

NORTH EAST STEM FOUNDATION

(Registered Charity No. 1187275)

TRUSTEES' REPORT & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5th APRIL 2025

(Unaudited)

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 6 April 2024 to 5 April 2025

Charity name: North East STEM Foundation

Charity registration number: 1187275

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name: North East STEM Foundation
Registered charity number: 1187275
Charity's principal address: U T C South Durham,
Long Tens Way,
Aycliffe Business Park,
Newton Aycliffe,
DL5 6AP

Trustees: Tania Cooper, Amy Elizabeth Smith, Richard Jackson Hogg, Thomas Calverley
Dower, Christopher James Braithwaite, David Land, Dave Meldrum

Structure, Governance and Management

North East STEM Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) set up under a constitution dated 9 January 2020 and registered with the charity commission on 9 January 2020.

If the CIO is wound up, each member of the CIO is liable to contribute to the assets of the CIO such amount (but not more than £1) as may be required for payment of the debts and liabilities of the CIO contracted before that person ceases to be a member, for payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for adjustment of the rights of the contributing members among themselves.

There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve charity trustees.

Apart from the first charity trustees, every appointed trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as appointed charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

The objects of the CIO (Objects) are for the benefit of the public generally, including in particular (but not limited to):

- Young people residing in the North East of England,
- Students enrolled at UTC's in the North East of England, to advance the education of children and young people including (but not limited to) in relation to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Powers

The CIO has power to do anything which is calculated to further its Objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so, to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions. The CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 124 and 125 of the Charities Act 2011.

Application of income and property - The income and property of the CIO must be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objectives.

Activities.

We have now established governance, due diligence and operational processes for management and distribution of grants. Post covid activities have been slower than anticipated in fund raising, however we are now seeing support on a matched funding basis with time and resources from industry.

Public benefit

In preparing these accounts the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees of the North East STEM Foundation are pleased to present this report for the year, highlighting the significant progress made in advancing STEM education across the North East. Our mission remains clear: to remove barriers that prevent young people from accessing high-quality STEM experiences; whether those barriers are financial, resource-based, or rooted in wider societal factors.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is the engine of future innovation, economic growth, and regional opportunity. Our work ensures that every young person, regardless of background, has meaningful access to the skills, inspiration, and pathways that STEM can provide.

Over the past year, the Foundation has supported more than 4,497 students across the region through targeted programmes, collaborations, sponsorships, and advocacy. The following summary outlines our key achievements and areas of impact.

1. Future Maker Programme

The Future Maker Primary STEM Days continue to be one of the Foundation's flagship initiatives.

- Reach: Delivered interactive, hands-on STEM days to 1,850 primary pupils across 23 regional schools.
- Locations: Events were hosted at Middlesbrough College, UTC South Durham and Yarm School
- Purpose: These events ignite interest in STEM, develop problem-solving skills, and build confidence among children from diverse backgrounds. They offer pupils early exposure to STEM pathways and help teachers extend curriculum learning through practical, hands-on experiences.

Across the year, the Future Maker programme delivered activity throughout Tees Valley, these events have created a wider geographic interest from schools across the wider North East region enabling the NESF to build on the successful delivery of STEM events in 2024.

2. Supporting Schools and Students

The Foundation strengthened its commitment to supporting schools and learners directly:

- **STEM Resources:** Partnered with Spark Tees Valley to fund STEM resources for 10 additional primary schools, benefiting over 2,000 students.
- **Showcasing Talent:** Supported Tanfield School's participation in the VEX Virtual Robot Code Finals in Dallas, Texas, enabling local students to compete on an international stage and proudly represent the region.
- **Launched the Pupil Passport pilot** in partnership with RTC North across 12 schools with 648 students taking part. This unique opportunity raised aspirations, give students access to STEM Ambassadors and sparked curiosity in STEM. A full roll out of this programme will commence in September 2025.
- **UTC Student Amateur Radio** – funded students to work with a university lecturer to develop their own Amateur Radio, furthering their practical understanding of maths, electronics and physics through the practical application of the concepts necessary for the setting up, adjustment and correct use of the radio equipment.

These investments broaden opportunities for students who may not otherwise have access to specialist STEM learning and enrichment.

3. Ongoing Collaborations

Long-term partnerships remain central to our impact model.

- Continued collaboration with UTC South Durham, supporting transport costs for school outreach, Future Maker events, and extracurricular learning.

These partnerships demonstrate the Foundation's commitment not only to individual events but to sustained investment in regional STEM capability.

4. New Initiatives and Innovation

This year saw the development of a major new programme:

- In partnership with RTC North's STEM Hub, the Foundation initiated a pilot STEM Pupil Passport Programme for primary students. Development of a secondary school passport is being undertaken for launch in 2026.
- The programme will track, recognise, and celebrate student engagement in STEM activities, creating a clearer, more coherent pathway into regional training, skills, and careers.

5. Looking Ahead

The North East STEM Foundation remains deeply committed to empowering young people and expanding opportunity across the region. In the coming year, we plan to:

- further expand the Future Maker programme to reach more schools and communities;
- deepen existing partnerships and establish new collaborations with education, industry, and public sector organisations;
- strengthen our advocacy for enhanced STEM infrastructure and specialist pathways; and

- pilot, evaluate, and refine the STEM Pupil Passport Programme, with the intention of scaling it region-wide.

Financial Review

In the current period the charity raised £94,346 from returns on the fundraising dinner, corporate and personal donations. £44,599 was spent on consultancy and operational costs for the daily running of the Charity. £59,935 was awarded to qualifying beneficiaries for support. Year-end reserves were £93,848.

Our aim is to cover all operation costs three months ahead. Financial support to projects will only be committed when the Charity has sufficient cash reserves to support its ongoing costs and the cost of the projects.

Going concern

In the trustees' opinion there are no uncertainties relating to going concern.

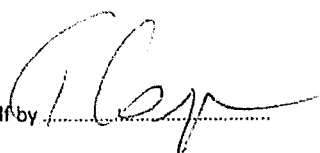
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 28/1/26

signed on their behalf by





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

North East STEM Foundation

**On accounts for the year
ended**

5 April 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1187275

Set out on pages

8-9

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 5 April 2025.

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

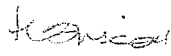
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

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

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.

Signed:  _____ Date: 28 January 2026

Name: Heather O'Driscoll FCA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales

Address: Waltons Business Advisers Limited
Maritime House
Harbour Walk
The Marina
Hartlepool
TS24 0UX



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NORTH EAST STEM FOUNDATION

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

To

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Corporate donations	33,066		-	33,066	34,350
Personal donations	3,048		-	3,048	39
Community Foundation		20,000		20,000	9,946
ST James Place Grant	-		-	-	2,500
Bank interest	-		-	-	4
Auction bids/raffle tickets	-			-	15,296
Dinner income	15,361	17,000		32,361	57,747
Braithwaite Family Foundation	1,000			1,000	
Memberships	4,871			4,871	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	57,346	37,000	-	94,346	119,882
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	57,346	37,000	-	94,346	119,882
A3 Payments					
Consultancy	13,115		-	13,115	12,105
Dinner costs	18,069			18,069	23,197
Independent examination	840			840	804
Grants awarded	42,935	17,000		59,935	20,440
Bank charges	77			77	185
Marketing	11,431			11,431	13,120
IT costs	-			-	504
Insurance	616			616	-
Legal & Professional	324			324	-
Sundries	127			127	-
Sub total	87,534	17,000	-	104,534	70,355
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	87,534	17,000	-	104,534	70,355
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 30,188	20,000	-	- 10,188	49,527
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	104,036	-	-	104,036	54,509
Cash funds this year end	73,848	20,000	-	93,848	104,036

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

Category	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	NESF Business free A/C	73,848	20,000	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	73,848	20,000	-

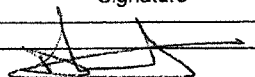
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which	Amount due	When due
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	David Land	28/01/2026