who told us that they needed our help has been supported.

We are incredibly grateful for all that they have given and proud of what they have achieved under such difficult circumstances. We are continually grateful to our funders and partners who have provided us with additional support over the past year, without whom we would not have been able to achieve much of our work.

We have been delighted this year to welcome a new member of staff to our team. **Jade Halsey** has joined us as a shop assistant in the Uniform Exchange and has been a welcome and friendly addition to the team providing additional capacity as demand for services continues to increase.

Level Trust currently has 2 full time members of staff and 3 part time members of staff.

5. Governance

Governance Level Trust is a charitable incorporated organization (CIO) registered 3rd May 2018 with registration number 1178223.

Our team is governed by our highly experienced Trustee Board. Our constitution provides for a minimum of three trustees but to ensure we have all areas covered, we have seven serving trustees. Their role includes, but is not limited to: overseeing the financial management of the charity, all policies including our safeguarding practice, managing and mitigating risk and setting our strategic direction.

We are pleased to have welcomed **Rachel Warwick** to the board. Rachel brings a wealth of experience in the field of charity fundraising. Following the resignation of Level Trust's chair, Altaf Hussain, Rachel stepped into the role of chair having been endorsed unanimously by the trustee board. Our sincere thanks go to Altaf who gave his time so generously over a number of years to support the charity and champion educational access for all children and young people regardless of their start in life or family circumstances.

6. What We Did

Over the year, we gave Luton children:

15,112 items of school uniform

136 pairs of school shoes

126 winter coats

1,303 sets of learning resources

32 digital devices

100% of schools surveyed said our work met children's basic needs for warm and waterproof clothing and were positive about the support that Level Trust had been able to provide their children in levelling the educational playing field.

"Level Trust supports us week in and week out, year in and year out. They have provided uniforms, school shoes, warm coats and bedding to our families who are living in the most difficult of circumstances helping to take some of the financial strain off their household. We are proud to work closely with the charity and its staff to support our families who mean the world to us."

Family worker, a Luton primary school

98 out of 98 parents who answered our survey question told us they would use the money they saved through using Level Trust to help them pay for more essential items for their children and families. This included food, school trips, clothing, household bills and paying off debts.

"If you want to know what care and compassion is, go to the Uniform Exchange or talk to one of the Level Trust staff. Nothing – and I mean nothing – is too much trouble for them. One of the members of staff was telling me about the lived experience of the employees, volunteers and trustees and this really shines through. Families who go to the charity for support are treated with the utmost respect, in a dignified way and come away feeling empowered, held together and willing to return should they need support in the future."

Senior leader, a Luton secondary school

"My child's school told me about you and I am so glad. I got all the uniform I needed for free and I went straight to the shop to get some food with the money I didn't have to spend on school stuff."

Father of two accessing Level Trust services

“Level Trust reduces the stigma associated with poverty by ensuring all children have access to clean, appropriate school uniforms, promoting equality in the classroom.”

Senior leader, a Luton secondary school

97 out of 98 (99%) families surveyed said that using the Uniform Exchange reduced the risk of their child missing school. Children told us that they now could take part in P.E. and go to school. Schools told us that through the provision of digital devices, their young people were more engaged in their home learning and removed one of the barriers to them attaining in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.

“Students have been supported to access digital devices that they have used for their home learning and to participate fully in the school environment. We are extremely grateful to Level Trust for supplying the devices for our young people who are experiencing digital poverty.”

Pastoral Lead, a Luton Secondary School

Children Grew In Confidence & Had Fun.

100% of children who took part in our holiday schemes showed an improvement in their confidence.

“Level Trust’s holiday activity days have been wonderful for some of our most vulnerable children. We know that they are being seen by trusted adults and, should there be any concerns, we will be notified allowing us to step in to support the family and keep the children safe. The children also LOVE going to the activity days. They always come back after the holidays saying how much fun they had.”

Primary School Family Worker

“I had a brilliant, excellent, brilliant, excellent time!”

Key Stage 2 child who attended a holiday activity day

“Level Trust is one of our most valued partners. We regularly direct parents to the Uniform Exchange and Learning Locker and to the holiday activity schemes which are greatly appreciated by our working parents as they are free of charge and enable them to carry on working throughout the school holidays. Parents tell us that they greatly value the support the charity provides to their families.”

Luton primary school family worker

“One day I was at an event with my work. I got chatting to J who works at Level Trust. She told me all about the services they provided to families and how it was open to anyone in need. I was in need, but I didn’t say that. At the weekend I went into the shop. A lovely woman helped me and let me know that she was there to help me. When I was at home, I thought that Luton is such an amazing place with amazing people and amazing charities like Level Trust. I tell everyone about the charity and the help it will give to struggling families.”

Youth worker, Luton

It was notable in the feedback that children and parents had a sense of pride in using the Uniform Exchange because they could donate school uniform to help other children and support the environment at the same time.

“I always bring back the uniform that I got from the Uniform Exchange back to the Uniform Exchange so that other children can use it. My children grow so quickly that almost as soon as they have got it, they have grown out of it so there is still plenty of wear in it.”

Mother of two children using the Uniform Exchange

7. Fundraising and marketing

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors, funders and partners, without whom we would have been unable to support all our children and families this year. Their commitment to us, responsiveness and flexibility has helped get us through this difficult year. We raise funding through applications to grant making bodies, building relationships with individual donors, working with corporate partners and through community campaigns. We are regularly featured in good news stories in the local and national press and this year took part in several TV pieces for local news and interviews for radio channels.

A huge thank you to **Battenhall PR**, who have given their time pro bono so generously. With their guidance, our growing presence on social media has resulted in more followers enabling us to reach more families that we have been able to support and donors who have been extremely generous in their support of Level Trust.

8. Financial review

The financial statements show a surplus for the year of £86,939. The previous year we had a deficit of £59,020. The majority of the surplus has been raised in restricted funds to run the Uniform Exchange. During the year, the charity generated income of £380,516. Of this income, £333,814 was raised for specific programmes. Expenditure totalled £293,577 for the year, of which £293,577 was spent on specific programmes. Our income was £73,130 more than the previous year.

9. Reserves policy

The charity has unrestricted reserves at 31st August 2025 of £89,898. The reserves represent 3.5 months expenditure on charitable activities. It is the policy of the charity to hold no less than three months reserves. Restricted funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant programmes. Normally these funds are spent within twelve months of receipt.

10. Post balance sheet events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the charity, the results of these operations or the state of affairs of the Charity in the financial year subsequent to the financial period ended 31st August 2025.



11. Future plans

Despite the challenges the effects of the pandemic and the subsequent cost of living crisis brought last year, there were also many opportunities. These have allowed us to facilitate the increased demand in the Uniform Exchange, welcome and respond to the needs of recently arrived refugee families who are often housed in temporary accommodation and to increase the number of disadvantaged children accessing our SMASH holiday provision.

Over the past year we gave over **30 children** and young people laptops to support them with their studies and to help to level the educational playing field. We have a stable and talented staff body, and this will enable us to adapt to the ever-increasing demand for our services.

Our plans for the following year include:

- **To source new premises to enable the charity to expand the services we offer.**
- **Increasing the work we complete with schools- particularly in terms of delivery information sessions to children and parents.**
- **Recruit an additional shop assistant to support on Saturdays for the Uniform Exchange.**
- **Supporting a member of staff to learn to drive so that they are able to reach more schools and community groups to increase awareness of Level Trust's services.**
- **Increasing the number of attendees at our annual conference to allow for even greater networking and partnership working opportunities.**

12. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare the financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- **Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and**
- **Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

13. Independent examiner

We are very grateful to Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE who has undertaken our Independent Examination this year.

14. Trustees' report signed on behalf of the trustees:

Rachel Warwick, Chair



Date: 31st May, 2026

Mr Christopher Curtis, Trustee



Date: 31st May, 2026

Partners & Funders

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our project partners, schools and funders, without whom, our work would not be possible. We are very grateful for your time, money, venues, skills and expertise.

15. Main funders

Thank you to all those who make our work possible. Our main funders and supporters for 2024–25 were:

Amateurs Trust
Awards 4 All
Aviva Brokers Fund
Beds and Luton Community Foundation – Luton
Rising
Community Fund
Connolly Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gosling Foundation
Hobson Charity
Momentum Insurance Brokers
Postcode Places Trust
Steel Charitable Trust
Swire Charitable Trust
Wixamtree Trust
The generous donors of Luton and Bedfordshire.

16. Partners

Partnership is key to how Level Trust works. Our partners refer children to our work, and share their skills, experience and resources. The expertise that they share makes our work possible. This year we worked with children from every local authority or academy school in Luton and with one independent school. Thank you to our delivery partners for your advice, support and generosity:

Adventures Into
African Activities
Boxing Saves Lives
Caritas-Diocese of Northampton
Citizens Advice Bureau
Dan The Skipping Man
Discover Islam
Hygiene Bank
KidsOut
Lugus Ceramics
Luton Council Education Service
Luton Council Refugee Service
Luton Foodbank
NGYT
NOAH Enterprise
Salvation Army
Somali Voices Enabled
Stepping Stones
Stockwood Park RFC
Wholehearted Childhood Charity
Youthscape

Financial Report

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17. Statutory Accounts

Level Trust
Statement of Financial
Activities for the year
ended 31 August 2025

Level Trust – Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025

Fund Name			2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming Resources				
Community Fundraising	10,921	22,063	32,984	22,530
Grants and Trusts	13,978	307,780	321,758	256,697
Fundraising Events	8,583	-	8,583	15,351
Other Fundraising	6,152	3,971	10,123	3,308
Regular Donors	5,105	-	5,105	5,770
Gift Aid	1,071	-	1,071	2,050
Bank Interest	892	-	892	1,680
Corporate Partners	-	-	-	-
	46,702	333,814	380,516	307,386
Resources expended				
Rent	-	24,531	24,531	37,234
Rates and Utilities	-	6,309	6,309	11,247
Conference Costs	-	11,915	11,915	5,795
School Uniform	-	2,720	2,720	11,751
Project Costs	-	22,123	22,123	27,829
Shoes	-	6,140	6,140	17,268
Wages and salaries	-	141,564	141,564	168,133
Employer's NI	-	7,397	7,397	5,811
Pensions	-	3,074	3,074	2,870
Advertising & Marketing	-	2,174	2,174	15,680
Accountancy fees	-	11,081	11,081	10,729
Networking	-	22	22	70
Bank Fees	-	256	256	300
Cleaning	-	913	913	871
Recruitment costs	-	-	-	299
Premises Maintenance	-	2,844	2,844	4,115
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	9	9	-
Office Refreshments	-	187	187	285
General Expenses	-	507	507	112
Volunteer Expenses	-	571	571	613
Insurance	-	1,674	1,674	1,597
Legal Expenses	-	1,584	1,584	-
Consultancy	-	8,203	8,203	9,163
Printing & Stationery	-	640	640	868
IT Software and Consumables	-	1,321	1,321	1,579
Website Design	-	6,481	6,481	1,770
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	7,000	7,000	4,579
Depreciation	-	1,033	1,033	889
Staff Training	-	2,339	2,339	1,769
Subscriptions	-	1,645	1,645	2,714
Telephone & Internet	-	1,894	1,894	1,679
Staff Travel	-	541	541	643
Fundraising Expenses	-	14,885	14,885	18,144
	-	293,577	293,577	366,406
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	46,702	40,237	86,939	(59,020)
Fund balance b/f	121,196	26,654	147,850	206,870
Balance before transfer	167,898	66,891	234,789	147,850
Transfer from Unrestricted	(58,000)	58,000	-	-
Balance after transfer	109,898	124,891	234,789	147,850

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18. Statement of financial activities

Level Trust
Detailed Statement of
Financial Activities
for the year ended
31 August 2025

Level Trust – Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2025

Fund Name	Beds Learning Fund	Over-heads	Shops	SMASH	Building Fund	Un-restricted	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming Resources								
Community Fundraising	-	21,638	425	-	-	10,921	32,984	22,530
Grants and Trusts	-	98,000	195,889	13,891	-	13,978	321,758	256,697
Fundraising Events	-	-	-	-	-	8,583	8,583	15,351
Other Fundraising	-	3,371	600	-	-	6,152	10,123	3,308
Regular Donors	-	-	-	-	-	5,105	5,105	5,770
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	1,071	1,071	2,050
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	892	892	1,680
Corporate Partners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	123,009	196,914	13,891	-	46,702	380,516	307,386
Resources expended								
Rent	-	7,863	16,668	-	-	-	24,531	37,234
Rates and Utilities	-	2,501	3,808	-	-	-	6,309	11,247
Conference Costs	-	11,915	-	-	-	-	11,915	5,795
School Uniform	-	-	2,720	-	-	-	2,720	11,751
Project Costs	16,281	1,070	508	4,264	-	-	22,123	27,829
Shoes	-	-	6,140	-	-	-	6,140	17,268
Wages and salaries	-	40,250	91,352	9,962	-	-	141,564	168,133
Employer's NI	-	135	6,319	943	-	-	7,397	5,811
Pensions	-	1,013	1,842	219	-	-	3,074	2,870
Advertising & Marketing	-	2,174	-	-	-	-	2,174	15,680
Accountancy fees	-	11,081	-	-	-	-	11,081	10,729
Networking	-	22	-	-	-	-	22	70
Bank Fees	-	256	-	-	-	-	256	300
Cleaning	-	-	913	-	-	-	913	871
Recruitment costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	299
Premises Maintenance	-	-	2,844	-	-	-	2,844	4,115
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	-	9	-	-	-	9	-
Office Refreshments	-	178	9	-	-	-	187	285
General Expenses	-	499	8	-	-	-	507	112
Volunteer Expenses	-	488	83	-	-	-	571	613
Insurance	-	814	814	46	-	-	1,674	1,597
Legal Expenses	-	1,584	-	-	-	-	1,584	-
Consultancy	-	7,641	562	-	-	-	8,203	9,163
Printing & Stationery	-	397	243	-	-	-	640	868
IT Software and Consumables	-	1,321	-	-	-	-	1,321	1,579
Website Design	-	2,328	4,153	-	-	-	6,481	1,770
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	1,900	5,100	-	-	-	7,000	4,579
Depreciation	-	806	227	-	-	-	1,033	889
Staff Training	-	52	2,287	-	-	-	2,339	1,769
Subscriptions	-	1,440	205	-	-	-	1,645	2,714
Telephone & Internet	-	1,404	263	227	-	-	1,894	1,679
Staff Travel	-	323	218	-	-	-	541	643
Fundraising Expenses	-	14,885	-	-	-	-	14,885	18,144
	16,281	114,340	147,295	15,661	-	-	293,577	366,406
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	(16,281)	8,669	49,619	(1,770)	-	46,702	86,939	(59,020)
Fund balance b/f	7,616	11,566	1,444	6,028	50,000	71,196	147,850	222,070
Balance before transfer	(8,665)	20,235	51,063	4,258	50,000	117,898	234,789	163,050
Transfer from Unassigned	10,000	25,000	20,000	3,000	(30,000)	(28,000)	-	-
Balance after transfer	1,335	45,235	71,063	7,258	20,000	89,898	234,789	163,050

Accounts

Level Trust
Registered number: 1178223
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

19. Balance sheet

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	3	10,500	-	10,500	17,500
Tangible assets	4	1,096	-	1,096	2,129
		11,596	-	11,596	19,629
Current assets					
Debtors	5	7,168	-	7,168	9,169
Cash at bank and in hand		101,558	124,891	226,449	132,245
		108,726	124,891	233,617	141,414
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(10,424)	-	(10,424)	(13,193)
Net current assets		98,302	124,891	223,193	128,221
Net assets		109,898	124,891	234,789	147,850
Funds of the Charity					
Restricted funds	7	-	124,891	124,891	26,654
Unrestricted funds	7	109,898	-	109,898	121,196
Total Funds		109,898	124,891	234,789	147,850

20. Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature: 	Print Name: Ms Rachel Warwick	Date of approval: 31st May, 2026
Signature: 	Print Name: Mr Christopher Curtis	Date of approval: 31st May, 2026

Notes to the Accounts

Level Trust Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

21. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

There have been no changes of accounting policy, changes to accounting estimates or material prior year errors.

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services

as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Interest income

This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative amortisation and any accumulative impairment losses.

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

Website development	over 3 years
----------------------------	---------------------

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office Equipment	over 3 years
-------------------------	---------------------

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors, prepayments and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

22. Employee costs

	2025	2024
Salaries and wages	141,564	168,133
Social security costs	7,397	5,811
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	3,074	2,870
	152,035	176,814

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

Pension contributions are allocated to activities or overheads, on the basis of which activity the employee works on.

	Number	Number
Charitable activities	6	10
Average number of persons employed by the charity	6	10

23. Intangible fixed assets

Website development costs		£
Cost		
At 1 September 2024		35,580
		-
Disposals		-
At 31 August 2025		<u>35,580</u>
Amortisation		
At 1 September 2024		18,080
Provided during the year		7,000
On disposals		-
At 31 August 2025		<u>25,080</u>
Net book value		
At 31 August 2025		<u>10,500</u>
At 31 August 2024		<u>17,500</u>

Website development costs are being written off in equal annual instalments over its estimated economic life of 3 years.

24. Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2024	3,560
At 31 August 2025	3,560
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2024	1,431
Charge for the year	1,033
At 31 August 2025	2,464
Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	1,096
At 31 August 2024	2,129

25. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	7,168	7,495
Other debtors	-	1,674
	7,168	9,169

26. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	4,854	7,795
Taxation and social security costs	2,820	5,398
Other creditors	2,750	-
	10,424	13,193

27. Charity funds

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2025 £
Beds Learning Fund	7,616	-	(16,281)	10,000	1,335
Overheads	11,566	123,009	(114,340)	25,000	45,235
Shops	1,444	196,914	(147,295)	20,000	71,063
SMASH	6,028	13,891	(15,661)	3,000	7,258
Building Fund	50,000	-	-	(30,000)	20,000
Unrestricted	71,196	46,702	-	(28,000)	89,898
	147,850	380,516	(293,577)	-	234,789

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2024 £
Beds Learning Fund	7,596	8,000	(7,980)	-	7,616
Overheads	6,018	64,912	(127,364)	68,000	11,566
Shops	4,221	112,483	(161,260)	46,000	1,444
SMASH	7,736	57,094	(69,802)	11,000	6,028
Building Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Unrestricted	131,299	64,897	-	(125,000)	71,196
	206,870	307,386	(366,406)	-	147,850

Fund Name	Type	Purpose
Beds Learning fund	Restricted	Learning resources, equipment, clothing and opportunities
Overheads	Restricted	Overheads
Shops	Restricted	Providing Uniforms and Resources
SMASH	Restricted	School Holiday Learning Programmes
Building Fund	Designated	Funds to identify, refurbish and move into charity premises
Unrestricted	Unrestricted	No Restrictions

Transfers from unrestricted funds to restricted funds are made to fund specific projects where restricted funds raised are not sufficient to cover the project costs.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Level Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Level Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31st August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA and ACIE, both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE

independent-examiner.net

12 Hillbourne Road, Poole, BH17 7JB

Date: 31st May, 2026



leveltrust.org

Level Trust registered charity 1178223

LEVEL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1178223

Accounts

Level Trust Trustees' Report and Accounts

September 2023 to August 2024

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Charity Information

As of 31st August 2024

Charity name:	Level Trust
Charity number:	1178223 (formally 1153936)
Principal address:	Level Trust The Uniform Exchange 2G Luton Point Luton LU1 2TW
Trustees:	Ms Anisah Akthar Mr Wasim Akhtar Mrs Bina Briggs Mr Christopher Curtis Mr Altaf Hussain (Chair) Mr Mostaque Koyes Mr Sufian Sadiq Ms Rachel Warwick
Bankers:	Metro Bank 10–20 Castle Street Luton LU1 3AJ

Chair's Foreword

As I reflect on the past year, I am immensely proud of how Level Trust has continued to rise to the growing challenges faced by families across Luton. In a time marked by deepening inequality and hardship, our charity has remained a constant source of hope, dignity, and opportunity for children living in poverty.

The numbers speak volumes – over 12,000 children supported, thousands of items of school uniform and educational resources provided, and digital barriers broken down with the help of our partners. But behind each number is a child who can now go to school feeling confident, a parent whose burden has been lightened, and a family that feels seen and supported.

This work has only been possible because of the extraordinary commitment of our staff, volunteers, partners, and donors. I want to offer my deepest thanks to each of you. Your belief in our mission has helped transform lives and shown the true spirit of community.

We have also strengthened our governance and welcomed new trustees and team members who bring with them fresh ideas and invaluable expertise. Together, we are laying strong foundations for the future – from boosting our fundraising capabilities to increasing our visibility so every family knows they can turn to Level Trust.

As we look ahead, I am excited about what we can achieve together. The road is not easy, but we remain driven by the conviction that every child deserves the tools to thrive in their learning and to look to the future with confidence.

Thank you for your continued support.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Altaf Hussain
Chair of Trustees

Trustees' Report

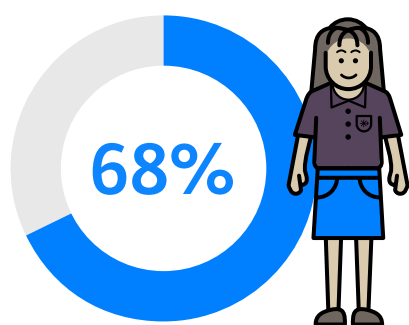
1. Background

This year's Trustees' Report fell within the period when the UK had a general election. Sadly, we entered the election year (2024) with unacceptably high levels of overall poverty, including appalling levels for many groups. Since our last Trustees' Report was published a year ago, we have seen more and more evidence of the desperate measures that households struggling to make ends meet are having to take. At the same time, families report that they are feeling increasingly financially insecure.

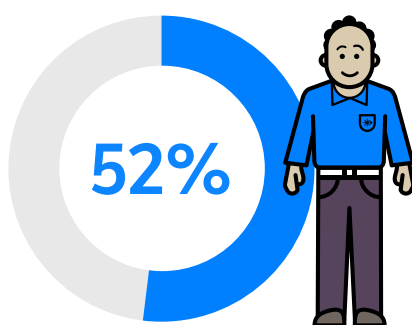
More than one in five people in the UK (24%) were living in poverty in 2023/24 – around 16.6 million people. Rates of poverty in Luton are significantly higher than the UK average with almost 50% of children in some wards growing up poor. During this period, Luton was named among the top 10 most destitute areas in the UK in statistics published by The Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation revealed that more than a million children are living in “horrific levels of destitution” across the country. The charity stated that the number of children and young people in extreme poverty had almost tripled in five years with many struggling to get the food they need.

We know that children have higher risks of poverty overall, but larger families with three or more children have consistently faced a higher rate of poverty. This is because a number of benefit policies have a disproportionate impact on larger families. These include the two-child limit, which restricts eligibility for many child related benefits to the first two children in a household, and the benefit cap, which limits the total income a household can receive in out-of-work benefits. Families with children also face additional challenges if childcare responsibilities limit their ability to undertake well-paid and high-quality work, which is often the case for lone-parent families and families with younger children. The End Child Poverty Coalition also points out that the two-child cap on Universal Credit payments is a key driver of poverty. A recent Freedom of Information request revealed that the cap impacts over 1,700 families within Luton, including more than 6,000 children.

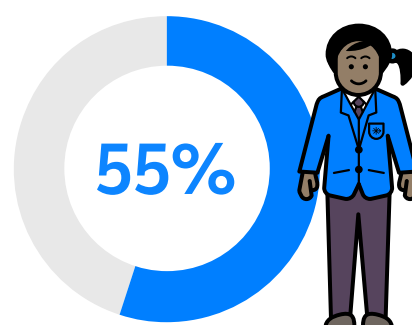
From the data we collected from families using the Uniform Exchange, told us that they were finding making ends meet increasingly challenging:



were going without essentials



reported not having enough money for food



were in arrears with their household bills or behind on scheduled lending repayments



Partnership. Dignity. Fun. Generous. Luton

2. Our aims

The aims of Level Trust are to:

- a. give children living in poverty what they need to thrive in their learning;
- b. help schools provide quality support to poor children;
- c. empower children, young people and parents to lead the changes they believe will make the greatest difference in alleviating poverty in the longer term.

3. Values

Our values are incredibly important to us. They underpin everything we do. At Level Trust, we:

- are committed to true **partnership** working, believing it brings about the best results
- treat all people, especially those affected by poverty, with the utmost **dignity**
- believe that all children deserve to be safe, happy and have fun, and try to have **fun** ourselves
- are **generous** and try to give other people the best of what we have to offer
- are passionate about **Luton**, celebrate its attributes and contribute towards making it even better



4. The team

Level Trust is run day to day by a skilled and compassionate team of staff and volunteers, without whom we would not be able to fulfil our important aims. The increased demand for our services driven by the enduring cost of living crisis has brought challenges to us in terms of capacity but, throughout, the team have been highly resilient, flexible and committed and have made sure that every family who told us that they needed our help has been supported.

Kerri Porthouse joined us as Deputy CEO following the retirement of Tina Edwards. Tina was first a trustee and then a member of staff at Level Trust; we would like to thank her for her dedication and commitment to the families of Luton. Kerri brings with her a wealth of experience – particularly in safeguarding – and has been a wonderful addition to the team.

Boteko Litombe joined us as our Schools & Community Engagement Manager. His position has been funded by the very generous grant award from the National Lottery who have been a steadfast support of the charity's work. Boteko brings an energy and enthusiasm to the role and has significant experience of working with children and young people in a variety of settings.

Jade Halsey joined us as a shop assistant in the Uniform Exchange and has provided additional capacity as demand for this aspect of our provision continues to increase. Anyone who meets Jade knows what a sunny personality she has. Her warmth and kindness shines through when working with the families and young people who access our services.

Leeann Clark, a shop assistant, left us and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

5. Governance

We are pleased to have welcomed **Wasim Akhtar** to the Trustee board. Wasim is a senior partner at Hannah Solicitors and his legal expertise has strengthened the skillset of trustees. His warmth and ability to explain complex legal matters in an accessible way has been most welcome and we look forward to his continued involvement with Level Trust during his term of office. We also said a fond farewell to **Fowzia Ahmed** who left to spend more time with her family. We are extremely grateful to her for her support, kindness and good humour during her time serving as a trustee.

6. What We Did

Over the year, we gave Luton children:

8,565 items of school uniform

321 pairs of school shoes

323 winter coats

1,235 sets of learning resources

58 digital devices

100% of schools surveyed said our work met children's basic needs for warm and waterproof clothing and were positive about the support that Level Trust had been able to provide children to remove the barriers and prevent them from fulfilling their academic potential.

"Level Trust has been a tremendous support to our school community by providing uniforms, shoes and coats to families in need. This has made a big difference, helping children come to school feeling ready and confident. Level Trust has relieved financial pressure from families who are struggling. We are very grateful to Level Trust for their ongoing, invaluable support."

– Family Support Worker, a Luton Primary School

101 out of **101** parents who answered our survey question told us they would use the money they saved through using Level Trust to help them pay for more essential items for their children and families. This included food, school trips, clothing, household bills and paying off debts.

"If I don't have to find the money for uniform and shoes, I can put money on the electricity key. It's helped me a lot."

– Parent of four children

"At first, I was too embarrassed to ask for help. The Family Support Worker at school told me about Level Trust and sent them an email asking if they could help. When I went in, the staff were so nice. One of them told me she used to go in to get uniform for her children before she started working there. I knew that she understood what it was like for me, and it made me feel better."

– Parent of three children

Families also told us that using the Uniform Exchange stopped them from going into debt, stopped them struggling to afford the basics and meant they had more resources to support their children.

89 out of 101 (88%) children and families surveyed said that using the Uniform Exchange reduced the risk of them missing school. Children told us that they now could take part in P.E. and go to school. Schools told us that through the provision of digital devices, their young people were more engaged in their home learning and removed one of the barriers to them attaining in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.

26 out of 101 parents surveyed said that their child had missed out on lessons because they couldn't afford to purchase the school uniform or P.E. kit required.

"School, uniform is too expensive for me to be able to buy it new. I look on Facebook to try and find it second hand, but I can't always find things in the right sizes. I know that, if I'm in a position where my kids don't have what they need, I can go to the Uniform Exchange, and they will help me. They never make me feel bad or embarrassed. They're just there to help."

– Uniform Exchange Customer

Frontline workers report regularly seeing (i.e. at least once a week) parents who are struggling to afford the costs associated with school many times leading to not being unable to afford school uniform or the correct equipment which often results in children being unable to take certain subjects, or even attend some schools at all.

"I really wanted to do Product Design for one of my GCSE subjects, but the teacher started telling us that we would need to get our parents to pay for some of the materials every term. Sometimes my mum has to go to the Food Bank to get us

something for our dinner so I knew she wouldn't be able to pay. When I chose my options, I just pretended that I had gone off the idea of doing it, so she didn't feel bad."

– Year 10 young person, a Luton Secondary School

Partnership working with schools is essential to ensure that we are reaching the most vulnerable children in our town. This is what schools have told us about the support Level Trust has provided.

"Level Trust provided bedding for some of our most disadvantaged families. This thoughtful initiative went beyond academic support, addressing a fundamental need for comfort and stability at home. Families who received bedding reported improvements in their children's sleep quality, which in turn positively impacted their focus, attendance, and engagement in school. This assistance has helped to create a sense of security and well-being for these families, ensuring their children come to school ready to learn."

– Senior Leader, a Luton Secondary School

"One of the most significant contributions [from Level Trust] has been the provision of Chromebooks to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In a world where digital access is essential for learning, this support has been transformative. It has allowed our students to access online resources, complete independent learning, and develop vital digital literacy skills. For families facing financial challenges, this has been life-changing, breaking down barriers to learning and ensuring that no child is left behind in today's technology-driven education system."

– Assistant Headteacher, a Luton Secondary School

“By supplying free school uniforms across all year groups, Level Trust has ensured that every child, regardless of their family’s financial situation, can attend school dressed appropriately and confidently. This has significantly reduced the financial burden on many of our families and eliminated the stigma that can arise when students are unable to afford the correct attire. The sense of equality and pride this has fostered among students has contributed to a positive school culture where students feel they belong.”

– Senior Leader, a Luton Secondary School

Children Grew In Confidence & Had Fun.

18 out of 21 children surveyed said they worried about not having the right things for school and 98 out of 101 parents said they worried about it too. Young people told us that they felt anxious about getting in trouble with teachers or being bullied for looking different.

“Sometimes I get bullied because I don’t have the right shoes. My mum goes to ASDA to get my trainers because she hasn’t got the money to get Nike. It shouldn’t matter but it does. I try and ignore it when some of the others are making fun of my trainers but other times, I can’t deal with it and then I pretend to be sick when it’s P.E. so I don’t have to listen to it. One time she didn’t even have any money to get the cheap trainers, so I had to do PE in my normal shoes before I had to go and find some trainers in lost property.”

– Year 8 child

100% of children who took part in SMASH (532) showed an improvement in their confidence and 18 out of 21 children surveyed said that getting school uniform from the Uniform Exchange made them feel more confident.

“This is SO much fun! I got to do clay modelling and try rugby for the first time ever. I want to come every day.”

– Key Stage 2 child who attended Summer SMASH

“SMASH is the best. Virginia is always smiling and telling me to believe in myself when I am feeling anxious.”

– Katy, age 11

Schools also remarked on children’s improved confidence when they had access to appropriate footwear.

“In addition to uniforms, Level Trust has provided free shoe vouchers for students in need. Proper footwear is often an overlooked necessity, but it plays a crucial role in ensuring students feel comfortable, safe, and ready to participate fully in school activities. This support has not only removed financial strain from families but has also helped students feel more confident, which translates to improved participation in both classroom and extracurricular activities.”

– Assistant Headteacher, a Luton Secondary School

Children and parents felt less worried and had a sense of pride.

Schools told us that our work helped to lift the financial burden off their families and parents told us that because of this they felt less worried.

“Level Trust plays a huge part in our school. We have been able to signpost parents to get support from the Trust as well as give our students access to education through the amazing support offered by the organisation. Parents truly appreciate the uniform support as well as the stepping stones to access education. We send our girls every year to do work experience with you and they always come back really proud of the work you do.”

– Senior Leader, a Luton Secondary School

It was notable in the feedback that children and parents had a sense of pride in using the Uniform Exchange because they could donate school uniform to help other children and support the environment at the same time. Parents also felt less worried knowing that Level Trust would be there to support them.

"I feel like I am helping as well as getting help. I like to play my part and not just get given stuff for free. I feel like we are all in it together."

– Father of one, Uniform Exchange customer

"Level Trust helped me and listened to me when I was at my lowest point. I really needed the hug that the lady who helped me in the shop gave me. I thought she would think that I couldn't look after my kids properly, but she just told me that she had been poor when she was a little girl, and it was not my fault. She told me that I was a good mum, and I just really needed to hear that."

– Mother accessing the Learning Locker & Uniform Exchange services

Children were able to enjoy their childhood

Thanks to the very generous donations from partners at Christmas, we were able to provide **1,230** children with gifts at Christmas time. This meant that families did not need to worry about the additional cost of

buying presents and prevented many families from going into debt. Father Christmas was able to visit hundreds of children on Christmas Eve and via events held in Luton providing gifts for children who otherwise would have been without presents at this special time for many members of our community.

"At Christmas time Level Trust donate toys/gifts to my service. I can share these toys/gifts with this community bringing much needed joy to the lives of these children and their parents. What an amazing organisation the Level Trust are! They offer so much to some of the most vulnerable people/communities in Luton their commitment to this work is truly outstanding. Sharing is truly caring, and they do."

– Refugee Support Worker, Luton Borough Council

"I can't afford treats for my children at any time of the year and so Christmas is a time where I just pretend it is like any other day. It's not special – it's stressful. When I went into the Uniform Exchange to get some school shirts and they asked me if I needed any support with Christmas presents for my children, I couldn't believe it. It was the first time in four years that my children had presents to open on Christmas morning. The woman at the Uniform Exchange was like my own Christmas angel."

– Mother of two, Uniform Exchange customer



7. Fundraising and marketing

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors, funders and partners, without whom we would have been unable to support all our children and families this year. Their commitment to us, responsiveness and flexibility has helped get us through this difficult year. We raise funding through applications to grant making bodies, building relationships with individual donors, working with corporate partners and through community campaigns. We are regularly featured in good news stories in the local and national press and this year took part in several TV pieces for local news and interviews for radio channels.

8. Financial review

The financial statements show a net deficit for the year of 59,020. The previous year we had a deficit of 15,200. The principal reason for an overall deficit for the year 2024 was Level Trust spending restricted funds on projects such as the Uniform Exchange and SMASH.

During the year, the charity generated income of £307,386. Of this income, £242,489 was raised for specific programmes. Expenditure totalled £366,406 for the year, of which 366,406 was spent on specific programmes. Our income this year was £10,892 less than the year before.

9. Reserves policy

The charity had unrestricted reserves at 31st August 2024 of £71,196. The reserves represent 3.0 months expenditure on charitable activities. It is the policy of the charity to hold no less than three months reserves, although our aim is to hold at least four. Restricted funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant programmes. Normally these funds are spent within twelve months of receipt.

10. Post balance sheet events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the charity, the results of these operations or the state of affairs of the Charity in the financial year subsequent to the financial period ended 31st August 2024.



11. Future plans

Despite the challenges the enduring cost of living crisis, increased inflation rates and charity fundraising brought last year, the Level Trust team has worked cohesively, both internally and with our partners across the town and beyond, to meet the increased demand for all of our services.

We worked with over one thousand more children this year than in the same period of 2022.23.

Our continued partnership work with **Laptops4Learning** has enabled us to give hundreds of digital devices to Luton schoolchildren to support them with their studies and to help to level the educational playing field.

We have a dedicated and talented staff body, and this will enable us to adapt to the ever-increasing demand for our services.

Our plans for the following year include:

- **Investing in a Schools & Community Engagement Offer to help us increase our presence in the community further.**
- **Increasing the number of volunteers to support our operational work across all our projects.**
- **Making sure that Level Trust is a financially sustainable charity by diversifying our income generation streams.**
- **Increasing the number of children and young people who are supported by the charity to make sure that every child in Luton, whatever their family's financial circumstances, is not prevented from attending school due to not having the essentials they need for learning.**

12. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare the financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- **Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and**
- **Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

13. Independent examiner

We are very grateful to [Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE](#) who has undertaken our Independent Examination this year.

14. Trustees' report signed on behalf of the trustees:

Mr Altaf Hussain, Chair



Date: 31st May, 2025

Mr Christopher Curtis,
Trustee



Date: 31st May, 2025

Partners & Funders

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our project partners, schools and funders, without whom, our work would not be possible. We are very grateful for your time, money, venues, skills and expertise.

15. Main funders

Thank you to all those who make our work possible. Our main funders and supporters for 2023–24 were:

The Amateurs Trust
BLCF Community Investment Fund
Brown Dog Trust
The Connolly Foundation
EasyJet
Energise Luton
Garfield Weston Foundation
John Aphthorp Charity
Mrs B L Robinson Charitable Trust
National Lottery Community Fund
Postcode Places Trust
The Steel Charitable Trust
Swire Charitable Trust
Wixamtree Trust
The generous donors of Luton and Bedfordshire and beyond.

16. Partners

Partnership is key to how Level Trust works. Our partners refer children to our work, and share their skills, experience and resources. The expertise that they share makes our work possible. This year we worked with children from every local authority or academy school in Luton and with one independent school. Thank you to our delivery partners for your advice, support and generosity:

Adventures Into
Caritas-Diocese of Northampton
Citizens Advice Bureau
Boxing Saves Lives
Dan The Skipping Man
Discover Islam
NGYT
NOAH Enterprise
Hygiene Bank
KidsOut
Luton Foodbank
Luton Council Education Service
Luton Council Refugee Service
Salvation Army
Stepping Stones
University of Bedfordshire Access Partnership Team
Wholehearted Childhood Charity
Youthscape

Financial Report

Accounts

17. Management accounts

Level Trust
Statement of Financial
Activities for the year
ended 31 August 2024

Level Trust – Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024

Fund Name			2024	2023
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming Resources				
Unrestricted Income	14,553	7,977	22,530	27,644
Grants and Trusts	40,400	216,297	256,697	261,111
Fundraising Events	-	15,351	15,351	-
Other Fundraising	1,332	1,976	3,308	12,969
Regular Donors	5,770	-	5,770	6,160
Gift Aid	1,162	888	2,050	4,859
Bank Interest	1,680	-	1,680	686
Corporate Partners	-	-	-	4,849
	64,897	242,489	307,386	318,278
Resources expended				
Rent	-	37,234	37,234	12,233
Rates and Utilities	-	11,247	11,247	7,624
Conference Costs	-	5,795	5,795	-
School Uniform	-	11,751	11,751	12,920
Project Costs	-	27,829	27,829	53,364
Shoes	-	17,268	17,268	18,018
Wages and salaries	-	168,133	168,133	146,923
Employer's NI	-	5,811	5,811	5,077
Pensions	-	2,870	2,870	1,811
Advertising & Marketing	-	15,680	15,680	8,554
Accountancy fees	-	10,729	10,729	10,214
Networking	-	70	70	34
Bank Fees	-	300	300	529
Cleaning	-	871	871	809
Recruitment costs	-	299	299	5
Premises Maintenance	-	4,115	4,115	3,099
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	-	-	20
Office Refreshments	-	285	285	301
General Expenses	-	112	112	608
Volunteer Expenses	-	613	613	474
Insurance	-	1,597	1,597	1,582
Consultancy	-	9,163	9,163	11,318
Printing & Stationery	-	868	868	688
IT Software and Consumables	-	1,579	1,579	2,747
Website Design	-	1,770	1,770	791
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	4,579	4,579	4,860
Depreciation	-	889	889	389
Staff Training	-	1,769	1,769	1,884
Subscriptions	-	2,714	2,714	2,125
Telephone & Internet	-	1,679	1,679	1,427
Staff Travel	-	643	643	1,160
Fundraising Expenses	-	18,144	18,144	21,890
	-	366,406	366,406	333,478
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	64,897	(123,917)	(59,020)	(15,200)
Fund balance b/f	131,299	75,571	206,870	222,070
Balance before transfer	196,196	(48,346)	147,850	206,870
Transfer from Unrestricted	(125,000)	125,000	-	-
Balance after transfer	71,196	76,654	147,850	206,870

Accounts

18. Statement of financial activities

Level Trust
Detailed Statement
of Financial Activities
for the year ended
31 August 2024

Level Trust – Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024

Fund Name	Beds Learning Fund	Over-heads	Shops	SMASH	Building Fund	Un-restricted	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming Resources								
Unrestricted Income	-	6,697	1,280	-	-	14,553	22,530	27,644
Grants and Trusts	8,000	40,000	111,203	57,094	-	40,400	256,697	261,111
Fundraising Events	-	15,351	-	-	-	-	15,351	-
Other Fundraising	-	1,976	-	-	-	1,332	3,308	12,969
Regular Donors	-	-	-	-	-	5,770	5,770	6,160
Gift Aid	-	888	-	-	-	1,162	2,050	4,859
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	1,680	1,680	686
Corporate Partners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,849
	8,000	64,912	112,483	57,094	-	64,897	307,386	318,278
Resources expended								
Rent	-	17,242	19,992	-	-	-	37,234	12,233
Rates and Utilities	-	2,268	8,979	-	-	-	11,247	7,624
Conference Costs	-	5,795	-	-	-	-	5,795	-
School Uniform	-	198	11,553	-	-	-	11,751	12,920
Project Costs	7,980	679	2,279	16,891	-	-	27,829	53,364
Shoes	-	-	17,268	-	-	-	17,268	18,018
Wages and salaries	-	34,682	84,135	49,316	-	-	168,133	146,923
Employer's NI	-	1,525	2,134	2,152	-	-	5,811	5,077
Pensions	-	899	1,444	527	-	-	2,870	1,811
Advertising & Marketing	-	15,680	-	-	-	-	15,680	8,554
Accountancy fees	-	10,729	-	-	-	-	10,729	10,214
Networking	-	70	-	-	-	-	70	34
Bank Fees	-	300	-	-	-	-	300	529
Cleaning	-	-	871	-	-	-	871	809
Recruitment costs	-	299	-	-	-	-	299	5
Premises Maintenance	-	505	3,610	-	-	-	4,115	3,099
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Office Refreshments	-	279	6	-	-	-	285	301
General Expenses	-	110	2	-	-	-	112	608
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	613	-	-	-	613	474
Insurance	-	532	532	533	-	-	1,597	1,582
Consultancy	-	9,163	-	-	-	-	9,163	11,318
Printing & Stationery	-	844	24	-	-	-	868	688
IT Software and Consumables	-	1,579	-	-	-	-	1,579	2,747
Website Design	-	330	1,440	-	-	-	1,770	791
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	950	3,629	-	-	-	4,579	4,860
Depreciation	-	500	389	-	-	-	889	389
Staff Training	-	-	1,769	-	-	-	1,769	1,884
Subscriptions	-	2,714	-	-	-	-	2,714	2,125
Telephone & Internet	-	733	591	355	-	-	1,679	1,427
Staff Travel	-	615	-	28	-	-	643	1,160
Fundraising Expenses	-	18,144	-	-	-	-	18,144	21,890
	7,980	127,364	161,260	69,802	-	-	366,406	333,478
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	20	(62,452)	(48,777)	(12,708)	-	64,897	(59,020)	(15,200)
Fund balance b/f	7,596	6,018	4,221	7,736	50,000	131,299	206,870	222,070
Balance before transfer	7,616	(56,434)	(44,556)	(4,972)	50,000	196,196	147,850	206,870
Transfer from Unassigned	-	68,000	46,000	11,000	-	(125,000)	-	-
Balance after transfer	7,616	11,566	1,444	6,028	50,000	71,196	147,850	206,870

Accounts

Level Trust

Registered number: 1178223

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

19. Balance sheet

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	3	17,500	-	17,500	11,579
Tangible assets	4	2,129	-	2,129	625
		19,629	-	19,629	12,204
Current assets					
Debtors	5	9,169	-	9,169	31,677
Cash at bank and in hand		55,591	76,654	132,245	177,369
		64,760	76,654	141,414	209,046
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(13,193)	-	(13,193)	(14,380)
Net current assets		51,567	76,654	128,221	194,666
Net assets		71,196	76,654	147,850	206,870
Funds of the Charity					
Restricted funds		-	76,654	76,654	75,571
Unrestricted funds		71,196	-	71,196	131,299
Total Funds		71,196	76,654	147,850	206,870

20. Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature:



Print Name:

Mr Altaf Hussain

Date of approval:

31st May, 2025

Signature:



Print Name:

Mr Christopher Curtis

Date of approval:

31st May, 2025

Notes to the Accounts

Level Trust

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 August 2024

21. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011. There have been no changes of accounting policy, changes to accounting estimates or material prior year errors.

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met. In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Interest income

This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative amortisation and any accumulative impairment losses.

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

Website development	over 3 years
----------------------------	---------------------

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors, prepayments and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

22. Employee costs

	2024	2023
Salaries and wages	168,133	119,696
Social security costs	5,811	3,799
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	2,870	1,623
	176,814	125,118

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

Pension contributions are allocated to activities or overheads, on the basis of which activity the employee works on.

	Number	Number
Charitable activities	8	8
Average number of persons employed by the charity	10	10

23. Intangible fixed assets

Website development costs £

Cost

At 1 September 2023	25,080
	10,500
Disposals	-
At 31 August 2024	35,580

Amortisation

At 1 September 2023	13,501
Provided during the year	4,579
On disposals	-
At 31 August 2024	18,080

Net book value

At 31 August 2024	17,500
At 31 August 2023	11,579

Website development costs are being written off in equal annual instalments over its estimated economic life of 3 years.

24. Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2023	1,167
Additions	2,393
At 31 August 2024	3,560
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2023	542
Charge for the year	889
At 31 August 2024	1,431
Net book value	
At 31 August 2024	2,129
At 31 August 2023	625

25. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	7,495	-
Other debtors	1,674	31,677
	9,169	31,677

26. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	7,795	10,451
Taxation and social security costs	5,398	3,929
	13,193	14,380

27. Charity funds

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2024 £
Beds Learning Fund	7,596	8,000	(7,980)	-	7,616
Overheads	6,018	64,912	(127,364)	68,000	11,566
Shops	4,221	112,483	(161,260)	46,000	1,444
SMASH	7,736	57,094	(69,802)	11,000	6,028
Building Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Unrestricted	131,299	64,897	-	(125,000)	71,196
	206,870	307,386	(366,406)	-	147,850

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2023 £
Beds Learning Fund	11,228	19,270	(22,902)	-	7,596
Level Up	4,833	-	(4,833)	-	-
Overheads	13,669	64,470	(107,121)	35,000	6,018
Shops	20,124	37,500	(98,403)	45,000	4,221
SMASH	46,017	60,214	(98,495)	-	7,736
Unrestricted	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
	126,199	136,824	(1,724)	(130,000)	131,299
	222,070	318,278	(333,478)	-	206,870

Fund Name	Type	Purpose
Beds Learning fund	Restricted	Learning resources, equipment, clothing and opportunities
Level Up	Restricted	Learn at Home Packs, Coats and Shoes
Overheads	Restricted	Overheads
Shops	Restricted	Providing Uniforms and Resources
SMASH	Restricted	School Holiday Learning Programmes
Building Fund	Designated	Funds to identify, refurbish and move into charity premises
Unrestricted	Unrestricted	No Restrictions

Transfers from unrestricted funds to restricted funds are made to fund specific projects where restricted funds raised are not sufficient to cover the project costs.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Level Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Level Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31st August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA and ACIE, both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

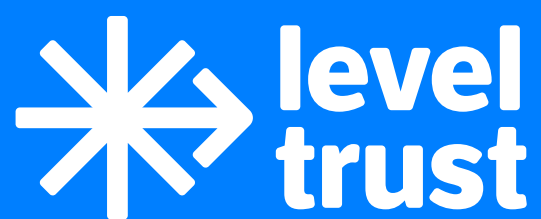
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE

independent-examiner.net

12 Hillbourne Road, Poole, BH17 7JB

Date:



leveltrust.org

Level Trust registered charity 1178223

LEVEL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1178223

Accounts

Level Trust Trustees' Report and Accounts

Level Trust
registered charity
1178223

September 2022 to August 2023

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Charity Information

As of 31st August 2023

Charity name:	Level Trust
Charity number:	1178223 (formally 1153936)
Principal address:	Level Trust The Uniform Exchange 2G The Mall Luton LU1 2TW
Trustees:	Ms Fowzia Ahmed Ms Anisah Akhtar Mr Wasim Akhtar Mrs Bina Briggs Mr Christopher Curtis Mr Altaf Hussain (Chair) Mr Mostaque Koyes Mr Sufian Sadiq Ms Rachel Warwick
Bankers:	Metro Bank 10–20 Castle Street Luton LU1 3AJ

Chair's Foreword

As we reflect on the past year, it is with immense gratitude and pride that I present this Trustees Report. In the face of unprecedented challenges, Level Trust has remained steadfast in its commitment to supporting children and families facing disadvantage in our community.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will discover the profound impact of our collective efforts. From ensuring access to essential education resources to advocating for equity in learning opportunities, our mission has driven every decision and action. Level Trust gives children what they need for learning.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated trustees, staff, volunteers, donors, and partners who have wholeheartedly supported our cause. Your unwavering dedication has empowered us to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we navigate the path ahead, let us continue to stand together, united in our pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive society. Together, we can create lasting change and brighter futures for all.

With gratitude,

Altaf Hussain
Chair of Trustees

Trustees' Report

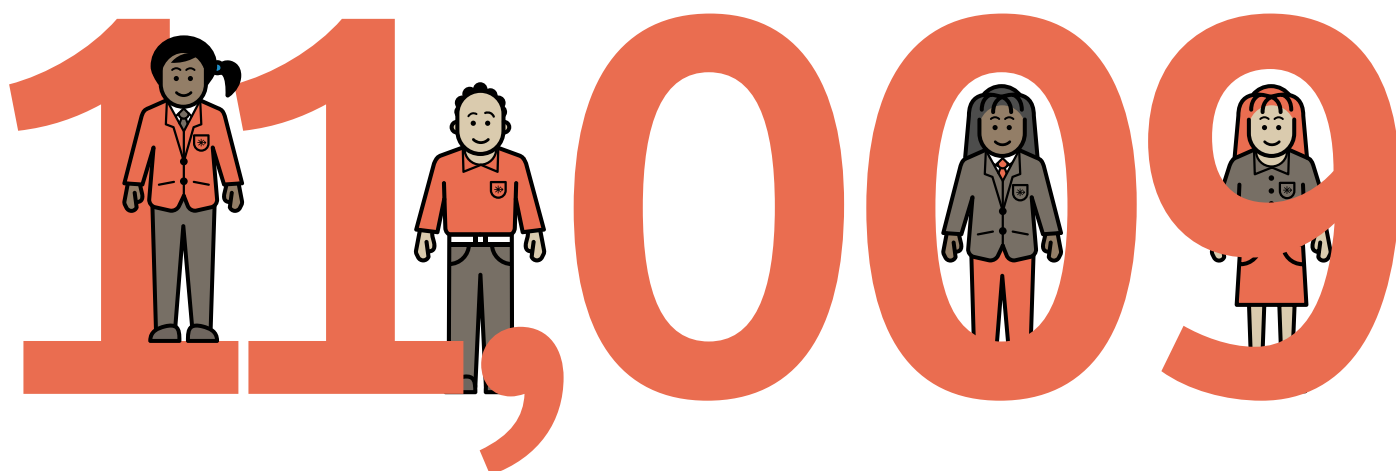
1. Background

This year we helped **2,208** more children than we did in the previous year. Almost half of children in Luton now live in poverty. Living in poverty can mean a child is living in a cold home, going hungry, or making do without everyday essentials. Children in the most vulnerable and precarious circumstances will be among those most exposed to the cost of living crisis. Families with nothing left to cut back on are no longer having to choose between heating or eating – instead they're unable to afford either. Growing up in poverty can harm children's life chances, limiting their opportunities, holding them back in education, or leading to worse physical and mental health outcomes. This year, we asked over 100 professionals working with families questions about the wellbeing of children and young people, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), education, access to basics – including food, utilities, clothing and basic furniture

– and their lived experience of poverty. Collectively, these frontline professionals work with around **4,000** children – many of whom are living in poverty.

Comparisons with the findings from the 2022 Level Trust Impact Report demonstrates a very clear downward trend in the standard of living for these children and young people. The cost-of-living crisis continues to have a significant and enduring impact on children's wellbeing and life prospects. Alongside this, inflation is having a disproportionate impact on families living in poverty.

Professionals working directly with families and children told us that families were reporting an inability to access the following basics: **52%** cannot afford enough food and nutrition. **58%** go without basic furniture such as beds, sofas and appliances. **49%** cannot afford gas and electricity. **52%** are not able to afford their rent or equivalent. **56%** go without IT equipment for education or employment.



Children helped this year



Partnership. Dignity. Fun. Generous. Luton

2. Our aims

The aims of Level Trust are to:

- a. give children living in poverty what they need to thrive in their learning;
- b. help schools provide quality support to poor children;
- c. empower children, young people and parents to lead the changes they believe will make the greatest difference in alleviating poverty in the longer term.

3. Values

Our values are incredibly important to us. They underpin everything we do. At Level Trust, we:

- are committed to true **partnership** working, believing it brings about the best results
- treat all people, especially those affected by poverty, with the utmost **dignity**
- believe that all children deserve to be safe, happy and have fun, and try to have **fun** ourselves
- are **generous** and try to give other people the best of what we have to offer
- are passionate about **Luton**, celebrate its attributes and contribute towards making it even better



4. The team

Level Trust is run day to day by a skilled and compassionate team of staff and volunteers, without whom we would not be able to fulfil our important aims. The increased demand for our services driven by the cost of living crisis has brought challenges to us in terms of capacity but, throughout, the team have been highly resilient, flexible and committed and have made sure that every family who told us that they needed our help has been supported.

We are incredibly grateful for all that they have given and proud of what they have achieved under such difficult circumstances. We are continually grateful to our funders and partners who have provided us with additional support over the past year, without whom we would not have been able to achieve much of our work. We have been delighted this year to welcome a new member of staff to our team.

Leeann Clarke has joined us as a shop assistant in the Uniform Exchange and has provided additional capacity as demand for our this aspect of our provision increases.

We have also been extremely fortunate to secure the services of a number of highly talented contractors:

Amar Azam continues to provide PR and communications support and manages our social media accounts. He is a well-known face in Luton and has been able to help us to increase the visibility of the charity across the town.

Serena Bower joined us to provide HR support. Serena has an attention to detail and a clear, no-nonsense approach. The whole staff team has benefitted from her engaging training sessions and she has worked closely with senior leaders to help them to refine and develop the staff team and to create a happy and productive workforce.

This year, we had the very sad news that **Kingsley** – our Health & Safety advisor – had passed away. The whole Level Trust team would like to convey our deepest condolences to Kingsley's wife, his family and his friends. He was a kind, generous and supportive member of the Level Trust team.

5. Governance

We are pleased to have welcomed **Rachel Warwick** to the Trustee board. With her expertise in policy and her methodical approach, she has already had a great impact at board meetings and we look forward to continuing to benefit from her experience during her term of office. We also said a fond farewell to **Damith Bandara** who moved out of the area with his wife and family and **Stuart Cowper** who stepped down due to a very busy work calendar. We are extremely grateful to them both for their commitment to Level Trust during the time they were trustees.

6. What We Did

Over the year, we gave Luton children:

7,203 items of school uniform

618 pairs of school shoes

464 winter coats

424 sets of learning resources

215 computers.

100% of schools surveyed said our work met children's basic needs for warm and waterproof clothing and were positive about the support that Level Trust had been able to provide their children in levelling the educational playing field.

"Level Trust has provided incredible support to Lea Manor High School, contributing to a more inclusive and enriching educational environment for our students. Level Trust has been instrumental in ensuring that every student at Lea Manor High School has access to essential educational resources by providing free uniforms across all year groups. This initiative has notably alleviated financial strain on families. Level Trust has generously offered free shoe vouchers to support students at Lea Manor High School. By enabling students to acquire suitable footwear, this initiative has enhanced their comfort, safety, and confidence within the school environment, positively impacting overall student well-being."

86 out of **86** parents who answered our survey told us they would use the money they saved through using Level Trust to help them pay for more essential items for their children and families. This included food, school trips, clothing, household bills and paying off debts.

"It's great because I have been able to get help from Level Trust for my children's uniform and I have been able to get food from the Foodbank. I haven't got much left at the end of the month, but I am not having to put school uniform on my credit card again."

"I don't need to worry about the start of the school year now I know I can go to the Uniform Exchange for help. I used to dread it every time the summer came, and I couldn't enjoy the time with my children. It made my mental health so bad. The year my youngest went to high school and I knew they would need a laptop, I got so stressed that I went to the doctor to get antidepressants."

“Parents can be reluctant to send their child to school if they do not have the appropriate uniform. Knowing that we can contact Level Trust and that families can access what they need via the Uniform Exchange means that we can get some of our most vulnerable children back into school swiftly meaning that their education is not disrupted, and we are able to provide the wrap around care that they desperately need.”

Families also told us that using the Uniform Exchange stopped them from going into debt, stopped them struggling to afford the basics and meant they had more resources to support their children. 69 out of 86 (80%) children and families surveyed said that using the Uniform Exchange reduced the risk of them missing school. Children told us that they now could take part in P.E. and go to school. Schools told us that through the provision of digital devices, their young people were more engaged in their home learning and removed one of the barriers to them attaining in line with their non-Pupil Premium peers.

15 out of 86 parents surveyed said that their child had missed out on lessons because they couldn't afford to purchase the school uniform or P.E. kit required. One parent told us,

“Every year I worry about buying uniform. I've got three children and two are in high school. It's so expensive and we barely manage to get by every week without buying extras like uniform. Sometimes I can't sleep because I am so anxious about buying it all. It's just so embarrassing not to be able to provide the things my children need.”

Without the correct equipment for school and learning, children told us they missed out on taking part in subjects that require them to purchase resources such as food technology, design technology, music and extra curricular activities. Young people also told us they miss out on exam revision because they can't

afford revision guides. The most common activity we were told that children missed out on was P.E. because kits are expensive.

“Every week, when we have to bring ingredients to school, I sit and watch my friends cooking with the stuff their mum has sent from home. Everyone thinks I'm forgetful. I'd rather they think that than know that my mum can't afford the ingredients.”

– R, a 12-year-old boy

Partnership working with schools is essential to ensure that we are reaching the most vulnerable children in our town. This is what schools have told us about the support Level Trust has provided.

“In response to the digital disparities faced by many students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, Level Trust has provided Chromebooks to Pupil Premium students. These devices serve as invaluable tools for accessing online resources, completing homework and coursework, and engaging in digital learning activities. By equipping PP students with Chromebooks, Level Trust empowers them to overcome barriers to learning and participate fully in their education.”

“The Uniform Exchange enables children to have a good quality uniform which has a huge impact on their confidence.”

“In addition to providing academic support, Level Trust has also extended assistance to disadvantaged families by providing bedding. This initiative aims to address basic needs and ensure that families have a comfortable and secure home environment. By alleviating financial strain and providing essential household items, Level Trust helps create a sense of stability and security for families facing economic hardship.”

Children grew in confidence. **100%** of children who took part in SMASH (**440**) showed an improvement in their confidence and **18** out of **21** children surveyed said that getting school uniform from the Uniform Exchange made them feel more confident.

Children told us that, when they had the right uniform, they felt less conscious because they looked like their classmates, could take part in lessons and could play with their friends.

“When you have the right uniform you think, yes – I can do that!”

– Ava, age 8

“We did fun things that made me confident because SMASH is all about being kind and brave.”

– Key Stage 2 child who attended Summer SMASH

They also told us that they enjoyed the activities, trying new things and valued the interactions with trusted adults. One child said their favourite thing about SMASH was ***“that all the staff care about us.”***

“If there is a choice between going home or staying at SMASH – I choose to stay at SMASH.”

Children and parents felt less worried and had a sense of pride. Schools told us that our work helped to lift the financial burden off their families and parents told us that because of this they felt less worried.

“When I exchange my son’s old uniform for the next size up, I feel like I am not a charity case – that I’m not just taking handouts. I am giving something and getting something. It feels fair.”

– Mother, Uniform Exchange customer

“Thank you so much for the shoes and uniform. I was so worried about where I was going to get those things for 3 children. I was beginning to miss meals so I could save money for their school things.”

– Family on a work visa with no recourse to public funds

“It’s one less thing for me to worry about. I just didn’t know what I would do and where I would find the money to buy school shoes. Thank you. You have all been so kind.”



7. Fundraising and marketing

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors, funders and partners, without whom we would have been unable to support all our children and families this year. Their commitment to us, responsiveness and flexibility has helped get us through this difficult year. We raise funding through applications to grant making bodies, building relationships with individual donors, working with corporate partners and through community campaigns. We are regularly featured in good news stories in the local and national press and this year took part in several TV pieces for local news and interviews for radio channels.

8. Financial review

The financial statements show a net deficit for the year of £15,200. The previous year we had a deficit of £12,600. The principal reason for an overall deficit for the year 2023 was Level Trust spending restricted funds on projects such as the Uniform Exchange and SMASH.

During the year, the charity generated income of £318,278. Of this income, £181,454 was raised for specific programmes. Expenditure totalled £333,478 for the year, of which £331,754 was spent on specific programmes. Our income this year was £49,183 more than the year before.

9. Reserves policy

The charity had unrestricted reserves at 31st August 2023 of £131,299. The reserves represent five months expenditure on charitable activities. It is the policy of the charity to hold no less than three months reserves, although our aim is to hold six. Restricted funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant programmes. Normally these funds are spent within twelve months of receipt.

10. Post balance sheet events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the charity, the results of these operations or the state of affairs of the Charity in the financial year subsequent to the financial period ended 31st August 2023.



11. Future plans

Despite the challenges the cost of living crisis and increased inflation rates brought last year, the Level Trust team has worked cohesively both internally and with our partners across the town and beyond to meet the increased demand for all of our services.

We worked with over two thousand more children this year than in the same period of 2021–22.

Our partnership work with **Laptops4Learning** has continued to enable us to give hundreds of digital devices to Luton schoolchildren to support them with their studies and to help to level the educational playing field.

We have a dedicated and talented staff body, and this will enable us to adapt to the ever-increasing demand for our services.

Our plans for the following year include:

- **Investing in a Community & Corporate Fundraiser to help us sustain our income.**
- **Increasing the number of volunteers to support our operational work across all our projects.**
- **Making sure that Level Trust is a household name across Luton.**
- **Increasing our online presence and developing a more accessible website to enable an easier shopping experience.**

12. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare the financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- **Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and**
- **Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

13. Independent examiner

We are very grateful to **Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE** who has undertaken our Independent Examination this year.

14. Trustees' report signed on behalf of the trustees:

Mr Altaf Hussain, Chair



Date: 7th June, 2024

Mr Christopher Curtis,
Chair of Strategy & Finance Committee



Date: 7th June, 2024

Partners & Funders

We want to extend a huge thank you to all our project partners, schools and funders without whom, our work would not be possible. We are very grateful for your time, money, venues, vehicles, skills and ideas.

15. Main funders

Thank you to all those who make our work possible. Our main funders and supporters for 2022–23 were:

The Amateurs Trust
BLCF Community Investment Fund
Brown Dog Trust
The Connolly Foundation
easyJet
Energise Luton
Garfield Weston Foundation
John Apthorp Charity
Mrs B L Robinson Charitable Trust
National Lottery Community Fund
Postcode Places Trust
The Steel Charitable Trust
St Mary's Church, Redbourn
Swire Charitable Trust
Wixamtree Trust
The generous donors of Luton and Bedfordshire

16. Partners

Partnership is key to how Level Trust works. Our partners refer children to our work, and share their skills, experience and resources. The expertise that they share makes our work possible. This year we worked with children from every local authority or academy school in Luton and with one independent school. Thank you to our delivery partners for your advice, support and generosity:

Adventures Into
Caritas-Diocese of Northampton
Citizens Advice
Boxing Saves Lives
Dan The Skipping Man
Discover Islam
Laptops4Learning
NGYT
NOAH Enterprise
Hygiene Bank
KidsOut
Luton Foodbank
Luton Council Education Service
Luton Council Refugee Service
Salvation Army
Stepping Stones
University of Bedfordshire Access Partnership Team
Wholehearted Childhood Charity
Youthscape

Financial Report

Accounts

17. Management accounts

Level Trust
Statement of Financial
Activities for the year
ended 31 August 2023

Level Trust – Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023

Fund Name	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Prior year funds £
Incoming Resources				
Unrestricted Income	9,518	18,126	27,644	21,741
Grants and Trusts	112,627	148,484	261,111	147,647
Fundraising Events	-	-	-	-
Other Fundraising	2,969	10,000	12,969	64,503
Regular Donors	6,160	-	6,160	8,272
Gift Aid	4,859	-	4,859	68
Bank Interest	686	-	686	53
Corporate Partners	5	4,844	4,849	26,811
	136,824	181,454	318,278	269,095
Resources expended				
Rent	-	12,233	12,233	13,678
Rates and Utilities	-	7,624	7,624	5,609
Learn at Home Packs	-	-	-	-
Conference Costs	-	-	-	-
School Uniform	719	12,201	12,920	5,851
Laundry	-	-	-	477
Equipment	-	-	-	1,842
Project Costs	147	53,217	53,364	68,749
Shoes	-	18,018	18,018	6,046
Coats	-	-	-	374
Wages and salaries	-	146,923	146,923	119,696
Employer's NI	-	5,077	5,077	3,799
Pensions	-	1,811	1,811	1,623
Advertising & Marketing	-	8,554	8,554	14,395
Accountancy fees	-	10,214	10,214	3,738
Networking	-	34	34	150
Bank Fees	6	523	529	120
Cleaning	-	809	809	763
Recruitment costs	-	5	5	489
Premises Maintenance	-	3,099	3,099	9,170
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	20	20	173
Office Refreshments	10	291	301	28
Management Meetings	-	-	-	142
General Expenses	142	466	608	127
Volunteer Expenses	40	434	474	-
Insurance	-	1,582	1,582	1,650
Consultancy	-	11,318	11,318	-
Printing & Stationery	27	661	688	1,620
IT Software and Consumables	387	2,360	2,747	1,130
Website Design	-	791	791	-
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	4,860	4,860	4,860
Depreciation	-	389	389	153
Volunteer Training	-	-	-	-
Staff Training	-	1,884	1,884	4,694
Governance	-	-	-	1,619
Subscriptions	86	2,039	2,125	-
Telephone & Internet	36	1,391	1,427	1,580
Staff Travel	46	1,114	1,160	511
Volunteer Travel	-	-	-	114
Fundraising Expenses	78	21,812	21,890	6,758
	1,724	331,754	333,478	281,728
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	135,100	(150,300)	(15,200)	(12,633)
Fund balance b/f	126,199	95,871	222,070	234,703
Balance before transfer	261,299	(54,429)	206,870	222,070
Transfer from Unrestricted	(130,000)	130,000	-	-
Balance after transfer	131,299	75,571	206,870	222,070

Accounts

18. Statement of financial activities

Level Trust
Detailed Statement
of Financial Activities
for the year ended
31 August 2023

Level Trust – Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023

Fund Name	Beds Learning Fund	Level Up	Over-heads	Shops	SMASH	Building Fund	Un-restricted	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming Resources									
Unrestricted Income	-	-	18,126	-	-	-	9,518	27,644	21,741
Grants and Trusts	19,270	-	31,500	37,500	60,214	-	112,627	261,111	147,647
Fundraising Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Fundraising	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	2,969	12,969	64,503
Regular Donors	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,160	6,160	8,272
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,859	4,859	68
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	686	686	53
Corporate Partners	-	-	4,844	-	-	-	5	4,849	26,811
Spare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	19,270	-	64,470	37,500	60,214	-	136,824	318,278	269,095
Resources expended									
Rent	-	-	4,925	7,308	-	-	-	12,233	13,678
Rates and Utilities	-	-	3,198	4,426	-	-	-	7,624	5,609
School Uniform	-	-	-	12,201	-	-	719	12,920	5,851
Laundry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	477
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,842
Project Costs	22,902	-	579	513	29,223	-	147	53,364	68,749
Shoes	-	-	-	18,018	-	-	-	18,018	6,046
Coats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	374
Wages and salaries	-	4,588	33,313	42,553	66,469	-	-	146,923	119,696
Employer's NI	-	180	2,115	1,092	1,690	-	-	5,077	3,799
Pensions	-	65	882	551	313	-	-	1,811	1,623
Advertising & Marketing	-	-	8,515	39	-	-	-	8,554	14,395
Accountancy fees	-	-	10,179	35	-	-	-	10,214	3,738
Networking	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	34	150
Bank Fees	-	-	523	-	-	-	6	529	120
Cleaning	-	-	-	809	-	-	-	809	763
Recruitment costs	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	489
Premises Maintenance	-	-	164	2,935	-	-	-	3,099	9,170
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	-	9	-	11	-	-	20	173
Office Refreshments	-	-	291	-	-	-	10	301	28
Management Meetings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142
General Expenses	-	-	466	-	-	-	142	608	127
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	358	-	76	-	40	474	-
Insurance	-	-	537	1,045	-	-	-	1,582	1,650
Consultancy	-	-	10,857	461	-	-	-	11,318	-
Printing & Stationery	-	-	520	141	-	-	27	688	1,620
IT Software and Consumables	-	-	2,360	-	-	-	387	2,747	1,130
Website Design	-	-	461	-	330	-	-	791	-
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	-	-	4,860	-	-	-	4,860	4,860
Depreciation	-	-	-	389	-	-	-	389	153
Volunteer Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Training	-	-	1,884	-	-	-	-	1,884	4,694
Governance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,619
Subscriptions	-	-	2,039	-	-	-	86	2,125	-
Telephone & Internet	-	-	330	813	248	-	36	1,427	1,580
Staff Travel	-	-	765	214	135	-	46	1,160	511
Volunteer Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114
Fundraising Expenses	-	-	21,812	-	-	-	78	21,890	6,758
	22,902	4,833	107,121	98,403	98,495	-	1,724	333,478	281,728
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	(3,632)	(4,833)	(42,651)	(60,903)	(38,281)	-	135,100	(15,200)	(12,633)
Fund balance b/f	11,228	4,833	13,669	20,124	46,017	-	126,199	222,070	230,781
Balance before transfer	7,596	-	(28,982)	(40,779)	7,736	-	261,299	206,870	218,148
Transfer from Unassigned	-	-	35,000	45,000	-	50,000	(130,000)	-	-
Balance after transfer	7,596	-	6,018	4,221	7,736	50,000	131,299	206,870	218,148

Accounts

Level Trust

Registered number: 1178223

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

19. Balance sheet

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	3	11,579	-	11,579	5,939
Tangible assets	4	625	-	625	1,014
		12,204	-	12,204	6,953
Current assets					
Debtors	5	31,677	-	31,677	1,582
Cash at bank and in hand		101,798	75,571	177,369	220,586
		133,475	75,571	209,046	222,168
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(14,380)	-	(14,380)	(7,051)
Net current assets		119,095	75,571	194,666	215,117
Net assets		131,299	75,571	206,870	222,070
Funds of the Charity					
Restricted funds		-	75,571	75,571	95,871
Unrestricted funds		131,299	-	131,299	126,199
Total Funds		131,299	75,571	206,870	222,070

20. Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature:



Print Name:

Mr Altaf Hussain

Date of approval:

7th June, 2024

Signature:



Print Name:

Mr Christopher Curtis

Date of approval:

7th June, 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Level Trust

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 August 2023

21. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011. There have been no changes of accounting policy, changes to accounting estimates or material prior year errors.

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met. In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Interest income

This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative amortisation and any accumulative impairment losses.

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

Website development	over 3 years
----------------------------	---------------------

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors, prepayments and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

22. Employee costs

	2023	2022
Salaries and wages	119,696	88,569
Social security costs	3,799	21,260
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	1,623	3,156
	125,118	112,985

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

Pension contributions are allocated to activities or overheads, on the basis of which activity the employee works on.

	Number	Number
Charitable activities	8	8
Average number of persons employed by the charity	8	8

23. Intangible fixed assets

Website development costs £

Cost

At 1 September 2022	14,580
Additions	10,500
Disposals	-
At 31 August 2023	25,080

Amortisation

At 1 September 2022	8,641
Provided during the year	4,860
On disposals	-
At 31 August 2023	13,501

Net book value

At 31 August 2023	11,579
At 31 August 2022	5,939

Website development costs are being written off in equal annual instalments over its estimated economic life of 3 years.

24. Tangible fixed assets

		Office Equipment £
Cost		
At 1 September 2022		1,167
At 31 August 2023		1,167
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2022		153
Charge for the year		389
At 31 August 2023		542
Net book value		
At 31 August 2023		625
At 31 August 2022		1,014

25. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	31,677	1,582

26. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	10,451	7,051
Taxation and social security costs	3,929	-
	14,380	7,051

27. Charity funds

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2023 £
Beds Learning Fund	11,228	19,270	(22,902)	-	7,596
Level Up	4,833	-	(4,833)	-	-
Overheads	13,669	64,470	(107,121)	35,000	6,018
Shops	20,124	37,500	(98,403)	45,000	4,221
SMASH	46,017	60,214	(98,495)	-	7,736
Building Fund	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Unrestricted	126,199	136,824	(1,724)	(130,000)	131,299
	222,070	318,278	(333,478)	-	206,870

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2022 £
Beds Learning Fund	36,253	13,387	(38,412)	-	11,228
Level Up	-	1,263	(6,430)	10,000	4,833
Overheads	32,186	58,592	(87,109)	10,000	13,669
Shops	81,910	33,624	(95,410)	-	20,124
SMASH	(2,340)	101,039	(52,682)	-	46,017
Unrestricted	86,694	61,190	(1,685)	(20,000)	126,199
	234,703	269,095	(281,728)	-	222,070

Fund Name	Type	Purpose
Beds Learning fund	Restricted	Learning resources, equipment, clothing and opportunities
Level Up	Restricted	Learn at Home Packs, Coats and Shoes
Overheads	Restricted	Overheads
Shops	Restricted	Providing Uniforms and Resources
SMASH	Restricted	School Holiday Learning Programmes
Building Fund	Designated	Funds to identify, refurbish and move into charity premises
Unrestricted	Unrestricted	No Restrictions

Transfers from unrestricted funds to restricted funds are made to fund specific projects where restricted funds raised are not sufficient to cover the project costs.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Level Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Level Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions issued by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA and ACIE, both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Statutes (Accounts and Reports Regulations 2007) 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.

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road, Poole, BH15 3LJ

Date: 7th June, 2024



leveltrust.org

Level Trust registered charity 1178223

LEVEL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1178223

Accounts

Level Trust Trustees' Report and Accounts

Level Trust
registered charity
1178223

September 2021 to August 2022

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Charity Information

As of 31st August 2022

Charity name:	Level Trust
Charity number:	1178223 (formally 1153936)
Principal address:	Level Trust The Uniform Exchange 2G The Mall Luton LU1 2TW
Trustees:	Mrs Claire Abji Ms Fowzia Ahmed Ms Anisah Akhtar Mr Wasim Akhtar Mrs Bina Briggs Mr Christopher Curtis Mr Altaf Hussain (Chair) Mr Mostaque Koyes Mr Sufian Sadiq
Bankers:	Metro Bank 10–20 Castle Street Luton LU1 3AJ

Chair's Foreword

It is with great pleasure and a sense of profound accomplishment that I present this annual report to the Charity Commission, documenting the exceptional impact of Level Trust on the lives of individuals in Luton. Over the past year, our organisation has continued to forge ahead, empowering and uplifting the people of this remarkable community in extraordinary ways.

At the heart of our mission lies a deep commitment to eradicating educational inequality and ensuring that every child in Luton has the opportunity to thrive and succeed, regardless of their socio-economic background. Level Trust has steadfastly pursued this goal, driven by an unwavering belief in the transformative power of education.

Through our various programs and initiatives, we have strived to address the multifaceted challenges that hinder the educational prospects of many children in Luton. From providing essential school uniform and supporting families with the cost of learning resources, to creating innovative projects that foster literacy and numeracy skills, we have consistently sought to break down barriers and level the playing field for all.

The impact of our efforts can be seen in the lives of countless individuals who have benefited from our support. We have witnessed children who once felt excluded and marginalised because of their inability to afford a school uniform now walking confidently

through the school gates, their self-esteem soaring as they become equal participants in the educational journey. We have witnessed families relieved of the financial burden associated with accessing learning resources, enabling children to fully engage in their studies and realise their academic potential.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support and generosity of our donors, partners, and volunteers. Their dedication and tireless efforts have been instrumental in making a tangible difference to the lives of individuals in Luton. We are immensely grateful for their contributions and unwavering commitment to our cause.

As we reflect on the past year, we recognise the challenges that lie ahead. Level Trust remains resolute in its commitment to driving lasting change and transforming the educational landscape of Luton. We understand that the journey towards educational equality is an ongoing one, demanding continued innovation, collaboration, and adaptability.

With the unwavering support of our community, we will forge ahead, driven by the conviction that every child deserves an equal opportunity to succeed.

In conclusion, this annual report stands as a testament to the profound difference Level Trust has made to the lives of people in Luton. It is a celebration of the remarkable achievements and the indomitable spirit of a community that refuses to accept educational inequality as an inevitable reality. We look forward to the continued support of the Charity Commission and the opportunity to create a brighter future for the children of Luton. Together, we can build a society where every child can rise to their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

Altat Hussain
Chair of Trustees



Trustees' Report

1. Background

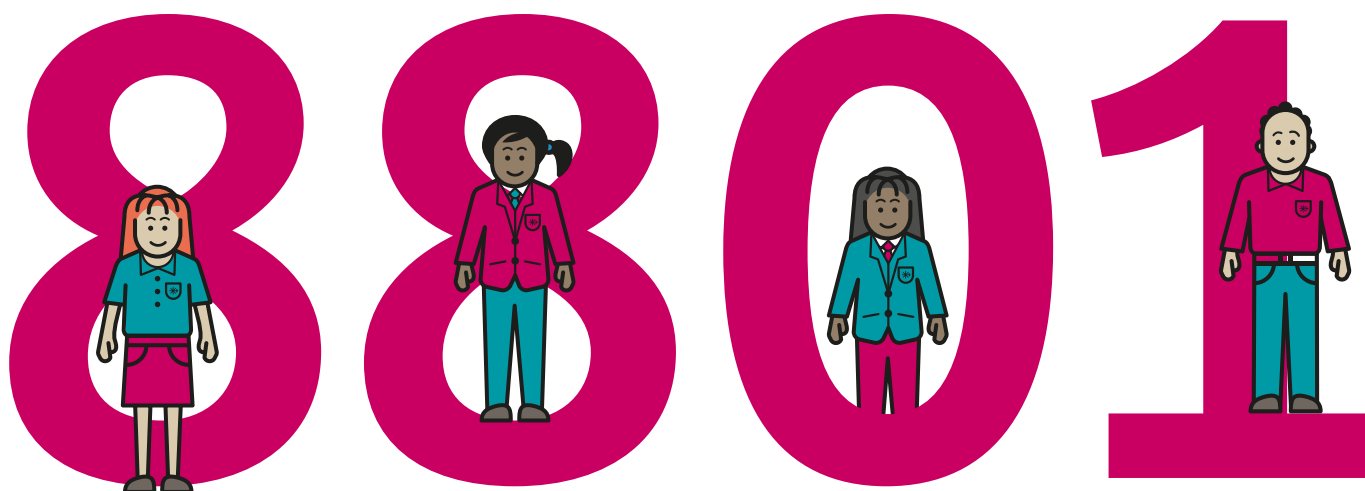
This year we helped **1,800 more children** than we did in the previous year. Almost half of children in Luton now live in poverty. Living in poverty can mean a child is living in a cold home, going hungry, or making do without everyday essentials. Children in the most vulnerable and precarious circumstances will be among those most exposed to the cost of living crisis. Families with nothing left to cut back on are no longer having to choose between heating or eating – instead they're unable to afford either.

Growing up in poverty can harm children's life chances, limiting their opportunities, holding them back in education, or leading to worse physical and mental health outcomes. Parents that we surveyed told us the following: **62%** have been forced to cut back on food spending for their family over the past 12 months. Almost **80%** of parents said they have struggled to provide the essentials for their child's education due

to the current cost of living crisis, and over a quarter (**26%**) said their child's mental health has worsened due to the situation.

Parents have told us that they have had to resort to desperate measures, with almost half (**45%**) having sold possessions, over **40%** having taken on new credit cards, extra debt or a payday loan, and several respondents told us that they have had to leave pets at rescue centres due to the rising cost of living.

In order to respond to the increased level of need, we have continued to find ways to make our work more efficient so we can grow our capacity. This has been greatly helped by the appointment of our Delivery Coordinator & Family Worker and the appointment of a Deputy CEO. We have also partnered with **Laptops4Learning** who have supported us with the distribution and sourcing of high quality devices for children experiencing digital poverty.



Children helped this year



Partnership. Dignity. Fun. Generous. Luton

2. Our aims

The aims of Level Trust are to:

- a. give children living in poverty what they need to thrive in their learning;
- b. help schools provide quality support to poor children;
- c. empower children, young people and parents to lead the changes they believe will make the greatest difference in alleviating poverty in the longer term.

3. Values

Our values are incredibly important to us. They underpin everything we do. At Level Trust, we:

- are committed to true **partnership** working, believing it brings about the best results
- treat all people, especially those affected by poverty, with the utmost **dignity**
- believe that all children deserve to be safe, happy and have fun, and try to have **fun** ourselves
- are **generous** and try to give other people the best of what we have to offer
- are passionate about **Luton**, celebrate its attributes and contribute towards making it even better



4. The team

Level Trust is run day to day by a skilled and compassionate team of staff and volunteers, without whom we would not be able to fulfil our important aims. The increased demand for our services driven by the cost of living crisis has brought challenges to us in terms of capacity but, throughout, the team have been highly resilient, flexible and committed and have made sure that every family who told us that they needed our help has been supported.

We are incredibly grateful for all that they have given and proud of what they have achieved under such difficult circumstances. We are continually grateful to our funders and partners who have provided us with additional support over the past year, without whom we would not have been able to achieve much of our work. We have been delighted this year to welcome a new member of staff to our team.

Shevon Fearon has joined us as our Delivery Coordinator and has worked closely with schools to reach as many families experiencing financial difficulties as possible to support them in accessing free uniforms via our Uniform Exchange.

Following a rigorous recruitment process, **Tina Edwards** was promoted to the role of Deputy CEO. Tina continues to work tirelessly for Level Trust and is a well-respected and valued member of the Luton community.

We have also been extremely fortunate to secure the services of a number of highly talented contractors:

Catherine Farrell joined us as a grants and trusts fundraiser; we are extremely grateful to her for her meticulous approach to securing the funding necessary to run our services and to cope with the increasing demand we are experiencing.

Mark Plane is the charity's accountant and we have benefitted from his attention to detail, sage advice, and balanced approach to charity finance.

Donna Davie has joined Level Trust as the Clerk to the Board of Trustees and has been invaluable in providing governance advice and a steady presence both in the preparation for and during board and committee meetings. The Trustees and staff have also been the grateful recipients of her excellent baking!

5. Governance

Level Trust is a charitable incorporated organization (CIO) registered 3rd May 2018 with registration number 1178223.

Our team is governed by our highly experienced Trustee Board. Our constitution provides for a minimum of three trustees but to ensure we have all areas covered, we have nine serving trustees.

Their role includes, but is not limited to: **overseeing the financial management of the charity, all policies including our safeguarding practice, managing and mitigating risk and setting our strategic direction.**

We are pleased to have welcomed **Fowzia Ahmed**, **Anisah Akhtar** and **Wasim Akhtar** to the Trustee board. We know their skills and experience will be of huge value to us over the next few years. We also said a fond farewell to **Susan Lousada** and **Suzanne Spicer**. We are extremely grateful to them both for their commitment to Level Trust.

6. What We Did

Over the year, we gave Luton children:

7,062 items of school uniform

456 pairs of school shoes

170 winter coats

1,094 sets of learning resources

408 computers.

100% of schools surveyed said our work met children's basic needs for warm and waterproof clothing and were positive about the support that Level Trust had been able to provide their children in levelling the educational playing field.

"The support we have received from Level Trust at Waulud Primary School has made a huge impact on our families since we began our partnership. The vouchers for shoes, uniform and coats have been invaluable to our families enabling children to come into school in the correct & warm clothes required. SMASH has been a wonderful opportunity for so many children offering a fun and safe environment during the holidays. Children said that they loved SMASH and it meant they were able to get out of the house and do something fun. The donations of Chromebooks have made such a difference to children in supporting their learning. The staff at Level Trust are helpful, kind and always go above and beyond with their support. We can't express our gratitude to Level Trust enough. Thank you to all."

228 out of **228** parents who answered our survey told us they would use the money they saved through using Level Trust to help them pay for more essential items for their children and families. This included food, school trips, clothing, household bills and paying off debts.

"It's a big help. I've saved hundreds of pounds by not having to buy my son a new high school uniform and computer. I can use the money for all the bills I've got coming in."

– Mother using the Uniform Exchange

"To know that I can go and do a decent supermarket shop now I haven't had to worry about buying uniform has been a godsend."

– Parent talking to a Level Trust employee in a local school

"With the cost of gas and electricity going up so much, I have been able to put money on the electricity key."

– Single mother of four children

Families also told us that using the Uniform Exchange stopped them from going into debt, stopped them struggling to afford the basics and meant they had more to resources to support their children. Children participated more in learning. **171** out of **228 (75%)** children and families surveyed said that using the Uniform Exchange reduced the risk of them missing school.

Children told us that they now could take part in P.E. and go to school.

“If I’ve got the right PE kit, I can join in. I love PE.”

– Primary child, age 10

Partnership working with schools is essential to ensure that we are reaching the most vulnerable children in our town. This is what schools have told us about the support Level Trust has provided.

“Level Trust has been invaluable to our families over the years. With your support, we have been able to promote the well-being of our children and reduce the financial pressures on our parents.”

– Whitefield Primary

Schools also noted that supporting children experiencing digital poverty had a positive impact on their students:

“Level Trust laptops have enabled us to ensure that some of our vulnerable and disadvantaged children who do not have access to Chromebooks at home are able to access a device. Although we adapt homework for children without access, having a Chromebook means that the children can complete their homework digitally and use a range of web-based resources that we use in school. Furthermore, the children can use their Level Trust devices in school as part of their learning

in lessons too, so that they don’t have to borrow school devices. This has a very positive impact on their learning and enables them to fully access blended learning.”

– Denbigh High School

Children grew in confidence. **100%** of children who took part in SMASH (**463**) showed an improvement in their confidence and **20** out of **27** children surveyed said that getting school uniform from the Uniform Exchange made them feel more confident.

“Please can I come back again next year? I know I will be too old because I’ll be in year 7 but I just LOVE SMASH!”

– Samaya, age 11

Children told us that they felt more confident because they looked like their classmates, could take part in lessons and could play with their friends. Children at our activity scheme said it was because they had the opportunity to try new things. Schools also remarked on the benefits of SMASH for both parents and children.

“Our families look forward to the SMASH programme as it gives them some much needed respite and the activities are fun and engaging for the children.”

Children and parents felt less worried and had a sense of pride. Schools told us that our work helped to lift the financial burden off their families and parents told us that because of this they felt less worried.

“The team at Level Trust are so helpful. Nothing is too much trouble for them. When I first went in, I was so nervous as I’d never had to use anything like that before. They put me at ease and showed me how I could exchange my child’s old uniform for new uniform. It made me feel so much better to

know that I wasn't just being given a handout, but I was donating too. I don't earn very much money as I'm on a zero hours contract and earn minimum wage so Level Trust has helped me out so much."

– Mother of three using the Uniform Exchange

It was notable in the feedback that children and parents had a sense of pride in using the Uniform Exchange because they could donate school uniform to help other children and support the environment at the same time.



7. Fundraising and marketing

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors, funders and partners, without whom we would have been unable to support all our children and families this year. Their commitment to us, responsiveness and flexibility has helped get us through this difficult year. We raise funding through applications to grant making bodies, building relationships with individual donors, working with corporate partners and through community campaigns. We are regularly featured in good news stories in the local and national press and this year took part in several TV pieces for local news and interviews for radio channels.

A huge thank you to **Amar Azam**, our PR & Communications expert. With his guidance, our growing presence on social media has resulted in more followers enabling us to reach more families who we have been able to support and donors who have been extremely generous in their support of Level Trust.

8. Financial review

The financial statements show a net deficit for the year of £12,633. The previous year we had a surplus of £3,922. The principal reason for an overall deficit for the year 2022 was Level Trust spending restricted funds on projects such as the Uniform Exchange and SMASH.

During the year, the charity generated income of £269,095. Of this income, £207,905 was raised for specific programmes. Expenditure totalled £281,728 for the year, of which £280,043 was spent on specific programmes. Our income this year was £180,441 less than the year before. This is because in FY2021 Level Trust received and utilised specific pandemic relief funds which were not repeated in FY2022 (including Luton Learning Link and Community Fundraising).

9. Reserves policy

The charity has unrestricted reserves at 31st August 2022 of £126,199. The reserves represent five months expenditure on charitable activities. It is the policy of the charity to hold no less than three months reserves, although our aim is to hold six. Restricted funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant programmes. Normally these funds are spent within twelve months of receipt.

10. Post balance sheet events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the charity, the results of these operations or the state of affairs of the Charity in the financial year subsequent to the financial period ended 31st August 2022.



11. Future plans

Despite the challenges the effects of the pandemic and the subsequent cost of living crisis brought last year, there were also many opportunities. These have allowed us to facilitate the increased demand in the [Uniform Exchange](#), welcome and respond to the needs of recently arrived refugee families who are often housed in temporary accommodation and to increase the number of disadvantaged children accessing our SMASH holiday provision.

Our partnership work with [Laptops4Learning](#) has enabled us to give hundreds of digital devices to Luton schoolchildren to support them with their studies and to help to level the educational playing field. We now have a stable and talented staff body, and this will enable us to adapt to the ever-increasing demand for our services.

Our plans for the following year include:

- **Recruiting an outreach worker who will: work with all communities across Luton to help them to access our services; work with schools to support staff to signpost their families to us and to increase our youth advocacy work.**
- **Recruit an additional shop assistant for the Uniform Exchange**
- **Investing in a Community & Corporate Fundraiser to help us sustain our income.**
- **Increasing the number of volunteers to support our operational work across all our projects.**

12. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare the financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- **Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and**
- **Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

13. Independent examiner

We are very grateful to **Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE** who has undertaken our Independent Examination this year.

14. Trustees' report signed on behalf of the trustees:

Mr Altaf Hussain, Chair



Date: 13th June, 2023

Mr Christopher Curtis,
Chair of Strategy & Finance Committee



Date: 13th June, 2023

Partners & Funders

We want to extend a huge thank you to all our project partners, schools and funders without whom, our work would not be possible. We are very grateful for your time, money, venues, vehicles, skills and ideas.

15. Main funders

Thank you to all those who make our work possible. Our main funders and supporters for 2021–22 were:

Amateurs Trust
Arriva
BLCF
Community Investment Fund
CAF American Donor Fund
Children In Need
easyJet
Energise Luton
Garfield Weston Foundation
Luton Citizens Fund
Mrs BL Robinson Charitable Trust
Postcode Places Trust
Steel Charitable Trust
Swire Charitable Trust
The National Lottery Community Fund
Wixamtree Trust
The generous donors of Luton and Bedfordshire

16. Partners

Partnership is key to how Level Trust works. Our partners refer children to our work, and share their skills, experience and resources. The expertise that they share makes our work possible. This year we worked with children from every local authority or academy school in Luton and with one independent school. Thank you to our delivery partners for your advice, support and generosity:

Adventures Into
Boxing Saves Lives
Caritas
Community Interest Luton
Discover Islam
Energise Luton
High Sheriff of Bedfordshire
Inspire FM
Laptops4Learning
Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire
Luton Christian Fellowship
Luton Council Education Service
Luton Council Refugee Service
Luton Foodbank
Luton Sixth Form College
Luton Town Football Club
NGYT
SCOR Services UK Ltd
Stepping Stones
Team Beds and Luton Tesco Dunstable
The Mall
University of Bedfordshire Access Partnership
Team
Youthscape

Financial Report

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17. Management accounts

Level Trust
Statement of Financial
Activities for the year
ended 31 August 2022

Level Trust – Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2022

Fund Name	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Prior year funds £
Incoming Resources				
Unrestricted Income	9,226	12,515	21,741	6,292
Grants and Trusts	5,145	142,502	147,647	266,662
Fundraising Events	-	-	-	-
Other Fundraising	16,638	47,865	64,503	145,300
Regular Donors	8,272	-	8,272	9,521
Gift Aid	45	23	68	3,322
Bank Interest	53	-	53	89
Corporate Partners	21,811	5,000	26,811	18,350
	61,190	207,905	269,095	449,536
Resources expended				
Rent	-	13,678	13,678	15,649
Rates and Utilities	-	5,609	5,609	7,190
Learn at Home Packs	-	-	-	-
Conference Costs	-	-	-	-
School Uniform	-	5,851	5,851	3,642
Laundry	-	477	477	-
Equipment	-	1,842	1,842	155,164
Project Costs	1,517	67,232	68,749	101,754
Shoes	-	6,046	6,046	12,260
Coats	-	374	374	8,014
Wages and salaries	-	119,696	119,696	88,569
Employer's NI	-	3,799	3,799	21,260
Pensions	-	1,623	1,623	3,156
Advertising & Marketing	-	14,395	14,395	12,728
Audit & Accountancy fees and website	-	3,738	3,738	2,109
Networking	-	150	150	-
Bank Fees	90	30	120	110
Cleaning	-	763	763	732
Recruitment costs	-	489	489	-
Premises Maintenance	-	9,170	9,170	901
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	173	173	586
Office Refreshments	-	28	28	11
Management Meetings	41	101	142	26
General Expenses	-	127	127	207
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	1,650	1,650	247
Printing & Stationery	-	1,620	1,620	2,180
IT Software and Consumables	21	1,109	1,130	1,978
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	4,860	4,860	3,781
Depreciation	-	153	153	-
Volunteer Training	-	-	-	98
Staff Training	8	4,686	4,694	805
Governance	-	1,619	1,619	638
Telephone & Internet	-	1,580	1,580	1,283
Staff Travel	8	503	511	244
Volunteer Travel	-	114	114	94
Fundraising Expenses	-	6,758	6,758	198
	1,685	280,043	281,728	445,614
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	59,505	(72,138)	(12,633)	3,922
Fund balance b/f	83,413	151,290	234,703	230,781
Balance before transfer	146,199	75,871	222,070	234,703
Transfer from Unrestricted	(20,000)	20,000	-	-
Balance after transfer	126,199	95,871	222,070	234,703

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18. Statement of financial activities

Level Trust
Detailed Statement
of Financial Activities
for the year ended
31 August 2022

Level Trust – Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2022

Fund Name	Beds Learning Fund	Level Up	Overheads	Shops	SMASH	Unrestricted	2022 £	2021 £
Incoming Resources								
Unrestricted Income	-	-	6,000	6,515	-	9,226	21,741	6,292
Grants and Trusts	8,387	-	44,592	24,200	65,323	5,145	147,647	266,662
Fundraising Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Fundraising	-	1,240	8,000	2,909	35,716	16,638	64,503	145,300
Regular Donors	-	-	-	-	-	8,272	8,272	9,521
Gift Aid	-	23	-	-	-	45	68	3,322
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	53	53	89
Corporate Partners	5,000	-	-	-	-	21,811	26,811	18,350
	13,387	1,263	58,592	33,624	101,039	61,190	269,095	449,536
Resources expended								
Rent	-	-	2,221	11,457	-	-	13,678	15,649
Rates and Utilities	-	-	1,277	4,332	-	-	5,609	7,190
Learn at Home Packs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Uniform	-	-	-	5,851	-	-	5,851	3,642
Laundry	-	-	-	477	-	-	477	-
Equipment	-	-	1,620	222	-	-	1,842	155,164
Project Costs	38,412	3,271	3,155	6,376	16,018	1,517	68,749	101,754
Shoes	-	-	-	6,046	-	-	6,046	12,260
Coats	-	-	-	374	-	-	374	8,014
Wages and salaries	-	3,137	42,071	40,006	34,482	-	119,696	88,569
Employer's NI	-	-	1,322	1,953	524	-	3,799	21,260
Pensions	-	22	719	439	443	-	1,623	3,156
Advertising & Marketing	-	-	12,237	2,158	-	-	14,395	12,728
Audit & Accountancy fees and website	-	-	3,738	-	-	-	3,738	2,109
Networking	-	-	150	-	-	-	150	-
Bank Fees	-	-	30	-	-	90	120	110
Cleaning	-	-	25	738	-	-	763	732
Recruitment costs	-	-	489	-	-	-	489	-
Premises Maintenance	-	-	3,575	5,595	-	-	9,170	901
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	-	45	128	-	-	173	586
Office Refreshments	-	-	10	18	-	-	28	11
Management Meetings	-	-	97	4	-	41	142	26
General Expenses	-	-	127	-	-	-	127	207
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	-	555	1,095	-	-	1,650	247
Printing & Stationery	-	-	400	1,201	19	-	1,620	2,180
IT Software and Consumables	-	-	623	472	14	21	1,130	1,978
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	-	-	4,860	-	-	4,860	3,781
Depreciation	-	-	-	153	-	-	153	-
Volunteer Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98
Staff Training	-	-	4,271	245	170	8	4,694	805
Governance	-	-	995	-	624	-	1,619	638
Telephone & Internet	-	-	405	892	283	-	1,580	1,283
Staff Travel	-	-	194	204	105	8	511	244
Volunteer Travel	-	-	-	114	-	-	114	94
Fundraising Expenses	-	-	6,758	-	-	-	6,758	198
	38,412	6,430	87,109	95,410	52,682	1,685	281,728	445,614
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	(25,025)	(5,167)	(28,517)	(61,786)	48,357	59,505	(12,633)	3,922
Fund balance b/f	36,253	-	32,186	81,910	(2,340)	86,694	234,703	230,781
Balance before transfer	11,228	(5,167)	3,669	20,124	46,017	146,199	222,070	234,703
Transfer from Unassigned	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	(20,000)	-	-
Balance after transfer	11,228	4,833	13,669	20,124	46,017	126,199	222,070	234,703

Accounts

Level Trust

Registered number: 1178223

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

19. Balance sheet

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets		5,939	-	5,939	10,799
Tangible assets	3	1,014	-	1,014	-
		6,953	-	6,953	10,799
Current assets					
Debtors	4	1,582	-	1,582	-
Cash at bank and in hand		124,715	95,871	220,586	230,378
		126,297	95,871	222,168	230,378
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	(7,051)	-	(7,051)	(6,474)
Net current assets		119,246	95,871	215,117	223,904
Net assets		126,199	95,871	222,070	234,703
Funds of the Charity					
Restricted funds		-	95,871	95,871	151,290
Unrestricted funds		126,199	-	126,199	83,413
Total Funds		126,199	95,871	222,070	234,703

20. Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature:



Print Name:

Mr Altaf Hussain

Date of approval:

13th June, 2023

Signature:



Print Name:

Mr Christopher Curtis

Date of approval:

13th June, 2023

Notes to the Accounts

Level Trust

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 August 2022

21. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011. There have been no changes of accounting policy, changes to accounting estimates or material prior year errors.

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met. In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Interest income

This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative amortisation and any accumulative impairment losses.

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

Website development	over 3 years
----------------------------	---------------------

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors, prepayments and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

22. Employee costs

	2022	2021
Salaries and wages	119,696	88,569
Social security costs	3,799	21,260
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	1,623	3,156
	125,118	112,985

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

Pension contributions are allocated to activities or overheads, on the basis of which activity the employee works on.

	Number	Number
Charitable activities	8	7
Average number of persons employed by the charity	8	7

23. Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
Additions	1,167
At 31 August 2022	1,167
Depreciation	
At 31 August 2022	153
Net book value	
At 31 August 2022	1,014

24. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	1,582	–

25. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	7,051	6,474

26. Charity funds

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2022 £
Beds Learning Fund	36,253	13,387	(38,412)	-	11,228
Level Up	-	1,263	(6,430)	10,000	4,833
Overheads	32,186	58,592	(87,109)	10,000	13,669
Shops	81,910	33,624	(95,410)	-	20,124
SMASH	(2,340)	101,039	(52,682)	-	46,017
Unrestricted	86,694	61,190	(1,685)	(20,000)	126,199
	234,703	269,095	(281,728)	-	222,070

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2021 £
I Love Learning	19,790	48,051	(38,819)	-	29,022
Learning fund	26,223	-	(10,087)	-	16,136
SMASH	28,621	24,895	(55,856)	-	(2,340)
Overheads	12,964	51,734	(62,512)	30,000	32,186
Uniform Exchange	42,036	49,082	(54,366)	-	36,752
Luton Learning Link	17,734	242,232	(223,713)	-	36,253
Unrestricted	83,413	33,542	(261)	(30,000)	86,694
	230,781	449,536	(445,614)	-	234,703

Fund Name	Type	Purpose
Beds Learning fund	Restricted	Learning resources, equipment, clothing and opportunities
Level Up	Restricted	
Overheads	Restricted	Overheads
Shops	Restricted	Providing Uniforms and Resources
SMASH	Restricted	School Holiday Learning Programmes
Unrestricted	Unrestricted	No Restrictions

Transfers from unrestricted funds to restricted funds are made to fund specific projects where restricted funds raised are not sufficient to cover the project costs.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Level Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Level Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA and ACIE, both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road, Poole, BH15 3LJ

Date: 13th June, 2023



leveltrust.org

Level Trust registered charity 1178223

LEVEL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1178223

Accounts

Level Trust Trustees Report and Accounts

September 2020 to August 2021

Because poverty shouldn't stop a child from loving to learn



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Charity Information

As of 31st August 2021

Charity name:	Level Trust
Charity number:	1178223 (formally 1153936)
Principal address:	Level Trust The Uniform Exchange 2G The Mall Luton LU1 2TW
Trustees:	Mrs Claire Abji Mrs Bina Briggs Mr Christopher Curtis Mr Altaf Hussain Mr Mostaque Koyes Mrs Susanne Lousada DL Mr Sufian Sadiq Mrs Suzanne Spicer, Treasurer Mr Francis Steer, Chair
Bankers:	Metro Bank 10-20 Castle Street Luton LU1 3AJ
Independent examiner:	Mr Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE 39 Enfield Road Poole BH15 3LJ

Chair's Forward

Level Trust was founded in April 2013 with me as a founding trustee. For me as Chair of Trustees, it is always a great pleasure to write the foreword to the Level Trust Annual Report and to look back over the year that has just passed. This was a year in which the Covid-19 pandemic was still having an impact on peoples' lives and on the way we had to operate the charity and interact with the very many families that we helped.

These past two years have made our services more essential than ever as families have had to adapt to the pandemic. As the national lockdown started to lift and our staff returned to work from furlough, we were able to open our Uniform Exchange in the Mall full time for families to visit. However, our online Uniform Exchange and Click & Collect' uniform delivery services continues to pick up momentum and goes from strength to strength. I would like to thank all the new volunteers who came on board with Level Trust to help us deliver school uniforms during the national and regional lockdowns and to thank the staff and volunteers who have helped with all the changed ways of working over the past two years.

SMASH, our amazing summer scheme for aged children 8 -12, has been a huge success in past years with an increasing number of children taking part. Last year it had to be run remotely, but we were able to operate face-to-face again this year. I would like to thank the staff and volunteers who come together every summer to make SMASH the success it has become and to BBC Children In Need for funding SMASH.

During the year we welcomed new staff members: Tina Edwards as our Schools and Projects Lead and Kim **Ansell** as our Uniform Exchange Shift Supervisor to work with volunteers who keep the shop running. The charity also had three new trustees join our trustee board, Claire **Abji**, Susan **Lousada** and Sufian **Sadiq**. **All have wide experience** with numerous other charitable organisations and bring more strength to our governance and operation. I would like to thank both staff and trustees for joining the Level Trust family.

During the year, Level Trust took on the full responsibility for running Bedfordshire Learning Link providing laptops and iPads to families in Luton and across the county. As with the online Uniform Exchange, this is an innovation that came out of the Covid-19 pandemic but is so positive it is here to stay and hopefully grow. During the year we also started up the Learning Locker with the Hygiene Bank and Coat Exchange in two shop units in the Mall next to the Uniform Exchange. Thank you to the Luton Mall management for this opportunity and I want to point out how very supportive of Level Trust they have been over the years.

Level Trust continues to have a very close relationship with Luton schools and we launched Level Up - our training programme for schools during the year. We have always run our projects in collaboration with family support professionals in the schools and this Level Up project will help us to continue to tackle poverty together.

Finally, my thanks for the year to all the Level Trust volunteers, staff and trustees.

Francis Steer
Chair of Trustees

Trustees' Report

1. Background

This year the Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a profound impact on our work and our families. More lock downs and changing restrictions resulted in more children missing school and learning. As a result, poorer children, who rely on school to help build their resilience, have been less able to participate in learning and less able to stay connected to social support. This has caused them to fall further behind in their learning and become more isolated compared with wealthier peers.

Our own evaluations demonstrate that the pandemic has caused greater hardship for our families. We helped children on 1000 more occasions than any other year and many of those families have told us they are experiencing more disadvantages than the year before.

Level Trust started in 2013 with group of local volunteers who wanted to support children suffering the effects of poverty. In April that year Level Trust was born on the kitchen table of our founding CEO, Jane Malcolm. Our aim was to make sure that every child had what they needed to access learning. Early on our schools, local community and donors saw the difference we made to children and got behind our work.

Nine years on what we do is more important than ever. Despite the huge challenges that the pandemic has brought to us as a charity, we have been able to help children on 6001 occasions, 1007 more than the year before.

6001 children helped this year!

Image: Hanging out at SMASH



2. Our aims

The aims of Level Trust are to:

- a) give children living in poverty what they need to thrive in their learning;
- b) help schools provide quality support to poor children;
- c) empower children, young people and parents to lead the changes they believe will make the greatest difference in alleviating poverty in the longer term.

3. Values

Our values are incredibly important to us. They underpin everything we do. At Level Trust, we...

- ... are committed to true **partnership** working, believing it brings about the best results
- ... treat all people, especially those affected by poverty, with the utmost **dignity**
- ... believe that all children deserve to be safe, happy and have **fun**, and try to have fun ourselves
- ... are **generous** and try to give other people the best of what we have to offer
- ... are passionate about **Luton**, celebrate its attributes and contribute towards making it even better.

4. The team

Level Trust is run day to day by a skilled and compassionate team of staff and volunteers, without whom we would not be able to fulfil our important aims. The pandemic has brought challenges to all of us with adapting to working with the public whilst keep people safe and working at home. Throughout all the uncertainty, the team have been highly resilient, flexible and committed. We are incredibly grateful for all that they have given and proud of what they have achieved under such difficult circumstances.

We are continually grateful to our funders and partners who have provided us with additional support over the pandemic, without whom we would not have been able to achieve much of our work.

We have been delighted this year to welcome two new staff to our team. Tina Edwards stepped down as trustee of the charity to join us instead as our new Youth and Schools Lead. After volunteering with us for many years, we were incredibly pleased to recruit Kim Ansell to our paid Shift Supervisor position.

Image: Our SMASH team



5. Governance

Level Trust is a charitable incorporated organization (CIO) registered 3rd May 2018 with registration number 1178223.

Our team is governed by our highly experienced Trustee Board. Our constitution provides for a minimum of three trustees but to ensure we have all areas covered we have nine serving trustees.

Their role includes, but is not limited too, overseeing the financial management of the charity, all policies including our safeguarding practice, managing and mitigating risk and setting our strategic direction.

We are pleased to have welcomed Claire Abji, Sufian Sadiq and Sue Lousada to the trustee board. We know their skills and experience will be of huge value to us over the next few years.

6. What we did

This year we provided:

- free school shoes to 513 children,
- free winter coats to 369 children,
- free school uniform to 2451 children,
- free learning resources including stationery, books and games to 155 children,
- Christmas presents to 500 children,
- a remote activity scheme to 386 children,
- and worked in partnership to provide laptops to 1,566 young people.

We delivered this work through existing projects and through adapting or growing new projects. The existing projects we delivered were SMASH and the Uniform Exchange. The projects we grew or adapted were the Learning Locker and Bedfordshire Learning Link. The new project we started was Level Up.

SMASH is the name we give our summer holiday enrichment programme. The scheme provides a week of free educational activities, healthy hot meals and transport to venues for children aged 8 -12. This year, we were delighted to be able to run summer SMASH in person again after safety restrictions had required us to run it remotely over the previous school holidays. It was wonderful to work with the 386 children who took part. We had loads of fun taking part in sports, outdoor adventures, crafts, performing arts, trips to the Safari Park and more.

We are very grateful to the support of BBC Children in Need and Energise Luton for funding our SMASH programme and for their flexibility. We are also thankful to all our amazing project partners including the



University of Bedfordshire Access Partnership Team, Adventures Into, Next Generation Youth Theatre, Active Luton and our amazing seasonal staff and volunteer team who bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge that gives our children a quality experience.

Special thanks this year also goes to Arriva who provided all our coach travel for free, enabling children who would have otherwise been excluded, the support they needed to get to the venues for each of our schemes.

Uniform Exchange is a free second-hand uniform shop in Luton town centre. Families use the Exchange by swapping school uniform they have finished with for school uniform they need, all for free. Children with no uniform to swap can be referred by one of our partners to receive uniform without exchange.

This was the first year of a full year of delivery of our new online Uniform Exchange, enabling us to safely provide school uniform to children through a click and collect system. This system has proved invaluable over the year, allowing us to be much more flexible in responding to changing restrictions and help more families.

As a result, this year Over the year we provided 6286 items of school uniform to 2451 children. This is an increase of 501 children on the year before.

We are incredibly grateful to our funders, The National Lottery Community Fund and The Garfield Weston Foundation and 24 regular volunteers who have supported this project over the last year, helping us adapt to the demands of the pandemic.

The Learning Locker is a new shop in The Mall Luton that provides free school shoes, learning resources, winter coats and hygiene products.

Children who need support from the Learning Locker can be referred to us by our partners or through the Uniform Exchange.

We are incredibly grateful to the Hygiene bank, Coat Exchange and Luton Borough Council Education Welfare

Image: Our new Learning Locker



Team who partnered with us to set up this new project and continue to work with us to provide resources and refer children who require support.

This project is an adaptation of I Love Learning, giving us a more sustainable way to provide coats, shoes and learning resources to children who need them most.

Bedfordshire Learning Link was set up in partnership with the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire and Luton Mosques to provide computers to young people who couldn't afford one to access online learning. In the reporting year we provided computers to 1,566 Luton young people.

It was agreed that the official partnership would come to an end and that Level Trust would take full responsibility for the project going forward.

Level Up is our new training centre providing training to schools on the inclusion of poorer pupils in learning. Launched at our online conference, we have provided a number of training days for schools, helping them explore what more they can do to support the most vulnerable children with their learning.

7. Fundraising and marketing

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors, funders and partners, without whom we would have been unable to support all our children and families this year. Their commitment to us, responsiveness and flexibility has helped get us through this difficult year. We raise funding through applications to grant making bodies, building relationships with individual donors, working with corporate partners and through community campaigns.

We are regularly featured in good news stories in the local and national press and this year took part in several TV pieces for local news channels. Our work was also advertised on local radio stations. Thanks to our amazing new communications expert, Amar Azam, who joined us this year, our growing presence on social media has resulted in more followers and we are expecting this to result in further income.



9. Financial review

The financial statements show a net surplus for the year of £3,922. The previous year we had a surplus of £122,266. During the year, the charity generated income of £449,536. Of this income, £415,994 was raised for specific programmes. Expenditure totalled £445,614 for the year, of which £445,353 was spent on specific programmes. Our income this year was £130,911 more than the year before. This is for three reasons:

- As the accountable partner for Luton Learning Link we held all funds which amounted to £44,804.
- The Luton community were particularly generous throughout the pandemic raising us an additional £39,599 that we had not projected.
- Our fundraising strategy which we implemented in January 2019 to ensure we didn't have another deficit in this financial year was successful.

Expenditure was less by £22,721 as we only re-recruited one member full time member of staff half way through the year to replace two full members of staff we had lost at the beginning of the year.

10. Reserves policy

The charity has unrestricted reserves at 31st August 2021 of £86,694. The reserves represent six months expenditure on charitable activities. It is the policy of the charity to hold no less than three months reserves, although our aim is to hold six.

Restricted funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant programmes. Normally these funds are spent within twelve months of receipt.

11. Post balance sheet events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the charity, the results of these operations or the state of affairs of the Charity in the financial year subsequent to the financial period ended 31st August 2021.

12. Future plans

Despite the challenges the pandemic brought there were also many opportunities. These have allowed us to facilitate rapid growth in the charities activities over the last two years through the major adaptation of one project (the Learning Locker) and the establishment of two new projects from scratch - Level Up and Bedfordshire Learning Link. After fast change and development, we now need to consolidate and grow and each of our projects, ensuring they are sustainable for the long term. We plan to do this by:

- Investing in a fundraiser to help us sustain our income.
- Recruiting more operational staff to deliver our existing projects.
- Networking across Bedfordshire to establish our Bedfordshire connections.



13. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare the financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

14. Independent examiner

We are very grateful to Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE who has undertaken our Independent Examination this year.

15. Trustees report signed on behalf of the trustees:

Mr Francis Benedict Steer, Chair

.....F Steer.....

Date: ...23 June 2022



Image: Crafting on SMASH



Partners and Funders

We want to extend a huge thank you to all our project partners, schools and funders without whom, our work would not be possible. We are very grateful for your time, money, venues, vehicles, skills and ideas.

16. School partners

Beech Hill Primary School
Beechwood Primary School
Bramingham Primary School
Bushmead Primary School
Cardinal Newman High School
Chalk Hill Academy
Challney High School for Boys
Chantry Primary Academy
Cheynes Infant School
Crawley Green Infant School
Dallow Primary School
Denbigh High School
Denbigh Primary School
Downside Primary School
Farley Junior School
Ferrars Academy
Ferrars Junior School
Foxdell Infant School

Foxdell Junior School
Grasmere Nursery
Hillborough Infant School
Hillborough Junior School
Icknield High School
Lea Manor High School
Lealands High School
Maidenhall Primary School
Norton Road Primary School
Pirton Hill Primary School
Putteridge High School
Putteridge Primary School
Ramridge Primary School
Riverbank Primary School
Sacred Heart Primary School
Somerries Infant School
Somerries Junior School
Southfield Primary School

St Joseph's Primary School
St Margarets Primary School
St Matthews Primary School
Stockwood Park Academy
Stopsley Primary School
Sundon Park Junior School
Surrey Street Primary School
Tennyson Road Primary School
The Meads Primary School
Warden Hill Infant School
Warden Hill Junior School
Waulud Primary School
Wenlock C of E Junior School
Whipperley Infant School
Whitefield Primary School
William Austin Infant School
William Austin Junior School
Queen Elizabeth School

17. Project partners



NEXT GENERATION
YOUTH THEATRE

Luton



University of
Bedfordshire

team
BEDSLUTON
activity for life...



LUTON
COUNCIL OF
MOSQUES



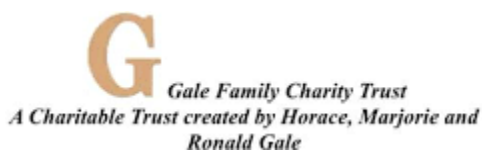
no-one should be hungry



18. Corporate and community partners



19. Funders



**The Steel
Charitable Trust**



**SWIRE
CHARITABLE
TRUST**

Financial Report

Accounts

20. Management accounts

Level Trust

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Restricted						Unrestricted	2021	2020
	I Love Learning	Learning Fund	Overheads	SMASH	Uniform Exchange	Luton Learning Link			
Income									
Unrestricted Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,292	6,292	14,950
Grants and Trusts	46,851	-	49,696	24,815	45,380	99,920	-	266,662	211,891
Fundraising Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	423
Other Fundraising	395	-	2,038	80	3,702	123,962	15,123	145,300	64,716
Regular Donors	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,521	9,521	8,040
Gift Aid	805	-	-	-	-	-	2,517	3,322	1,816
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	89	333
Corporate Partners	-	-	-	-	-	18,350	-	18,350	16,456
Total	48,051	-	51,734	24,895	49,082	242,232	33,542	449,536	318,625
Expenditure									
Rent	-	-	7,340	-	8,309	-	-	15,649	12,596
Rates and Utilities	-	-	2,233	-	4,957	-	-	7,190	1,586
Learn at Home Packs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,029
School Uniform	-	-	-	-	3,642	-	-	3,642	1,495
Laundry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,070
Equipment	786	-	2,300	1,164	1,134	149,780	-	155,164	3,141
Project Costs	2,617	8,806	325	15,905	120	73,933	48	101,754	61,057
Shoes	12,260	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,260	10,162
Coats	8,014	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,014	3,018
Wages and salaries	6,760	710	28,183	30,657	22,259	-	-	88,569	67,613
Employer's NI	2,728	479	7,113	5,680	5,260	-	-	21,260	2,107
Pensions	315	92	1,189	727	833	-	-	3,156	1,010
Advertising & Marketing	4,050	-	7,995	300	383	-	-	12,728	860
Audit & Accountancy fees and	-	-	2,109	-	-	-	-	2,109	708
Networking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Bank Fees	-	-	110	-	-	-	-	110	124
Cleaning	-	-	177	-	555	-	-	732	557
Premises Maintenance	19	-	761	-	122	-	-	901	1,553
Postage, Freight & Courier	20	-	68	496	2	-	-	586	1,742
Office Refreshments	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	11	23
Management Meetings	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	26	48
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	7	-	200	207	21
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
Insurance	-	-	94	-	153	-	-	247	1,185
Printing & Stationery	943	-	267	56	914	-	-	2,180	2,349
IT Software and Consumables	83	-	552	-	1,343	-	-	1,978	636
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	-	-	-	3,781	-	-	3,781	-
Volunteer Training	-	-	98	-	-	-	-	98	79
Staff Training	-	-	495	244	66	-	-	805	695
Governance	-	-	141	484	-	-	13	638	241
Telephone & Internet	168	-	753	-	362	-	-	1,283	677
Staff Travel	56	-	-	108	79	-	-	244	916
Volunteer Travel	-	-	-	35	59	-	-	94	562
Fundraising Expenses	-	-	198	-	-	-	-	198	354
Total	38,819	10,087	62,512	55,856	54,366	223,713	261	445,614	196,359
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	9,232	(10,087)	(10,778)	(30,961)	(5,284)	18,519	33,281	3,922	122,266
Fund balance b/f	19790	26223	12964	28621	42036	17734	83413	230781	108515
Balance before transfer	29022	16136	2186	-2340	36752	36253	116694	234703	230781
Transfer from Unassigned	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	(30,000)	-	-
Balance after transfer	29,022	16,136	32,186	(2,340)	36,752	36,253	86,694	234,703	230,781
Percentage Spend	8.71%	2.26%	14.03%	12.53%	12.20%	50.20%	-	100.00%	-

21. Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Prior year funds £
Income				
Unrestricted Income	6,292	-	6,292	14,950
Grants and Trusts	-	266,662	266,662	211,891
Fundraising Events	-	-	-	423
Other Fundraising	15,123	130,177	145,300	64,716
Regular Donors	9,521	-	9,521	8,040
Gift Aid	2,517	805	3,322	1,816
Bank Interest	89	-	89	333
Corporate Partners	-	18,350	18,350	16,456
Total	33,542	415,994	449,536	318,625
Expenditure				
Rent	-	15,649	15,649	12,596
Rates and Utilities	-	7,190	7,190	1,586
Learn at Home Packs	-	-	-	17,029
Conference Costs	-	-	-	-
School Uniform	-	3,642	3,642	1,495
Laundry	-	-	-	2,070
Equipment	-	155,164	155,164	3,141
Project Costs	48	101,706	101,754	61,057
Shoes	-	12,260	12,260	10,162
Coats	-	8,014	8,014	3,018
Wages and salaries	-	88,569	88,569	67,613
Employer's NI	-	21,260	21,260	2,107
Pensions	-	3,156	3,156	1,010
Advertising & Marketing	-	12,728	12,728	860
Audit & Accountancy fees and website	-	2,109	2,109	708
Networking	-	-	-	100
Bank Fees	-	110	110	124
Cleaning	-	732	732	557
Premises Maintenance	-	901	901	1,553
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	586	586	1,742
Office Refreshments	-	11	11	23
Management Meetings	-	26	26	48
General Expenses	200	7	207	21
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	45
Insurance	-	247	247	1,185
Printing & Stationery	-	2,180	2,180	2,349
IT Software and Consumables	-	1,978	1,978	636
Amortisation of Intangibles	-	3,781	3,781	-
Volunteer Training	-	98	98	79
Staff Training	-	805	805	695
Governance	13	625	638	241
Telephone & Internet	-	1,283	1,283	677
Staff Travel	-	244	244	916
Volunteer Travel	-	94	94	562
Fundraising Expenses	-	198	198	354
Total	261	445,353	445,614	196,359
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	33,281	(29,359)	3,922	122,266
Fund balance b/f	83,413	147,368	230,781	108,515
Balance before transfer	116,694	118,009	234,703	230,781
Transfer from Unrestricted	(30,000)	30,000	-	-
Balance after transfer	86,694	148,009	234,703	230,781

22. Balance sheet

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Intangible assets	10,799	-	10,799	9,030
Current assets				
Debtors	-	-	-	3,529
Cash at bank and in hand	82,369	148,009	230,378	225,666
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(6,474)	-	(6,474)	(7,444)
Net current assets	105,895	148,009	223,904	221,751
Net assets	86,694	148,009	234,703	230,781
Funds of the Charity				
Restricted funds	-	148,009	148,009	147,368
Unrestricted funds	86,694	-	86,694	83,413
Total Funds	86,694	148,009	234,703	230,781

23. Signed on behalf of the trustees

Mr Francis Benedict Steer, Chair F Steer

Date: ...23 June 2022

Notes to the ACCOUNTS

24. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

There have been no changes of accounting policy, changes to accounting estimates or material prior year errors.

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor.

Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Interest Income

This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative amortisation and any accumulative impairment losses. These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

Website development costs are amortised over three years.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors, prepayments and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

25. Employee costs

	2021	2020
Salaries and wages	88,569	67,613
Social security costs	21,260	2,107
Pension costs	3,156	1,010
Total	112,985	70,730

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

Pension contributions are allocated to activities or overheads, on the basis of which activity the employee works on.

This year our salary costs represented 26% of our expenditure compared with 36% the year before. We had an average of seven staff working on charitable activities compared with four the year before.

26. Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets	£
Website development costs:	
Cost	
At 1 September 2020	9,030
Additions	5,550
Disposals	-
At 31 August 2021	14,580
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2020	-
Provided during the year	3,781
On disposals	-
At 31 August 2021	3,781
Net book value	
At 31 August 2021	10,799
At 31 August 2020	9,030

Website development costs are being written off in equal annual instalments over its estimated economic life of 3 years.

27. Debtors

Debtors	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors	-	3529

28. Creditors

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	6,474	7444

29. Charity funds

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2021 £
I Love Learning	19,790	48,051	(38,819)	-	29,022
Learning fund	26,223	-	(10,087)	-	16,136
Overheads	12,964	51,734	(62,512)	30,000	32,186
SMASH	28,621	24,895	(55,856)	-	(2,340)
Uniform Exchange	42,036	49,082	(54,366)	-	36,752
Luton Learning Link	17,734	242,232	(223,713)	-	36,253
Unrestricted	83,413	33,542	(261)	(30,000)	86,694
Total	230,781	449,536	(445,614)	-	234,703

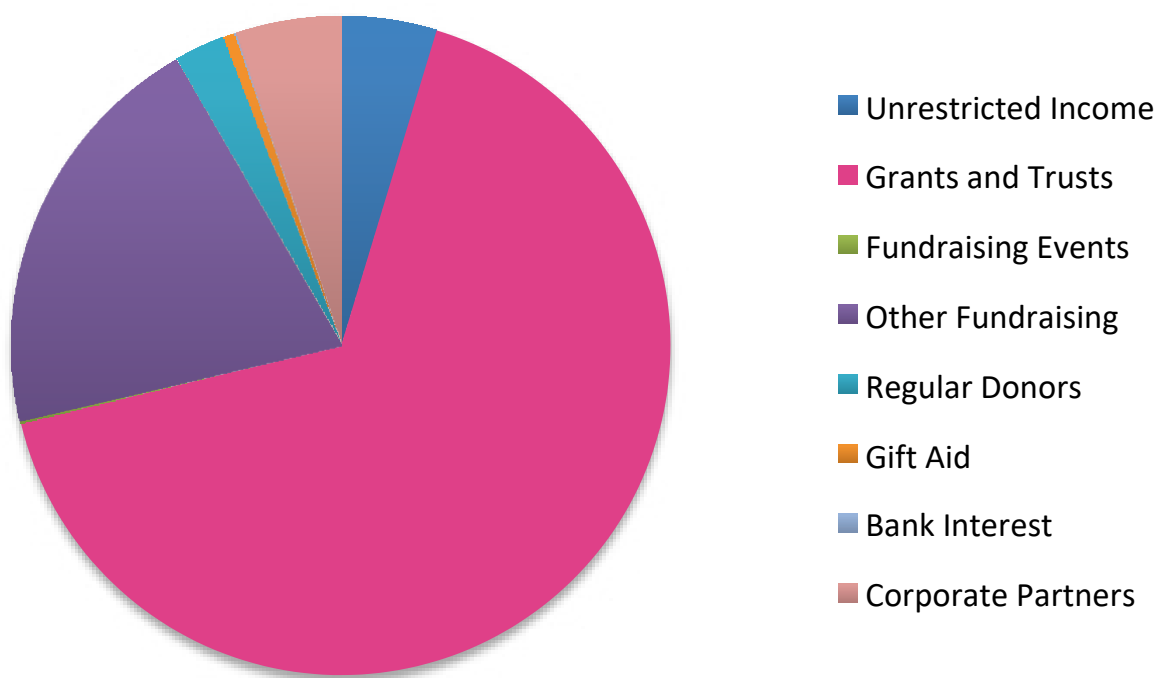
Fund Name	Type	Purpose
I Love Learning	Restricted	Learn at Home Packs, Coats and Shoes
Learning fund	Restricted	Learning resources, equipment, clothing and opportunities
Overheads	Restricted	Overheads
SMASH	Restricted	School Holiday Learning Programmes
Uniform Exchange	Restricted	Providing Uniforms
Luton Learning Link	Restricted	Laptops and Computers for Learning
Unrestricted	Unrestricted	No Restrictions

Transfers from unrestricted funds to restricted funds are made to fund specific projects where restricted funds raised are not sufficient to cover the project costs.

30. Analysis of overhead costs to project cost balance

This year our overhead costs represented 14% of our expenditure compared with 18% the year before.

31. Income analysis



32. Income from grants and trusts

Funding Body	Restricted to	Amount
BBC Children In Need	SMASH	£24,815.25
BBC Children In Need Emergency Fund	Administration	£2,448
Bedford Educational Association	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£8,320
Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation Surviving Winter Fund	Surviving Winter	£4,400
Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£7,500
Crimebeat Bedfordshire	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£36,760
Gale Family Charity Trust	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£30,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	Uniform Exchange	£20,000
Leighton Buzzard Town Lands Trust	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£5,359
London Luton Airport Ltd Community Investment Fund Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation	Core Costs	£40,258
The Educational Fund	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£179
The John Richards Charity	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£200
The National Lottery Community Fund	Uniform Exchange	£28,470
The National Lottery Awards for All	Learning Locker Partnership	£8.503
Rowney Foundation	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£5,000
St John's Hospital Trust	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£5,625
The Steel Charitable Trust	Uniform Exchange	£17,826
The Swire Charitable Trust	I Love Learning	£19,772
UK Kolti Foundation	Bedfordshire Learning Link	£440



33. Accounts approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Francis Benedict Steer, Chair

F Steer

.....

Date: ...23 June 2022

Independent Examiner's Report

Year ended 31st August 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEVEL TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Level Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA and ACIE, both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road, Poole, BH15 3LJ

Date: 28 June 2022



LEVEL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1178223

Accounts

Level Trust Trustees Report and Accounts

September 2019 to August 2020

Because poverty shouldn't stop a child from loving to learn





Welcome

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Charity Information

As of 31st August 2020

Charity name:	Level Trust
Charity number:	1178223 (formally 1153936)
Principal address:	Level Trust The Uniform Exchange 2G The Mall Luton LU1 2TW
Trustees:	Mrs Bina Briggs Mr Christopher Curtis Mrs Tina Edwards Mr Altaf Hussain Mr Mostaque Koyes Mrs Suzanne Spicer, Treasurer Mr Francis Steer, Chair
Bankers:	Metro Bank 10-20 Castle Street Luton LU1 3AJ
Independent examiner:	Mr Joseph Foxwell FCCA FCIE 39 Enfield Road Poole BH15 3LJ

Chair's Forward

As I have said in the past, it is always a great pleasure to write the forward to the Level Trust annual report and to look back over the year. What a year it has been for not only for the charity but for peoples' lives across the world during this Covid-19 pandemic.

Like many organisation across Luton and the country, Level Trust had to adapt to the Covid-19 crisis and national lockdowns. The aims of Level Trust - to support children living in poverty in our town so they have all the basics and essentials they need in order to learn without poverty being any impediment – was even more essential than ever as families had to adapt to the pandemic.

We had to close our Uniform Exchange in the Mall and furlough our staff. Staff and volunteers were asked to work from home and I am very grateful to our team for adapting to home working and the other changes we had to introduce throughout the charity.

One of our biggest and most far reaching adaptations was to take the Uniform Exchange online, allowing parents to select the items of school uniform they require to 'Click & Collect' at the Uniform Exchange – or if they are unable to visit to request a home delivery. New volunteers came on board with Level Trust to help us deliver uniform during the first national lockdown. This innovation not only kept us helping families in poverty in Luton throughout the pandemic but has changed the way we will work and support children in the future.

Our summer scheme for aged children 8 -12, SMASH, has been a huge success in past years with an increasing number of children taking part. This year continued with the summer scheme remotely. We identified the huge problem of digital access that the pandemic highlighted and in partnership launched Luton Learning Link, providing 147 laptops to local children across Luton and Bedfordshire This project gave children access to remote learning that was essential during the lockdowns. As with the online Uniform Exchange, this is an innovation that is here to stay for the future and Luton Learning Link has now provided 1,700 laptops across the county. Our thanks go to our partners and all the donors who allowed this project to start up and enable us to provide much needed laptops and iPads in such a small space of time.

As part of our Covid-19 response, Level Trust also launched our Emergency Home School Project providing learning items that pupils needed to carry on their schooling at home during the lockdowns and school closures. We also Provided 1,600 learning packs that provided children aged 4 – 16 with learning items they needed to carry on their schooling at home.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers who have helped with all the changed ways of working, particularly our Chief Executive, Jane Malcolm, who as always, has driven the enforced changes, has kept our staff and volunteers safe during the pandemic and has continued to make sure that Level Trust can help all families in poverty.

Finally, my thanks also to the Trustee board - who all took to Zoom - and have overseen not only the changes we had to make during this exceptional and challenging year, but also looking towards the future expansion of the charity.

Francis Steer Chair of Trustees

Trustees' Report

1. Background

This year has been like no other. The Covid-19 pandemic which engulfed our world, intensified the needs of the 46% of children in Luton who live in poverty and caused others to experience financial hardship. Those living in poverty have been more likely to have been effected by a Covid-19 death and have been at greater risk of hunger, the cold and poor mental health.

School and community support, that children and young people rely on to give them the resilience they need to survive living in poverty, became harder if not impossible to access. As a result, poorer children have been less able to participate in learning and less able to stay connected to social support. This has caused them to fall further behind in their learning and become more isolated compared with wealthier peers.

Level Trust started in 2013 with group of local volunteers who wanted to support children suffering the effects of poverty. In April that year Level Trust was born on the kitchen table of our founding CEO, Jane Malcolm. Our aim was to make sure that every child had what they needed to access learning. Eight years on, our schools, local community and donors have seen the difference we make to children and have got behind our work.

This year, what we do has been more important than ever. We are proud that despite huge challenges, we have been able to help children on 4994 occasions, 783 more than the year before.

4994 children helped this year!

Image: Visitors to our Uniform Exchange before the pandemic



2. Our aims

The aims of Level Trust are to:

- a) give children living in poverty what they need to thrive in their learning;
- b) help schools provide quality support to poor children;
- c) empower children, young people and parents to lead the changes they believe will make the greatest difference in alleviating poverty in the longer term.

3. Values

Our values are incredibly important to us. They underpin everything we do. At Level Trust, we...

- ... are committed to true **partnership** working, believing it brings about the best results
- ... treat all people, especially those affected by poverty, with the utmost **dignity**
- ... believe that all children deserve to be safe, happy and have **fun**, and try to have fun ourselves
- ... are **generous** and try to give other people the best of what we have to offer
- ... are passionate about **Luton**, celebrate its attributes and contribute towards making it even better.

4. The team

Level Trust is run day to day by a skilled and compassionate team of staff and volunteers, without whom we would not be able to fulfil our important aims. This year has been a challenge for all of us, with staff on furlough, volunteers having to step back due to health risks and adapting to working at home. Throughout all the uncertainty, the team have been highly resilient, flexible and committed. We are incredibly grateful for all that they have given and proud of what they have achieved under such difficult circumstances.

Additional support for specific projects is provided by project partners, businesses and school staff, without whom we would not have been able to achieve much of our work.

At the beginning of this year our Collaborative Projects Manager, Christian Iszchak and our Fundraising, Marketing and Project Manager Maddy Iszchak moved on from Level Trust. We are very grateful for the years of service they gave and all they did to make a difference to the lives of local children. We were delighted to invite Phyl Rainey onto the team in March as our Youth and Schools Project Manager and were very grateful for all she did to deliver our Covid-19 response plan, resulting in us helping thousands of children.

Image: Reopening our Uniform Exchange after lock-down.



5. Governance

Our team is governed by our highly experienced Board. Our constitution provides for a minimum of three trustees but to ensure we have all areas covered we have seven serving trustees.

Their role includes, but is not limited too, overseeing the financial management of the charity, all policies including our safeguarding practice, managing and mitigating risk and setting our strategic direction.

This year we moved to a committee structure which has helped us to better meet the demands of a growing charity. We are particularly grateful to Mr Chris Curtis who has become the chair of our Strategy and Finance Committee and Mr Altaf Hussain who has become chair of our Human Resources and Policy Committee.

6. What we did

This year we provided:

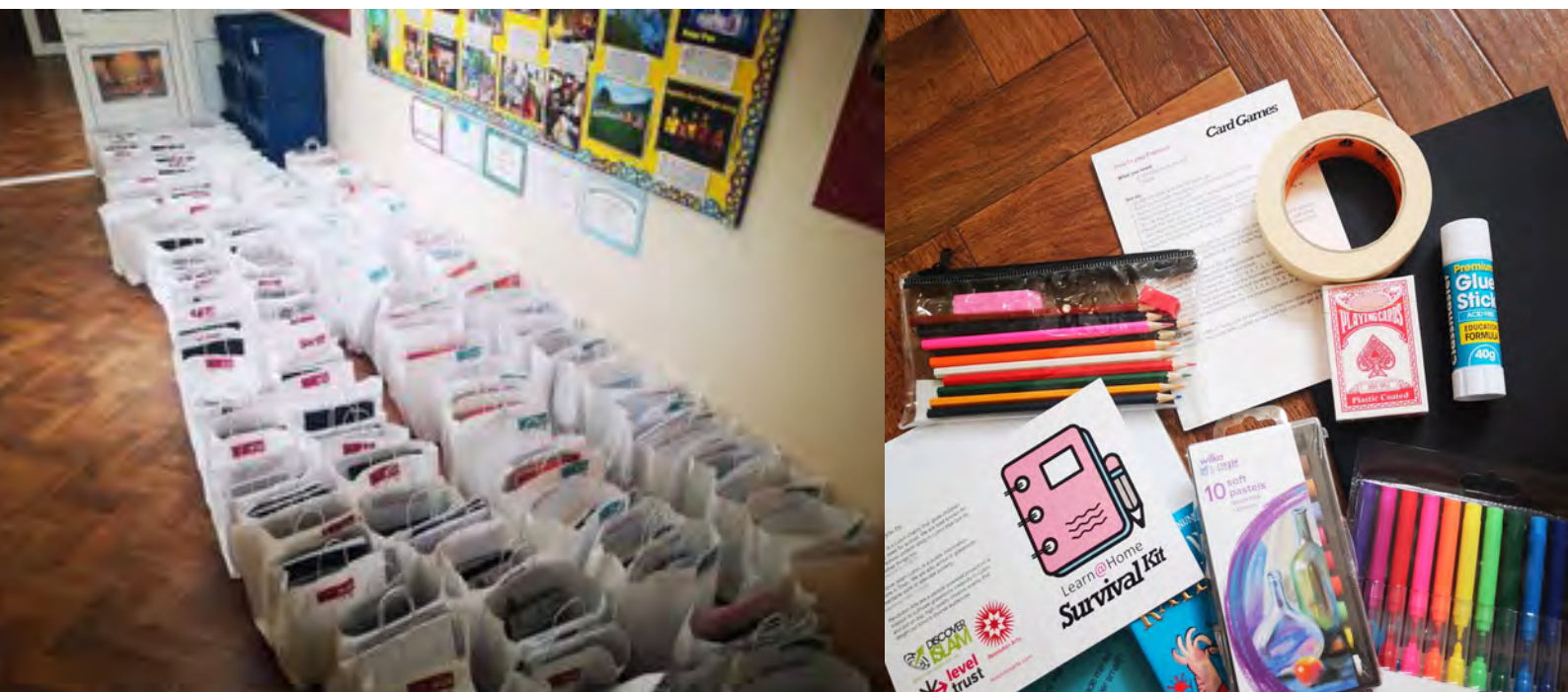
- free school shoes to 299 children,
- free winter coats to 222 children,
- free school uniform to 1950 children,
- free learning resources including stationery, books and games to 1600 children,
- emergency home learning resources, food and clothing to 507 children,
- a remote activity scheme to 267 children,
- and worked in partnership to provide laptops to 144 young people.

We delivered this work through adapting projects we have run for many years and setting up new projects to fit the new context. The existing projects we adapted were I Love Learning, SMASH and the Uniform Exchange. The new projects we started were the Emergency Home School Project and partnership project, Luton Learning Link.

Uniform Exchange is a free second hand uniform shop in Luton town centre. Families use the Exchange by swapping school uniform they have finished with for school uniform they need, all for free. Children with no uniform to swap can be referred by one of our partners to receive uniform without exchange.

This year we had to temporarily close the Uniform Exchange during the first lock-down. Without children at school they no longer had need of free school uniform. We used this time to develop an online Uniform Exchange, enabling us to safely provide school uniform to children through a click and collect system when

Image: Learning packs ready to give out to children



schools reopened. This system has enabled us to safely provide uniform to children throughout the pandemic. Big thanks goes to Sheraph who worked with us to set up this new system.

Over the year we provided 5519 items of school uniform to 1950. This is a decrease of 441 children on the year before. This is down to children not needing school uniform as regularly with schools closed and the Uniform Exchange being unable to operate for four months.

We are incredibly grateful to our funders, The National Lottery Community Fund and The Steel Charitable Trust and 40 regular volunteers who have supported this project over the last year, helping us adapt to the demands of the pandemic.

I Love Learning provides school shoes, winter coats and learning resources for children, free of charge.

During the pandemic we adapted this project so we could get support to children while they were learning at home. Our demand for school shoes and coats decreased significantly due to school closures, meaning we provided 299 pairs of shoes (down by 470 on the year before) and 222 coats (down by 257 on the year before).

We put together and distributed 1,600 home learning packs providing stationery, games and books to children in need of these resources. This project perfectly fit the new context so we were quickly able to provide this resource to 1300 more children than the year before.

SMASH is the name we give our summer holiday enrichment programme. The scheme provides a week of free educational activities, healthy hot meals and transport to venues for children aged 8 -12. This year, safety restrictions meant we had to take the decision to run this project remotely. 267 children took part receiving activity, food and well-being packs. We communicate with children via post and children took part in competitions. The standard of work the children produced was very high and we were very proud to be able to display it all in an exhibition in Luton Mall.

Image: Volunteers delivering learning packs to local schools



We are very grateful to the support of BBC Children in Need for funding our SMASH programme and for their flexibility and support. We are also thankful to all our project partners including the University of Bedfordshire Access Partnership Team, Team Beds and Luton and our amazing volunteers.

Emergency Home School Project was launched this year to ensure children had what they needed to safely participate in learning from home. We did this by providing emergency food, clothing and learning resources to 507 children through online purchasing and vouchers.

Luton Learning Link was set up in partnership with the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire and Luton Mosques to provide computers to young people who couldn't afford one to access online learning. In the reporting year we provided computers to 144 Luton young people.

7. National influence

This year our relationships with national organisations seeking to make longer term change for children living in poverty has grown. We were pleased to have our case studies used as part of 'The Wrong Blazer' a Children's Society report about the cost of school uniform and were involved in supporting Mike Amesbury MP's School Uniform Bill which passed it's first reading in the house of commons.

8. Fundraising and marketing

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors, funders and partners, without whom we would have been unable to support all our children and families this year. Their commitment to us, responsiveness and flexibility has helped get us through this difficult year. We raise funding through applications to grant making bodies, building relationships with individual donors, working with corporate partners and through community campaigns.

We had particular success this year in raising £27,365 from The Luton School Rely, a sponsored garden run.

Image: SMASH artwork display in Luton Mall



We are very grateful to Dan Chaplen from Challenge Inspiration and St Matthew's Primary School who ran this event for us and to all those who donated.

We are regularly featured in good news stories in the local and national press and this year took part in several TV pieces for local news channels. Our work was also advertised on local radio stations. Our growing presence on social media has resulted in more followers and we are expecting this to result in further income.

Families find out about our work mainly through link workers in each of our schools and through other community organisations.

9. Financial review

The financial statements show a net surplus for the year of £122,266. The previous year we had a deficit of £34,721. During the year, the charity generated income of £318,625. Of this income, £289,898 was raised for specific programmes. Expenditure totalled £196,359 for the year, of which £196,332 was spent on specific programmes. Our income this year was £134,266 more than the year before. This is for three reasons:

- As the accountable partner for Luton Learning Link we held all funds which amounted to £44,804.
- The Luton community were particularly generous throughout the pandemic raising us an additional £39,599 that we had not projected.
- Our fundraising strategy which we implemented in January 2019 to ensure we didn't have another deficit in this financial year was successful.

Expenditure was less by £22,721 as we only re-recruited one member full time member of staff half way through the year to replace two full members of staff we had lost at the beginning of the year.

10. Reserves policy

The charity has unrestricted reserves at 31st August 2020 of £65,138, plus a project contingency of £18,275. The reserves represent six months expenditure on charitable activities. It is the policy of the charity to hold no less than three months reserves, although our aim is to hold six. Contingency represents 7% of the planned budget for the following year.

Image: Learning to read in school uniform from the Uniform Exchange



Restricted funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant programmes. Normally these funds are spent within twelve months of receipt.

11. Post balance sheet events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the charity, the results of these operations or the state of affairs of the Charity in the financial year subsequent to the financial period ended 31st August 2020.

12. Future plans

Although the pandemic has presented us with many challenges, there have been some opportunities too. Before the pandemic, we had been exploring replication of the Uniform Exchange in other locations. The work we have done with Luton Learning Link has fast tracked that work by giving us the connections and knowledge we need to grow our work in the rest of the county. Next year we want to:

- Intensify our work in Luton. We want to provide 5000 children with the opportunities and items they need for learning every year.
- Empower young people to influence their communities on child poverty issues and launch a training centre teaching schools on the inclusion of poorer pupils.
- Replicate the Uniform Exchange in one more Bedfordshire location, and grow the work of Luton Learning Link across Bedfordshire.

In order to achieve this we need to recruit more operational staff to run our current projects, freeing up the time of existing experienced staff to pursue these goals and diversify our income streams.

13. Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare the financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

Image: Delivering laptops to local schools



- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

14. Independent examiner

We are very grateful to Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE who has undertaken our Independent Examination this year.

15. Trustees report signed on behalf of the trustees:

Mr Francis Benedict Steer, Chair



10 Jun 2021
Date:

Mrs Suzanne Spicer, Treasurer



10 Jun 2021
Date:

Image: Learning as a family with SMASH



Partners and Funders

We want to extend a huge thank you to all our project partners, schools and funders without whom, our work would not be possible. We are very grateful for your time, money, venues, vehicles, skills and ideas.

16. Strategic partnerships

We are delighted to have continued our work with End Child Poverty and Child Poverty Action Group, learning from their Cost of the School Day Work. We were delighted to have them come and share their findings at our annual conference and support their efforts to cut the costs children are required to pay towards learning.

17. School partners

Ashcroft High School
Beech Hill Primary School
Beechwood Primary School
Bramingham Primary School
Bushmead Primary School
Cardinal Newman High School
Chalk Hill Academy
Challney High School for Boys
Chantry Primary Academy
Cheynes Infant School
Crawley Green Infant School
Dallow Primary School
Denbigh High School
Denbigh Primary School
Downside Primary School
Farley Junior School
Ferrars Academy
Ferrars Junior School

Foxdell Infant School
Foxdell Junior School
Grasmere Nursery
Hillborough Infant School
Hillborough Junior School
Icknield High School
Lea Manor High School
Lealands High School
Maidenhall Primary School
Norton Road Primary School
Pirton Hill Primary School
Putteridge High School
Putteridge Primary School
Ramridge Primary School
Riverbank Primary School
Sacred Heart Primary School
Somerles Infant School
Somerles Junior School

Southfield Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School
St Margarets Primary School
St Matthews Primary School
Stockwood Park Academy
Stopsley Primary School
Sundon Park Junior School
Surrey Street Primary School
Tennyson Road Primary School
The Meads Primary School
Warden Hill Infant School
Warden Hill Junior School
Waulud Primary School
Wenlock C of E Junior School
Whipperley Infant School
Whitefield Primary School
William Austin Infant School
William Austin Junior School

18. Project partners



Luton

team
BEDSLUTON
activity for life...



NEXT GENERATION
YOUTH THEATRE



University of
Bedfordshire

LUTON
COUNCIL OF
MOSQUES



19. Corporate and community partners



20. Funders



Financial Report

Accounts

21. Management accounts

	Restricted						Unrestricted	Total 2020	2019
	I Love Learning	Learning Fund	Overheads	SMASH	Uniform Exchange	Luton Learning Link	Unrestricted		
Incoming Resources									
Unrestricted Income	-	-	-	-	6,333	-	8,617	14,950	5,141
Grants and Trusts	45,452	15,000	25,520	33,473	61,546	30,900	-	211,891	139,474
Fundraising Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	423	423	17,902
Other Fundraising	8,821	39,599	-	-	5,875	904	9,517	64,716	5,942
Regular Donors	19	-	-	-	-	-	8,021	8,040	8,842
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,816	1,816	563
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	333	333	256
Corporate Partners	3,456	-	-	-	-	13,000	-	16,456	6,239
Total	57,748	54,599	25,520	33,473	73,754	44,804	28,727	318,625	184,359
Resources expended									
Rent	-	-	500	-	12,096	-	-	12,596	13,127
Rates and Utilities	-	-	149	-	1,437	-	-	1,586	1,798
Learn at Home Packs	16,978	-	-	51	-	-	-	17,029	8,588
Conference Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,499
School Uniform	27	-	-	-	1,468	-	-	1,495	3,157
Laundry	-	-	-	-	2,070	-	-	2,070	3,120
Equipment	14	-	276	117	1,940	794	-	3,141	6,456
Project Costs	53	24,306	75	9,276	1,069	26,276	2	61,057	21,076
Shoes	10,162	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,162	25,537
Coats	3,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,018	8,882
Wages and salaries	7,190	3,260	27,399	5,524	24,240	-	-	67,613	88,991
Employer's NI	256	-	1,058	73	720	-	-	2,107	21,376
Pensions	216	-	335	7	452	-	-	1,010	3,493
Advertising & Marketing	-	-	465	-	395	-	-	860	1,415
Audit & Accountancy fees and	-	-	708	-	-	-	-	708	941
Networking	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	176
Bank Fees	-	-	120	-	-	-	4	124	142
Cleaning	-	-	63	-	494	-	-	557	709
Premises Maintenance	-	-	264	-	1,289	-	-	1,553	245
Postage, Freight & Courier	29	385	-	1,328	-	-	-	1,742	572
Office Refreshments	-	-	19	-	4	-	-	23	80
Management Meetings	-	-	36	-	12	-	-	48	118
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	21	50
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	-	45	-	-	45	65
Insurance	-	-	982	-	203	-	-	1,185	1,090
Printing & Stationery	767	110	487	828	157	-	-	2,349	1,032
IT Software and Consumables	13	-	478	14	131	-	-	636	312
Volunteer Training	-	-	66	-	13	-	-	79	143
Staff Training	-	-	552	-	143	-	-	695	1,814
Governance	-	-	188	-	53	-	-	241	321
Telephone & Internet	-	-	655	-	22	-	-	677	455
Staff Travel	65	300	167	167	217	-	-	916	403
Volunteer Travel	-	15	97	293	157	-	-	562	515
Fundraising Expenses	120	-	234	-	-	-	-	354	1,382
Total	38,908	28,376	35,473	17,678	48,827	27,070	27	196,359	219,080
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	18,840	26,223	(9,953)	15,795	24,927	17,734	28,700	122,266	(34,721)
Fund balance b/f 2020	950	-	9,917	12,826	8,109	-	76,713	108,515	143,236
Balance before transfer	19,790	26,223	(36)	28,621	33,036	17,734	105,413	230,781	108,515
Transfer from Unassigned	-	-	13,000	-	9,000	-	(22,000)	-	-
Balance after transfer	19,790	26,223	12,964	28,621	42,036	17,734	83,413	230,781	108,515
Percentage Spend	19.81%	14.45%	18.07%	9.00%	24.87%	13.79%	0.01%	100.00%	

22. Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 Total funds	2019 Prior year funds
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Unrestricted Income	8,617	6,333	14,950	5,141
Grants and Trusts	-	211,891	211,891	139,474
Fundraising Events	423	-	423	17,902
Other Fundraising	9,517	55,199	64,716	5,942
Regular Donors	8,021	19	8,040	8,842
Gift Aid	1,816	-	1,816	563
Bank Interest	333	-	333	256
Corporate Partners	-	16,456	16,456	6,239
Total	28,727	289,898	318,625	184,359
Resources expended				
Rent	-	12,596	12,596	13,127
Rates and Utilities	-	1,586	1,586	1,798
Learn at Home Packs	-	17,029	17,029	8,588
Conference Costs	-	-	-	1,499
School Uniform	-	1,495	1,495	3,157
Laundry	-	2,070	2,070	3,120
Equipment	-	3,141	3,141	6,456
Project Costs	2	61,055	61,057	21,076
Shoes	-	10,162	10,162	25,537
Coats	-	3,018	3,018	8,882
Wages and salaries	-	67,613	67,613	88,991
Employer's NI	-	2,107	2,107	21,376
Pensions	-	1,010	1,010	3,493
Advertising & Marketing	-	860	860	1,415
Audit & Accountancy fees and website	-	708	708	941
Networking	-	100	100	176
Bank Fees	4	120	124	142
Cleaning	-	557	557	709
Premises Maintenance	-	1,553	1,553	245
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	1,742	1,742	572
Office Refreshments	-	23	23	80
Management Meetings	-	48	48	118
General Expenses	21	-	21	50
Volunteer Expenses	-	45	45	65
Insurance	-	1,185	1,185	1,090
Printing & Stationery	-	2,349	2,349	1,032
IT Software and Consumables	-	636	636	312
Volunteer Training	-	79	79	143
Staff Training	-	695	695	1,814
Governance	-	241	241	321
Telephone & Internet	-	677	677	455
Staff Travel	-	916	916	403
Volunteer Travel	-	562	562	515
Fundraising Expenses	-	354	354	1,382
Total	27	196,332	196,359	219,080
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	28,700	93,566	122,266	(34,721)
Fund balance b/f 2020	76,713	31,802	108,515	143,236
Balance before transfer	105,413	125,368	230,781	108,515
Transfer from Unrestricted	(22,000)	22,000	-	-
Balance after transfer	83,413	147,368	230,781	108,515

23. Balance sheet

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Intangible assets	9,030	-	9,030	-
	9,030	-	9,030	-
Current assets				
Debtors	3,529	-	3,529	-
Cash at bank and in hand	78,298	147,368	225,666	113,656
	81,827	147,368	229,195	113,656
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(7,444)	-	(7,444)	(5,141)
Net current assets	74,383	147,368	221,751	108,515
Net assets	83,413	147,368	230,781	108,515
Funds of the Charity				
Restricted funds	-	147,368	147,368	31,802
Unrestricted funds	83,413	-	83,413	76,713
Total Funds	83,413	147,368	230,781	108,515

24. Signed on behalf of the trustees

Mr Francis Benedict Steer, Chair  10 Jun 2021
Date:

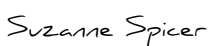
Mrs Suzanne Spicer, Treasurer  10 Jun 2021
Date:

Image: Volunteers from Luton Town Football Club supporting in the Uniform Exchange



Notes to the Accounts

25. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

There have been no changes of accounting policy, changes to accounting estimates or material prior year errors.

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Interest Income

This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative amortisation and any accumulative impairment losses. These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors, prepayments and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

26. Employee costs

	2020	2019
Salaries and wages	67,613	102,153
Social security costs	2,107	8,213
Pension costs	1,010	3,493
Total	70,730	113,859

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,00.

Pension contributions are allocated to activities or overheads, on the basis of which activity the employee works on.

This year our salary costs represented 36% of our expenditure compared with 52% the year before. We had an average of four staff working on charitable activities compared with five the year before.

27. Intangible fixed assets

Website development costs:

Cost

Additions	9,030
At 31 August 2020	9,030

Amortisation

At 31 August 2020	-
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Net book value

At 31 August 2020	9,030
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Website development costs are being written off in equal annual instalments over its estimated economic life of 3 years.

28. Debtors

Debtors	2020	2019
	£	£
Other debtors	3,529	-

29. Creditors

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,444	5,141

30. Charity funds

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/08/2020 £
I Love Learning	950	57,748	(38,908)	-	19,790
Learning fund	-	54,599	(28,376)	-	26,223
Overheads	9,917	25,520	(35,473)	13,000	12,964
SMASH	12,826	33,473	(17,678)	-	28,621
Uniform Exchange	8,109	73,754	(48,827)	9,000	42,036
Luton Learning Link	-	44,804	(27,070)	-	17,734
Unrestricted	76,713	28,727	(27)	(22,000)	83,413
Total	108,515	318,625	(196,359)	-	230,781

Fund Name	b/f 01/09/2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	c/f 31/8/2019 £
I Love Learning	19,246	46,722	(68,018)	3,000	950
Learning fund	-	-	-	-	-
SMASH	3,745	34,394	(25,313)	-	12,826
Overheads	52,224	-	(57,307)	15,000	9,917
Uniform Exchange	10,713	65,822	(68,426)	-	8,109
Luton Learning Link	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted	57,308	37,421	(16)	(18,000)	76,713
Total	143,236	184,359	(219,080)	-	108,515

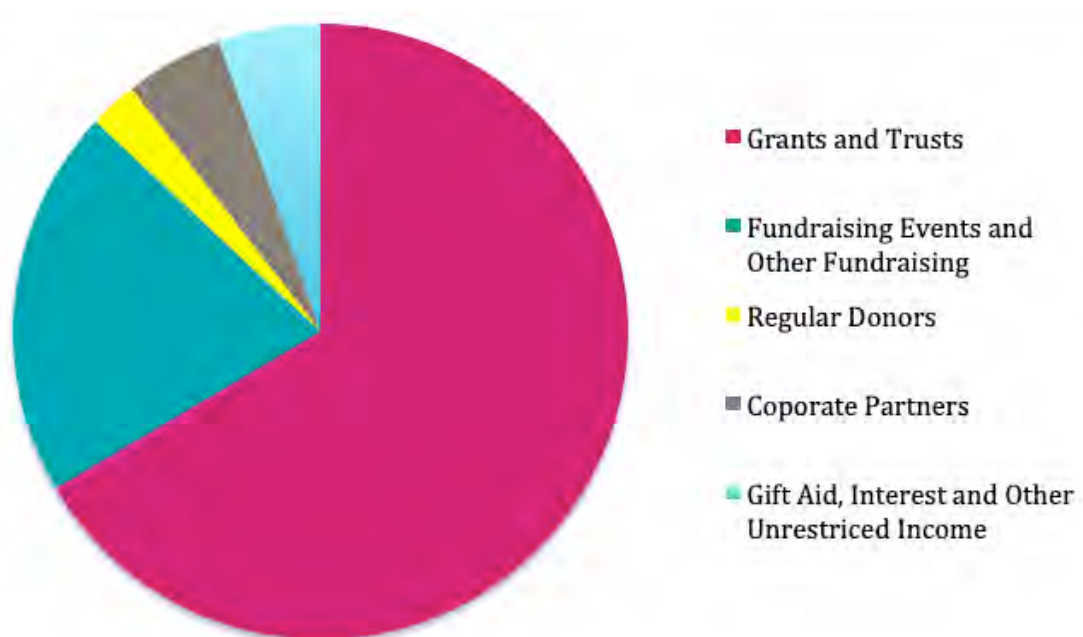
Fund Name	Type	Purpose
I Love Learning	Restricted	Learn at Home Packs, Coats and Shoes
Learning fund	Restricted	Learning Resource, equipment, clothing and opportunities
Overheads	Restricted	Overheads
SMASH	Restricted	School holiday Learning Programmes
Uniform Exchange	Restricted	Providing Uniforms
Luton Learning Link	Restricted	Laptops and computers for learning
Unrestricted	Unrestricted	No Restrictions

Transfers from unrestricted funds to restricted funds are made to fund specific projects where restricted funds raised are not sufficient to cover the project costs.

31. Analysis of overhead costs to project cost balance

This year our overhead costs represented 18% of our expenditure compared with 26% the year before.

32. Income analysis



33. Income from grants and trusts

Funding Body	Restricted to	Amount
BBC Children In Need	SMASH	£33,473
Bedfordshire Coronavirus Emergency Fund Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation	Luton Learning Link	£18,500
Bedfordshire Coronavirus Emergency Fund Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation	Emergency Home School Project	£7,500
The Connolly Foundation	I Love Learning	£25,000
Crimebeat Bedfordshire	Luton Learning Link	£12,400
Gale Family Charity Trust	Core Costs	£3,000
London Luton Airport Ltd Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation	I Love Learning	£7,952
London Luton Airport Ltd Community Investment Fund Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation	Core Costs	£21,520
The National Lottery Community Fund	Uniform Exchange	£35,952
The National Lottery Community Fund Cov- id-19 Response	Emergency Home School Fund and Uniform Exchange	£16,094
Sage Publishing	Uniform Exchange	£2,000
The Steel Charitable Trust	Uniform Exchange	£15,000
The Swire Charitable Trust	I Love Learning	£12,500
The Neighbourly Community Fund	Core Costs	£500
The Woodroffe Benton Foundation	Core Costs	£500
TOTAL		£211,891

Image: Donations from our local Tesco



34. Accounts approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Francis Benedict Steer, Chair


.....

10 Jun 2021
Date:

Mrs Suzanne Spicer, Treasurer

Suzanne Spicer
.....

10 Jun 2021
Date:

Independent Examiners Report

Year ended 31st August 2020

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Level Trust (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA and ACIE, both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Mr J P Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net

39 Enfield Road, Poole, BH15 3LJ

Signed by independent examiners

Name..... **Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE**

Signature..... 

Date: **10 June 2021**