

BRIGHTER TOGETHER

England & Wales · Charity number 1190557

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-07-24

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

Contact

Address 17 Trowlock Avenue
Teddington
TW11 9QT

Phone 02082744030

Email info@brightertogether.org.uk

Website www.brightertogether.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE ELDERLY PEOPLE PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY RESIDING IN CARE HOMES AND SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION BY ENABLING THEM TO INTERACT WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'

Activities: Brighter Together is an intergenerational charity which connects two vulnerable groups: older people, and children to participate in shared activities, for mutual benefit to well-being and development.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£184,611	£98,975	-	-
2024-08-31	£82,278	£77,474	-	-
2023-08-31	£58,660	£40,520	-	-
2022-03-31	£35,905	£23,226	-	-
2021-03-31	£20,921	£9,922	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Melia	Chair	2020-07-24
Boyana Krasimirova Ivanova		2024-10-24
Dr Susan Jane Allingham M.A., EdD		2021-07-01
Maria Iciar Ania Elosua		2025-12-11
Nigel Craig Slone		2025-05-08
Parita Nilesh Doshi		2020-07-24

BRIGHTER TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1190557

Accounts



Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st August 2025



17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT

Registered Charity 1190557

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From the Chair

Over the past year, there has been increased recognition that relationships are central to happiness and wellbeing. Increasingly, evidence highlights the importance of laying these foundations early in life and nurturing social and emotional development during the ages of 0–5. Despite this progress, our society remains deeply divided, and loneliness and isolation are considered a “silent epidemic” for people over 75.

Against this backdrop, I am incredibly proud of the momentum of Brighter Together. Our work has never been more critical. We continue to see the incredible benefit of intergenerational relationships, and we’re delighted to showcase the case studies, testimonials and data that our incredible team continues to capture that demonstrates the impact of regular, meaningful intergenerational activity.

What we see on a weekly basis reflects the transformative power of consistent relationships between our youngest and oldest generations. Our programme strengthens social and emotional wellbeing for both children and older adults and contributes to more connected local communities.

During 2024–25, we more than doubled our delivery, responding to growing demand while maintaining the quality that sits at the heart of our programme.

We are particularly proud that every single child who took part in our programme showed a ‘significant’ or ‘very significant’ improvement to their social wellbeing – reflecting their increased confidence, and ability to engage positively and create connections with others. These outcomes underline the vital role that relationships play in a child’s early development.

As we move into 2026, our focus remains on reaching children and adults who stand to benefit most, while continuing to use evidence-based insight to refine and strengthen our approach. We are never standing still, and we look forward to seeing many more children and older people flourish in the year ahead.

Never standing still includes our governance, and we were delighted to welcome Nigel Slone as a new trustee this year. We are continuing to enhance the mix of skills and expertise of our board members, and looking to add additional members to complement the wonderful group of people already involved. Please do keep an eye out for opportunities if you would be interested in supporting us.

We are deeply grateful to our funders, partners and team, whose support and commitment have enabled us to grow as an organisation, extending our impact across lives and communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Melia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andy Melia (Chair of Trustees)

Charitable Aims and Objectives

Brighter Together connects two vulnerable groups: older adults living in care homes or attending day centres, and pre-school children at school or nursery. They participate in shared activities, aimed at tackling social isolation, improving social and emotional wellbeing for all participants, and boosting the children’s development.

Our aims are to specifically:

- Reduce social isolation and loneliness;
- Improve the social and emotional wellbeing of older adults and children;
- Support the children’s development against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) characteristics of effective learning.

Our programme gives vulnerable older adults a purpose and responsibility. By bringing a group of young children into their lives on a regular basis to participate in structured nursery activities, our older participants share in the children’s development and create strong relationships that will have a mutual benefit.

Within the care homes, day centres, and nursery schools, Brighter Together aims to work with those who will receive the most benefit from the project. The selection criteria are:

Older Adults:	Pre-School Children:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of social isolation for a resident. • Ability to engage in the sessions and the activities to a level that will benefit them, and the children involved. • Safeguarding considerations. • Consent to participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of exposure to those over 65 years and whether that is on a consistent basis. • Assessment against the EYFS Goals. • Consent to participate.

How we deliver our aims and objectives

Our intergenerational programme connects a care home or day centre with a local nursery school who are then referred to as our ‘partners’. The aim is to create a consistent partnership that will be maintained for a full academic year at a minimum.

Our partners work with us to select the group of older adults and children who will benefit from being part of the programme, based on the criteria in the table above.

The benefits experienced by children and older adults during our sessions are **transformative, creating connections that feel truly magical**. This success is built on rigorous research, thoughtful design and continual refinement. Our evidence-based practice and highly skilled team ensures every session delivers meaningful benefits.

There are 4 pillars to our work:



Designed by Experts

Our sessions are designed with input from an Advisory Board, using expertise in occupational therapy, dementia care, physiotherapy and early years education. Their insight ensures our programme is impactful, inclusive and grounded in best practice.



Session Structure

Each session is informed by the principles of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, which successfully improves and maintains cognitive functioning in older adults. Our sessions align with the Early Years Foundation Stage framework to support children's learning and development in a meaningful way.



Bespoke Training

Our Session Facilitators and volunteers receive specialist training in how to engage older people and support high-quality intergenerational interactions. This includes accredited dementia training, ensuring every session is delivered safely, sensitively and effectively.



Community Involvement

We end each term with a special celebration that brings together friends, families and staff - a wonderful way to welcome the wider community into the care setting. This shared experience is a vital part of our approach, strengthening relationships across local communities.

Summary of Activity

During the 2024–25 academic year, Brighter Together experienced a significant period of growth while maintaining the quality and integrity of our delivery. We doubled the number of projects delivered compared to the previous year, expanding into a fourth London borough, Hammersmith & Fulham, an area identified for its high levels of social isolation and limited intergenerational provision.

We worked in partnership with 29 care homes, day centres and nurseries to deliver 16 weekly projects across the academic year. In total, 354 older adults and children participated, sharing 341 hours of structured intergenerational activity.

Alongside programme expansion, we invested in strengthening our internal operations to ensure sustainable growth. A bespoke relationship management database was developed with pro-bono support, significantly improving project oversight and efficiency. We also received pro-bono legal support to enhance our HR processes and strengthened our governance through the recruitment of an additional Trustee with healthcare and senior leadership experience.

Impact remained at the heart of our work. Using structured wellbeing measures, 97% of older participants demonstrated 'significant' or 'very significant' improvements in social wellbeing. Among children, 100% showed similar levels of improvement. These outcomes reinforce the role of high-quality intergenerational programmes in reducing social isolation and supporting emotional, social and developmental progress.

Partner feedback was exceptionally strong. Our Net Promoter Score for 2024–25 was +99, significantly above the +50 benchmark considered excellent. 99% of respondents rated the programme 10/10, with no detractors, reflecting the value and trust placed in our work despite ongoing pressures in the care and childcare sectors.

We continue to refine our curriculum using evidence from child development and ageing research to ensure participants receive maximum benefit. As illustrated in the case studies within this report, our programme contributes to increased confidence, purpose, speech and language development, and improved emotional and social wellbeing.

Outputs:

- Delivered **341** intergenerational activity sessions.
- Worked with **29** project partners.
- Developed **10 new** projects.
- Provided sessions to **172** older adults.
- Provided sessions to **182** children (aged 3-5 years).

Impact

We've continued with our triangulation method of measuring impact and evaluating our programme. This uses Leuven scale observations during sessions, which are reviewed alongside assessments and observations from nursery/care home/day centre staff and also questionnaires from parents, family members or friends who visit our older adult participants on a regular basis. This helps us develop a wider picture of how our programme is supporting both the adults and children involved both inside and outside of our sessions.

Impact for Older Adults

All of care home and day centre partners said that the sessions made a **significant contribution to older adults on the programme** across all 3 areas assessed: social wellbeing; emotional wellbeing; and physical health.

- **92%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in the areas of **emotional wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **97%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in the areas of **social wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **89%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in their **physical health** as a result of being part of the programme, as reported by care home and day centre staff.

Testimonials

"Thank you so much for making the sessions so enjoyable for Mike. He feels that he is doing something positive for the children and it gives him a real sense of achievement."

Heather, Wife of Participant.

"The programme improves the wellbeing of our members by bringing them happiness and giving them something to look forward to every week. It energizes them and gives them a sense of purpose knowing that they can share their skills and knowledge, and that they can contribute to the child's learning experience."

Sam Vaughnley, Centre Manager, The Elleray Centre.

Case Studies – Older Adults

From withdrawal to connection:

When 'A' first moved into the home, she was withdrawn and spent most of her time alone in her room, showing signs of depression. After she joined the Brighter Together sessions, the change was immediate.

'A' began anticipating the children's visits, often asking when the next visit would be. She now gets up early on the mornings the children come so she can be ready on time. She has developed a particularly strong bond with one little girl, who 'A' describes as 'adorable and well-mannered'.

When the half-term break came and the sessions weren't running, 'A' was very sad. She stayed in her room all day and declined to participate in any other activities, later telling us that *'it makes my day when the children come'*.

The impact of the programme for 'A' extends beyond these sessions. Brighter Together has encouraged her to take a more active part in the life of the care home, and she now joins in other activities and is more sociable with other residents.

Moments that matter:

Living with dementia means that B. initially experienced high levels of anxiety and disorientation when she first joined the Brighter Together sessions at The Avenue Club, Kew.

But the moment the children arrive, B.'s face glows with happiness. She greets them with smiles and praise, instantly showing that her ability to connect and share joy remains beautifully intact.

One of the most powerful moments comes during singing with the children. Although B. needs support with many everyday tasks, she sings every word perfectly and joins in the actions.

In these moments, music seems to gently bypass cognitive barriers, unlocking memories that light up her life.

Perhaps the most moving evidence of the sessions' impact came from B's son.

"Mum's face lit up when I mentioned the get together... 3 hours later. She genuinely recalled something of it and felt something very positive. Normally Mum doesn't recall what she did earlier that day... on Monday, it was different."

For B. and her family, these moments matter. Brighter Together helps create meaningful emotional connections and joy that stay with participants long after the sessions end.

Impact for Children

All of our nursery schools said that the sessions made a **significant contribution** to the children across the 3 areas of **social and emotional wellbeing, and development**.

- **100%** of children made noticeable improvement in their **social wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **90%** of children made a noticeable improvement in their **emotional wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **91%** of children made noticeable improvement in their development (against the EYFS characteristics of effective learning) as a result of being part of the programme.

Testimonials

“Cassandra talks a lot about ‘meeting the old people’, speaks joyfully about the activities she has done with them and what an enjoyable experience it has been. The project has given her greater confidence in her behaviour towards adults of all ages.”

Frances Hedges, Parent of Cassandra.

“The programme provides exposure to diversity which creates more inclusive communities. Children talk positively about ageing and older people.

It also fosters a greater understanding of disability as children learn to work within the boundaries and physical limitations of their older friends.”

Celia Tilli, Nursery Director, Monty’s Nursery & Pre-School.

“T has delayed speech and is receiving speech therapy. After attending sessions at the care home, T began to open up and started sharing stories about their holidays, home, toys and more. The activities and singing helped a lot with T’s learning of new words.”

Asha Kalfe, Greenwood Nursery.

Case Studies – Children

Growing confidence through connection:

At the start of the project, G. (age 4) was very shy and hesitant to take part in activities without the reassurance of a familiar adult. They observed quietly and were reluctant to express themselves or engage independently.

As the project progressed, G. began to grow in confidence. They started to participate more openly in activities and no longer relied on adult support to join in. Through regular contact with care home residents, G. formed meaningful emotional connections that fostered a strong sense of trust and emotional security.

By the end of the project, G. was more confident in expressing themselves and engaging. For children like G. who have

limited contact with extended family, the intergenerational relationships formed through Brighter Together offered warmth, consistency and connection that might otherwise be missing, supporting both emotional development and a sense of belonging.

Case Studies – Children

Learning to embrace differences:

Before joining Brighter Together, L. (age 4) was hesitant around difference. Although his aunt uses a wheelchair, he struggled to connect with her and often avoided unfamiliar situations. When his Mum suggested joining the sessions, L. was reluctant and unsure what to expect.

After just a few sessions, L's confidence grew noticeably. His Mum observed a clear change in how L. interacted with his aunt – he became more curious, open and accepting.

As L. settled into the sessions, he began talking enthusiastically at home about the residents and the activities they shared.

When one of the residents was unwell, L. spent time with her and made her smile and laugh.

L. spoke about how good it felt to laugh together and to know that he had helped. Through Brighter Together, L. has developed confidence, empathy and a strong sense of purpose.

Impact for our communities

Although the children and older adults are our focus for our impact, our third aim is to strengthen our communities through intergenerational connections. This year we've seen a number of examples of our projects coming together outside of our weekly activities. This has included having the adults attend the graduation celebrations of nursery children who will be moving up to school at the end of the year, the children visiting the day centre for a Christmas party or the families of the children attending the care home open day during 'care home open week' in June.

We were also delighted to showcase the impact of intergenerational activities for those living with dementia during 'Dementia Action Week' in May 2025. We were joined with people from the borough of Richmond-upon-Thames and a local nursery school for a space themed activity that demonstrated the power of connecting the young and the young at heart to explore, learn and have fun together.

"The programme helps bridge the gap between generations in the community. A great example of this was when we were invited to join the children for their graduation ceremony at Bushy Tails nursery. It was a great opportunity for our members to interact with the children and their parents and really feel part of a local community event. Thank you."

Sam Vaughnley, Centre Manager, The Elleray Centre.

Case Studies

A growing community in Wandsworth:

One of our most heartwarming new projects takes place at George Potter House in Wandsworth, where over half of the residents live with dementia. Through the weekly sessions with local nursery children, the project has blossomed into a meaningful and lasting connection between two often separated age groups. These new bonds have become so valued that the children are invited to a special shared lunch with the residents every term - a gesture that marks a deepening partnership between the nursery and the care home.

During these lunches, the care home staff go above and beyond to ensure it's a special and inclusive experience. Picture-based menus are created so the children can easily see what will be served. The dining room is filled with warmth as children and residents, now familiar companions, gather around one long table.

Their shared laughter and conversation creates an atmosphere that lifts the spirits of everyone in the room. This project has begun the cultivation of a caring, inclusive community. It's a shining example of how intergenerational work can stitch stronger threads into the fabric of a neighbourhood.

"I like Mo. I like the chips." Caleb, age 4

Fundraising Activity

The total income for the period 1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025 was £ 184,610.75.

Fundraising increased this year and 25% of our income for this period has come through fundraising including Just Giving (our online giving platform), Get Lucky Local lottery and individual giving.

Funders

Brighter Together is extremely grateful to the following funders for the generous support they gave in 2024-25:

- Betty Messenger Foundation
- City Bridge Foundation
- Hampton Fund
- National Lottery
- Salters' Charitable Foundation
- The Grocers' Charity
- Woodroffe Benton Foundation

Pro-bono Support

During this year we have been incredibly fortunate to have benefitted from the very kind support from Wiggan law firm from their dedicated and generous staff.

Volunteer Support

During this year, we have developed our volunteer team supporting our sessions. We now have volunteers supporting in 38% of our projects and our team of volunteers have provided 232 hours of their time. Our volunteers bring with them a wealth of expertise from a range of professional and personal backgrounds that has strengthened our team. The volunteers support participants to maximise the benefits of the sessions and their work has strongly contributed to the high level of impact which you'll see in this report.

We have also been fortunate to be supported voluntarily by an IT specialist who generously built a database to streamline our relationship management with our partners. This equated to over 20 hours of voluntary time.

Financial Review

Our total income for the year was £184,610.75. This was our fifth operating year and covered a 12-month period from 1st September 2024 – 31st August 2025. Expenditure totalled £98,975.29. Our net surplus was £132,258.03. The surplus equates to grant funding received during the 2024-25

financial year for the delivery of 7 projects across 2025-26 and a mix of restricted and unrestricted funding which has been designated for salaries during the 2025-26 year.

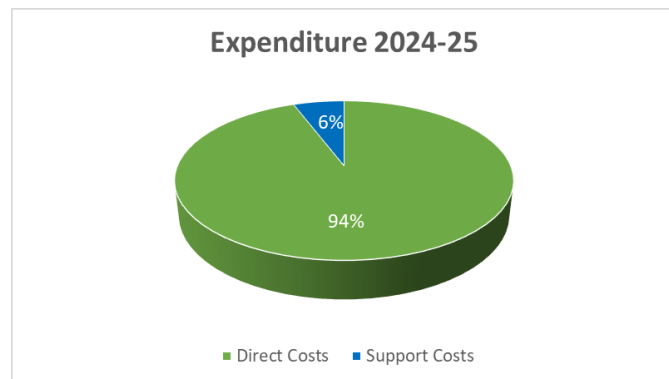
Income consisted of a mix of grants and donations from multiple sources and provided sufficient resources to enable Brighter Together to deliver activities in line with our charitable aims and objectives. Trustees continually review our funding and income plans to secure further financial resources necessary to deliver our programme.

Expenditure

We have allocated the costs of delivering our sessions to 'direct costs'. These account for 94% of our expenditure.

'Core costs' account for 6% of our expenditure and include:

- Staff travel
- Office costs
- Volunteer expenses
- Marketing
- Insurance
- Accounting software
- IT & technology costs.



Risk Assessment

Trustees have identified financial sustainability as the biggest risk to Brighter Together, which underpins many other identified risks. Ensuring long-term funding will enable the charity to effectively embed the progress we have made so far, and trustees and our Founder continue to explore funding partnerships and grants to secure this. Alongside this, trustees have developed mitigation plans, including alternative funding sources and the use of volunteers, to ensure continuity of service provision in the event funding bids are not successful in the short-term.

Reserves Policy

The trustees of Brighter Together aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to be able to invest in the development of either our services or the reach of our programme if there is an opportunity to do so, as well as ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

The level of financial reserves will be reviewed when any major changes occur, for instance where Terms and Conditions from funders are updated or if we employ a new member of staff on salary. Use of the reserves require the trustees' approval.

Going Concern

Trustees are confident that Brighter Together remains a Going Concern. Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

In addition, there is enough restricted funding for the continuation of our charitable activities for at least the next 6 months, and enough unrestricted funding to support any other charitable requirements that are not directly related to the services we provide. This is in accordance with the charities' reserves policy.

Structure, Governance and Management

Status and Governing Document

Brighter Together is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), registered charity number 1190557. Its governing document is a Constitution and Registered Charitable status was granted on 24th July 2020.

Charity

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and accounts. The accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011.

Governance and Internal Control

The day-to-day activities of the Charity are monitored by the Trustees. Board meetings are held on a quarterly basis at a minimum.

Future Plans and Aims

As Brighter Together continues to grow, we have been thoughtful and ambitious about what comes next. Drawing on our learning, our partnerships and the voices of those we work with, we are excited about the future and the difference we can make.

The 3 key aims we have for the forthcoming year include:

1. **Extending our reach.** Over the coming years, we will focus on growing Brighter Together's reach across London and the country. Our expansion will be guided by need, prioritising communities where social isolation among older people is highest and where early years children face greater barriers to achieving a good level of development.
2. **Innovating to meet new needs.** We are committed to learning, reflection and innovation. We plan to explore and test new programme ideas that respond to the evolving needs of our communities and partners. This will allow us to work in diverse settings, connect with new groups and support more people in the future.
3. **Amplifying our voice.** Drawing on our experience and partnerships, we will help raise the profile of intergenerational activity in the UK and contribute to wider conversations about connection, wellbeing and community. By amplifying the voices of our participants and partners, we hope to inspire others and influence how intergenerational approaches are understood and valued.

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered name and address

Brighter Together, 17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT.

Registered charity number

1190557.

Trustees Board

Since Brighter Together was formally constituted on 24th July 2020, all the following Trustees have remained on the Board:

Andrew Melia (Chair) – reappointed July 2025

Parita Doshi – reappointed July 2023

Dr Susan Allingham – reappointed June 2024

During the 2023-24 period, we also recruited Boyana Ivanova, and during this period we further strengthened our Board by recruiting Nigel Slone, who has a valuable background in healthcare.

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank, PO Box 4931, Swindon, SN4 4PL.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FR102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence to take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included in the Charity's website.

This report was approved by the Trustees, and signed on their behalf by:



.....

Andrew Melia

Chair of Trustees

Date: 17th February 2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Brighter Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Brighter Together for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Brighter Together 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 Brighter Together's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Brighter Together 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 content 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.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Hadadi'.

Muntazir Hadadi FCA

5 Cumberland Close, St Margarets, Twickenham, TW1

Date: 27 February 2026

Statement of financial activities

BRIGHTER TOGETHER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	34,951	-	-	34,951	58
Charitable activities	61,890	87,770	-	149,660	82,220
Total	96,841	87,770	-	184,611	82,278
Resources expended (Note 6)					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	375	-	-	375	179
Charitable activities	6,608	91,992	-	98,600	77,294
Total	6,983	91,992	-	98,975	77,474
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	89,858	4,223	-	85,635	4,804
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	89,858	4,223	-	85,635	4,804
Net movement in funds	89,858	4,223	-	85,635	4,804
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	31,040	15,583	-	46,623	41,818
Total funds carried forward	120,898	11,360	-	132,258	46,622

Balance sheet

	Notes	As at 31st August 2025	As at 31st August 2024
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		£0.00	£0.00
Computer Equipment		£0.00	£0.00
		£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets			
Cash in Bank	5	£133,267.07	£49,327.61
Debtors	7	£0.00	£492.16
TOTAL Assets		£133,267.07	£49,819.77
Creditors			
Current Liabilities	6	£1,009.04	3,197.20
TOTAL			
Net Current Assets		£132,258.03	£46,622.57
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		£132,258.03	£46,622.57
Net Assets		£132,258.03	£46,622.57
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	8	£69,293.09	£17,187.60
Restricted funds		£62,964.94	£29,434.97
TOTAL FUNDS		£132,258.03	£46,622.57

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 – Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. Our free reserves currently stand at £44,279.

In addition, there is enough restricted and designated funding for the continuation of our charitable activities, including salaries, for at least the next 6 months.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

1.5 Material prior year errors

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

Note 2 – Accounting policies

2.1 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources; it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Brighter Together has not received government grants in the reporting period.

Contractual income and performance related grants are only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.

Brighter Together has incurred expenditure on support costs.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g., allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.

2.4 Assets

The charity holds no tangible fixed assets.

Note 3 – Analysis of Income

Analysis		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	28,635	-	-	28,635	58
	Gift Aid	6,316	-	-	6,316	-
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	50,000	87,770	-	137,770	72,595
Total		84,951	87,770	-	172,721	72,653
Charitable activities:		11,890	-	-	11,890	9,625
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total		11,890	-	-	11,890	9,625
TOTAL INCOME		96,841	87,770	-	184,611	82,278

Note 4 – Analysis of expenditure

Analysis	This year			Last year		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds
Expenditure on raising funds:			£			£
Incurred seeking donations		-	-	42	-	42
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	375	-	375	137	-	137
Total expenditure on raising funds	375	-	375	179	-	179
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Delivery of Intergenerational programme	2,474	90,782	93,255	7,511	56,107	63,617
Delivery of Intergenerational Play 2024	-	-	-	-	10,235	10,235
Total expenditure on charitable activities	2,474	90,782	93,255	7,511	66,342	73,852
Other						
Operations (payroll, insurance, DBS, Technology etc)	511	662	1,173	698	-	698
Office Space	3,483	-	3,483	2,353	-	2,353
Stationery	-	-	-	55	-	55
Travel Costs	-	549	549	336	-	336
Team Building	140		140			
Total other expenditure	4,134	1,210	5,345	3,442	-	3,442
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6,983	91,992	98,975	11,132	66,342	77,474

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	This year			Last year		
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Total this year	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Session Delivery	89,592	-	89,592	73,387	-	73,387
Training	756	-	756	465	-	465
Resources	2,908	-	2,908	-	-	-
Total	93,255	-	93,255	73,852	-	73,852

Note 5 – Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and on hand	133,267	49,328
Other	-	-
Total	133,267	49,328

Note 6 – Creditors and Accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals and deferred income	-	132	-	-
Taxation and social security	1,009	3,065	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Total	1,009	3,197	-	-

Note 7 – Debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Last year £
Grant - Heathrow Community Trust	-	492.2
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	-	-
Total	-	492.2

Note 8 – Funds of the charity

	At 01.09.2024 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.08.2025 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	29,434.97	89,858.12	119,293.09
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	17,187.60	-4,222.66	12,964.94
TOTAL FUNDS	46,622.57	85,635.46	132,258.03

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	96,841.00	6,982.88	89,858.12
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	87,770	91,992.41	-4,222.66
TOTAL FUNDS	184,610.75	98,975.29	85,635.46

The charity ended the financial year with a higher than usual cash balance. This reflects income received in advance for project delivery in 2025–26 and a final unrestricted grant from the Betty Messenger Charitable Foundation.

The trustees have designated a portion of unrestricted funds, including part of this grant, to support staff salaries and planned growth activity over the 2024–26 period and to provide financial resilience in the context of a challenging funding environment.

There is a £4,223 deficit on restricted funds for the year. This arises from the timing of grant income received in the prior financial year (FY 2023–24) from City Bridge Foundation and Hampton Fund for programme delivery in FY 2024–25. The income was recognised and carried forward as restricted funds in FY 2023–24 and has been applied to programme expenditure in the current year. The deficit therefore reflects the planned utilisation of previously received restricted funds rather than an overspend or funding shortfall. The restricted fund balance at year end remains £12,964.94.

Funds received for specific projects have been carried forward in line with delivery commitments.

Note 9 – Transaction with trustees and related parties

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or related entity.



BRIGHTER TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1190557

Accounts

Brighter Together

Connecting the old and young to shine brighter together



Brighter Together *Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year* *Ending* *31st August 2024*



17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT

Registered Charity 1190557

Brighter Together

Connecting the old and young to shine brighter together



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From the Chair

I'm delighted to share another year of progress at Brighter Together. 2023-24 was a real step change year for the charity; the funding we have received from City Bridge Foundation and the Betty Messenger Trust has enabled us to take a big leap forward as an organisation. We are striving to create new partnerships in more boroughs across London, and so spread the impact of our work, reaching more adults and young people to shine brighter together. In support of this, the financial underpinning provided by our funders means we have taken on our first employees and expanded our team of session facilitators.

This has been no small piece of work and is the result of the dedication of our founder and now Chief Executive, Polly van Marken, and my fellow trustees. I am incredibly grateful for their commitment to delivering real change in the lives of our programme participants. This progress has not come without challenges, not least the financial barriers faced by many nurseries and care homes, which has a real impact on our own ability to deliver programmes. We are committed to finding new sources of funding that enable us to maintain our current projects, whilst building more partnerships. The impact of our work is clear in every session, and vital to reducing loneliness and supporting skills development.

This year we have welcomed a Head of Programmes and our first volunteers. The expansion of our team has brought a wealth of new experiences and insights to our programme planning and partnerships. We are seeing this bear fruit in the continued high quality of our delivery which has been maintained as we have increased the amount of work that we do. On behalf of the trustees, I want to share a heartfelt thanks to our whole team for continuing to deliver such high impact activities.

Next year, we are continuing our expansion journey, seeking to double the number of projects we deliver and expand into more new areas. The trustees recognise the tough financial environment we are operating in. We are working with the team to not only manage how we can support nurseries and care homes to take part, but plan for longer-term financial sustainability. This remains our key challenge. A key action for next financial year is the expansion of our trustee board to bring in new skills and expertise. We are delighted to have already welcomed Boyana Ivanova as our new Treasurer, who is making a real difference to our work.

Overall, I am incredibly proud of everything that Brighter Together has achieved in 2023-24 and continue to remain excited about what the future holds. 2024-25 will again be a significant year, enabling the charity to demonstrate both growth and continued impact. We are eager to bring the benefits of our programme to as many people as possible and look forward to developing new partnerships and work with more children and older adults to improve well-being and skills.



Andy Melia (Chair of Trustees)



Charitable Aims and Objectives

Brighter Together connects two vulnerable groups: those in care homes or day centres, and pre-school children. They participate in shared activities, aimed at tackling social isolation, improving social and emotional wellbeing for all participants, and boosting the children's development.

Our aims are to specifically:

- Improve the social and emotional wellbeing of older adults and children;
- Support the children's development against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) characteristics of effective learning.

Our programme gives vulnerable older adults a purpose and responsibility. By bringing a group of young children into their lives on a regular basis to participate in structured nursery activities, our older participants share in the children's development and create strong relationships that will have a mutual benefit.

Within the care homes, day centres, and nursery schools, Brighter Together aims to work with those who will receive the most benefit from the project. The selection criteria are:

Older Adults:	Pre-School Children:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The level of social isolation for a resident.• Ability to engage in the sessions and the activities to a level that will benefit them, and the children involved.• Safeguarding considerations.• Consent to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level of exposure to those over 65 years and whether that is on a consistent basis.• Assessment against the EYFS Goals.• Consent to participate.

How we deliver our aims and objectives

Our intergenerational programme connects a care home or day centre with a local nursery school who are then referred to as our 'partners'. The aim is to create a consistent partnership that will be maintained for a full academic year at a minimum. Our partners work with us to select the group of older adults and children who will benefit from being part of the programme, based on the criteria in the table above.

We aim to maximise the benefit from the time that the children and older adults spend together. To do that, we are rigorous about our programme planning which is built around the following four aspects:



Designed by experts – our sessions are created with input from experts in the fields of Occupational Therapy, Dementia Care, Physiotherapy and Early Years education.



Structure – each session is based on the approach of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy which has well documented success in improving and maintaining cognitive functioning for older adults. All sessions are led by a Brighter Together Session Facilitator trained in intergenerational learning and activities.



Bespoke training – Brighter Together Session Facilitators are provided with professional training on intergenerational learning, how to best engage with older people, working in the care home environment and accredited dementia training.



Involving the community – the activities build up to a celebratory end of term event to showcase the work of the group to friends, family, and staff. This is an essential part of including the community, bringing a much wider range of people into the care home.

Summary of Activity

In November 2023, we recruited a CEO and Head of Programmes to manage the organisation and scale our programme. This has been a vital step to consolidating our strong operational foundations to support this growth and also to develop our partnerships with nurseries, care homes and day centres across London. It's enabled us to reach more participants as well as work in areas that are most in need of intergenerational activities to tackle social isolation, improve wellbeing and boost children's development. We are very grateful to both City Bridge Foundation and the Betty Messenger Foundation, which has enabled us to staff our programme expansion.

During this period, Brighter Together has delivered 3 academic terms of weekly intergenerational projects, working with a total of 15 project partners, supporting 83 older adults and 96 early years children. We positively impacted the social and emotional wellbeing for participants as well as boosting physical health and the children's development (as measured against the Early Years Foundation Stage characteristics of effective learning).

We expanded our programme delivery into a third borough, Houslow. This was a target borough for Brighter Together due to the need in the area in terms of social isolation, deprivation levels and current opportunities for intergenerational activities.

In addition to our weekly programme, we also delivered our innovative project to four of our settings where we worked with a group of actors and an acclaimed playwright to explore a play together. At each setting, this culminated in a community performance involving older people and children in and was a huge success in improving wellbeing, providing purpose and giving those involved a sense of value.

We've seen increasing challenges facing our partners this year. Both the care and childcare sectors are faced with increasing cuts in budgets married with a recruitment and retention issue for staff. This has meant that they face challenges in consideration of participating in the programme, particularly logistically. In response to this, we developed a volunteer programme this year to support engagement in sessions. In addition to our highly skilled Session Facilitators, our session volunteers have become vital members of the Brighter Together team, supporting all participants to engage and benefit from the activities. The team use their valuable time and expertise from a range of backgrounds, from corporate finance to teaching and even journalism to help our programme be as impactful as possible. In this



period, 50% of our projects had a dedicated session volunteer. Our aim moving forward is to ensure that every project has a volunteer in place to support sessions.

We've been delighted that this year we have had great retention of existing partners as well as in our delivery team. In terms of existing partners, we retained 83% of partners from 2022-23 and looking forwards, we will be working with 86% of our partners during the 2024-25 year. This retention during a challenging climate for nurseries really underlines the value that they place on our programme for children's development, both against the EYFS characteristics of effective learning, but also for their essential social and emotional skills.

In terms of our delivery team, all our Session Facilitators will be working with us again during 2024-25. This demonstrates that the additional support and training that was provided to them during this period, has resulted in an increase in retention. This will further benefit our partners, as their skills and experience grow and develop with every session delivered.

The needs of our participants will always be extremely varied and as such, we are constantly having to tailor and refine our curriculum of sessions. We use an evidence-based approach and review current research in child development and the ageing process for adults to improve our programme so that participants receive the maximum benefit from these intergenerational connections. As the case studies in this report show, our programme has been instrumental in boosting confidence, purpose and development in speech and language skills as well as emotional and social wellbeing.

Outputs:

- Delivered **168** intergenerational activity sessions.
- Worked with **15** project partners.
- Developed **2 new** projects.
- Provided sessions to **83** older adults.
- Provided sessions to **96** children (aged 3-5 years).

Impact

We've continued with our triangulation method of measuring impact and evaluation our programme. This uses Leuven scale observations during sessions, which are reviewed alongside assessments and observations from nursery/care home/day centre staff and also questionnaires from parents, family members or friends who visit our older adult participants on a regular basis. This helps us develop a wider picture of how our programme is supporting both the adults and children involved both inside and outside of our sessions.

Impact for Older Adults

All of care home and day centre partners said that the sessions made a **significant contribution to older adults on the programme** across all 3 areas assessed: social wellbeing; emotional wellbeing; and physical health.

- **97%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in the areas of **social and emotional wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.

Brighter Together

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- **97%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in their **physical health** as a result of being part of the programme, as reported by care home and day centre staff.

Testimonials

“The children's visits bring joy to the home. We all look forward to seeing them and their confidence growing. The children are spoken about frequently in the home and I am always asked if they are coming in. The residents are always happier after the children have been.”

Teresa, Manager, Nightingale House Care Home.

“The staff connects more to the residents while they are assisting them in the activities. They get to know our residents in a better way. They discover their likes, dislikes, and their thoughts on different areas of life. This gives them a better understanding of each resident and improves the person-centred care we can offer.”

Michelle, Healthcare Assistant, Homelink Day Respite Centre

Case Studies – Older Adults

Care Home Resident – ‘Charles’:

Charles lives with dementia, but during the Brighter Together sessions, he can come alive. He watches the children with intense focus, their energy and joy pulling him into their world. When it's time to sing, especially songs with actions, Charles will always try to join in the actions, his movements deliberate and engaged. Yet, there are moments of struggle - when offered an object, uncertainty flickers across his face, and he needs gentle help to know what to do.

One session, we introduced a simple balloon game to encourage movement and connection between the children and residents. Something magical happened: Charles caught the balloon, and in an instant, he lit up. His confusion melted away, replaced by a burst of laughter and understanding. Surrounded by four small boys, he grinned and joked, “Hmm, who should I throw this to? Who is the most important? Who is the tallest?” He became a part of their world, tossing the balloon with delight, fully immersed in the game. In that moment, it was as if a switch had flipped - Charles wasn't just participating, he was thriving..

This beautiful moment inspired us to introduce more ball games and net-based activities into our sessions, tailored especially for Charles, to nurture these sparks of joy and connection.

Care Home Resident – ‘E’:

Shortly before the Brighter Together Project began, E's world was turned upside down by the devastating loss of her husband. Living without family in the UK, she was grieving and depressed. Even with the kindness and tireless care from the extraordinary staff at the care home, E was feeling isolated.

But then, the children came. Having dedicated her entire working life to nurturing and guiding young minds, E reacts immediately. The moment she hears their laughter or sees their little faces peering into the room, something remarkable happens. Her head lifts, her posture straightens, and her smile lights up the space around



her. She delights in every note they sing, every playful movement, every focused expression as they immerse themselves in the activities alongside her.

For E, these sessions are more than a joyful distraction - they are a lifeline. Each visit fills her days with meaning and purpose, bringing warmth and connection that no words can fully describe. The children don't just brighten her day; they bring a sense of purpose and reminiscence of the many children whose lives she once brightened.

Impact for Children

All of our nursery schools said that the sessions made a **significant contribution** to the children across the 3 areas of **social and emotional wellbeing, and development**.

- **98%** of children made noticeable improvement in their **social wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **94%** of children made a noticeable improvement in their **emotional wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **100%** of children made noticeable improvement in their development (against the EYFS characteristics of effective learning) as a result of being part of the programme.

Testimonials

"Our son absolutely loved his time on the project. It's quite hard to get out of him what he does at nursery each day but he would always talk about his Brighter Together sessions and his friends there"

Parent, Twickenham Day Nursery.

"One child started out quite apprehensive about going to the care home but now attends the sessions with big smiles. He has come out of his shell a lot. A few weeks in, he shared a story with the whole group about a pig race he had spectated!"

Miss Michelle, Little People Nurseries, Hampton.

Case Studies – Children

Child A – Twickenham Day Nursery

"Child A is a very shy child, even in front of his peers, who he has known since he was very young. He often would not feel confident to speak at circle time when the group shared ideas and can be reluctant to try out new activities.

Throughout his sessions with Brighter Together I watched his confidence grow. He now more regularly feels confident to speak in front of his peers, adding his thoughts and opinions to discussions. He has enjoyed the sessions greatly and would request to attend any time there was a spare spot if another



child could not attend. His parents also speak very positively about the sessions and the difference they have made for their child.”

Katie Tidy, Room Leader Pre-school, Twickenham Day Nursery.

Innovation in Action:

In summer 2023, we ran a pilot of an innovative and immersive intergenerational play between one care home and nursery school. This was a joint venture between acclaimed actor, Amanda Root, and Brighter Together to leverage the benefits of the arts to tackle social isolation and boost wellbeing.

The pilot was so successful that we were awarded funding from The Mayor of London and Richmond Council to deliver the explorative workshops and a performance to four of our projects. From January - July we had the joy of working with a talented cast of actors, and over 100 older adults and young children to explore and perform a beautiful play written by acclaimed playwright, Nick Warburton.

We:

- Delivered **12** workshops exploring the themes of the play.
- Put on **4** immersive performances.
- Involved **109** older adults and early years children.
- Worked with **8** partners.

During the workshops and performances, we observed participants using the Leuven scales of wellbeing and engagement. We found that:

- There was a **20% uplift in wellbeing**. Children and older adults on the play project were observed to have made an average improvement to their wellbeing of 20% (from 72% in the first workshop, to 92% by the final performance)
- We observed a **30% uplift in involvement**. Children and older adults on the play project were observed to have made an average improvement to their involvement in activities of 30% (improving from 62% in the first workshop, to 92% by the final performance).

Case Study – Older Adult

Care Home Resident ‘N’

N’ has advanced dementia, which is characterized by significant anxiety as she often feels uncertain about her surroundings. Her anxiety has led her to bite her fingernails and fingers to the point where they regularly bleed and sometimes require medical care.

During this project, we observed a remarkable transformation in N when the children arrived for the rehearsal workshops and performances. She was filled with smiles and laughter, no longer biting her fingernails, but instead opening her arms to welcome the children. N joined in every activity fully, always observing and engaging with the children.



The project provided N not only with entertainment and joy but also with a renewed sense of belonging. She found a role in teaching and helping the children, reminiscent of her life before dementia when she regularly volunteered to help others. This project gave her the chance to feel useful and part of the community again, highlighting the profound impact of intergenerational interaction on her well-being and reduction in social isolation.

Case Study – Child

Child 'L'

Child 'L' is 3 years old. When she attended the first workshop, she entered the room tentatively, clinging to the nursery worker accompanying her and climbing onto their lap for reassurance. Over the course of the rehearsal workshops, she bonded with one of the older adults from the setting. Eventually, she would run into the room to sit with her older friend, no longer requiring support from the nursery staff.

The older person supported the child emotionally and practically, enabling her to grow in confidence and engage more fully in the sessions. This support led to a noticeable improvement in her self-confidence, with them both joining-in the games and dancing with enthusiasm and joy, reflecting significant personal growth and the positive impact of this relationship.

Awards:

Winners of the Intergenerational Activities Award at the Dementia Care Awards:

The whole team were delighted that Brighter Together was the winner of the Intergenerational Activity Award at the Dementia Care Awards this year.

This award is testament to the unwavering work that our team and volunteers put into getting to know everyone in their sessions. We tailor our work to support every participant's ability to contribute, share their passions and be valued for what they can bring to the group, be that music, gardening, sport or a great love of Pictionary!

All our team are trained in Dementia Friends and Teresa Keegal, who we are very fortunate to have on our Advisory Board has also provided cutting-edge dementia training to our team. This has helped us deepen our knowledge and understanding and refine our programme to have the maximum benefit for our participants.

"Congratulations to Polly and the Brighter Together team. The award is well deserved for their work bringing older and young people together. They were up against a large field of entries from across the country and beat off an excellent group of finalists. This recognition should encourage others to find out more about Brighter Together."

Stephen Burke, Director of United for All Ages.

Finalist of the Communities Together Award, Richmond Community Heroes Awards

We were thrilled to be recognised for our work in the Richmond Community in the Communities Together category. We were kindly nominated by the families of our participants in this borough and it was wonderful to be nominated alongside other remarkable charities and groups in Richmond who contribute so much to the local area.

Fundraising Activity

The total income for the period 1st September 2023 – 31st August 2024 was £ 82,277.72.

Fundraising dropped this year and less than 1% of funding has come from fundraising through the local Get Lucky Local lottery and Givey, the online giving platform.

Funders

Brighter Together is extremely grateful to the following funders for the generous support they gave in 2023-24:

- City Bridge Foundation
- Hampton Fund
- Heathrow Community Trust
- Mayor of London Building Stronger Communities Fund
- McCarthy Stone Foundation
- Richmond Council – Civic Pride Fund

Pro-bono Support

During this year we have been incredibly fortunate to have benefitted from the very kind support of some forward-thinking organisations and their dedicated and talented staff. These include:

- Wiggin
- Holly & Co.

Volunteer Support

During this year, we have developed a Session Volunteer role and this team of volunteers have provided 104 hours of their time. Our volunteers bring with them a wealth of expertise from a range of professional and personal backgrounds that has strengthened our team. The volunteers support participants to maximise the benefits of the sessions and their work has strongly contributed to the high level of impact which you'll see in this report.

We also had volunteer support for our intergenerational play, including a stage manager and workshop volunteers. This equated to 25 hours of volunteer support time.

In addition, during September and October all our operational requirements (such as accounting, marketing, and human resources) were carried out by our Founder on a voluntary basis. For this

reporting period, this voluntary activity equates to 7 days. Using the equivalent day rate, this equates to £1,505.

Financial Review

Our total income for the year was £82,277.72. This was our fourth operating year and covered a 12-month period from 1st September 2023 – 31st August 2024. Expenditure totalled £77,473.57. Our net surplus was £46,622.57. The surplus equates to grant funding received during the 2023-24 financial year for the delivery of 2 projects across 2023-24 and a mix of restricted and unrestricted funding which has been designated for salaries during the 2023-24 year.

Income consisted of a mix of grants and donations from multiple sources and provided sufficient resources to enable Brighter Together to deliver activities in line with our charitable aims and objectives. Trustees continually review our funding and income plans to secure further financial resources necessary to deliver our programme.

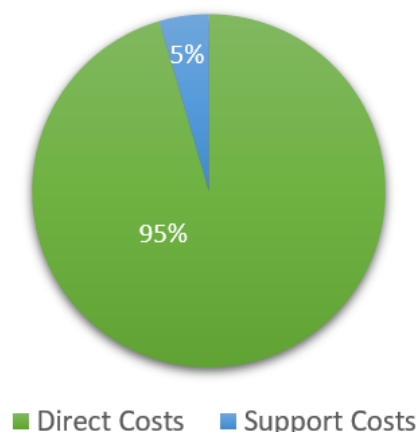
Expenditure

We have allocated the costs of delivering our sessions to 'direct costs'. These account for 95% of our expenditure.

'Core costs' account for 5% of our expenditure and include:

- Staff travel
- Office costs
- Volunteer expenses
- Insurance,
- Accounting software
- IT & technology costs.

Expenditure 2023-24



Risk Assessment

Trustees have identified financial sustainability as the biggest risk to Brighter Together, which underpins many other identified risks. Ensuring long-term funding will enable the charity to effectively embed the progress we have made so far, and trustees and our Founder continue to explore funding partnerships and grants to secure this. Alongside this, trustees have developed mitigation plans, including alternative funding sources and the use of volunteers, to ensure continuity of service provision in the event funding bids are not successful in the short-term.



Reserves Policy

The trustees of Brighter Together aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to be able to invest in the development of either our services or the reach of our programme if there is an opportunity to do so, as well as ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

The level of financial reserves will be reviewed when any major changes occur, for instance where Terms and Conditions from funders are updated or if we employ a member of staff on salary.

Going Concern

Trustees are confident that Brighter Together remains a Going Concern. Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

In addition, there is enough restricted funding for the continuation of our charitable activities for at least the next 6 months, and enough unrestricted funding to support any other charitable requirements that are not directly related to the services we provide. This is in accordance with the charities' reserves policy.

Structure, Governance and Management

Status and Governing Document

Brighter Together is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), registered charity number 1190557. Its governing document is a Constitution and Registered Charitable status was granted on 24th July 2020.

Charity

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and accounts. The accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011.

Governance and Internal Control

The day-to-day activities of the Charity are monitored by the Trustees. Board meetings are held on a quarterly basis at a minimum.

Future Plans and Aims

2023-24 saw us transform as organisation, growing our proven programme to reach more older adults and young children whilst also improving our quality. We're building on these solid foundations and have ambitious plans but we are also navigating a challenging landscape of reduced funding and stretched budgets of those we work with.

The 4 key aims we have for the forthcoming year include:

1. **Growth.** Our aim is to continue our trajectory of expanding our reach and create a further 11 intergenerational projects this year.
2. **Increasing our impact.** Research about how young children develop and the ageing process for adults is continually being updated. Our aim is to use this knowledge to refine our programme and make it as beneficial as possible.
3. **Using our knowledge.** We now have breadth and depth to our experience of working in a variety of settings creating impactful intergenerational connections. We want to use this knowledge to advocate for the importance of intergenerational activities.
4. **Investing in our team.** People are both at the heart of what we do and how we do it. We've built an incredible team of trustees, staff, session facilitators and volunteers which has enabled us to improve quality whilst growing. We will continue to invest in strengthening our team.

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered name and address

Brighter Together, 17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT.

Registered charity number

1190557.

Trustees Board

Since Brighter Together was formally constituted on 24th July 2020, all the following Trustees have remained on the Board:

Andrew Melia (Chair) – reappointed July 2022

Parita Doshi – reappointed July 2023

Dr Susan Allingham – reappointed June 2024



During this period, we were recruiting for a Treasurer position on the Board. We're delighted that Boyana Ivanova, was appointed to the Board in October 2024 as Treasurer. Boyana is a Chartered Accountant and her skills and expertise will be greatly valued by Brighter Together.

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank, PO Box 4931, Swindon, SN4 4PL.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FR102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence to take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included in the Charity's website.

This report was approved by the Trustees, and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Andrew Melia

Chair of Trustees

Date: 10th February 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Brighter Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Brighter Together for the period ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Brighter Together 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 Brighter Together's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Brighter Together 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 content 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.

Signed:



Muntazir Hadadi FCA

5 Cumberland Close, St Margarets, Twickenham, TW1 1RS

Date: 11 February 2025

Statement of financial activities

BRIGHTER TOGETHER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	58	-	-	58	28,956
Charitable activities	9,625	72,595	-	82,220	29,704
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9,683	72,595	-	82,278	58,660
Resources expended (Note 6)					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	179	-	-	179	2,506
Charitable activities	10,925	66,370	-	77,294	38,014
Total	11,104	66,370	-	77,474	40,520
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	-1,421	6,226	-	4,804	18,140
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) Net movement in funds	-1,421	6,226	-	4,804	18,140
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	32,461	9,357	-	41,818	23,678
Total funds carried forward	31,040	15,583	-	46,622	41,818

Balance sheet

	Notes	As at 31st August 2024	As at 31st Aug 2023
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		£0.00	£0.00
Computer Equipment		£0.00	£0.00
		£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets			
Cash in Bank	5	£49,327.61	£42,663.42
Debtors	7	£492.16	£0.00
TOTAL Assets		£49,819.77	£42,663.42
Creditors			
Current Liabilities	6	3,197.20	£845.00
TOTAL			
Net Current Assets		£46,622.57	£41,818.42
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		£46,622.57	£41,818.42
Net Assets		£46,622.57	£41,818.42
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	8	£17,187.60	£32,461.19
Restricted funds		£29,434.97	£9,357.23
TOTAL FUNDS		£46,622.57	£41,818.42

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 – Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. Our free reserves currently stand at £6,410.04

In addition, there is enough restricted and designated funding for the continuation of our charitable activities, including salaries, for at least the next 6 months.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view.

1.3.1 Change of financial reporting period

This financial reporting period covers twelve months from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. However, it is important to note that FY2022-23 covered a seventeen-month period, due to us changing our reporting period to align with our operating year. As such, the amounts presented in the accounts are not comparable as a year-on-year basis with FY2022-23.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

1.5 Material prior year errors

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

Note 2 – Accounting policies

2.1 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources; it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.



Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Brighter Together has not received government grants in the reporting period.

Contractual income and performance related grants are only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.

Brighter Together has incurred expenditure on support costs.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g., allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.

2.4 Assets

Brighter Together has no assets.

Brighter Together

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Note 3 – Analysis of Income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year
					£	£
Analysis						
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	58	-	-	58	2,456
	Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	-	72,595	-	72,595	26,500
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	58	72,595	-	72,653	28,956
Charitable activities:						
		9,625	-	-	9,625	29,704
Total	9,625	-	-	9,625	29,704	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL INCOME		9,683	72,595	-	82,278	58,660

Note 4 – Analysis of expenditure

Analysis	This year			Last year		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds
	£			£		
Expenditure on raising funds:						
Incurring seeking donations	42	-	42	99	-	99
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	137	-	137	2,407	-	2,407
Total expenditure on raising funds	179	-	179	2,506	-	2,506
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Delivery of Intergenerational programme	7,511	56,107	63,617	12,079	23,406	35,485
Delivery of Intergenerational Play - Summer 2023	-	-	-	-	2,099	2,099
Total expenditure on charitable activities	7,511	66,342	73,852	12,079	25,505	37,585
Separate material item of expense						
Operations (payroll, bank charges, DBS, Technology etc)	698	-	698	410	-	410
Office Space	2,353	-	2,353			
Stationery	55	-	55	18	-	18
Travel Costs	336		336			
Total	3,442	-	3,442	428	-	428
Other						
Total other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	11,132	66,342	77,474	15,014	25,505	40,519

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	This year			Last year		
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Total this year	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Session Delivery	73,387	-	73,387	36,480	-	36,480
Training	465	-	465	1,105	-	1,105
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	73,852	-	73,852	37,585	-	37,585

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Note 5 – Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and on hand	49,328	42,663
Other	-	-
Total	49,328	42,663

Note 6 – Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals and deferred income	132	845	-	-
Taxation and social security	3,065			
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Total	3,197	845	-	-

Note 7 – Debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Last year £
Grant - Heathrow Community Trust		
Trade debtors	492.2	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	-	-
Total	492.2	-

Note 8 – Funds of the charity

	At 01.09.2023 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.08.2024 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	30,856.42	-1,421.45	29,434.97
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	10,962.00	6,225.60	17,187.60
TOTAL FUNDS	41,818.42	4,804.15	46,622.57

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	9,682.56	11,104.01	-1,421.45
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	72,595	66,369.56	6,225.60
TOTAL FUNDS	82,277.72	77,473.57	4,804.15

We have ended this financial year with a similar amount of cash at bank due to retaining the one-off exceptional grant of £25,000 from Betty Messenger Foundation received in FY2022-23, which has been designated to support our growth plans until FY 25-26. The remainder is funding carried forward for project delivery and reserves.

Note 9 – Transaction with trustees and related parties

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or related entity.

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www.brightertogether.org.uk



[brighter_together_uk](https://www.instagram.com/brighter_together_uk)



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[@Brightertogethr](https://twitter.com/Brightertogethr)

BRIGHTER TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1190557

Accounts

Brighter Together



Connecting the old and young to shine brighter together

Brighter Together Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st August 2023



17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT

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Registered Charity 1190557

Brighter Together



Connecting the old and young to shine brighter together

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From the Chair

Welcome to our 2022-23 annual report. This has been a bumper year in many ways, not least because this report covers 18-months rather than the normal 12 due to a change in our financial year. But, most importantly because we have returned in full to delivering support for older people and children, and begun work to expand our reach. When visiting a session this year, I was reminded of just how powerful our partnerships are, and how vitally important it is to build relationships between generations. Seeing first-hand the joy felt by all participants as they took part in singing, crafts and sharing food demonstrated the continued need for our work, and the power of our partnerships. On behalf of the trustees, I can only thank the nursery and care home teams that we work, and our own session facilitators who are critical to our success. And beyond all of that, a special thanks to our Founder, Polly van Marken, who continues her tireless efforts to build this incredible organisation and deliver so much joy and benefit.

As we reflect on the year, it is fair to say that there have been some challenges. The funding environment remains tough, and ensuring that we not only have the resources to continue to deliver on our current commitments, but also seek to expand is a seemingly never-ending job. I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us this year, including the companies who have donated time and expertise alongside our funders. A special mention to the Betty Messenger Foundation, who awarded us a core funding grant which has enabled us to unlock further investment. This is providing us with a foundation to expand and strengthen our core team, who will lead the charge in developing new partnerships in new areas in the coming year. It's fair to say 2022-23 has been about laying foundations and I am excited to see the fruits of that work into 2023-24.

Alongside that, we have continued to deliver a high-quality programme and trial new opportunities which we will be rolling out across our partnerships. The excitement of running our first intergenerational play has only enhanced how we can support the building of impactful relationships between older and younger people. I sadly was unable to attend the first performance, but the feedback received from all those participating. It was great to partner with Amanda Root to deliver this, and we are grateful for support from the National Lottery to help make it happen. Suffice to say, I am greatly anticipating performances this year.

The coming year looks to be a pivotal one in Brighter Together's journey, and I cannot be prouder of the team in making this happen. We know that our programme improves the health and wellbeing of our older participants, whilst empowering them to help develop and support the children, which positively affects their perspectives of older people. We are eager to bring these benefits to more people, and look forward to taking the step in that journey in the coming year.

Andy Melia (Chair of Trustees)



Charitable Aims and Objectives

Brighter Together connects two vulnerable groups: those in care homes or day centres, and pre-school children. They participate in shared activities, which tackles social isolation and improves social and emotional wellbeing for all participants.

Our aims are to specifically:

- Improve the social and emotional wellbeing of older adults and children;
- Support the children's development against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) characteristics of effective learning.

Our programme gives vulnerable older adults a purpose and responsibility. By bringing a group of young children into their lives on a regular basis to participate in structured nursery activities, our older participants share in the children's development and create strong relationships that will have a mutual benefit.

Within the care homes, day centres, and nursery schools, Brighter Together aims to work with those who will receive the most benefit from the project. The selection criteria are:

Older Adults:	Pre-School Children:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The level of social isolation for a resident.• Ability to engage in the sessions and the activities to a level that will benefit them, and the children involved.• Safeguarding considerations.• Consent to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level of exposure to those over 65 years and whether that is on a consistent basis.• Assessment against the EYFS Goals.• Consent to participate.

How we deliver our aims and objectives

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Our intergenerational programme connects a care home or day centre with a local nursery school who are then referred to as our 'partners'. The aim is to create a consistent partnership that will be maintained for a full academic year at a minimum. Our partners work with us to select the group of older adults and children who will benefit from being part of the programme, based on the criteria in the table above.

We aim to maximise the benefit from the time that the children and older adults spend together. To do that, we are rigorous about our programme planning which is built around the following four aspects:



Designed by experts - our sessions are created with input from experts in the fields of Occupational Therapy, Dementia Care, Physiotherapy and Early Years education.



Structure - each session is based on the approach of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy which has well documented success in improving and maintaining cognitive functioning for older adults. All sessions are led by a Brighter Together Session Facilitator trained in intergenerational learning and activities.



Bespoke training - Brighter Together Session Facilitators and Pre-school practitioners leading or supporting the sessions are provided with professional training on intergenerational learning, how to best engage with older people, working in the care home environment and accredited dementia training.



Involving the community - the activities build up to a celebratory end of term event to showcase the work of the group to friends, family, and staff. This is an essential part of including the community, bringing a much wider range of people into the care home.

Summary of Activity

This report covers a longer reporting period than usual as we changed our financial year to align with the academic year. As a result, this report covers the period 1st April 2022 to 31st August 2023. This change will support us in managing our future operations and financial planning.

During this period, Brighter Together has delivered 4 academic terms of weekly intergenerational projects, working with a total of 13 project partners and supporting 72 older adults and 111 early years children, positively impacting their social and emotional wellbeing as well as boosting physical health and the children's development (as measured against the Early Years Foundation Stage characteristics of effective learning).

In addition to our weekly programme, we also pioneered a new project working with a group of actors and an acclaimed playwright to deliver an intergenerational play.

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This culminated in a community performance involving older people and children in May 2023 and was a huge success in improving wellbeing, providing purpose and giving those involved a sense of value. We have taken the learnings and content from this performance and to create a new performance-based element to our programme which we will be rolling out across four of our projects during 2024.

Our model of using trained Session Facilitators to deliver our programme has gone from strength to strength this year. During the summer of 2022, we did an in-depth assessment of our growth plans and evaluated our current operating model and two alternatives to ensure we have the most suitable foundations in place to support our expansion. This assessment included conducting stakeholder interviews and an evaluating organisations using alternative models/ We came away from this process with an undisputed conclusion that our current method using Session Facilitators provides the highest quality of programme with the greatest impact for beneficiaries and that our partners highly valued this and was the reason they were keen to continue working with us.

We've been delighted that throughout this period, we have been able to deliver our programme in-person. We've worked closely with all our partners throughout to align with their safety procedures. However, it has been of great benefit to be able to meet weekly in-person at every care home or day centre and we have seen enormous benefit to our participants. Being in-person has been particularly important in supporting the children as these were children who had experienced the isolation of lockdown at a very young age, which studies have already shown has had a negative impact on children's development. As the case studies in this report show, some of these children faced significant communication challenges and our programme has been instrumental in boosting their development in speech and language skills as well as confidence in interacting with others.

Outputs:

- Delivered **242** intergenerational activity sessions.
- Maintained **4** projects between **4** care homes and **4** local nursery schools.
- Developed **1 new** project.
- Provided sessions to **72** older adults.
- Provided sessions to **111** children (aged 3-5 years).

Impact

We've been delighted to be able to deliver all our sessions during this period in-person. This has undoubtedly been a key determiner of our strong impact results. However, we used a lot of our learnings and development for our online sessions to strengthen our in-person offer. Some of the activities and games we created for our zoom sessions had wonderful benefits, such as improving physical activity, and we were able to weave these aspects into our in-person programme to provide even more benefit to participants.

Connecting the old and young to shine brighter together

During this period we also refined our impact measurement processes. We are now using a triangulation method which uses not only Leuven scale observations during sessions, but considers this alongside assessments and observations from nursery/care home/day centre staff and also questionnaires from parents, family members or friends who visit our older adult participants on a regular basis. This has helped us develop a wider picture of how our programme is supporting both the adults and children involved both inside and outside of our sessions.

Impact for Older Adults

All of care home and day centre partners said that the sessions made a **significant contribution to older adults on the programme** across all 3 areas assessed: social wellbeing; emotional wellbeing; and physical health.

- o **89%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in the areas of **social and emotional wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- o **85%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in their **physical health** as a result of being part of the programme.

Testimonials

"Brighter Together changes our clients lives and self-perception; they feel needed and important. The client's joy and happiness can be seen in their behaviour, conversations, and mood. They can't wait for the next session."

Agnes Lozowska, Health Care Assistant, Homelink Day Respite Care Centre.

"The staff connects more to the residents while they are assisting them in the activities. They get to know our residents in a better way. They discover their likes, dislikes, and their thoughts on different areas of life. This gives them a better understanding of each resident and improves the person-centred care we can offer."

Titi, Manager, Nightingale House Care Home.

Case Studies - Older Adults

Terry - Homelink Client:

"My Father Terry very much looks forward to his weekly visit to Homelink He loves his time there very much but the highlight for him without question is his time with the little children on the Brighter Together scheme.

Dad has no Grandchildren but as an ex-Beaver Leader he has a great affinity with children who also seem to gravitate to him. The scheme brings sunshine into his life and a big smile on his face. With vascular dementia he sadly cannot remember

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much, but every Tuesday when he wakes up he is already talking about getting to Homelink as he believes he is their teacher. His time with the children brings back purpose to his life. When he returns his eyes are bright and he has an even bigger smile on his face as he recalls what he has been doing with the children in the session.

Dad takes great pride in everything that he makes in the session and he says with joy that he made it with one of the children. We keep a box of all that he has made and he likes to show them off to my older sister when she FaceTimes every week from Australia. His bulb still takes pride of place in the kitchen.

The scheme does so much for Dad and his self-worth which has taken a knock with his dementia. It also makes Mum and myself so happy to see Dad enjoying his time with the little ones.

As a family we would very much like to thank Brighter Together for everything you do for Dad and all the older people who get so much out of their time with the children."

Denise Drury - Terry Drury's youngest daughter and carer.

Maggie - Resident at The Pines:

"Maggie had a cerebrovascular event and the children welcoming her back to the group was extremely important to her recovery. The children mean the world to her. Maggie has been so unwell and the children have encouraged her to take part and she is smiling again.

For all the residents in the group, our Thursday Brighter Together sessions are a highlight of the week. They give a sense of purpose and having a fixed engagement in the diary is so important - our diary at The Pines focuses around Thursday afternoons! This programme greatly reduces loneliness, boredom and helplessness. Even for those residents not involved, they love the arrival and departure of the children and all the playfulness and chaos it brings! The residents react so warmly to the children, it's been amazing. The staff also love the sessions as much as the residents. It has added a new dimension to our lives here."

Heather Said, Manager, The Pines.

Impact for Children

All of our nursery schools said that the sessions made a **significant contribution** to the children across the 3 areas of **social and emotional wellbeing, and development.**

- o **95%** of children made noticeable improvement in their **social wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.

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- o **100%** of children made a noticeable improvement in their **emotional wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- o **88%** of children made noticeable improvement in their development (against the EYFS characteristics of effective learning) as a result of being part of the programme.

Testimonials

“The Brighter Together Programme is a valued and enriching programme for the nursery as a whole, as it connects our children to the greater community and helps them to establish empathetic understanding and sensitivity to those around them. Participating in this programme is a way that the nursery demonstrates our commitment to facilitating these types of connections and understandings for the children. In addition, the programme affords the nursery an additional learning opportunity outside of the nursery and classroom environment which aligns with the objectives of our holistic learning. Each opportunity that there is to bring another member of staff along for the care home visits, we have an influx of teachers asking to join. It is clear that the teachers are eager to get the opportunity to witness the special connections present in the Brighter Together visits. The two members of staff who consistently facilitate the visits are expats who do not have family nearby, and so this has been so lovely to participate in. We love to watch special connections being built!”

Ren, Head of Room, Greenwood Twickenham Nursery.

“We have been exceptionally happy with the collaboration we have had with Brighter Together in our setting. All of our children have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and each week we have multiple children wishing to join us to visit Homelink Day Care Centre. We feel we have benefitted greatly from our partnership with Brighter Together and Homelink as it helps us to make connections throughout our community and create opportunities for our parents and children to do the same. We find our parents love the sessions and have spoken very positively about their children’s experiences with the group.”

Katie Tidy, Head of Pre-School, Twickenham Day Nursery.

Case Studies - Children

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Child A - Twickenham Day Nursery

“Child A is incredibly shy and can become very upset when taken out of the nursery setting or when trying something new. At first Child A was not willing to attend and became very upset when asked. Each week when their friends returned from the group, we discussed the lovely activities which they had done and the residents which they had met to help Child A feel more familiar with a new environment.

One morning Child A was willing to attend with a familiar adult. Their first session they were unsure and stayed close to their familiar adult and at times became upset. The child’s parents mentioned that when they returned home, they spoke very positively about their visit and were keen to visit again. The following week Child A felt more confident during the session and felt able to join in more with the activities. Throughout the term Child A became more and more involved fully enjoying the activities and speaking with some of the residents. Child A felt very proud each time they returned from the sessions and has spoken very positively with both staff and parents about their experiences with Katy our group leader at the Homelink sessions.”

Katie Tidy, Room Leader Pre-school, Twickenham Day Nursery.

Child B - Twickenham Day Nursery:

“Child B is a very curious child but can find communication tricky with unfamiliar adults. At first the child was unwilling to attend the session as they felt unsure about leaving the nursery environment. They attended alongside a familiar adult and Katy was absolutely wonderful taking her time to allow them the chance to communicate fully. She allowed them to bring along a train toy which is a particular fascination and made them feel more comfortable joining in. During each weekly activity, Katy adapted it slightly for the child, linking it to trains and we found as the sessions went on the child was confident to attend without their toy and to speak about a variety of subjects from the beach to football matches they had attended with family. Throughout the sessions I watched as the child grew in both confidence and he was able to communicate really well with one of the residents who he became good friends with throughout the sessions. Child B talked regularly to their parents and teachers about “visiting the granny and grandads” and asks if we are going each time they join us at the nursery. They adored their time at the Homelink sessions and their parents are very keen to stay in contact with the group even after leaving the nursery and going off to big school as they found the sessions so valuable for their child.”

Katie Tidy, Room Leader Pre-school, Twickenham Day Nursery.

Child C - Greenwood Nursery:

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'A child who doesn't have any family in the UK other than his mum, joined in our care home visits and immediately opened up emotionally. He was so engaged and evidently happy about being amongst grandparent-like figures.'

Ren, Greenwood Nursery Practitioner.

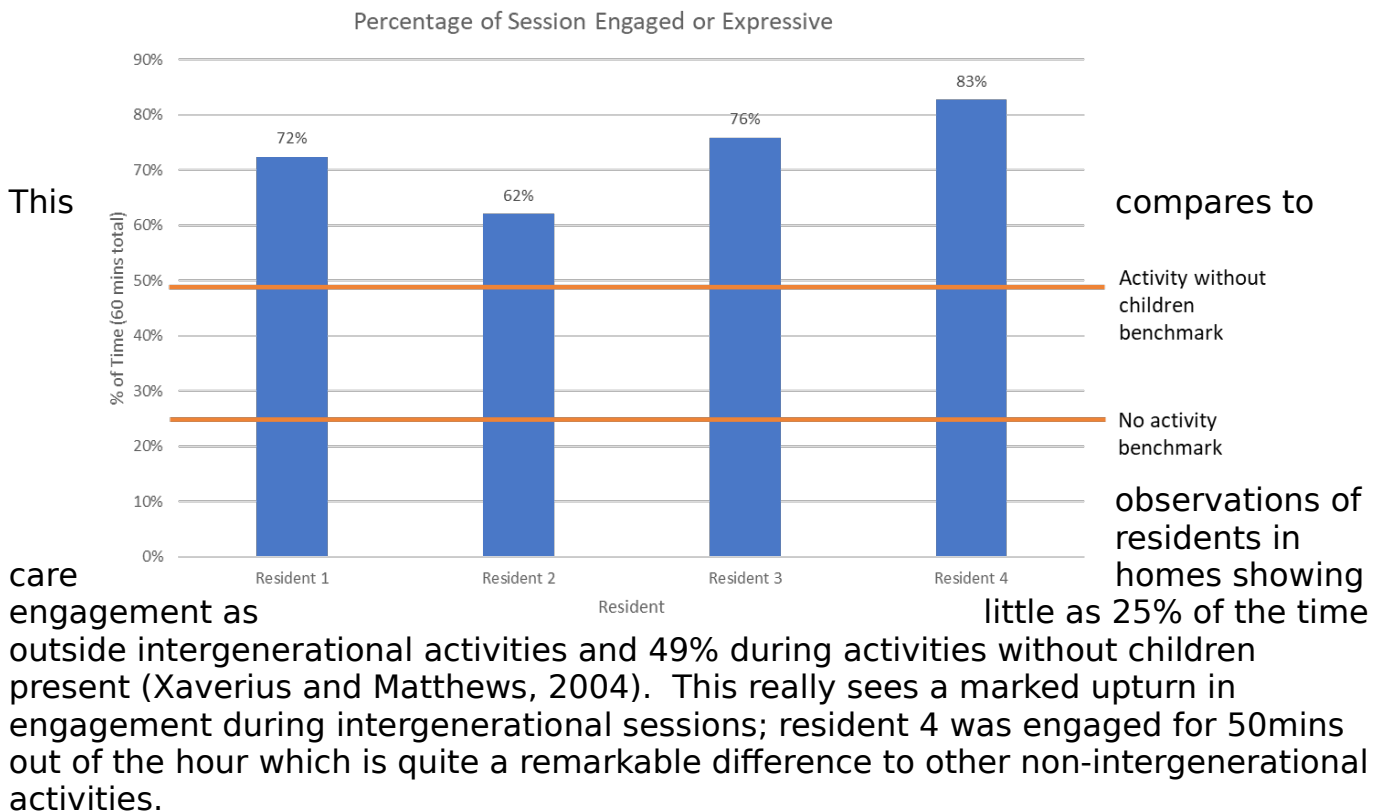
Additional Programme Evaluation:

We were fortunate to have Abby Latham, Occupational Therapy Student from London Southbank University (LSBU) with us on placement from April - June 2022. Part of Abby's work with Brighter Together was to help evaluate our programme.

Firstly, we were interested to understand how intergenerational activities affected the engagement of residents in comparison to non-intergenerational activities. Abby assessed and mapped the engagement of the residents across the course of an hour-long session.

Each resident was observed throughout the session at 2 minute intervals, to see if they were engaging with an appropriate interaction with the environment - e.g. joining in with singing a song, or actively involved during a craft activity.

The results showed that residents were engaged or expressive between 62% and 83% of the session.



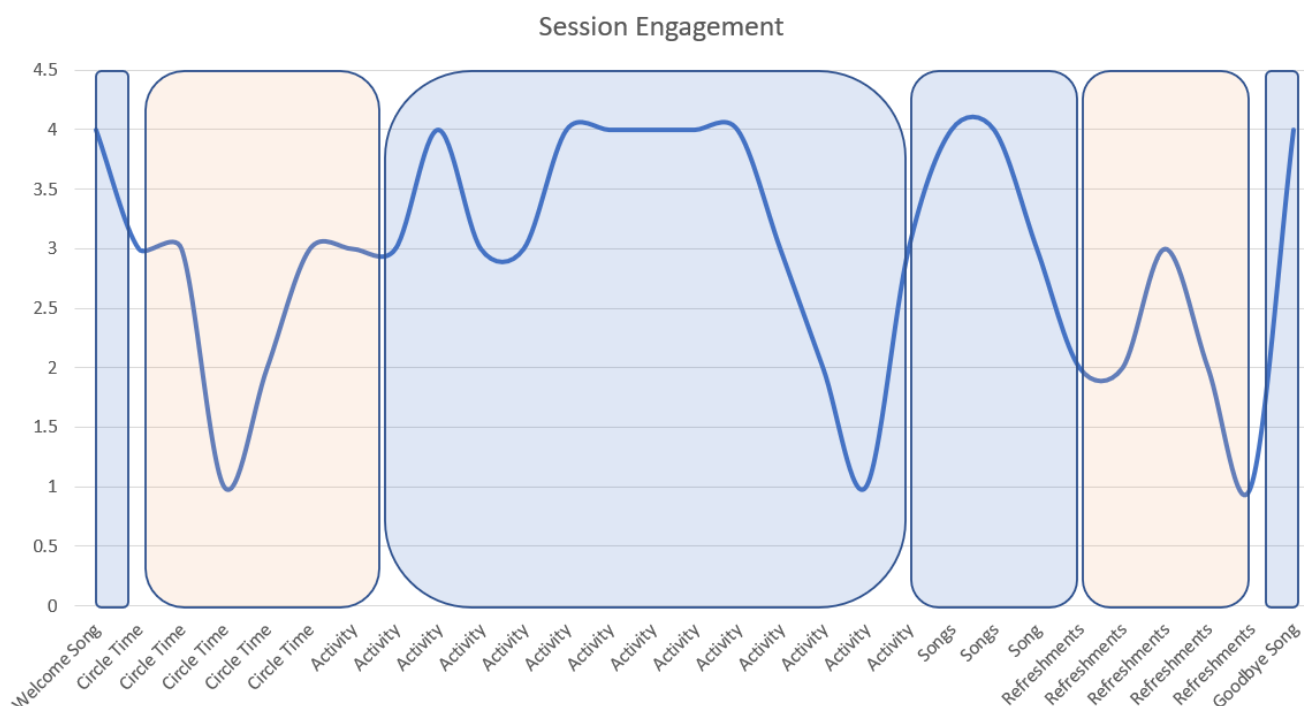
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Abby then used this information to map engagement against each aspect of the session to analyse what part of the sessions are most beneficial.

For this, each resident was given a score of '1' when engagement and/or expression was shown. Each resident was given a score of 0 when disengagement or lack of expression was shown. Scores were then given for each observation point, 4 where all 4 residents were engaged, down to 0 where no residents were engaged.

You can see across the graph engagement rises and falls throughout a session – probably what you'd expect given the participants, what's included and the fact that 60 minutes is quite an ambitious length of time for both the adults and the children.

It's very interesting when you map this against different elements of the session, so



we really see the importance and benefit of including music – where engagement really peaks during the welcome song, the second circle time music and the goodbye song. Equally the engagement during the activity is strong.

We see engagement drop during tidy-up time and following conversations during the first circle time. Which could be when we're explaining the task.

This knowledge has given us lots of food for thought in how we can improve engagement during those periods, for instance, not overloading participants with the outcome of an activity or all the steps to complete the activity and instead just focusing on the next thing they need to do.

Fundraising Activity

The total income for the period 1st April 2022 – 31st August 2023 was £58,366.13.

We were successful in fundraising at some local summer fetes. Additionally, a small amount of funding has come from fundraising via the local Get Lucky Local lottery, Amazon Smile and Givey, the online giving platform.

Funders

Brighter Together is extremely grateful to the following funders for the generous support they gave in 2022-23:

- Betty Messenger Foundation
- Mayor of London Building Stronger Communities Fund
- McCarthy Stone Foundation
- Edgar Lawley Foundation
- Hampton Fund
- St Mary's Church, Twickenham.

Pro-bono Support

During this year we have been incredibly fortunate to have benefitted from the very kind support of some forward-thinking organisations and their dedicated and talented staff. These include:

- Wiggin
- The Landmark Arts Centre
- Holly & Co
- City Road Communications.

Volunteer Support

Our work is dependent upon volunteer support and during this year all our operational requirements (such as accounting, marketing, and human resources) have been carried out by our Founder on a voluntary basis. For this reporting period, this voluntary activity equates to 56 days. Using the equivalent day rate, this equates to £12,082.

Financial Review

Our total income for the year was £58,366.13. This was our third operating year, covering 17 months. Expenditure totalled £40,225.75. Our net surplus was £18,140.38. The surplus mainly equates to restricted grant funding received during the 2022-23 financial year for the delivery of our play across 4 projects during 2023-24 and funding which has been designated for salaries during the 2023-24 year.

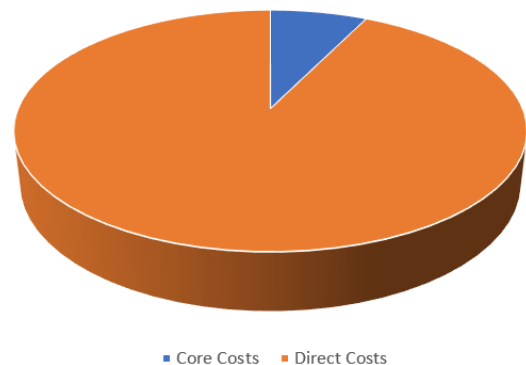
Income consisted of a mix of grants and donations from multiple sources and provided sufficient resources to enable Brighter Together to deliver activities in line with our charitable aims and objectives. Trustees continually review our funding and income plans to secure further financial resources necessary to deliver our programme.

Expenditure

We have allocated the costs of delivering our sessions to 'direct costs'. These account for 93% of our expenditure.

'Core costs' account for 7% of our expenditure and include:

- Insurance
- Operations (including DBS checks for facilitators)
- Marketing
- Stationery.



Risk Assessment

Trustees have identified financial sustainability as the biggest risk to Brighter Together, which underpins many other identified risks. Ensuring long-term funding will enable the charity to effectively embed the progress we have made so far, and trustees and our Founder continue to explore funding partnerships and grants to secure this. Alongside this, trustees have developed mitigation plans, including

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alternative funding sources and the use of volunteers, to ensure continuity of service provision in the event funding bids are not successful in the short-term.

Reserves Policy

The trustees of Brighter Together aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to be able to invest in the development of either our services or the reach of our programme if there is an opportunity to do so, as well as ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

The level of financial reserves will be reviewed when any major changes occur, for instance where Terms and Conditions from funders are updated or if we employ a member of staff on salary.

Going Concern

Trustees are confident that Brighter Together remains a Going Concern. Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

In addition, there is enough restricted funding for the continuation of our charitable activities for at least the next 6 months, and enough unrestricted funding to support any other charitable requirements that are not directly related to the services we provide. This is in accordance with the charities' reserves policy.

Structure, Governance and Management

Status and Governing Document

Brighter Together is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), registered charity number 1190557. Its governing document is a Constitution and Registered Charitable status was granted on 24th July 2020.

Charity

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and accounts. The accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011.

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Governance and Internal Control

The day-to-day activities of the Charity are monitored by the Trustees. Board meetings are held on a quarterly basis at a minimum.

Future Plans and Aims

2022-23 was a key year for Brighter Together, as we solidified our approach and built our strategy for growth. Finding funding to support this has proved to be our biggest challenge, but we were delighted to receive support from the Betty Messenger Foundation, which has given us a foundation to engage other funders. As the year closed, we received confirmation of two-years of funding from City Bridge Foundation, which will enable us to recruit a new Head of Programmes role alongside a Chief Executive, who will be responsible for our programme expansion.

Consequently, the coming year is very much focussed on growth, in line with our commitments to City Bridge Foundation. We plan to:

1. Double the number of partnerships we are supporting
2. Expand our delivery to a third borough
3. Focus expansion to areas of greatest need, using multiple metrics to identify these
4. Develop our plan for further growth and identify funders to support this

We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received excited by the potential for greater impact as we expand our work

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered name and address

Brighter Together, 17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT.

Registered charity number

1190557.

Trustees Board

Since Brighter Together was formally constituted on 24th July 2020, all the following Trustees have remained on the Board:

Andrew Melia (Chair) – reappointed July 2022

Dr Susan Allingham – reappointed July 2023

Parita Doshi – reappointed July 2021

Bankers

Reliance Bank Limited, Faith House, 23-24 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FR102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.



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The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence to take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included in the Charity's website.

This report was approved by the Trustees, and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Andrew Melia
Chair of Trustees
Date: 21st March 2024

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Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Brighter Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Brighter Together for the period ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Brighter Together 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 Brighter Together's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Brighter Together 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 content 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.

Signed:

M. Hadadi

Muntazir Hadadi FCA

Brighter Together



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5 Cumberland Close, St Margarets, Twickenham, TW1 1RS

Date: 14 March 2024

Statement of financial activities

BRIGHTER TOGETHER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	28,662	294	-	28,956	6,511
Charitable activities	10,970	18,734	-	29,704	29,361
Other	-	-	-	-	34
Total	39,632	19,028	-	58,660	35,906
Resources expended (Note 6)					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	2,506	-	-	2,506	209
Charitable activities	12,508	25,506	-	38,014	23,018
Total	15,014	25,506	-	40,520	23,227
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	24,618	(6,478)	-	18,140	12,679
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	24,618	(6,478)	-	18,140	12,679
Net movement in funds	24,618	(6,478)	-	18,140	12,679
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	7,843	15,835	-	23,678	10,999
Total funds carried forward	32,461	9,357	-	41,818	23,678

Balance sheet

	Notes	As at 31st August 2023	As at 31st March 2022
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		£0.00	£0.00
Computer Equipment		£0.00	£0.00
		£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets			
Cash in Bank	5	£42,663.42	£27,348.62
Debtors		£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL Assets		£42,663.42	£27,348.62
Creditors			
Current Liabilities	6	£845.00	£3,670.58
TOTAL			
Net Current Assets		£41,818.42	£23,678.04
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		£41,818.42	£23,678.04
Net Assets		£41,818.42	£23,678.04
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	7	£32,461.19	£7,843.01
Restricted funds		£9,357.23	£15,835.04
TOTAL FUNDS		£41,818.42	£23,678.04

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 - Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. Our free reserves currently stand at £5,846.42.

In addition, there is enough restricted and designated funding for the continuation of our charitable activities, including salaries, for at least the next 6 months.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view.

1.3.1 Change of financial reporting period

This financial reporting period covers seventeen months from 1 April 2022 to 31 August 2023. As such, the amounts presented in the accounts are not comparable as a year-on-year basis with FY2021-22.

Trustees have agreed to adjust the financial reporting period to bring it in line with our operating year, which runs from 1 September to 31 August (reflecting the school year). This was agreed at the board meeting on 25 April 2022, and notified to the Charity Commission in line with the rules for Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO)

As a CIO, trustees have the power to change Brighter Together's financial reporting period. It cannot be changed again for another three years.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

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1.5 Material prior year errors

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

Note 2 - Accounting policies

2.1 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources; it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Brighter Together has not received government grants in the reporting period.

Contractual income and performance related grants are only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.

Brighter Together has incurred expenditure on support costs.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g., allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.

2.4 Assets

Brighter Together has no assets.

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Note 3 - Analysis of Income

Note 3.1 - Donated goods, facilities and services

	This year £	Last year £
Seconded staff	-	-
Use of property	294	-
Other	-	-
	294	-

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Note 4 - Analysis of expenditure

The figures for analysis of expenditure on charitable activities for FY21-22 (last year) have been corrected to reflect that no grant funding was given and that all activities were undertaken directly.

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Note 5 - Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and on hand	42,663	27,348
Other	-	-
Total	42,663	27,348

Note 6 - Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals and deferred income	845	3,671	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Total	845	3,671	-	-

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Note 7 - Funds of the charity

We have ended this financial year with a higher amount of cash at bank due to a one-off exceptional grant of £25,000 from Betty Messenger Foundation, which has been designated to support our growth plans for FY 23-25. The remainder is funding carried forward for project delivery and reserves.

Note 8 - Events after the end of the reporting period

Since the end of the financial year, Brighter Together has received funding to expand the programme to benefit more older adults and early years children. Much of our funding has been designated to provide salaries for two employees who will work on scaling our programme. Their focus will be to reach more beneficiaries whilst ensuring the quality of our programme remains high and putting in place robust systems, practices, and procedures so that Brighter Together as an organisation is fit for purpose.

Note 9 - Transaction with trustees and related parties

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or related entity.

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www.brightertogether.org.uk



[brighter_together_uk](https://www.instagram.com/brighter_together_uk)



[@BrighterTogetherUK](https://www.facebook.com/BrighterTogetherUK)



[linkedin.com/company/brighter-together](https://www.linkedin.com/company/brighter-together)



[@Brightertogethr](https://twitter.com/Brightertogethr)

BRIGHTER TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1190557

Accounts

Brighter Together

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Brighter Together
Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year
Ending
31st March 2022

17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT

Registered Charity 1190557

Brighter Together

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From the Chair

Welcome to our 2021-22 annual report. This year we've been delighted to return to our weekly in-person sessions, taking the children into the care homes again. The moment the children came bubbling through the doors, there was a feeling of celebration and jubilation; smiles were wide, and the singing was loud. A huge thank you must go to all the staff at the nurseries, care homes and day centres for putting all the necessary elements in place for us to be able to spend time together as safely as possible. And a special thanks to our new team of session facilitators who have joined us this year and ensure that the programme we deliver is enjoyable and impactful in equal measure.

There is also a great sense of satisfaction from reflecting on the year. We have been reminded of the beautiful 'small' moments that happen within a session; a quiet conversation between a child and a resident as they paint together; or the infectious laughing during balloon tennis. These 'small' moments are the ones that add up to make a big difference. These moments just weren't possible online, so it is wonderful to be back together to maximise together to maximise the full potential of the programme. Falling back to online sessions when we've needed to, has been critical in maintaining those connections made in-person. We've continued to invest in the development of an engaging and interactive online programme, so we can seamlessly transition on weeks where it isn't safe to be together in-person.

This was the year that we really put our programme to the test. We expanded the number of projects and tested the programme in a day centre setting, and we've been thrilled that this has been so successful. We've also expanded our team, demonstrating the scalability of our model. Whilst we recognise the current climate for fundraising may be challenging, we've got an effective programme that is beneficial not just to the children and adults that we work with, but to wider society. Throughout their time working with us, the children's perspectives of older people are positively affected. The children value, respect, and love their older friends and this has enormous benefit for our society. We're now in a great position to be able to offer this programme to more children and older people. We're eager for the next challenge in scaling Brighter Together.

Andy Melia (Chair of Trustees)



Charitable Aims and Objectives

Brighter Together connects two vulnerable groups: those in care homes, and pre-school children to participate in shared activities, for mutual benefit to wellbeing and development.

Brighter Together aims to tackle social isolation and improve social and emotional wellbeing through weekly, intergenerational activity sessions. Our aims are to specifically:

- Improve the social and emotional wellbeing of care home residents and children;
- Support the children's development against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) characteristics of effective learning.

Our programme gives care home residents a purpose and responsibility. By bringing a group of young children into their lives on a regular basis to participate in structured nursery activities, residents share in the children's development and create strong relationships that will have a mutual benefit.

Within the care homes and nursery schools, Brighter Together aims to work with those who will receive the most benefit from the project. The selection criteria are:

Care Home Residents:	Nursery School Children:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The level of social isolation for a resident.• Ability to engage in the sessions and the activities to a level that will benefit them, and the children involved.• Safeguarding considerations.• Consent to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level of exposure to those over 65 years and whether that is on a consistent basis.• Assessment against the EYFS Goals.• Consent to participate.

How we deliver our aims and objectives

Our intergenerational programme connects a care home with a local nursery school who are then referred to as our 'partners'. The aim is to create a consistent partnership that will be maintained for a full academic year at a minimum. Our partners work with us to select the group of care home residents and children who will benefit from being part of the programme, based on the criteria in the table above.

We aim to maximise the benefit from the time that the children and care home residents spend together. To do that, we are rigorous about our programme planning which is built around the following four aspects:

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Designed by experts – our sessions are created with input from experts in the fields of Occupational Therapy, dementia care, Physiotherapy and Early Years education.



Structure – each session is based on the approach of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy which has well documented success in improving and maintaining cognitive functioning for older adults.



Bespoke training – Brighter Together Session Facilitators and Pre-school practitioners leading or supporting the sessions are provided with professional training on how to best engage with older people, working in the care home environment and accredited dementia training.



Involving the community – the activities build up to a celebratory end of term event to showcase the work of the group to friends, family, and staff. This is an essential part of including the community, bringing a much wider range of people into the care home.

Summary of Activity

Brighter Together has delivered 3 academic terms of weekly intergenerational projects during the period April 2021 – 31st March 2022.

We've maintained projects between 3 care homes and 3 local nurseries. We've also developed two new projects that started in January 2022 and included trialling our programme in a day centre setting. We worked with a total of 10 partners this year.

This year we also moved to a model of programme delivery through a team of contracted Session Facilitators, trained in intergenerational practice, which has ensured consistently high-quality sessions.

Throughout the year, we have continued to operate and deliver support to our beneficiaries, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Trustees have continuously reviewed our operations to ensure that we meet the needs of our partners and support can be effectively delivered safely in line with our charitable objectives.

Outputs:

- Delivered **115** intergenerational activity sessions.
- Maintained **3** projects between **3** care homes and **3** local nursery schools.
- Developed **2 new** projects, between **1** care home, **1** day centre and **2** local nursery schools.
- Provided sessions to **43** older adults
- Provided sessions to **122** children (aged 3-5 years)



Impact

During the Autumn term of this year, we were able to return to delivering some of our sessions in the care home. However, there were significant periods where we had to return to online delivery, such as during the Omicron outbreaks (Dec-March) which shut the doors of care homes and day centres to visitors. Fortunately, due to our investment last year in developing an engaging and creative online curriculum that supports our themes, we were able to seamlessly transition without disruption to the programme.

The mixed (in-person and online) delivery did disrupt our preferred method of measuring impact through Leuven scale observations. However, our trustees and Advisory Board felt the method and observation tools used during 2020-21 were equally as illuminating and enhanced our impact analysis, so we used these again this year and will continue to use these during 2022-23 as additional methods to evaluate our programme.

This year we have worked with nursery/schoolteachers and care home/day centre staff to complete assessments and observations on the children and residents respectively. In addition, we sought case studies and testimonials from participants and family members to support our understanding of the impact that this programme was having.

Care Home Residents

All of care homes said that the sessions made a **significant contribution to 100% of residents on the programme** across all 3 areas assessed: social wellbeing; emotional wellbeing; and physical health.

- **100%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in the areas of **social and emotional wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **87%** of older adults made **significant improvement** in their **physical health** as a result of being part of the programme.

"This gives the residents the motivation to get out of their chair and to sing and dance. Their mood is greatly improved - the residents are calmer and much happier. The smile and twinkle in their eye when they are around the children is wonderful.

I don't have enough words to say what a significant difference you make in the lives of the residents. Everything you do is stimulating and creative."

Antonela Mihai, Activity Coordinator, Nightingale House.

"Brighter Together provides an activity and opportunity for social interaction that otherwise couldn't be provided. Residents are able to interact with the children and play simple games that don't rely on memory or physical ability, giving them a sense of competency and self-confidence."

Molly Austen, Occupational Therapist

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Children

All of our nursery schools said that the sessions made a **significant contribution** to the children across the 3 areas of **social and emotional wellbeing, and development**.

- **85%** of children made noticeable improvement in their **social wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **93%** of children made a noticeable improvement in their **emotional wellbeing** as a result of being part of the programme.
- **93%** of children made noticeable improvement in their development (against the EYFS characteristics of effective learning) as a result of being part of the programme.

"The children have grown in confidence since beginning these sessions. Children's language development have been enhanced and their concentration and listening skills are very good during the sessions."

Leila, Head of Twickenham Day Nursery Pre-School.

"This is wonderful work that every child and every older adult should be able to experience."

Claudia Neves, Headteacher.

Fundraising Activity

The total income for the year was £35,905.11.

A small amount of funding has come from fundraising via the local Get Lucky Local lottery.

Funders

Brighter Together is extremely grateful to the following funders for the generous support they gave in 2021-22:

- Betty Messenger Foundation
- HM Government in partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund
- Richmond Council
- Hampton Fund
- Richmond Parish Lands.

Brighter Together

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Pro-bono Support

During this year we have been incredibly fortunate to have benefitted from the very kind support of some forward thinking organisations and their dedicated and talented staff. These include:

- WeAgile
- Wiggin

Volunteer Support

Our work is dependent upon volunteer support and during this year all our operational requirements (such as accounting, marketing, and human resources) have been carried out by our Founder on a voluntary basis. For this reporting period, this voluntary activity equates to 56 days.

Financial Review

Our total income for the year was £35,905. This was our first operating year, covering nine months. Expenditure totalled £23,226. Our net surplus was £23,678. The surplus mainly equates to receiving restricted grant funding received during the 2021-22 financial year to support 4 project partnerships in the Summer Term 2022 (i.e., during the next financial year), the main activities for which will run from April 2022 – September 2022.

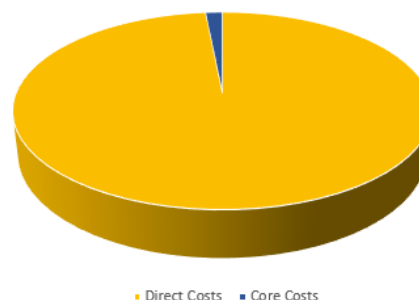
Income consisted of a mix of grants and donations from multiple sources and provided sufficient resources to enable Brighter Together to deliver activities in line with our charitable aims and objectives. Trustees continually review our funding and income plans to secure further financial resources necessary to deliver our programme.

Expenditure

We have allocated the costs of delivering our sessions to 'direct costs'. These account for 98% of our expenditure.

'Core costs' account for 2% of our expenditure and include:

- Insurance
- Marketing
- Stationary.





Risk Assessment

Trustees have identified financial sustainability as the biggest risk to Brighter Together, which underpins many other identified risks. Ensuring long-term funding will enable the charity to effectively embed the progress we have made so far, and trustees and our founder continue to explore funding partnerships and grants to secure this. Alongside this, trustees have developed mitigation plans, including alternative funding sources and the use of volunteers, to ensure continuity of service provision in the event funding bids are not successful in the short-term.

Reserves Policy

The trustees of Brighter Together aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to be able to invest in the development of either our services or the reach of our programme if there is an opportunity to do so, as well as ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

The level of financial reserves will be reviewed when any major changes occur, for instance where Terms and Conditions from funders are updated or if we employ a member of staff on salary.

Going Concern

Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

In addition, there is enough restricted funding for the continuation of our charitable activities for at least the next 6 months, and enough unrestricted funding to support any other charitable requirements that are not directly related to the services we provide.

Structure, Governance and Management

Status and Governing Document

Brighter Together is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), registered charity number 1190557. Its governing document is a Constitution dated and Registered Charitable status was granted on 24th July 2020.

Charity

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and accounts. The accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011.

Governance and Internal Control

The day-to-day activities of the Charity are monitored by the Trustees. Board meetings are held on a quarterly basis at a minimum.

Future Plans and Aims

2021-22 was a very important year for Brighter Together. We were delighted to be back to delivering sessions in-person which demonstrated the need and value in bringing groups together physically. It also gave us the opportunity to refine and consolidate our approach whilst testing the programme in new settings.

During this year, we have:

1. Moved to a Session Facilitator model. We have contracted two Session Facilitators so that Brighter Together can guarantee quality across all of our projects.
2. Tested our programme and model in alternative settings. We have successfully delivered in a day centre setting.
3. Expanded our reach across two London Boroughs.
4. Been supported by over 70% of our project partners through financial contributions to the cost of the programme. This has confirmed the importance and value that our programme provides to the clients of our partners.

This has now given us a very solid foundation from which to grow our reach. Our focus for 2022-23 and beyond will be to take this proven programme and scale-up so that we can make even more headway to tackling social isolation and improving children's life chances.

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered name and address

Brighter Together, 17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT.

Registered charity number

1190557.

Trustees Board

Since Brighter Together was formally constituted on 24th July 2020, all the following Trustees have remained on the Board:

Andrew Melia (Chair)

Dr Susan Allingham

Parita Doshi

Bankers

Reliance Bank Limited, Faith House, 23-24 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FR102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

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The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence to take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included in the Charity's website.

This report was approved by the Trustees, and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Andrew Melia

Chair of Trustees

Date: 25th November 2022

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Brighter Together

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Brighter Together for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Brighter Together 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 Brighter Together's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Brighter Together 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 content 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.

Signed:



Muntazir Hadadi FCA

5 Cumberland Close, St Margarets, Twickenham, TW1 1RS

Date: 30 November 2022

Statement of financial activities

BRIGHTER TOGETHER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		6,511	-	6,511	1,000
Charitable activities		3,900	25,461	29,361	19,908
Other trading activities		34	-	34	-
Total Income	3	10,444	25,461	35,905	20,921
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		209	-	209	89
Charitable activities		3,118	19,899	23,018	9,833
Total Expenditure	4	3,327	19,899	23,226	9,922
Net income/(expenditure)		7,117	5,562	12,679	10,999
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		726	10,273	10,999	-
Total funds carried forward		7,843	15,835	23,678	-

Balance sheet

	Notes	As at 31st March 2022	As at 31 st March 2021
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		£0.00	£0.00
Computer Equipment		£0.00	£0.00
		£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets			
Cash in Bank	5	£27,348.62	£13,083.97
Debtors		£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL Assets		£27,348.62	£13,083.97
Creditors			
Current Liabilities	6	£3,670.58	£2,085.00
TOTAL			
Net Current Assets		£23,678.04	£10,998.97
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		£23,678.04	£10,998.97
Net Assets		£23,678.04	£10,998.97
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted funds	7	£7,843.01	£600.66
Restricted funds		£15,835.04	£10,398.31
TOTAL FUNDS		£23,678.04	£10,998.97



Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 – Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. Our free reserves currently stand at £5,900.

In addition, there is enough restricted funding for the continuation of our charitable activities for at least the next 6 months, and enough unrestricted funding to support any other charitable requirements that are not directly related to the services we provide.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

1.5 Material prior year errors

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

Note 2 – Accounting policies

2.1 Reconciliation with previously generally accepted accounting practice

This is the second reporting period since incorporating in July 2020, as such, there is no funds brought forward against prior years funds.

2.2 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources; it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Brighter Together has received government grants in the reporting period.

Contractual income and performance related grants are only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.

Brighter Together has incurred expenditure on support costs.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g., allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.

2.4 Assets

Brighter Together has no assets.

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Note 3 – Analysis of Income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	11	-	11	1,013
	Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
	Legacies	-	-	-	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	6,500	-	6,500	19,908
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-
	Total	6,511	-	6,511	20,921
Charitable activities:		3,900	25,461	29,361	-
	Total	3,900	25,461	29,361	-
Other trading activities:		34	-	34	-
	Total	34	-	34	-
TOTAL INCOME		10,444	25,461	35,906	20,921

Note 4 – Analysis of expenditure

	This year			Last year		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds
	£			£		
Expenditure on raising funds:						
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	93	-	93	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on raising funds	93	-	93	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Summer Term Projects 2021	-	8,593	8,593	-	9,510	9,510
Autumn Term Projects 2021	2,268	3,076	5,345	-	-	-
Spring Term Projects 2022	700	8,230	8,930	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on charitable activities	2,968	19,899	22,868	-	9,510	9,510
Separate material item of expense						
Insurance	118	-	118	-	181	181
Bank Charges	115	-	115	-	-	-
Stationary	32	-	32	-	18	18
Total	265	-	265	-	198	198
Other						
	-	-	-	-	214	214
Total other expenditure	-	-	-	-	214	214
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,327	19,899	23,226	-	9,922	9,922

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	This year			Last year		
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Total this year	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Session Delivery	2,968	18,686	21,654	-	9,215	9,215
Training		1,213	1,213	-	295	295
Total	2,968	19,899	22,867	-	9,510	9,510

Note 5 – Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand

Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)
Short term deposits
Cash at bank and on hand
Other
Total

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-
27,348	13,084
-	-
27,348	13,084

Note 6 – Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals and deferred income	3,671	2,085	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Total	3,671	2,085	-	-

Note 7 – Funds of the charity

Movement in Funds

	At 01.04.2021 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.03.2022 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	725.66	7,117.35	7,843.01
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	10,273.31	5,561.73	15,835.04
TOTAL FUNDS	10,998.97	12,679.08	23,678.05

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	10,444.11	3,326.76	7,117.35
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	25,461	19,899.27	5,561.73
TOTAL FUNDS	35,905.11	23,226.03	12,679.08

Note 8 – Events after the end of the reporting period

Since the end of the financial year, Brighter Together has continued to review our approach to delivery in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our summer term programme went back to in-person sessions delivered at either the day centre or care home. We continue to review the risks regularly and have a robust process in place to mitigate against these, working closely with Government guidelines and discussion with our partners for autumn onwards. We will continue to review risks associated with this, and adjust delivery as needed in response to evolving circumstances.

Note 9 – Transaction with trustees and related parties

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or related entity.

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 www.brightertogether.org.uk

 [brighter_together_uk](https://www.instagram.com/brighter_together_uk)

 [@BrighterTogetherUK](https://www.facebook.com/BrighterTogetherUK)

 [linkedin.com/company/brighter-together](https://www.linkedin.com/company/brighter-together)

 [@Brightertogethr](https://twitter.com/Brightertogethr)

BRIGHTER TOGETHER

England & Wales - Charity number 1190557

Accounts

Brighter Together



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Brighter Together Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year Ending 31st March 2021

17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT

Registered Charity 1190557

Brighter Together



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From the Chair

This year has been a year like no other. Isolation, fear, and anxiety have been ever present, and yet there have been rainbows, celebrations of those on the frontline and pride in how our communities have rallied together. The overriding experience for so many of us was the understanding of our basic need for human connections and the importance that relationships are to our wellbeing.

As an organisation, we were among the first to take our intergenerational sessions online, believing that doing something, would be better than doing nothing. But we weren't prepared for how beneficial a 30-minute online session could be! The smiles were wonderful, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We've heard how our sessions impacted the mood and behaviour of care home residents far beyond our weekly sessions and the empathy that the children have demonstrated has been astounding.

We've been very privileged to have supported our community in this way and it's been a joy for us to support those working in the education and care home sector. The staff that we work with show dedication, work tirelessly, and see their job as a true vocation - we take our hats off to you and thank you for all the encouragement and support you've given to us during this time.

Most importantly, we are pleased to be emerging stronger from the pandemic. Taking our sessions online created a huge challenge in how we could use activities and games to develop real and meaningful relationships between young children and care home residents. Our learnings from this has now improved the service we offer; from more diverse activities that support physical health, to stimulating games that are accessible and stimulating to every individual involved, we are able to weave all these learnings into our new programme.

Whilst it is most likely that we will start the next academic year online, we will be confident that our sessions will help new friendships to blossom and bring moments that will lift moods. In our opinion, online will never replace our in-person sessions and we are excited that to get back to warm handshakes, shared laughter, and energetic balloon tennis!

Thank you to all our partners for a wonderful 2020-21 and we're looking forward to magical moments in 2021-22.

Andy Melia (Chair of Trustees)

Charitable Aims and Objectives

Brighter Together connects two vulnerable groups: those in care homes, and pre-school children to participate in shared activities, for mutual benefit to wellbeing and development.

Brighter Together aims to tackle social isolation and improve social and emotional wellbeing through weekly, intergenerational activity sessions. Our aims are to specifically:

- Improve the social and emotional wellbeing of care home residents and children;
- Support the children's development against the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) characteristics of effective learning.

Our programme gives care home residents a purpose and responsibility. By bringing a group of young children into their lives on a regular basis to participate in structured nursery activities, residents share in the children's development and create strong relationships that will have a mutual benefit.

Within the care homes and nursery schools, Brighter Together aims to work with those who will receive the most benefit from the project. The selection criteria are:

Care Home Residents:	Nursery School Children:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The level of social isolation for a resident.• Ability to engage in the sessions and the activities to a level that will benefit them, and the children involved.• Safeguarding considerations.• Consent to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level of exposure to those over 65 years and whether that is on a consistent basis.• Assessment against the EYFS Goals.• Consent to participate.

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How we deliver our aims and objectives

Our intergenerational programme connects a care home with a local nursery school who are then referred to as our 'partners'. The aim is to create a consistent partnership that will be maintained for a full academic year at a minimum. Our partners work with us to select the group of care home residents and children who will benefit from being part of the programme, based on the criteria in the table above.

We aim to maximise the benefit from the time that the children and care home residents spend together. To do that, we are rigorous about our programme planning which is built around the following four aspects:



Designed by experts - our sessions are created with input from experts in the fields of Occupational Therapy, dementia care, Physiotherapy and Early Years education.



Structure - each session is based on the approach of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy which has well documented success in improving and maintaining cognitive functioning for older adults.



Bespoke training - Brighter Together Session Facilitators and Pre-school practitioners leading or supporting the sessions are provided with professional training on how to best engage with older people, working in the care home environment and accredited dementia training.



Involving the community - the activities build up to a celebratory end of term event to showcase the work of the group to friends, family, and staff. This is an essential part of including the community, bringing a much wider range of people into the care home.

How we adapted to the pandemic

Due to the lockdown restrictions, we quickly adapted and developed our unique programme to run online sessions for those even more vulnerable during the pandemic. During the March – June 2020 lockdown, we trialled and refined our online programme with one project. From this we developed a varied and stimulating programme of online sessions for the 2020-21 academic year.

We have retained much of our structure, based on Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, and re-designed our session activities with the support of our Advisory Board (who

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include experts in the fields of Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, dementia care and Early Years education), to ensure engagement and benefit.

Key aspects of our online sessions included:

- Introducing more physical movement-based games to address the issue of an increasingly sedentary lifestyle because of lockdowns.
- Incorporating more varied games and activities that would support the group to create strong connections despite meeting online. These included:
 - o Sensory games & experiences
 - o Reminiscence therapy activities
 - o Learning from each other

When restrictions allowed, we held 'Through the Window' parties, with the nursery children visiting their friends at the window of the care home. This provided an enormous lift to spirits; for everyone to see each other in person and to have fun together with karaoke, bubbles, chatting and plenty of dancing which was a huge boost to wellbeing.

Summary of Activity

Brighter Together has delivered 3 academic terms of weekly intergenerational projects during the period April 2020 - 31st March 2021.

We've maintained projects between 2 care homes and 2 local nurseries (totalling 4 partners). We've also developed a new project that will start in April 2021 between a care home and school.

Throughout the year, we have continued to operate and deliver support to our beneficiaries, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Trustees have continuously reviewed our operations to ensure that we meet the needs of our partners and support can be effectively delivered safely in line with our charitable objectives.

Outputs:

- Delivered **33** intergenerational activity sessions.
- Maintained **2** projects between 2 care homes and **2** local nursery schools.
- Developed **1 new** project, between a care home and local school.

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- Provided sessions to **14** care home residents
- Provided sessions to **22** children (aged 3-5 years)

Impact

We would usually provide our sessions in the care home, as face-to-face activities, where we could work with care home staff and nursery/school practitioners to observe, interview and support with wellbeing questionnaires with our participants. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this was not possible. Our team, Trustees and Advisory Board felt that we would need to alter our impact measurement accordingly and as such we asked nursery/schoolteachers and care home staff to complete assessments on the children and residents respectively. In addition, we sought case studies and testimonials from participants and family members to support our understanding of the impact that this programme was having.

Care Home Residents:

All of care homes said that the sessions made a **very significant contribution** to the residents for both **social and emotional wellbeing**.

- o 100% of residents made noticeable improvement in their social wellbeing as a result of being part of the programme.
- o 77% of residents made noticeable improvement in their emotional wellbeing as a result of being part of the programme.

"During the sessions everyone smiles. The residents are calmer, more communicative and happier after each session. Our residents have created beautiful connections with the children and during the week they always talk about their friends from nursery." **Antonela Mihai, Activity Coordinator, Nightingale House.**

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Children:

All of our nursery schools said that the sessions made a **very significant contribution** to the children across the 3 areas of **social and emotional wellbeing, and development.**

- o 100% of children made noticeable improvement in their social wellbeing as a result of being part of the programme.
- o 94% of children made a noticeable improvement in their emotional wellbeing as a result of being part of the programme.
- o 81% of children made noticeable improvement in their development (against the EYFS characteristics of effective learning) as a result of being part of the programme.

"I don't think there is anything that we can put in place at the nursery that would replace this form of connection that the children are able to experience through this project." **Claudia Neves, Headteacher, St. Margaret's Montessori.**

Fundraising Activity

The total income for the year was £20,921. This financial period represents an 8-month period from incorporating in July 2020 until the end of the financial year at 31st March 2021.

A small amount of funding has come from fundraising via the local Get Lucky Local lottery.

Funders

Brighter Together is extremely grateful to the following funders for the generous support they gave in 2020-21:

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- Betty Messenger Foundation
- HM Government in partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund
- The London Community Response Fund.

Pro-bono Support

During this year we have been incredibly fortunate to have benefitted from the very kind support of some forward thinking organisations and their dedicated and talented staff. These include:

- The Digital Line
- Fried Frank

Volunteer Support

Our work is dependent upon volunteer support and during this year all our operational requirements (such as accounting, marketing, and human resources) have been carried out by our Founder on a voluntary basis. For this reporting period, this voluntary activity equates to 56 days.

Financial Review

Our total income for the year was £20,921. This was our first operating year, covering nine months. Expenditure totalled £9,922. Our net surplus was £10,999. The surplus mainly equates to receiving restricted grant funding received in February 2021 to support 3 project partnerships in the Summer Term 2021 (i.e., during the next financial year), the main activities for which will run from April 2021 – September 2021.

Income consisted of a mix of grants and donations from multiple sources and provided sufficient resources to enable Brighter Together to deliver activities in line with our charitable aims and objectives.

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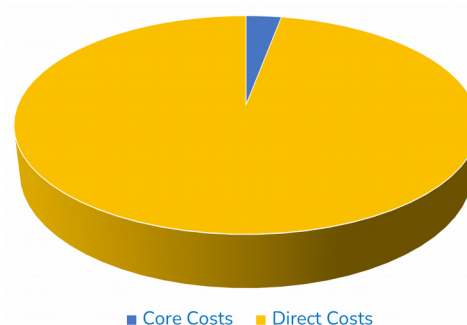
By moving on-line, we have continued to be able to run activities despite the Covid-19 pandemic, which has enabled us to access funding streams supporting charities operating during this time. This has been essential in securing income during this year. Trustees continually review our funding and income plans to secure further financial resources necessary to deliver our programme.

Expenditure

We have allocated the costs of delivering our sessions to 'direct costs'. These account for 97% of our expenditure.

'Core costs' account for 3% of our expenditure and include:

- Insurance
- Marketing
- Stationary.



Risk Assessment

Trustees have identified financial sustainability as the biggest risk to Brighter Together, which underpins many other identified risks. Ensuring long-term funding will enable the charity to effectively embed the progress we have made so far, and trustees and our founder continue to explore funding partnerships and grants to secure this. Alongside this, trustees have developed mitigation plans, including alternative funding sources and the use of volunteers, to ensure continuity of service provision in the event funding bids are not successful in the short-term.

Reserves Policy

The trustees of Brighter Together aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to be able to invest in the development of either our services or the reach of our programme if there is an opportunity to do so, as well as ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

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The level of financial reserves will be reviewed when any major changes occur, for instance where Terms and Conditions from funders are updated or if we employ a member of staff on salary.

Going Concern

Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure.

In addition, there is enough restricted funding for the continuation of our charitable activities for at least the next 6 months, and enough unrestricted funding to support any other charitable requirements that are not directly related to the services we provide.

Structure, Governance and Management

Status and Governing Document

Brighter Together is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), registered charity number 1190557. Its governing document is a Constitution dated and Registered Charitable status was granted on 24th July 2020.

Charity

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and accounts. The accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011.

Governance and Internal Control

The day-to-day activities of the Charity are monitored by the Trustees. Board meetings are held on a quarterly basis at a minimum.

Future Plans and Aims

COVID-19 has created a new context for our work, where the importance of intergenerational relationships to people's wellbeing as much greater focus and understanding. This has given Brighter Together two clear focal points for the future:

1. Expanding our reach & strengthening our operations

With the shocking statistics on social isolation and depression among older people, coupled with the decline in wellbeing for children, we want to be able to reach more people in the future. This will include assessing the viability of working in different settings, such as day centres and sheltered housing. To be able to support this growth, we will be bringing on a team of Session Facilitators who will support our current partnerships and ensure we retain our aims, ethos and quality that has been the lynchpin to our success so far.

2. Continuous programme improvement

Our focus will continue to be to maximise the benefit of the time our participants spend together. We remain committed to researching, trialling and refining our sessions and we will continue to incorporate the learnings from the online sessions as we move back to being together in-person. Our Advisory Bard will continue to play a vital part in incorporating best practice from a variety of sectors into our programme design.

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered name and address

Brighter Together, 17 Trowlock Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9QT.

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Registered charity number

1190557.

Trustees Board

Since Brighter Together was formally constituted on 24th July 2020, all the following Trustees have remained on the Board:

Andrew Melia (Chair)

Dr Susan Allingham

Parita Doshi

Bankers

Reliance Bank Limited, Faith House, 23-24 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give and true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FR102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence to take reasonable

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steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included in the Charity's website.

This report was approved by the Trustees, and signed on their behalf by:



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Andrew Melia

Chair of Trustees

Date: 12th October 2021

Statement of financial activities

BRIGHTER TOGETHER

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

	Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed income funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	1,00 0	-	1,0 00	-
Charitable activities	-	19,9 08	19,9 08	-
Other trading activities	1 3	-	13	-
	<hr/> 1,01 3	<hr/> 19,9 08	<hr/> 20,9 21	<hr/> -
Total Income				
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	8 9	-	89	-
Charitable activities	32 3	9,5 10	9,8 33	-
	<hr/> 41 2	<hr/> 9,5 10	<hr/> 9,9 22	<hr/> -
Total Expenditure				
	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 10,3	<hr/> 10,9	<hr/> -
Net income	1	98	99	-
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	-	-	-	-
	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 10,3	<hr/> 10,9	<hr/> -
Total funds carried forward	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 98	<hr/> 99	<hr/> -

Balance sheet

As at 31st March

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	2021
Fixed Assets	
Tangible Assets	£0.00
Computer Equipment	£0.00
	<u>£0.00</u>
Current Assets	
Cash in Bank	£13,083.97
Debtors	£0.00
TOTAL Assets	<u>£13,083.97</u>
Creditors	
Current Liabilities	<u>£2,085.00</u>
TOTAL	
Net Current Assets	<u>£10,998.97</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>£10,998.97</u>
Net Assets	<u>£10,998.97</u>
Funds of the Charity	
Unrestricted funds	£600.66
Restricted funds	£10,398.31
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>£10,998.97</u>

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 - Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

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The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

Brighter Together has levels of reserves that are in accordance with our reserves policy, of maintaining free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. Our free reserves currently stand at £601.

In addition, there is enough restricted funding for the continuation of our charitable activities for at least the next 6 months, and enough unrestricted funding to support any other charitable requirements that are not directly related to the services we provide.

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

1.5 Material prior year errors

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

Note 2 - Accounting policies

2.1 Reconciliation with previously generally accepted accounting practice

This is the first reporting period since incorporating in July 2020, as such there are no previous accounts.

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2.2 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources; it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP). In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

Brighter Together has received government grants in the reporting period.

Contractual income and performance related grants are only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.

Brighter Together has incurred expenditure on support costs.

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g., allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.

2.4 Assets

Brighter Together has no assets.

Note 3 - Analysis of Income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Prior year
				£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	1,013	-	1,013	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	-	19,908	19,908	-
	Other	-	-	-	-
	Total	1,013	19,908	20,921	-
					18
Other:	Other	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		1,013	19,908	20,921	-

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Note 4 - Analysis of receipts of government grants

	Description	This year £
Government grant 1	Coronavirus community support fund	9,930
	Total	9,930

Note 5 - Analysis of expenditure

Analysis	This year			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
Expenditure on raising funds:				£
	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
Autumn & Spring Term Projects		9,510	-	9,510
Summer Term Projects	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on charitable activities	-	9,510	-	9,510
Separate material item of expense				
Insurance	181	-	-	181
Project Marketing	214	-	-	214
Stationary	18	-	-	18
Total	412	-	-	412
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	412	9,510	-	9,922

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	This year			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total this year
	£	£	£	£
Autumn Term Project Delivery	-	4,819	-	4,819
Training	-	295	-	295
Spring Term Project Delivery	-	4,396	-	4,396
Total	-	9,510	-	9,510

Brighter Together



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Note 6 - Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-
Short term deposits	-
Cash at bank and on hand	13,084
Other	-
Total	13,084

Note 7 - Events after the end of the reporting period

Since the end of the financial year, Brighter Together has continued to review our approach to delivery in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our summer term programme remained online, but we are seeking to return to face-to-face sessions in line with Government guidelines and agreement with our partners for autumn onwards. We will continue to review risks associated with this, and adjust delivery as needed in response to evolving circumstances. To support this, we contracted two part-time session facilitators in September 2021 to deliver sessions with our existing partnerships.

Note 8 - Transaction with trustees and related parties

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or related entity.

