

Company number: CE018159
Charity registration number: 1184348

WE BELONG

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021
(Unaudited)

WE BELONG

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Colin Falconer - Chair	(appointed 7 January 2021)
Claud Williams - Chair	(resigned 3 September 2020)
Sufina Ahmad	
Jamilla Hinds-Brough	(appointed 7 January 2021)
Mariam Ajibola	
Muhammed Akram Babar	
Joel Carter	
Jocelyn James - Treasurer	
Andrew Noel	(resigned 16 September 2021)
David Wolfe QC	

Co - Chief Executives

Chrisann Jarrett	
Dami Makinde	(last day 30 September 2021)

Charity registered number 1184348

Registered office and operational address

EC1 Offices
338 City Road
London
EC1V 2PY

Banker

Metro Bank
One Southampton Row
London
WC1B 5HA

Accountants

Charity Accounting Services Ltd
Unit B108, Trident Business Centre
89 Bickersteth Road
London
SW17 9SH

Independent Examiner

Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
55 Canberra Road
London
SE7 8PF

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We Belong registered with the Charity Commission on 10 July 2019, becoming a new stand-alone organisation. We Belong builds on a project called Let Us Learn, which was previously hosted by Just for Kids Law. The project expanded beyond its initial remit of campaigning for equal access to higher education to fighting for the rights of young migrants in the UK, including higher education and tackling systemic barriers that prevent young migrants from living a fulfilled life.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation and its governing document is a written constitution dated 10 July 2019.

Recruit and induction of trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the members or the charity trustees and are recruited with regard to their knowledge skills and experience. At each AGM the longest serving one third of trustees must retire and may be reappointed. Trustees may not serve more than three consecutive terms. There is a comprehensive pre-appointment briefing and a trustee induction process for new Trustees. Training is made available to Trustees as required.

Management and administration

During the year We Belong was administered by two Co-Chief Executives, Dami Makinde and Chrisann Jarrett based on the strategic direction set by the trustees. The board of trustees meets four times a year. The chair, treasurer and safeguarding lead trustees also provide support to Co-CEOs as and when required. Charity Accounting Services provide book-keeping and accounting services to the charity.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives set out in the governing document

- ☐ to help young people advance in life through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

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- ❑ to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

Charity activities

We Belong works with and for young migrants, who are subject to a hostile environment in the country we and they call home. We fight to end the hostile environment around immigration, ensuring barriers preventing full integration for migrants are removed so that we can contribute to British society.

OUR ISSUES AND APPROACHES

Advocacy

The Challenge:

There are 332,000 children and young people growing up in the UK without any formal immigration status. The current immigration system is complex and lengthy, and the cost of securing Leave to Remain has increased by 331% since 2014. Young people who are socially integrated are exposed to the UK's hostile immigration environment and left suspended in a protracted legal limbo, limiting their progression in life.

Our approach:

As well as fighting to get the most secure status possible for young people to allow them to remain and contribute to British society; we work with young people to help advocate their concerns to policy makers at the heart of parliament.

Recognising that young people in difficulty face significant barriers to personal development, we seek to remove those barriers and support them in accessing their rights and advocating for change. This empowers each young person to become independent, confident, and able to reach their full potential. Our advocacy work has the following aims:

- **To foster relationships with parliamentarians** to aid our campaign goals calling on the government to introduce a shorter and more affordable routes to settlement;
- **To raise awareness** of how the current immigration system affects the life chances of young migrants, as well as their ability to secure and maintain their status;
- **To work with young people** on a one-to-one basis and equip them with the tools necessary to change the status quo and interact with the government so they are able to initiate conversations with Members of Parliament, using their own stories to humanise the debate around immigration.

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Strategic litigation:

Our desire for justice led to a collaboration with Islington Law Centre and Garden Court Chambers to produce case studies for a judicial review on the 10-year route. The case studies consisted of young people brought to the UK as children who have limited form of status, who could have been granted settled status should the home office decide to use discretion. We provided a witness statement, hammering home the significant impact of the route and the effects on social integration because of punitive measures.

Permission was granted for a full hearing at the High Court for a future date. We are now in preparation for the full hearing and submitted a further six case studies that are incredibly moving and exceptionally powerful in giving snippets into the lives of young people.

A young person who wishes to remain anonymous stated the following:

'I literally wouldn't wish my life on anyone. I can't tell you of a time that it has been easy for me. Getting friends is not easy 'cos you can't fit in- you can't share any of the experiences. My mum is going through it but still not like me, it is affecting me every single step, going to uni, getting the job I want, I'm always planning ahead but I have to accept these limits every day. I should have finished uni by now - I'm seeing my friends flying with their lives. I am stuck but I still keep trying. I haven't done anything bad in my life to deserve this.'

Student Finance

The Challenge:

The 2015 victory at the Supreme Court against the Business, Innovation and Skills was a step closer to thousands of young people achieving their long-life dream of attending a university and obtaining a degree. Yet, many young people still face consistent challenges with Student Finance England despite meeting the Long Residency Criteria. The barriers we work to challenge is the restrictive criterion that young people with precarious status experience, which penalises students who have resided in the UK since childhood. The Student Loans Company requests extensive documents to prove long residence eligibility despite Home Office eligibility criteria which is granted based on the evidence of continuous stay in the UK. This becomes a difficult process for those who:

- **Received their first and lawful status after leaving sixth form or college.** As they wait for their status to be granted, they are unable to hold a bank account, drive, rent, work and in some cases use the NHS. Therefore, they incur gaps where they are unable to provide legal documents to prove their long residence eligibility.
- **Move houses multiple times in a short time frame** and as a result lose documents along the way. Young people attending university after the age of 18 can have minor gaps in their documentation to prove long residence. In such cases Student Finance England is unable to proceed with individuals' application despite showing other clear evidence of their longevity in the UK.

Our approach:

Our Communities: We raise awareness of student finance rules in schools and communities, ensuring that students, teachers and parents we come in contact with understand the stakes

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and begin to work towards gathering evidence and preparing themselves for what can be a trying period should the application to student finance not go according to plan.

Collaboration: We work alongside other organisations within the sector such as Access to Higher Education Working Group and Student Finance Vulnerable Stakeholder Group on finding solutions to the policy issues.

Student Loans Company: We established a relationship with Student Loans Company (SLC), through their Funding Information Partners Manager, who is willing to assist the young people we work with who struggled to access student finance despite being eligible. Since making contact, we have successfully intervened in 4 urgent cases, with one young person being reinstated back into university after being kicked out because of student finance errors. Building on the fostered relationship with SLC, we've attended several meetings and we are directly influencing policies.

A quote from someone we supported:

"Only God knows what I would be doing right now if I didn't come into contact with you. It's been such a long journey and I couldn't have done it without you. I honestly don't know how to thank you, you've done so much for me over these last few months and I'm so so grateful for everything you've done for me! May God bless you in abundance." - LK, 20 years old

For young people who fall outside of the student finance rules, our support has had a positive impact, with 4 young people receiving scholarships in the last year.

Hamayoon, age 25 says:

"I am forever in your debt for all the help that you provided for me in my educational pursuit. I do not have the words to describe how to thank you. Keep up the good work and I wish you all the best."

IMPACT

Impact- Our Influencing Work

As the Covid-19 pandemic hit we knew that our external campaigning efforts would have to move online so we focused our attention on building connections with parliamentarians digitally by utilising the power of storytelling. We have supported young people to speak out and challenge the government's 10-year route to settlement and campaign for a reform to ensure that our immigration system is fair and respects social integration.

We have empowered over 100 young people to write to their MP's and get them engaged in the democratic process.

The 1-1 relationship building with MPs has led to the concerns about the high cost of fees and **We Belong's aims being raised to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel in parliament.** Since then, we have been in touch with the Home Secretary's department and have held frequent meetings with Senior Civil Servants working on creating a better immigration system for young people that have made the UK their home.

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We also wrote a letter to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighting our concerns about the immigration system which was co-signed by 75 young people with lived experience of the immigration system. Alongside this letter we created an online petition which was aimed at Boris Johnson asking the government to introduce a shorter more affordable route to settlement. This petition was shared alongside a short campaign video where 4 young people spoke about their lives in the UK and the impact of the immigration fees that's pricing them out of status in a country they call home. **The video received over 8,000 views on our social media channels.**

We have gained cross party support for our Chasing Status Campaign. We hosted an event inviting MPs Tim Loughton and Laura Farris from the Home Affairs Select Committee to speak at our **Virtual Parliamentary Event which was led by young migrants who told their story of self to 77 attendees. This led to five of our young people being invited by Tim Loughton to give oral evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee as part of Parliament Week.** Our questions and concerns were raised to the Immigration Minister Kevin Foster, the next day when he agreed to meet with us to discuss. In that meeting we were able to speak about the barriers young migrants were facing in the UK using our stories of self as the catalyst of change. The Immigration Minister listened to our concerns and has promised to engage further with us. This was the beginning of working alongside policy makers, providing insight into the lives of young people and ensuring systems are in place to address their concerns. **We Belong has also submitted written evidence to the House of Lords Covid-19 Committee as well as providing oral evidence.**

Using the momentum from this we helped **Meg Hillier MP, secure a debate in Parliament on the extortionate cost of visa fees.** We Belong members from across the country sent our briefing to Members of Parliament and urged them to attend the debate and speak out against the injustices they face. **Our briefing was referenced by 5 MPs in the debate and led to the immigration minister speaking out in favour of working with We Belong to address the issues of the 10-year route.**

Leadership Programme

We aim to build generational leaders who can become change agents and lead in their respective fields. We achieve this through our leadership academy, facilitated by the We Belong's CEOs which has been highly recommended to young people who want to:

- Be equipped with tools to enhance their leadership skills;
- Meet new people who have lived experience of the immigration system;
- Gain confidence as leaders and discover more about themselves.

We've conducted two virtual leadership programme leadership programmes in the financial year 2020/2021, and graduated 19 young people, some who have stated the following about the programme:

'I am pleased to have taken part in this course. This course has helped me to identify my strengths and develop them further but also allowed me to accept my weaknesses and embrace them.'

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"I learned that there is power in one's story and one has the right to share it as one wishes and no matter how negative it appears, there is always a sense of positivity attached and one cannot tell who is inspired by it"

To enhance the programme, the emerging young leaders are paired with senior mentors and are given opportunities to ask questions, learn and absorb as much information as possible. The senior mentors often act as connectors for the young cohort and encourage them in their chosen career paths and ambitions.

Sufina Ahmed, a senior leader said this:

"The programme has allowed me to mentor several people at different points in their leadership journeys. Whether they are still studying, finishing their studies, in the early stages of their career, or newly arrived in the UK and building a new life for themselves, they have all been passionate about achieving their dreams. Each has shown resilience and determination in managing the challenges they're facing, and a real optimism in pursuing the opportunities that this programme opens their eyes to. Each has spoken about the sense of community that the programme has provided them with, as well as the importance of having a mentor that they can speak to on a one-to-one basis to explore specific issues and ideas more deeply. The programme has also opened their eyes to a more expansive definition of leadership and shows them that they absolutely have the skills to be leaders in their own lives and careers. I feel utterly privileged to have seen this unfold firsthand within the young people that I have mentored. It has allowed me to think creatively about what leadership means to me and to others, and how we can support others to manifest and achieve their leadership dreams."

Summit

It is our desire to connect young people from across the UK, uplift and amplify their voices as changemakers. Recognising the need for young people to be equipped with tools that aids their progression in the activism field, we hold an annual youth conference to teach, equip and network with young people from across the wider sector. This year's virtual 3 day conference, titled 'Rise to the challenge' focuses on three pillars rooted in our society today and within We Belong. The pillars - **Mental Health, Activism and Digital Storytelling** - engages young people through information sharing, upskilling and the celebration of amazing individuals between 18-25 years of age in the UK today. The pillars expand on the following:

- **Mental Health:** Developing solutions for youth mental health
- **Activism:** Hearing from young campaigners who have influenced positive outcomes for people.
- **Digital Storytelling:** Shifting the narrative and finding a balance to humanise and share stories online.

The event will end with our first We Belong Awards ceremony on the final day of the summit, to recognise the hard work and dedication of our committed volunteers, schools, and parliamentarians.

This year, our core group members, who are committed volunteers are key in the success of the summit as their participation throughout the process has been integral. Together we decided on creation of materials, choice of speakers, content for the various workshops, talks

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and panel discussions taking place. We hope from attending the summit, young people will acquire in-depth knowledge on the 3-pillars, gain confidence and feel empowered to overcome the challenges they face either personally or within their communities.

The backdrop of Covid-19 left a negative impact on many young people's mental health and morale and this summit was our answer to affect positive changes at a time that has been difficult for so many. Moreover, we hope to implement learnings from youth experts in different fields, including our own members during the different sessions held.

Social media and website

One of the key developments in our online communications this year has been hiring a Digital Communications Officer to deliver on the following:

- Increase in the number of young people supported to speak out online about barriers they face because of their immigration status
- More young people are leading campaigns that aim for equal and fair treatment for young migrants.
- We Belong becoming a key player in policy reform to the UK's immigration system.

In addition to this, as an organisation it has been exciting to engage young migrants online, develop the organisation's communications strategy, work on online storytelling and fundraising. Doing so has required various exciting new challenges: planning and creating online content that follows social media trends, designing graphics and animations that inform and educate young migrants and parliamentarians, updating our new website with fresh content and information, and helping to communicate our political campaigns.

Our series of monthly interviews called 'Status Stories' effectively enables young people to speak out online about the impact of the 10-year route and the changes they hope to see within the immigration system. Thus, further engaging and empowering others to speak out about their difficult circumstances.

We use our overall online content to generate individual donors in support of our work. We create and share fundraising-specific content, social media ads and promoted content. With the help of a digital mentor supporting our Digital Communications Officer on fundraising, and the development of our strategy we expect to utilise this capacity to draw on more individual donors. One of our highlights from our focus on general public donations this year has been a generous donation from Reni Eddo-Lodge, the award-winning author of 'Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race'. Reni Eddo-Lodge shared her support for our work on both Instagram and Twitter, which saw our online followers grow.

At the beginning of every month, we review our social media and website and generate a report. For example, between October and June, we have seen a 328% increase in followers on Instagram, and 27% increase in followers on Twitter. The report is used to track our growth, popular online content and our geographical reach. We expect to see this increase in online engagement continue in upcoming months.

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Awards (2021)

Our 2021 awards include the following:

UK Youth Inspiring Hope Award: We were celebrated as an innovative and adaptable organisation, who in response to Covid19 supported our young people and made a real difference in their lives.

Community Campaign of the year - UK Parliament Award: We were celebrated as an organisation that has campaigned for change in our community.

FUNDING PROCESS

We Belong submit funding applications either by open grant processes or by invitation from grantmakers. All fundraising prospects are noted in the Fundraising Pipeline after a scoping exercise to ascertain whether or not We Belong is a fit for the prospective funding priority with reference to the organisation's fundraising strategy which highlights any potential gap in funding for specific projects. Once a prospective grant is on the Fundraising Pipeline it is then tracked from submission to assessment and finally through to decision.

FUNDRAISING

Quote from Catherine Hillis, Esmée Fairbairn – ‘

We are very proud to support We Belong. The impact the organisation has been able to create is testament to what happens when young people have the resource and power to lead change. We have been incredibly impressed by how We Belong have demonstrated the impact immigration issues can have on young people's lives through powerful media and influencing campaigns, cutting through an often extremely challenging context, to expose the injustice of the current system. Its direct delivery and leadership programmes offer much-needed peer support to young people often failed by statutory services. With their connections to other youth-led organisations internationally, they have brought an exciting approach to organising to the UK and we are really excited to see the impact it is going to be able to create in the next few years.’

Quote from a member of the public- *‘I read an article in the Guardian which mentioned the work you do, and I was so moved and inspired that I decided to donate.’*

2020/2021 financial year has been promising for We Belong as we continue to engage a wide range of donor and Grantmaking organisations. The funding received has enabled us to embed our new way of working as we adapt our digital delivery in the midst of the global pandemic. **We raised £417,589 a 57% increase from 2019/2020 revenue income.** We continue to develop our fundraising strategy with an emphasis on individual donors. **Online donations from the public in this last year exceeded our target as we were able to generate unrestricted income of £22,114 via CHUFFED and CAF Donate.**

Though the pandemic has created new hurdles which required us to shift priorities or delay the delivery of some of our programmes and activities, we were reassured and encouraged by the support of our funders who responded with increased flexibility through a range of

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unrestricted grants and top-up grants to support organisational development and digital infrastructure.

For the first time, we were supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Rayne Foundation and a number of anonymous donors to provide sub-grants to young migrants to alleviate the financial insecurity caused by the pandemic through our Hardship Grants. We were able to meet young people at the point of need and provide a safety net to fill the gap left by other services. We approved 102 grants, totalling an amount of £22,473.

We appreciate all our supporters; without them we would not be able to continue this purpose driven work.

ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS

Advocacy and Campaigning

We are working ever more closely with young people with lived experience to fight and dismantle the Hostile Environment and to secure a fair, progressive immigration system that works for all of us. We continue to work with parliamentarians across the political-spectrum raising our concerns about the issues faced by young migrants.

Over the past year we have learned the following:

1. **There is no substitute for lived experience:** it is important that young people are included in strategy and policy conversations from an early stage so that they are invested in the process. Telling one's story might just be one tactic of raising awareness but it is not to be underestimated in a world where civil servants and ministers often operate on assumptions of 'how the system is working'. The lived experience of the young people debunks these assumptions and replaces it with the 'truth'.
2. **We must lead with values:** conversations around immigration in the UK are already polarising, our advocacy must therefore appeal to values of fairness, justice and social integration. By leading with these values and engaging with MP's by sharing the journeys of young people we have been able to build trust, find commonality and work closely with MP's and civil servants.
3. **Strategic alliances:** it matters who speaks about the issues in which we are campaigning, it is key to have members from across the political spectrum to speak about and endorse our calls for reform. The voices must be balanced so as not to make our recommendations a part political issue to which there will be a lot of opposition.

Comms and Narrative

We Belong have a long history of integrating communications support in all our advocacy and campaigns to amplify our work and to raise awareness amongst the public.

We have provided strategic comms training to members of our core group and invested in our key messages. Our comms has been carefully curated to ensure we rightfully expose the problems of the current immigration system whilst also offering solutions and extend a

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friendly offer to work alongside the government to implement these changes. We were featured in the BBC Panorama programme 'Am I British?' where three of our young people shared their experiences of our broken immigration system. This enabled us to start new conversation with MP's and it also provided the momentum to move static conversations along. [CJ3]

We have recognised that there is still a long way to go but we have managed to win the hearts of members of the public through our external campaigning whilst also maintaining good and helpful relationships with senior civil servants.

Governance

We have strengthened our board of trustees by recruiting a new Chairman, Colin Falconer and an additional trustee, Jamilla Hinds-Brough. Both bring strong expertise working within the charitable sector. Colin Falconer in particular worked with the Foyer Federation and developed the concept of 'Advantaged thinking' which asks organisations working with young people to see them as having positive assets. Jamilla has experience working in regional government and public affairs, her expertise crucial as We Belong develops its advocacy.

We value lived experience and meaningful engagement of our three younger trustees. To that end we conducted an internal skills audit of our current board members and created a development programme for younger trustees to shadow and work alongside the more experienced trustees. Development areas include, communication, governance, and financial literacy, all contributing to the future aim of our board being fully representative of the organisation and the young people we work with.

Engagement and Relationship Building

Beneficiaries (New Client Enquires)

There has been a significant rise in our beneficiaries in the last year as our database shows a record of 156 new client enquiries from 45 geographical locations across the UK. This is a 155% increase from the previous year, meaning an increase in our visibility through our outreach and social media work. We provide information, and invite young people on our journey to become active participants and change makers. This includes several 1-2-1 meetings, writing to their MPs, attending our gatherings, becoming members of our core group and completing our leadership academy.

Core Group Members

The pandemic exacerbated the difficult situations our core group members were in. With some furloughed and unable to work, and others at university struggling to settle into a new normal, our engagement with our core group took a hit as many lost the motivation to stay and keep fighting for the injustice we all faced. **Determined not to give up, we held several meetings, engaged strategically on re-gaining the momentum and understood the importance of transforming the cohort by revamping the team and ensuring face to face meetings can still occur.**

Despite the inconsistency with the core team, we've worked alongside five core group members, by co-designing and facilitating information sessions, raising awareness on the

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barriers to accessing higher education for young migrants in schools and colleges. This has been beneficial to the target audiences and has resulted in positive feedback.

Institutions (Universities, Schools and Colleges)

We increased our engagement with universities by training staff who work with students with complex status. Our two-hour training session is adaptable and supports staff to engage in group discussions, where common issues and best practice examples can be identified. Our aim is for all young people with precarious status at universities to easily access accurate information and receive guidance on any issues they may face throughout the duration of their course. We have since trained 3 universities, benefiting over 50 staff members. The training provides We Belong with further unrestricted income that supports our overall work. Furthermore, we hope to establish at least 10 more scholarships across UK universities and will continue to work alongside faculties in achieving this aim.

We recently contributed towards a report for the Centre for Education and Youth, calling for a change among decision makers within higher education situations and policy makers for students with precarious status and long term residents to be considered as home fees students. As part of a working group with the Universities of Sanctuary, we are seeking opportunities for further developments in our collaboration.

We have developed strong relationships with over 21 schools and colleges, 15 of them agreeing to become part of We Belong's network, and we continue to work hard to increase this. Over 300 young people in schools have attended our information sessions, with school teachers trained to identify problems relating to young migrants. Although we were physically unable to attend schools during the pandemic, we were able to continue our work each month, and communicate to students through a series of online workshops.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees report net income of £184,662 (2020: £147,276) for the period under review. The income for the year was £417,589 (2020: £265,997) and expenditure was £232,927 (2020: £118,721). The fund balance at the end of the period of £331,938 (2020: £147,276) comprised unrestricted funds of £251,106 (2020: £98,917) and restricted funds of £80,832 (2020: £48,359).

RESERVE POLICY: The Trustees aim to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover the budgeted operating costs for 3-6 months.

The unrestricted reserve balance at 31 March 2021 was £251,106 (2020: £98,917). Based on the budget for 2021/22 this represents 8 months expenditure and therefore the Trustees consider that the value of the funds at 31 March 2021 meets these objectives.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

The Trustees actively review the major risks which face the charity on a regular basis, with a risk assessment report available online and highlighted at every Trustee meeting. Financially the Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at adequate levels, combined

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with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and believe that the systems in place to mitigate significant risks offers the Trust adequate protection.

GOING CONCERN:

The Trustees believe that by maintaining reserves at the levels required by the reserves policy and by regularly reviewing the charity's key financial systems, they can ensure that sufficient resources are in place to mitigate significant financial risks. The Trustees have examined the operational and business risks faced by the charity, particularly the challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and believe that confirmed income for the next 12 months together with the reserves in place offer the charity adequate protection to ensure its continuance as a going concern.

PUBLIC BENEFIT:

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are clear that there are identifiable benefits to the work that we do - some of these are identified below;

- Trustees are clear that these benefits are for a wide cross-section of the public;
- Trustees are clear that those benefits relate to our aims.
- Trustees are clear that those benefits outweigh any potential risks.

UPDATE ON FUTURE PLANS

We Belong is expanding its office outside of London to reach more young people around the UK. Our data shows over 65% of our young cohort are London based whilst 35% of them are from elsewhere in the UK. For those outside London, our new client inquiry confirms 62% are from Manchester, solidifying the city as our second most young migrant populated place in the UK.

We recognise the importance of engaging those who contact us and the need to foster a community through gatherings and meet ups in safe spaces alongside our online work. Thus, we're lifting the restrictive face-to-face outreach and community work to include other cities, starting with Manchester. We aim to do the following:

- **Offer tailored support to young migrants** who otherwise would be harder to reach because of lack of provision in their community;
- **Reduce isolation** through engagement and movement building and;
- **Extend our organisation's network** for possible collaborations in bringing about justice to migrant youths.

We're working in partnership with Manchester University on the creation of a We Belong Society; a volunteer led programme with the focus of attending local schools to raise awareness on student finance and promote scholarships. In addition, we are hiring an Outreach Officer who will engage and upskill other young migrants, collaborate and work in

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partnerships with surrounding organisations and support the continuation of We Belong's movement building. We've set out three phases for our work in Manchester over the next 5 years.

- **Phase 1:** Identify young migrants with lived experience and those interested in the work of We Belong. Conduct multiple 1-2-1's focusing on relevant issues and train young migrants within the pre-existing structures and networks in Manchester with a view to develop core members.
- **Phase 2:** Build community ties, and positively engage with the wider sector through support, social actions and collaboration. Expand We Belong's network through participation and ensure We Belong's identity is rooted in Manchester.
- **Phase 3:** Increase engagement of young people and develop regional advocacy for shorter and more affordable routes to settlement. Deliver training on youth organising where young people can become change agents, develop their public speaking proficiency and start an open dialogue with policy makers.

Like this year's Summit title, We Belong has continued to 'rise to the challenge' with secure foundations for its future impact.

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STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the CIO for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge there is no information relevant to the Independent Examination of which the Examiner is unaware.

The Trustees also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant financial information and that this information has been communicated to the Examiner.

The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 03 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Jocelyn James
Trustee and Treasurer

WE BELONG

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of We Belong for the year ended 31 March 2021.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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 CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give as 'true and fair' view which is not considered part of an independent examination.
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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

Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
London SE7

Date: 9 November 2021

WE BELONG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	230,114	-	230,114	120,954
Charitable activities	5	2,575	184,900	187,475	145,043
Total Income		232,689	184,900	417,589	265,997
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	74,533	158,394	232,927	118,721
Total Expenditure		74,533	158,394	232,927	118,721
Net Income for the year		158,156	26,506	184,662	147,276
Transfer between funds		(5,967)	5,967	-	-
Net Movement in funds		152,189	32,473	184,662	147,276
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward		98,917	48,359	147,276	-
Funds carried forward	12	251,106	80,832	331,938	147,276

All activities derive from continuing operations. There are no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 12 to the financial statements.

The notes attached on pages 19 to 29 form an integral part of these accounts.

WE BELONG

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

		2021	2021	2020	2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	5,200		3,097	
Cash at bank and in hand:		332,115		150,759	
Total current assets		337,315		153,856	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	5,377		6,580	
Net Current assets			331,938		147,276
NET ASSETS TOTALS	11		331,938		147,276
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds	12		80,832		48,359
Unrestricted Funds	12		251,106		98,917
TOTAL FUNDS			331,938		147,276

Approved by the board of trustees on 3 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Jocelyn James
Trustee and Treasurer

The notes attached on pages 19 to 29 form an integral part of these accounts.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting policies

Statutory information

We Belong is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The registered office and operational address is EC1 Offices, 338 City Road, London EC1V 2PY.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and 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 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) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Public benefit entity

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non-exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Donated professional services and facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. There were no such donations during the period in question. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of trustees and volunteers is not recognised with any monetary value.

Fund accounting

- 1) Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- 2) Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.
- 3) Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Allocating costs to activities

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. These include office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's charitable activities.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Creditors and provisions

All liabilities are recognised as at the end of the financial year.

Financial instruments including cash and bank balances

Cash held by the charity is included at the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at the amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

Pension

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the period.

Fixed assets

Items costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised.

2. Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3. Comparison of prior period financial activities

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020
	Notes	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	4	120,954	-	120,954
Charitable activities	5	7,609	137,434	145,043
Total Income		128,563	137,434	265,997
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	29,646	89,075	118,721
Total Expenditure		29,646	89,075	118,721
Net Income for the year		98,917	48,359	147,276
Transfer between funds		-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		98,917	48,359	147,276
Reconciliation of funds:				
Funds brought forward		-	-	-
Funds carried forward	12	98,917	48,359	147,276

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4. Donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020 £
General donations	22,114	-	22,114	9,174
Grants from trust and foundations				
<i>AB Charitable Trust</i>	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
<i>Paul Hamlyn Foundation</i>	77,000	-	77,000	60,000
<i>OAK Foundation</i>	-	-	-	7,800
<i>Just for Kids Law</i>	-	-	-	18,980
<i>Esmée Fairbairn</i>	96,000	-	96,000	-
<i>Bernard Lewis Family Charitable trust</i>	10,000	-	10,000	-
Total Donations	230,114	-	230,114	120,954

All donations in 2020 were unrestricted. Donations from Just for Kids law represented the net income received for the Let Us Learn project prior to We belong registering as a separate entity and taking over the project.

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020 £
Grants from trusts and foundations				
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	44,900	44,900	12,500
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	-	-	-	24,000
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	-	60,000	60,000	60,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	-	40,000	40,000	20,000
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	-	-	-	4,000
<i>Nelson Foundation</i>	-	-	-	16,440
<i>PH Emergency COVID Grant</i>	-	40,000	40,000	-
Workshop & Conference	2,575	-	2,575	8,103
	2,575	184,900	187,475	145,043
2020 analysis	7,609	137,434	145,043	

2020 unrestricted income comes from Workshops and Conferences. All grants are restricted.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6. Charitable expenditure

6a. Direct programme costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£
Staff cost (note 7)	32,809	103,795	136,604	72,763
Communications	19,606	2,268	21,874	11,748
Other programme costs	1,400	1,883	3,283	6,573
Emergency Grant COVID19	-	22,473	22,473	-
Total direct programme costs	53,815	130,419	184,234	91,084
<i>2020 analysis</i>	<i>4,963</i>	<i>86,121</i>	<i>91,084</i>	

Covid grants were made to 102 individuals to cover emergency livelihood costs.

6b. Supports costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£
Staff training and recruitment	975	1,428	2,403	3,300
Office rent	4,436	23,679	28,115	9,828
Insurance	915	-	915	856
Telephone & internet bill	361	-	361	323
Printing, postage & stationery	243	1,186	1,429	468
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	262	13	275	2,293
IT support and software	1,527	811	2,338	-
Accounting service fee	6,374	-	6,374	3,792
Equipment costs	2,359	-	2,359	1,058
Other expenses	1,166	858	2,024	235
Total support costs	18,618	27,975	46,593	22,153
<i>2020 analysis</i>	<i>19,199</i>	<i>2,954</i>	<i>22,153</i>	

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6c. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£
Trustees' meeting costs and expenses	600	-	600	91
Independent examiner fee	1,500	-	1,500	3,000
Initial start-up cost	-	-	-	2,393
Total governance costs	2,100	-	2,100	5,484
<i>2020 analysis</i>	5,484		5,484	
Total Charitable expenditure	74,533	158,394	232,927	118,721
<i>2020 analysis</i>	29,646	89,075	118,721	

7. Staff costs and emoluments

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	125,109	67,607
Social security costs	7,811	3,651
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	3,684	1,505
	136,604	72,763
The average number of headcount of staff	4.5	3

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the period.

The Co-CEOs form the key management personnel. The total remuneration to the key management personnel, including employers NI and pension, was £79,336.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8. Trustees' remuneration and reimbursed expenses

	2021 £	2020 £
Travel expenses reimbursed to four trustees for attendance at meetings	-	91
	<u>-</u>	<u>91</u>

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration from the charity or any related entity.

One trustee received a hardship grant to meet essential needs of £600 under the same terms and application procedures as other grant recipients. The trustee was not involved in the grant making process.

9. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	-	497
Prepayments	5,200	2,600
	<u>5,200</u>	<u>3,097</u>

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals	4,180	5,857
Pension payable	772	723
Trade creditors	425	-
	<u>5,377</u>	<u>6,580</u>

11. Net assets by funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £
At 31 March 2021			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	256,483	80,832	337,315
Current liabilities	5,377	-	5,377
	<u>251,106</u>	<u>80,832</u>	<u>331,938</u>

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11. Net assets by funds (prior year)

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
At 31 March 2020			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	105,497	48,359	153,856
Current liabilities	6,580	-	6,580
Net assets	98,917	48,359	147,276

12. Movement in funds

	Balance 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	98,917	232,689	(74,533)	(5,967)	251,106
Total unrestricted funds	98,917	232,689	(74,533)	(5,967)	251,106
Restricted Funds					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	44,900	(45,035)	-	(135)
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	9,287	-	(15,254)	5,967	-
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	2,882	60,000	(37,882)	-	25,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	15,750	40,000	(37,737)	-	18,013
<i>Nelson Foundation</i>	16,440	-	-	-	16,440
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	4,000	-	(13)	-	3,987
<i>Emergency COVID Grant</i>	-	40,000	(22,473)	-	17,527
Total restricted funds	48,359	184,900	(158,394)	5,967	80,832
Total funds	147,276	417,589	(232,927)	-	331,938

All funds held at the end of the year are carried forward for use on the purposes stated below in the next accounting period.

12. Movement in funds (continued) - purposes of funds

Barrow Cadbury Trust - To support We Belong campaigning work on issues relating to immigration; citizenship; higher education and support youth development. Further funds will be received in 2022 covering the overspend in 2021.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation - Leadership Academy which includes Leadership programme and Youth Summit. The transfer to restricted funds relates to expenditure incurred in the prior period which had not been allocated to the fund.

Unbound Philanthropy - Organising and Mobilising Immigrant Youth.

Trust for London - We Belong Chasing Status Project- Pathways to settlement.

Nelson Family Foundation - Leadership Academy which includes Leadership programme and Youth Summit.

Lush Charity Pot - We Belong Volunteering costs.

Emergency COVID - Funded mainly by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and The Rayne Foundation to provide support during the COVID crisis. The fund supported 102 beneficiaries with cash grants during the year. The balance held as at 31 March 2021 will be used to make further grants in the next accounting period.

Prior year movement in funds

	Balance 10 July 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	-	128,563	(29,646)	-	98,917
Total unrestricted funds	-	128,563	(29,646)	-	98,917
<i>Restricted Funds</i>					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	-	24,494	(15,207)	-	9,287
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	-	60,000	(57,118)	-	2,882
<i>Trust for London</i>	-	20,000	(4,250)	-	15,750
<i>Nelson Foundation</i>	-	16,440	-	-	16,440
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
Total restricted funds	-	137,434	(89,075)	-	48,359
Total funds	-	265,997	(118,721)	-	147,276

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13. Related party transactions

As detailed in the Trustees' report, We Belong started as a project within Just for Kids Law ('JFKL'). £18,980 was paid over from JFKL representing unspent funds as at 30 June 2019 from the Let Us Learn project. The work of this project will be continued and completed by We Belong.

After We Belong was established as a separate entity, staff continued to be paid through the JFKL payroll until September 2019. Some other costs were also incurred by JFKL on behalf of We Belong during the period July to September 2019. These costs have been recharged to We Belong and are included as expenditure in these accounts (2020).

Total costs recharged from JFKL to We Belong in the period to 31 March 2020 were £39,840 comprising staff, set-up, and direct programme costs.

Sufina Ahmad is a trustee for both We Belong and Just for Kids Law but was not appointed until January 2020.

One trustee received an emergency grant as disclosed in note 8.

Two trustees made unrestricted donations to the charity totalling £325. (2000: £125)

There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2021 or 2020.