

CROSSINGS COMMUNITY GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1187739

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-02-04

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

Contact

Address 29 Durham Place
Birtley
Chester Le Street
County Durham
DH3 2AZ

Phone 07941750130

Email crossingscommunitygroup@gmail.com

Website www.crossingscommunitygroup.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE ARTS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY THE PROMOTION IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, OF THE ART OF MUSIC.

Activities: Crossings Community Group provides opportunities for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to integrate into the communities in which they live. We use music, song writing and team activities to build relationships within the group and with the wider community of the Newcastle and Gateshead area. We aim to improve relationships and understanding through shared positive experiences.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Gateshead
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- North Tyneside
- South Tyneside
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£23,093	£23,093	-	-
2023-12-31	£29,239	£29,239	-	-
2022-12-31	£16,755	£23,920	-	-
2021-12-31	£17,523	£14,809	-	-
2020-12-31	£22,302	£10,161	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Isabelle Okongwu Scicluna	Chair	2022-07-08
Chantelle Gillies		2025-01-20
Frederic Morris Phethean		2025-10-16
JAMES ROBERTSON		2020-01-31
Rosemary Louise Wellington		2020-01-31

Accounts

Crossings Community Group Annual Report

From: 01/01/24 To: 31/12/24

Reference and Administration Information

Charity name: Crossings Community Group

Charity Registration Number: 1187739

Principle address: 139 Durham Place, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, DH3 2AJ

Foundation Constitution registered with the Charity Commission 4 February 2020

Registered Charity Number 1887739. CIO.

Organisational Structure

As we reported in the previous year the Board consists of a chair, secretary and treasurer, plus three other trustees who are responsible for the management of the charity. The Chair liaises between the trustees, paid staff (who are responsible to the Board) and volunteers. The board meets approximately 4 -6 times a year, usually bi-monthly, to make decision regarding management and future strategies.

The chair is elected at the AGM, and has this role for a period of five years. Secretary and Treasurer are elected or co-opted at a committee meeting. Trustees are elected for a period of three years. At present, they have been recruited from our members and attend sessions on a regular basis. During this year we have advertised for additional trustees with specific skills to compliment the Board.

Names of the Trustees who manage the charity

- Isabelle Okongwu Scicluna [Chair]
- Rosemary Louise Wellington
- James Robertson
- Jade Dinsdale
- Kim Amhed

Crossings Community Group: The aim and purpose is to bring together immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and local people. To develop a sense of community through creative activities. To make creative arts and music to share the stories of individuals to enhance understanding and involvement in the community. Crossings Community Group provides opportunities for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers to interrelate into the communities in which they live. We use music, song writing and team activities to build relationships within the group and with the wider community of the Newcastle and Gateshead area. We aim to improve relationships and understanding through shared positive experiences.

Activities

Crossings Community Group deliver weekly drop-in music sessions where participants can learn a variety of instruments, from guitar to drumming, keyboard to violin. Tutors facilitate adults sessions, as well as providing space for children to play whilst parents or carers are participating in the sessions. As many of our members are on low incomes, attendance is free, instruments provided and travel expenses to a certain level are refunded. We also provide light refreshments.

Positive and Creative Learning Experience: The cross-cultural language of music promotes genuine engagement between tutors, participants, and volunteers. The exchange of multi-cultural song and music happens across the sessions in spontaneous ways leading to a welcoming and interesting environment. Some public performances within the wider community are a way of showcasing the different cultures of our membership and support the integration of displaced people into the local community. We do not put pressure on members to perform but support their wellbeing by providing a creative output and community environment.

Main Venues and Volunteers: The Comfrey Project in Gateshead and Brunswick Methodist Church in Newcastle. As we have reported before members are always keen to support the sessions in an informal manner, from preparing refreshments, supervising younger children, or helping clear up at the end of an evening.

It is important to report here that during this year the Trustees have had to deal with some specific challenges. Following consultation with the Project's HR Advisor we ended the contractual arrangement with one tutor.

In this time period the Trustees also reviewed the reported concern of lower attendance. It was acknowledged by Trustees that a strong possible reason for this was that some members were afraid to leave the safety of their homes following the media reported violent unrest directed at refugees and asylum seekers in a local North East area. Informal contact with other local projects reported similarly.

Financial review – Income and Expenditure:

Grants are our principal source of income. The principal funder for this financial period was The *People's Health Trust* and the *Big Lottery* both which recognise and acknowledge the benefits of our project for improving the mental and emotional health of our participants. Also noting the general contribution to community and social wellbeing. The summaries of expenditure reported to the respective Funders were formally accepted by these organisations and the Trustees received a very positive response for the management and recorded use of the resources.

Planning for 2024-25

The Trustees acknowledged that the year ahead was likely to include dealing with various challenges. Circumstances and changes re attendance and other factors were likely to lead to reviewing Crossings Projects activities in two locations. The

relationship with the Comfrey Project in Gateshead, with its shared but broader emphasis on engagement with refugees and asylum seekers through gardening and practical skills development was the strongest and likely context for The Crossings Project partnership and future development.

Recruiting volunteers and attracting new trustees with particular skills continues to be an ongoing and challenging task. Trustees with longstanding commitment to the project were thanked for their consistent attention to Project concerns and affairs

Accounts

Crossings Community Group Annual Report

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Organizational Structure

The Board consists of a chair, secretary and treasurer, plus three other trustees who are responsible for the management of the charity. The Chair liaises between the trustees, paid staff (who are responsible to the Board) and volunteers. The board meets approximately 6 times a year, usually bi-monthly, to make decisions regarding management and future strategies.

The chair is elected at the AGM, and chair for a period of five years. Secretary and Treasurer are elected or co-opted at a committee meeting. Trustees are elected for a period of three years. At present, they have been recruited from our members and attend sessions on a regular basis. We are currently advertising for additional trustees with specific skills to compliment the Board.

Names of the Trustees who manage the charity

- Isabelle Okongwu Scicluna [Chair]
- Rosemary Louise Wellington
- James Robertson
- Jade Dinsdale
- Kemi Ahmed

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community of the Newcastle and Gateshead area. We aim to improve relationships and understanding through shared positive experiences.

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Positive and Creative Learning Experience: The cross-cultural language of music promotes genuine engagement between tutors, participants, and volunteers. The exchange of multicultural song and music happens across the sessions in spontaneous ways leading to a welcoming and interesting environment. Public performances within the wider community are a way of showcasing the different cultures of our membership and support the integration of displaced people into the local community. We do not put pressure on members to perform or sit music exams but support their wellbeing by providing a creative output and community environment.

Main Venues and Volunteers: The Comfrey Project in Gateshead and Brunswick Methodist Church in Newcastle. Members are always keen to support the sessions in an informal manner, from preparing refreshments, supervising young children, or helping clear up at the end of an evening.

Financial review – Income and Expenditure:

The gross income was £29,239 comprising £29,239 Grant income, £0 donations. From this Budget £21,664 was used for paying our tutors, project coordinator, and playworker. Project costs were £2,477 and other costs £5,098.

Principal funding sources: Grants are our principal source of income. The principal funder for this financial period was The People's Health Trust, and the Community Fund both which recognise and acknowledge the benefits of our project for improving the mental and emotional health of our participants.

At the end of the financial period 31.12.23 we had a restricted reserve of £6,134. This money is restricted as the funding grants we have been given are to cover specific costs outlined in the funding application and as such can only be spent in the manner stated.

Declaration: The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees by

Oluwakemi Ahmed Trustee

Accounts

Crossings Community Group Annual Report

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Declaration: The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees by

Oluwakemi Ahmed Trustee

Accounts

Crossings Community Group



Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st December 2021

The trustees present this annual report and financial statement for the year ending 31st December 2021

Reference and Administration Information

Name: Crossings Community Group

Registered charity number: 1887739

Principal address: 6 The Leazes

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE15 8QH

Board of Trustees

Rosemary Louise Wellington

James Robertson

Vanessa Cope

Nihal Rubendiz Burns

Jonny McAreavey

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document -

CIO-Foundation Constitution registered with the Charity Commission 4 February 2020 under Registered Charity Number 1887739.

Organisational Structure

The Board consists of a chair, secretary and treasurer plus two other trustees who are responsible for the management of the charity. The Chair liaises between the trustees, paid staff (who are responsible to the chair), and volunteers. The board meets approximately ten times year, usually monthly, to make decisions regarding management and future strategies.

The chair and trustees are elected at the AGM, the chair for a term of five years, and trustees for three years. At present they have all been recruited from our members who attend sessions on a regular basis and have a good knowledge of the needs of the organisation. We have previously occasionally advertised for trustees, and may do so again when looking for trustees with specific skills or abilities.

Objectives

The objectives of Crossings Community Group are to benefit the public, in particular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, through the art of music. Specifically we aim to promote integration with local communities, and by forming supportive relationships with others, shared positive experiences can improve their sense of well-being and mental health.

Activities

The activities we use to fulfil these objectives are weekly drop-in music sessions where participants can learn to play a variety of instruments, contribute to song writing or sing in a choir. Our experienced tutors facilitate both adult and children's groups, and there is no requirement for any previous experience. As many of our beneficiaries are on very low incomes, instruments are provided and travel expenses up to a certain level are refunded. We also provide some light refreshments.

We differ from many organisations that offer support to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in that we do not provide a welfare service, although we do direct those in need towards the appropriate service which can help them. Our aim is to provide a relaxed welcoming space where people can come together to participate in making music without any pressure to achieve a certain standard or pass an exam.

The universal language of music is a wonderful way to promote interaction between both tutors and participants. Everyone involved benefits from the exchange of songs and music which happens quite spontaneously and creates a genuinely multi-cultural environment. Public performances are a way of showcasing what we do to local communities and our repertoire always includes music and songs learnt from our members.

Our main venue is shared with The Comfrey Project in Gateshead which has a similar client group, but uses gardening as a way of engaging and helping their members. This relationship is very beneficial for us as we are able to use the premises free of charge and we are very grateful to them for this facility.

Volunteers

Many of our members contribute to sessions on an informal basis by helping with the serving of refreshments and supervising activities with the younger children while their parents are taking part in sessions.

Achievements and performance

Following the period of lockdowns, and restrictions on how sessions were run, attendance figures were initially low but are now back to previous levels. From June to December attendance at our Gateshead venue varied between 24 and 32 people. Not everyone came regularly but in total 80 individuals came through the door. We continue to hold our regular sessions, guitar, percussion and violin, and in addition, due to the increasing number of children wanting to learn guitar, we now have a very successful children's guitar group. At present we run six sessions a week, four in Gateshead and two in Newcastle.

A virtual concert featuring many of our members plus musicians who have connections with the charity was shown at our AGM via Zoom and was much appreciated. It is now available on our new and much improved website:

www.crossingscommunity.org.uk and YouTube.

In November members from all the sessions participated in a sell-out concert at the Summerhill Gardens and Pavilion in Newcastle which both raised money for us, and helped to publicise our charity.

Financial review

Income and expenditure

The gross income for 2021 was £18,403, comprised of £17,523 grant income, £286 from donations and £594 from other fundraising.

£12,703, the bulk of our expenditure, was used for paying our dedicated tutors, and our invaluable Project Coordinator. Project costs were £1,618, governance costs, £488.

Principal funding sources

Grants are our principal source of income making grant applications is one of the main duties of our Project Coordinator. Our principal funder at the moment is The Peoples' Health Trust which recognises the benefits of our project to improving the mental and emotional health of our participants.

Fundraising activities such as public performances generate a small amount from ticket sales and donations. Most of our main beneficiaries are living on very low incomes, (those who are asylum seekers are not permitted to work), and so we cannot expect them to make any financial contributions.

Reserves

At present we have a restricted reserve of £14,681. This money is ring fenced because funding grants are given to cover specific costs outlined in the funding application and can only be spent as stated in the grant application. We do have a very small amount of unrestricted reserve money, £486, from other sources such as fundraising or donations which is used for various costs occurring which are not covered by grant funding.

Future Plans

We intend to continue applying for grant funding from any appropriate body as this is the most reliable way of obtaining the amount of money needed to cover the operating costs of the charity. Donations and fundraising activities can certainly contribute to these costs but are nowhere near sufficient to sustain us.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

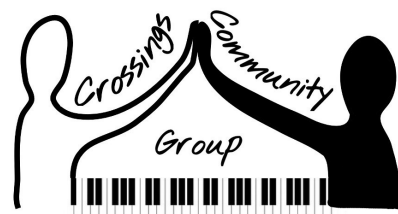
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by

Rosemary Louise Wellington (Trustee)

17th October 2022

Crossings Community Group CIO

Unaudited Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022

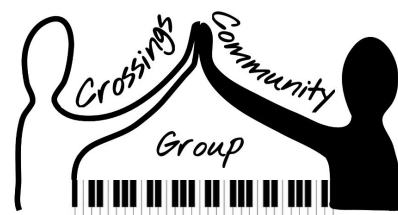


Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grant income	17,523	21,768
Donations	286	169
Other fundraising	594	0
Loan	0	500
Staff costs	(12,703)	(8,510)
Project costs	(1,618)	(955)
Governance costs	(488)	(696)
SURPLUS	£3,594	£12,276

Crossings Community Group CIO

Unaudited Financial Statement
for the year ended 31st December 2022



Balance Sheet 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS	15,617	12,377
CREDITORS	(500)	(500)
LIABILITIES	0	0
NET ASSETS	15,117	11,877
RESERVES	15,117	11,877
Reserves:		
Restricted	14,681	
Unrestricted	436	

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by

Rosemary Louise Wellington (Trustee)

17th October 2022

Accounts

Crossings Community Group Chair's Annual Report 2020 - 2021

2020 started really well when our successful application for two years funding from the People's Health Trust for the Crossings Ensemble Project finally came into operation in February that year.

The other good news was that at the beginning of February we became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, (CIO). In view of the increased administration work involved with both these changes Janet Cresswell was appointed as Project Co-ordinator, and started at the beginning of March.

Unfortunately March saw the first Covid 19 lockdown starting and the ensuing restrictions on activities throughout the rest of 2020 and up to the current time have made it extremely difficult to maintain any level of activity. Zoom, Facebook and WhatsApp have helped with meetings, tutorials and other communications but meeting in reality, as opposed to digitally, was only possible for a few weeks in the summer and early autumn.

We have continued to offer support to our members when needed and letters of support were written on behalf of two members applying for asylum here.

Organisational Structure

As a CIO we now have a board of Trustees which should comprise of a Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus two other trustees with additional sub-committees as needed. However the positions of Treasurer and Secretary are presently vacant, former holders having stepped down, although they continue as Trustees. Fortunately Janet has incorporated these duties into her role as Project Co-ordinator while we continue to advertise for replacements.

Funding

After a financially difficult 2019 we managed to survive until People's Health Trust grant, for the Crossings Ensemble Project, started in February. So far there has been a considerable underspend due to the restriction of activities and we are in negotiation with the PHT as to the best way to resolve this issue either by extending the time scale of the grant, or using the underspend on other ways of take the Crossings Ensemble Project forward.

In August we received an Awards for All grant specifically to help with additional costs incurred by the Covid 19 pandemic, and in October a small grant from the Community Foundation to work with members to create a concert.

Donations

Over the last year we have received a donation from Spotlight who organised an ongoing online fundraiser - Crossover Covers Album, which initially raised £???, and generated interviews about the project with BBC Radio Newcastle, and music

magazines NARC and NE Volume. Many thanks to Ben and Jordan of Spotlight for this initiative. Other donations were a guitar, DJ decks and a keyboard. Two guitars were repaired free of charge, and future upkeep offered, by Brian who has a guitar shop in Newcastle.

Impact of Covid 19

Three planned spring events had to be cancelled. These were an Ethno-England session, a dance session and a fund-raising concert at the Summerhill Pavilion. All regular Monday night sessions were cancelled and in the meantime our tutors did their best to provide sessions using WhatsApp with varying degrees of success. Committee meetings were held via Zoom. In July restriction were eased a little and Fred organised socially distanced percussion sessions at the bandstand in Exhibition Park. These provided a very welcome opportunity for some of our members to get together again and make music.

Our normal venue, Cobalt, remained closed but in September, when groups of six were allowed to meet indoors we resumed our activities at The Comfrey Project in Gateshead. This was more accessible to Gateshead members but less so for Newcastle members. Classes could not overlap and all sessions were run in accordance with Covid safe precautions but it was wonderful to be able to get back with some degree of normality. Unfortunately two more lockdowns have followed from November so this was very short lived.

Throughout the pandemic we have attempted to maintain contact with members through phone calls, emails and WhatsApp groups. Most recently there have been weekly songwriting sessions and social get togethers via Zoom but not many members have joined these, partly due to technical difficulties. In truth they do not really compensate for the lack of physical social contact which is so important to many of our members.

Choir

Until lockdown in March, Fred Phethean continued to lead the choir, and following that he posted several tutorials on WhatsApp. Unfortunately choirs were still not allowed to sing when restrictions were eased in September.

Guitar Group

Patrick Reay provided online tutorials but there was very little feedback and overall did not seem to be very successful. However when sessions started at The Comfrey Project they attracted a regular group of learners and Patrick reported that teaching was easier due to better lighting conditions.

Violin Group

During lockdown Frankie Archer held online tutorials and resumed actual regularly attended sessions in September until the second lockdown. Since then the group has kept in touch using WhatsApp both for 1:1 tuition and group chats which has been very helpful for them.

Percussion

This group, which had run very successfully at Cobalt, reconvened in Exhibition Park for a few weeks in the summer, and then again at The Comfrey Project. Due to restrictions on numbers this session had to be held outside but as the weather cooled and evenings got dark earlier it became no longer practical.

Training

Kahina Mediant initiated an online training course in Cultural Competency run by Connected Voices which has been helpful and thought provoking. We would like to continue on an annual basis but with more emphasis on arts and culture in the future, and less on health and social care.

Various free courses in safeguarding are being accessed by Trustees as this is an important part of the running of a charity.

The Future

Going forward we are focussing on keeping in touch with members and planning for resuming regular sessions as soon as this becomes possible. As Cobalt will be unavailable until September we are looking at other possibilities such as St Vincent de Paul in Byker, and also continuing at The Comfrey Project. The aim of creating a Crossings Ensemble continues, and running different sessions at two different venues, with regular whole group get togethers, could help to advance our ultimate aim for all the groups to learn some musical pieces which they will then play and perform together.

Recruitment of more regular participants is an important aim which has had to be put on hold but once we are back to normal our strategy will be to spread the word through visits to other relevant organisations, using social media, leaflets in other languages and performance. We will also be asking present, past and possible future members how we can improve what we offer and better fulfil their needs.

We are planning to run an event as soon as restrictions allow, which will involve groups working with and supporting refugees and asylum seekers and other cultural groups. This will include taster sessions with our tutors, performances and food.

Funding from Awards for All has enabled us to employ a digital company to create a new and greatly improved website. Janet and Jonny have been advising on this with feedback from the Committee and we hope it will be available online in the very near future.

Kahina Meziant is working on an innovative website called Our Soundscape which will enable members to download music of particular significance to them together

with a few sentences explaining why those particular tracks are important. This will eventually create a unique soundscape of music from the many cultures and countries encompassed within the Crossings community.

Thanks

Lastly I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped us keep going during through this very difficult year, in particular our tutors Fred Phethean, Patrick Reay and Frankie Archer, and volunteer tutors Jonny McAeavy and Vanessa Cope who are also trustees.

Thanks to Janet Cresswell our Project Co-ordinator for her excellent work keeping on top of the ever increasing administration work, including book-keeping, liaising with funders and applying for additional funding. Also to Kahina Meziant for her many thoughtful suggestions and initiatives such as organising a very successful session at the Cumberland Arms in January.

Thanks to Nihal Rubenduz, our former Treasurer, who continues to support us as a trustee and and similarly to our former Secretary, Jonny McAeavy. Jim Robertson continues to be a very committed supporter of CCG and a great source of help and advice in organisational matters. On a practical level he has, whenever possible, attended both online meetings and actual sessions.

Finally a big thank you to all the members who, in these difficult times, have continued to contribute their music, their culture and their friendship in whatever way has been possible. Without them there would be no Crossings Community Group.

Louise Wellington
Chair

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2020

For

Crossings Community Group CIO

Income Statement
For the year ended 31st December 2020

(Note: year 1 accounts so no comparison with previous year)

	£
Grant Income	21,768
Donations	169
Loan	500
Staff costs	(8,510)
Project costs	(955)
Governance costs	(696)
 SURPLUS	 <u>12,276</u>

Balance Sheet
31st December 2020

	2020	
	£	
FIXED ASSETS	0	
CURRENT ASSETS	12,377	*bank
CREDITORS	(500)	
LIABILITIES	0	
 NET ASSETS	 <u>11,877</u>	
 RESERVES	 <u>11,877</u>	

*bank. Balance shown as of 31st December 2020. Balance at 31st December 2019 was £101