

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1180793

Details

Other names	NNECL
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2018-11-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Clarence Centre For Enterprise
at South Bank University
6 St. Georges Circus
Elephant and Castle
London
SE1 6FE

Phone 07952817874

Email info@nnecl.org

Website <http://www.nnecl.org>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE IN, OR HAVE SPENT SOME OR ALL OF THEIR CHILDHOOD IN, PUBLIC CARE BY:-4.1. PROVIDING ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT AND OTHER SERVICES IN ORDER THAT SUCH PEOPLE MAY FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL AS INDIVIDUALS;4.2. ADVANCING THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND THE MEDIA BY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON THE ISSUES AFFECTING THE WELFARE OF PEOPLE IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS WITH THE OBJECT OF REDUCING NEGATIVE STEREOTYPING AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION;4.3. ENCOURAGING THE IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES FOR CARE LEAVERS AND THOSE STILL IN CARE IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM THE PROGRESSION OF THOSE WITH EXPERIENCE OF BEING IN CARE INTO AND THROUGH FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION SO THAT THEY THRIVE THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES AND CAREERS.

Activities: The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) is a community of professionals working together to transform the progression of care-experienced young people into and

through further and higher education. NNECL provides advice, guidance and support to those who are working with care-experienced young people and care leavers to encourage the improvement of services for care leavers

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£146,999	£122,343	-	-
2024-07-31	£104,871	£81,444	-	-
2023-07-31	£50,719	£89,305	-	-
2022-07-31	£75,708	£80,897	-	-
2021-07-31	£93,732	£82,799	-	-
2020-07-31	£122,540	£64,209	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jonathan James Wakeford	Chair	2023-07-06
Alan Mollison Benvie		2022-06-01
Dr NEIL HARRISON		2019-01-29
Emma Watson		2020-05-06
Michael Hill		2020-05-06
Mx ARRON ANDREW JEROME PILE		2018-11-22
Nicola Lavon Turner		2022-06-01

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1180793

Accounts

Annual Report & Accounts

1 August 2024 – 31 July 2025

2024-25



**National Network for the Education of Care
Leavers**

Charity no 1180793

nnecl.org

Prepared by
AJC Accountancy

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Report and accounts

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NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Mx AAJ Pile

Dr R Carr (Resigned 18 May 2025)

Mr Jonathan Wakeford

Ms S Sabapathy (Resigned 21 April 2026)

Dr N Harrison

Ms N Turner

Ms E Watson

Mr M Hill

Mr A Benvie

NNECL Director

Ms D Rawls

Accountant and Independent Examiner

Alison Cook FCA

AJC Accountancy

Unit 40 Thrales End Business Centre

Thrales End Lane

Harpenden

Herts AL5 3NS

Registered office

The Clarence Centre

6 St Georges Circus

London

SE1 6HS

Charity Number

1180793

Report of the Trustees

The trustees present their report and audited financial statements for the twelve months ended 31 July 2025. The financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in our Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities, Charities SORP (FRS102).

The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers was registered with the Charities Commission on 22 November 2018.

Structure, governance and management

The Board of Trustees met on four occasions in 2024/25 and continued to operate effectively and in line with its Terms of Reference. In addition, the Co-Chairs meet weekly with the Executive Director as part of their remit to focus on finance, audit and risk, human resources and staff wellbeing and programmes and activity. These meetings are an opportunity to also focus on key areas of organisational risk, strategy and assurance. Trustees are recruited by the Board of Trustees. The selection is based on integrity and specific expertise required by the charity.

The Co-Chairs and the Executive Director are responsible for the trustee induction process. New trustees are provided with induction materials and induction sessions take place with the Executive Director. Trustees receive continuous engagement with relevant staff on governance matters and are offered training opportunities to enhance their skills and effectiveness. Trustees serve for a maximum of three terms, with each term consisting of three years.

Our Board of Trustees continues to embrace the Charity Governance Code and review the charities policy and practice against it aligned to the Charity Commission guidelines.

Organisational structure and staffing

The trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction and policies of the organisation. Our Executive Director reports to the Board of Trustees and is responsible for the day-to-day management of NNECL and the implementation of strategy and policies. The NNECL team report directly to the Executive Director.

Key management remuneration policy

The trustees consider our Board of Trustees and our Executive Director as comprising the key management personnel of the charity, in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The trustees receive no remuneration.

Objectives and activities

Vision

Our vision is a nation where learners with care experience are empowered and supported to achieve their full educational potential.

Mission

Our mission is to create educational environments where people with care experience thrive.

Charitable objectives

The object of the charity is to transform the progression of young people with care backgrounds into and through further and higher education, including higher apprenticeships, so they can reach their full potential.

Since 2018, NNECL has supported, connected, inspired, and empowered a national community of 800 professionals and organisations who share our ambition: for more care experienced young people to consider, access, and thrive through further and higher education, into fulfilling careers which will sustain them for life.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The organisations activities, which include a quality assurance programme, consultancy, training, research and sector leadership all provide public benefits. Public benefit is also demonstrated throughout this report.

Our work

It is widely recognised young people with experience of being in care achieve lower educational outcomes than their peers without care experience. We believe all young people should have the opportunity to start adulthood with a good education, leading them to a good career which will sustain them for life. With data telling us 15% of care leavers enter post-16 education by the age of 19, three times less than their peers, our work supports, connects, inspires and empowers our community, with whom we share our overarching ambition, for more young people with care experience to consider, access and flourish through further and higher education into fulfilling careers and financially secure lives.

Our strategic objectives focus our work;

- **Inform** Contributing to the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, research and useful information about care experienced learners
- **Connect** Providing networking opportunities for member organisations and engagement with key stakeholders
- **Support** Supporting and developing evidence-based effective practice
- **Champion** Championing the work of our member organisations through advocacy and communications
- **Sustain** Ensuring the future sustainability of our organisation

Our values shape our organisation and everything we do. **Equality** We are working for a fair society which is inclusive and celebrates diversity. **Initiative** We seek out effective educational practices and create opportunities. **Collaboration** We achieve more by working together to build relationships and provide personalised support. **Making a difference** We produce useful, evidence-based work which contributes to systemic change.

This year's impact

Between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025, NNECL experienced a year of strategic growth, national influence, and growing momentum for the Quality Mark.

In response to rising demand, we expanded our team and strengthened partnerships across the sector. Having outgrown our existing digital infrastructure, we began planning a major transformation to migrate our website and CRM to new platforms, ensuring we can scale sustainably. The NNECL Quality Mark gained significant traction, reaching 50 accredited institutions by July 2025 on the way to our 2027 target of 100. We also began onboarding colleges and universities in Greater Manchester, supporting the Combined Authority's ambition to have all post-16 institutions accredited.

Our national influence continued to grow. We responded to the London Assembly Call for Evidence on care leavers not in education, employment or training and welcomed the publication of *Careers after care*, which recommended adoption of the NNECL Quality Mark. In June 2025, we gave evidence to the Education Select Committee on further education, young people with SEN, and those who are NEET. Alongside this policy work, we shared sector insight at major events, including the TASO Conference, Aim Highers' Belonging event, and the HEAT Conference in Newcastle, keeping the voices and experiences of care-experienced learners at the heart of national discussions.

In June 2025, we joined the Big Give Small Charity Week campaign, which doubled public donations to our cause. As part of the initiative, our *Walk for NNECL* campaign "walked" from our London office to our furthest member, Queen's University Belfast, raising over £5,000 of unrestricted funds to directly support our work.

We also launched the exploratory phase of our Inspire programme to better understand care-experienced young people's journeys into post-16 education. A care-experienced student joined the project to help lead the work, ensuring lived experience remained central and guiding how we can best support young people to progress and succeed in education.

NNECL Quality Mark

The NNECL Quality Mark continues to gain momentum and national recognition. By the end of July 2025, we had reached 50 accredited institutions, putting us on track to achieve our target of 100 by July 2027. In Greater Manchester, the first cohort of colleges - Bury College, Hopwood Hall College, Oldham Sixth Form College, St John Rigby College, Wigan and Leigh College, and Xaverian College - were successfully awarded the Quality Mark, marking a key milestone in the Combined Authority's ambition to ensure all post-16 institutions provide strong support for care-experienced learners. In Autumn 2024, with support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, we commissioned The Lines Between to carry out an independent evaluation of the Quality Mark.

Published in February 2025 and launched on Care Day, the report found that the programme is driving real change across institutional culture, policy, and practice in further and higher education. All 12 participating institutions reported that the Quality Mark provides value for money and delivers tangible improvements, including increased staff awareness, stronger cross-departmental advocacy, and enhanced post-entry support for care-experienced students.

While national progression data is still limited, participants consistently highlighted a positive link between Quality Mark engagement and better educational outcomes. The report also includes expert insight from Professor Neil Harrison of University of Exeter, emphasising current participation trends and the urgent need for systemic change. In response, NNECL has renewed its call for the government to make the Quality Mark mandatory across all post-16 education settings, to accelerate progress for care-experienced young people across the UK.

Inspire

Assessments of the NNECL Quality Mark and member feedback show that trusted adults often have low educational expectations, while foster carers report limited awareness of opportunities for young people in care. In 2025, with support from The Allen Lane Foundation, The Haberdashers'

Company, and United St Saviour's Charity, we launched the exploratory phase of our Inspire programme to investigate what is missing from care-experienced young people's journeys into post-16 education.

Research shows that 60% of care leavers receive no information about going to university. Our 2017 *Moving On Up* report with UCAS, drawing on the experiences of over 200 care-experienced students, highlighted the benefits of early awareness and support.

A care-experienced student joined the Inspire project as a paid ambassador, helping to lead the work and ensuring lived experience remained at its heart. Over the year, Inspire has begun to uncover persistent gaps and identify practical actions not just for education professionals and leaving care teams, but for all trusted adults in care-experienced young people's lives. These actions aim to strengthen progression, support sustained success, and ensure young people receive the guidance and opportunities they need. Findings from this work will be published in Spring 2026, providing actionable recommendations for trusted adults, colleges, universities, leaving care teams, and the wider sector.

Road to policy change

Throughout 2024/25, NNECL continued to drive national policy change to improve outcomes for care-experienced and estranged students. In December 2024, the Social Market Foundation published *Invest in higher education for care-experienced and estranged students*, and NNECL played an active role in the follow-up roundtable in January 2025. The event brought together key stakeholders, including Janet Daby, Minister for Children and Families, giving NNECL the opportunity to champion practical recommendations: expanding evidence-led good practice, improving data collection, embedding care experience and estrangement in access and participation plans (APPs), and encouraging institutions to adopt the NNECL Quality Mark.

We also responded to the London Assembly Call for Evidence on care leavers not in education, employment or training, contributing to the May 2025 *Careers after care* report. The report recommended that the London Mayor work with London's public universities to create a clear support offer for care-experienced students, either through a London-specific programme developed with NNECL or via adoption of the NNECL Quality Mark, with progress monitored against withdrawal rates.

In June 2025, NNECL gave evidence to the Education Select Committee on challenges affecting further education students, young people with special educational needs, or those who are not in employment, education or training. The Committee is set to draft its report over the summer recess, with publication expected in September or October 2025. These engagements further cement NNECL's position as a leading voice for care-experienced learners, helping shape systemic change and promote evidence-based support across education.

Webinars 1 August 2024 – 31 July 2025

Over the year, more than 500 practitioners joined our webinars, designed to support colleges and universities in strengthening their work with care-experienced and estranged students. Among the most popular sessions were *Supporting Care Leavers and Estranged Learners to Build Social Capital* and *The Impact of Trauma on Learning*, sparking rich discussion and practical insights. By equipping the sector with knowledge and tools, NNECL enables members to take learning back into their institutions, directly improving support for care leavers. A highlight of the year was our webinar on the Care Leavers Civil Service Internship Scheme, which resulted in an attendee securing a place on the programme.

Volunteers

NNECL hugely values the contribution of our volunteers, who play a vital role through the National Strategy Group and our network of regional representatives. In 2024/25, we are particularly grateful

to volunteers who supported us with graphic design and helped increase our social media visibility, ensuring our work reaches more practitioners, students, and partners across the sector. Their dedication strengthens everything we do and helps amplify the voices of care-experienced young people.

Financial Review

NNECL's work is funded through membership, training, consultancy, Quality Mark assessments, donations, and grants. While government holds statutory responsibility for improving educational outcomes for care-experienced young people, progress at the current pace would take 100 years to achieve parity. We believe young people with care or estranged backgrounds should not be further disadvantaged by this slow pace. This is why NNECL relies on the support of funders to accelerate change - delivering innovative programmes, strengthening sector practice, and making an impact at scale and at speed to improve opportunities and outcomes for care-experienced learners.

We are grateful to our funders for their continued support, which allows us to expand our reach, deliver key programmes, and strengthen financial stability. In particular, we thank the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for their ongoing three-year grant, supporting core costs and long-term strategic objectives. Generous support from The Allen Lane Foundation, The Haberdashers' Company, and United St Saviour's Charity has helped fund our Inspire programme and strengthen post-16 support for care-experienced and estranged students.

Every pound we receive enables NNECL to deliver transformative programmes such as the Quality Mark and Inspire, directly improving opportunities and outcomes for care-experienced learners across the UK.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to four month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. The reserves policy will be reviewed as part of the strategic review undertaken by the incoming Executive Director.

Current free reserves

Free reserves totalled £37,149 as at 31st July 2025.

Risks

NNECL maintains a risk register which is regularly updated and reviewed at Board meetings. The Trustees have accessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure.

Signed:



NNECL Treasurer

20th May 2026

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of National Network for the Education of care Leavers (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

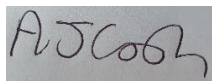
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but which has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Alison Cook FCA

Chartered Accountant

Unit 40
Thales End Business Centre
Thrales End Lane
Harpenden Herts
AL5 3NS

21 May 2026

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Statement of financial activities
including income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 July 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	3	95,237	26,000	121,237	81,264	-	81,264
Charitable activities	4	15,885		15,885	3,000		3,000
Other income	5	9,877	-	9,877	20,607		20,607
Total income		<u>120,999</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>146,999</u>	<u>104,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104,871</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Raising funds	6	320	0	320	100		100
Charitable activities	7	<u>108,631</u>	<u>13,391</u>	<u>122,022</u>	<u>81,344</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,344</u>
Total resources		<u>108,951</u>	<u>13,391</u>	<u>122,342</u>	<u>81,444</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,444</u>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		12,048	12,609	24,657	23,427	-	23,427
Opening fund balances		25,101	22,125	47,226	1,674	22,125	23,799
Closing fund balances		<u>37,149</u>	<u>34,734</u>	<u>71,883</u>	<u>25,101</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>47,226</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derived from continuing activities.

**Balance Sheet
as at 31 July 2025**

	Notes	2025 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	11	63
Current assets		
Debtors	12	410
Cash at bank and in hand		91,152
		<u>91,562</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(19,742)
Net current assets		<u>71,820</u>
Net assets		<u>71,883</u>
Income Funds		
Restricted Funds		34,734
Unrestricted Funds		37,149
		<u>71,883</u>

Signed: Emma Watson



NNECL Treasurer
Approved by the Trustees on 20th May 2026

Signed: Jon Wakeford



NNECL Co-Chair
20th May 2026

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity Information

National Network for the Education of Care Leavers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provision in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2025 (cont.)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure

A liability is recognised when either a constructive or legal obligation is identified. Central costs are apportioned between costs of generating funds and charitable activities on the basis of the specific activities of members of staff. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the same expenditure heading as the cost to which it relates. Basic financial liabilities are recognised at transaction cost.

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:

Plant and equipment	over 3 years
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Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 "Basic Financial Instruments" and Section 12 "Other Financial Instruments Issues" of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2025 (cont.)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	55,425	26,000	81,425
Donations	3,051		3,051
Membership fees	54,900		54,900
Less: deferred income	-18,139		-18,139
	<u>95,237</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>121,237</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	41,000	-	41,000
Donations	5,000		5,000
Membership fees	52,045		52,045
Less: deferred income	-16,781		-16,781
	<u>81,264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,264</u>

Grants receivable for core activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	50,425	41,000
Albert Hunt Trust	5,000	-
	<u>55,425</u>	<u>41,000</u>

4 Charitable activities - income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Quality Mark Fees	15,885	3,000
	<u>15,885</u>	<u>3,000</u>

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	2024
	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Conference & Webinar Income	8,083	-	20,399
Other income	1,716	0	208
Interest income	78		
	<u>9,877</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,607</u>

6 Raising funds	Unrestricted funds	
	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>	320	100
Other fundraising costs		
	<u>320</u>	<u>100</u>
7 Charitable activities - expenditure	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs (unrestricted)	78,881	67,588
Staff costs (restricted)	11,591	-
Depreciation	63	63
Consultancy costs	8,378	300
Conference costs	-	1,702
Website and internet costs	5,206	3,734
Printing, postage and stationery	135	-
Telephone	107	213
Other staff costs	7,492	2,938
Quality Mark expenditure (restricted)	1,800	1,600
Subcontractor	3,880	-
Sundry expenses	1,255	200
	<u>118,788</u>	<u>78,338</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,904	1,806
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,330	1,200
	<u>122,022</u>	<u>81,344</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	108,631	81,344
Restricted funds	13,391	-
	<u>122,022</u>	<u>81,344</u>
8 Support costs	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>Support</u>		
Insurance	939	907
IT Subscriptions	965	899
	<u>1,904</u>	<u>1,806</u>
<u>Governance</u>		
Independent Examiner fees	1,230	1,140
Trustee travel	-	-
Bank charges	100	60
	<u>1,330</u>	<u>1,200</u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Average monthly number of employees during the year was:	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	2025	2024
	£	£
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	86,971	63,945
Pension costs	3,551	3,644
	<u>90,472</u>	<u>67,589</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery etc £
Cost	
At 1 August 2024	189
Purchases	<u>-</u>
At 31 July 2025	<u>189</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 August 2024	63
Charge for the year	<u>63</u>
At 31 July 2025	<u>126</u>
Net book value	
At 31 July 2025	<u>63</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>126</u>

12 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>410</u>	<u>410</u>
	<u>410</u>	<u>410</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income	18,139	16,781
Accruals	<u>1,603</u>	<u>1,513</u>
	<u>19,742</u>	<u>18,294</u>

14 Deferred income		2025	2024
		£	£
Other deferred income		<u>18,139</u>	<u>16,871</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2025 are represented by:		-	-
Tangible Assets	63		63
Current assets / (liabilities)	37,086	34,734	71,820
	<u>37,149</u>	<u>34,734</u>	<u>71,883</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible Assets	126		126
Current assets / (liabilities)	24,975	22,125	47,100
	<u>25,101</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>47,226</u>

16 Related party transactions

No trustees received reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses (2024: Nil)

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1180793

Accounts



NNECL

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

2023-24

1 August 2023 - 31 Jul 2024



Prepared by

AJC Accountancy

www.nnecl.com

**NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE
LEAVERS CIO**

Accounts

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Report and accounts

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NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Mx AAJ Pile – Co-Chair

Dr R Carr

Mr Jonathan Wakeford - Co-Chair

Ms S Sabapathy

Dr N Harrison

Ms N Turner

Ms E Watson – Treasurer

Mr M Hill

Mr A Benvie

NNECL Director

Ms P Ambrose until July 2023

Ms D Rawls from October 2023

Accountant and Independent Examiner

Alison Cook FCA AJC

Accountancy

Unit 40, Thrales End Business Centre

Thrales End Lane

Harpenden Herts AL5 3NS

Registered office

The Clarence Centre for Enterprise and Innovation

6 St Georges Circus

Elephant and Castle London

SE1 6FE

Charity Number

1180793

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st July 2024.

We are grateful to Sian Edwards for expertly transitioning the organisation after the departure of Patricia Ambrose who stood down at the end of July 2023. We welcomed our new Executive Director, Denise Rawls, in October 2023 to lead NNECL to new heights and successfully deliver the next steps of NNECL's growth.

The trustees present their report and audited financial statements for the twelve months ended 31 July 2024. The financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in our Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities, Charities SORP (FRS102).

The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers was registered with the Charities Commission on 22 November 2018.

Structure, governance and management

The Board of Trustees met on four occasions in 2023/24 and continued to operate effectively and in line with its Terms of Reference. In addition, the Co-Chairs meet weekly with the Executive Director as part of their remit to focus on finance, audit and risk, human resources and staff wellbeing and programmes and activity. These meetings are an opportunity to also focus on key areas of organisational risk, strategy and assurance. Trustees are recruited by the Board of Trustees. The selection is based on integrity and specific expertise required by the charity.

The Co-Chairs and the Executive Director are responsible for the trustee induction process. New trustees are provided with induction materials and induction sessions take place with the ED. Trustees receive continuous engagement with relevant staff on governance matters and are offered training opportunities to enhance their skills and effectiveness. Trustees serve for a maximum of three terms, with each term consisting of three years.

Our Board of Trustees continues to embrace the Charity Governance Code and review the charities policy and practice against it aligned to the Charity Commission guidelines.

Organisational structure and staffing

The trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction and policies of the organisation. Our Executive Director reports to the Board of Trustees and is responsible for the day-to-day management of NNECL and the implementation of strategy and policies. The NNECL team report directly to the Executive Director.

Key management remuneration policy

The trustees consider our Board of Trustees and our ED as comprising the key management personnel of the charity, in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The trustees receive no remuneration.

Objectives and activities

Vision

Our vision is a nation where learners with care experience are empowered and supported to achieve their full educational potential.

Mission

Our mission is to create educational environments where people with care experience thrive.

Charitable objectives

The object of the charity is to transform the progression of young people with care backgrounds into and through further and higher education, including higher apprenticeships, so they can reach their full potential.

Since 2018, NNECL has supported, connected, inspired, and empowered a national community of 800 professionals and organisations who share our ambition: for more care experienced young people to consider, access, and thrive through further and higher education, into fulfilling careers which will sustain them for life.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The organisations activities, which include a quality assurance programme, consultancy, training, research and sector leadership all provide public benefits. Public benefit is also demonstrated throughout this report.

Our work

It is widely recognised that young people with experience of being in care achieve lower educational outcomes than their peers without care experience. We believe all young people should have the opportunity to start adulthood with a good education, leading them to a good career which will sustain them for life. With data telling us 14% of care leavers enter post-16 education by the age of 19, three times less than their peers, our work supports, connects, inspires and empowers our community, with whom we share our overarching ambition, for more young people with care experience to consider, access and flourish through further and higher education into fulfilling careers and financially secure lives.

Our strategic objectives focus our work;

Inform

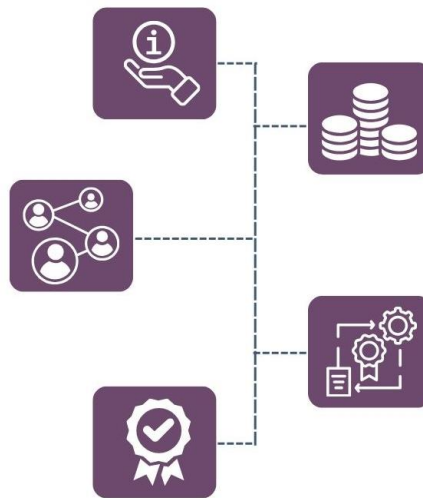
Contributing to the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, research and useful information about care experienced learners

Connect

Providing networking opportunities for member organisations and engagement with key stakeholders

Champion

Championing the work of our member organisations through advocacy and communications



Sustain

Ensuring the future sustainability of our organisation

Support

Supporting and developing evidence-based effective practice

Our values shape our organisation and everything we do.

1

Equality

We are working for a fair society which is inclusive and celebrates diversity.

2

Initiative

We seek out effective educational practices and create opportunities.

3

Collaboration

We achieve more by working together to build relationships and provide personalised support

4

Making a difference

We produce useful, evidence-based work which contributes to systemic change.

This year's impact

<p>2023/24 was a year of many great achievements</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>In January 2023 we launched our Student Voice Network to give students with care backgrounds the opportunity to comment on and feed into our work. The online space has continued to grow with young people welcoming the dedicated space to discuss emerging themes and share their own experiences in a safe space.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>We introduced a new logo, brand colours and completed a website refresh to increase to support our work increasing the visibility of our organisation. We are grateful to the volunteers who worked with us to design the new logo, bringing a fresh new feel to the organisation. To be ready for growth we undertook a review of our IT security and online capacity and reached the decision that we would invest in our digital landscape and readiness for the future. We are confident the team are now in the best place to work well remotely with the necessary digital security to safeguard the organisation from external online risks.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Stand Alone, the charity focused on supporting estranged young people, sadly closed in March 2024. This left a gap in where learners could access information about the support available to them when studying post 16. NNECL trustees unanimously agreed to weave the estranged experience into the Quality Mark framework and to incorporate supporting estranged students into the work of the charity as the experience intersects closely with those from a formal care background.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>In March 2024 we moved our registered address to The Clarence Centre for Innovation and Enterprise at London South Bank University. We took the decision to become a remote first organisation with the team coming together monthly at the university's workspace to build cross-team relationships as well as relationships within the community in Southwark.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>To keep up with rising costs and maintain our income levels we agreed to increase both the costs of membership and of doing the NNECL Quality Mark, the increased costs came into effect in April 2024.</p>	<p>✓</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We hosted three member roundtables to inform our 2024 – 2027 strategic strategy • We have created a new Programme Manager role to better support the growth of our Quality Mark • We increased our capacity with the addition by creating a new Operations and Communications Role • We were invited to speak at numerous events across the year including the Voices of Care Experienced People's conference at Brunel University, HE 4 Me at Birmingham University and the Higher Education and Advisors and Teachers (HEAT) Conference, Newcastle University. 	<p>✓</p>

NNECL Quality Mark

NNECL Quality Marks are awarded for three years, the first cohort coming to an end in June

2024. We ensured our capacity was sufficient to support and encourage reaccreditation for those members as well as increase the number of institutions being awarded the accreditation. Across the year 6, new Quality Mark awards were made.

Alongside new awards and renewals and following a successful pilot, we worked with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to develop an initiative which will see all the post-16 education spaces in the region the Quality Mark by 2027. The first cohort will begin their accreditation in October 2024.



NNECL Annual Conference – Learning Together

De Monfort University generously hosted our Annual Conference in March 2024. We were joined in Leicester by 137 delegates enthusiastic to deepen their learning on supporting learners with care experience, estranged or sanctuary seeking backgrounds. The event was opened by Ryan Henson, Social Mobility Commissioner and featured presentations from Ellie Rowley (UCAS), the Verbatim Formula, Zara Clench (University of Sunderland) and Dr Zoe Baker (University of York). Our intention is that our next annual conference will take place in London on 10 November 2025.

Road to policy change

NNECL held discussions with the Department for Education to address their proposal of an accreditation scheme for universities to drive up standards for young people with care backgrounds. An unintended consequence of this publicly announced consideration was that NNECL membership and Quality Mark enquires slowed. Institutions told us not knowing if the DfE scheme would be mandatory or how and it would complement NNECL's work was creating a barrier to them joining NNECL. DfE agreed the slowing of NNECL membership was an unintended consequence and that much of the feedback they had received during their discussions with stakeholders was that NNECL were considered to be the experts in this space and should be involved in any proposal they brought forward. A General Election was called before the Ministerial team could inform the sector, they would not be bringing forward an alternative quality assurance programme.

Webinars 1 August 2023 – 31 July 2024

Over the year around 300 people attended our termly webinars curated for members and the wider sector.

- + Supporting students who take a break from their course
- + What should policy makers prioritise for learners with care experience
- + Taking care of yourself so you can take care of others
- + Working in the Civil Service (Care Leavers Internship)

Volunteers

NNECL values the contribution made by volunteers who actively participate in our work through the National Strategy Group and our network of regional representatives and groups. This year we are particularly grateful to the volunteers who supported us with graphic design and increasing our social media visibility.

Financial Review

We are grateful to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for their continued support through a three-year grant, to 2025/26 to support with core costs as we continue to develop our long-term strategic objectives and financial stability. We will announce our 2024 – 2027 strategic objectives early in our next operational year.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to four months' expenditure (approximately £27,150 in 2023/24). The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. The reserves policy will be reviewed as part of the strategic review undertaken by the incoming Executive Director.

Current free reserves

Free reserves on 31 July 2024 were £25,101.

Risks

NNECL maintains a risk register which is regularly updated and reviewed at Board meetings. The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure.



NNECL Treasurer - Emma Watson



NNECL Co-Chair – Jon Wakeford

**NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE
LEAVERS**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of National Network for the Education of care Leavers (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

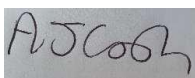
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but which has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Alison Cook FCA Chartered Accountant

Unit 40 Thales End Business Centre
Thrales End Lane Harpenden Herts AL5 3NS

17 April 2025

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Statement of financial activities
including income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 July 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	3	81,264	-	81,264	36,708	350	37,058
Charitable activities	4	3,000	-	3,000	3,489	-	3,489
Other income	5	20,607	-	20,607	10,172	-	10,172
Total income		<u>104,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104,871</u>	<u>50,369</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>50,719</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Raising funds	6	100	0	100	490	-	490
Charitable activities	7	81,344	-	81,344	86,380	2,435	88,815
Total resources		<u>81,444</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,444</u>	<u>86,870</u>	<u>2,435</u>	<u>89,305</u>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		23,427	-	23,427	-36,501	-2,805	-38,586
Opening fund balances		1,674	22,125	23,799	38,175	24,210	62,385
Closing fund balances		<u>25,101</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>47,226</u>	<u>1,674</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>23,799</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	126	-
Current assets			
Debtors	12	410	410
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>64,983</u>	<u>42,549</u>
		65,393	42,959
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	13	(18,294)	(19,160)
Net current assets		<u>47,100</u>	<u>23,799</u>
Net assets		<u>47,226</u>	<u>23,799</u>
Income Funds			
Restricted Funds		22,125	22,125
Unrestricted Funds		25,101	1,674
		<u>47,226</u>	<u>23,799</u>

Trustee
Approved by the Trustees on 17 April 2025

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity Information

National Network for the Education of Care Leavers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provision in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, which is referred to in the Regulations, but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2024 (cont.)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure

A liability is recognised when either a constructive or legal obligation is identified. Central costs are apportioned between costs of generating funds and charitable activities on the basis of the specific activities of members of staff. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the same expenditure heading as the cost to which it relates. Basic financial liabilities are recognised at transaction cost.

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:

Plant and equipment	over 3 years
---------------------	--------------

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 "Basic Financial Instruments" and Section 12 "Other Financial Instruments Issues" of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2024 (cont.)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employees' services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods here the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	41,000	-	41,000
Donations	5,000		5,000
Membership fees	52,045		52,045
Less: deferred income	<u>-16,781</u>		<u>-16,781</u>
	<u>81,264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,264</u>
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	-	350	350
Membership fees	54,414		54,414
Less: deferred income	<u>-17,706</u>		<u>-17,706</u>
	<u>36,708</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>37,058</u>
Grants receivable for core activities		2024	2023
		£	£
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation		41,000	-
		-	-
Esmee Fairbairn training (restricted)		-	350
		<u>41,000</u>	<u>350</u>
4 Charitable activities - income		2024	2023
		£	£
Quality Mark Fees		3,000	3,489
		<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,489</u>
5 Other Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	funds	funds	
	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Conference & Webinar Income	20,399	-	9,716
Other income	208	0	456
	<u>20,607</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,172</u>

6 Raising funds	Unrestricted funds	
	2024	2023
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>	£	£
Other fundraising costs	100	490
	<u>100</u>	<u>490</u>
7 Charitable activities - expenditure	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	67,588	70,460
Depreciation	63	-
Consultancy costs	300	
Conference costs	1,702	5,727
Website and internet costs	3,734	1,501
Printing, postage and stationery	-	117
Telephone	213	213
Other staff costs	2,938	1,185
Quality Mark expenditure	1,600	3,800
Quality Mark expenditure (restricted)	-	2,435
Sundry expenses	200	200
	<u>78,338</u>	<u>85,638</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,806	1,474
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,200	1,704
	<u>81,344</u>	<u>88,816</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	81,344	86,381
Restricted funds	-	2,435
	<u>81,344</u>	<u>88,816</u>
8 Support costs	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>Support</u>		
Insurance	907	768
Subscriptions	899	706
	<u>1,806</u>	<u>1,474</u>
<u>Governance</u>		
Independent Examiner fees	1,140	1,170
Trustee travel	-	474
Bank charges	60	60
	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,704</u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Average monthly number of employees during the year was:	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	63,945	65,730
Pension costs	3,644	4,729
	<u>67,589</u>	<u>70,459</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery etc £
Cost	
At 1 August 2023	0
Purchases	<u>189</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>189</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 August 2023	-
Charge for the year	<u>63</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>63</u>
Net book value	
At 31 July 2024	<u>126</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>-</u>

12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	<u>410</u>	<u>410</u>
	<u>410</u>	<u>410</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income	16,781	17,706
Accruals	<u>1,513</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>18,294</u>	<u>17,706</u>

14 Deferred income		2024	2023
		£	£
Other deferred income		<u>16,871</u>	<u>17,706</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2024 are represented by:		-	-
Tangible Assets	126		126
Current assets / (liabilities)	24,975	22,125	47,100
	<u>25,101</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>47,226</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible Assets	-		-
Current assets / (liabilities)	1,674	22,125	23,799
	<u>1,674</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>23,799</u>

16 Related party transactions

No trustees received reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses (2023: Nil)

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1180793

Accounts



NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Charity Registration No. 1180793

Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023



NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Report and accounts

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NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Mx AAJ Pile

Dr R Carr

Ms A Tilley (to 19 May 2023)

Ms P Khambhaita (to 28 March 2023)

Dr F Dunworth (to 18 April 2023) Dr N Harrison

Mr M Bettencourt (to 30 March 2023) Ms E Watson

Mr M Hill

Mr A Benvie

Dr M Sebele

Ms N Turner

Mr J Wakeford (appointed 6 July 2023)

Mrs S Shomai (appointed 6 July 2023)

Miss S Sabapathy (appointed 6 July 2023)

NECL Director

Ms P Ambrose (to 31 July 2023)

Accountants and Independent Examiner

Alison Cook FCA

AJC Accountancy

Unit 40 Thrales End Business Centre

Thrales End Lane

Harpenden

Herts AL5 3NS

Registered office

Capital House

124-128 City Road

London

EC1V 2NX

Charity Number

1180793

About NNECL

The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) was first established as a volunteer network in June 2013 by higher education institutions and national organisations committed to the progression and support of care experienced students in further and higher education. Working together we aim to transform the opportunities available by championing the continuous improvement of local practice, multi-agency partnerships and national collaboration.

The National Strategy Group (NSG) forms a link between educational providers, their networks and national organisations and agencies. It includes nominated regional representatives from further or higher education and members of national organisations committed to the progression and support of care experienced students.

Our vision is a world in which care experienced people are empowered and supported to thrive and achieve their full educational potential. Our mission is to support, connect and empower professionals working with care experienced people in different sectors, with the goal of enabling more care experienced people to access and progress successfully through further and higher education. Our values shape our organisation and inform everything we do.

Equality We are working for a fair society which is inclusive and celebrates diversity.

Initiative We seek out effective educational practice and create opportunities.

Collaboration We achieve more by working together to build relationships and provide personalised support.

Making a difference We produce useful, evidence-based work which contributes to systemic change.

Purpose and aims

The trustees' review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what NNECL has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to the care experienced people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes. NNECL's strategic objectives are to:

Inform Contributing to the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, research and useful information about care experienced learners.

Connect Providing networking opportunities for member organisations and engagement with key stakeholders.

Support Supporting and developing evidence-based effective practice.

Champion Championing the work of our member organisations through advocacy and communications.

Sustain Ensuring the future sustainability of our organisation.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report

Patricia Ambrose, our outgoing Director

These are the last Report and Accounts during which Patricia Ambrose has been our Director. She will step down at the end of July 2023. Under Patricia's leadership NNECL built a solid foundation for a sustainable future, increased our membership and successfully launched our NNECL Quality Mark. Patricia combines personal modesty with huge knowledge and talent, her dedication has earned her huge respect across the sector. Our admiration and affection for Patricia is testament to her deep and lasting achievements for NNECL and care experienced students across the nation. We wish Patricia well for the future.

Message from our incoming Director

I am delighted to be joining NNECL, as a care experienced person myself the opportunity to become its Director is an incredible privilege. I am passionate about social mobility and look forward to working collaboratively with the many people who share a vision for a society where those from a care background are empowered and encouraged to realise their educational potential. With the backing of our Trustees and Co-Chairs, I am resolute to build on Patricia's legacy and take the organisation to the next level. This makes for an exciting year ahead, at a time when our partners face incredible challenges. We have not given ourselves an easy task, however, we are determined. One focus is expanding our offer and working closer with those who influence care experienced young people. Our research and evidence is clear on the importance of reaching children from 11 upwards and inspiring them to consider attending college or university, and importantly, knowing how to get there. As we move forward care experienced young people can be sure, NNECL is right behind them.

Denise Rawls, joining NNECL as Director in October 2023

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Volunteers

NNECL values the contribution made by volunteers who actively participate in our work through the National Strategy Group and our network of regional representatives and groups.

Achievements and Performance

Quality Mark

Participation in the Quality Mark continued to grow during 2022/23 with a total of 36 universities and colleges having completed the award by the end of the year. To achieve the Quality Mark, institutions provide evidence of how they support the inclusion and success of care experienced students for review by an experienced assessor. Feedback from participating institutions remained consistently positive on the benefits of the scheme as illustrated by the following comments from our evaluation survey:

It was rewarding to pull everything together in one place and recognise just how much we offer to this group of students, and how far we have come in terms of improvement to support in recent years. It then provided a great space for reflection and to think about plans for improvement, with an institutional commitment through the action plan. It also served as further consolidation in terms of university-wide collaboration and awareness. [Our assessor] was amazing and challenged us to consider how we could develop and improve our provision. It was also extremely helpful to consult with students so we could ensure their priorities were incorporated into our QM action plan.

Learning from, and continuing to develop, the Quality Mark remained an important focus across the year. We worked with the Student Loans Company to build in some more detailed guidance around student finance within the Quality Mark and co-developed a template for institutions to use to record CPD on this topic as part of their evidence for the award. This work was showcased at a webinar in February 2023. The Quality Mark guidance was updated to reflect this and we also added some further content on accommodation support and rent guarantor schemes.

The Office for Students published its new approach to Access and Participation Plans including a new Equality of Opportunity Risk Register. Care experience featured across ten of the twelve risk areas identified and we have begun mapping effective practice from the Quality Mark against those areas to provide further guidance and support for institutions.

Annual conference

A highlight of the year was the return of the in-person NNECL annual conference which had been paused during the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the theme of **Achieving more together**, over 100 delegates joined us in Manchester on 22 November 2022 for a packed programme of plenary sessions and workshops. The keynote speakers were: Charlotte Ramsden OBE, Strategic Director for People at Salford City Council; John Blake, Director for Fair Access and Participation at the Office for Students; and leading researcher and Dr Neil Harrison, from the University of Exeter. The event included an inspiring panel session with a group of care experienced students, reflecting on the key turning points in their education. There was also time to reflect on NNECL's achievements over the past three years and to celebrate all of the Quality Mark awardees.

The content was a really high standard in both the workshops and the keynotes. Thank you for an invigorating event! I look forward to next year.

Delegate feedback rated the conference very highly with a usefulness score of 4.7/5 and an overall satisfaction score of 4.8 out of 5.

Webinars

Our webinar programme ran successfully across the year and remains a highly valued and popular part of our offer. Topics reflect feedback from members on what they would like us to cover, as well as opportunities to discuss new research and policy developments and disseminate effective practice. Webinars are free for NNECL member organisations, with non-members also able to attend for a small fee of £15 per session.

We had 304 webinar bookings across the year (2021/22: 380) and our programme covered the following areas:

- Improving the data on care experience;
- Student finance and the Quality Mark;
- Widening participation activity for care experienced learners;
- Trauma-informed and whole community approaches to supporting care experienced learners; and
- Effective practice in the Culture and Leadership section of the NNECL Quality Mark.

I have particularly enjoyed, found useful and accessible the NNECL webinar programme which has covered some excellent topics over the past year. Please do continue with these as they provide examples of good practice to all institutions and give contacts which can be followed up for further details after the event. We are all different in the type of institution and the resources available to what we are able to offer, but even with this, the webinars and best practice provides ideas and gets us thinking about how we can introduce and incorporate the ideas within our own practices. Thank you to the team for introducing and managing these excellent events.

We continued to collaborate with other organisations on many of these events. The webinar on data included input from UCAS and the Unite Foundation, while the session on Student Finance and the Quality Mark was co-developed with the Student Loans Company (see the Quality Mark section for further details). We were delighted to build a new relationship with the Institute of Recovery from Childhood Trauma, with Dr Jon Reid, IRCT trustee and Senior Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University, delivering an interactive session for us on trauma informed support. Effective practice from universities, colleges and other partners was showcased in the webinars on widening participation and culture and leadership, with presentations from First Star Scholars, the University of East Anglia, the North East Raising Aspiration Partnership, Leeds City College and the University of Exeter.

Membership

We celebrated reaching and exceeding the 100-member milestone in 2023, with 102 member organisations in place by the end of July (2021/22: 90). This figure includes just under 50% of UK universities and other designated HEIs. During the year, we worked on a mapping exercise with our regional representatives to identify potential new member organisations and will continue to undertake targeted recruitment campaigns to grow and further diversify our membership.

Overall member satisfaction with NNECL remains high with an average score of 4.41 out of 5 (2021/22: 4.39/5). All current activities were generally seen as highly useful or useful, with the most highly rated areas being the webinar programme, annual conference and monthly members' newsletters. Members valued engagement with NNECL particularly in relation to keeping up-to-date with innovative practice, research and initiatives, and in providing opportunities to share and develop their own practice.

Respondents rated the extent to which their involvement in NNECL had led to

improvements in their support for care experienced students at an average of 7.83 out of 10. Working on the Quality Mark featured strongly in this regard. Other respondents highlighted the value of hearing about innovative and effective practice from their peers and being able to use this information to influence institutional committees and build a platform for future improvements.

Policy and advocacy

The Department for Education published the long-awaited Government response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England in February 2023. The response built on some of the recommendations relating to further and higher education in the Review report. It included an aspiration to: **narrow the gap in care leaver higher education participation rates compared to the general population year-on year from 2027, with a view to this being minimal by 2030.**

Latest DfE data on widening participation show that current care experienced student participation in higher education stands at around 14% compared to 47% of all 19-year-olds. At present, it is not clear what additional support and interventions will be put in place to achieve this highly ambitious commitment to minimise what remains a significant gap.

Extension of Pupil Premium Plus funding was announced for well-evidenced educational interventions, such as tutoring and mentoring, with clear links to Personal Education Plans and improved pathways to further education and employment. The apprenticeships care leavers' bursary is also set to increase from £1,000 to £3,000 in August 2023.

The Government response committed to introducing a: **gold standard accreditation scheme for further and higher education institutions ... to set a high standard that all institutions will aspire to, including how to drive take-up and retain students ... [with an] expectation of support in areas such as: targeted activities to encourage applications and support transition; bursaries; affordable year round accommodation; pastoral and mental health support; dedicated staff leads on care leaver education; whole staff training.**

DfE has recognised the work already carried out by NNECL through the Quality Mark and we are pleased to be represented on the new HEFE Advisory Board to take this initiative forward. Our view is that any new scheme of this kind could potentially serve as a foundation level to the Quality Mark, which is broader and more developmental in focus.

In response to the DfE report, the NNECL Director published a think piece on the Wonkhe

website on how to achieve the Government's ambition to increase participation of care experienced students in higher education. This would require: comprehensive and inclusive data to enable benchmarking and increase understanding; enhanced partnership working between schools, colleges and universities to improve educational attainment; and greater consistency in the guidance and support provided to care experienced young people at all stages of their education.

Communications

Our reach further broadened over the year with monthly newsletters to member institutions being emailed to over 240 individuals and our quarterly newsletter circulation growing from 623 to 815 contacts. 88% of respondents to the 2023 membership survey found our monthly newsletters either highly useful or useful, with the remainder finding them of some use.

We continued to build our profile on social media with over 1,700 followers, tweeting regularly on events, the Quality Mark and policy developments. For National Care Leavers' Week in October 2022, we commissioned and featured stories from care experienced students about the key decision points which led them to higher education.

In November 2022, we were delighted to be a partner in the UCAS Next Steps publication, 'What is the Experience of Students from a Care Background in Education?' and provided a reflective commentary in the report. This publication included findings from UCAS data alongside qualitative insights from 500 care experienced applicants to higher education. It highlighted the challenges often faced by those with care experience when thinking about, and moving into, higher education, including a lack of specific guidance about the support available to them. Key points from the report are summarised below.

Access to specific guidance about going to HE as a care-experienced student is inconsistent: 60% stated they received no guidance specific to being care experienced during their application journey. Applicants seek advice from a wide variety of sources, not all of whom will have had access to the latest information and resources about UCAS applications or the specific support available in HE for care-experienced students.

The intersectionality of care experience with other personal characteristics presents additional challenges: these applicants are 38% more likely than non-care-experienced applicants to come from the most disadvantaged areas (POLAR4 Quintile 1), twice as likely to be from Mixed or Black ethnic groups, 79% more likely to identify as LGBT+, almost twice as likely to share a disability, and nearly three times as likely to share a mental health condition.

Care-experienced students' journeys are often longer and non-linear: one third of applicants were aged 21 or above, compared to one fifth of UK applicants without a care background. Applicants were also more than twice as likely to take the Access to HE Diploma.

Applicants from a care background are motivated by career prospects, especially in health and social care: they are 179% more likely to apply for health and social care than non-care-experienced students, and 50% more likely to apply for nursing and midwifery.

HE choices are strongly influenced by applicants' individual support needs: over three quarters prioritised access to mental health and wellbeing support, with financial support, accommodation, and pre-entry support also important influential factors.

As a practitioner network, NNECL is committed to continue to work with UCAS, virtual schools, local authorities, fostering agencies and all other relevant organisations to transform the educational landscape for care experienced people.

We were also delighted to write the entry on support for care experienced and estranged students for the UniTaster 2023 Teachers' Guide to University.

NNECL continued to co-chair the Care Leaver, Care Experienced and Estranged Students in HE (CLEES in HE) group, in partnership with the Care Leaver Covenant. The group brings together key organisations and charities with an interest in care experienced and estranged students.

The NNECL team made presentations at a range of external events during the year. These included national conferences, CPD sessions on the Quality Mark and events for care experienced young people, foster carers, teachers and leaving care teams.

Future plans and priorities

NNECL continues to develop its activities in line with the objectives identified in its Strategic Plan:

- Inform: Contributing to the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, research and useful information about care experienced learners
- Connect: Providing networking opportunities for member organisations and engagement with key stakeholders
- Support: Supporting and developing evidence-based effective practice
- Champion: Championing the work of our member organisations

through advocacy and communications Sustain: Ensuring the future sustainability of our organisation

Priorities for the future include: further developing student engagement and co-creation in our work; continuing to campaign for improvements in the public data available about care experienced students to enable better understanding and benchmarking; working in partnership to improve the information, advice and guidance on further and higher education for care experienced young people and their advisers; and creating new training and evaluation materials to support HE/FE practitioners and others who work with care experienced people.

NNECL Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on four occasions in 2022/23 and continued to operate effectively and in line with its Terms of Reference. Dr Felicity Dunworth, who had been heavily involved in NNECL from its early days as a volunteer group through its transition to becoming a registered charity, stood down as a trustee and Co-Chair in April 2023. We are immensely grateful for her wisdom, insights and championing of NNECL over the last decade and wish her well for the future. We also said farewell to three other trustees: Michael Bettencourt, Adele Tilley and Priya Khambhaita. All had provided much constructive and helpful support over the past few years.

In Spring 2023, we ran an open recruitment exercise to appoint new trustees, highlighting experience in fundraising and marketing, and particularly seeking to encourage care experienced applicants and to improve further the diversity of the Board. Following a successful campaign, we were delighted to appoint three new trustees at the July 2023 Board meeting: Jon Wakeford (also elected as Co-Chair); Shilla Shomai; and Sandhya Sabapathy.

Financial Review

Total income during the 2022/23 year was £50,719 (2021/22: £75,708), comprising £50,369 in unrestricted funds (2021/22: £67,708) and £350 in restricted funds (2021/22: £8,000). We are particularly grateful to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation which confirmed a three-year grant extension from 2023/24 to 2025/26 to support core costs as we continue to develop our longer-term sustainability.

Expenditure totalled £89,305 (2021/22: £80,897).

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to four month's expenditure

(approximately £30,000 in 2022/23). The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

The charity is working towards consistently maintaining this level of reserves.

Current Free Reserves

As at 31 July 2023 total reserves were £23,799 (2022: £62,385), of which £22,125 (2022: £24,210) was for restricted projects and £16,74 (2022: £38,175) was unrestricted.

Risks

NNECL maintains a risk register which is regularly updated and reviewed at Board meetings. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of National Network for the Education of care Leavers (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but which has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Alison Cook FCA
AJC Accountancy
Chartered Accountants
Unit 40, Thrales End Business Centre
Thrales End Lane, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 3NS.
December 2023

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Statement of financial activities
including income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 July 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	36,708	350	37,058	59,134	8,000	67,134
Charitable activities	4	3,489		3,489	7,500		7,500
Other income	5	10,172	0	10,172	1,074	0	1,074
Total income		<u>50,369</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>50,719</u>	<u>67,708</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>75,708</u>
Raising funds	6	490	0	490	0	0	0
Charitable activities	7	<u>86,380</u>	<u>2,435</u>	<u>88,815</u>	<u>79,137</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>80,897</u>
Total resources		<u>86,870</u>	<u>2,435</u>	<u>89,305</u>	<u>79,137</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>80,897</u>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		-36,501	-2,085	-38,586	-11,429	6,240	-5,189
Opening fund balances		38,175	24,210	62,385	49,604	17,970	67,574
Closing fund balances		<u>1,674</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>23,799</u>	<u>38,175</u>	<u>24,210</u>	<u>62,385</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible assets			#REF!		-
Current assets					
Debtors	11	410		410	
Cash at bank and in hand		42,549		82,306	
		<u>42,959</u>		<u>82,716</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(19,160)		(20,332)	
Net current assets			<u>23,799</u>		<u>62,385</u>
Net assets			<u>23,799</u>		<u>62,385</u>
Income Funds					
Restricted Funds			22,125		24,210
Unrestricted Funds			1,674		38,175
			<u>23,799</u>		<u>62,385</u>

Ms E Watson

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity Information

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provision in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2023

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods here the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	0	350	350
Membership fees	54,414		54,414
Less: deferred income	-17,706		-17,706
	<u>36,708</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>37,058</u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	30,000	8,000	38,000
Membership fees	46,897		46,897
Less: deferred income	-17,763		-17,763
	<u>59,134</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>67,134</u>
Grants receivable for core activities		2023	2022
		£	£
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation		0	30,000
Newcastle College (restricted)		0	7,250
Esmee Fairbairn training (restricted)		350	750
		<u>350</u>	<u>38,000</u>
4 Charitable activities - income		2023	2022
		£	£
Quality Mark fees		3,489	7,500
		<u>3,489</u>	<u>7,500</u>
5 Other Income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022
	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Consultancy Income	0	0	300
Other income	10,172	0	774
	<u>10,172</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,074</u>
6 Raising funds		Unrestricted funds	

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2023

	2023	2022
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>	£	£
Other fundraising costs	490	0
	<u>490</u>	<u>0</u>
7 Charitable activities - expenditure	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	70,460	68,917
Depreciation	0	254
Website and internet costs	1,501	1,341
Conference costs	5,727	650
Printing, postage and stationery	117	0
Telephone	213	210
Other staff costs	1,185	923
Quality Mark expenditure	3,800	4,200
Quality Mark expenditure (restricted)	2,435	1,760
Sundry expenses	200	0
	<u>85,638</u>	<u>78,255</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,474	1,361
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,704	1,282
	<u>88,816</u>	<u>80,898</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	86,381	79,138
Restricted funds	2,435	1,760
	<u>88,816</u>	<u>80,898</u>
8 Support costs	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Support</u>		
Insurance	768	768
Subscriptions	706	593
	<u>1,474</u>	<u>1,361</u>
<u>Governance</u>		
Independent Examiner fees	1,170	1,080
Legal and professional fees	0	106
Trustee travel	474	0
Bank charges	60	96
	<u>1,704</u>	<u>1,282</u>
9 Trustees		
No trustees received any remuneration in the year to 31 March 2023 (2022: £nil)		
A total of £474 was reimbursed to 3 trustees during the year for travel expenses incurred in fulfilling their duties as trustees (2022: £nil)		
10 Employees	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Average monthly number of employees during the year was:	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	65,730	65,093
Pension costs	4,729	3,824
	<u>70,459</u>	<u>68,917</u>

No employee received total employment benefits of £60,000 or more during the year (2022: nil)

11 Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>410</u>	<u>410</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income	17,706	17,763
Accruals	1,453	2,568
	<u>19,159</u>	<u>20,331</u>

13 Deferred income	2023	2022
	£	£
Membership	<u>17,706</u>	<u>17,763</u>

14 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2023			
Tangible Assets	-		-
Current assets / (liabilities)	1,674	22,125	23,799
	<u>1,674</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>23,799</u>
	<u>1,674</u>	<u>22,125</u>	<u>23,799</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£

Fund balances at 31 July 2022

are represented by:

Tangible Assets	-		-
Current assets / (liabilities)	38,175	24,210	62,385
	<u>38,175</u>	<u>24,210</u>	<u>62,385</u>

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1180793

Accounts

**NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE
LEAVERS CIO**

Accounts

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Report and accounts

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NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Mx AAJ Pile

Dr R Carr

Ms A Tilley

Ms P Khambhaita

Dr F Dunworth

Dr N Harrison

Mr M Bettencourt

Ms E Watson

Mr M Hill

Mr A Benvie (appointed 1 June 2022)

Dr M Sebele (appointed 1 June 2022)

Ms N Turner (appointed 1 June 2022)

NNECL Director

Ms P Ambrose

Accountants and Independent Examiner

Alison Cook FCA

AJC Accountancy

Unit 40 Thrales End Business Centre

Thrales End Lane

Harpenden

Herts AL5 3NS

Registered office

Capital Office

124-128 City Road

London

EC1V 2NX

Charity Number

1180793

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st July 2022

Vision

Our vision is for a world in which care experienced people are empowered and supported to thrive and achieve their full educational potential.

Mission

The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) is a community of professionals working together to transform the progression of care experienced people into and through further and higher education. Our mission is to support, connect and empower professionals working with care experienced people in different sectors, with the goal of enabling more care experienced people to access and progress successfully through further and higher education

We support practitioners in universities and colleges who are working with, and for, care experienced students by:

- developing and sharing effective practice via our Quality Mark, Regional Groups and National Strategy Group;
- advocacy with policymakers and sector bodies in higher and further education;
- working in partnership with cognate charities and other relevant organisations;
- commissioning our own research and disseminating findings from others' research; and
- providing training, events and guidance materials.

The National Strategy Group (NSG) forms a link between educational providers, their networks and national organisations and agencies. It includes nominated regional representatives from further or higher education and members of national organisations committed to the progression and support of care experienced students.

Values

Our values shape our organisation and inform everything we do.

- Equality: We are working for a fair society which is inclusive and celebrates diversity.
- Initiative: We seek out effective educational practice and create opportunities.
- Collaboration: We achieve more by working together to build relationships and provide personalised support.
- Making a difference: We produce useful, evidence-based work which contributes to systemic change.

Summary of activities

Key highlights from NNECL's activities during 2021/22 included:

- public roll-out of our Quality Mark accreditation scheme for universities and colleges to demonstrate the inclusion and success of their care experienced students; this included the recruitment and training of a pool of experienced assessors and work to distil the learning from the pilot phases;
- another successful year for our webinar programme on topical issues around care experience;
- further growth in membership to support the work of the charity;

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report (cont.)

- advocacy and policy responses on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England and higher education consultations by the Department for Education; and
- continued collaboration and partnership working with other cognate charities and organisations.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Volunteers

NNECL values the contribution made by volunteers who actively participate in our work through the National Strategy Group and our network of regional representatives and groups.

Achievements and Performance

Quality Mark

Following the successful pilots and launch of the Quality Mark in June 2021, public roll-out of the scheme began in earnest during the year. An important first step was the recruitment and training of a pool of expert assessors to work alongside the NNECL team. Once completed, the first group of new assessments began in autumn 2021. Over the year, fourteen individual universities and colleges signed up to begin the Quality Mark accreditation process. We were also funded to run a collaborative project with a federal group of seven further education colleges. Four institutions completed the process during the year, with a further 10 completing just after the year end in September 2022.

Learning from the Quality Mark so far was an important focus for NNECL across the year and we distilled key findings and evidence from the pilot phases to present at a webinar in April 2022 (see webinar section). These findings are also available on the NNECL website in a new [Learning from the Quality Mark](#) section and we will continue to review and update this area each year with new evidence and reflections.

Feedback from participating institutions was positive on the benefits and constructive challenges of going through the process, as can be seen from the illustrative comments below,

'...what I personally found really rewarding was that colleagues who may not interact regularly with our care experienced students, joined our working group, showed real commitment to the working group but also really drove change within their own respective work areas.'

'...we could see from looking through the guidance and structure documents how useful it was and how we hadn't taken the opportunity to map that journey before. We are often so busy doing the job that we hadn't reflected. Also, it was a very positive message internally for colleagues across the institution to know this is an area of work we are prioritising, and what we value, and that this is the type of institution we are. It also sends a positive message for care experienced students to see the support we provide and a willingness from us to develop and improve. And also externally for other partners we work with like local authorities to see that this is at the forefront of our development.'

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report (cont.)

'a couple of my graduates ... read through the submission for me, and they picked up on some areas that I hadn't put in. I did pay them for their time but they were so important as they had lived through the programme.'

'For us it was in terms of continuous improvement. We have an accommodation subsidy that we piloted and offered for on campus accommodation and our first years have told us that was incredible, but it did raise questions for second years who were attracted to the free accommodation but also wanted to move into private renting with their friends. And for these students it's more important than ever to be able to stay with their peers and access that peer support network. We didn't want them to be in that position so we are now able to offer accommodation subsidies both on and off campus.'

As more universities and colleges go on to achieve the Quality Mark, our aim is that it will be an increasingly helpful source of information for care experienced people when choosing where to study. Institutions will also be able to benchmark their own provision more systematically as we build our repository of practice.

Webinars and events

Our webinar programme continued to grow in popularity and is now an established feature in NNECL's programme of activities. These events provide opportunities to discuss new research and policy developments, provide input to consultations and disseminate effective practice. Webinars are free for NNECL member organisations, with non-members also able to attend for a small fee of £15 per session.

We had over 380 bookings across the year (2020/21: 250) and our programme covered the following topics:

- Higher and further education and the Independent Review of Children's Social Care;
- Mental health and well-being provision for care experienced students;
- The new Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data flag for care leavers and care experienced students;
- Learning from the Quality Mark pilots; and
- Guarantor support for accommodation for care experienced and estranged students.

Several of these sessions were run collaboratively with other organisations. The webinar on the Care Review was a consultative event facilitated by the Review team, enabling attendees to feed in their views on the role of higher and further education within the overall remit of the Review. The event on the new data flag was jointly organised with HESA and the Office for Students, with NNECL contributing a decision tree to enable universities and colleges to understand and implement the new approach. The event on guarantor support was co-hosted with the Unite Foundation and Stand Alone, the charity working with estranged students, and also included input from the This is Us Community of care experienced and estranged students.

Work to relaunch our in-person Annual Conference began during the year and we are delighted that the 2022 event is confirmed and will take place on 22 November in Manchester. We are also planning to launch a new research symposium event in Spring 2023.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report (cont.)

Membership

I think NNECL is seen as the gold standard and allows us to advise senior managers of what is expected when caring for care experienced students.

NNECL membership increased during 2021/22, with 90 member organisations in place by the end of the financial year (2020/21: 77). We undertook some targeted recruitment campaigns over the year and further membership growth remains a key priority.

Our 2022 annual membership survey demonstrated continuing high levels of satisfaction with NNECL's activities and services, with a weighted score of 4.39 out of 5 (2020/21: 4.03/5).

In the survey, we asked for examples of how NNECL membership had helped organisations to improve their support and practice. Responses covered a range of areas including:

- Support for completing the NNECL Quality Mark;
- Keeping up to date with new developments in policy and practice via webinars and broadcasts;
- Opportunities to collaborate and hear from other organisations about how they support care experienced students; and
- Improving institutional policies and procedures as a result of learning from others.

Policy and advocacy

As highlighted earlier in our report, the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England provided opportunities for NNECL to emphasise the important role of further and higher education in improving the life chances of care experienced young people. As well as the consultative webinar in September 2021, we participated in a joint response to the Department for Education on the final Review Report through the Care Leaver, Care Experienced and Estranged Students in Higher Education group (CLEES in HE).

The Review Report contained several recommendations relating to higher education, including a proposal for a mandatory kitemark for higher education providers. While different in focus to our more developmental Quality Mark, the Report recognised NNECL's work and encouraged the Department for Education to take this recommendation forward in partnership with us. We have had early discussions with the Department and the Office for Students and now wait to see if the Government's formal response to the Review, due by the end of 2022, commits to taking this forward.

The year saw two other DfE consultations on proposals which could have significant impacts on participation in higher education by care experienced people. One included the proposal to introduce a minimum entry requirement for access to student finance and we responded with our concerns at how this might affect care experienced learners:

'Restricting student support to those who achieve particular examination grades ignores the fact that significant numbers of [care experienced] young people have not achieved to their full potential at school and have the ability to do well in higher education. If implemented, this will be a seriously regressive step, limiting educational opportunities and life chances for many young people.'

NNECL media release, 23 February 2022

The other proposal, more positively, concerned a new Lifelong Loan Entitlement which would provide individuals with a lifelong entitlement to funding equivalent to four years of post-18 education. This more flexible approach could be of real benefit for care experienced learners who

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report (cont.)

often enter higher education later than their peers. In our response, we highlighted the inconsistency between this policy and the proposed minimum entry requirement and also the importance of looking at how to make local authority care leaver bursaries into a lifetime entitlement and able to support more flexible and part-time study (many currently only offer the bursary for full-time higher education and the entitlement generally ends at age 25).

Communications

Over the year we further improved and developed our website content. A new Support Us section was added plus further content to the Members' Area including recordings of webinars and policy briefings. We also continued to expand and update our Resources section.

Our monthly broadcasts to member institutions were mailed out to over 230 contacts and our quarterly newsletter circulation grew from 387 to 623 over the year. Over 80 per cent of respondents to the 2022 membership survey found our monthly broadcasts either useful or highly useful, with the remainder finding them of some use.

We continued to build our profile on social media with over 1,500 followers, tweeting regularly on events, the Quality Mark and policy developments.

In June 2022 NNECL, alongside the Care Leaver Covenant, took on the role of Co-Chair of the Care Leaver, Care Experienced and Estranged Students in HE (CLEES in HE) group. This group brings together key organisations and charities with an interest in care experienced and estranged students.

The NNECL team spoke at a variety of events during the year. These included national conferences, CPD sessions on the Quality Mark and events for foster carers, teachers and leaving care teams on access to higher education for care experienced young people.

Future plans and priorities

NNECL continues to develop its activities in line with the objectives identified in its Strategic Plan:

Inform: Contributing to the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, research and useful information about care experienced learners

Connect: Providing networking opportunities for member organisations and engagement with key stakeholders

Support: Supporting and developing evidence-based effective practice

Champion: Championing the work of our member organisations through advocacy and communications

Sustain: Ensuring the future sustainability of our organisation

Priorities for the future include: campaigning for improvements in the public data available about care experienced students to enable better understanding and benchmarking; launching a new symposium event for researchers working in this area; developing our comparative policy perspectives across the UK and internationally; and creating new training and evaluation materials to support HE/FE practitioners and others who work with care experienced people.

NNECL Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on four occasions in 2021/22 and continued to operate effectively and in line with its Terms of Reference. A skills audit was carried out which indicated a good level of appropriate knowledge, skills and experience across the Board but with some gaps identified in relation to representation from further education and expertise in marketing, communications and

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report (cont.)

digital skills. We subsequently ran an open recruitment exercise to appoint new trustees, highlighting these gaps and particularly seeking to encourage care experienced people to apply and to improve further the diversity of the Board. Following a successful campaign, we were delighted to appoint three new trustees at the June 2022 Board meeting.

Financial Review

Total income during the 2021/2022 year was £75,708 (2020/21: £93,732), comprising £67,708 in unrestricted funds (2020/21: £72,282) and £8,000 in restricted funds (2020/21: £21,450). We are particularly grateful to the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust for its grant funding to support core staffing and office costs.

Expenditure totalled £80,897 (2020/21: £82,799).

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to four month's expenditure (approximately £26,500 in 2021/22). The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

The charity is working towards consistently maintaining this level of reserves by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

Current Free Reserves

As at 31 July 2022 total reserves were £62,385 (2021: £67,573), of which £24,210 (2021: £17,970) was for restricted projects and £38,175 (2021: £49,603) was unrestricted.

Risks

NNECL maintains a risk register which is regularly updated and reviewed at Board meetings. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of National Network for the Education of care Leavers (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but which has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

AJCook

Alison Cook FCA

AJC Accountancy
Chartered Accountants

Unit 40 Thrales End Business Centre
Thrales End Lane
Harpenden
Herts AL5 3NS

20th December 2022

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Statement of financial
activities
including income and expenditure account
for the period ended 31 July 2022

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	3	59,134	8,000	67,134	72,019	11,750	83,769
Charitable activities	4	7,500		7,500	0		0
Other income	5	1,074	0	1,074	263	9,700	9,963
Total income		<u>67,708</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>75,708</u>	<u>72,282</u>	<u>21,450</u>	<u>93,732</u>
Raising funds	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable activities	7	<u>79,137</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>80,897</u>	<u>75,010</u>	<u>7,788</u>	<u>82,798</u>
Total resources		<u>79,137</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>80,897</u>	<u>75,010</u>	<u>7,788</u>	<u>82,798</u>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		-11,429	6,240	-5,189	-2,728	13,662	10,934
Opening fund balances		49,604	17,970	67,574	52,332	4,308	56,640
Closing fund balances		<u>38,175</u>	<u>24,210</u>	<u>62,385</u>	<u>49,604</u>	<u>17,970</u>	<u>67,574</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Balance Sheet
as at 31 July 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	-	254
Current assets			
Debtors	12	410	410
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>82,306</u>	<u>83,272</u>
		82,716	83,682
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	13	(20,332)	(16,363)
Net current assets		<u>62,385</u>	<u>67,319</u>
Net assets		<u>62,385</u>	<u>67,574</u>
Income Funds			
Restricted Funds		24,210	17,970
Unrestricted Funds		38,175	49,603
		<u>62,385</u>	<u>65,574</u>

Mx A Pile
Trustee
Approved by the Trustees on 8 December 2022



20/12/22

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity Information

National Network for the Education of Care Leavers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provision in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2022 (cont.)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure

A liability is recognised when either a constructive or legal obligation is identified. Central costs are apportioned between costs of generating funds and charitable activities on the basis of the specific activities of members of staff. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the same expenditure heading as the cost to which it relates. Basic financial liabilities are recognised at transaction cost.

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:

Plant and equipment	over 3 years
---------------------	--------------

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 "Basic Financial Instruments" and Section 12 "Other Financial Instruments Issues" of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2022 (cont.)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	
	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	30,000	8,000	38,000
Membership fees	46,897		46,897
Less: deferred income	-17,763		-17,763
	<u>59,134</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>67,134</u>
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	
	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	48,000	11,750	59,750
Membership fees	37,386		37,386
Less: deferred income	-13,367		-13,367
	<u>72,019</u>	<u>11,750</u>	<u>83,769</u>
Grants receivable for core activities		2022	2021
		£	£
Newcastle College (restricted)		7,250	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation		30,000	48,000
GMCA (restricted)		-	10,000
Esmee Fairbairn training (restricted)		750	1,750
		<u>38,000</u>	<u>59,750</u>
4 Charitable activities - income		2022	2021
		£	£
Quality Mark Fees		7,500	-
		<u>7,500</u>	<u>-</u>
5 Other Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	funds	funds	
	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Consultancy Income	300	0	9,700
Other income	774	0	263
	<u>1,074</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,963</u>

6 Raising funds	Unrestricted funds	
	2022	2021
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
7 Charitable activities - expenditure	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	68,917	65,889
Depreciation	254	255
Contracted services		0
Consultancy fees	0	1,788
Website and internet costs	1,341	2,733
Conference costs	650	0
Printing, postage and stationery	0	119
Telephone	210	213
Other staff costs	923	783
Quality Mark expenditure	4,200	7,750
Repairs and small equipment	0	123
Sundry expenses	0	44
	<u>78,255</u>	<u>79,697</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,361	1,583
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,282	1,519
	<u>80,898</u>	<u>82,799</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	79,138	75,011
Restricted funds	1,760	7,788
	<u>80,898</u>	<u>82,799</u>
8 Support costs	2022	2021
	£	£
<u>Support</u>		
Insurance	768	801
Subscriptions	593	782
	<u>1,361</u>	<u>1,583</u>
<u>Governance</u>		
Independent Examiner fees	1,080	1,110
Legal and professional fees	106	41
Trustee training	0	317
Bank charges	96	81
	<u>1,282</u>	<u>1,519</u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Average monthly number of employees during the year was:	2	2

	2022 £	2021 £
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	65,093	62,049
Pension costs	3,824	3,840
	<u>68,917</u>	<u>65,889</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery etc £
Cost	
At 1 August 2021	764
At 31 July 2022	<u>764</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 August 2021	510
Charge for the year	254
At 31 July 2022	<u>764</u>
Net book value	
At 31 July 2022	<u>-</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>254</u>

12 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	410	410
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	<u>410</u>	<u>410</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income	17,763	13,367
Accruals	2,568	2,996
	<u>20,331</u>	<u>16,363</u>

14 Deferred income		2022	2021
		£	£
Other deferred income		<u>17,763</u>	<u>13,367</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible Assets	-	-	-
Current assets / (liabilities)	38,175	24,210	62,385
	<u>38,175</u>	<u>24,210</u>	<u>62,385</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2020 are represented by:			
Tangible Assets	254		254
Current assets / (liabilities)	46,622	31,632	78,254
	<u>46,876</u>	<u>31,632</u>	<u>78,508</u>

16 Related party transactions

No trustees received reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses (2021: £nil)

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1180793

Accounts

**NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE
LEAVERS CIO**

Accounts

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Report and accounts

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NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Mr AAJ Pile
Dr R Carr
Ms A Tilley
Ms P Clarke
Dr F Dunworth
Dr N Harrison
Mr M Bettencourt
Ms E Watson
Mr M Hill

NNECL Director

Ms P Ambrose

Accountants and Independent Examiner

Alison Cook FCA
AJC Accountancy
Suite 031 Bizspace
575-599 Maxted Road
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 7DX

Registered office

Kemp House
152-160 City Road
London
EC1V 2NX

Charity Number

1180793

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st July 2021

Mission

The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) is a community of professionals working together to transform the progression of care experienced people into and through further and higher education. Our mission is to support, connect and empower our community, with the ultimate goal that more care-experienced people will be able to access and progress through further and higher education into fulfilling lives.

Our remit is particularly focused on supporting practitioners in universities and colleges who are working with, and for, care experienced students. We do this by:

- developing and sharing effective practice via our Regional Groups and National Strategy Group;
- advocacy with policymakers and sector bodies in higher and further education;
- working in partnership with cognate charities and other relevant organisations;
- commissioning our own research and disseminating findings from others' research; and
- providing training, events and guidance materials.

Summary of activities

Key highlights from NNECL's activities during 2020-21 included:

- the successful launch of our new Quality Mark accreditation scheme for universities and colleges to demonstrate the inclusion and success of their care experienced students;
- producing a feasibility study for the Office for Students (OfS) on the potential development of a more consistent offer of support from HE providers for care experienced students;
- providing a new webinar programme of topical issues for member organisations and other attendees;
- continued growth in recruitment of new member organisations to support the work of the charity;
- development of a new Strategic Plan; and
- improvements to the NNECL website and communications with members, supporters and partners.

Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Volunteers

NNECL values the contribution made by volunteers who actively participate in our work through the National Strategy Group and our network of regional representatives and groups.

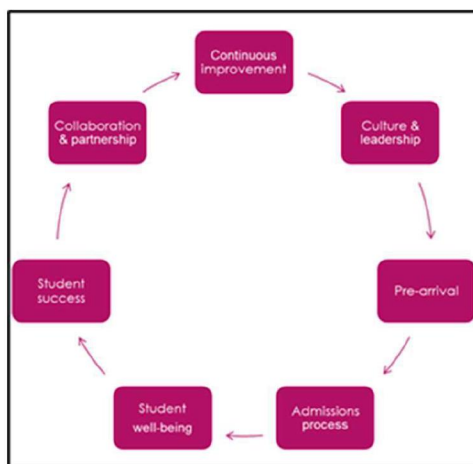
NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS Trustees' Report (cont.)

Achievements and Performance

Quality Mark

A major focus for 2020/21 was the successful completion of the pilot phase of our Quality Mark project leading to its public launch in June 2021. Over 100 people attended the virtual launch event which included our special guest speakers, Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, and Chris Millward, Director for Fair Access and Participation at the Office for Students. Seventeen universities and colleges from the pilot phases received their Quality Mark awards and we heard directly from participants on their experiences of going through the accreditation process.

'Working with NNECL on the development of the Quality Mark was a catalyst to us taking a whole lifecycle review of how we support care experienced students. Learning more about the work of other HE and FE providers in this area has supported our thinking and contributed to our refreshed strategy in this area.'
Feedback from a pilot University



The Quality Mark comprises an institutional self-assessment and action plan covering the whole student lifecycle (pre-arrival, admissions, student well-being, student success), as well as important aspects of institutional activity and behaviour that affect care experienced students (culture & leadership, collaboration & partnership, and continuous improvement). Institutions provide evidence against key criteria in each section and produce an action plan for future improvement.

The framework is designed to be holistic, evidence-based and proportionate, recognising the diversity of institutions within the higher and further education sectors. The award is made for a period of three years, with a mid-point review to discuss progress against the institution's action plan.

Evaluation of the pilot phase showed that institutions saw the framework as both enabling and suitably challenging:

The framework is comprehensive and covers the whole learner journey - just as we thought we had one aspect fully sorted it would interlink into another - the challenge is being consistent across all seven measures.

All said they were 'highly likely' to recommend the Quality Mark to others and felt that the criteria captured the key elements of their support:

The categories were broad enough and the accompanying guidance clear enough to allow us to include everything we needed to.

As more universities and colleges go on to achieve the Quality Mark, our aim is that it will be an increasingly helpful source of information to assist care experienced people in choosing where to

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report (cont.)

study. Institutions will also be able to benchmark their own provision more systematically as we build our repository of effective practice.

Developing a more consistent offer of support for care experienced students

In late 2020 NNECL was commissioned by the Office for Students (OfS) to undertake a feasibility study on the potential for developing a more consistent support offer from HE providers for care experienced students. Drawing on survey and research findings, interviews with experts and data analysis, the study identified emerging consensus across the following areas: information, advice and guidance (IAG), admissions, finance, pastoral support and accommodation.

AREAS OF EMERGING CONSENSUS FROM THE FEASIBILITY STUDY
IAG: an accessible web page with consistent information and links to it from other key pages; a named contact who provides proactive support and advice once an applicant identifies as care experienced; the potential for Uni Connect partnerships to provide high quality, accessible and impartial advice to potential applicants and to coordinate targeted outreach.
Admissions: taking a rounded view of applicants, with contextualised offers made, where appropriate; ensuring a smooth transition to HE, with opportunities for early induction and welcome events.
Finance: providing access to some additional funding support, whether this is a specific bursary or priority access to funding for all disadvantaged students; advice on budgeting and managing finances; structuring the timing of payments to reflect times of greatest need (including at the beginning of the academic year and a late summer payment); providing additional funding support for study visits and enrichment activities; offering paid employment as a student ambassador; providing support for graduation costs.
Pastoral: providing a designated contact throughout the student lifecycle; giving priority access to institutional support services including well-being/mental health provision; opportunities for mentoring or peer support; enhanced careers guidance which continues for a period of time after graduation.
Accommodation: year-round accommodation provided by institutions with their own residences; other universities and colleges to provide support in finding suitable accommodation; ensuring, as far as possible, that individual student needs are taken into account when sourcing accommodation; practical assistance with moving; providing emergency accommodation.

The [report](#) was published in April 2021 alongside a new OfS Insight Brief highlighting effective practice and other work to improve data collection on care experienced students. Building on the findings from our study, the OfS expects to commission a second phase of more detailed work in 2022 involving consortia of universities, colleges and other partners.

Webinar programme

We launched a new programme of regular webinars in 2020/21 to disseminate effective practice, new research and policy developments. These are free for NNECL member organisations, with non-members also able to attend for a small fee.

We had over 250 bookings across the year and our programme covered the following topics:

- Supporting care experienced students in the transition to higher education;
- Effective approaches to collaborative working between HE/ FE providers and local authorities;
- Graduate transitions for care experienced students; and
- A developmental session on preparation for the NNECL Quality Mark.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report (cont.)

Initially launched as a benefit for members during the Covid-19 pandemic, webinars have been very well-received and will continue as a regular offering. We also plan to relaunch our face-to-face annual conference in Spring 2022.

Membership

There was significant growth in membership during 2020/21, with 77 member organisations in place by the end of the financial year (2020: 52).

We launched a new membership survey in February 2021 and this will be repeated annually. Satisfaction with NNECL's activities and services was high with a weighted score of 4.03 out of 5.

We also consulted members on their priorities for future work. This feedback has informed the development of our new Strategic Plan, topics for our programme of webinars and other activities.

Strategic Plan

As a new charity, NNECL is working hard to develop its capacity and ensure its future sustainability as a charitable organisation. Our Strategic Plan 2021-24 identifies a set of key priorities and objectives against the following strategic themes:

Theme 1	Inform: Contributing to the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, research and useful information about care experienced learners
Theme 2	Connect: Providing networking opportunities for member organisations and engagement with key stakeholders
Theme 3	Support: Supporting and developing evidence-based effective practice
Theme 4	Champion: Championing the work of our member organisations through advocacy and communications
Theme 5	Sustain: Ensuring the future sustainability of our organisation

Some particular priorities for the future include the development of new interactive guidance, training and evaluation materials to support HE/FE practitioners and others who work with care experienced people.

Website and communications

This year we were delighted to launch our new website (www.nnecl.org) which was designed to be more accessible and user-friendly. The new site includes a members' area and also allows us to operate more efficiently by processing all of our membership and event bookings directly.

During the year we further developed our social media presence on twitter with regular tweets about our events, new policy developments and the Quality Mark. For National Care Leavers' Week in October 2020, we launched a video in partnership with the Sussex Learning Network, featuring care experienced students talking about the benefits of higher education.

The NNECL branding was refreshed with a new strapline – 'Working together to empower care experienced learners'. We continued to produce our monthly broadcasts for members and a quarterly newsletter for all our supporters.

Partnership working remained a key feature during 2020/21. We met regularly with other organisations and charities with an interest in care experience including through the new Care Leavers, Experienced and Estranged Students in HE group. Other members of the group include the

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Trustees' Report (cont.)

Department for Education, OfS, the Care Leaver Covenant/Spectra, Become, Stand Alone, the Unite Foundation and the Universities and Colleges Admissions System. Our Co-Chair, Arron Pile, continued to represent NNECL on the Student Loans Company's Vulnerable Students Stakeholder Group.

We also raised NNECL's profile by speaking at a variety of conferences and events during the year. These included several sessions aimed at foster carers/leaving care teams on opportunities for care experienced people to access higher education.

NNECL Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees continued to operate effectively during 2020/21 and met on four occasions. Trustees agreed operational terms of reference which set out the commitments expected from existing and new trustees as follows:

- Act in good faith in supporting the overall purposes and charitable objectives of NNECL;
- Contribute their skills, care and understanding pro-actively and with particular regard to any special knowledge or experience they have which may be of benefit to the charity;
- Participate in collective or individual training opportunities where they arise and are relevant;
- Fulfil commitments undertaken in a timely manner;
- Promote diversity and equality; and
- Attend regularly and participate actively in meetings.

The Board also agreed to undertake an annual skills audit to identify gaps for recruitment of new trustees and approved new finance and expenses policies.

Financial Review

Total income during the 2020/2021 year was £93,732 (2019/20: £122,540), comprising £72,282 in unrestricted funds (2019/20: £100,021) and £21,450 in restricted funds (2019/20: £22,519). We are particularly grateful to the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust for its grant funding to support core staffing and office costs; and the UPP Foundation and Greater Manchester Combined Authority for supporting the Quality Mark project.

Expenditure totalled £82,799 (2019/20: £64,209).

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to four month's expenditure (approximately £25,000 in 2020/21). The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

The charity is working towards consistently maintaining this level of reserves by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Trustees' Report (cont.)

Current Free Reserves

As at 31 July 2021 total reserves were £67,573 (2020: £56,640), of which £17,970 (2020: £4,308) was for restricted projects and £49,603 (2020: £52,332) was unrestricted.

Risks

NNECL maintains a risk register which is regularly updated and reviewed at Board meetings. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of National Network for the Education of care Leavers (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but which has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Alison Cook FCA

AJC Accountancy
Chartered Accountants

Suite 031 Bizspace
575-599 Maxted Road
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 7DX

9th March 2022

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Statement of financial activities
including income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 July
2021

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	3	72,019	11,750	83,769	99,138	22,519	121,657
Charitable activities	4	0		0	867		867
Other income	5	263	9,700	9,963	16		16
Total income		<u>72,282</u>	<u>21,450</u>	<u>93,732</u>	<u>100,021</u>	<u>22,519</u>	<u>122,540</u>
Raising funds	6	0	0	0	475		475
Charitable activities	7	<u>75,011</u>	<u>7,788</u>	<u>82,799</u>	<u>45,523</u>	<u>18,211</u>	<u>63,734</u>
Total resources		<u>75,011</u>	<u>7,788</u>	<u>82,799</u>	<u>45,998</u>	<u>18,211</u>	<u>64,209</u>
Net income / (expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		(2,729)	13,662	10,933	54,023	4,308	58,331
Opening fund balances		52,332	4,308	56,640	-1,691		-1,691
Closing fund balances		<u>49,603</u>	<u>17,970</u>	<u>67,574</u>	<u>52,332</u>	<u>4,308</u>	<u>56,640</u>

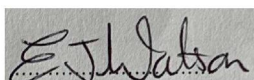
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	254	509
Current assets			
Debtors	12	410	841
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>83,272</u>	<u>70,834</u>
		83,682	71,675
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	13	(16,363)	(15,544)
Net current assets		<u>67,319</u>	<u>56,131</u>
Net assets		<u>67,574</u>	<u>56,640</u>
Income Funds			
Restricted Funds		17,970	4,308
Unrestricted Funds		49,603	52,332
		<u>67,574</u>	<u>56,640</u>



Ms E Watson
Trustee

Approved by the Trustees on 3 March 2022

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity Information

National Network for the Education of Care Leavers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provision in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 July 2021 (cont.)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure

A liability is recognised when either a constructive or legal obligation is identified. Central costs are apportioned between costs of generating funds and charitable activities on the basis of the specific activities of members of staff. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the same expenditure heading as the cost to which it relates. Basic financial liabilities are recognised at transaction cost.

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:

Plant and equipment	over 3 years
---------------------	--------------

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 "Basic Financial Instruments" and Section 12 "Other Financial Instruments Issues" of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 July 2021 (cont.)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	48,000	11,750	59,750
Membership fees	37,386		37,386
Less: deferred income	-13,367		-13,367
	<u>72,019</u>	<u>11,750</u>	<u>83,769</u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2020	2020	2020
	£	£	£
<u>Donations and gifts</u>			
Grants receivable	87,500	22,519	110,019
Membership fees	24,901		24,901
Less: deferred income	-13,263		-13,263
	<u>99,138</u>	<u>22,519</u>	<u>121,657</u>
Grants receivable for core activities		2021	2020
		£	£
The UPP Foundation (restricted)			16,777
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation		48,000	87,000
GMCA (restricted)		10,000	2,000
Esmee Fairbairn training (restricted)		1,750	3,742
		<u>59,750</u>	<u>109,519</u>
4 Charitable activities - income		2021	2020
		£	£
Services provided under contract			867
		<u>0</u>	<u>867</u>
5 Other Income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	
	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Consultancy Income	0	9,700	
Other income	263	0	16
	<u>263</u>	<u>9,700</u>	<u>16</u>

6 Raising funds	Unrestricted funds	
	2021	2020
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	0	475
	<u>0</u>	<u>475</u>
7 Charitable activities - expenditure	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs	65,889	47,294
Depreciation	255	255
Contracted services		166
Consultancy fees	1,788	
Website and internet costs	2,733	390
Travel and subsistence	0	1,538
Printing, postage and stationery	119	219
Telephone	213	
Other staff costs	783	882
Quality Mark expenditure	7,750	10,838
Repairs and small equipment	123	104
Sundry expenses	44	108
	<u>79,697</u>	<u>61,794</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,583	840
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,519	1,150
	<u>82,799</u>	<u>63,784</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	75,011	45,523
Restricted funds	7,788	18,211
	<u>82,799</u>	<u>63,734</u>
8 Support costs	2021	2020
	£	£
<u>Support</u>		
Insurance	801	543
Subscriptions	782	297
	<u>1,583</u>	<u>840</u>
<u>Governance</u>		
Independent Examiner fees	1,080	1,110
Legal and professional fees	41	
Trustee training	317	
Bank charges	81	40
	<u>1,519</u>	<u>1,150</u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Average monthly number of employees during the year was:	2	2

	2021 £	2020 £
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	62,049	46,186
Pension costs	3,840	1,108
	<u>65,889</u>	<u>47,294</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery etc £
Cost	
At 1 August 2020	764
At 31 July 2021	764
Depreciation	
At 1 August 2020	255
Charge for the year	255
At 31 July 2021	510
Net book value	
At 31 July 2021	254
At 31 July 2020	509

12 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors	410	410
Prepayments and accrued income	-	431
	<u>410</u>	<u>841</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income	13,367	13,263
Accruals	2,996	2,281
	<u>16,363</u>	<u>15,544</u>

14 Deferred income		2021	2020
		£	£
Other deferred income		<u>13,367</u>	<u>13,263</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2021 are represented by:		-	-
Tangible Assets	254		254
Current assets / (liabilities)	49,350	17,970	67,320
	<u>49,604</u>	<u>17,970</u>	<u>67,574</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2020	2020	2020
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 July 2020 are represented by:			
Tangible Assets	509		509
Current assets / (liabilities)	51,823	4,308	56,131
	<u>52,332</u>	<u>4,308</u>	<u>56,640</u>

16 Related party transactions

No trustees received reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses (2020: three trustees - £428)

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1180793

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1180793

**NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr A A J Pile Dr R Carr Ms A Tilley Ms P Clarke Dr F Dunworth Dr N Harrison Mr M Bettencourt Ms E Watson Mr M Hill	(Appointed 6 May 2020) (Appointed 6 May 2020) (Appointed 6 May 2020)
NNECL Director	Ms P Ambrose	
Charity number	1180793	
Principal address	Kemp House 152-160 City Road London EC1V 2NX	
Independent examiner	Frances Wilde FCCA DChA Warner Wilde Chartered Certified Accountants 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Surrey GU24 9SF	

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

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Balance sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8 - 15

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charitable object of the National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) is, for the public benefit, to relieve the needs of people who are in, or have spent some or all of their childhood in, public care by:

- providing advice, guidance and support and other services in order that such people may fulfil their potential as individuals;
- advancing the education of the public, service providers and the media by providing information and advice on the issues affecting the welfare of people in care and care leavers with the object of reducing negative stereotyping and social exclusion; and
- encouraging the improvement of services for care leavers and those still in care

in order to transform the progression of those with experience of being in care into and through further and higher education so that they thrive throughout their lives and careers.

Our remit is particularly focused on supporting practitioners in universities and colleges who are working with, and for, care experienced students. We do this by:

- developing and sharing effective practice via our Regional Groups and National Strategy Group;
- advocacy with policymakers and sector bodies in higher and further education;
- working in partnership with cognate charities and other relevant organisations;
- commissioning our own research and disseminating findings from others' research; and
- providing training, events and guidance materials.

NNECL's activities during 2019-20 were focused on the following areas:

- progressing our project to develop a new Quality Mark accreditation scheme for universities and colleges to demonstrate the inclusion and success of their care experienced students;
- working with other cognate charities to advocate for the needs of care experienced and estranged students during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns;
- further recruitment of member organisations to support the work of the charity; and
- establishing the NNECL office, including staff recruitment and the development of key organisational policies and procedures to ensure the smooth running of the organisation.

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

NNECL values the contribution made by volunteers who actively participate in our work through the National Strategy Group and our network of regional representatives and groups.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

Achievements and performance

NNECL had a busy and productive year in its first full year of operation as an independent, registered charity. The COVID-19 pandemic had an understandable impact on some of our activities during the second half of the year, with priorities shifting to deal with the challenges this presented.

Membership

We made an excellent start to our membership campaign in autumn 2019 and successfully recruited 52 member organisations over the year. These comprised universities, further education colleges, leaving care services in local authorities and other organisations with an interest in this area of work. Further targeted campaigns are planned in spring 2021.

Quality Mark

One of our key achievements over the year was the development and piloting of our Quality Mark (QM) accreditation scheme, supported with grant funding from the UPP Foundation. The QM process is designed to evaluate institutional support and commitment to care experienced students across seven areas: culture and leadership; continuous improvement; pre-entry activity; admissions; student wellbeing; student success; and collaborative and partnership working. For each area, the QM provides a set of criteria statements against which participating institutions are assessed.

We ran a first pilot of the scheme in late 2019/early 2020 with 11 further and higher education institutions, all of whom successfully completed the process. The timing of follow-on work was then affected by COVID-19. The pandemic also highlighted the need for additional work on the QM criteria and processes, including an enhanced focus on student mental health and less reliance on institutional visits to complete the assessment.

New criteria and detailed written guidance were produced to underpin this new approach, with input from an external consultant and an Advisory Board (comprising representatives from other relevant charities and HE sector organisations, the Department for Education and the Office for Students (OfS)). NNECL trustees and National Strategy Group members also played an active role in helping to develop the extended guidance.

This revised approach is currently being trialled on a collaborative basis with 8 further and higher education institutions in the Greater Manchester region, with the support of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Our current plan is to launch the QM publicly in May 2021, with staged roll-out from summer 2021 onwards.

Responding to COVID-19

As part of our response to the pandemic, NNECL worked collaboratively with the Unite Foundation, Stand Alone, Spectra and Become to highlight the particular difficulties and challenges faced by care experienced and estranged students. Over the course of 2020, the group carried out two student surveys seeking views on well-being, practical support, accommodation and financial concerns.

The initial survey took place in the first week of lockdown in March 2020, with responses from over 250 students. The main concerns emerging from this first survey related to: students' abilities to complete their courses and to earn (62% of respondents); feeling lonely and isolated (55%); and worries about essential food supplies (50%).

A second survey in May 2020 received over 450 responses. This particularly highlighted concerns about whether basic bills could be met over the summer, with many respondents not receiving consistent financial support from their local authority or institution.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

Feedback from these surveys informed a joint submission of evidence and recommendations to the House of Commons Education Select Committee enquiry on *The Impact of Covid-19 on Education and Children's Services*. Alongside this, NNECL collated examples of good practice from universities and colleges in supporting care experienced and estranged students during the pandemic (available at www.nnecl.org). This also fed directly into an Office for Students briefing note on *Students Without Family Support* (<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/coronavirus-briefing-note-students-without-family-support/>).

Another consequence of the pandemic was the postponement of NNECL's annual conference. In its place, we delivered a public webinar event showcasing and sharing good practice in supporting care experienced students during this challenging time. Following the positive feedback from this event, we are now developing a regular annual series of webinars, open to all.

NNECL Board of Trustees

Three new trustees joined NNECL during the year, further enhancing the skills and expertise of the Board. These were: Emma Watson, a chartered financial planner who was also appointed as NNECL Treasurer; Michael Bettencourt, a researcher and former head of a Virtual School; and Mike Hill, an Assistant Professor in Learning and Teaching, with expertise in widening access and student engagement, retention and success.

Staff

In May 2020, Sian Edwards joined us as our Communications and Administrative Officer. Debra Clothier, the first NNECL Director, left part-way through the year, and her successor, Patricia Ambrose, was recruited and joined the organisation in August 2020.

Financial review

Total income during the 2019/2020 year was £122,540 (2018/2019: £32,230), comprising £100,021 in unrestricted funds (2018/2019: £15,453) and £22,519 in restricted funds (2018/2019: £16,777). We are particularly grateful to: the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust for its grant funding to support core staffing and office costs; and the UPP Foundation and Greater Manchester Combined Authority for supporting the Quality Mark project.

Expenditure totalled £64,209 (2018-2019: £33,921). Restricted funds' expenditure was lower than originally budgeted as the COVID-19 pandemic led to some delays in projects and staff recruitment. All unspent restricted funding is carried forward for use in subsequent years.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to four month's expenditure (£24,000 in 2019/20). The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. The charity is working towards consistently maintaining this level of reserves by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

As at 31 July 2020 total reserves were £56,640, of which £4,308 was for restricted projects and £52,332 was unrestricted.

NNECL maintains a risk register which is regularly updated and reviewed at Board meetings. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A A J Pile

Dr R Carr

Ms A Tilley

Ms P Clarke

Dr F Dunworth

Dr N Harrison

Mr M Bettencourt

(Appointed 6 May 2020)

Ms E Watson

(Appointed 6 May 2020)

Mr M Hill

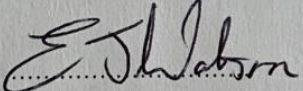
(Appointed 6 May 2020)

Trustees are appointed on the basis of their relevant skills, knowledge and expertise. This includes involvement in activities related to the support of care-experienced and estranged students in higher and further education.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company.

NNECL supports its trustees by signposting and meeting the costs of relevant training. Detailed terms of reference for the Board, including expectations of Trustees, are being developed and will underpin future recruitment and induction processes.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Ms E Watson
Trustee
Dated: 10 March 2021

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Frances Wilde FCCA DChA

Warner Wilde
Chartered Certified Accountants
4 Marigold Drive
Bisley
Surrey
GU24 9SF

Dated: 12 March 2021

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
	Notes						
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	3	99,138	22,519	121,657	14,010	16,777	30,787
Charitable activities	4	867	-	867	1,443	-	1,443
Other income	5	16	-	16	-	-	-
Total income		<u>100,021</u>	<u>22,519</u>	<u>122,540</u>	<u>15,453</u>	<u>16,777</u>	<u>32,230</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Raising funds	6	475	-	475	-	-	-
Charitable activities	7	45,523	18,211	63,734	17,144	16,777	33,921
Total resources expended		<u>45,998</u>	<u>18,211</u>	<u>64,209</u>	<u>17,144</u>	<u>16,777</u>	<u>33,921</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds							
		54,023	4,308	58,331	(1,691)	-	(1,691)
Fund balances at 1 August 2019		(1,691)	-	(1,691)	-	-	-
Fund balances at 31 July 2020		<u>52,332</u>	<u>4,308</u>	<u>56,640</u>	<u>(1,691)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,691)</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

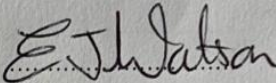
NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JULY 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		509		-
Current assets					
Debtors	12	841		1,240	
Cash at bank and in hand		70,834		-	
		<u>71,675</u>		<u>1,240</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(15,544)</u>		<u>(2,931)</u>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			<u>56,131</u>		<u>(1,691)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u><u>56,640</u></u>		<u><u>(1,691)</u></u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds			4,308		-
Unrestricted funds			52,332		(1,691)
			<u>56,640</u>		<u>(1,691)</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10 March 2021


Ms E Watson
Trustee

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

National Network for the Education of Care Leavers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

A liability is recognised when either a constructive or legal obligation is identified. Central costs are apportioned between costs of generating funds and charitable activities on the basis of the specific activities of members of staff. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the same expenditure heading as the cost to which it relates. Basic financial liabilities are recognised at transaction cost.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	3 years straight line
---------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	-	-	-	9,486	-	9,486
Grants receivable	87,500	22,519	110,019	-	16,777	16,777
Membership fees	24,901	-	24,901	6,375	-	6,375
Less: deferred income	(13,263)	-	(13,263)	(1,851)	-	(1,851)
	<u>99,138</u>	<u>22,519</u>	<u>121,657</u>	<u>14,010</u>	<u>16,777</u>	<u>30,787</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
The UPP Foundation	-	16,777	16,777	-	16,777	16,777
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	87,500	-	87,500	-	-	-
GMCA	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation - Training grant	-	3,742	3,742	-	-	-
	<u>87,500</u>	<u>22,519</u>	<u>110,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,777</u>	<u>16,777</u>

4 Charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Services provided under contract	867	1,193
Other income	-	250
	<u>867</u>	<u>1,443</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2020	2019
	£	£
Other income	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2020 £	2019 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	475	-
	<u>475</u>	<u>-</u>

7 Charitable activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs	47,294	21,645
Depreciation and impairment	255	-
Contracted services	116	449
External hospitality charges	-	6,632
Website and internet costs	390	605
Travel and subsistence	1,538	1,899
Printing, postage and stationery	219	277
Other staff costs	882	680
Quality Mark expenditure	10,838	-
Repairs and small equipment	104	-
Sundry expenses	108	654
	<u>61,744</u>	<u>32,841</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	840	-
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,150	1,080
	<u>63,734</u>	<u>33,921</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	45,523	17,144
Restricted funds	18,211	16,777
	<u>63,734</u>	<u>33,921</u>

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2020	Support costs	Governance costs	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	543	-	543	-	-	-
Subscriptions	297	-	297	-	-	-
Independent Examiner fees	-	1,110	1,110	-	1,080	1,080
Bank charges	-	40	40	-	-	-
	<u>840</u>	<u>1,150</u>	<u>1,990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>1,080</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>840</u>	<u>1,150</u>	<u>1,990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>1,080</u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Employment costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	46,186	17,927
Social security costs	-	970
Other pension costs	1,108	2,748
	<u>47,294</u>	<u>21,645</u>

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £
Cost	
Additions	764
At 31 July 2020	<u>764</u>
Depreciation and impairment	
Depreciation charged in the year	255
At 31 July 2020	<u>255</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 July 2020	<u><u>509</u></u>

12 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	410	1,000
Prepayments and accrued income	431	240
	<u>841</u>	<u>1,240</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred income	14	13,263	1,851
Accruals		2,281	1,080
		<u>15,544</u>	<u>2,931</u>

14 Deferred income

	2020 £	2019 £
Other deferred income	13,263	1,851

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE EDUCATION OF CARE LEAVERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Fund balances at 31 July 2020 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	509	-	509	-	-	-
Current assets/ (liabilities)	51,823	4,308	56,131	(1,691)	-	(1,691)
	<u>52,332</u>	<u>4,308</u>	<u>56,640</u>	<u>(1,691)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,691)</u>

16 Related party transactions

Three trustees received reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses totalling £428 (2019: two trustees - £312)