

Registered Charity Number: 1192175

The Together Project CIO

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 October 2023

The Together Project CIO

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The Together Project CIO

Charity information

Registered charity name	The Together Project CIO
Trustees	Kelly Keating – Chair Elin De Zoete – Vice-chair Jon Clyne – Treasurer (appointed 9 August 2023) Amy Cesnas Nisha Goyal Alicia Luther-Jones Ashley Alleyne (appointed 20 July 2023) Frances Brownhill (appointed 20 July 2023) Nigel Gordon (appointed 28 April 22, resigned 13 July 22) Previous trustees: Rosemary Durham – Treasurer (resigned 17 October 2023) Stephen Burke – Chair (resigned 20 July 2023)
CEO	Louise Goulden
Charitable objects	The objects of the CIO are to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded and relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded in the UK through the provision of community-based social, recreational and cultural activities. ‘Socially excluded’ means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); disability.
Registered charity number	1192175
Principal address	Taylor House 22C Sutherland Road London E17 6SS
Independent examiners	Muras Baker Jones Regent House Bath Avenue Wolverhampton WV1 4EG

The Together Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 October 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) as detailed in the accounting policies.

The Together Project was originally set up as a Community Interest Company ("CIC") on 9 October 2017. On 5 November 2020, it converted to being a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO"). The process of conversion means that the entity has a continuous existence, so it does not affect the accounts.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Together Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a Board of Trustees in accordance with The Together Project constitution (dated 12 September 2020).

Organisational structure

The Together Project Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") is responsible to Trustees for the day-to-day management of the organisation. The CEO monitors financial performance and delivery of objectives in pursuit of the strategy agreed by The Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees approves the annual budget and delegates operational responsibility for the charity's activities to CEO. The Board of Trustees offer a wide range of expertise and experience essential to the good governance of the charity. The Board of Trustees monitor the charity's governance by way of quarterly board meetings and regular one-to-one conversations held with the CEO.

The Board of Trustees met 4 times during the year ending 31 October 2023, with two of these meetings being held virtually.

Apart from the first charity Trustees, every Trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity Trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity Trustees, the Trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. The Trustees will make available to each new Trustee, on or before his or her appointment, a copy of the current version of the constitution and a copy of the charity's latest Trustees' Annual Report and statement of accounts.

The Together Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 October 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion from those experiencing, or at risk of, social exclusion, relating to age, disability or health (mental or physical).

The Together Project tackles this through intergenerational programmes that reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and foster community cohesion.

After a challenging previous three years due to the restrictions of Covid-19 and its protracted knock-on effects, this financial year has seen The Together Project make significant progress in terms of programme delivery, beneficiary numbers and financial stability, recording its highest annual turnover to-date.

We also launched our inaugural five-year strategy, setting out an ambitious roadmap to achieving our vision of a connected, inclusive society in which everyone has the chance to form intergenerational friendships.

This year also saw The Together Project appoint new trustees, bolstering the board's expertise in areas such as Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and financial planning and forecasting.

We ran three core programmes during this period.

Our **Songs & Smiles** programme expanded, from weekly groups running in eight care homes and assisted living schemes at the end of last year to 23 by the end of this year, with a geographical spread across England from Greater Manchester to Brighton and from Ipswich to Henley. The expansion was in large part due to the relaunch of our very successful partnership with Hallmark care homes, which saw us reopening our groups in 14 of their England homes over the last 12 months.

The multi-age music and social groups brought together 0-4 year olds, their parents/guardians and older adults to sing, move, play and make friends, helping to reduce social isolation and improve quality of life.

We conducted extensive evaluation work on the programme through feedback surveys and impact reports. Our findings showed that 78% of older adults who participated felt less lonely as a result of the programme and 100% said it brightened their week. From the parents/guardians' perspective, 73% felt less lonely and 91% said it brightened their week.

In the words of one care home staff member, "What a wonderful idea Songs & Smiles is, just the look on our residents' faces – complete joy!".

Our intergenerational arts & crafts exchange, **Crafting Connections**, continued to build momentum. The project pairs children with older adults living in care homes across the UK to form long-term friendships via the post. Each of the pair receives an arts and crafts challenge to complete, based on a given topic, and some related questions to answer about themselves. When complete, these are swapped in the post with their partner (via The Together Project for safeguarding and monitoring). Each participant receives a Friendship Folder in month one in which to store their partner's submissions, building up a record of their friendship as the months progress. In addition, children receive arts & crafts materials and 'words of wisdom' from older people in each monthly pack.

758 people participated this year, from Aberdeen to Cambourne in Cornwall. We ran qualitative evaluation work on the programme, using feedback forms and structured interviews to understand

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Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 October 2023

more about the impact of the programme on participants of all ages. Here are some of the responses:

“Keeping the residents busy, involved with small children, involved with the community, makes them far happier” - care home staff member.

“Being so important in someone's life – enough for them to make and give you a special gift – is of great importance to someone who has never had that in their life” – care home staff member.

“One resident sleeps with the artwork under her pillow, it means so much to her” – care home staff member.

“Crafting Connections really speaks to my own values of displaying kindness. And it supports us in having those conversations as a family” – parent.

This year we also launched a second phase of **We are Friends**, a programme delivered in partnership with, and funded by, Waltham Forest Council. The previous year's iteration linked five Early Years settings with five care homes in the borough. For 22/23 we moved the setting to libraries, bringing together young children and their parents/carers with older adults living independently or in care settings for storytelling and rhyme. Initially planned for four libraries, the programme proved so popular that it was extended to all eight libraries within the borough.

Around 270 people attended sessions across the lifespan of the project. In a survey, 100% of older adults and 75% of parents/guardians said that attending had made them feel less lonely and 100% of older adults and 82% of parents/guardians said it had brightened their week. One parent told us that “This is amazing and should be a staple in all boroughs/libraries. The programme is doing huge work for the mental health and loneliness of older generations and the education of our new generation”.

Public benefit

The main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit are described above.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011 when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in pursuing charitable activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This was a year of significant growth and expansion for The Together Project. Some of our highlights include:

- A year-on-year increase in annual turnover of 85%.
- Highly successful partnerships with Hallmark Care Homes and Waltham Forest Council, leading to an increase in trading revenue of 294%.
- Securing multi-year funding to expand our Songs & Smiles programme across London from 2024 onwards; at £125,000 over three years, it's our biggest grant to-date.
- Moving into our new office – our first since we gave up our previous lease at the start of the Covid outbreak – made possible thanks to a substantial rate reduction from our new landlords, Peabody Housing.

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Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 October 2023

In total our work reached 949 older adults and 1,109 parents/guardians and their children. The vast majority of these beneficiaries engaged with our programmes on a regular, ongoing basis, meaning that deep, meaningful connections could be formed that ultimately have a more profound effect on wellbeing.

Plans for the future

The Together Project's vision is of a connected, inclusive society in which everyone has the chance to form joyful intergenerational friendships. Our new five-year strategy sets out the charity's ambitions for activities reaching 'every age and life stage' at a national level. This includes the growth of our current service offerings and the development of new ones, expansion into new geographical areas and reaching new beneficiary groups.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The financial results are as shown in the accounts. The charity generated income of £222,005 (2022: £118,835) during the year ending 31 October 2023, which was mainly generated from grant income and donations. Expenditure totalled £188,019 (2022: £134,130). This resulted in a net increase to funds of £33,986 (2022: net reduction of £15,295) for the year.

At 31 October 2023, the charity had total funds of £87,804 (2022: £53,818). Of these funds, £38,096 (2022: £2,902) is restricted for expenditure on Songs & Smiles, £400 (2022: £7,274) is restricted for expenditure on Crafting Connections, £7,814 (2022: £13,556) is restricted for expenditure on staff costs and employee wellbeing and £6,833 is restricted for expenditure on rent and office utility costs, with the remaining £34,661 (2022: £30,086) of funds being unrestricted. Based on the current level of funds held and a prudent projection for future cashflow, the charity is expected to have sufficient funds to be able to pursue its plans and cover core costs for the coming 12 months. There are also opportunities in the pipeline to be able to expand on what is currently being delivered.

Reserves

Reserves are the part of the charity's unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. There will be occasions where grants and donations are restricted and can only be used for a particular charitable purpose. These amounts will be excluded when considering what the charity's reserves levels are.

As the charity was only established in 2020 (having converted from a Community Interest Company which was formed in 2017) and was significantly impacted by Covid-19 pandemic, it has not yet had time to accumulate significant reserves. It is expected that over the coming years, the charity will be able to amass a higher level of reserves. But in the short-term the charity will be aiming to maintain reserves predominantly just to provide financial stability. Our aim is to maintain our reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to three months' running costs, including staffing and overheads, which equates to £41,298 (as of October 2023).

The Board regularly reviews the amount of reserves at its quarterly board meetings, to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations. At 31 October 2023, the charity had £34,661

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Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 October 2023

(2022: £30,086 of reserves). Whilst this is short of the three months' running cost target, a significant portion of the running costs of the charity are currently covered by restricted funds. The Trustees therefore consider this level of reserves and expected future cashflows sufficient to allow the charity to perform its intended activities over the next 12 months and beyond.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed 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, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 18 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Kelly Keating

Chair of Trustees

The Together Project CIO

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Together Project CIO

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Together Project CIO (the charity) for the year ended 31 October 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and 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:



Name:

Oliver Ross

Relevant professional qualification:

FCA

Address:

Muras Baker Jones Limited

Regent House

Bath Avenue

Wolverhampton

WV1 4EG

Date:

18 Jun 2024

The Together Project CIO

Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA)

For the year ending 31 October 2023

		2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Note	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds
				£			£
Incoming resources							
Donations	3	44,290	-	44,290	31,516	5,100	36,616
Grant income	4	12,672	108,649	121,321	-	63,061	63,061
Charitable trading activities	6	56,394	-	56,394	19,158	-	19,158
Total incoming resources		113,356	108,649	222,005	50,674	68,161	118,835
Resources expended							
Employment costs	13	87,663	55,119	142,782	36,253	62,909	99,162
Staff costs		1,104	800	1,904	1,238	-	1,238
Crafting Connections		2,448	11,317	13,765	-	14,910	14,910
Songs & Smiles		6,532	7,226	13,758	5,670	3,889	9,559
We are friends		660	-	660	-	-	-
Printing/postage		69	-	69	1,008	84	1,092
IT costs		1,106	-	1,106	522	-	522
Depreciation	9	1,459	-	1,459	922	-	922
Insurance		562	-	562	492	33	525
Governance	7	490	-	490	370	-	370
Advertising/comms		223	-	223	1,884	1,145	3,029
Travel		187	-	187	259	100	359
Accountancy	7	672	-	672	589	-	589
Legal fees		-	-	-	400	-	400
Rent and office costs		5,296	4,776	10,072	852	-	852
Bank and stripe fees		71	-	71	129	-	129
Other		239	-	239	472	-	472
Total resources expended		108,781	79,238	188,019	51,060	83,070	134,130
Net income/ (expenditure)		4,575	29,411	33,986	(386)	(14,909)	(15,295)
Total funds b/f		30,086	23,732	53,818	30,472	38,641	69,113
Total funds c/f	12	34,661	53,143	87,804	30,086	23,732	53,818

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The Together Project CIO

Balance sheet

As at 31 October 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	2,205	915
		2,205	915
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	10,384	2,323
Cash at bank and in hand		84,297	58,863
		94,681	61,186
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within a year	11	(9,082)	(8,283)
Net current assets		85,599	52,903
Total Assets less liabilities		87,804	53,818
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds		34,661	30,086
Restricted funds	12	53,143	23,732
Total charity funds		87,804	53,818

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Kelly Keating
Chair of Trustees



Jon Clyne
Treasurer

The notes form part of these financial statements.

The Together Project CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ending 31 October 2023

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

CIO information

The Together Project CIO was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation in England on 5 November 2020 and is governed by a constitution dated 12 September 2020 and registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1192175. The charity's principal office address is Taylor House, 22C Sutherland Road, London, E17 6SS.

Conversion from CIC to CIO

The Together Project was originally set up as a Community Interest Company ("CIC") on 9 October 2017. On 5 November 2020, it converted to being a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO"). The process of conversion means that the entity has a continuous existence, so it does not affect the accounts.

1.1 Basis of accounting

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

The financial statements 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 present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in Note 2.

1.2 Going concern

After a difficult few years following the Covid-19 pandemic, which hit The Together Project especially hard as it had to suspend its major charitable activity (Songs & Smiles) due to the particular vulnerability of care home residents, the charity is recovering well and continues to grow its income and operations. The Trustees have reviewed the financial position of the charity and are satisfied that it has sufficient resources to continue for at least 12 months beyond the date of approval of these accounts. There are sufficient funding streams in place and a variety of potential other sources of income in the pipeline to ensure that core costs can be covered and committed activity can be undertaken as planned. The accounts are therefore prepared on a going concern basis.

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Notes to the Financial Statements Year ending 31 October 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For the purposes of FRS102, the Charity is a public benefit entity and accounting policies are adopted accordingly. The charity has only basic financial instruments and the Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

Recognition of income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met. 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.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Donations in kind are recognised at their open market value to the charity when received and an equivalent amount is included in the appropriate expenditure line; the only amounts included for donated services are those provided in a professional capacity.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

The Together Project CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ending 31 October 2023

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Financial instruments

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.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes the original price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition. Items are capitalised where it is expected that they will be used for over a year, such as equipment to be used in Songs and Smiles sessions.

Items are only capitalised if they cost at least £25.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, over their expected useful lives, using the straight-line method. The rates applicable are:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Equipment (such as items used in Songs & Smiles sessions) | 2 years |
| • Computer hardware and software | 3 years |

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity held for working capital.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

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Notes to the Financial Statements Year ending 31 October 2023

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Provisions

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Deferred income

Income received in advanced of services being delivered is recognised as deferred income. Grant income is deferred if any associated performance conditions have not been met at the balance sheet date.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS

Donations are recognised at the point of receipt. Tax recoverable under gift aid is recognised at the date of the corresponding income.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	2023		2023	2022		2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations/gifts	39,558	-	39,558	30,610	5,100	35,710
Gift aid	4,732	-	4,732	906	-	906
Total	44,290	-	44,290	31,516	5,100	36,616

All restricted donations received in previous years have now been spent.

Seven volunteers donated their time to The Together Project this year. Goods and services with a total value of £2,510 (2022: £1,600) were donated to the charity during the year. This has been shown as £2,510 (2022: £1,600) of donation income, with £800 (2022: £1,600) showing in expenditure (this figure was included in IT costs in the Statement of Financial Activities), and £1,710 being shown as fixed asset additions (in respect of a donation of office furniture).

The Together Project CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ending 31 October 2023

4. INCOME FROM GRANTS

The following grants were received during the year, all were restricted:

	At 31 October 2022	Received during the year	Expenditure during the year	At 31 October 2023
	£	£	£	£
Groundwork (HS2)	2,902	3,975	(6,877)	-
National Lottery	2,285	-	(2,285)	-
Youth Music	13,556	21,369	(27,111)	7,814
L&Q Foundation	4,989	9,976	(14,965)	-
McCarthy Stone Foundation	-	11,000	(4,167)	6,833
Charles S French	-	4,800	(4,400)	400
The People's Projects 2022/23	-	40,409	(13,190)	27,219
Comic Relief	-	2,620	(1,240)	1,380
City Bridge	-	10,500	(3,336)	7,164
The Childwick Trust	-	4,000	(1,667)	2,333
Total	23,732	108,649	(79,238)	53,143

Groundwork (HS2)

Further grant income of £3,975 was received from Groundwork during the year, in addition to £18,175 received in previous years. This grant was spent on delivering Songs & Smiles activities to communities in areas disrupted by the HS2 project and was fully spent by the end of the financial year.

National Lottery

A grant of £9,140 was received in a previous year to be spent on subsidising the cost of participating in Crafting Connections for care homes. This has been fully spent by 31 October 2023.

Youth Music

A grant of £21,369 (the second instalment of a total grant of £54,000) was received from Youth Music's Recharge Fund. The majority of the grant was spent on staff salaries, with a small proportion set aside for a staff wellbeing day in recognition of the impact that the pandemic on mental health and organisational resilience. £7,814 remains unspent at 31 October 2023.

L&Q Foundation

A grant of £9,976 (the second instalment of a total grant of £19,953) was awarded to be spent on funding 200 older adults and 200 children in east London from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in Crafting Connections for one year. This was fully spent by 31 October 2023.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ending 31 October 2023

McCarthy Stone Foundation

During the prior year a grant for £5,000 was received to cover the cost of one year's rent for some new office space for The Together Project. As the new lease for the office wasn't signed until January 2023, the £5,000 of grant income was recognised in the current year. At 31 October 2023, £833 was unspent, which will be spent on office costs in November and December 2023. An additional grant of £6,000 was received during the year to cover rent and office costs in 2024.

Charles S French

A grant of £4,800 was awarded to be spent on covering the cost for four care homes to participate in Crafting Connections for a year. The funds supported the cost of materials. £400 remains unspent at 31 October 2023.

The People's Projects 2022/23

A grant of £40,309 was awarded by the National Lottery's 'The People's Projects' fund, to launch Songs & Smiles sessions in five east London care homes and fully-fund them for a year, including core costs, direct delivery costs and equipment. £27,219 remains unspent at 31 October 2023.

Comic Relief

A grant of £2,620 was awarded to partially fund the continued delivery of Songs & Smiles sessions in two London supported living schemes for a year. The funds were spent on facilitator fees, staff time and materials. £1,380 remains unspent at 31 October 2023.

City Bridge

A grant of £10,500 (the first instalment of a total grant of £125,000 covering a three-year period) was awarded to support the expansion of Songs & Smiles across London, specifically targeting care settings housing residents who experienced high levels of socioeconomic disadvantage. The funding primarily covers core team salaries, with some allowance for equipment, materials and facilitator fees. £7,164 remains unspent at 31 October 2023.

The Childwick Trust

A grant of £4,000 was received to cover the fund the continued delivery of Songs & Smiles in one London care home for two years. The funds were spent on facilitator fees, staff time and materials. £2,333 remains unspent at 31 October 2023.

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Notes to the Financial Statements Year ending 31 October 2023

5. INCOME FROM GOVERNMENT GRANTS

No Government grant income was received during the year.

6. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Income from charitable activities was comprised of the following:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Songs & Smiles sessions in care homes	37,844	9,109
Crafting Connections Care Home income	2,690	30
Consultancy	-	200
We are Friends	15,860	9,819
Total	56,394	19,158

7. DETAILS OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

The independent examiner's fee was £300 (inclusive of VAT) for carrying out the independent examination (2022: £300).

Governance costs, such as Trustee training and the costs of running Board meeting, were £490 (2022: £370).

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No Trustee or any person connected with them, received remuneration from the charity.

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Notes to the Financial Statements Year ending 31 October 2023

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment	Computer hardware & software	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 November 2022	1,148	2,278	3,426
Additions	2,749	-	2,749
Disposals	(1,114)	-	(1,114)
At 31 October 2023	2,783	2,278	5,061
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 November 2022	1,046	1,465	2,511
Charge for the year	1,080	379	1,459
Disposals	(1,114)	-	(1,114)
At 31 October 2023	1,012	1,844	2,856
NBV at 31 October 2023	1,771	434	2,205
NBV at 31 October 2022	102	813	915

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	9,344	1,483
Accrued income	1,040	840
Total debtors	10,384	2,323

All amounts recognised as trade debtors at 31 October 2023 have been received in cash by the date of signing these accounts, with the exception of £40 which continues to be chased up. The accrued income is comprised of gift aid claims submitted to HMRC for donations made on or before 31 October 2023, where the charity holds a valid gift aid declaration. All amounts have been received by the date of signing these accounts.

The Together Project CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ending 31 October 2023

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income	-	5,585
Trade creditors	1,984	-
Other creditors	3,747	1,923
Accruals	3,351	775
Total creditors	9,082	8,283

Other creditors are comprised of employee taxes due to HMRC at 31 October 2023 and amounts due to the charity's pension provider.

Accruals represent services received by The Together Project on or before 31 October 2023 where an invoice had not been submitted by the supplier by 31 October 2023.

£5,000 of the prior year deferred income represented grant income received during the year in respect of covering the cost of rent for office space to be taken on during 2023. The lease had not been signed at the balance sheet date and the grant income can only be used on the rent specified, therefore the grant income was deferred into the year ending 31 October 2023.

12. MOVEMENTS IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

During the financial year the charity held restricted funds for the charitable activities Songs & Smiles and Crafting Connections. It also received a grant from Youth Music to be spent on organisational overheads such as staff costs and employee wellbeing (the 'Recharge Fund'). Funding was received from the McCarthy & Stone Foundation to help fund some office space for the charity.

Fund name	At 31 October 2022	Grant income	Donations (inc Gift aid)	Expenditure	At 31 October 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Songs & Smiles	2,902	61,504	-	(26,310)	38,096
Crafting Connections	7,274	14,776	-	(21,650)	400
Recharge fund	13,556	21,369	-	(27,111)	7,814
Funding for office space	-	11,000	-	(4,167)	6,833
Total	23,732	108,649	-	(79,238)	53,143

The Together Project CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ending 31 October 2023

13. EMPLOYEES

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the period was 5 (2022: 4). Staff costs recognised in the SoFA in the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	132,705	94,141
Social security costs	7,033	3,075
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	3,044	1,946
Total	142,782	99,162

No employee received total employee benefits totalling more than £60,000 during the year. The cost to the charity of salary and benefits paid in respect of the charity's CEO were £39,799 (2022: £32,831), which has increased since the prior year due to an increase in hours worked.

Pension costs incurred during the year of £3,044 (2022: £1,946) were allocated as £1,175 (2022: £1,234) in restricted funds and £1,869 (2022: £711) in unrestricted funds.

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions during the year.