

WRITE BACK

England & Wales · Charity number 1188293

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-03-02

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

Contact

Address Flat 21
Dethick Court
Ford Road
London
E3 5PQ

Phone 02039416722

Email stories@write-back.org

Website [www.write\[dash\]back.org](http://www.write[dash]back.org)

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS: TO ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO BUILD SELF-ESTEEM, INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF OTHERS, IMPROVE LITERACY AND DEVELOP SKILLS OF SELF EXPRESSION THROUGH STORYTELLING.

Activities: We run storytelling programmes for disadvantaged young people that are designed to build self-esteem, increase understanding of others, improve literacy and develop skills of self expression through storytelling.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Barking And Dagenham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£16,350	£9,632	-	-
2023-08-31	£12,650	£12,653	-	-
2022-08-31	£8,291	£7,356	-	-
2021-08-31	£12,630	£4,691	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alexander Eduard Louis Newton	Chair	2020-02-15
Daven Hindocha		2020-02-15
Kathryn Laura Elliott		2024-05-11
Simrat Kaur Gill		2024-11-22

WRITE BACK

England & Wales - Charity number 1188293

Accounts



Write Back Trustees' Annual Report

1 September 2023 - 31 August 2024

Charity name: Write Back

Charity registration number: 1188293

Objectives and Activities

Write Back's vision is for every young person to understand that they have a story to tell and have the capacity to tell it. We work to achieve this by building the confidence and capacity of young people to express themselves creatively through the sharing of their stories. We do this by running collaborative storytelling programmes for marginalised young people which develop their creativity, self-esteem and confidence. The work of every young person on our programmes is published and celebrated.

About Write Back

Write Back started in a History classroom in 2015, where History teacher Sam Norwood explored ways to empower young people beyond the constraints of the curriculum. He began by working with Year 9 students to publish their stories of immigration. Those students went on to create another book, three exhibitions across East London and pilot workshops for younger students. As those original students headed to university, in September 2019 we began running sessions for young people across the borough of Barking and Dagenham. In early 2020, we registered with the Charity Commission, formalising our status as an independent charity and recruited a board of trustees.

We run 10-week storytelling programmes open to 13 to 16-year-olds identified by their teachers as lacking confidence, self-esteem or a creative outlet. These young people are referred to us by schools in Barking and Dagenham, and are then enrolled in our programmes at the Future Youth Zone, a local youth centre. The programmes are built off three key ideas: that every young person has a story to tell and the capacity to tell it; that a deep connection with the stories of others is often the most powerful way to learn; that young people



should tell their stories in the way that they want them to be told. In each session we run confidence-building activities, engage with the writing of young authors and develop the stories of the participating young people. The 10-week project also involves working with writers and artists, and culminates with the celebration of the young people's work in front of their friends, families and teachers at a 'graduation style' book launch event. Through this work we aim to build self-respect, community and independent voices for young people through the sharing of their stories.

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

The need

Our work is focused in Barking and Dagenham because this is where our project was created and where demand remains so great. The borough is the 9th most deprived local authority in the country and well over a third of its young people and children live in poverty. Despite this, Barking and Dagenham has the joint fewest charities per head in the country. Research conducted by the local authority revealed that only 37% of young residents felt they had someone to talk to about problems that worry them. The same research found that almost a third of young people felt optimistic 'rarely' or 'none of the time'.

Our programmes have shown the transformative impact storytelling can have. They provide young people with the opportunity to discuss the issues important to them – areas which are increasingly difficult to cover in the curriculum given the growing exam pressures of secondary schools. Quantitative evaluations of our programmes as well as feedback from schools, families and the young people themselves have shown marked improvements for participant self-esteem and perceptions of themselves and their capabilities.

We believe that storytelling can play a crucial role in addressing this situation by building young people's respect for themselves and by developing trust and community amongst young people.



Key activities and achievements: September 2023 - August 2024

In this year we delivered 100 hours of storytelling intervention for young people in East London, taking our total to date to over 400 hours. Here are some of our key findings and milestones:

- Eight in ten participants' **self-esteem improved** over the course of our programme, on average by 16%.*
- Our impact was even greater on those who joined with low self-esteem. Nine in ten of those young people saw improvements, on average by 50%.*
- Through our programmes this year we have printed and **celebrated the stories of over 50 young people**.
- **Six anthologies of young writers produced**, with over **100,000 words** published by young writers.

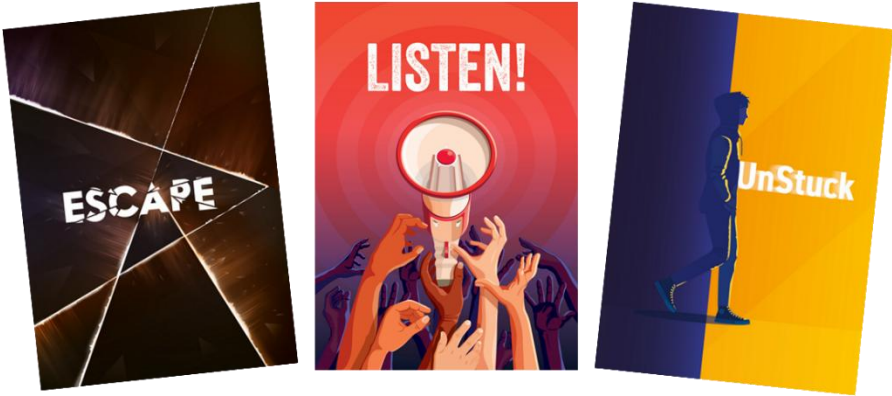
*Measured by the Rosenberg self-esteem scale, which participants took at the start and end of our programmes.

The Programmes

Our core mission has been to build self-esteem among young people in Barking and Dagenham and that's exactly what our programmes have been doing. Since 2019, over 160 young people have completed our core programme. Over each 10-week project, young people have been introduced to storytelling techniques, to the writing of other young people and to the game-changing idea that their story matters. As a result, we've seen storytellers leave our programmes more confident in themselves and in their abilities. These findings have been supported by feedback from schools, families and the young people themselves. It is also reflected in quantitative survey data which revealed that eight in ten young people experienced improvements in their self-esteem. This rises to nine in ten when considering those with initially low self-esteem.

This year writers on our main programmes have produced three new anthologies. In *Escape* the young writers on our Autumn programme plotted and imagined their way out of the challenges facing young people. Then the Spring authors of *Listen!* demanded the world hear their voices. And finally, in *UnStuck* the summer term storytellers unpicked some of the sticky issues of today's world.

They then launched this work to the world in exciting venues including the Barking Boathouse, Valence House and Eastbury Manor House.



The Graduate Programme

In addition to our core programmes, we have run a graduate scheme for those storytellers who have completed our main 10-week storytelling programmes! Those graduates this year have created *MISPA* an ambitious co-authored novel set out in outer space, *20:24* a 24 cycle of stories in the lives of young people, and they will soon be launching their latest book *Sensational* in the exciting UCL PEARL laboratory which inspired their stories.





And beyond...

We have also been delighted to work with other organisations who share our goal of helping every young person to see the value of their own story.

We've worked with young people in the amazing Future Youth Zone by participating in holiday clubs for younger children and by helping teenagers communicate the value of youth work to their lives.

Testimonials

'So the most I like, about Write Back is the little family we young storytellers have created. I love celebrating our achievements together and just spending time with one another and sharing great stories. I know life changes and so do dreams but, no matter what I do, I just want to keep going on my journey as a storyteller.'

Storyteller, Year 12

'When I'm at Write Back... I feel like I can be more of myself... I think the skills that Write Back has taught me for my future is opening up a bit more and really just pushing my ideas out there because it showed me that what I have in my head has value to it.'

Storyteller, Year 12

'There's just a confidence in blossoming into yourself that I see from them [the young people referred to Write Back] that comes from their age and maturity and growing up but I think it also comes from their ability to recognize their voice within themselves and feel the confidence of expressing it.'

Stephanie Zuccaro, English teacher and Subject Leader



Case Study: Former Storyteller Harmony



I started Write Back in January of 2020, one of the earliest cohorts to join the programme. I remember when I was handed my first Write Back notebook that I would later come to decorate and write in almost every day until the covers were bulging and the pages were practically falling out. That book would come to serve as my saving grace during that period. I became enamoured with the written word and its ability to bring people together which I wrote about in several poems over the years.

Write Back was my cathartic release in times of uncertainty, especially during the pandemic and Sixth Form years.

This programme was one of the reasons I decided to do English Literature and Creative Writing at University. Now, I am the Deputy Head of my University Newspaper and am aiming to work in Journalism & Publishing in future. Write Back left a lasting impression on me and motivated me to keep expressing stories in various formats. It wasn't just a place to create stories, it gave me the tools to go out and write my own destiny. I was in a room of people who had the same passions and interests as me. All of us penned and exchanged and shared our poetic pieces which projected our deepest vulnerabilities. As a collective, it reminded us that we weren't alone and that there were people who felt and shared the same hardships. Write Back illuminated the variety of human experience and, more significantly, ignited a spark within me!

Looking back, I accomplished a great deal throughout my Write Back Journey. Over the years, I read a poem at Westminster Abbey, assisted in the creation, and editing of a section of the Write ON Magazine, was a part of writing 4 books, interviewed published writers and locals, read pieces for radio, created and distributed bookmarks in our local libraries, created a storytelling map, stored our anthologies in historical archives such as the Bishopsgate Institute and the Museum of the Home. We also went on trips to historical landmarks such as The British Library, Toynbee Hall, Valence House and many more. I am so proud to say I was a part of such an enriching experience and achieved so much while I was there.

Write Back truly built my confidence and ignited a passion I might not have otherwise had. In some of my hardest times Write Back made me feel seen! I owe it all to Sam and I am tremendously grateful to have been a part of it for so long!



Financial review

In the year of this report, Write Back has remained a small charity whose primary work is carried out by volunteers and whose main work operates out of a youth centre free of charge, Write Back does not have any fixed costs and therefore the need for a fixed policy on reserves has been limited. However we are developing a reserves policy this year as our circumstances change. This will sit alongside our existing financial controls policy.

Write Back's principal source of income in the 12-month accounting period to August 2024 has been the money received from the Mercers' Charitable Foundation in the first of set of four annual payments. We have also received funding from programme partners to deliver specific work in the borough as well as from our partner schools from whom we take referrals to our programmes in the youth centre.

As in previous years, the bulk of our expenditure has been on session resources for our programmes as well as the cost of professionally printing the young people's work and celebrating these books in community book launch events.

Please see the attached accounts for further details of our finances.

Future plans: Write Back's strategy

We were delighted to be chosen, alongside charities such as UK Reads, Theatre Peckham and the West Ham Foundation, to join a select cohort of organisations working to boost reading and writing for pleasure across London's young people. Joining this cohort means gaining access to financial support across three years which will allow us to bigger and bolder in our plans to reach more young people. It also entails joining a research group led by academics at the Open University to evaluate our work and learn how to deepen our impact.

We are also excited to build upon existing partnerships, including our partner schools in Barking and Dagenham and the creative venues that host our book launch celebrations. In particular we are excited to deepen our partnership with Pen to Print, a local charity, to offer young writers in the borough access to even more exciting opportunities. We also piloted our first collaboration with the UCL PEARL laboratory and look forward to bringing more young people into their inspirational spaces.

Most importantly, we look forward to using these partnerships and opportunities to reach more schools and more young people. Everyone has a story to tell and the power to tell it. We look forward to helping more young people discover this for themselves.



List of trustees

Alex Newton, Chair of Trustees

Daven Hindocha, Treasurer

Kathryn Elliott, Trustee (appointed May 2024)

Simrat Kaur Gill (appointed Nov 2024)

Former Trustees:

Samuel Norwood, Trustee (stood down in July 2024)

Grace Selley, Trustee (stood down in May 2024)

Registered address


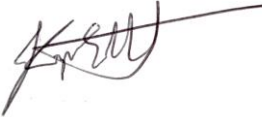
Write Back, Flat 21 Dethick Court, Ford Road, London, E3 5PQ



Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Alexander Newton	Kathryn Elliott
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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chair of Trustees	Trustee
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Date 15.06.2025

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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Sep-23

To

31-Aug-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants and donations	15,000	-	-	15,000	-
Charitable activities - workshops & programmes	1,350	-	-	1,350	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,350	-	-	16,350	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,350	-	-	16,350	-
A3 Payments					
Session resources	1,385	-	-	1,385	-
Student publications	3,829	-	-	3,829	-
End of Programme Events	1,608	-	-	1,608	-
Advertising and publicity	1,168	-	-	1,168	-
Printing & Postage	543	-	-	543	-
Website expenses	192	-	-	192	-
Guest speakers	138	-	-	138	-
Insurance	140	-	-	140	-
Sundry expenses	630	-	-	630	-
Sub total	9,632	-	-	9,632	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,632	-	-	9,632	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,718	-	-	6,718	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,273	-	-	10,273	-
Cash funds this year end	16,992	-	-	16,992	-

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	16,992	-	-

Total cash funds	16,992	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Daven Hindocha</i>	DAVEN HINDOCHA	23/6/25

WRITE BACK

England & Wales - Charity number 1188293

Accounts



Write Back Trustees' Annual Report

1 September 2022 - 31 August 2023

Charity name: Write Back

Charity registration number: 1188293

Objectives and Activities

Write Back's vision is for every young person to understand that they have a story to tell and have the capacity to tell it. We work to achieve this by building the confidence and capacity of young people to express themselves creatively through the sharing of their stories. We do this by running collaborative storytelling programmes for marginalised young people which develop their creativity, self-esteem and confidence. The work of every young person on our programmes is published and celebrated.

About Write Back

Write Back started in a History classroom in 2015, where History teacher Sam Norwood explored ways to empower young people beyond the constraints of the curriculum. He began by working with Year 9 students to publish their stories of immigration. Those students went on to create another book, three exhibitions across East London and pilot workshops for younger students. As those original students headed to university, in September 2019 we began running sessions for young people across the borough of Barking and Dagenham. In early 2020, we registered with the Charity Commission, formalising our status as an independent charity and recruited a board of trustees.

We run 10-week storytelling programmes open to 13 to 16-year-olds identified by their teachers as lacking confidence, self-esteem or a creative outlet. These young people are referred to us by schools in Barking and Dagenham, and are then enrolled in our programmes at the Future Youth Zone, a local youth centre. The programmes are built off three key ideas: that every young person has a story to tell and the capacity to tell it; that a deep connection with the stories of others is often the most powerful way to learn; that young people



should tell their stories in the way that they want them to be told. In each session we run confidence-building activities, engage with the writing of young authors and develop the stories of the participating young people. The 10-week project also involves working with writers and artists, and culminates with the celebration of the young people's work in front of their friends, families and teachers at a 'graduation style' book launch event. Through this work we aim to build self-respect, community and independent voices for young people through the sharing of their stories.

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

The need

Our work is focused in Barking and Dagenham because this is where our project was created and where demand remains so great. The borough is the 9th most deprived local authority in the country and well over a third of its young people and children live in poverty. Despite this, Barking and Dagenham has the joint fewest charities per head in the country. Research conducted by the local authority revealed that only 37% of young residents felt they had someone to talk to about problems that worry them. The same research found that almost a third of young people felt optimistic 'rarely' or 'none of the time'.

Our programmes have shown the transformative impact storytelling can have. They provide young people with the opportunity to discuss the issues important to them – areas which are increasingly difficult to cover in the curriculum given the growing exam pressures of secondary schools. Quantitative evaluations of our programmes as well as feedback from schools, families and the young people themselves have shown marked improvements for participant self-esteem and perceptions of themselves and their capabilities.

We believe that storytelling can play a crucial role in addressing this situation by building young people's respect for themselves and by developing trust and community amongst young people.



Key activities and achievements: September 2022 - August 2023

In this year we delivered 100 hours of storytelling intervention for young people in East London, taking our total to date to over 300 hours. Here are some of our key findings and milestones:

- Eight in ten participants' **self-esteem improved** over the course of our programme, on average by 13%.*
- Our impact was even greater on those who joined with low self-esteem. Nine in ten of those young people saw improvements, on average by 40%.*
- Through our programmes this year we have printed and **celebrated the stories of over 50 young people**.
- **Seven anthologies of young writers produced**, with over **190,000 words** published by young writers.

*Measured by the Rosenberg self-esteem scale, which participants took at the start and end of our programmes.

The Programmes

Our core mission has been to build self-esteem among young people in Barking and Dagenham and that's exactly what our programmes have been doing. Since 2019, over 120 young people have completed our core programme. Over each 10-week project, young people have been introduced to storytelling techniques, to the writing of other young people and to the game-changing idea that their story matters. As a result, we've seen storytellers leave our programmes more confident in themselves and in their abilities. These findings have been supported by feedback from schools, families and the young people themselves. It is also reflected in quantitative survey data which revealed that eight in ten young people experienced improvements in their self-esteem. This rises to nine in ten when considering those with initially low self-esteem.



This year writers on our main programmes have produced four new anthologies. Published in September 2022, *Under the Surface* took the young people on a deep dive to overlooked stories and issues. Then *Lemonade* invited the storytellers to turn something negative into something positive. Meanwhile *Revelations* gave the writers the opportunity to share their insights. Finally in *Disguises* the young writers peeled back layers of deception to find hidden truths.

They then launched this work to the world in exciting venues including the Barking Boathouse, CU London's university campus and Dagenham Heathway Library to audiences including friends, family, local writers and dignitaries.

The Graduate Programme

In addition to our core programmes, we have run a graduate scheme for those storytellers who have completed our main 10-week storytelling programmes! Those graduates have been involved in so many exciting projects 2022-23, but highlights have included...

- Learning oral history techniques from Beyond Past, then putting them into practice by interviewing local residents from across four generations on teenage life in Barking and Dagenham.
- Working with Pen to Print to develop online story showcases and a physical zine for the widely distributed *Write On!* magazine.
- Interviewing published writers and using these conversations to inspire young people's own writing.
- Producing three new books to add to our ever-growing collection of young writing!

And beyond...

We have also been delighted to work with other organisations who share our goal of helping every young person to see the value of their own story.

We've worked with young people in the amazing Future Youth Zone by participating in holiday clubs for younger children and by helping teenagers communicate the value of youth work to their lives.



We also ran a programme for young men aged 14-20 identified by the Osmani Trust as at risk of becoming involved in crime. These young writers then launched their powerful book 'Writers of the Wall' to a packed audience of families, educators and politicians.

'The way we wrote our stories and then published them was the best thing ever in my life. It shows I am a writer and I can express myself through my stories.'

Storyteller, Year 10

'The sessions have been fun, well prepared, inspiring, engaging and has unlocked creativity and passion in our young people who have attended through the medium of creative writing and expression.'

Gershom Clarke, Senior Club Manager, Future Youth Zone

'The students demonstrated pride in their past and also in themselves at being able to share their stories. Thank you for giving these young people the platform to enable them to do this.'

Amanda Wray, Learning Operations Coordinator, Valence House

English was my worst subject. I absolutely hated it. Every time I would go into English, I would dread it. But, since I was given this opportunity, it really has changed everything. English has become my favourite subject, along with sports of course. It's taught me that there's a lot more to writing than just writing down on a pad of paper. Poetry is my speciality. Learning how to make real poems, reading it out to others, getting other people's opinions on how to improve it, how to change it... It really has been a transformation to my life.

Storyteller, Year 11



Financial review

As a small charity whose primary work is carried out by volunteers and whose main work operates out of a youth centre free of charge, Write Back does not have any fixed costs and therefore the need for a fixed policy on reserves has been limited. However as the organisation grows we will keep this under review.

Write Back's principal source of income in the 12-month accounting period to August 2023 has been the money received from grants, including project-based funds that have supported specific aspects of our delivery. In addition, we have received money from project partners including schools and other organisations locally that have collaborated with our work.

Our expenses have been larger as we were able to run a full set of programmes following on from disruption thanks to COVID in previous years.

More resources have also been allocated for guest speakers and freelance workers. While Write Back has no employees we have procured guest speakers on a freelance basis to help co-deliver aspects of our programme. Without these workers it would not have been possible to deliver the scale of work we have achieved this year.

Please see the attached accounts for further details of our finances.

Future plans: Write Back's strategy

In the academic year 2023 to 2024 we have run a similar set of storytelling programmes, including our core programme and our graduate scheme. We will evaluate these in next year's charity commission report.

We have been awarded a three year grant starting in the new academic year. Our strategy for the is therefore to continue to deliver our existing programmes and fundraise in order to grow our operations and reach more young people.



List of trustees

Alex Newton, Chair of Trustees

Daven Hindocha, Treasurer

Sam Norwood, Trustee

Kathryn Elliot, Trustee (appointed May 2024)

Grace Selley, Trustee (stood down in May 2024)

Registered address



Write Back, Flat 21 Dethick Court, Ford Road, London, E3 5PQ



Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Samuel Norwood	Alexander Newton
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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Trustee and Founder	Chair of Trustees
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Date 20.06.24

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Write Back

Charity no:
1188293

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01-Sep-22	To	31-Aug-23
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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					
Grants and donations	10,075	-	-	10,075	-
Charitable activities - workshops & programmes	2,575	-	-	2,575	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	12,650	-	-	12,650	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,650	-	-	12,650	-
A3 Payments					
Session resources	1,537	-	-	1,537	-
Student publications	4,748	-	-	4,748	-
End of programme events	915	-	-	915	-
Advertising and publicity	361	-	-	361	-
Printing & Postage	849	-	-	849	-
Website expenses	373	-	-	373	-
Guest speakers	3,655	-	-	3,655	-
Insurance	140	-	-	140	-
Sundry expenses	75	-	-	75	-
Sub total	12,653	-	-	12,653	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,653	-	-	12,653	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	3	-	-	3	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,277	-	-	10,277	-
Cash funds this year end	10,273	-	-	10,273	-

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	10,273	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,273	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Daven Hindocha</i>	DAVEN HINDOCHA	19/6/24
<i>Samuel Norwood</i>	SAMUEL NORWOOD	19/6/24

WRITE BACK

England & Wales - Charity number 1188293

Accounts



Write Back Trustees' Annual Report

1 September 2021 - 31 August 2022

Charity name: Write Back
Charity registration number: 1188293

Objectives and Activities:

Write Back's vision is for every young person to understand that they have a story to tell and have the capacity to tell it. We work to achieve this by building the confidence and capacity of young people to express themselves creatively through the sharing of their stories. We do this by running collaborative storytelling programmes for marginalised young people which develop their creativity, self-esteem and confidence. The work of every young person on our programmes is published and celebrated.

About Write Back

Write Back started in a History classroom in 2015, where History teacher Sam Norwood explored ways to empower young people beyond the constraints of the curriculum. He began by working with Year 9 students to publish their stories of immigration. Those students went on to create another book, three exhibitions across East London and pilot workshops for younger students. As those original students headed to university, in September 2019 we began running sessions for young people across the borough of Barking and Dagenham. In early 2020, we registered with the Charity Commission, formalising our status as an independent charity and recruited a board of trustees.

We run 10-week storytelling programmes open to 13 to 16-year-olds identified by their teachers as lacking confidence, self-esteem or a creative outlet. These young people are referred to us by schools in Barking and Dagenham, and are then enrolled in our programmes at the Future Youth Zone, a local youth centre. The programmes are built off three key ideas: that every young person has a story to tell and the capacity to tell it; that a deep connection with the stories of others is often the most powerful way to learn; that young people should tell their stories in the way that they want them to be told. In each session we run confidence-building activities, engage with the writing of young authors and develop the stories of the participating young people. The 10-week project also involves working with writers and artists, and culminates with the celebration of the young people's work in front of their friends, families and teachers at a 'graduation style' book launch event. Through this work we aim to build self-respect, community and independent voices for young people through the sharing of their stories.

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



The need

Our work is focused in Barking and Dagenham because this is where our project was created and where demand remains so great. The borough is the 9th most deprived local authority in the country and well over a third of its young people and children live in poverty. Despite this, Barking and Dagenham has the joint fewest charities per head in the country. Research conducted by the local authority revealed that only 37% of young residents felt they had someone to talk to about problems that worry them. The same research found that almost a third of young people felt optimistic 'rarely' or 'none of the time'.

Our programmes have shown the transformative impact storytelling can have. They provide young people with the opportunity to discuss the issues important to them – areas which are increasingly difficult to cover in the curriculum given the growing exam pressures of secondary schools. Quantitative evaluations of our programmes as well as feedback from schools, families and the young people themselves have shown marked improvements for participant self-esteem and perceptions of themselves and their capabilities.

We believe that storytelling can play a crucial role in addressing this situation by building young people's respect for themselves and by developing trust and community amongst young people.

Key activities and achievements: September 2021 - August 2022

By August 2021 we had delivered over 200 hours of storytelling programmes for young people in East London. Here are some of our key findings and milestones:

- More than eight in ten participants' self-esteem improved over the course of our programme, on average by 23%.* We, our partner schools and families have also seen the tangible increases in young people's personal confidence.
- Through our programmes we have printed and celebrated the stories of over 120 young people.
- Nine anthologies of young writers produced with over 250,000 words published by young writers.

Autumn 2021

Every term we deliver a 'main programme' for storytellers in Years 9 and 10 who are nominated by their schools across Barking and Dagenham. We were delighted that following COVID restrictions the previous year, we were able to return to fully in-person programming. The autumn storytellers completed their ten-week programme with a launch of their book, *A Conversation With...* in the grand setting of CU London.

Meanwhile our 'graduates' (storytellers that have already completed the 10-week programme) continued our most ambitious projects to date. These storytellers produced a website filled with



their stories inspired by local places that had sustained them through the pandemic; worked with artists and academics from the University of Liverpool and the Stay Home Stories Project; and have created a professional film that premiered in the Being Human Festival, the world's largest festival of the humanities.

Spring 2022

In collaboration with local partners Pen to Print and Becontree Radio our graduates published their stories in *Write On!* magazine which has a national distribution and created their very own radio show on a local network. One of our graduates had his work published in a volume from Penguin Random House featuring young writers from around the world and, while the launch took place in the US, we held a celebration closer to home.

Meanwhile, young people on our main programme launched a new anthology *A Young Person's Guide To*. This was our most ambitious book yet as we worked closely with professional designers who took the ideas of the young people and turned their vision into an industry-standard book cover. We then launched this book in the Barking Boathouse, a local arts venue, with an audience of friends, families and representatives of local schools.

Summer 2022

The next cohort of young storytellers produced *Under the Surface* in July 2022. This again involved bringing together the young people with designers and writing experts. That term we then took all of the books ever created by young people on Write Back programmes to the Bishopsgate Archive in Central London where they have been given a permanent home amidst its collection of London's social and cultural history.

Our graduates then started a new programme in partnership with Beyond Past UK where they were trained in oral history techniques, interviewed local residents about their teenage lives in Barking and Dagenham from the 1950s to the 1990s and then used this to inspire their own writing on teenage life.

Alongside this we also ran two additional programmes with other organisations. In Tower Hamlets we worked with the Osmani Trust to deliver a storytelling programme to a group of young men identified as at risk of crime and published their stories in a celebration that included local dignitaries and representatives. We also worked with a small group of young people in Future Youth Zone training them in storytelling techniques that would help them become powerful advocates for youth work.



Reflections

Continued evaluation of our programmes, as well as feedback from schools, families, and the young people themselves, has shown marked improvements in participant self-esteem and self-perception, including belief in their own capabilities.

This really matters because research suggests that young people from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, including many in Barking & Dagenham, are more likely to have very low self-esteem and that this has a knock-on effect on their social relationships and academic achievement.

They are also more likely to develop anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions at a point in their lives where a failure to engage in school has lasting consequences.

'I've never felt so accepted, free in my thoughts and simply able to just let myself be.' *Write Back storyteller*

The fact that their work is published and celebrated at a community event, also gives them tangible proof that their story matters; that they matter. And this is far from a given for all young people.

'Before Write Back I didn't really like talking about my feelings but then Write Back really made me open up... Write Back has given me more confidence in myself and what I want to do.' *Write Back storyteller*

Significantly, what happens at Write Back doesn't stay at Write Back.

Greater self-esteem and confidence, and improved writing skills give young people a better chance of thriving in school, and the social and emotional development they experience can also enhance their future employment prospects.

'I feel as I have gained many transferable skills that have benefited me in my progression to A levels such as time management and organisation. I have also gained something very unique that helps me stand out in my CV when applying for jobs and internships.' *Write Back storyteller*

Financial review

As a small charity whose primary work is carried out by volunteers and whose main work operates out of a youth centre free of charge, Write Back does not have any fixed costs and therefore does not have a policy on reserves. However, we will seek to develop a risk-based reserves policy as the charity grows and its financial commitments increase.



Write Back's principal source of income in the 12-month accounting period to August 2022 has been the money received from schools and other partners like the Osmani Trust and Pen to Print to deliver programmes. We have also received a small amount of money through individual donations.

Our expenses have been larger than in the previous 12 months because we have been able to work with more young people and consistently run 2-3 in person programmes a term which COVID restrictions prevented in 2020-21.

More resources have also been allocated for guest speakers and freelance workers. While Write Back has no employees we have procured guest speakers on a freelance basis to help co-deliver aspects of our programme. Without these workers it would not have been possible to deliver the scale of work we have achieved this year.

Please see the attached accounts for further details of our finances.

Future plans: Write Back's strategy

In the academic year 2022 to 2023 we have run a similar set of storytelling programmes, including our core programme and our graduate scheme. We will evaluate these in next year's charity commission report.

Our strategy for the academic year starting September 2023 is to continue to deliver our existing programmes and fundraise in order to grow our operations and reach more young people.

List of trustees

Alex Newton, Chair of Trustees
Daven Hindocha, Treasurer
Sam Norwood, Trustee
Grace Selley, Trustee



Registered address

Write Back, Flat 21 Dethick Court, Ford Road, London, E3 5PQ



Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Samuel Norwood	Alexander Newton
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee and Founder	Chair of Trustees
Date	28.06.2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Write Back

Charity no:
1188293

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Sep-21

To

31-Aug-22

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					
Grants and donations	74	-	-	74	-
Charitable activities - workshops & programmes	8,217	-	-	8,217	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,291	-	-	8,291	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,291	-	-	8,291	-
A3 Payments					
Session resources	1,622	-	-	1,622	-
Student publications	2,176	-	-	2,176	-
End of programme events	1,129	-	-	1,129	-
Advertising and publicity	77	-	-	77	-
Printing & Postage	24	-	-	24	-
Website	229	-	-	229	-
Guest speakers	1,672	-	-	1,672	-
Insurance	140	-	-	140	-
Sundry expenses	287	-	-	287	-
Sub total	7,356	-	-	7,356	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,356	-	-	7,356	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	935	-	-	935	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,342	-	-	9,342	-
Cash funds this year end	10,277	-	-	10,277	-

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	10,277	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,277	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

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

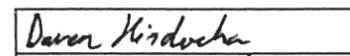
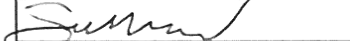
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

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

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DAVEN HINDOCHA	28/6/23
	SAMUEL NORWOOD	28/6/23

WRITE BACK

England & Wales - Charity number 1188293

Accounts



Write Back Trustees' Annual Report 1 September 2020 - 31 August 2021

*Charity name: Write Back
Charity registration number: 1188293*

Objectives and Activities:

Write Back's vision is for every young person to understand that they have a story to tell and have the capacity to tell it. We work to achieve this by building the confidence and capacity of young people to express themselves creatively through the sharing of their stories. We do this by running collaborative storytelling programmes for marginalised young people which develop their creativity, self-esteem and confidence. The work of every young person on our programmes is published and celebrated.

About Write Back

Write Back started in a History classroom in 2015, working with Year 9 students to publish their stories of immigration. Those students went on to create another book, three exhibitions across East London and pilot workshops for younger students. As those original students headed to university, in September 2019 we began running sessions for young people across the borough of Barking and Dagenham. In early 2020, we registered with the Charity Commission, formalising our status as an independent charity and recruited a board of trustees.

We run 10-week storytelling programmes open to 13 to 16-year-olds identified by their teachers as lacking confidence, self-esteem or a creative outlet. These young people are referred to us by schools in Barking and Dagenham, and are then enrolled in our programmes at the Future Youth Zone, a local youth centre. The programmes are built off three key ideas: that every young person has a story to tell and the capacity to tell it; that a deep connection with the stories of others is often the most powerful way to learn; that young people should tell their stories in the way that they want them to be told. In each session we run confidence-building activities, engage with the writing of young authors and develop the stories of the participating young people. The 10-week project also involves working with writers and artists, and culminates with the celebration of the young people's work in front of their friends, families and teachers at a 'graduation style' book launch event. Through this work we aim to build self-respect, community and independent voices for young people through the sharing of their stories.



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

The need

Our work is focused in Barking and Dagenham because this is where our project was created and where demand remains so great. The borough is the 9th most deprived local authority in the country and well over a third of its young people and children live in poverty. Despite this, Barking and Dagenham has the joint fewest charities per head in the country. Research conducted by the local authority revealed that only 37% of young residents felt they had someone to talk to about problems that worry them. The same research found that almost a third of young people felt optimistic 'rarely' or 'none of the time'.

Our programmes have shown the transformative impact storytelling can have. They provide young people with the opportunity to discuss the issues important to them – areas which are increasingly difficult to cover in the curriculum given the growing exam pressures of secondary schools. Quantitative evaluations of our programmes as well as feedback from schools, families and the young people themselves have shown marked improvements for participant self-esteem and perceptions of themselves and their capabilities.

We believe that storytelling can play a crucial role in addressing this situation by building young people's respect for themselves and by developing trust and community amongst young people.

Key activities and achievements: September 2020 - August 2021

Write Back registered as a charity in the same month in which the first lockdown plunged the country - and much of the third sector - into chaos. Despite the changing guidance and uncertainty, from September 2020 - August 2021 we weathered the storms by adapting our programmes to be delivered online or in hybrid format (online and in-person). This meant we could continue supporting young people at a time when youth service provision was imperilled across much of the country.

Over this period, Write Back ran over 100 hours of storytelling programmes and printed and celebrated the stories of 45 young people recruited from 5 local comprehensive secondary schools.



We have run over 40 workshops for young writers on our main programmes and these storytellers produced two anthologies of their writing. The first, published in January 2021 was 2020: Through the Eyes of Young People and offered an insight into youth experiences of the pandemic. The second titled Build Back Better was released in July 2021 and outlined visions of change that the young people wanted to see.

In addition to these workshops, we have hosted two public celebrations of the young people's work. The first was held online in January 2021 in the middle of a lockdown. We also held a socially distanced in person celebration in July 2021 at the Barking Boathouse attended by families, friends and teachers of the young authors.

We have also developed a graduate programme for storytellers that have already completed the 10-week programme. These storytellers released a map co-created with designers from London Metropolitan University; produced a website filled with their stories; worked with artists and academics from the University of Liverpool and the Stay Home Stories Project; and have created a professional film that premiered in the Being Human Festival, the world's largest festival of the humanities.

In addition to our main programmes, we have been supporting many of the young people who originally helped to 'found' Write Back to publish a new book based on their experiences of race. This was launched at Toynbee Hall in August 2021

As a charity our primary goals are to build self-esteem among disadvantaged young people, to foster community among diverse participants and to help them develop techniques for telling their stories with confidence.

We have seen this realised through our programmes and through the feedback we've received from young people, parents and schools. We have professionally printed the work of every enrolled young person, maintaining the 100% completion rate of our 10-week-long programmes. At our 'book launch' events we've had further evidence of the increase of confidence that comes from young people having their work publicly celebrated.

We also use the Rosenberg survey to measure changes in self-esteem and, through it, have seen a marked increase in the self-belief and resilience of young people on our programmes. 8 in 10 participants have shown a marked improvement in the self-esteem, on average by 24%. 100% of storytellers have rated their experience as 'positive' or 'very positive'.

A secondary objective was to increase the connections of Write Back to develop the opportunities available to the storytellers. We have made progress towards this through establishing new connections with London Metropolitan University, University of Liverpool, Stay Home Stories, Queen Mary, Being Human festival and Pen to Print.



Financial review

As a small charity founded in March 2020, Write Back does not have any fixed costs and therefore does not have a policy on reserves. However we will seek to develop a risk-based reserves policy as the charity grows and its financial commitments increase.

Write Back's principal source of income in the 18 month accounting period to August 2021 has been a £10,000 grant received from the Shackleton Foundation in November 2020. Write Back also received £2,600 from schools who refer students to Write Back's storytelling programmes, holiday club workshops and a one-off training course.

Future plans: Write Back's expansion in 2022 - 2023

We intend to turn Barking and Dagenham into a storytelling hub for young people. Building on our existing projects with half the secondary schools in the borough, we aim to expand to work with all secondary schools in Barking and Dagenham, running 11 storytelling programmes and over 110 hours of storytelling intervention for more than 120 young people in the academic year starting September 2022, overseen and delivered by a dedicated local coordinator. The work of all participating young people will be professionally printed, published and celebrated at local ceremonies, putting Barking and Dagenham on the map as a place where the stories of young people matter.

List of trustees

Alex Newton, Chair of Trustees
Daven Hindocha, Treasurer
Sam Norwood, Trustee
Grace Selley, Trustee

Registered address



Write Back, Flat 21 Dethick Court, Ford Road, London, E3 5PQ

Declarations



The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
---	---

Full name(s)

Samuel Norwood	Alexander Newton
-----------------------	-------------------------

**Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Trustee and Founder	Chair of Trustees
----------------------------	--------------------------

Date

24.05.2022



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Write Back

Charity no:
1188293

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

02-Mar-20

To

31-Aug-21

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					
Grants and donations	10,020	-	-	10,020	-
Charitable activities - workshops & programmes	2,610	-	-	2,610	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	12,630	-	-	12,630	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,630	-	-	12,630	-
A3 Payments					
Session resources	1,377	-	-	1,377	-
Student publications	1,344	-	-	1,344	-
End of programme events	640	-	-	640	-
Advertising and publicity	361	-	-	361	-
Printing & Postage	321	-	-	321	-
Website	296	-	-	296	-
Guest speakers	151	-	-	151	-
Insurance	136	-	-	136	-
Sundry expenses	65	-	-	65	-
Sub total	4,691	-	-	4,691	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,691	-	-	4,691	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,939	-	-	7,939	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	£1,402	-	-	1,402	-
Cash funds this year end	9,342	-	-	9,342	-

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

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	9,342	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,342	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))


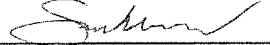
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DAVEN HINDOCHA	02-May-22
	SAM NORWOOD	12/5/22