

**BRIGHTSPARKS ARTS IN MENTAL HEALTH  
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 19 JULY 2025**

## BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health Contents

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# **BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**

## **Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

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The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 19 July 2025.

### **Objectives and Activities**

#### **Aims and Objectives**

Our mission is to challenge stigma and advocate for the social value of therapeutic creative health by building supportive groups, through a range of creative projects and events informed by our community. We will deliver regular accessible opportunities. Generating positive stories using a service user led creative health approach with our projects and events. Where we showcase talents. Offering opportunities to share and celebrate our community

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### **Main Achievements**

This financial year has seen further development within BrightSparks Arts. We have been able to build upon the brand and reputation of BrightSparks Arts and working in partnership and co-creating our projects and delivery with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and other key partners and funders.

The Arts in Mental Health Coordinators at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT), Tim Sayers and Lydia Towsey (also the founders of BrightSparks Arts), have been in post since 2007 and much of the work on the wards at the Bradgate Mental Health Unit and in the broader BrightSparks Arts mental health community led by them both continues to flourish. Delivering programmes and projects with Music, Writing and Poetry, visual arts, photography, gardening and comedy.

In addition, the Comedy Asylum team (Rob Gee, Oli Sheridan and Sam Kitson) have further developed the team and reach of comedy asylum. In Kettering in collaboration with Loz Anstey, a spoken word artist based in Northamptonshire, to deliver and grow the reach of our programme, funded by The Big Lottery, and with Anna Leigh Knight and team delivering Comedy Asylum to Melton Mowbray. Now in its eighth year, the Comedy Asylum is well established in Leicester, Leicestershire and Kettering and has formed the basis of a new Creative Health service that we are developing with NHS and community partners in Northamptonshire. We plan to extend our fundraising into the coming year to support this expansion of provision.

We have extended our comedy offer to include Humour Hubs, which are rurally based comedy workshops in Leicestershire, funded by the Integrated Care Board for the fourth year. Through this project, we've established two groups in Melton Mowbray and offer regular sessions in three other locations, with plans for a third group in collaboration with the Community Mental Health Employment Team in South Wigston.

From a governance and strategic direction, we continue to have a user group committee which decides on the future direction of BrightSparks, and this remains a well-attended meeting by twenty mental health service users, three times a year and allows focus for the future to come from the users of BrightSparks work.

Building on 2023/24, we delivered a more ambitious programme at the Leicester Riverside Festival which gives all our users and community a chance to come and showcase and celebrate their work with a broader audience in a safe environment. Having secured the next 2 years funding for the festival we are hopeful we will continue to stage the amazing work and talent of the BrightSparks Arts user community. The festival showcases our participants' work in music, poetry, gardening, arts/design and photography, as well as offering opportunities for the public to engage in our work. The festival has significantly expanded due to the partnerships we've developed with Leicester City Council, Handbeam (a deaf artist collective), Leicester College, the Creative Health and Heritage Centre at UHL and creative producer Emma Fay. Through this work we've secured sponsorship from three organisations and plan to develop this income stream in the coming year.

We are proud to be running all the projects and art streams we described in 2023/24's annual report and with the ongoing hard work of Sallie Varnam and the business development team we are continuing to build more opportunities to a diverse mental health community, their families, friends and colleagues and continue the positive impact this has on the local communities.

### **Financial Review**

# **BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health Trustees' Report (continued) For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

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## **Financial Position**

The results for the year ending 19 July 2025 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

This, together with the Balance Sheet, should be read with the related notes which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).

Total income for the year amounted to £125,501 (2024: £102,294). The principal funding source continued to be grant income. The charity does not carry out significant fundraising activities.

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £112,746 (2024: £102,630). A breakdown of expenditure is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

After transfers between funds, there was a surplus on unrestricted funds for year totalling £5,815 and a surplus on restricted funds totalling £6,940. This has resulted in a total increase for the year of £12,755.

The funds of the charity at the year-end totalled £189,813 which comprise restricted funds of £146,381 and unrestricted funds of £43,432.

## **Reserves Policy**

Reserves are needed to cover items of expenditure not covered by project income. The reserves policy of the Board of Trustees is to designate funds for ongoing projects which are not funded through grant income (£10,343) and to cover c.6 months of a project worker salary (£18,000), this currently equates to £28,343. This leaves an unrestricted (free) reserves balance of £15,089.

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Trustees**

J Nixon  
N Leet  
S Elliott  
S Dyers  
E Haynes  
N Chhatralia (appointed 06/12/2024)  
G Paton (appointed 07/03/2025)  
D Hazzan (appointed 07/03/2025)  
J Sheridan (appointed 07/03/2025)  
C Richardson (appointed 07/03/2025)

### **Charity Number**

1190327

### **Principal Address**

Suite P1  
Bridge Park Road  
Thurmaston  
LE4 8PQ

### **Independent Examiner**

I Hate Numbers ACCA  
I Hate Numbers  
ACCA  
29-35 Forester Building  
St. Nicholas Place  
Leicester  
Leicestershire  
LE1 4LD

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health  
Trustees' Report (continued)  
For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

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The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

E Haynes

Trustee

17/05/2026

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health (the Trust) for the year ended 19 July 2025.

**Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

I Hate Numbers ACCA  
17/05/2026  
29-35 Forester Building  
St. Nicholas Place  
Leicester  
Leicestershire  
LE1 4LD

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health  
Statement of Financial Activities  
For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

				<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>					
Donations and legacies	<b>3</b>	1,225	1,886	3,111	2,598
Charitable activities:					
Development & Fundraising		934	121,456	122,390	99,696
		<u>2,159</u>	<u>123,342</u>	<u>125,501</u>	<u>102,294</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
Raising funds	<b>4</b>	(1,219)	(8,783)	(10,002)	(13,474)
Charitable activities:	<b>4</b>				
Project & Workshop Delivery		(5,475)	(97,269)	(102,744)	(89,156)
		<u>(6,694)</u>	<u>(106,052)</u>	<u>(112,746)</u>	<u>(102,630)</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<u>(4,535)</u>	<u>17,290</u>	<u>12,755</u>	<u>(336)</u>
Transfers between funds	<b>10</b>	10,350	(10,350)	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<u>5,815</u>	<u>6,940</u>	<u>12,755</u>	<u>(336)</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		37,617	139,441	177,058	177,394
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>10</b>	<u><u>43,432</u></u>	<u><u>146,381</u></u>	<u><u>189,813</u></u>	<u><u>177,058</u></u>

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**Comparative Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

				2024
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>				
Donations and legacies	3	1,671	927	2,598
Charitable activities:				
Development & Fundraising		20	99,676	99,696
		<u>1,691</u>	<u>100,603</u>	<u>102,294</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>				
Raising funds	4	-	(13,474)	(13,474)
Charitable activities:	4			
Project & Workshop Delivery		(1,741)	(87,415)	(89,156)
		<u>(1,741)</u>	<u>(100,889)</u>	<u>(102,630)</u>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>(50)</u>	<u>(286)</u>	<u>(336)</u>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		(50)	(286)	(336)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>				
Total funds brought forward		37,667	139,727	177,394
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	10	<u>37,617</u>	<u>139,441</u>	<u>177,058</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these financial statements.



**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As At 19 July 2025**

				<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets	<b>7</b>	283	-	283	423
		283	-	283	423
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	<b>8</b>	591	-	591	5,797
Cash at bank and in hand		47,023	145,825	192,848	174,718
		47,614	145,825	193,439	180,515
<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year</b>	<b>9</b>	(3,909)	-	(3,909)	(3,880)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		43,705	145,825	189,530	176,635
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		43,988	145,825	189,813	177,058
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		43,988	145,825	189,813	177,058
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>					
Restricted Funds				146,381	139,441
Unrestricted Funds				43,432	37,617
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>10</b>			189,813	177,058

From £43,432 Unrestricted funds: £28,243 has been allocated as designated reserved, reaming £15,089 as unrestricted reserves.

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 17 May 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

E Haynes

Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

# BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### For The Year Ended 19 July 2025

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#### 1. General Information

BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission, registered charity number 1190327. The principal address is Suite P1, Bridge Park Road, Thurmaston, LE4 8PQ.

#### 2. Accounting Policies

##### 2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

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

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

##### 2.2. Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

##### 2.3. Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs

##### Expenditure on charitable activities

These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.

##### 2.4. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures & Fittings

33% Reducing balance

##### 2.5. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

**3. Income from Donations and Legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2025 Total funds</b>	<b>2024 Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and gifts	1,225	1,886	3,111	2,598

**4. Analysis of Expenditure**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly</b>	<b>Support costs (see note 5)</b>	<b>2025 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Raising funds	-	10,002	10,002
Project & Workshop Delivery	100,004	2,740	102,744
	100,004	12,742	112,746

	<b>Activities undertaken directly</b>	<b>Support costs (see note 5)</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Raising funds	-	13,474	13,474
Project & Workshop Delivery	84,858	4,298	89,156
	84,858	17,772	102,630

**5. Support Costs**

	<b>Raising funds</b>	<b>Project &amp; Workshop Delivery</b>	<b>2025 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General administration	10,002	2,600	12,602
Depreciation	-	140	140
	10,002	2,740	12,742

	<b>Raising funds</b>	<b>Project &amp; Workshop Delivery</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General administration	13,474	4,090	17,564
Depreciation	-	208	208
	13,474	4,298	17,772

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

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**6. Average Number of Employees**

Average number of employees during the year was: NIL (2024: NIL)

**7. Tangible Assets**

	<b>Fixtures &amp; Fittings</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
As at 20 July 2024	1,406
As at 19 July 2025	1,406
<b>Depreciation</b>	
As at 20 July 2024	983
Provided during the period	140
As at 19 July 2025	1,123
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
As at 19 July 2025	283
As at 20 July 2024	423

**8. Debtors**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Other debtors	591	5,797

**9. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accruals and deferred income	3,909	3,880

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

**10. Movement in Funds**

	As at 20 July 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 19 July 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General:					
General unrestricted fund	37,617	2,159	(6,694)	(17,993)	15,089
Designated:					
Designated	-	-	-	28,343	28,343
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	37,617	2,159	(6,694)	10,350	43,432
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Green Room Gardeners	7,021	168	(1,801)	-	5,388
House of Circus	110	20	1	-	131
Pictures + framing	3,066	500	(96)	-	3,470
All for One Vaccine	6,042	-	-	-	6,042
All Together National Lottery	2,739	-	-	-	2,739
Arts Workshops	2,048	1,880	(3,234)	-	694
Attenborough Art	1,904	-	-	-	1,904
BLF Comedy Asylum	48,686	61,884	(58,720)	(13,350)	38,500
Comedy on the Bus	3,509	-	-	-	3,509
MHSCE Arts Workshops	660	-	(194)	-	466
MHSCE Sounds Inc.	3,523	-	(33)	-	3,490
Painting for Wellbeing	1,202	-	-	-	1,202
Remote art	3,593	-	-	-	3,593
Riverside Festival 2022	3,044	6,629	(7,669)	3,000	5,004
School of Comedy	11,300	-	(6,306)	-	4,994
Smoothie Launch Fund	5,685	-	(2,980)	-	2,705
Comedy Wellbeing Hubs	120	-	-	-	120
Community Matters	1,911	-	-	-	1,911
Humour Hubs	25,449	31,755	(21,417)	-	35,787
Other Funds	6,129	-	(1,923)	-	4,206
MishMash	-	20,000	(1,680)	-	18,320
Save The World	-	500	-	-	500
Word!	1,700	6	-	-	1,706
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	139,441	123,342	(106,052)	(10,350)	146,381
<b>Total funds</b>	177,058	125,501	(112,746)	-	189,813

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

	As at 20 July 2023	Income	Expenditure	As at 19 July 2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	37,667	1,691	(1,741)	37,617
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Green Room Gardeners	3,762	5,292	(2,033)	7,021
House of Circus	291	19	(200)	110
Pictures + framing	2,407	659	(1)	3,065
All for One Vaccine	6,042	-	-	6,042
All Together National Lottery	6,570	-	(3,831)	2,739
Arts Workshops	960	1,963	(875)	2,048
Attenborough Art	1,904	-	-	1,904
BLF Comedy Asylum	25,589	57,379	(34,282)	48,686
Comedy on the Bus	3,509	-	-	3,509
MHSCE Arts Workshops	922	-	(262)	660
MHSCE Sounds Inc.	3,618	-	(95)	3,523
Painting for Wellbeing	1,202	-	-	1,202
Remote art	3,593	-	-	3,593
Riverside Festival 2022	2,102	-	942	3,044
School of Comedy	36,220	-	(24,920)	11,300
Smoothie Launch Fund	13,580	-	(7,895)	5,685
Restricted Cash	1,700	-	-	1,700
Comedy Wellbeing Hubs	19,876	(292)	(19,464)	120
Community Matters	581	1,750	(420)	1,911
Humour Hubs	-	29,507	(4,058)	25,449
Other Funds	5,299	4,326	(3,495)	6,130
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	139,727	100,603	(100,889)	139,441
<b>Total funds</b>	177,394	102,294	(102,630)	177,058

**11. Transactions with Trustees**

None of the trustees received any remuneration or any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity during the current or previous year.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

**12. Related Party Disclosures**

**BrightSparks Arts in Mental Health**  
**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For The Year Ended 19 July 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations and gifts	3,111	2,598
	<u>3,111</u>	<u>2,598</u>
<b>Charitable Activities:</b>		
<b>Development &amp; Fundraising</b>		
Funding	7,898	66,811
Grants	113,639	32,615
Income from shows / performances	269	270
Sales	584	-
	<u>122,390</u>	<u>99,696</u>
	125,501	102,294
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>		
<b>Raising funds</b>		
Advertising and marketing costs	(2,614)	(13,474)
Development + fundraising costs	(7,389)	-
Sundry expenses	1	-
	<u>(10,002)</u>	<u>(13,474)</u>
<b>Charitable Activities:</b>		
<b>Project &amp; Workshop Delivery</b>		
Project & Workshop Delivery	(96,054)	(78,546)
Venue cost	(3,443)	(3,312)
Materials	(507)	-
Other direct costs	-	(3,000)
Insurance	(572)	(582)
Staff-Training	(837)	(2,954)
Accountancy fees	(816)	(554)
Refreshments and hospitality	(375)	-
Depreciation	(140)	(208)
	<u>(102,744)</u>	<u>(89,156)</u>
	(112,746)	(102,630)
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	<u><u>12,755</u></u>	<u><u>(336)</u></u>