SPECTRUM GAMING

England & Wales · Charity number 1193763

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2021-03-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Spectrum Gaming Bartle House Oxford Court Manchester
Phone	0161 706 1619
Email	info@spectrumgaming.net
Website	http://spectrumgaming.net

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONG AUTISTIC YOUNG PEOPLE (DIAGNOSED OR SUSPECTED) WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF BEING AUTISTIC BY:RUNNING AN ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR AUTISTIC YOUNG PEOPLE, WHICH FOCUSES ON:• ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO CREATE NEW FRIENDSHIPS• IMPROVING THEIR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING• GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE THE CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS TO MEET THEIR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONSEDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS ABOUT AUTISM, INTERNET SAFETY AND OTHER TOPICS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY;PROMOTING THE VIEWS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND BOTH ADVOCATING FOR THEM, AND PROVIDING THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS TO BE ABLE TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES;SUPPORTING OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO CREATE AND DEVELOP GROUPS/ ACTIVITIES FOR AUTISTIC YOUNG PEOPLE, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND ONLINE;RUNNING OTHER PROJECTS, CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE PRIORITIES AND NEEDS OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.RUNNING FACE TO FACE SOCIAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THEIR INTERESTS.

Activities: Spectrum Gaming is an online community for autistic young people which has three main intended outcomes:1) Building Friendships2) Increasing Self-Acceptance 3) Advocacy - We don't just want to be a community that enables autistic young people to develop meaningful friendships, we want to create a movement that will have a positive influence on autistic young people across the UK.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£563,272	£501,069	£210,621	18
2024-03-31	£300,631	£242,362	-	-
2023-03-31	£133,503	£147,366	-	-
2022-03-31	£166,673	£43,294	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gareth Howe	Chair	2023-10-17
Alison Egerton		2023-10-17
Dr Sarah-Jane Snape		2020-12-05
Joanna Elizabeth Beaumont		2023-10-17
Melanie Greta Harrison		2023-10-17

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SPECTRUM GAMING

England & Wales - Charity number 1193763

Accounts

SPECTRUM GAMING

community for autistic young people



Annual Report 2024/25

and consolidated financial statement

"I feel much less alone. I feel part of a community, where I can make a difference and meet people who have similar experiences to me."

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The trustees present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and with the charity's governing documents.

Spectrum Gaming CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and was registered with the Charity Commission on 10 March 2021. It was established to take forward the work of the registered charity, Spectrum Gaming CIO (Charity Number 1193763).

The trustees confirm that the CIO has complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. This report illustrates how the CIO delivers public benefit.

Reference and Administrative Details

CIO Name:	Spectrum Gaming CIO
Registered Number:	1193763
Registered Address	Spectrum Gaming Bartle House, Oxford Court, Manchester M2 3WQ
Trustees:	**Gareth Howe - Chair** **Alison Egerton - Trustee** **Jo Beaumont - Trustee** **Melanie Harrison - Trustee** **Dr Sarah-Jane Snape - Trustee** **Dr Pia-Sophie Wool - Trustee** (resigned December 2025) **Dr Samantha Friedman - Trustee** (resigned December 2025) **Danny van Deurzen-Smith - Chair** (resigned November 2025) **Catherine Thomson - Trustee** (resigned November 2025)
Bankers	**National Westminster Bank Plc** 438 Barlow Moor Road Chorlton-Cum-Hardy Manchester
Independent Examiner	**Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE** Shruti Soni Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants 117A St. John's Hill Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

WHO WE ARE

Spectrum Gaming is an autistic-led UK based charity that supports autistic young people. We aim to create a world where every autistic child knows that who they are is ok and they can be themselves, whilst still developing meaningful relationships and achieving their personal goals.

We do this by providing spaces where they feel safe and accepted, amongst others with similar shared lived experiences, and opportunities to explore who they are.

We want all autistic young people to have the strength and confidence to find their place in the world that works for them. In many cases this means influencing wider strategic changes to create an environment that is more understanding and equitable.

We strive to always be...

- CHILD CENTRED
- REFLECTIVE
- ATTENTIVE

and

WHAT WE DO

Spectrum Gaming doesn't just focus on enabling friendships and connection, but on advocacy, and ensuring autistic young people are heard.



Online Services
We provide a safe space online supervised by trusted adults where young people can explore, connect and grow with others.



Face-to-Face Services
We offer opportunities for young people to meet with others and undertake positive activities together.

Advocacy - We work with our young people, parents and partners to identify the priorities of young people creating resources that address these priorities.



Training - We offer training and guidance to those who need it most, and build a community who share our passion and vision to create change.

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The promotion of Social Inclusion amoung Autistic Young People (Diagnosed or Suspected) who are excluded from Society, or Parts of Society, as a resut of being Autistic by:

Running an Online Community for Autistic Young People, which focuses on:

- Enabling Young People to create new friendships
- Improving their Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Giving Young People the Confidence and Skills to meet their Goals and Aspirations.

Educating Young People, their Parents and Professionals about Autism, Internet Safety and other topics which are important to our community.

Promoting the views of Young People and both Advocating for them, and providing them with the Knowledge/Skills to be able to Advocate for themselves.

Supporting other organisations to create and develop Groups/Activities for Autistic Young People, both physically and online.

Running other Projects, Campaigns and Activities based on the Priorities and Needs of the Young People in our Community.

Running Face to Face Social Groups and Activities around their Interests.



ANNUAL OVERVIEW

2024/25 was an exciting year for Spectrum Gaming, and saw rapid growth and transformation of the charity. **Our paid staff team doubled from 10 to 20!** This was driven by both our expansion into new areas and the need to strengthen core roles.

This growth enabled us to both develop our support for young people through offering more events both online and in person, while also prioritising staff wellbeing and investing in behind-the-scenes development.

Looking at the bigger picture, the outlook for autistic young people in the UK sadly remained much the same as in previous years, with long waiting for assessments and limited quality support available.

Persistent delays in autism diagnosis: a continuing crisis

The 2024/25 period was once again defined by long waits for autism diagnoses. **As of March 2025, 224,382 people had an open referral for suspected autism. That's more than the entire population of Plymouth.** Alarmingly, 89.9% had not received an assessment within the recommended 13-week timeframe set by NICE guidelines, with the average wait time for assessment now standing at 14 months.

As many services are not available until diagnosis, these delays prevent many individuals from accessing the vital support they urgently need.

The impact of assessment delays on autistic young people

Long delays not only heighten distress for young people, but also block access to crucial school support. The consequences of this are severe, and include increased mental health struggles, social isolation, suicidal thoughts, and autistic burnout.

A 2024 government report found 35% of deaths in autistic young people without a learning disability were due to 'suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm'. The leading cause of death in this group. In an additional group of young people who were awaiting an autism assessment, this figure rose to 56%



Our continued need:

Spectrum Gaming has always been and will always be open to autistic young people regardless of whether they have a formal diagnosis. This is just one of the reasons we are in high demand and unsurprisingly, demand for our services surged once again. We continue to receive almost daily requests from parents asking for support for their child or to see if we have plans to expand to their area.

We understand that providing timely support is essential. Not only does it mean young people can better understand themselves, but it fosters a sense of hope for the future. This is why we remain ambitious and focused on creating a world where every autistic person can be themselves.

We remain driven in providing immediate practical support to autistic young people and their families, and are working hard to ensure we're in a sustainable position where we can scale up our services and provide quality support to more autistic people year on year.

"Every year I think "this is the year when things finally become easy and we can relax" and every year I am proven wrong...! This year has been tough because we have grown and changed so quickly, but it has also been the most magical one so far!"

- Andy, Creative Director and Founder of Spectrum Gaming

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Opening the Youth Centre to young people!

Once the keys were collected in February 2024, this was the start of over 6 months of work to refurbish the inside of the building to make it safe and welcoming for the young people in the community! The work wouldn't have been possible without the support of volunteers who dedicated hours of their time to clean, paint and setup furniture or without all the donations from our supporters for equipment for young people to use once the centre was open!

With their help, the centre opened in October 2024, where we held our first (of many!) youth clubs in our very own SGHQ!

Spectrum Gaming Learning Community

With the opening of the youth centre, we launched a new service: our Self Directed Learning Community. This community is for autistic young people who are struggling to access school or who are in burnout.

As of March 2025, 9 young people were accessing the Learning Community and rediscovering their love of learning!



Case study about Learning Community Attendee, written by SG staff member:

"We were unsure whether F would be able to attend without the support of his parent and our transition plan included parents staying as long as needed because of this. However, F very quickly began to attend alone, and soon he built trusting relationships with staff and is forming connections with young people. F initially used gaming as a safe base but as the weeks have gone on he has felt comfortable and safe to engage in many of the activities going on at the LC."



Increased opportunities for young people to meet

As our online staff team grew, so did the events we could offer to the young people in the community. We now host regular arts, crafts and crochet clubs alongside our popular gaming, movie nights and chess clubs!

Not only that, but we started hosting regular face to face meetups in Sheffield! These meetups kicked off with a trip to see The Polar Express, and continued with a trip to the National Videogame Museum, and youth clubs.

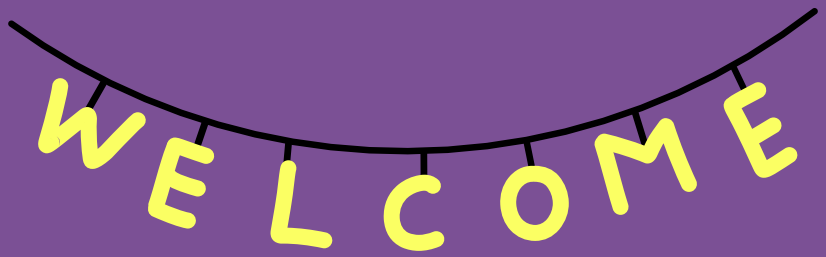


At our first Sheffield Meetup Weekend, young people went to Awesome Walls - a climbing wall centre.

Their staff were great with our young people, helping them to manage any anxiety they might have about climbing the walls. One of the young people who had never climbed progressed to the top of the wall by the end of the session - a massive achievement!

Reopening to young people outside of Manchester:

A big and exciting change for us in this period was that we officially reopened to young people outside of Manchester - welcoming young people from Bedford, Sheffield and Lancashire and giving an **extra 300** autistic young people funded access to our services!



CASE STUDY

Spectrum Gaming was established out of a desire that future generations of autistic people could accept and celebrate their differences, and live authentically. Here's how we achieved that in 2024-25.

R's Story:

Being diagnosed as autistic at the age of 14 brought with it a lot of issues and a lot of questions for my daughter. Autism had never been on the radar for us as a family and it did come as quite a shock, as my daughter was certainly not "stereotypical" as I saw it.

She has gone through 2 primary schools, and 4 high schools (2 of which were special schools) and all of which have ended the placement due to not being able to meet my daughters needs.

> **My daughter is articulate, she's academic, she's funny, she loves to have friends and loves to socialise even though these things are all very tricky for her.**

We became involved with Spectrum Gaming prior to her receiving an official diagnosis, but I think it was apparent to other parents whose children were already known to be autistic that my daughter also was.

Following all the CAMHS appointments, we were finally faced with a diagnosis of "Autism with a demand avoidant profile". At first my daughter didn't want to know the outcome, and then was convinced they had got it all wrong. We were discharged from the service and sent on our way with a list of support groups, all of which were for parents.

> **My daughter wasn't talking to me about her diagnosis, and I know she was struggling, particularly with having no friends, and also school being so difficult.**

CASE STUDY

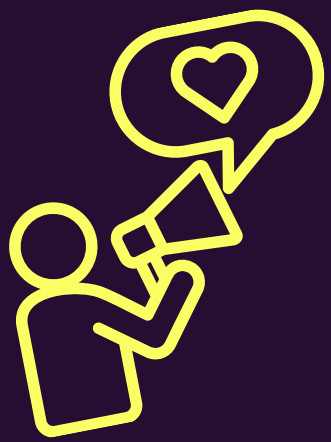
> **To say Spectrum Gaming was a life saver is an understatement for both me and my daughter.**

Talking to other parents – many of whom were neurodiverse themselves - was invaluable. My daughter really enjoyed the company of the adults (easier than her peers), and would spend a lot of time with the SG staff at forest school and youth club.

The autistic adults around her were such good role models, and I think she began to see autism in a very different way. She really found a sense of belonging there and was embraced by everyone involved.

She is still making sense of the world knowing that she sees it differently from lots of other people, and we feel so lucky to have found Spectrum Gaming who have supported us through this journey.

My daughter is a great advocate for herself and for other autistic young people, particularly autistic girls. She has also become a SEND ambassador for our local authority and has given presentations in front of stakeholders regarding her own difficulties within education. Her future plans are to work with autistic children who have struggled like she has.



ONLINE

In 2024/25, our online work evolved further. We both increased and diversified our online events for young people, meaning more of their interests catered for. In this period, we fully embraced the importance of digital youth work, and found that we were at the forefront of showcasing the impact of this work in the UK, with organisations across the country reaching out to us for advice on providing digital youth services.

The importance of Digital Youth Work:

Whilst concerns about young people and the safety of them accessing online spaces is a current topic of debate, we know that there is a way for young people to meet peers online safely. Providing young people access to spaces moderated by youth workers provides them with opportunities to develop social skills, make friends and explore their interests safely.

Here, one of our youth workers explains the importance of digital youth work for autistic young people:

> Digital youth spaces are far more accessible for autistic young people, especially those with sensory sensitivities, social anxiety, or co-occurring conditions like OCD, depression or Ehlers-Danlos. These challenges can make leaving home extremely difficult, so online provision is vital in offering the opportunity for community, connection, and understanding without judgment.
>
> **We create inclusive, empathetic digital communities to ensure no young person is left isolated due to their circumstances or struggles.**



In 2024/25 our Digital Youth Workers supported autistic young people to make friends, build confidence and learn life skills by:

Hosting regular online events, including: Film Nights, Chess clubs, Cooking, Drawing Club, Crafts and Crochet and Friday Night Natter, as well as group events playing their favourite games, including: Fortnite, Roblox, Among us and Minecraft.

Creating safe online spaces for the young people in the community through our moderated Discord servers: one for U13s with parent controlled accounts, and one for teenagers aged 13 and over. These are open 10am - 10pm 365 days a year, meaning young people always have a place to go for peer support.

ONLINE

Messages sent via Discord	839	Hours spent in voice calls
812,391	days of play time on Minecraft	17,269



Minecraft:

Our private Minecraft server provides a space where members have fun in a virtual world and can safely practise and develop life skills. As well as collaborating on large scale community building projects, members build on individual plots of land, sourcing materials through mining, trading and making deals with “neighbours” to make efficient use of resources.

Introducing the Minecraft Build Team:

CO-PRODUCED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Who are they and what do they do?

A team of 15 young people from the SG community and adult staff members who create virtual worlds for autistic young people to explore with friends! Each year the team works together, dedicating hours of work to create exciting new worlds and experiences for our community members.

Young people’s favourite part of being part of the Build Team:

“It's so fun to see people's reactions to our builds when a new season opens and everyone’s like "wowww this is so cool!!" But also its just so fun to build with people and see the build come to life!!”

“I wanted to help build stuff that people could see and build with other people and learn from them”

FACE TO FACE

Our meetups give our members opportunity to meet the friends they've made online in person, supporting them to develop meaningful connections with others and experience a sense of belonging.

In 2024, we continued to host meetups in Manchester. Two exciting development in this period was:

- our community centre opened in Bury, Greater Manchester! This meant we could start hosting regular meetups in a space designed with young people to cater for their needs.
- our meetup provision expanded to a new area. From December 2024, regular meetups were held in Sheffield.

In 2025, we want to focus on offering more meetups from our centre. Our youth club in particular is fully booked within minutes, so we want to increase session frequency to meet this demand.

3 Big Meetup Weekends

50% increase from 2023/24

82 Unique meetups

10% increase from 2023/24

1003 Places booked

80% increase from 2023/24

Meetup Weekends 2024:



In 2024 we were able to expand our Meetup Weekends to TWO cities!

Once again the team travelled to London, with a second weekend held in Manchester. It was great to be able to design these weekends based around the feedback we'd received for the London Weekend in 2023. This supported us to ensure we held a weekend of activities that young people would love, and with the opportunity to try new things in a supportive environment with friends!

Our face to face meetups are accessible to young people because of the time we take to build a positive relationship online with them first. As a result, young people feel safer to attend face to face meetups because they know that familiar staff and young people will be present. It's a huge step for young people who were extremely isolated to attend meetups but by doing so is a massive boost to their confidence, self belief and sense of belonging

FACE TO FACE

Feedback about our meetups:

"Honestly the most impactful of all interventions my child has had. It allows him social interaction and has offered an entire friendship group where he has struggled to find people like him in other areas of life."

"The meet ups help my children feel like they have somewhere they belong rather than feeling like outsiders or "different". As they're not able to access school or most typical groups they're an important part of socialising but also benefit the family as a whole to feel less isolated."

'You were his first friends after burnout. Being part of SG was a cornerstone of coming out of burnout and having some feelings of fun and enjoyment again."

"It has stopped my son from feeling suicidal and has given purpose and structure to his life. It continues to provide friendship and support in a very safe environment."

"There's more power in the meetups than what's headlined because of the other important things not advertised, such as the opportunity to connect with other parents, gain more knowledge of SEN, tips from and to others, as well as a feeling of empowerment which can positively affect parental mental well-being."

"SG has given my child confidence to talk and engage with people. It's brought huge amounts of joy and laughter into her world (and vicariously ours because we hear it)."



ADVOCACY

In 2024/25, our advocacy work once again remained a core focus. We're dedicated to working on projects that seek to address the need for strategic and societal change for the benefit of autistic young people. It is vital to us that our projects are truly reflective of the experiences of autistic young people. For that reason, all our advocacy work is:

CO-PRODUCED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Projects:

Barriers to Education

The project, which launched in 2022 continued to be developed in 2024. The project aims to create a practical and aspirational toolkit that supports families, schools, and services, while acknowledging the complex demands of the education and public sectors.

In 2024, we held 3 free webinars about the project for parents and professionals, which had over 3,000 attendees. We also held a face-to-face Live Writing session at our centre in Bury where a team of professionals met to collaborate on creating the guidance.

As a result of Barriers to Education, Andy was invited to meet with the Department for Education and Children's Commissioner Team in February 2025 to discuss and share recommendations around "severe absence" and long-term school non-attendance.

https://padlet.com/spectrumgaming/barrierstoeducation

Neuroprofiling tool

In 2024, we received funding from the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) to design a neuroprofiling tool for young neurodivergent people aged 10 plus. It will allow them to explore and learn more about themselves and their experiences, with the goal to help them, and others better understand and meet their needs.

The neuroprofiling tool has been developed and designed by neurodivergent people, with the project led by SG's Clinicial Psychologist, who is autistic. It is due to launch in 2025.

ADVOCACY

Autism Understood 6 Week Course

In October 2024 we piloted a 6 week Autism Understood course for autistic young people to explore their identity. In addition to the face-to-face course, we also created a written companion guide and developed 'Train the Trainer' materials and guidance to enable other facilitators to run the course.

The course built on the content of our popular Autism Understood website for autistic young people. It covers topics such as 'What is Autism?', 'Understanding Meltdowns', and 'Autistic Wellbeing', helping participants explore different aspects of their experiences. The programme is structured around the foundations of Knowledge, Understanding, and Acceptance - beginning with building knowledge about autism, supporting young people to understand themselves, and working towards self-acceptance and the promotion of self-advocacy.



"She has more confidence in calmly explaining some of her struggles, she messaged a friend straight away after one group and asked them not to make fun of her flapping…she said she couldn't have done that without having attended the course." Parent of attendee at Autism Understood in person sessions



Young people led advocacy

In 2024, a group of young people in SG worked together to create a video about the autism myths they hate the most. We're so proud of the efforts of these young people in addressing misconceptions about autism, advocating for themselves and getting people to think differently about autism.

TRAINING

Over the past year we have delivered training to parents, educators and healthcare providers, helping them to learn directly from autistic voices. Because our training is co-produced with young people and led by those with lived experience, participants consistently tell us that the insights they gain are authentic, relevant and deeply impactful.

Our Training and Courses

We were pleased to run our Autism Acceptance six-week course again this year, now in its third year. The course remains one of our most popular offers, with participants especially valuing the session delivered by autistic young people from our community, which brings powerful authenticity and insight.

Hanna, our Clinical Psychologist, delivered specialist training to NHS staff on Trauma and Neurodivergence. The session helped professionals to build understanding of how neurodivergent people may experience and respond to trauma, and offered practical strategies for more inclusive and supportive practice.

This year we also worked in partnership with SMiRA to explore the development of new information and guidance on supporting individuals with selective and reactive mutism. As part of this collaboration, we delivered a webinar on the topic, which was very well received by participants and highlighted the value of sharing expertise in this area.

"It was brilliant! Well informed, lots of lived experience communicated and holistic. I work in an autism diagnostic team and we are increasingly meeting young people who experience mutism; this will make our assessments, signposting and advice much more meaningful to the young people and families we work with"

External workshops, conferences, webinars and podcasts

Throughout the 2024/25 period, we also participated in a variety of external workshops, conferences and podcasts to share our expertise on a broad range of topics, and learn from others:

- 2 Day Forest School Workshop with the Forest School Association
- From burnout to thriving: empowering autistic wellbeing, by Andy at The Autism Show
- Barnet Young People's conference - Embracing your autistic identity.
- London SEND Leadership Conference
- Neurodiversity Affirming Practice webinar, Forest School Association
- Navigating Family Relationships, Autism Central Podcast

FUNDRAISING AND OPERATIONS

Operations:

Staff growth - The organisation experienced significant expansion this year with a 33% increase in headcount, adding a bookkeeper to manage growing finances, new staff based in Sheffield and Bedford to strengthen local operations, and a caretaker for the newly opened centre in Bury to oversee daily facility needs and maintenance.

Upshot implementation: We implemented the Upshot monitoring and evaluation system to better evidence impact by recording young people's personal details, tracking progress, and monitoring attendance at activities and events, consolidating participant data to support improved reporting and data-driven decision making.

SG Community Charter:

CO-PRODUCED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

In 2024, a new community charter was created with our young people which outlines the foundational beliefs of SG and the community. The charter applies to both young people and staff and includes young people in all decision making. It established agreed terms on areas including: understanding, democracy, collaboration and equality.

Fundraising:

2024 saw us hire our first dedicated fundraising role. Here's our Funding and Development Officer talking through their key focuses in 2024:

Grant development - tracking impact/monitoring reporting requirements and developing our grant approach to apply for bigger grants. At the end of 2024, found out we were through to Stage 2 of the National Lottery Reaching Communities grant.

Diversifying income streams - to boost the sustainability of the charity...focus in 2024 was on corporate and individual giving development, with the introduction of a new fundraising platform that was easier to use, more engaging for donors and helped us to track data more easily. Beginning of our journey with the games industry corporates, having success in this area and receiving games studio.

First end of year appeal! As well as our annual Gaming Marathon fundraising, we successfully launched our first end of year appeal, raising funds to wrap the outside of the community centre in SG branded graphics! We quickly hit our initial £2500 goal, and raised just under £5000!

SUPPORTERS

We wanted to issue a HUGE thank you to all those who have supported, funded and celebrated our work.

Donors and Fundraisers

Once again, we want to say a massive thank you to donors and fundraisers for their ongoing support. In 2024, they helped us to raise a total of **£23,000** for Spectrum Gaming, including **£8,359** for our Gaming Marathon and **£4798** for our first end of year appeal!

Volunteers

We want to highlight the huge difference our dedicated volunteers have on our work. Without them we wouldn't be able to offer the range of services we provide for the young people in the community.

As of March 2025, we have **8 active volunteers.** Our ability to take on additional volunteers in this period was impacted by reduced staff capacity in this area. However, in March 2025, we were able to onboard an additional volunteer who will be using their skills as a Senior Content Writer to support us by writing newsletters and articles.

Currently, **2 of our volunteers are ex-members** who are now adult volunteers. We also have a number of members who are approaching 18, and have expressed interest in becoming volunteers. We are keen to support them to learn new skills and will be working with them to train them to be moderators for our U13 community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year the Charity's income totalled **£563,272** (2024: £244,212) of which £446,043 was restricted (2024: £168,098). Expenditure totalled **£501,069** (2024: £271,368) of which £345,120 was restricted (2024: £196,644). Net income for the year was **£62,203** (2024: net expenditure £27,156). Total charity funds at the year end were **£210,621** (2024: £148,418) of which unrestricted funds were £50,114 (2024: £88,834) and restricted funds were £160,507 (2024: £59,584).

Policies

Spectrum Gaming CIO has a full range of policies covering our services. Our policies are continually kept under review including the assessment of the major risks. The trustees aim to maintain the general level of reserves (unrestricted funds) to around three months of general expenditure. The trustees consider this to be an appropriate level.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document: Spectrum Gaming CIO is governed by its constitution dated 10th March 2021.

Trustees selection: Trustees are nominated and seconded by trustee members of Spectrum Gaming CIO

Organisation: The board of trustees administers the CIO. The board normally meets quarterly. Two Chief Officers are appointed by the trustees to manage the day-today operations of the CIO. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Officers have delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters.

Related parties: None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the CIO. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current period no such related party transactions were reported.

Pay policy for senior staff: The trustees and the Chief Officers comprise the key management personnel of the CIO in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the CIO on a daily basis. All trustees give their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the period. Details of trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 2 to the accounts. The pay of the Chief Officers is reviewed annually.

Risk management: The board of trustees have identified the major risks to which the charity is exposed. These are reviewed continually, as are the systems established to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

In preparing those accounts the trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Gareth Howe
Chair of Trustees
31st January 2026



Alison Egerton
Trustee
31st January 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Spectrum Gaming CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages twenty four to thirty five.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.
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 charity 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:

Shruti Soni

Shruti Soni
FCCA ACIE
117a St Johns Hill
Sevenoaks
TN13 3PL
Date 28 April 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Spectrum Gaming

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	Unrestricted £ As restated	Restricted £ As restated	2024 Total £ As restated
Income from:							
Grants and Donations	2	28,859	128,500	**157,359**	27,405	168,098	195,503
Charitable activities							
Advocacy		564	4,500	**5,064**	885	–	885
Face to Face services		65,990	–	**65,990**	19,435	–	19,435
Online services		9,725	124,968	**134,693**	4,620	–	4,620
Training		12,091	–	**12,091**	23,769	–	23,769
Support		–	188,075	**188,075**	–	–	–
Total income		117,229	446,043	**563,272**	76,114	168,098	244,212
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3	24,314	–	**24,314**	1,414	–	1,414
Charitable activities							
Advocacy		4,202	9,240	**13,442**	13,203	–	13,203
Face to Face services		101,827	47,500	**149,327**	11,708	48,098	59,806
Online services		913	201,637	**202,550**	39,797	8,333	48,130
Training		4,737	–	**4,737**	1,991	–	1,991
Support		19,957	86,743	**106,700**	6,611	140,213	146,824
Total expenditure	3	155,949	345,120	**501,069**	74,724	196,644	271,368
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	4	(38,720)	100,923	**62,203**	1,390	(28,546)	(27,156)
Net movement in funds		(38,720)	100,923	**62,203**	1,390	(28,546)	(27,156)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		88,834	59,584	**148,418**	87,444	88,130	175,574
Total funds carried forward	13	50,114	160,507	**210,621**	88,834	59,584	148,418

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

Spectrum Gaming

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £ As restated
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	8		**947**		2,445
			947		2,445
Current assets:					
Debtors	9	**23,200**		2,279	
Cash at bank and in hand		**194,399**		167,658	
		217,599		169,937	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	**7,925**		23,964	
Net current assets			**209,674**		145,973
Total net assets			**210,621**		148,418
The funds of the charity:	13				
Restricted income funds			**160,507**		59,584
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds		**50,114**		88,834	
Total unrestricted funds			**50,114**		88,834
Total charity funds			**210,621**		148,418

Approved by the trustees on 27 April 2026 and signed on their behalf by

..... - Trustee

27th April 2026

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Spectrum Gaming

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period	**62,203**
Depreciation charges	**1,498**
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	**–**
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**(20,921)**
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**(16,039)**
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	**26,741**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	26,741
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	167,658
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	194,399

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash in hand and at bank	194,399
Total cash and cash equivalents	**194,399**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Spectrum Gaming

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) 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 in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn. The accounts are presented in GBP rounded to £1, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

b) Public benefit entity

The charitable trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

c) Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Annual budgets are updated regularly taking this into account with prudent figures for both income and expenditure. The charity holds significant reserves and has liquid assets in the form of cash held in short term deposits.

For this reason the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

d) Income

Income, including from Government and other grants, whether 'capital' or 'income', is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income for programmes spanning two or more accounting periods is allocated over the period to which it relates. Income received in advance of delivery of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition is met.

Income from charitable activities includes income for third party hardship grants which is recognise in the year when received as the charity has control over how it is spent.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable.

f) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Accounting policies (continued)

g) **Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the cost of delivering services undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on support activities includes the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity (support costs), comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) **Tangible fixed assets**

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Computer Equipment — 3 years

i) **Financial Instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Financial Liabilities

Creditors and provisions 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. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

j) **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 of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

k) **Pensions**

The charity contributes towards the employees' personal pension schemes. The cost of the contribution is charged to the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Spectrum Gaming

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

l) Significant accounting policies

There are no estimates and assumptions that are considered to have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the financial statements in a future period.

2 Grants and Donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £ As Restated
Individual and corporate Donations	28,859	–	**28,859**	27,405
Grants	–	128,500	**128,500**	168,098
	28,859	128,500	**157,359**	195,503

Spectrum Gaming

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

3 Analysis of expenditure

	Cost of raising funds £	Advocacy £	Face to Face services £	Online services £	Training £	Support costs £	2025 Total £
Staff costs (Note 5)	24,314	6,240	42,605	198,994	3,713	84,427	360,293
Audit & Accountancy fees	–		–	–	–	1,609	1,609
Consulting	–	2,480	–	–	–	–	2,480
Depreciation Expense	–	–	–	–	–	1,498	1,498
F2F services	–	69	16,026	7	–	178	16,280
General Expenses	–	180	–	–	–	2,174	2,354
HR Expense	–	–	100	–	–	4,771	4,871
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	382	382
Learning Community Expenses	–	–	5,764	–	–	–	5,764
Online servies	–	205	13	3,286	–	–	3,504
Printing & Stationery	–	570	127	–	–	130	827
Staff Training	–	40	–	208	31	549	828
Staff Travel & Subsistence	–	–	1,694	–	662	3,525	5,880
Subscriptions	–	–	365	22	330	6,100	6,818
Website Costs	–	3,658	–	–	–	–	3,658
Youth Centre	–	–	34,683	33	–	1,123	35,839
Youth Centre Refurbishment	–		47,950	–	–	232	48,182
Total expenditure 2025	**24,314**	**13,442**	**149,327**	**202,550**	**4,737**	**106,700**	**501,069**
Total expenditure 2024	**1,414**	**13,203**	**59,806**	**48,130**	**1,991**	**146,824**	**271,368**

Of the total expenditure, £166,949 was unrestricted (2024: £74,724) and £345,120 was restricted (2024:£196,644).

3 Analysis of expenditure (continued.....)

	Cost of raising funds £	Advocacy £	Face to Face services £	Online services £	Training £	Support costs £	2024 Total £
							As restated
Staff costs (Note 5)	1,312	6,784	23,083	43,957	1,251	135,536	211,923
Advertising & Marketing	102	–	–	–	–		102
Audit & Accountancy fees	–	–	–	–	–	1,168	1,168
Consulting	–	–	–	–	–	367	367
Depreciation Expense	–	–	2,049	–	–	–	2,049
Direct costs	–	–	894	–	–	–	894
F2F services	–	23	–	–	–	–	23
General Expenses	–	163	16,398	14	–	490	17,066
HR Expense	–	–	–	–	200	3,646	3,846
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	292	292
IT Software and Consumables	–	4,690	91	3,911	105	2,667	11,463
Learning Community Expenses	–	–	–	63	170	67	300
Operating Lease Payments	–	–	1,470	–	–	70	1,540
Printing & Stationery	–	1,163	–	–	–	772	1,935
Rent	–	–	7,121	–	–	150	7,271
Repairs & Maintenance	–	–	3,658	–	–	–	3,658
Staff Training	–	–	1,158	–	252	1,237	2,647
Staff Travel & Subsistence	–	44	3,469	–	13	12	3,537
Subscriptions	–	–	65	167	–	324	556
Website Costs	–	336	20	18	–	28	401
Youth Centre	–	–	331	–	–	–	331
Total expenditure 2024	**1,414**	**13,203**	**59,806**	**48,130**	**1,991**	**146,824**	**271,368**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4 **Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel**

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	332,771	200,492
Social security costs	19,039	7,834
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	8,483	3,597
	360,293	211,923

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the year in bandings of costs greater than £60,000.

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and employer NI of the key management personnel, made up of the Chief Executive Officer and Creative Director were £90,529 including pension contributions and employer NI. (2024:£68,819).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

No Trustees were paid or reimbursed expenses in 2025 (2024: none).

5 **Staff numbers**

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Cost of raising funds	1.2	0.0
Advocacy	0.3	0.4
Face to Face services	2.1	1.3
Online services	10.0	2.4
Training	0.2	0.1
Governance and support	4.4	7.3
	18.2	11.5

6 **Related party transactions**

No Charity trustee received any remuneration or trustees' expenses representing payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs.

There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2025 (2024: none).

7 **Taxation**

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Spectrum Gaming

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At the start of the year	4,494	4,494
At the end of the year	4,494	4,494
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	2,049	2,049
Charge for the year	1,498	1,498
At the end of the year	3,547	3,547
Net book value		
At the end of the year	947	947
At the start of the year	2,445	2,445

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

9 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £ As restated
Trade debtors	23,200	2,279
	23,200	2,279

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £ As restated
Taxation and social security	5,925	3,941
Other creditors	–	20,023
Accruals	2,000	–
	7,925	23,964

11 Financial Instruments

	2025 £	2024 £ As restated
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	217,599	169,937
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	5,925	20,023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Spectrum Gaming

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	947	–	947
Net current assets	49,167	160,507	209,674
Net assets at the end of the year	**50,114**	**160,507**	**210,621**

	General unrestricted £ As restated	Restricted £ As restated	Total funds 2024 £ As restated
Tangible fixed assets	2,445	–	2,445
Net current assets	86,389	59,584	145,973
Net assets at the start of the year	**88,834**	**59,584**	**148,418**

13 Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2024 £ As restated	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds:					
Advocacy	–	18,500	(9,240)	–	9,260
Face to Face services	–	55,500	(47,500)	–	8,000
Online services	41,667	294,967	(201,637)	–	134,997
Support	17,917	77,076	(86,743)	–	8,250
Total restricted funds	59,584	446,043	(345,120)	–	160,507
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	88,834	117,229	(155,949)	–	50,114
Total unrestricted funds	88,834	117,229	(155,949)	–	50,114
Total funds	148,418	563,272	(501,069)	–	210,621

	At 1 April 2023 £ As restated	Incoming resources & gains £ As restated	Outgoing resources & losses £ As restated	Transfers £ As restated	At 31 March 2024 £ As restated
Restricted funds:					
Face to Face services	–	48,098	(48,098)		–
Online services	–	50,000	(8,333)		41,667
Support	–	70,000	(52,083)		17,917
Other restricted grants	88,130	–	(88,130)		–
Total restricted funds	88,130	168,098	(196,644)	–	59,584
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	87,444	76,114	(74,724)	–	88,834
Total unrestricted funds	87,444	76,114	(74,724)	–	88,834
Total funds	175,574	244,212	(271,368)	–	148,418

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14 Prior Year Adjustment – Change in Accounting Basis

During the year ended 31 March 2025, the Trustees determined that the charity is required to prepare its financial statements on an accruals basis in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Charities SORP (FRS 102)

In prior periods, including the year ended 31 March 2024, the financial statements were prepared on a receipts and payments basis. Accordingly, the comparative figures for the year ended 31 March 2024 have been restated on an accruals basis to ensure consistency and comparability with the current year financial statements.

This change represents a change in accounting basis rather than a change in accounting policy and has been accounted for as a prior year adjustment, with comparatives restated accordingly.

Impact on Financial Statements

The effect of the restatement on the prior year financial statements is summarised below:

- Net movement in funds for the year ended 31 March 2024 has been adjusted to reflect accrued income and expenditure.
- Net assets at 31 March 2024 have been restated to include recognised debtors, creditors, prepayments, accruals, and any fixed assets.

A summary of the quantitative impact of the prior year adjustment is as follows:

	£
Net assets as previously reported (receipts & payments basis)	167,887
Recognition of debtors and accrued income	2,279
Recognition of accruals	(23,964)
Recognition of fixed assets	2,445
General funds brought forward from 2023 understated	66,056
Income overstated	(58,698)
Expenditure understated	(7,587)
Restated net assets at 31 March 2024	**148,418**

Comparative figures throughout these financial statements have been updated to reflect these adjustments. There is no impact on cash balances previously reported.

The Trustees consider that the adoption of the accruals basis provides a more accurate and complete view of the charity's financial position and performance and ensures compliance with applicable reporting requirements.

SPECTRUM GAMING

England & Wales - Charity number 1193763

Accounts

SPECTRUM GAMING

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



"I made my first ever friends there"

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WHO WE ARE

Spectrum Gaming is an autistic-led UK based charity that supports autistic young people. We aim to create a world where every autistic child knows that who they are is ok and they can be themselves, whilst still developing meaningful relationships and achieving their personal goals.

We do this by providing spaces where they feel safe and accepted, amongst others with similar shared lived experiences, and opportunities to explore who they are.

We want all autistic young people to have the strength and confidence to find their place in the world that works for them. In many cases this means influencing wider strategic changes to create an environment that is more understanding and equitable.

We strive to always be...

- CHILD CENTRED
- REFLECTIVE
- ATTENTIVE

and

WHAT WE DO

Spectrum Gaming doesn't just focus on enabling friendships and connection, but on advocacy, and ensuring autistic young people are heard.



Online Services
We provide a safe space online supervised by trusted adults where young people can explore, connect and grow with others.



Face-to-Face Services
We offer opportunities for young people to meet with others and undertake positive activities together.

Advocacy - We work with our young people, parents and partners to identify the priorities of young people creating resources that address these priorities.



Training - We offer training and guidance to those who need it most, and build a community who share our passion and vision to create change.



ANNUAL OVERVIEW

The financial year 2023/2024 saw another significant period of growth for Spectrum Gaming (SG). Our staff team grew to 15, putting us in a stronger position both in supporting the young people in our community, and the wellbeing of the staff team with the addition of key support roles.

By December 2023, 172,022 people were waiting for an autism assessment in England, an increase of 47% in just one year (www.autism.org.uk). The long waiting times (over 13 weeks for 86% of those on the referral list) adds to the distress of young people whose struggles often go unheard or misunderstood for years. The stress this causes leds to struggles with mental health, isolation from others, suicidal thoughts and autistic burnout. We know that families are desperate to access meaningful support for their young people, as we receive emails on a daily basis, asking if their child can join SG.

With broader research showing that "rates of loneliness are up to four times higher in Autistic individuals than their peers" as well as the recognition from the 2023 Government Suicide Prevention Scheme that autistic people have a higher risk of death by suicide, autistic young people need access to spaces where they can belong, feel safe and have fun with others who have shared lived experiences, without having to worry about whether their needs will be met. This is key in helping them to better understand themselves, giving them optimism for the future.

Knowing all this keeps us ambitious and driven in working towards our aim of creating a world where autistic young people can be themselves. We are striving to continue providing immediate practical support to autistic young people and their families, the majority of whom are being failed by a system which makes them wait, sometimes years, for a diagnosis and then offers little or no help.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Staffing

To meet growing demand for our services, we welcomed 8 new staff members, with 5 of these directly increasing our capacity to work with young people, and the rest to grow our organisational capacity. Roles hired included: 2 admin support, a clinical psychologist, 4 youth workers and a funding and development officer. The expansion of our staff team enabled us to host a greater number of online and in person events for the young people in our community, and alleviated pressure on the existing small staff team, who were often working long hours to meet the ever-increasing demand for our services.

Autism Understood website launch

In July 2023, we launched Autism Understood, a website designed to address the lack of resources available to newly diagnosed autistic young people. The site is filled with information written by people with lived experience, alongside Spectrum Gaming's young members. In its launch week in July 2023, we had 12,000 visitors to the website and since then it has had almost **500,000** views! (https://autismunderstood.co.uk/)

Autism Understood
by Spectrum Gaming

Changing our membership model

In 2023, we saw an exponential increase in the numbers of applications from parents and professionals seeking our services and support. This demand resulted in us closing to new members in April 2023, as we wanted to ensure we were still providing high-quality support to the young people in the community. During our closure it was apparent that we had to take a new approach to our membership offer to prevent an endless cycle of opening and then quickly closing again as we reached capacity.

We used this time to increase the staff team and improve support infractures for both staff and young people, and in November 2023, we re-opened for new members who were residents of Greater Manchester. With Manchester being the home of Spectrum Gaming, and where a large proportion of funding is generated from, it seemed appropriate and justifiable to allow local autistic young people access to our services.

Towards the end of 2023, we decided to create a commissioning offer for local authorities in the UK, giving young autistic people in those areas access to our services. As a result, we will begin the 2024-25 year with at least two other local authorities funding places for their area, and a number of other areas in discussions with Spectrum Gaming about possible offers. We are excited and hopeful that this funding model will make the future of our organisation stronger and more sustainable, whilst being able to help more and more autistic young people.

"He has attended all the meet ups which is amazing and we travel wherever we have to, that's how important these meet ups are for us."

Community Centre

In February 2024, we secured our own community centre, which we're extremely excited about! Our hope is to create a shining example of what a fully inclusive space can look like for neurodivergent people with sensory differences. Some of the services we're looking to offer from the centre include:

- a drop-in centre for autistic young people
- regular youth club sessions, coding workshops, and arts and crafts sessions
- a hub for our learning community focusing on Self Directed Education
- a space for young people to meet and work on advocacy projects and delivering training sessions for parents/carers, as well as a hub for SG staff and lots, lots more!

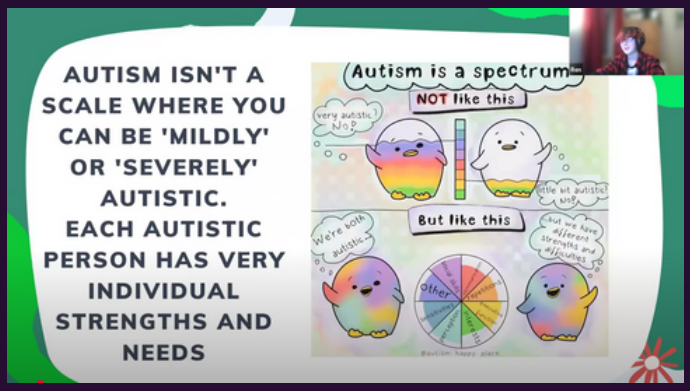
"I like how people don't judge things about me and people even sometimes do the same "weird" things I thought I was alone in."

OUR IMPACT

Our achievements would hold little meaning if they weren't having a positive impact on our young members. In the past year we've seen:

Young people becoming advocates

We are starting to see a ripple effect where autistic young people in our community (who were previously ashamed of being autistic) become confident enough to become strong advocates for themselves and on behalf of the next generation of autistic people.



In June 2023, 3 young people from our community worked together to write autism training from scratch and delivered a 3 hour training session! We believe this is the first time ever in the UK that autistic young people have led on core, in-depth autism training.

Connection and joy

What we are most proud of is the amount of positivity we have been able to add to the lives of autistic young people. Some parents have told us they have heard their children laugh for the first time in a long time. Some young people report making their first ever meaningful friendships, and others tell us that because of our community, they now have hope for the future and that they believe their dreams will come true.

Looking ahead to the future, we intend to build on these successes and our reputation to maximise the impact we can have in improving the lives of autistic young people throughout the UK.

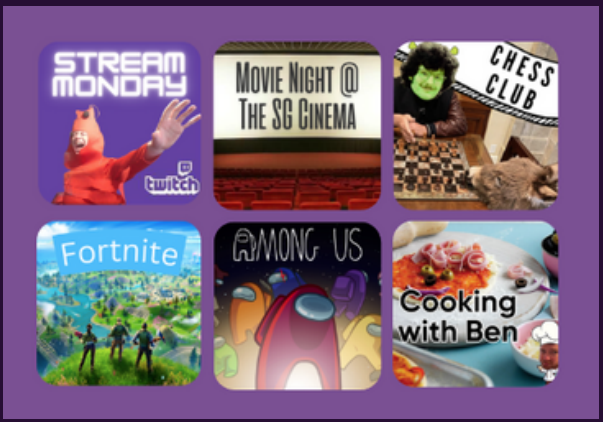
"My youngest went from having no friends and not being able to talk, to having online friends because of Spectrum Gaming. For my child SG was the first sociable space they'd been in where they felt safe, without fear of being laughed at, picked on or bullied. They're welcoming, inclusive, and often help to make new people feel welcome."

ONLINE

What began as a community to connect with like minded peers through gaming, has evolved to accommodate other wide-ranging interests of our members. Both communities continue to thrive thanks to the dedicated efforts of our staff team who continue to support young people, resolve disputes and actively engage in conversations and activities with them.

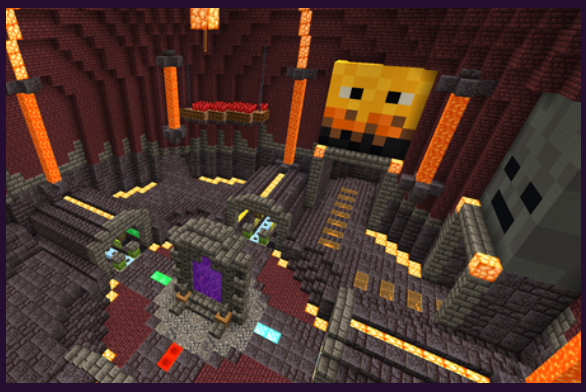
Regular online events include:

Film Nights, Chess clubs, Cooking, Trivia, Coding and Friday Night Natter, as well as group events playing their favourite games, including: Fortnite, Roblox, Among us and Minecraft.



Gaming helps support young people to:

- Socialise and learn key life skills
- Develop positive connections and find community
- Unwind and destress from managing the daily hurdles of life
- Experience a sense of achievement whilst recovering from previous negative experiences



Minecraft:

Our private Minecraft server provides a space where members have fun in a virtual world and safely practise and develop life skills. As well as collaborating on large scale community building projects, members build on individual plots of land, sourcing materials through mining, trading and making deals with “neighbours” to make efficient use of resources.

Discord:

We have two active servers, one for U13s with parent controlled accounts, and one for teenagers aged 13 and over. Young people use the servers to build connections with others, attend online events hosted by SG staff members, showcase their artwork and find others to play games with.

over 800,000
Messages sent via Discord

28,800+
Hours of play time on Minecraft

25,000
Hours spent in voice calls

FACE TO FACE

Our meetups support members in further establishing the friendships they've made online, developing strong and meaningful connections within our community. In 2023, we strengthened our in person meetups by building a network of staff and volunteers who attend meetups regularly, as well as ones who offer to be on standby or come along at short notice.

An exciting development this year was the move to a new site to host forest schools. The open space gives more opportunities for young people to explore their environment and take the lead in setting up the equipment safely.

We have increased the frequency of our meetups due to demand to once a fortnight. However, even with this increase we are still finding that sessions are often fully booked with waiting lists, suggesting that there is scope to expand these further in the next year. With the opening of our own premises in late 2024 this should allow us to offer a much higher frequency of activities.

95%
Scored the London meetups a 4 or 5 out of 5

74
Unique Meetups

557
Young people attended Manchester meetups



Another exciting development in our in person provision was our first ever Meetup Weekend in London! This was established to provide opportunity for members in the South to experience our events and meet up with other young people and the SG team. Attended by 68 young people, the weekend was packed with activities including: a visit to the transport museum, cinema, Battersea Park, trip to an arcade and more!

"Thank you so much to all the people who worked so hard and gave up their time! It was an amazing weekend for my son and just brilliant to watch all the young people connecting and having a blast"

"My favourite part was seeing my son being himself with an amazing community of people where we know he is valued. Was so lovely to see him smile."

ADVOCACY

As in previous years, advocacy remained a core focus in 2023/24. We know the impact of our work is limited unless we also focus on making the world a better place for autistic young people outside of their time with Spectrum Gaming.

Projects:

Barriers to Education:

The project, which launched in 2022 has continued into 2023 and was established as a way to find a solution to a gap Spectrum Gaming is experiencing with our work with children and families, specifically addressing the issue of persistent school absences within our community. The project aims to create a practical and aspirational toolkit that supports families, schools, and services, while acknowledging the complex demands of the education and public sectors

We held webinars to gather feedback from a variety of stakeholders about their experiences. 1,000 people booked onto the webinar within 24 hours, with a further 300 places filled within the next 5 days, showing there is a huge demand for this project.

https://padlet.com/spectrumgaming/barrierstoeducation

Autism Understood Website:

Autism Understood, a website about autism for autistic young people aged 10+ officially launched on 1st July: http://autismunderstood.co.uk

Autism Understood
by Spectrum Gaming

The website has received phenomenal feedback from parents and professionals alike, as well as young people themselves.

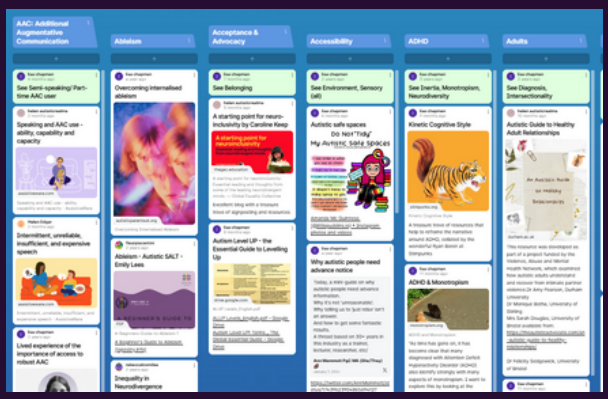
Since its launch we have had consistent traffic into the site, with up to **3,000** "new users" every week and a total of **485,000** page visits to date.

Autism and suicide:

We took the lead on creating resources around Autism and Suicide. This project came about in recognition that when autistic people are suicidal, they often avoid the services people are traditionally signposted to, and instead seek out trusted people to share how they feel. The result is a huge gap in the support for autistic people who are suicidal. We are working with Greater Manchester Autism Consortium to create resources to address that gap.

We completed a first draft of these resources in June and have had feedback from the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium for finalising this.

ADVOCACY



Autism Padlet

Working with numerous partners, we created a Padlet of neuro affirming autism resources. We now have over 500 resources listed!
https://padlet.com/spectrumgaming/AutismResources

Conferences:

Bury Council:

Bury Council's first ever Autism Conference was held in May. SG was heavily involved in the day, working with the council to co-produce the conference, with talks created and delivered by SG community members!

The aim of this day was for a wide range of professionals to learn more about topics chosen by young people. This included:

- Busting Autism Myths
- Autism in Public Places
- What schools get right
- Mental Health
- Autism & ADHD
- How Schools Should View Meltdowns



GMAC Mental Health Outdoor Conference:

We also worked with the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium to facilitate an outdoor mental health conference. We hosted two workshops:

- Hanna, our Clinical Psychologist ran a workshop on monotropism.
- 3 of our young people ran a panel, answering questions about autistic experience.

"I would just like to say a huge thank you to yourself and Spectrum Gaming for putting on such an informative day. All of the workshops were useful and I gained much insight/ new thinking from each one. It was particularly useful to hear the young persons' panel as a live capture of their voices."

TRAINING

Over the past year we are proud to report that we delivered training to participants, including parents, educators, and healthcare providers. As all of our training is autistic led and co produced with the young people in our community it offers impactful content that reflects lived experience, providing authentic and invaluable insights.

After feedback and reflection on our training sessions we were committed to providing training that was both relevant to people's interests and ensuring the sustainability for our staff team by diversifying the facilitators. In addition to running our hugely popular core offering '6 week Autism Acceptance Training' programme 2 times per year, we now offer irregular webinars on a variety of adjacent topics.

Together, our training offerings demonstrate our commitment to supporting greater understanding of the needs of autistic young people and their families. By combining foundational programs with targeted up-to-date training, we are driving greater awareness and fostering environments where autistic young people can thrive.

Our one-off webinars included:

- Unmasking Autism: My Journey delivered by Andy Smith, Creative Director
- Navigating the Paradox, supporting young people who are autistic and ADHD delivered by Kirstie McStay, Under 13 Community Manager
- Supporting Autistic Young People with Strong Feelings, delivered by Hanna Venton-Platz, Clinical Psychologist
- Monotropism and Autistic Wellbeing, delivered by Hanna Venton-Platz, Clinical Psychologist

2,100

Number of people we delivered training to in 2023

19

Number of SG webinars delivered

"Excellent. I thought that since you would be describing your struggles, there would be a lot of negative stuff in there, but you have such infectious enthusiasm for improving understanding of autistic people (especially younger people) that it was in fact a really positive experience. And your philosophy about what makes a good life should be shown to everyone - parents, professionals, friends, family and most of all, children and young people. Thank you so much."

SUPPORTERS

We wanted to issue a HUGE thank you to all those who have supported, funded and celebrated our work.

Donors

We want to say a massive thank you to donors for their ongoing support. They helped us raise **£8,934** in our 24-hour Gaming Marathon, and played a key role in enabling us to set up the new community centre - donating **£2,000** and buying us amazing gifts from our wish list!

Volunteers

Our volunteer community has supported SG getting to where it is today. The time, effort and expertise that volunteers give to our young people and SG activities is invaluable.

As of March 2024, there are 12 active volunteers who support a variety of activities across SG and five in training. We hold information sessions for new volunteers every quarter with interest gained each time.

Each volunteer gives a minimum of two hours per week to support SG, however, a large part of the volunteer group gives more than two hours per week. Activities that volunteers support include in-person events, youth work, newsletter/social media and advocacy. We are currently proactively seeking in-person volunteers to support and grow our in-person offer.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The CIO's results for the period show an overall surplus of income over expenditure of **£58,369**. The majority of the income received (**£228,413**) was restricted to fund specific activities of the charity, or to either recruit or continue the employment of staff during 2024/25.

Policies

Spectrum Gaming CIO has a full range of policies covering our services. Our policies are continually kept under review including the assessment of the major risks. The trustees aim to maintain the general level of reserves (unrestricted funds) to around three months of general expenditure. The trustees consider this to be an appropriate level.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document: Spectrum Gaming CIO is governed by its constitution dated 10th March 2021.

Trustees selection: Trustees are nominated and seconded by trustee members of Spectrum Gaming CIO

Organisation: The board of trustees administers the CIO. The board normally meets quarterly. Two Chief Officers are appointed by the trustees to manage the day-today operations of the CIO. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Officers have delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters.

Related parties: None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the CIO. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current period no such related party transactions were reported.

Pay policy for senior staff: The trustees and the Chief Officers comprise the key management personnel of the CIO in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the CIO on a daily basis. All trustees give their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the period. Details of trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 2 to the accounts. The pay of the Chief Officers is reviewed annually.

Risk management: The board of trustees have identified the major risks to which the charity is exposed. These are reviewed continually, as are the systems established to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

In preparing those accounts the trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Danny van Deurzen-Smith
Chair of Trustees
31st January 2025



Samantha Friedman
Trustee
31st January 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of Spectrum Gaming CIO for the period ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages fourteen to twenty-one.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charitable incorporated organisation's gross income exceeded £150,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable incorporated organisation and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ashton Roberts Accountancy Limited
21 Kingston Avenue
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY4 2QB

31st January 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:	*Notes*	**£**	**£**	**£**
Donations & Legacies		32,389		32,389
Contracts & Services		39,830	50,535	90,365
Grants & Trusts		-	177,878	177,878
TOTAL INCOME	***2***	**72,218**	**228,413**	**300,631**
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable Activities		9,285	232,977	242,362
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	***3***	**9,285**	**232,977**	**242,262**
Net Movement in funds		*62,933*	*(4,564)*	*58,369*
Total funds at 31st March 2023		21,388	88,130	109,518
Total funds at 31st March 2024		**84,321**	**83,566**	**167,887**

CURRENT ASSETS	*Notes*	2023 Total £	**2024 Total £**
Cash at bank and in hand		109,518	**167,887**
Total Assets less current liabilities		109,518	**167,887**

REPRESENTED BY		2023 Total £	**2024 Total £**
Restricted		88,130	**83,566**
Unrestricted		21,388	**84,321**
TOTAL FUNDS	***4***	109,518	**167,887**

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounting Policies

Charity information
Spectrum Gaming CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England and Wales. The principal address is Bartle House, Oxford Court, Manchester, M2 3WQ

Accounting convention
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with governing document of the CIO, the Charities Act 2011 and 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) (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

The CIO has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the CIO. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

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.

Incoming Resources
All income is recognised once the CIO has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Resources expended
Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and are allocated to the particular activity to which the cost relates. Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Unrestricted funds
Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the CIO without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds
Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the CIO for particular purposes.

Restricted funds
Restricted funds are to be used for a specific purpose as laid down by the donor.

Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1 - TRUSTEES

No trustees received remuneration for services rendered or were reimbursed travel expenses.

No trustee, or anyone connected with a trustee, has a material interest in any of the CIO's transactions.

Most of the trustees are parents of children and young people who have used the CIO's services and participated in events held by the CIO. All services and events were provided on the same terms and with no priority over other member's children.

One trustee's child was employed by the CIO as a youth worker in this financial period. The recruitment process was the same as for all other support staff and their relationship was unknown to the recruiting team.

2 - ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	2024			2023
DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**Total**	**Total**
Contracts	5,000	50,535	**55,535**	
General Donations	27,389		**27,389**	33,608
Mentoring	15,455		**15,455**	2,810
Professional Services	24,375		**24,375**	9,085
Grant Income		177,878	**177,878**	88,000
TOTAL	***72,218***	**228,413**	**300,631**	**133,503**

3 - TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*Total*
Advertising & Marketing	102		**102**
Audit & Accountancy fees		1,168	**1,168**
Bank Fees	223		**223**
Computing Equipment		3,165	**3,165**
Consulting	367		**367**
Direct Expenses		894	**894**
General Expenses	364	11,610	**11,974**
HR Expense		4,046	**4,046**
Insurance		292	**292**
IT Software and Consumables		11,169	**11,169**
Light, Power, Heating		95	**95**
Operating Lease Payments	100	1,705	**1,805**
PAYE Payable		33,838	**33,838**
Pensions Payable		8,430	**8,430**
Printing & Stationery	935		**935**
Rent		7,271	**7,271**
Repairs & Maintenance	3,658		**3,658**
Staff Training		2,647	**2,647**
Subscriptions		556	**556**
Telephone & Internet		401	**401**
Travel - National	*3,537*		**3,537**
Wages Payable - Payroll		145,691	**145,691**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	***9,285***	**232,977**	**242,262**

4 - MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1st April 2023	***Incoming Resources***	***Resources Expended***	***Transfers***	**Balance at 31st March 2024**
Unrestricted Funds	21,388	72,218	9,285	-	84,321
Restricted Funds	88,130	228,413	232,977	-	83,566
TOTAL FUNDS	**109,518**	**300,631**	**242,262**	**-**	**167,887**

5 - STAFF COSTS & NUMBERS

	2023	**2024**
Salaries & Wages	100,806	179,529
Employers Pension	3,502	8,429
TOTAL COSTS	**106,331**	**187,958**

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. The average number of employees during the period was 11.

6 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The charity had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2024

7 - RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

Funds Held & Name	Purpose & Restrictrion(s)	Unrestricted	Restricted
Benefact Group	Face to Face - London Meet Up	5,000	
Bury Council	Advocacy Projects		7,500
Garfield Weston	Core Staff Salaries		30,000
Great Minds Together	Clinical Psychologist Salary	4,500	15,000
NHS Greater Manchester ICB	Provision of Manchester Services	1,500	57,815
Paul Hamlyn	Online Team Staff Salaries		50,000
Tudor Trust	Staff Salaries		25,000
National Lottery Reaching Communities	Staff Salaries		41,160
Greater Manchester Sports	Manchester Meetups		1,937

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and with the charity's governing documents.

Spectrum Gaming CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and was registered with the Charity Commission on 10 March 2021. It was established to take forward the work of the registered charity, Spectrum Gaming CIO (Charity Number 1193763).

The trustees confirm that the CIO has complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. This report illustrates how the CIO delivers public benefit.

Reference and Administrative Details

CIO Name:	Spectrum Gaming CIO
Registered Number:	1193763
Registered Address	Spectrum Gaming Bartle House, Oxford Court, Manchester M2 3WQ
Trustees:	**Danny van Deurzen-Smith - Chair** (since October 2023) **Alison Egerton - Trustee** (since October 2023) **Catherine Thomson** (since October 2023) **Gareth Howe - Trustee** (since October 2023) **Jo Beaumont - Trustee** (since October 2023) **Melanie Harrison - Trustee** (since October 2023) **Dr Pia-Sophie Wool - Trustee** (since October 2023) **Dr Samantha Friedman - Trustee** (since October 2023) **Sarah-Jane Snape - Trustee** Claire Teague - Chair (Jan 23) (resigned June 2023) Andrew Smith - Trustee (resigned October 2023) Caterina Radu - Trustee (resigned October 2023) Leah Hanlon - Trustee (resigned June 2023)
Bankers	**National Westminster Bank Plc** 438 Barlow Moor Road Chorlton-Cum-Hardy Manchester
Independent Examiner	**Ashton Roberts Accountancy Limited** 21 Kingston Avenue Blackpool Lancashire FY4 2QB

SPECTRUM GAMING

England & Wales - Charity number 1193763

Accounts

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Number: 1193763

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

Period ended 31 March 2023

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and with the charity's governing documents.

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Registered Number:	1193763		
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	Alison Egerton - Trustee	(since October 2023)	
	Catherine Thomson	(since October 2023)	
	Gareth Howe - Trustee	(since October 2023)	
	Jo Beaumont - Trustee	(since October 2023)	
	Melanie Harrison - Trustee	(since October 2023)	
	Dr Pia-Sophie Wool - Trustee	(since October 2023)	
	Dr Samantha Friedman - Trustee	(since October 2023)	
	Sarah-Jane Snape - Trustee		
	Claire Harrison - Chair	(resigned Jan 2023)	
	Claire Teague - Chair (Jan 23)	(resigned June 2023)	
	Andrew Smith - Trustee	(resigned October 2023)	
	Caterina Radu - Trustee	(resigned October 2023)	
	Leah Hanlon - Trustee	(resigned June 2023)	
	Rebecca Allen - Treasurer	(resigned May 2022)	
Advisors **Bankers**	National Westminster Bank Plc 438 Barlow Moor Road Chorlton-Cum-Hardy Manchester		
Independent Examiner	Ashton Roberts Accountancy Limited 21 Kingston Avenue Blackpool Lancashire FY4 2QB		

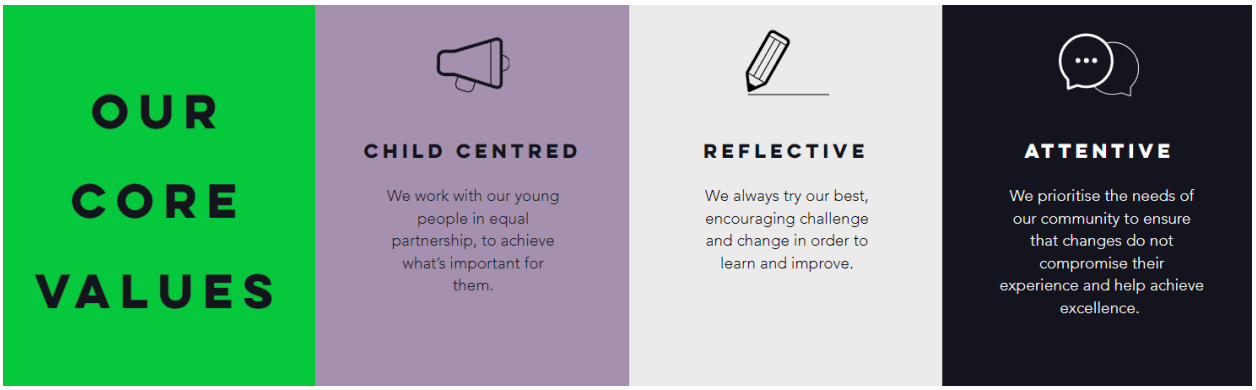
ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2023

Annual Summary

During the financial period 2022/23 Spectrum Gaming (SG) has undergone significant growth and development both internally (and our systems processes and staffing) and more externally (our services, advocacy and reach). Our list of achievements is huge, however the additional impact these changes have had on the organisation and its beneficiaries are hard to measure.

Autism and neurodiversity are 'hot topics' at the moment and are seeing a huge upsurge in public awareness. During this period more people have been diagnosed than ever before (a record 1282 diagnosis happened in May 2022, and over 14,000 autism diagnosis referrals in March 2023 - *NHS, Autism Statistics*) and therefore the demand for positive spaces for autistic/neurodivergent young people is higher than ever before.

At the beginning of 2023 we saw a near exponential increase in the amount of applications from parents and professionals seeking our services and support. This nearly pushed our organisation to breaking point, however we used it as an opportunity to reflect on our work and purpose at a strategic level, and build the infrastructure for SG to continue to grow with a demand in the future.



2022/23 Key Achievements

1. Clearer definition of our goals and values as an organisation
2. Development of a 6 unit induction course for all staff and volunteers to complete
3. An increase in our staffing team from two members of paid staff to 10 paid roles in 2023.
4. Recruited and trained a team of over 40 young members to act as online moderators supporting their peers, and representing the views of the community in server management roles.
5. The creation of a well-being program for all our staff and volunteers focused on their personal needs for greatest impact.
6. Development and implementation of a high-quality neuro-affirming 6 week training course delivered both internally (to our staff team) and publicly (to parents professionals and others that work with autistic young people)
7. Additional recognition for work locally, nationally and in some cases globally, meaning much better reach for all our advocacy projects.
8. Significant improvement to our online services, resulting in better support for all young people and increased efficiency, making the organisation more sustainable
9. Continuation and growth of our existing services, reaching a greater number of autistic young people across the whole of the UK.

The Four Service Areas



Online Services

Our online social community for autistic young people provides a safe and supportive place for members to game together, build friendships, improve self-esteem and wellbeing. It is accessible across the UK and members are supported 7 days a week by autistic youth workers and volunteers who run gaming events, facilitate interaction between like-minded peers, respond to requests for help with wellbeing and chat openly with the young people about autism.
In addition to our Discord social server, where members can connect and chat, we also have a private Minecraft server where our members can work together to build and run their own virtual society. This provides further opportunities to play and interact with peers, but also develop and practise life skills in a safe environment.

<u>Discord Server</u>
We have two active servers, one for U13s with parent controlled accounts, and one for teenagers aged 13 and over.

Our under 13 community has increased by 166 new members this year, bringing the total up to 660 in March 2023. In that time there were 350,000 messages exchanged making connections, and over 8,500 hours spent in voice calls developing friendships with others with similar life experiences.

Our teenage community increased by 200 to 444 members by March 2023. These older members navigate their social server independently from their parents, but with youth workers to support and facilitate connections and engagement between peers. Over the last year they have exchanged 400,000 messages and spent 17,000 hours socialising in voice calls.

Organised adult-led events continue to prove popular and provide additional opportunities for newer members to integrate into the community. Fortnightly Minecraft events attract up to 40 players at a time, hosting games of Among Us has become a weekly whole community event and timetabled Roblox events are the most popular with the under 13s.

Minecraft Server

This year, we have implemented systems to record the amount of engagement and trends on our server, to help us reflect and make changes when needed.

Since using this system we have recorded almost 25,000 hours of play from June 2022 to March 2023 accumulated by 500 unique young people. We've had an average of 2400 logins a week and a total of 800,000 messages sent by the young people as they played and cooperated with one another in their virtual society.

Face-to-face services

This year we have started to use booking software which allows us to collect necessary information about attendees, and also record attendance data.

During the 12 month period, Spectrum Gaming hosted 27 face-to-face events with a total of 293 attendees.

Throughout the year we have been able to offer monthly forest school sessions, split into Under13s and Teens, with a capacity for 15 in each group. These are usually fully booked, but are well staffed with qualified leaders and a team of volunteers. At present we are searching for a new quieter site to host our forest school, as currently the noise from nearby motorway traffic is overwhelming for some members.

Monthly relaxed football sessions are enjoyed by 8 - 10 young people, who appreciate the chance to play without the pressure from coaches or noise usually associated with football training.

In addition to the regular meetups, there were additional events in school holiday periods, including hiking and a Winter Wonderland experience. We continue to search for a suitable building to lease in the Bury area to create a Spectrum Gaming community centre to host a youth club and other more frequent events.

In February, two further team members completed an outdoor first aid course, which means we can now have more flexibility with staffing events.





Advocacy

Encouraging self-acceptance is a large focus for all services we provide for autistic young people. Some are newly diagnosed and just discovering what that means for them, whilst others are further in their journey of embracing being autistic and able to not only support their peers, but contribute to our advocacy projects as we strive to make changes to benefit all autistic children in the UK.

We have been able to recruit staff to focus primarily on this area of the charity's work, and so projects have advanced quite rapidly.

We have worked with our members to create guidance for parents of children being assessed for autism, which has then been reviewed by the Autism Parents UK group.
In the later half of 2022, efforts were directed towards the writing of material about Barriers to School Attendance. Our young members, of whom the majority struggle to attend school, contributed to this. Over 350 autistic young people, 150 autistic adults, 700 parents and 80 professionals joined focus groups, attended live writing sessions, had 1:1 interviews or completed surveys to share their views, and the result of this work was the launch of guides to autism and trauma, and autism and anxiety published on the website www.barrierstoeducation.co.uk
Since the start of 2023 the focus has turned to a project on behalf of Manchester NHS Foundation Trust and the Greater Manchester Autism Hub, which is the creation of a website about autism specifically aimed at newly diagnosed young autistic people. This has also been a huge collaboration between professionals and young people and we are aiming to launch https://autismunderstood.co.uk in the summer of 2023.

Training

Our inhouse staff training programme has been developed over the last 12 months, with the introduction of a compulsory induction course for all staff and volunteers, covering autism-specific information, our organisation's values and ways of working, as well as safeguarding training. In addition to this, staff have received training on topics relevant to our members including LGBTQ+, ADHD and OCD.

At the start of 2023 we ran our first external Autism Acceptance 6 week course. The series of webinars aimed at parents and professionals were designed and written with Spectrum Gaming's young members, and week 2's live public session was fully delivered by a team of 5 autistic young people themselves.
The feedback from attendees was exceptional, with professionals especially appreciative of being able to hear directly from young people and gain their perspectives on matters which impact them in education and wider society.

References

NHS, Autism Statistics - (https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/autism-statistics/july-2022-to-june-2023)

Financial Review

The CIO's results for the period show an overall deficit of income over expenditure of £13,862. The majority of the income received (£93,785) was restricted to fund specific activities of the charity, or to either recruit or continue the employment of staff during 2023/24

These results reflect the hard work and strong financial controls put in place by the trustees and management of the CIO.

Policies

Spectrum Gaming CIO has a full range of policies covering our services. Our policies are continually kept under review including the assessment of the major risks.
The trustees aim to maintain the general level of reserves (unrestricted funds) to around three months of general expenditure. The trustees consider this to be an appropriate level.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document:	Spectrum Gaming CIO is governed by its constitution dated 10th March 2021.
Trustees selection:	Trustees are nominated and seconded by parent members of Spectrum Gaming CIO
Organisation:	The board of trustees administers the CIO. The board normally meets quarterly. A Chief Officer is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-today operations of the CIO. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters.
Related parties:	None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the CIO. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current period no such related party transactions were reported.
Pay policy for senior:	The trustees and the Chief Officer comprise the key management personnel of the CIO in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the CIO on a daily basis. All trustees give their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the period. Details of trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 2 to the accounts. The pay of the Chief Officer is reviewed annually.
Risk management:	The board of trustees have identified the major risks to which the charity is exposed. These are reviewed continually, as are the systems established to mitigate those risks.

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2023

Responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

In preparing those accounts the trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies tion.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Danny van Deurzen Smith

17*th May 2024*

…….. ……

Danny van Deurzen-Smith ***Date:***
Chair of Trustees

17th May 2024

…… **……**

Samantha Friedman ***Date: 17 May 2024***
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2023

I report on the accounts of Spectrum Gaming CIO for the period ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages seven to thirteen.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charitable incorporated organisation's gross income exceeded £150,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable incorporated organisation and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ashton Roberts Accountancy Limited
21 Kingston Avenue
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY4 2QB

07 May 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:	Notes	**£**	**£**	**£**
Donations and legacies		39,718	5,785	45,503
Grants & Trusts		-	88,000	88,000
TOTAL INCOME	**2**	**39,718**	**93,785**	**133,503**
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable Activities		22,784	124,581	147,366
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**3**	**22,784**	**124,581**	**147,366**
Net movement in funds		16,934	(30,796)	(13,863)
Total funds at 31st March 2022		4,454	118,926	123,380
Total funds at 31st March 2023		21,388	88,130	109,518

BALANCE SHEET
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

			2023 Total
CURRENT ASSETS	Notes	**£**	**£**
Cash at bank and in hand		109,518	
Net Current Assets			109,518
Total Assets less current liabilities			**109,518**
REPRESENTED BY			
Restricted			88,130
Unrestricted			21,388
TOTAL FUNDS	**4**	**109,518**	

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Danny van Deurzen Smith

17th May 2024

…….. ……

Danny van Deurzen-Smith ***Date:***
Chair of Trustees

17th May 2024

……. **…….**

Samantha Friedman ***Date: 17 May 2024***
Trustee

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information

Spectrum Gaming CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England and Wales. The principal address is 9 Olsberg Close, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 2UZ.

Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with governing document of the CIO, the Charities Act 2011 and 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) (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

The CIO has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the CIO. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

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.

Incoming Resources

All income is recognised once the CIO has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and are allocated to the particular activity to which the cost relates. Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the CIO without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the CIO for particular purposes.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for a specific purpose as laid down by the donor.

Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1. TRUSTEES

No trustees received remuneration for services rendered or were reimbursed travel expenses.

No trustee, or anyone connected with a trustee, has a material interest in any of the CIO's transactions.

All the trustees are parents of children and young people who have used the CIO's services and participated in events held by the CIO. All services and events were provided on the same terms and with no priority over other member's children.

One trustee's child was employed by the CIO as a support worker in this financial period. The recruitment process was the same as for all other support staff.

2. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

		2023		*2022*
Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	*Total*
General Donations	27,823	5,785	33,608	*74,124*
Mentoring	2,810		2,810	
Professional Services	9,085		9,085	*725*
Grant Income		88,000	88,000	*91,824*
TOTAL	39,718	93,785	133,503	*166,673*

3. TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Audit & Accountancy fees	2,650	-	2,650
Bank Fees	96	-	96
Computer Equipment	1,626	-	1,626
Charitable Donations	5,495	-	5,495
Direct Expenses	410	-	410
General Expenses	2,829	2,335	5,164
IT Software & Consumables	1,575	1,982	3,557
Operating Lease	-	1125	1,125
PAYE	-	11,753	11,753
Pensions	688	2,814	3,502
Printing & Stationery	-	1,560	1,560
Repairs & Maintenance	571	-	571
Staff Training	67	3500	3,567
Subscriptions	1,759	1800	3,559
Telephone & Internet	276	-	276
Travel	1,649	-	1,649
Wages	3,093	97,712	100,806
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**22,784**	**124,581**	**147,366**

4. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1st April 2022	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31st March 2023
Unrestricted funds	4,454	39,718	22,784	-	21,388
Restricted funds	118,926	93,785	124,581	-	88,130
TOTAL FUNDS	**123,380**	**133,503**	**147,336**	**-**	**109,518**

5. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2023
Salaries and wages	21,590	100,806
Employers Pension	327	3,502
TOTAL COSTS	**21,917**	**104,308**

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. The average number of employees during the period was 7.

6. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The charity had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2023.

7. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

Funds Held & Name	**Purpose & Restriction(s)**
Bury Council	Advocacy Projects
Tudor Trust	Staff Salaries
National Lottery Community Fund	Staff Salaries

SPECTRUM GAMING

England & Wales - Charity number 1193763

Accounts

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Number: 1193763

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

Period ended 31 March 2022

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and with the charity's governing documents.

Spectrum Gaming CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and was registered with the Charity Commission on 10 March 2021. It was established to take forward the work of the registered charity, Spectrum Gaming CIO (Charity Number 1193763).

The trustees confirm that the CIO has complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. This report illustrates how the CIO delivers public benefit.

Reference and administrative details

CIO Name:	Spectrum Gaming CIO
Registered Number:	1193763
Registered Address:	9 Olsberg Close Radcliffe Manchester M26 2UZ
Trustees:	Claire Harrison - Chair (resigned Jan 2023) Claire Teague - Trustee (currently Interim Chair since Jan 23) Andrew Smith - Trustee Sarah-Jane Snape - Trustee Leah Hanlon - Trustee Caterina Radu - Trustee Rebecca Allen - Treasurer (resigned May 2022)

Advisors

Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 438 Barlow Moor Road Chorlton-Cum-Hardy Manchester M21 0NW
Independent Examiner	Zen Chartered Accountants ICAEW Park House 10 Park Street Bristol BS1 5HX

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

Objectives and activities

The charity's main mission is to create a world where autistic young people can reach their true potential. We aim to create a world where every autistic child knows that who they are is ok and they can be themselves, whilst still developing meaningful relationships and achieving their personal goals. We do this by providing spaces where they feel safe and accepted, amongst others with similar shared lived experiences, and opportunities to explore who they are. We want all autistic young people to have the strength and confidence to find their place in the world that works for them. In many cases this means influencing wider strategic changes to create an environment that is more understanding and equitable.

We want to provide an active support network for young people who identify as autistic (working outside any current red-tape that may exist), that can help them understand themselves and help shape the world around them.

This will be done through the following four main ideas.

Connection – We know the importance of connection with like-minded peers who understand you and who you can be yourself around. We hope to help young people to develop strong, real connections in our community.

Understanding - We have personal experience of autism and some of the challenges that autistic young people face. We can use this experience and true empathy to guide and nurture our community members who benefit from our knowledge and experiences. In addition to running our community, we become role models and mentors.

Advocacy - We want to create a movement that will have a positive influence on society through advocacy, and enable strategic change to ensure the needs of autistic young people are met across the UK.

Space - We want to create as many places as possible that empower autistic young people, not limit their experience. We will start with our own spaces and then work to change the world around us.

The Services we Offer:

Online Services - We provide a safe space online supervised by trusted adults where young people can explore, connect and grow with others.

Face-to-Face Services - We offer opportunities for young people to meet with others and undertake positive activities together.

Advocacy - We work with our young people, parents and partners to identify the priorities of young people and create proactive projects/ resources that address these priorities.

Training - We offer training and guidance to those who need it most, and build a community who share our passion and vision to create change.

Achievements and Performance

The organisation was formed in May 2020 in response to the isolation of autistic young people during the UK coronavirus lockdown. The community started with 10 young people and quickly expanded to 100's. During this time we opened both of our online Discord servers (one for teenagers, and one for younger children), and our private Minecraft Server, all of which have now had 1000's of young people access them.

2020 saw the start of the organisation as a small community group, however 2021 was the birth of the charity and set the foundations for who we wanted to be and what we wanted to achieve.

During this year we were successful in receiving funding to further the growth of the organisation, initially from Tudor Trust to employ a Creative Director to lead the vision and direction of the charity, and a Support Lead to work directly with our young people online. Later in the year we also were successful in receiving National Lottery funding to employ 3 further staff to support the running of the charity, namely a Volunteer Manager, General Manager and a Face-to-Face Coordinator, to be employed in Q2 2022.

Further funding was received from Bury Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to fund both some of the charities core costs, and directly increase and improve our offer to young people. This funding allowed us to run a series of face-to-face meet-ups for young people across Greater Manchester and beyond, create additional capacity for young people to play on our private Minecraft server, and ensure our staff team can receive the best level of training and support.

Finally we were also fortunate to receive funding to continue our advocacy work for autistic young people. After several successful and widely read projects and reports, we received funding to recruit two 'Changemakers' who would lead our future advocacy projects based on the issues most relevant to our young people.

In regards to the services we offered to young people. One of the most impactful and easily measurable is that of our face-to-face service. Over this period we ran over 75 face-to-face meet-ups, accessible to members of our community from all over the UK, these included:

- 20 gaming sessions between March and July
- 26 Forest School sessions
- Trainspotting meetups
- Hikes
- Days out at the park
- A trip to an Arcade Club
- Football meetups
- Nerf gun war days
- 18 additional meetups over the Summer holidays for 102 different young people (total attendance was 215) which included rock climbing, gaming sessions, a 'fun in the wood' session and a cinema trip

Some feedback from our members about the meet-ups:

"They make me actually want to go outside"

"I have made friends from the server then actually met them in real life. It has been great to meet so many nice people"

"The meetups are a nice break from the stress of life, it is the one place I can relax"

The impact and reach of our online services is more difficult to measure, but over the same period our online Discord servers and Minecraft server were used by over 1000 unique young people, with hundreds of thousands of messages being sent between them, and tens of thousands of minutes of voice calls between our young people. In this community we ran 128 events online for young people which were attended by 1,100 young people.

Beyond the view of our public services hundreds of our young people have developed close personal friendships with other young people through our services, and their feedback describes Spectrum Gaming better than we ever could.

"It's impossible to put into words. Meeting other kids and feeling part of something great has had a massive impact"

"A way to get away from stress like school"

"I have a lot of fun and I make friends"

"It's life changing. Its so brilliant to find somewhere that is inclusive"

To support all these services we expanded our voluntary team, recruiting 29 volunteers to support all aspects of the charity from administration, meet-up volunteers and online support staff. They have all taken part in a wide range of training including safeguarding, suicide prevention, trauma and online safety.

Last but definitely not least we undertook a huge range of research and advocacy activities, based on what our young people told us their priorities and areas of greatest need were. One of the largest ongoing projects is the "Autism Information Project" which seeks to provide helpful and easily navigable information for autistic young people post diagnosis. Currently this process can be quite traumatic with very little practical resources or information. Around 135 young people provided their views about autism to feed into this project.

With the help of the community we've also created several youtube videos about autism from the perspective of young people such as our "Good to be Me!", "Autism in 60 seconds" and "Autism Acceptance" which have been viewed over 30 thousand times. We also started working on some large scale projects with the support of parents, professionals and young people to create updated guidance on supporting autistic young people in education, with support from several local authorities who have agreed to update their policies and practice based on our recommendations.

In summary April 2021 to March 2022 have seen an almost exponential growth in Spectrum Gaming, the number of young people we have supported and the future trajectory of the charity. We are amazingly proud and grateful for all the support we have received from the community and our funders, and are so grateful for them sharing our vision to make the world a better place for all autistic young people, and somewhere they can truly reach their own potential.

Financial Review

The CIO's results for the period show an overall surplus of income over expenditure of £123,380. The surplus this period includes income totalling £166,673 which has been donated and raised to fund the operation of the organisation and the recruitment of staff in the following financial year. The majority of the income received (£149,867) was restricted to fund specific activities of the charity, or to recruit several new staff members in 2022/23.

These results reflect the hard work and strong financial controls put in place by the trustees and management of the CIO.

Policies

Spectrum Gaming CIO has a full range of policies covering our services. Our policies are continually kept under review including the assessment of the major risks.
The trustees aim to maintain the general level of reserves (unrestricted funds) to around three months of general expenditure. The trustees consider this to be an appropriate level.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document:	Spectrum Gaming CIO is governed by its constitution dated 10th March 2021.
Trustees selection:	Trustees are nominated and seconded by parent members of Spectrum Gaming CIO
Organisation:	The board of trustees administers the CIO. The board normally meets quarterly. A Chief Officer is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-today operations of the CIO. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters.
Related parties:	None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the CIO. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current period no such related party transactions were reported.
Pay policy for senior staff:	The trustees and the Chief Officer comprise the key management personnel of the CIO in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the CIO on a daily basis. All trustees give their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the period. Details of trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 2 to the accounts. The pay of the Chief Officer is reviewed annually.
Risk management:	The board of trustees have identified the major risks to which the charity is exposed. These are reviewed continually, as are the systems established to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

In preparing those accounts the trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies tion.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Teague

23rd February 2023

…….. ……

Claire Teague ***Date:***
Chair of Trustees

R. Catrina

23rd February 2023

……. ……

Caterina Radu ***Date:***
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

I report on the accounts of Spectrum Gaming CIO for the period ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages seven to thirteen.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charitable incorporated organisation's gross income exceeded £150,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable incorporated organisation and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Zen Chartered Accountants
ICAEW
Park House
10 Park Street
Bristol
BS1 5HX

15 November 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds
		£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies		16,806	149,867	166,673
Total income	***3***	16,806	149,867	166,673
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities		12,352	30,941	43,293
Total expenditure	***4***	12,352	30,941	43,293
Net movement in funds		4,454	118,926	123,380
Total funds at 10 March 2021		-	-	-
Total funds at 31 March 2022		4,454	118,926	123,380

BALANCE SHEET
Spectrum Gaming CIO
Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	£	2022 Total £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		126,584	

Current liabilities			
PAYE/NI		415	
Pension Control accounts		323	
Net wages payable		2,466	

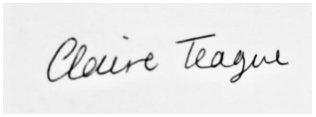
		3,204	

Net current assets			123,380

Total assets less current liabilities			123,380
			=======
Represented by:			
Funds:			
Restricted			118,926
Unrestricted			4,454

Total funds	***5***		123,380
			=======

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



23rd February 2023

…….. ……

Claire Teague ***Date:***
Chair of Trustees



23rd February 2023

…….. ……

Caterina Radu ***Date:***
Trustee

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information
Spectrum Gaming CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England and Wales. The principal address is 9 Olsberg Close, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 2UZ.

Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with governing document of the CIO, the Charities Act 2011 and 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) (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

The CIO has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the CIO. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

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.

Incoming Resources
All income is recognised once the CIO has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Resources expended
Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and are allocated to the particular activity to which the cost relates. Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Unrestricted funds
Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the CIO without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds
Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the CIO for particular purposes.

Restricted funds
Restricted funds are to be used for a specific purpose as laid down by the donor.

Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1. TRUSTEES

No trustees received remuneration for services rendered or were reimbursed travel expenses.

No trustee, or anyone connected with a trustee, has a material interest in any of the CIO's transactions.

All the trustees are parents of children and young people who have used the CIO's services and participated in events held by the CIO. All services and events were provided on the same terms and with no priority over other member's children.

One trustee's child was employed by the CIO as a support worker in this financial period. The recruitment process was the same as for all other support staff.

2. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
Donations and legacies			
Other donations	3,033	60,000	63,033
Donations	9,833	1,258	11,091
Professional services	725	-	725
Grant Income	3,215	88,609	91,824
TOTAL	16,806	149,867	166,673

3. TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds Funds	2022 Total
Member Gifts/Prizes	663	-	663
Subcontractor Costs	213	-	213
Entry / Activity Fee	2,323	-	2,323
Other Equipment Purchase	-	1,779	1,779
Digital Media / Service	143	-	143
Minecraft Server	-	1,037	1,037
Other Gaming Service	110	-	110
Web Hosting	-	945	945
Computer Software	598	-	598
Computer Hardware	4,747	-	4,747
Office Equipment	-	1,195	1,195
Stationery	19	-	20
Licenses and Permits	1,069	-	1,069
Miscellaneous	(131)	-	(131)
Auto Expenses	77	-	77
Meals	471	-	471
Accommodation	285	-	285
Advertising and Promotion	183	-	183
Legal and Professional Fees	334	-	334
Books and Journals	189	-	189
Subscriptions	602	-	602
Bank/Finance Charges	44	-	44
Travel	412	-	412
Service Provider	-	210	210
Accountancy	-	361	361
Staff Training	-	3,496	3,496
Salary Expense	-	21,589	21,590
Pension costs	-	327	327
	12,352	30,940	43,294

4. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 10 March 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
Unrestricted funds	-	16,806	12,352	-	4,454
Restricted funds	-	149,867	30,941	-	118,926
TOTAL FUNDS	-	166,673	43,293	-	123,380

5. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022
Salaries and wages	21,590
Employers Pension	327
	21,917

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. The average number of employees during the period was 2.

6. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The charity had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2022.

7. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

Funds Held & Name	**Purpose & Restriction(s)**
Bury Council	Staff Training
Pathways Associates	Advocacy Projects
Encompass Psychology	Advocacy Projects
Tudor Trust	Staff Salaries
National Lottery Community Fund	Staff Salaries
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Staff Salaries & Operating Costs
Gregson Family Foundation	Advocacy Projects
Cllr Debbie Quinn	Equipment Purchases