

Learn and Thrive

England & Wales · Charity number 1195053

Details

Other names	TEACH ME TOO, TM2
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2021-07-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	265 Maidstone Road Gillingham Kent ME8 0HA
Phone	0300 102 4553
Email	contact@learnandthrive.org.uk
Website	www.learnandthrive.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE CHARITY IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC ARE TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DOWNS SYNDROME AND SIMILAR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PROVIDING ACCESS TO SPECIALIST TEACHERS AND THERAPISTS THROUGH DIGITAL CONTENT AND OTHER RESOURCES.

Activities: We create accessible, evidence-based learning resources that give families and professionals the tools they need to teach vital life skills - from staying safe to building relationships and independence. Helping more communities access high-quality, inclusive education, so every young person can live a more independent, connected, and safer life

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£110,768	£172,998	-	-
2024-03-31	£177,550	£142,645	-	-
2023-03-31	£141,965	£86,846	-	-
2022-03-31	£117,387	£20,750	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrea Melanie Wilson		2021-07-05
Clair Smith		2024-03-12
Kate Rosanna Taylor		2021-09-22
Maja Trninic		2024-03-12
Nicola Walker		2021-07-05

Learn and Thrive

England & Wales - Charity number 1195053

Accounts



Annual Report

2024-2025

Learn^{and} Thrive

We are a UK charity dedicated to **empowering individuals** with Down's syndrome and/or other special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to lead **safer, more connected, and independent lives.**

Individuals with learning difficulties often experience significantly poorer life outcomes, including early mortality, social isolation, abuse, and a diminished sense of autonomy. Meanwhile, the families and professionals supporting them frequently lack the necessary guidance and tools to provide meaningful assistance.

These challenges are not unavoidable; they stem from a system that continues to ignore their rights, voices, and potential.

Learn and Thrive collaborates with charities, schools, and families to ensure that our community has access to the specialised support and education they need to flourish. **From fostering relationships to promoting physical well-being, our community deserves the opportunity to live life on their own terms,** and we are here to equip them with the resources required to achieve that.

Vision

A world where everyone with Down's syndrome thrives.

Mission

Using digital tools to empower people with Down's syndrome to thrive throughout their lives.

About Us

Learn and Thrive aims to foster a world where individuals with Down's syndrome and SEND can flourish. Here are our two key projects that contribute to this mission.



Teach Me Too

This COVID-inspired initiative, backed by speech and language therapists along with specialist teachers, brings specialist teaching and therapy into the home or classroom. It focuses on instilling confidence in delivering specialised teaching support in the early years.

Learning for Life

Inspired by the unique challenges encountered by our community, Learning for Life is anchored in the Relationship and Sex Education curriculum. It equips individuals with the essential teaching and practical skills needed to grow up safer, happier, and actively engaged in their communities.



Supporting over **35,400** children and young people

How We Create Change

Enabling independence

Empowering safer lives

Creating connection

We all deserve to live safe and connected lives where our voice shapes our future

Partnership work

Skills

Information

Specialised learning tools and projects

Education Staff

Professionals Support Network

Parents and Carers

Community Groups

Children and young people (0-25) - Down's syndrome & SEND/ALN

Loneliness and social exclusion: 1 in 3 people with a learning disability spend less than an hour a day outside their home on a typical Saturday*

Abuse and neglect: People with learning difficulties remain disproportionately at risk of abuse, neglect, and having their rights ignored—systemic failures persist in services meant to support them. **

Lack of support for supporters: Families/teachers/caregivers are unequipped and unsupported, lacking the knowledge and tools needed to help people with learning difficulties live safe, autonomous, and fulfilling lives.

Premature and preventable deaths: People with learning disabilities die, on average, 20 years earlier than the general population, often from avoidable causes. ***

What

Families, educators, community groups and carers are supported to teach and deliver the skills needed for children to live safer and more connected lives. Children and young people's confidence, knowledge, and skills improve

Who

Educators access to specialist content increases, giving them more time to deliver face-to-face support

Learn and Thrive projects delivered giving high quality specialist support

Co-production with our community increasing opportunities

Why

People with learning difficulties face significantly poorer outcomes in life—including early death, isolation, abuse, and a loss of autonomy—while the families and professionals around them are too often left without the guidance and tools needed to offer meaningful support.

These failures are not inevitable; they reflect a system that continues to overlook their rights, voices, and potential.

*Care Quality Commission; The Guardian **Mencap; Parliament Committee. ***NHS England; King's College London Full references available upon request



Chair Report

It's been another year of real progress and purpose at Learn and Thrive. As Chair, I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together—continuing to unlock potential and provide meaningful learning opportunities for young people with Down's Syndrome.

Expanding Our Reach

This year, we've grown the number of families using our resources significantly. **We have reached over 35,400** children and young people—testament to both the quality of our content and a growing recognition of its impact.

Content and Innovation

We've launched several new video series this year, focused on **pre-number maths skills, relationships, and healthy lifestyles**, developed in close collaboration with educators and families. The response has been extremely positive, with parents sharing stories of progress and growing confidence in their children.

We've also been piloting new interactive tools to support more personalised learning and are continuing to invest in feedback and co-creation, ensuring the next wave of content is even more **relevant and engaging**.

Fundraising and Support

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the commitment of our partners, we've secured over £140,000 in funding this year.

A sincere **thank you** to everyone who has contributed—your support helps us continue building a future in which young people with Down's Syndrome are supported to thrive, not just get by.

Strategic Growth

This year, we laid strong foundations for our next phase of growth. We've welcomed new expertise to both our board and delivery team, and we're now well placed to **extend our reach** across the UK—particularly in areas where access to high-quality learning content is limited.

Partnerships and Profile

Our relationships with schools, NHS trusts, and third-sector organisations have continued to grow. These partnerships remain central to our work, and we're proud to be recognised as a **trusted, forward-thinking partner** in inclusive education.

We were also pleased to contribute to several national events focused on inclusion and digital learning, and we're exploring further opportunities for collaboration and wider influence.

As we look back over the year, it's clear that **Learn and Thrive is more than just a name**—it's what we witness every day in the lives of the young people and families we work with.

To our brilliant team, our board, our partners and funders, and to the families who inspire us: thank you. Your dedication and belief in what we're building is what makes our work possible.

Here's to another year of learning, growing and thriving—together.

Nikki Walker
Chair of Trustees



CEO Summary

This year has been one of both remarkable progress and resilience for Learn and Thrive. Against the backdrop of a challenging funding climate and increasing pressure on the sector, we have not only sustained our work—we have grown it. **Over 35,400 children and young people have benefited from our resources**, which continue to be offered entirely **free of charge**. Through projects that span from early learning to relationships and life skills, our work has empowered families, professionals, and young people with the tools they need to thrive—not just cope.

Our strength lies in our community. In 2024/25, **80% of our projects were co-produced** or directly informed by the people we serve. We've **deepened partnerships** with expert charities such as Down Syndrome Cheshire, Down's Syndrome Scotland, and the Down's Syndrome Association, **expanded youth panel** input, and **brought lived experience to the forefront of our content**. This approach keeps us grounded, relevant, and continually learning. Our ability to adapt, innovate, and grow despite wider sector challenges is a testament to the **resilience, passion, and shared purpose of everyone involved in our mission**.

I want to give special thanks to our incredible board of trustees and the dedicated volunteers—both with and without learning needs—who are at the heart of our work. **Your commitment ensures that Learn and Thrive remains not just a charity, but a community**.

As we look ahead, we remain firmly values-led, committed to accessibility, and focused on building a sustainable future where every child can live a safe and connected life.

Chief Executive Officer



Year in Review



Teach Me Too now has **2082 users**, and is averaging 79 new users monthly! Working alongside Maths for Life, the series 'Maths Before Numbers' tackles pre-number skills, including colours, shapes, comparisons, and categorisations. This development has supported a **43% increase in sign ups** compared to last year.

We're reaching children across settings, with **64%** of our beneficiaries in mainstream settings, and **28%** in specialist, as well as those pre-school and in home school. As we streamline our digital offer, we've moved Teach Me Too to the main website and since its inception, **4558** members have accessed the project.



They have changed our SALT so much for the better. I can't thank you enough. She is more confident in communicating

Nicholas Baker, Parent



Reaching 20,055* children with Down's syndrome and other learning differences

Year in Review



Stage One of our curriculum is now well underway, with plans to **complete in 2025/26**. Learning for Life continues to flourish and grow with the support and input from our community to enhance our offer, including a new series on consent and decision making, bereavement, sexual feelings. An **additional 120 members join this project monthly**.

Co-production of content has been a key strategic goal this year, **involving members of our community** in the filming of our new series. These include:

- How To... Be Healthy
- Families
- Understanding Health and Prevention

“What you do is really unique and is such a powerful resource. I can't do our afternoon sessions without you now!”

Lucy McLaren, Employment & Life Skills Coordinator at DS Cheshire



Reaching 15,435* young people with Down's syndrome and other learning differences



Treasurer's Report

The financial year ending 31 March 2025 was a year of both growth and adaptation for Learn and Thrive. While the **fundraising environment remained challenging**, we were pleased to see increasing success in our applications to trusts and foundations, a reflection of our growing reputation and track record. Although one of our long-standing major donors was unable to continue their support this year due to relocating overseas, we have made significant progress in **diversifying** our funding base to ensure long-term sustainability.

During this 12-month period, Learn and Thrive generated an income of £110,768, compared to £177,550 in the previous year. Of this, £64,850 came from grants and trusts—almost doubling our income from this stream compared to the previous year—while £45,519 came from individual supporters. Our total expenditure was £172,998, with our largest investments continuing to be in direct wages and outsourced content development to **meet the growing needs of our community**. This resulted in a planned deficit, which reflects our commitment to continued impact during a period of transition in our income strategy.

We ended the year with unrestricted reserves of £75,200 (£69,278 in the previous year) and restricted reserves of £49,230 (£117,382 in the previous year). Following a review of our reserves policy in light of increased financial visibility, we updated our target reserves level from 6–9 months of expenditure (£110,000) to 4–6 months (£75,000–£109,000). I'm pleased to confirm that our current reserves remain within this target range, **ensuring operational stability**. However, we recognise the need for vigilance, and securing long-term income remains a strategic priority. With a clear funding plan in place for 2025/26—focused on corporate partnerships, trust income growth, and project-specific donations—we are confident in our ability to **strengthen our financial position and continue delivering high-quality, free resources** to those who need them most.


Treasurer

Safeguarding

Not only is safeguarding a key element of our teaching, and impact of our work, but it is fundamental within the charity's operations.

Learning for Life

Safeguarding is a core theme of this project. Supporting learners, professionals, and families to identify unsafe situations and access the right support.

Policies & Procedures

Comprehensive and frequently updated safeguarding policies that align with current legal standards and best practices.

Recruitment

Background checks and safeguarding protocols are implemented to guarantee the appropriateness of all individuals engaged with us, including current DBS checks.

Training

All staff, volunteers, and trustees are required to complete mandatory safeguarding training to effectively recognise and address any concerns.

Reporting & Support

Transparent and accessible reporting systems are established to guarantee prompt and appropriate actions are taken, along with support for all parties involved.



Our Impact

We are currently assisting thousands of individuals through our various projects. This year, we have continued to prioritise co-production seeing many of our community star and produce our materials.

2082

active users in Teach Me Too

3508

active users in Learning for Life



Action	Result
Including members of our community in production of content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with 21 Together, Tailfeather Dance, Down's Syndrome Scotland, Down Syndrome North East 80% of projects released in 2024 feature our community
Reinvigorating Teach Me Too project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released our first series in the project in over 3 years Partnered with Maths for Life to fill a gap in our existing offer within the EYFS curriculum
Continue growing the Learning for Life project and user base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three new series developed and released 63% of our total users registered in the Learning for Life project 71% increase in membership year on year

Existing content ————— New content

27h 34m

8h 22m

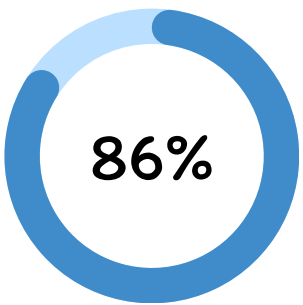
+23%

Our Impact

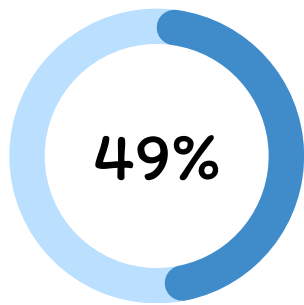
As our projects are **free** to all, with no eligibility criteria, we have a wide range of users, from the UK and beyond, who are parents, carers, teachers, social workers, occupational therapists and more.

“ He really enjoys the videos and is more chatty now... His self esteem is growing
-Line Jones, Professional ”

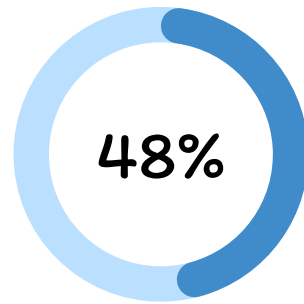
We cover an increasing range of topics. All of our work is informed directly by the lived experience of our partners and co-producers.



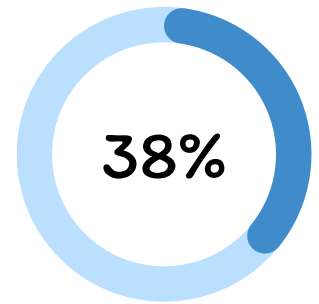
of our users live in the **United Kingdom**, with 89% of these users living in England



of our beneficiaries attend a **specialist setting**, across all age groups. 43% are in mainstream.



of our users are **Teachers and Teaching Assistants**



of our users are **Parents and Carers**

We create resources **supporting the challenges our community face:**

- Understanding of public and private
- Appropriate touch
- Healthy lifestyles
- Respectful and fulfilling friendships
- Emotional regulation
- Puberty and growing up
- Personal hygiene
- Mental wellbeing

“ I have never seen such excellent resources for puberty... the parents feel so supported and are seeing a massive difference in their child
Debbie Austerlitz, SENCO ”

Our Impact

Reaching an estimated **35,400** children and young people, through use of our resources at home, in schools, and in support groups, is a point of pride for us all at Learn and Thrive. What's also crucially important is the real life impact and quality of our work on those with Down's syndrome and SEND.

154

videos and 280
resources

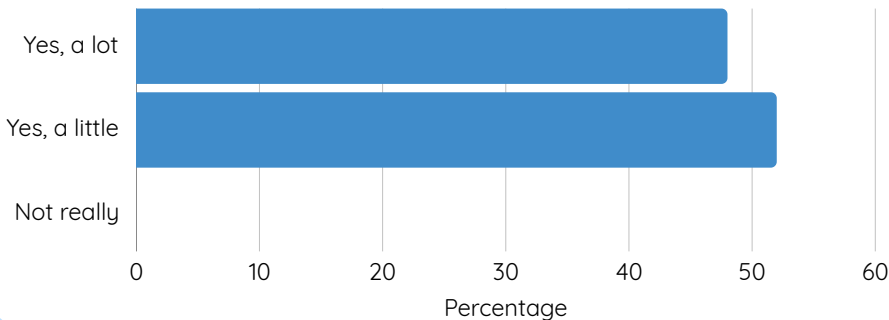
26,305

downloads of our
resources

35+

hours of free
video content

Has this project helped improve the learner's skills or confidence?



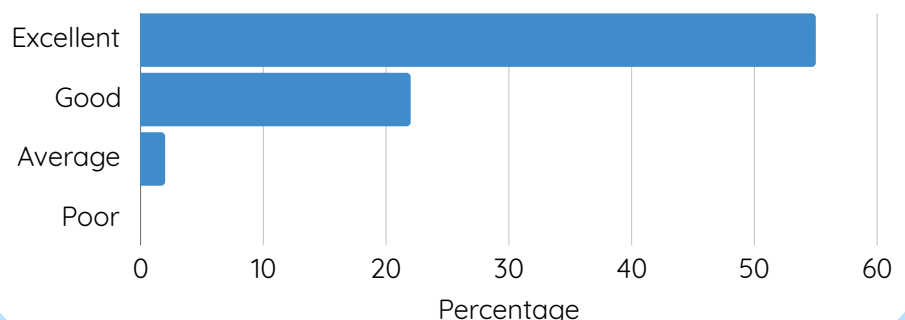
“ The kids started taking autonomy for saying ‘no, that’s private’. So that was such a breakthrough. ”
Susan Ainsworth,
Teacher



Average rating for our projects is 4.6 stars

“ I’m just learning all about life, and I’m just thriving... it’s really life-changing. ”
Maya Patil,
Ambassador and beneficiary

How would you rate the overall quality of the projects?

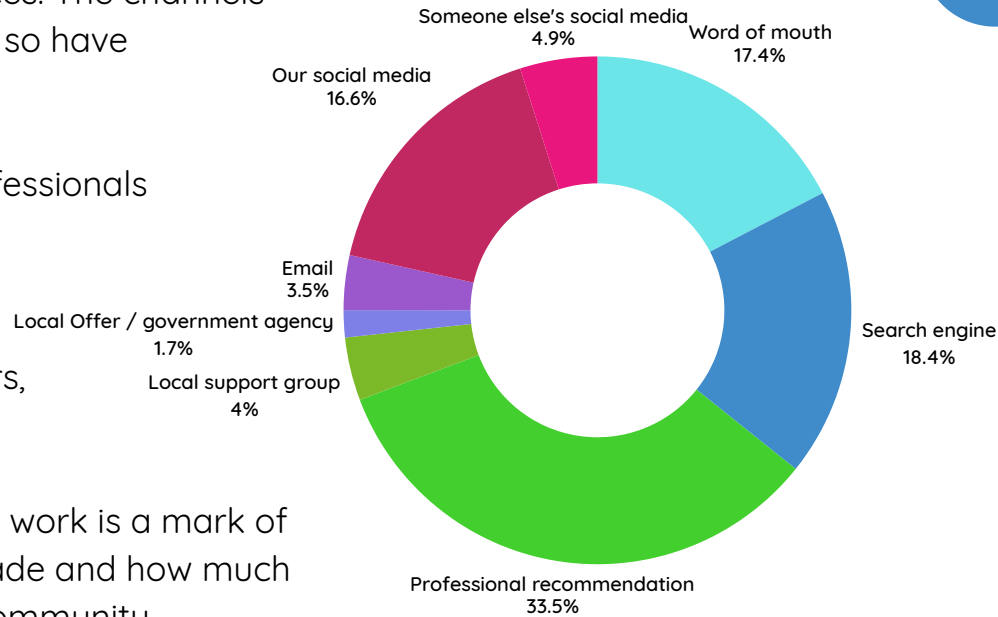


Our Reach

As our marketing efforts have increased year on year, we've been able to reach more parents and educators in need of our resources. The channels through which we are able to do so have **constantly increased**.

We are pleased to note that professionals recommend us consistently. **51%** of our users are directed to our charity by others in their communities and supporters, including professionals.

The positive endorsement of our work is a mark of the incredible progress we've made and how much our content is required for our community.



44,632

Unique users using our website

+106.11%

from previous year

185

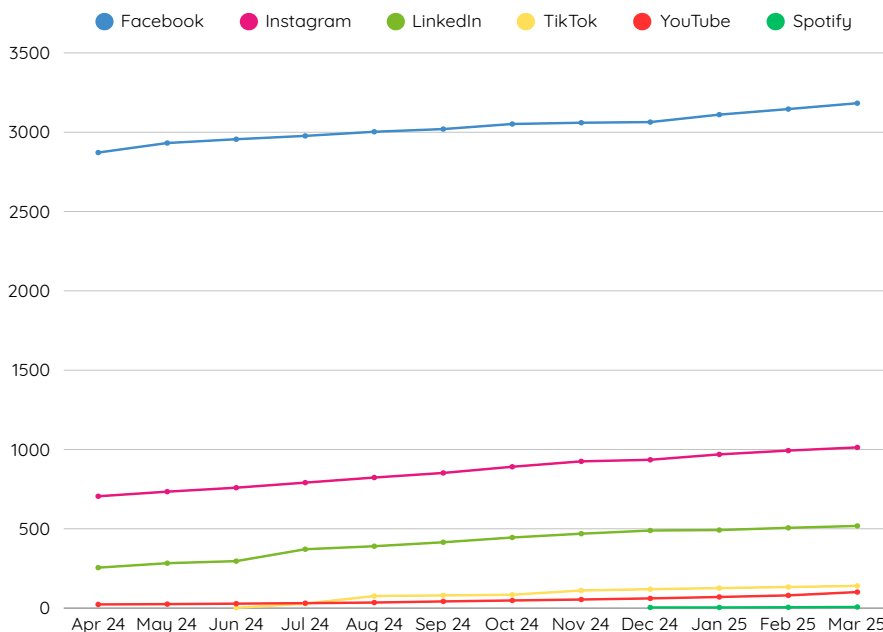
Countries where our website is being accessed

330,128

Total webpage views

+150.95%

from previous year



Social Media

In 2024 we shifted our social media strategy, and have adopted more video content across Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. Our new podcast, Life Skills Unfiltered, has been shared across our new Spotify profile and on YouTube. We hit several milestones this year, including **3000** Facebook followers, **1000** Instagram followers, and **100** followers on LinkedIn and YouTube. On average, we reached **over 6000 users per month** across all of our social media.

Our Reach

Now in our third year, we have been able to focus more efforts on reaching a larger number of users, and therefore children and young people as a result. Due to our users being made up of only **38% parent/carers**, the remaining users are professionals who reach, on average, **4.4 learners per person**.

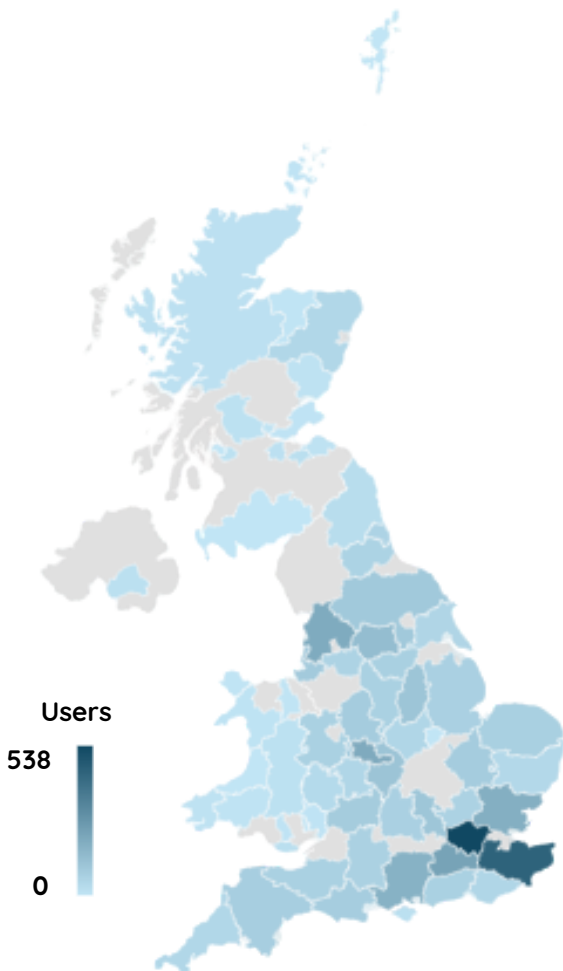
35,490

children and young people reached since our projects began

While we still see the legacy of our Southeast base, we have seen a larger number of people signing up to our projects outside of this area. Not only this, but compared to the previous year, our overall numbers are considerably higher. For example, in Greater London, our uptake has increased from **154 to 538** thanks to the support of the **City Bridge Foundation**.

49%

of local offers signpost to us



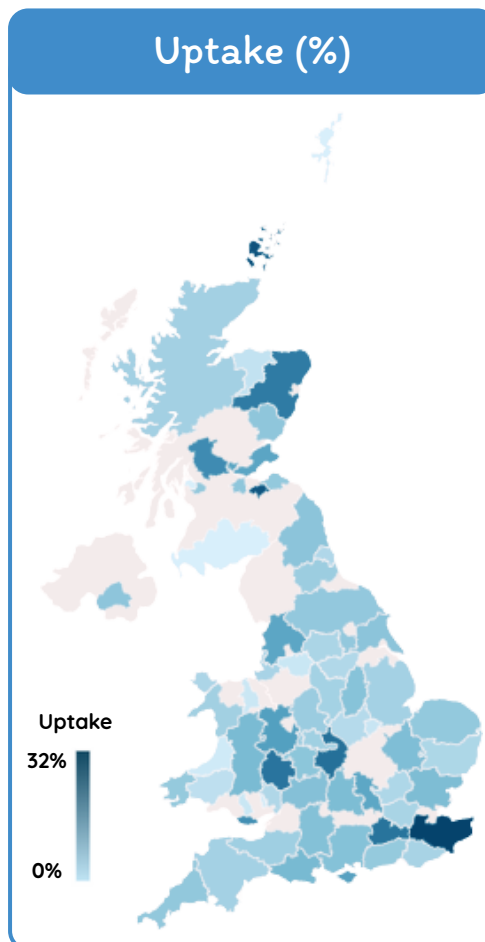
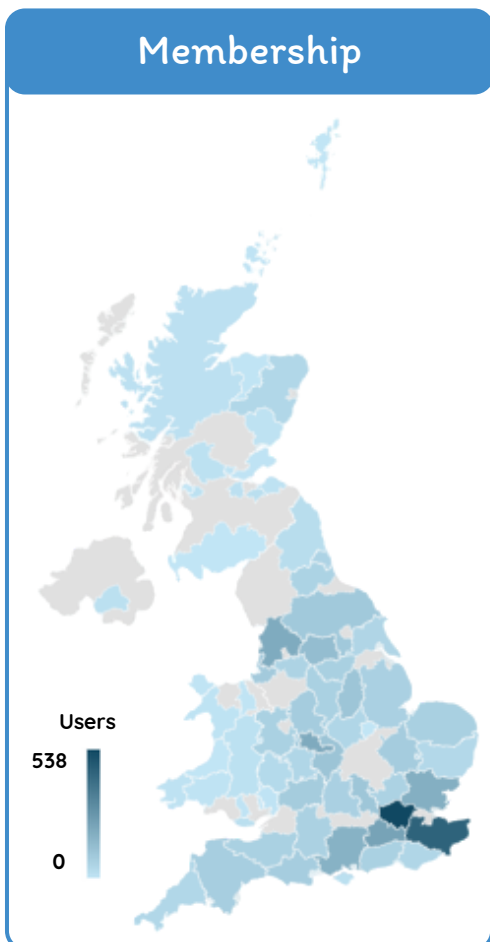
Top 10 Counties - Members

Greater London	538
Kent	446
Surrey	225
West Midlands	202
Lancashire	199
Essex	185
Hampshire	175
Cheshire	167
West Yorkshire	136
Warwickshire	112

Our Uptake

Taking into consideration our reach across the UK, we have undertaken further analysis to better assess the uptake** of our projects. We have used, somewhat limited, national data on prevalence of Down's syndrome to extrapolate an estimated population of **individuals we could be supporting** in each county across the UK.

This new data, when compared to membership numbers, shows us clearly that while the Southeast remains an area of high uptake, our uptake is **spreading across the UK** thanks to our focus on working with local groups, local authorities, and regional marketing. This is demonstrated by the two heatmaps below, alongside our Top 10 counties by uptake in the Down's syndrome community.



Top 10 Counties - Uptake

Kent	32%
Orkney	30%
Midlothian	29%
Londonderry	27%
Warwickshire	26%
Surrey	25%
Herefordshire	25%
County Tyrone	24%
Aberdeenshire	24%
Stirling	21%

**using a ratio of 1/865 individuals with Down's syndrome in the UK, and taking 65% of these to be between the ages of 3-25, we calculate an estimated population with Down's syndrome in each county. Uptake is a percentage of this population.

Meeting the Challenge of Sustainable Funding

This year, Learn and Thrive has faced increasing pressure on our funding model, reflecting a wider national trend. According to the CAF UK Giving Report 2024, fewer individuals are giving to charity and the average donation has fallen, with smaller organisations disproportionately affected.¹ **Unlike many in our sector, we continue to provide our high-quality resources entirely free of charge**—an approach rooted in our commitment to equity and access for all families and professionals supporting children with learning difficulties.

To safeguard this model in an increasingly challenging environment, we are **actively diversifying our income**. With our foundation in trust funding now more established, we are building stronger applications for larger multi-year grants. We are also placing a renewed focus on **corporate partnerships**, seeking long-term alignment with organisations that share our values and commitment to social impact. Alongside this, we are exploring the use of **targeted donation campaigns** to fund individual projects, helping supporters connect more directly with the impact of their giving.

In the year ahead, we will assess the viability of a subscription-based resource for professionals—a project designed to offer added value to schools while generating sustainable income to underpin our free content. As we adapt, we remain guided by our core belief: **that all children deserve the tools to thrive, regardless of background or diagnosis**. Our aim is to ensure that our model remains both values-led and financially resilient.

References

¹ Charities Aid Foundation (2024). CAF UK Giving Report 2024.

Demonstrating Impact as an Infrastructure Charity

As an infrastructure charity, one of our ongoing challenges is evidencing the meaningful **impact of our work on the wider community**. While our direct beneficiaries include families, schools, community groups, and other charities, the true reach of our work lies in empowering others to deliver better outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties. Ensuring that this indirect impact remains **visible, measurable, and aligned with community needs is essential** to our long-term success.

To meet this challenge, we have embedded a culture of **partnership and co-production across our work**. We collaborate with expert panels and sector partners, such as Down Syndrome Cheshire and Downright Excellent, to shape resources that reflect lived experience and professional best practice.

This year, we strengthened our work with **youth panels**, ensuring that **young people themselves have a voice in shaping what we create**. These partnerships allow us to remain relevant, responsive, and accountable to those we aim to serve.

Co-production remains at the heart of our approach: in the past year, 80% of our projects have been created with, featured, or been directly informed by the community. **This commitment ensures our work is not only shaped for our users, but with them—helping us deliver tools that are practical, trusted, and rooted in real-world needs.**

Thank You!

We have been fortunate enough to receive funding from a range of Trusts and Grants, organisations, and individuals to fund our projects and core costs.

Without this invaluable funding, we couldn't continue to grow and serve our ever-growing community.

Below are just a selection of our funders, who support us both in **direct funding** and with additional assistance through **pro bono work, office space, and in-house fundraising**. We also extend our gratitude to all of our individual donors, whose contributions throughout the year made up **11.3% of our funding**.

£140,300
funding received

KEARNEY

The  Lawson Trust

MARSH
Charitable Trust

QCS
Quality Compliance Systems
an RLDataix company

 Brian Murtagh
Charitable Trust

JULIA RAUSING
— TRUST —

 CITY BRIDGE
FOUNDATION

JEANS
FOR
GENES

UTILITYPEOPLE
PLUG INTO OUR ENERGY

 Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION

NEXTENERGY
SOLAR FUND

wcit
CHARITY

The Henry Smith Charity

Trustees during the reporting period: April 24 - March 25

Name	Date Appointed	Date Stood Down	Role
Nicola Walker	05 July 2021		Chair
Kate Rosanna Taylor	22 September 2021		Treasurer
Karen Michelle McGuigan	05 July 2021	01 September 2024	Trustee
Andrea Melanie Wilson	05 July 2021		Trustee
Maja Trninic	12 March 2024		Trustee
Clair Smith	12 March 2024		Trustee

The Key Management Personnel are the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

Johanna Aiyathurai – CEO

Registered Office: 265 Maidstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0HA

Independent Examiner: Charity Accountant, Shruti Soni Ltd, 117A St. Johns Hill, Sevenoaks, TN13 3PE

Bank: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

The objects for which the Charity is established for the benefit of the public are to advance the education of children and young people with Down's syndrome and similar learning difficulties including but not limited to providing access to specialist teachers and therapists through digital content and other resources.

Governance and Structure:

Type of governing document
Foundation Registered 05 July 2021

How the charity is constituted
Foundation CIO

Trustee selection methods
Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

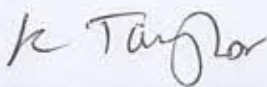
Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Nicola Walker
Chair





Kate Taylor
Treasurer





5 September 2025



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of LEARN AND THRIVE

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 25 to 29.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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

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.

Shruti Soni

Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE

Shruti Soni Ltd • Chartered Certified Accountants
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 24th September 2025

LEARN AND THRIVE
Charity Registration number 1195053
Receipts and payments accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2025



	01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025			01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>Total funds</i>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Receipts							
Grants	1	-	64,850	64,850	-	159,940	159,940
Donations	2	11,421	29,530	40,951	3,309	13,855	17,164
Interest		399	-	399	334	-	334
Charitable Activities		216	4,352	4,568	-	112	112
Total Receipts		12,036	98,732	110,768	3,643	173,907	177,550
Payments							
Costs of Generating Funds	3	56	8,845	8,901	3,722	11,839	15,561
Charitable Activities	4	1,348	156,591	157,939	10,259	110,457	120,716
Management and Administrat	5	1,745	4,413	6,158	488	5,880	6,368
Total payments		3,149	169,849	172,998	14,469	128,176	142,645
Net of receipts/(payments)		8,887	(71,117)	(62,230)	(10,826)	45,731	34,905
Transfer between funds		(2,965)	2,965	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end		69,278	117,382	186,660	80,104	71,651	151,755
Cash funds this year end		75,200	49,230	124,430	69,278	117,382	186,660

LEARN AND THRIVE
Statement of assets and liabilities
at the end of the period 31 March 2025

Details	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Cash at bank and on hand	75,200	49,230	124,430

The financial statements comprising of the Receipts and Payments Summary and Statement of Assets and Liabilities were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 5 September 2025

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

Signature	Print Name
	NICOLA WALKER
	KATE TAYLOR

LEARN AND THRIVE
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Income from Grants

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Grants - Peter Harrison	-	2,000	2,000	22,500
Grants - Brian Murtagh	-	10,000	10,000	5,000
Grants -Jeans 4 Genes	-	-	-	-
Grants- City Bridge	-	10,000	10,000	-
Grants- Garfield Weston	-	15,000	15,000	-
Grants- WCIT Charity	-	10,000	10,000	-
Grants-Marsh Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-
Grants-The Lawson Trust	-	6,000	6,000	-
Grants-The Henry Smith Charity	-	5,000	5,000	-
Grants-Julia Rausing Trust - Youth Panel	-	5,000	5,000	-
Grants - Maths Mum	-	-	-	-
Grants - Operations & Development	-	1,850	1,850	50,000
Grants - FP Whittingham	-	-	-	50,000
Grants - KCF CYP	-	-	-	4,440
Grants - Groundwork/ Tesco	-	-	-	2,500
Grants - Bentley	-	-	-	500
Grants - Postcode Lottery	-	-	-	25,000
	-	64,850	64,850	159,940

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Donations - Corporate	5,321	4,715	10,036	100
Donations - Fundraising Platform (was Enthuse	2,349	14,932	17,281	14,340
Donations - Fundraising Pages External	130	-	130	235
Donations - HNWI	-	9,883	9,883	-
Donations - Easy Fundraising	19	-	19	-
Gift Aid	3,602	-	3,602	2,488
	11,421	29,530	40,951	17,163

LEARN AND THRIVE
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

3 Cost of generating funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Fundraising Products Brought	-	4,700	4,700	4,071
Advertising & Marketing	56	4,145	4,201	11,489
	<u>56</u>	<u>8,845</u>	<u>8,901</u>	<u>15,560</u>

4 Charitable Activities Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Direct Wages	-	99,635	99,635	71,585
General Expenses	-	2,163	2,163	790
Pension Costs	-	5,575	5,575	2,628
Employer NIC	-	3,952	3,952	-
Recruitment	-	977	977	273
Resource Creation	-	730	730	1,582
Staff Training	-	321	321	1,265
Travel - National	-	4,039	4,039	1,609
Computer Equipment	1,348	760	2,108	-
Venue Cost	-	557	557	-
Bought-in Services	-	-	-	12,750
Expert Costs	-	17,689	17,689	26,158
Filming Costs	-	20,193	20,193	2,076
	<u>1,348</u>	<u>156,591</u>	<u>157,939</u>	<u>120,716</u>

LEARN AND THRIVE
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

5 Management and Administration Costs

	Unrestricte £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Audit & Accountancy Fees	-	1,843	1,843	1,635
Payroll Fees	381	-	381	549
IP, Licence, Permissions	-	72	72	48
Website Maintenance	-	-	-	446
Bank Fees	1,044	59	1,103	60
IT Software & Consumables	-	-	-	548
Postage, Freight & Courier	-	465	465	21
Subscriptions	320	1,429	1,749	1,984
Insurance	-	545	545	383
Office Equipment	-	-	-	694
	<u>1,745</u>	<u>4,413</u>	<u>6,158</u>	<u>6,368</u>

6 Movements in funds

	At the start of the year £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Peter Harrison	12,750	2,000	(14,750)	-	-
FP Whittingham	40,000	-	(23,785)	-	16,215
KCF CYP	4,440	-	(4,400)	-	40
LFL	35,000	-	(29,228)	-	5,772
Postcode Lottery	25,000	-	(24,976)	-	24
Resource Creation	192	-	-	-	192
Garfield Weston	-	15,000	(13,042)	-	1,958
Brian Murtagh	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
NextEnergy	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Lawson Trust	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
WCIT Charit	-	10,000	(1,354)	-	8,646
Henry Smith	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
City Bridge	-	10,000	(19,980)	-	(9,980)
Operations and development	-	16,550	(13,188)	-	3,363
MATHS Mum	-	16,182	(19,147)	2,965	-
Julia Rausing Trust	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total restricted funds	<u>117,382</u>	<u>98,732</u>	<u>(169,849)</u>	<u>2,965</u>	<u>49,230</u>
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	<u>69,278</u>	<u>12,036</u>	<u>(3,149)</u>	<u>(2,965)</u>	<u>75,200</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>69,278</u>	<u>12,036</u>	<u>(3,149)</u>	<u>(2,965)</u>	<u>75,200</u>
Total funds	<u>186,660</u>	<u>110,768</u>	<u>(172,998)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,430</u>

Learn and Thrive

England & Wales - Charity number 1195053

Accounts

Learn and Thrive



2023/24 Annual Report



We'd like to thank all our donors for their *generous support*

£171,700

Learn and Thrive is forever growing, learning and developing; none of which would be possible without the contributions of those who worked tirelessly on the projects: the employees, trustees, volunteers, supporters and funders.

Raised across all our funding streams for 23/24

Funders 22/23



“ Its brilliant – scaffolds the things that at school she's getting in one lesson.. pre and post learning with these resources has made it so much easier... thank you! ”

Selena Chapman - Parent

“ I can't stress enough how fantastic your videos are. The topics are totally on point for what Olivia is learning and "The Hand Clapping Rap" and "Time to Rhyme" are welcome additions to the videos we've watched as Olivia loves the fun musical elements. ”

Donna Lille - Parent

“ I have learnt new skills and practices which I now include in our daily schedule all of which have helped me support and develop my student. We also watch these alongside his peers as a class (in mainstream) so everyone is included in his learning and they all love the videos too! ”

Nikki Burns - Professional



VISION



A world where everyone with Down's syndrome thrives.

MISSION

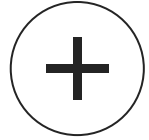


Using digital tools to empower people with Down's syndrome to thrive throughout their lives.



The Objects for which the charity is established are exclusively charitable according to English law and for the benefit of the public anywhere in the world by advancing the education of children and young people with Down's syndrome and similar learning difficulties, including but not limited to, providing access to specialist teachers and therapists through digital content and other resources.

CHAIR'S REPORT



2023 was a year of continued growth for Learn and Thrive. Our unwavering mission remains breaking down barriers faced by individuals with Down's syndrome and enable them to thrive in their communities. This year, we focused on delivering our mission through the following strategic objectives:

- Expanding our online resource library: Developing valuable and accessible educational materials for individuals with Down's syndrome, caregivers, and educators.
- Increasing community outreach: Partnering with schools, charities, and support groups to raise awareness and accessibility of our resources.
- Promoting lifelong learning: Emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and skill development for individuals with Down's syndrome.

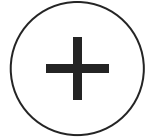
During a very busy year we released two new series focussed on Caring Friendships and Being Healthy as well as starting to introduce our Learn and Thrive ambassadors who demonstrate every day the impact our resources have.

A sincere thank you to our fantastic team, volunteers, and generous donors. Your unwavering commitment has made a significant difference in the lives of individuals with Down's syndrome and their families.

Nikki Walker - Chair of Trustee Board



CEO SUMMARY



At Learn and Thrive, our mission to empower individuals with Down's syndrome has driven us to overcome challenges and make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. This year, we expanded our digital outreach, increasing awareness and establishing a stronger reputation among support groups, professionals, and users alike. Our commitment to providing high-quality, accessible resources is evident in the launch of three new video series, which attracted 979 new members to our Learning for Life project.

We also made a significant transition by integrating our Teach Me Too content into our member area, ensuring a more unified and streamlined experience for our community. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive—88% of parents and professionals gained new skills through Teach Me Too, while 80% of those involved in Learning for Life observed positive changes in their students.

In an increasingly competitive environment, securing funding remains challenging, yet we have taken proactive steps to adapt. By diversifying income streams and enhancing our impact reporting, we are positioning ourselves for sustainable growth. We continue to prioritise community input, working closely with those we serve to ensure our initiatives meet their needs.

As we navigate these challenges, our resolve is unwavering. Together, we are building a resilient organisation, poised to continue making a meaningful impact nationwide.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to help everyone reach their full potential.

Johanna Aiyathurai - CEO



ABOUT US

At Learn and Thrive, our mission is to empower individuals with Down's syndrome to lead fulfilling lives through the use of digital tools. We understand the societal challenges they face and are dedicated to providing online resources to help dismantle these barriers, enabling everyone to reach their full potential.

Through our lived experience, we know that outdated stereotypes, a lack of understanding of unique learning needs, and limited access to services prevent people with Down's syndrome from receiving the necessary support within their communities. Nevertheless, we recognise that individuals with Down's syndrome are lifelong learners who, with targeted and specific assistance, can develop the essential skills needed to fully participate in their communities.

We are committed to keeping our community at the heart of decision-making and maintaining our dedication to co-production. By working together, we ensure that our initiatives are truly reflective of the needs and aspirations of those we serve.



Practical approaches are used to develop language skills through play, focusing on early learning concepts and skills.



This RSHE content covers personal health, emotions, relationships, and appropriate behavior from pre-teen to adulthood.



Supporting more than
3,150
Children and Young People

Safeguarding



At Learn and Thrive, safeguarding is at the core of everything we do, and our Learning for Life project exemplifies this commitment. The project is specifically designed to teach and empower young people with learning difficulties to identify unsafe situations and people, and to take appropriate action.

Through engaging and accessible resources, we equip them with the essential skills to recognise potential risks, set boundaries, and protect themselves. This is crucial for their personal development, independence, and well-being. Safeguarding is not just a responsibility for us—it is a fundamental part of our mission to enable young people to thrive safely and confidently.



Clear Policies and Procedures

We maintain robust, regularly updated safeguarding policies that reflect current legal standards and best practices.



Training

All staff, volunteers, and trustees undergo mandatory safeguarding training to ensure everyone knows how to recognize and respond to concerns.



Safe Recruitment

Background checks and safeguarding protocols are in place during recruitment to ensure the suitability of all individuals working with us.



Reporting and Support

We provide clear, accessible reporting mechanisms for safeguarding concerns and ensure that swift, appropriate action is taken, alongside ongoing support for those involved.



The children have latched into the language and really enjoy the videos and then hands-on activities

Hannah Wright -
Parent and Professional

118

Free learning videos

2048

Members accessing LFL

1835

Members accessing TM2

Action

Details

Outcome

Increased reach and awareness

Full time digital marketing output and attendance at conferences

- Increased awareness of the charity & brand
- Building a reputation amongst support groups, professionals, and our users, who recommend us

Learning for Life video content

3 new video series created and released in the second half of the financial year

- 979 new members accessing the Learning for Life project in 23/24
- 53% of all children and young people accessing the projects are accessing Learning for Life

Teach Me Too content moved websites (Feb 24)

TM2 moved from external web browser to Learn and Thrive member area

- Whilst this is a very recent change the objectives are to create unity, clarity and easy access across both projects and support data tracking to highlight impact.

Our Impact

At Learn and Thrive, impact is our top priority. We put the children and young people we support at the centre of every decision and actively seek community feedback to adapt and improve our projects.

The chart below shows overwhelmingly positive community responses. Through the Teach Me Too project, **88%** of parents and professionals gained new skills and strategies, and **69%** felt more confident when delivering learning activities.

Feedback for the Learning for Life project revealed that **80%** observed positive changes in knowledge or behaviour of their student and found teaching the RSE curriculum easier. Additionally, **63%** identified learning gaps they previously thought were secure, and **89%** praised the variety and differentiation of the resources and worksheets.

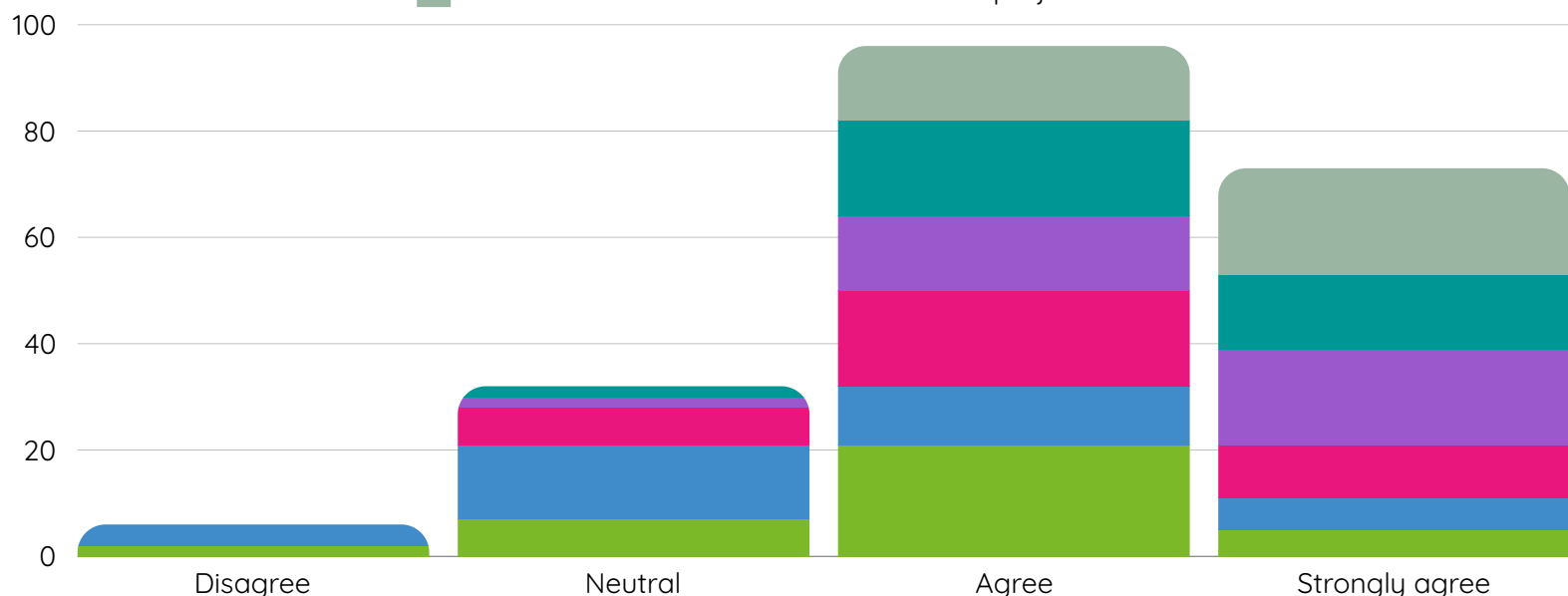
The improvements overall in students have been significant. The sessions have helped students to clarify key terms such as personal space and they have really enjoyed the sessions. It has been really useful in reinforcing learning which is very evident in student interactions in lessons.

Philip Redman - Professional

Lovely work, we use these techniques as they are so effective, so its saves us a lot of time in creating our own. Thank you so much.

Sen Smallwood - Parent and Professional

- As a result of the videos, I have changed my practice and/or the way I interact with/teach the student
- As a result of the project, I have asked others to change their behaviour/teaching approach with the student
- The student found the Learn and Thrive projects engaging
- The videos were clearly presented
- We will return to the Learn and Thrive projects modules and use it for overlearning and repetition
- We would recommend Learn and Thrive projects to others



The year in review



Learning for Life covers the RSE curriculum in a way that is accessible to those with additional learning needs.

It looks beneath the curriculum at the concept knowledge, that is often assumed, or not formally taught. Providing this underpinning knowledge for foundation skills; concepts such as public and private, emotions and relationships, to ensure the curriculum makes sense.



The completion of the 23/24 financial year, brought three more video series to the Learning for Life project; totalling **5 series of 48 videos** and accompanying learning resources. **56%** of video views were for our flagship series *Growing Up and Keeping Safe* showing core concepts of public and private, personal space and appropriate touch, taught in an accessible way is invaluable to the learning of children and young people with Down's syndrome.

“ I want to thank you! I work at Oakley Special School and have been asked by so many parents to run a workshop on Puberty and Sex Education. I have struggled to find anyone to advise me or any appropriate resources until I found your website ”

Susan Benson - Professional

Members and Users

Learning For Life gained 979 new members in 23/24 with a total of 2048 children and young people highlighting the increased need for this specialised support.

Of those accessing the project:

57% of sign-ups were Teachers and TAs

87% of users accessed the project from the UK

Learning Needs

Interestingly, only 43% of members accessing Learning for Life have a diagnosis of Down's syndrome, showing the project's versatility to support other additional needs (57%) with similar learning profiles.

The year in review

Teach Me Too focuses on early learning topics and skills, covering practical approaches to develop language skills through play.

It delivers key early cognitive and communication skills across five key domains of the Early Years and Key Stage 1 Curriculum. Comprising of 70 videos; organised under five threads – Literacy, Mathematics, Language through Play, Exploring Language and the Wider Curriculum – it provides fun, engaging activities using Makaton as well as speech to support learning.

The project's relevance and popularity continues with **8732 views** across our video content range. This is despite no new content being added in 2023/23. **40% of the views** are attributable to the Language through Play series; the most viewed series every month bar one.

Our five most popular videos were **viewed 1759 times by 450 unique users**, evidencing an average of 4 views per video and the importance of repetition in the learning style of children and young people with Down's syndrome.

“ I often watch the videos to gain ideas of how to introduce a new topic to Che. The videos also allow me to see the best ways to teach Che based on his learning profile. The videos are also a good way to plan in which topic we will focus on each week ”

Toni Dayton - Parent

“ Thank you very much for making the video resources available for schools. We have found the resources to be so useful and have implemented them within our practice in school ”

Thomas Gallagher -
Professional



Members

Teach Me Too gained 752 new members in 23/24 to make a total of 1835 children and young people, highlighting that even without the launch of new videos, specialised early intervention support is still vital. 84% of users accessed the project from the UK

Learning Needs and Users

63% of members accessing Teach Me Too have recorded having a diagnosis of Down's syndrome. 50% of the sign-ups in 23/24 were Teachers/TAs and 36% were parents or carers.



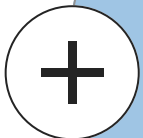
Impact Performance Data

Our mission is to help people with Down's syndrome live fulfilling lives with the aid of digital tools. The primary way we currently deliver of our mission via a library of educational videos and learning resources, providing critical teaching on key areas of social and emotional development and early years support.



24%

Increase in video content release for this financial year with three new video series launched in Learning For Life



48%

Learn and Thrive is recommended by 72 out of 150 Local authorities in the UK via their local offer websites.



68%

Increased reach to children and young people accessing the projects in 23/24 compared to 22/23



69%

Recent data shows 69% of traffic to our projects has derived from external sources and specifically increased personal recommendation

Our Reach

3883

Number of children and young people accessing the projects in 23/24

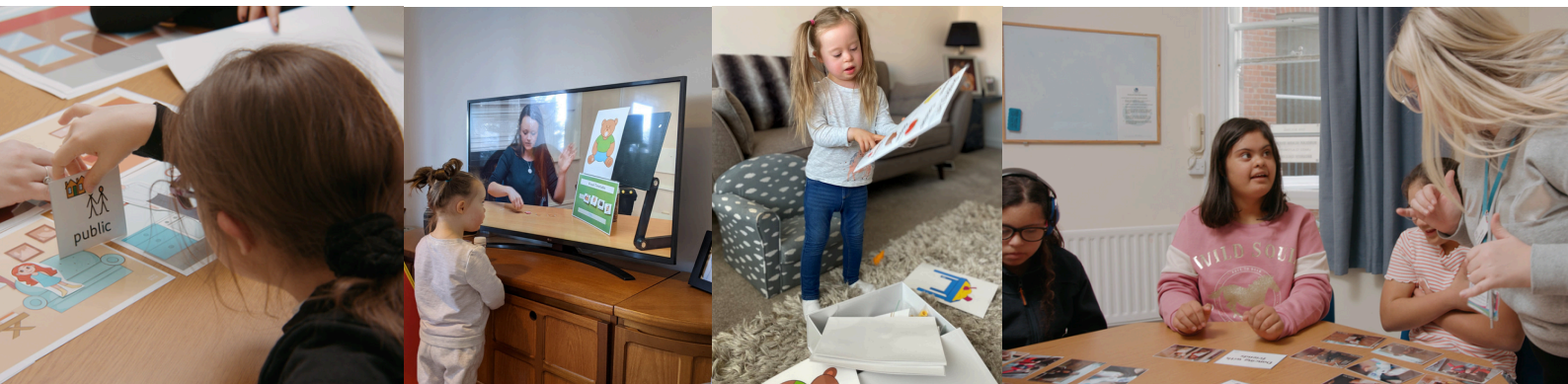
97

Counties accessing Learn and Thrive

Top 10 Counties

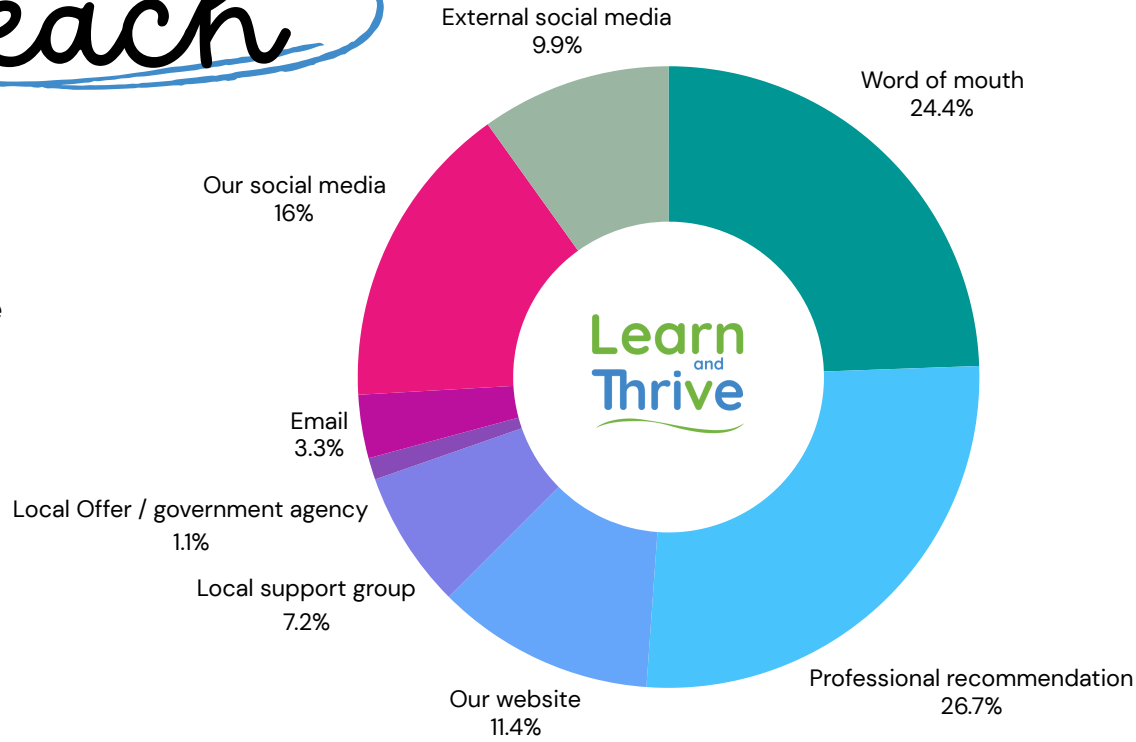
Greater London	154
Kent	113
Surrey	76
West Midlands	54
Lancashire	51
Hampshire	48
Cheshire	45
Essex	35
Devonshire	33
Warwickshire	32

Table shows the number of children and young people accessing the projects from each county.



Our Reach

Recent data captures where our users have heard about our services with 51% reaching us from word of mouth or a professional recommendation, highlighting an awareness of the positive impact our projects are making to the lives of the children and young people accessing them.



155

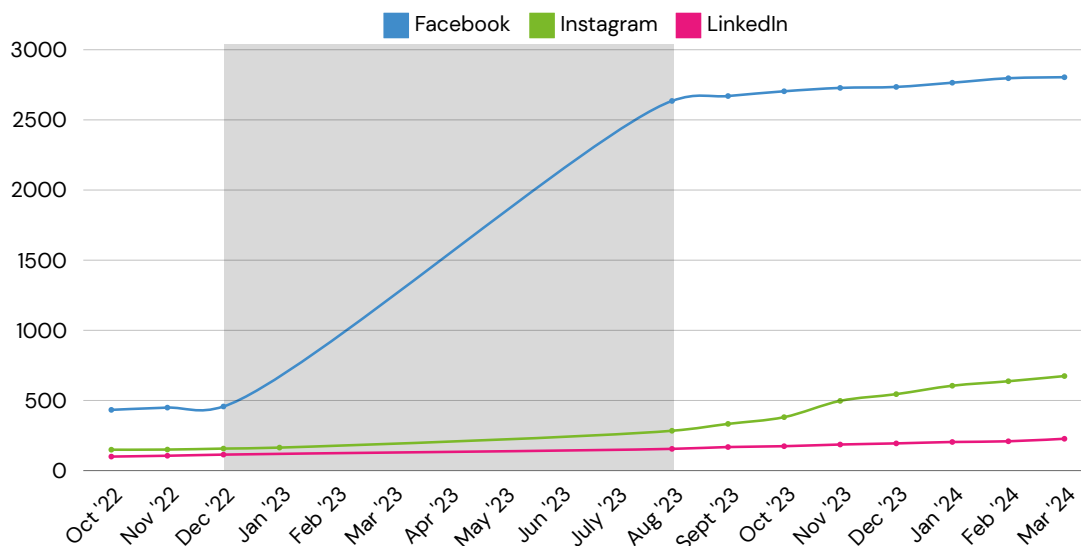
Number of countries where someone has visited our website

21,654

Users visiting the website in 23/24

5726

Number of children and young people supported by the projects overall



Whilst there was missing data early in the financial year (depicted with grey box) we can clearly demonstrate increased reach across all our social media channels for 23/24 with Facebook topping 2800 followers.

Adapting to Funding Challenges: Diversifying Income and Strengthening Community Ties



Securing grants and donations has become increasingly difficult this year, with heightened competition among charities and a tightening of available funding. Despite these obstacles, our commitment to our mission remains steadfast. We are actively adapting to this challenging landscape by refining our approach. This includes producing detailed impact reports, enhancing our marketing strategies, and ensuring that our content and design remain current and engaging.

To address the funding shortfall, we are diversifying our income streams by pursuing corporate partnerships and exploring additional funding opportunities. We are also investing in our staff to enhance our success with grants and trusts and building robust stewardship processes across all areas. Additionally, we continue to prioritise community feedback and collaborate closely with those we serve through co-production and joint initiatives. By staying focused on our objectives and building a resilient organisation, we are well-positioned to navigate these challenging times and continue making a meaningful impact.

Challenges of Being a Small National Charity

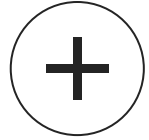


As a small national charity, we face distinct challenges compared to local organisations. Our work spans across the country, requiring a broader reach and more complex logistics. While local charities benefit from closer ties with their communities and more targeted support, we must navigate diverse regional needs and build relationships on a national scale. These challenges are compounded by limited resources, making it

essential for us to be strategic in our outreach and efficient in our operations. However, we intend to turn this challenge into an opportunity by forging partnerships with local charities. By collaborating with organisations that have established connections and expertise in specific regional areas, we aim to tap into local insights and strengthen our impact across communities.

Despite these hurdles, our commitment to our mission drives us to adapt and innovate, ensuring we effectively support and engage with communities nationwide.

TREASURER'S REPORT



We have had another exciting year, with lots of new content produced for our website, supported by our funders that span individuals, grants and trusts.

In the 12-months to 31st March 2024, we generated income of £177,550 (of which, £173,907 was restricted funding) from numerous grants, trusts, as well as from generous individual donors supporting a successful fundraising event – a Dragon Boat Race – with our trustees, staff and friends and family, that generated almost £17,000 in restricted funds to support our caring friendship project.

We incurred a total of £142,645 expenditure, which, in line with last year, primarily related to contracted services for content development, salary costs and advertising/marketing costs. These continue to be our main categories of expenditure. We are actively planning for the coming year's spending needs, with a clear pipeline of content that will be developed in the coming months.

The charity remains in a stable financial position, with funds carried forward totalling £186,660 at the end of the year. We finished the year with our unrestricted funds available at £69,278 which is on track for our reserves policy. Other monies are restricted to specific projects or areas of work within the charity.

Kate Taylor - Treasurer



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEARN AND THRIVE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Learn and Thrive

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Learn and Thrive for the period ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Stuart Rosling FCCA
Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Date: 11 September 2024

LEARN AND THRIVE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

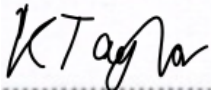
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Year Ended 31.03.2024 Total funds	Year Ended 31.03.2023 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Grants	2	-	159,940	159,940	73,334
Donations	3	3,309	13,855	17,164	68,130
Interest	4	334	-	334	184
Charitable Activities	5	-	112	112	316
Total		<u>3,643</u>	<u>173,907</u>	<u>177,550</u>	<u>141,964</u>
PAYMENTS					
Costs of Generating Funds	6	3,722	11,839	15,561	5,282
Charitable Activities	7	10,259	110,457	120,716	77,009
Management and Administration Costs	8	488	5,880	6,368	4,555
Total		<u>14,469</u>	<u>128,176</u>	<u>142,645</u>	<u>86,846</u>
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)		<u>(10,826)</u>	<u>45,731</u>	<u>34,905</u>	<u>55,118</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	9				
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		80,104	71,651	151,755	96,637
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>69,278</u></u>	<u><u>117,382</u></u>	<u><u>186,660</u></u>	<u><u>151,755</u></u>

LEARN AND THRIVE

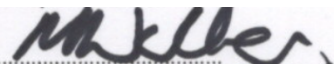
STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.03.2024 Total funds £	31.03.2023 Total funds £
Monetary Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand	69,278	117,382	186,660	151,755
	<u>69,278</u>	<u>117,382</u>	<u>186,660</u>	<u>151,755</u>
Debtors				
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	-	-	-	9,479
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,479</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 October 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
K Taylor - Trustee



.....
N Walker - Trustee

LEARN AND THRIVE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. GRANTS

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Grants - 21 Together	-	39,764
Grants - Peter Harrison	22,500	-
Grants - Arnold Clark	-	1,000
Grants - Albert Hunt	-	2,000
Grants - Brian Murtagh	5,000	-
Grants - KCF - Friday	-	5,500
Grants - KCF Barrett	-	4,000
Grants - FP Whittingham	50,000	-
Grants - KCF/ KCC Digital	-	6,000
Grants - KCF CYP	4,440	-
Grants - David Solomons	-	500
Grants - Groundwork/ Tesco	2,500	1,000
Grants - Marsh Charitable Trust	-	500
Grants - Philip & Connie Phillips	-	5,000
Grants - Cantiacorum	-	3,070
Grants - Bentley	500	-
Grants - Postcode Lottery	25,000	-
Grants - Operations & Development	50,000	-
Grants - The Lawson Trust	-	5,000
	<u>159,940</u>	<u>73,334</u>

3. DONATIONS

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Donations - Corporate	100	191
Donations - Fundraising Platform (was Enthuse)	14,340	14,982
Donations - Fundraising Pages External	235	-
Donations - Individuals (individuals)	-	50,345
Gift Aid	2,488	2,612
	<u>17,164</u>	<u>68,130</u>

LEARN AND THRIVE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. INTEREST	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Interest - CAF Account	334	184
	<u>334</u>	<u>184</u>
5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Shop Product Sales	112	316
	<u>112</u>	<u>316</u>
6. COST OF GENERATING FUNDS	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Fundraising Products Brought	4,071	31
Advertising & Marketing	11,489	5,251
	<u>15,561</u>	<u>5,282</u>
7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Direct Wages	71,585	35,232
General Expenses	790	296
Pension Costs	2,628	1,774
Recruitment	273	89
Resource Creation	1,582	471
Staff Training	1,265	10
Travel - National	1,609	164
Venue Cost	-	978
Bought-in Services	12,750	37,996
Expert Costs	26,158	-
Fliming Costs	2,076	-
	<u>120,716</u>	<u>77,009</u>

LEARN AND THRIVE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
	£	£
Audit & Accountancy Fees	1,635	1,313
Payroll Fees	549	-
IP, Licence, Permissions	48	44
Website Maintenance	446	418
Bank Fees	60	72
IT Software & Consumables	548	-
Postage, Freight & Courier	21	23
Subscriptions	1,984	2,201
Insurance	383	483
Office Equipment	694	-
	<u>6,368</u>	<u>4,555</u>

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund Name	01.04.2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	31.03.2024
	£	£	£	£	£
21 Together	13,211	-	(13,211)	-	-
Peter Harrison	-	22,500	(9,750)	-	12,750
Bentley	-	500	(500)	-	-
Brian Murtagh Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
FP Whittingham	-	50,000	(10,000)	-	40,000
KCF - Friday	5,500	-	(5,500)	-	-
KCF Barrett	4,000	-	(4,000)	-	-
KCF / KCC Digital	2,277	-	(2,277)	-	-
KCF CYP	-	4,440	-	-	4,440
LFL	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Postcode Lottery	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
Resource Creation	80	112	-	-	192
Groundwork/ Tesco	1,000	2,500	(3,500)	-	-
Marsh Charitable Trust	500	-	(500)	-	-
Phillip + Connie Phillips	3,250	-	(3,250)	-	-
Cantiacorum	1,833	-	(1,833)	-	-
Operations & Development	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
The Lawson Trust	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
	<u>71,651</u>	<u>160,052</u>	<u>(114,321)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,382</u>

Trustees during the reporting period: April 23 - March 24

Name	Date Appointed	Date Stood Down	Role
Nicola Walker	05 July 2021		Chair
Kate Rosanna Taylor	22 September 2021		Treasurer
Karen Michelle McGuigan	05 July 2021		Trustee
Shilpa Bose	05 July 2021	29th February 2024	Trustee
Andrea Melanie Wilson	05 July 2021		Trustee
Andreas Lundberg	25 January 2023	20 December 2023	Trustee
Sophie Evitts	25 January 2023	20 December 2023	Trustee
Maja Trninic	12 March 2024		Trustee
Clair Smith	12 March 2024		Trustee

The Key Management Personnel are the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

Johanna Aiyathurai - CEO

Registered Office: 265 Maidstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0HA

Operational Address: MCSC, Marsham Street, Maidstone, ME14 1HH

Independent Examiner: S R Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA, Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited, 20 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP

Bank: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

CARING FRIENDSHIPS



caring



respect



kind



trust



support



feel good



FRIENDS



friends



boyfriend



school friends



work friends



girlfriend



good friends

Governance and Structure:

Type of governing document

Foundation Registered 05 July 2021

How the charity is constituted

Foundation CIO

Trustee selection methods

Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Nicola Walker

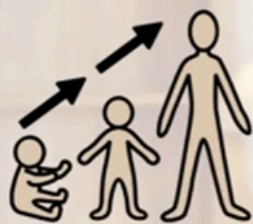
Chair

Nikki Walker - Chair of Trustee Board 

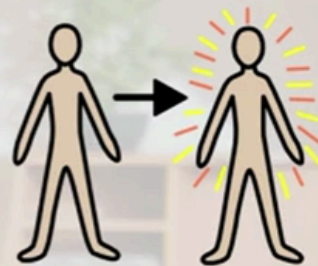
Kate Taylor

Treasurer

Kate Taylor - Treasurer 



growing up



changes





Learn and Thrive

England & Wales - Charity number 1195053

Accounts

Learn
and
Thrive

ANNUAL REPORT



2022/2023

A world where everyone with Down's
syndrome thrives!

Learn and Thrive
Charity Number: 1195053
Year ending March 31st 2023

Thank you to our supporters

We are so grateful for all the support from our current and future funders. Their belief in our vision has been inspiring and has allowed us to step into the next financial year with confidence.

There remains a lot of work to do to meet our project targets, but having the continued support of the organisations below has allowed us to concentrate on the quality of our projects and meeting the needs of our communities.

Funders 22/23



Funders 21/22



Annual Report 22/23

The Objects for which the charity is established are exclusively charitable according to English law and for the benefit of the public anywhere in the world by advancing the education of children and young people with Down's syndrome and similar learning difficulties, including but not limited to, providing access to specialist teachers and therapists through digital content and other resources.



VISION

A world where everyone with Down's syndrome thrives.

MISSION

Using digital tools to empower people with Down's syndrome to thrive throughout their lives.

Chair's Report



A diagnosis of Down's syndrome must never be a barrier to life or love.

2022 took us on the next exciting chapter in our journey towards our vision of helping people with Down's syndrome live life to the fullest. We're thrilled to share that we extended our support to over 2,600 children and young people. This significant growth is a testament to the quality and diversity of resources now available on our platform and there is so much more to come.

As we expand our resources to magnify our impact, our role as Trustees is twofold: first, to prioritise the development of valuable content, and second, to establish a robust and scalable organisation that can amplify the support we offer.

Our efforts in fostering partnerships with communities, local authorities, and schools have continued to thrive. These collaborations enable us to maximise the positive impact our resources have on those who need them most.

Nevertheless, we recognise that one of our primary challenges lies in making sure that the wider community is aware of the valuable resources we have to offer, and we make it as easy as possible for them to access and use them.

In 2023, we are committed to furthering this journey.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and together, we look forward to a promising year ahead.

Nikki Walker

Message from our CEO



"Seeing the impact keeps me moving forward"

A Promising Start for a New Charity: Learn and Thrive

18 months on and Learn and Thrive has made a remarkable entrance into the charity world, with the aim of empowering individuals with Down's syndrome and other learning needs. The organisation is helping to promote meaningful inclusion in communities by providing essential skills.

This mission is personal to me as I have witnessed firsthand the impact of not having these services available for children and young people. As a parent, I have felt the frustration of not having access to the necessary support, and as a supporter of educators, I have seen the struggle to find ways to better serve their students. With Learn and Thrive paving the way for progress, there is hope for the community.

As the range of resources we offer expands, so does the team, and I am so proud of everything they have achieved together. The whole team comes together with one simple aim; empowering children and young people with Down's syndrome to live full and vibrant lives.

About Us

Learn and Thrive: Empowering Individuals with Down's Syndrome

Our mission is to help people with Down's syndrome live fulfilling lives with the aid of digital tools. At Learn and Thrive, we recognise the societal hurdles faced by this group and are committed to providing online resources to help break down those barriers and enable everyone to achieve their full potential.

Through our research, we've learned that outdated stereotypes, a lack of understanding of unique learning needs, and limited access to services hinder people with Down's syndrome from receiving the necessary support within their communities. However, we also know that individuals with Down's syndrome are lifelong learners who, with targeted and specific assistance, can develop the essential skills required to participate fully in their community.



Practical approaches are used to develop language skills through play, focusing on early learning concepts and skills.



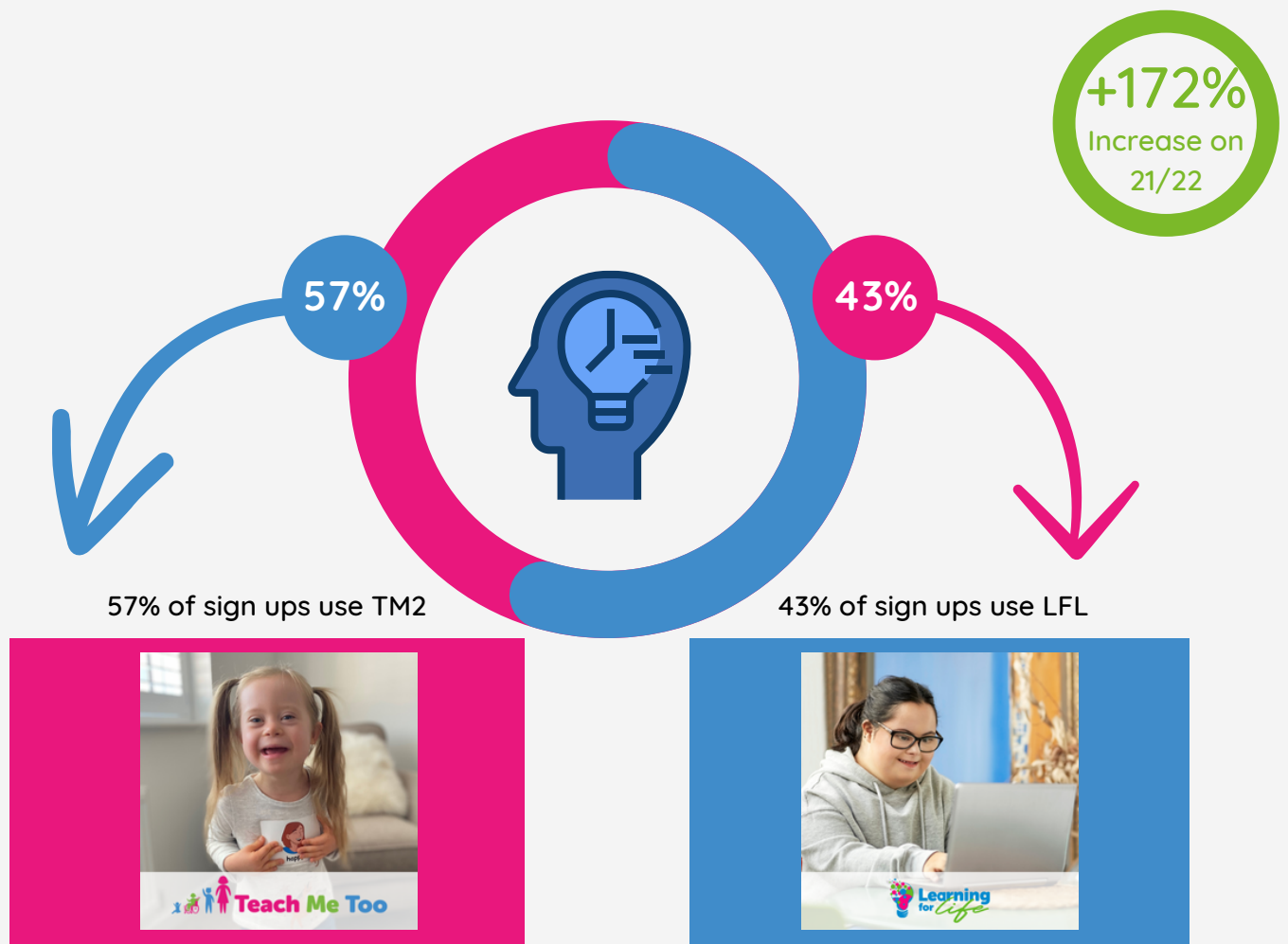
This content covers personal health, emotions, relationships, and appropriate behavior from pre-teen to adulthood.

A photograph showing a group of children and a woman, all wearing orange life jackets, gathered outdoors. The woman is leaning in and talking to the children. One child in the foreground is wearing glasses and holding a black handle. The background shows other people and trees, suggesting an outdoor event or activity.

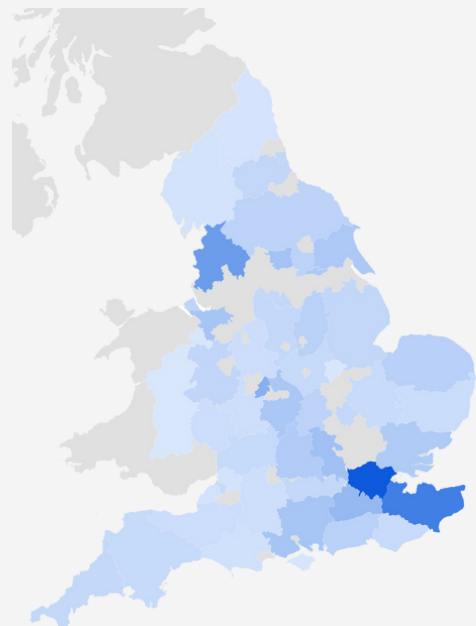
Supporting more than
2,600
Children and Young People

Reach

In 22/23 we reached **2,648** Children and Young People



Supporting Children
across the UK and far
beyond!



Projects



Teach Me Too now has historic sign-ups of well over 4500 people. In the year 22/23 it has had 1219 new members join. 908 of those worked with those with a diagnosis of Down's syndrome. 170 sign-ups were people that worked with young people with a range of different needs.

We have reviewed our strategic priorities and intended audience, which identified local authorities and statutory services as the areas we need to

target to ensure we reach those children and young people who often don't have the financial or educational means to access specialist support.

To support this aim, we teamed up with Hertfordshire Local Authority and commissioned an independent review of the Teach Me Too project in early years settings and schools throughout the region.



Launched in April 2022, Learning for Life is a new project developed by the team, alongside external experts and families. It delivers targeted and differentiated support to parents, schools, and other organisations tackling the complex area of relationship, sex, and health education.

We are identifying key areas of learning that are often missed, or whizzed through in education settings. These form the basis for key independent

life skills and include areas such as public and private, appropriate touch, relationships, social boundaries and socially appropriate behaviour. Without fully understanding these areas our young people are left vulnerable to abuse, and with significant barriers to inclusion in work, leisure and activities of daily living.

1128 sign-ups highlights the volume of young people benefitting from specialist support and many more will follow in the future.

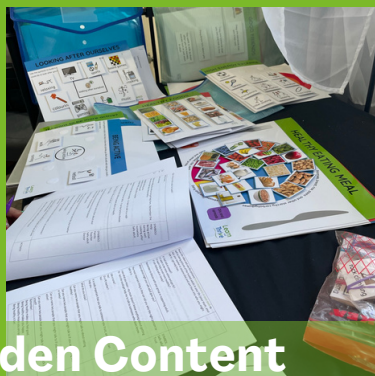
The Future



Getting Message Out

We know what we do works!
Now we need to reach more people.

Through strategic and targeted marketing plans, we need to ensure that we are not only reaching our intended demographic of young people with Down's syndrome and other learning needs, but we are also reaching our target of accessing those harder to reach communities as well.



Broaden Content

Our next steps are to broaden our offer, incorporating a wider range of resources, from digital to kinaesthetic, to enable more young people find the support they need. With many more topics in the pipeline and plans to use different, but complimentary style videos, we are looking to broaden our content and keep providing the next steps for our young people.



Diversify

Our mission to empower young people with Down's syndrome includes being seen and heard in the media and within educational resources as a top priority. We pride ourselves on providing diverse content, but we're committed to going even further. Our aim is to include as many different communities as possible within the scope of our offerings. To achieve this goal, we're exploring collaborations with various presenters to ensure that our platform is as diverse and inclusive as possible.

We are committed to including gender-neutral characters in our curriculum, but we also recognise the need to improve our approach to inclusivity. We plan to seek advice on how to better integrate the LGBTQIA+ community into our teaching practices.

Impact

External evaluation and independent research have both shown the difference our resources are making to families, schools and other charities. You can read more about this in the appendix.

1128

Learning For Life users

1520

Teach Me Too users

90

Free learning videos

"Me and my daughter have been using the growing up videos both at home and school and they are just brilliant. The videos are perfect to tackle these sensitive subjects and the follow up work ensures that there is a good understanding of what has been talked about."
- Jo Thompson (parent)

"This truly is the best resource I have seen for our students and we can't praise it enough! Thank you!" -
Hannah Wright (School Staff)

Achievements



Learning For Life

More content is now available and we are well on the way to reaching our strategic aims of recruiting more teachers and professionals to the project to ensure we are serving those lesser-served families where parents are not directly engaging with learning programs themselves. Our joint partnership with 21 Together and the National Lottery has been a huge success. We have seen the impact on the lives of young people but have also been able to learn from the young people themselves.

We are proud to have been invited to speak at national conferences on the subject of RSE and spend time with other professionals, always seeking to improve our knowledge and offering for our young people.



Research and Development

Independent evaluators assessed the Teach Me Too project from September 2022 to March 2023. To measure the impact of the Teach Me Too resources we teamed up with Hertfordshire Local Authority to run an independent trial. The Teach Me Too suite of materials was highly rated and valued by the settings that participated in the trial. Staff were positive about the impact the program had on their practice, their confidence in supporting children with Down's syndrome

and on the children they were teaching. Key areas of change reported by staff were in their ability to use signing/Makaton more effectively and in feeling more confident in adapting activities to meet the individual needs of the children they were supporting.

*'I've learnt a lot - for me to follow it, it has given me new skills in Makaton. I'm getting more confident over time'.
(SENCO, Nursery)*

*"Overall, a great tool to steer content that we could take further. It gave us ideas...."
(SENCO, Primary)*



Learn and Thrive

PRESENTS

Strictly Makaton



The Trustee Board already give so much to the charity. Well, now they have gone one step further out of their comfort zone! For many, this was their first step into the world of signed communication, so taking on the challenge of learning all the Makaton signs to the song ROAR and then performing them live to our panel of judges was daunting!

Everyone did a brilliant job and we raised a whopping £17,000 to help build more resources for our community

FUNDRAISING

Challenges



Digital Transformation

With AI and digital transformation now at the forefront, it's important that we utilise all tools available to serve our community effectively. Integration of these tools into our existing systems can prove to be extremely beneficial for our community. However, we must also acknowledge the potential risks we may face and be diligent in evaluating any potential cybersecurity threats.

Our current focus is on broadening our impact and utilising available content. However, we must also explore other platforms or means of delivery, such as apps or browsers. The digital transformation era presents many opportunities, and we want to ensure that we are prepared to take advantage of them in a way that is safe for the organisation.



Navigating Tough Times: Building a Strong Foundation for Our Charity

As a young organisation, it's important to recognise the impact of rising living costs on both our beneficiaries and our operations. To ensure long-term sustainability and success, we need to build a strong financial base.

However, obtaining grants and donations has become more challenging due to increased competition among charities and reduced funding. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to our mission and are taking proactive steps to adapt to the changing landscape. This includes developing comprehensive impact reports, improving our marketing strategies, and keeping our content and design up-to-date. We also prioritise community feedback and work collaboratively with those we serve through co-production and joint initiatives. By staying focused on our goals and building a resilient organisation, we will continue to thrive despite these difficult times.

Treasurer Report



Together we thrive.

This annual report reflects our first 12-month reporting period, during which we have continued to grow and diversify our income streams, and resultingly expand our online offering. We have also been able to use our first full reporting year to build a robust financial plan for the years ahead, with a clear view of funding requirements to deliver new content for our young people.

In the 12-months to 31st March 2023, we generated income of £141,965 (of which, £73,414 was restricted funding) from numerous grants, trusts, as well as from individual donors. We incurred a total of £86,846 expenditure, which primarily related to contracted services for content development and salary costs. These continue to be our main categories of expenditure, with a clear pipeline of content that will be developed and made available online in the coming months and years. The charity remains in a strong financial position, with funds carried forward totaling £151,755 at the end of the year.

As a new charity, we had previously set a prudent Reserve policy of 12 months. As we gain clearer visibility over our funding and expenditure, we deem it appropriate to revise this down to 9 months of expenditure. This enables us to continue to use our funds to provide for our young people, while remaining in a financially strong position should our funding environment change.

Kate Taylor

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEARN AND THRIVE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Learn and Thrive

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Learn and Thrive for the period ended 31 March 2023 , which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

S.R. Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA
Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Date: 17 November 2023

LEARN AND THRIVE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Year Ended Total funds	Year Ended 31.03.2022 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Grants	2	-	73,334	73,334	64,913
Donations	3	68,131	-	68,131	52,474
Interest	4	184	-	184	-
Charitable Activities	5	236	80	316	-
Total		<u>68,551</u>	<u>73,414</u>	<u>141,965</u>	<u>117,387</u>
PAYMENTS					
Costs of Generating Funds	6	86	5,197	5,282	-
Charitable Activities	7	4,207	72,803	77,009	18,617
Management and Administration Costs	8	1,062	3,492	4,555	2,133
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-
Total		<u>5,355</u>	<u>81,492</u>	<u>86,846</u>	<u>20,750</u>
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)		<u>63,196</u>	<u>(8,077)</u>	<u>55,118</u>	<u>96,637</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	9				
Transfers between funds		(35,000)	35,000	-	-
Total funds brought forward		51,909	44,728	96,637	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>80,105</u></u>	<u><u>71,651</u></u>	<u><u>151,755</u></u>	<u><u>96,637</u></u>

LEARN AND THRIVE

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.03.2023 Total funds £	31.03.2022 Total funds £
Monetary Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand	80,105	71,651	151,755	96,637
	<u>80,105</u>	<u>71,651</u>	<u>151,755</u>	<u>96,637</u>
Debtors				
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	7,941	1,538	9,479	1,323
	<u>7,941</u>	<u>1,538</u>	<u>9,479</u>	<u>1,323</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 November 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

K Taylor - Trustee

N Walker - Trustee

LEARN AND THRIVE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. GRANTS

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Grants - 21 Together	39,764	54,982
Grants - Awards for All	-	9,931
Grants - Arnold Clark	1,000	-
Grants - Albert Hunt	2,000	-
Grants - KCF - Friday	5,500	-
Grants - KCF Barrett	4,000	-
Grants - KCF/ KCC Digital	6,000	-
Grants - David Solomons	500	-
Grants - Groundwork/ Tesco	1,000	-
Grants - Marsh Charitable Trust	500	-
Grants - Philip & Connie Phillips	5,000	-
Grants - Cantiacorum	3,070	-
Grants - The Lawson Trust	5,000	-
	<u>73,334</u>	<u>64,913</u>

3. DONATIONS

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Donations - 21 Together	-	28,894
Donations - Corporate	191	20,000
Donations - Fundraising Platform (was Enthuse)	14,982	3,580
Donations - Individuals (individuals)	50,345	-
Gift Aid	2,614	-
	<u>68,131</u>	<u>52,474</u>

4. INTEREST

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Interest - CAF Account	184	-
	<u>184</u>	<u>-</u>

LEARN AND THRIVE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Shop Product Sales	316	-
	<u>316</u>	<u>-</u>

6. COST OF GENERATING FUNDS

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Fundraising Products Brought	31	-
Advertising & Marketing	5,251	-
	<u>5,282</u>	<u>-</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Direct Wages	35,232	9,161
General Expenses	296	-
Pension Costs	1,774	264
Recruitment	89	142
Resource Creation	471	225
Staff Training	10	75
Travel - National	164	-
Venue Cost	978	408
Bought-in Services	37,996	8,342
	<u>77,009</u>	<u>18,617</u>

8. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
	£	£
Audit & Accountancy Fees	1,313	-
IP, Licence, Permissions	44	300
Website Maintenance	418	448
Bank Fees	72	56
IT Software & Consumables	-	12
Software Costs	-	139
Postage, Freight & Courier	23	18
Subscriptions	2,201	677
Insurance	483	483
	<u>4,555</u>	<u>2,133</u>

LEARN AND THRIVE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund Name	01.04.2022 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	31.03.2023 £
21 Together	36,297	39,764	(62,850)	-	13,211
Awards for All	8,431	-	(8,431)	-	-
Arnold Clark	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Albert Hunt	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
KCF - Friday	-	5,500	-	-	5,500
KCF Barrett	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
KCF / KCC Digital	-	6,000	(3,723)	-	2,277
David Solomons	-	500	(500)	-	-
LFL	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
Resource Creation	-	80	-	-	80
Groundwork/ Tesco	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Marsh Charitable Trust	-	500	-	-	500
Phillip + Connie Phillips	-	5,000	(1,750)	-	3,250
Cantiacorum	-	3,070	(1,237)	-	1,833
The Lawson Trust	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
	<u>44,728</u>	<u>73,414</u>	<u>(81,492)</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>71,651</u>

During the year, £35,000 was transferred from unrestricted to LFL Restricted in order to fund the RSE Primary project.

Trustees during reporting period:

Name	Date Appointed	Date Stood Down	Role
Nicola Walker	05 July 2021		Chair
Kate Rosanna Taylor	22 September 2021		Treasurer
Vikki Leach	05 July 2021	16 November 2022	Trustee
Karen Michelle McGuigan	05 July 2021		Trustee
Shilpa Bose	05 July 2021		Trustee
Andrea Melanie Wilson	05 July 2021		Trustee
Andreas Lundberg	25 January 2023		Trustee
Sophie Evitts	25 January 2023		Trustee

The Key Management Personnel are the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

Johanna Aiyathurai - CEO

Registered Office: 265 Maidstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0HA

Operational Address: MCSC, Marsham Street, Maidstone, ME14 1HH

Independent Examiner: S R Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA, Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited,
20 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP

Bank: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA



Governance and Structure:

Type of governing document
Foundation Registered 05 July 2021

How the charity is constituted
Foundation CIO

Trustee selection methods
Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees

Johanna Aiyathurai

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Nicola Walker
Chair

Nikki Walker



Kate Taylor
Treasurer

Kate Taylor



Date: 17 November 2023



Learn and Thrive

England & Wales - Charity number 1195053

Accounts

Learn
and
Thrive

ANNUAL REPORT



2021/2022

A world where everyone with Down's
syndrome thrives!

Learn and Thrive
Charity Number: 1195053
Year ending March 31st 2022

Annual Report 21/22

The Objects for which the charity is established are exclusively charitable according to English law and for the benefit of the public anywhere in the world by advancing the education of children and young people with Down's syndrome and similar learning difficulties, including but not limited to providing access to specialist teachers and therapists through digital content and other resources.




VISION

A world where everyone with Down's syndrome thrives.

MISSION

Using digital tools to empower people with Down's syndrome to thrive throughout their lives.

Chair's Report



A diagnosis of Down's syndrome must never be a barrier to life or love.

What an amazing year 21/22 has been, it's a year that will stay in the memory for many of us forever. A whole new team came together to support the Down's syndrome community. With a wealth of skills, our new Trustees have set to work building an ambitious and resilient organisation that can continue to provide real difference for the community they serve. The team have spent their time collaborating and listening to the community to ensure their needs remain at the heart of every decision.

None of us could have predicted the profound impact of Covid-19. Lockdown was a challenge for parents across the UK. For those with Down's syndrome, the need for support became even more acute. Learn and Thrive has provided online resources to support young learners wherever they are. In less than a year, we have provided resources for almost 1,000 learners. The impact and feedback has demonstrated how powerful our resources are in enabling everyone with Down's syndrome to thrive.

One thing is clear! Our work continues to be vital. Barriers for those with Down's syndrome remain, and the lack of access to services is devastating to the community. We will continue to build partnerships with communities, local authorities and schools to maximise the impact our content provides.

This is only the start of the journey and we step into 22/23 ready to innovate, adapt and excel.

Nikki Walker

Message from our CEO



"For me, delivering real impact is personal"

What an incredible start for a new charity!

Learn and Thrive has burst onto the scene to empower learners with Down's syndrome and other learning needs, to build the vital skills they need to reach their potential and be meaningfully included within their communities.

For me, this is personal, every day I see the impact of not having these services available on children and young people. I have been that parent left stranded and unsure. I have supported those teachers who are looking for ways to better support their students. There is the will to do better for our community, I am so pleased that Learn and Thrive are providing the way to make it happen.

With nearly 1000 current active users, over 4000 sign-ups using our projects, and new exciting things in the pipeline, I am confident that our team can build an experience that utilises digital learning to benefit thousands of young people with learning difficulties.

About Us

Learn and Thrive utilises digital tools to empower people with Down's syndrome to thrive throughout their lives.

We understand the barriers created by society when you have Down's syndrome, and we are dedicated to providing online tools to empower the community to smash through those barriers and live their best life!


Outdated stereotypes, poor understanding of specific learning needs, and a lack of access to services, all contribute to this group of people often not getting the support they need within their communities. Research shows us that people with Down's syndrome are lifelong learners and that with targeted specific support, they can often gain the vital skills needed to access their community and live life to the full.



Focuses on early learning concepts and skills, covering practical approaches to building language skills through play.



Covers personal health, emotions, relationships, and appropriate behaviour for pre-teens through to adulthood.



"I know what I want, are you ready to listen?"

Projects



Having moved to Learn and Thrive from 21 Together in December 2021, Teach Me Too continues to thrive and grow. We have improved user experiences through changes in the accessibility and membership models, produced new content, and spent time with families and professionals talking about the future.

We have reviewed our strategic priorities and intended audience, which identified local authorities and statutory services as the areas we need to

target to ensure we are reaching those children and young people who often don't have the financial or educational means to access specialist support.

We have teamed up with Hertfordshire Local Authority and commissioned an independent review of the Teach Me Too project in early years settings and schools throughout the region.



Launched in April 2022, Learning for Life is a new project developed by the team, alongside external experts and families. It delivers targeted and differentiated support to parents, schools, and other organisations tackling the complex area of relationship, sex, and health education.

We are identifying key areas of learning that are often missed, or whizzed through in education settings. These form the basis for key independent

life skills and include areas such as public and private, appropriate touch, relationships, social boundaries and socially appropriate behaviour. Without fully understanding these areas our young people are left vulnerable to abuse, and with significant barriers to inclusion in work, leisure and activities of daily living.

The Future

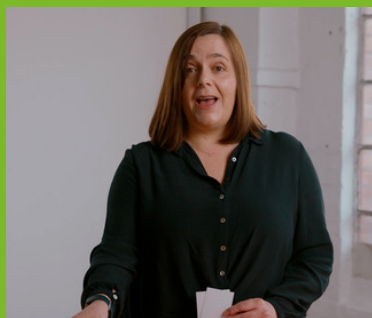


Strong Foundations

As we move into year two, it is vital that we continue to build strong foundations that stand us in good stead for many years to come. Taking on an existing project has allowed us to take on pre-existing structures and governance, as well as access multi-year grants and existing funding opportunities.

We need to make the most of this start by continuing to adapt and build robust strategies to deliver innovative projects with direct impact for our community, sustainably. While every decision-

making process should have children and young people with Down's syndrome at its heart, we must also build an organisation that is mindful of the wider issues that face the charity: specifically the impact of the economic climate, policy, staffing and the general political environment.



Increased Content

A clear way forward is to continue to build more project content. Taking our lead from our young people and working closely with the community when planning the next steps.

Both Teach Me Too and Learning for Life have clear plans for the future and are in full development. We need to keep listening, evaluating and improving, making sure our projects have the best possible outcomes for children and young people.



Taking Digital Further

In the coming year, we will be reviewing different ways of taking digital learning further. Looking at options from online resources and games to entire learning platforms. Our research is ongoing, but as the rest of the world embraces technology, we believe there is a whole world of potential to be unlocked. We just need to be clear on what is possible, and what best suits the needs of our communities.

Impact

As a brand new charity we have hit the ground running with our project users continuing to grow. With less than a year under our belt we have delivered 20 new video resources, 10 new student packs, and identified and set-up long term quality monitoring processes.

526

Learning For Life users - In the short time it has been launched, we have already seen many children and young people benefitting from this new project.

449

Teach Me Too current active members. Historic sign up and system use now tops 3500 individual users.

73

Free learning videos available to all.

"A fantastic resource for children with Down's syndrome. I have tried many different methods to get my little one focused and engaged and the Teach Me Too is by far the more successful."
- Parent

"Thank you so much for the excellent resources for our teenagers. We have started working our way through and they are excellent!" - Donna White

Achievements



Learning For Life

The feedback from our Learning for Life series has been overwhelming. To have planned, launched and developed feedback pathways for this new project in such a short space of time has been a real feat. We are already hearing about the impact it is making on the lives of children and young people.



Trustee Recruitment

As a brand-new charity we are really proud of our Board of Trustees. With a wealth of experience in their areas, backed up by members with lived experience, we really do have a team that encompasses passion, aspiration and excellence.

In times when Trustee recruitment can be tough, we have recruited six members onto the board, driven by their passion for the cause. The level of commitment involved in creating and structuring a new team is immense, and their dedication is to be commended.

"The confidence these resources gave us to deliver Relationship and sex education to our pupils was invaluable."
Kirsty Buckland -SENCO

"I have definitely seen the concepts click with JJ as she has been using them in her normal life. We go swimming regularly and she is now understanding about needing privacy when getting changed and learning that there are different areas at the swimming pool that are public and private. What I'm most impressed by is she is really keen to learn about these topics and wants to do it!"

Debbie - Parent

Achievements



Local Authority Partnership

As the Teach Me Too project grows and evolves, we need to better understand where it sits in a post COVID arena. It was designed to support young children during lockdowns, and since then it has been taken up by schools and nurseries.

We needed to find out more about how schools are using the resource and tease out as much learning as possible.

This learning will help us adapt and improve the project, building a legacy that survives the pandemic and continues to support children and young people.

Our partnership with Hertfordshire Local Authority to complete an independent review into the Teach Me Too project in schools, has been planned and launches in September 2022. Linking with statutory services not only gives us insights to improve the project, but also acts to build our strategic direction of engaging more teachers, SENCOs and health visitors, ensuring the opportunities are reaching those who are not accessing private or additional charitable services.



Collaboration

We have extended our network of partnerships and now work with a variety of highly regarded experts in their field. Collaboration is a cornerstone of our delivery model and our approach to supporting children and young people.

We alone cannot solve the issues surrounding living with a learning difficulty. We have to work together

to build and maintain a variety of tools and pathways to promote the best possible outcomes for the communities we serve.

By rooting ourselves within the communities we serve, and collaborating with families and young people. We can ensure the voice of the children and young people and their families remain the centre of all our decision-making processes.

Challenges



Reaching the most in need

Ensuring we are targeting the hard-to-reach communities remains a real challenge. It is challenging for even large, statutory bodies to fully engage harder to reach families, and as we don't have the resources of those big organisations we need to ensure we are thinking and acting strategically and being innovative in how we engage and reach these families and schools.

Since our creation, we have understood and prioritised the power of social and digital media. We now have two main features spaces booked with highly influential SEN education magazines, which will further our reach among the education professional network.

We remain committed to designing our communication plans to improve our reach. Therefore, we need to continue to build our links and connections with local authorities, education and health professionals. While also continuing our online media and marketing.



Economic impact

Times are tough! We need to consider the impact of the cost of living crisis on our families, their access to technology and the direct impact on their lives. Inevitably, less money means the often overlooked areas our projects cover become even more ignored. This means free access to projects will become even more vital to families, schools, and other community organisations.

Additionally, we need to consider how the economic situation could change our own access to funds. The pressure on grants and trusts has vastly increased, with even more charities vying for the same pots of money. Previously, we have secured excellent relationships with corporate partners who have been central to the success of recent projects.

The generosity extended by companies during the pandemic and since has been a key pillar of our fundraising, and we must be mindful that the economic impact and rising costs may mean there is simply less corporate funds available. Therefore, it is vital we continue to have a robust reserves policy that protects the projects for the communities we serve, and we actively look to diversify our funding.

Finance

Funding

Teach Me Too transferred from 21 Together to Learn and Thrive on 1st December 2021. Alongside the project came the restricted funds to develop the project held by 21 Together, as well as unrestricted donations from Quality Compliance Systems (QCS). The support provided to Learn and Thrive by QCS, and specifically Mat Whittingham (QCS Founder), was pivotal in allowing the charity to form and thrive from day one.

QCS not only provided considerable financial support, they also delivered significant professional support in the form of marketing support, tech support, peer support and mentoring. Staff regularly used their giving back days to give their time and expertise to the charity.

The National Lottery Community Fund continue to support the Teach Me Too project on it's transfer to Learn and Thrive, and we thank them for their patience and support. It remains central to the expansion of Teach Me Too and the wider stability of the charity.



Treasurer Report



Together we thrive.

The charity was registered on 5th July 2021, however it was not until the transfer of the Teach Me Too project on 1st December 2021 that the organisation started to function. Therefore, this annual report only reflects the 4-month period of 1st December 2021 to 31st March 2022. In that short time, we have started to build sustainable income pipelines, build comprehensive multi-year project plans and developed multiple new partnerships. We have also made strategic financial plans, with the aim of diversifying our income streams to include a robust portfolio of trust and foundation supporters, as well as obtaining support from corporates.

In our first period of income, we received £64,913 from two grants and a further £52,474 in unrestricted income (through individual donations, corporate donations and income from 21 Together). Following this strong start, we have begun to successfully diversify our income streams, with numerous grants and trusts already awarded in 2022/23. We have also seen great success from our "Strictly Makaton" fundraising challenge, which generated both unrestricted income and awareness of Learn and Thrive's offering. In addition, obtaining corporate support has been a focus. Our Board of Trustees have the strength of being both well-connected in the world of business and in the Down's syndrome community. With the current spotlight being shone on the importance of access to work in the neurodiverse population, and on diversity and inclusion more broadly, we believe our work connects well with many potential corporate supporters and partners.

Treasurer Report

In our first period of expenditure, we incurred a total of £20,750 expenditure, primarily relating to contracted services for content development and salary costs. We anticipate these to continue to be our primary source of expenditure. Our position at the end of our first reporting period is a strong one; total funds carried forward totalling £96,637, setting the foundations for a resilient charity in the years to come.

As a new charity, we have also set our Reserve policy that we believe is both prudent and appropriate in our context. We incur ongoing costs relating to the provision of existing educational content, staff and overheads. We also incur additional costs when developing new content to expand our offering. Expenditure fluctuates with cycles of new content development, resulting in short periods of high spending intermittently throughout the year. Children and young people, their families and their carers rely on our resources, and it is therefore vital that we can sustain our support over prolonged periods without need to pause/cease access to our educational content if funding streams fluctuate or stop. In this context, we have set a reserve level of 12 months of running costs.



Friendship can be tricky, but now I have the skills.

Thank you to our supporters

We are so grateful for all the support from our current and future funders. Their belief in our vision has been inspiring and has allowed us to step into the next financial year with confidence.

There remains a lot of work to do to meet our project targets, but having the continued support of the organisations below has allowed us to concentrate on the quality of our projects and meeting the needs of our communities.

Funders 21/22



Funders 22/23

Confirmed up to July 2022



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF LEARN AND THRIVE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Learn and Thrive

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Learn and Thrive for the period ended 31 March 2022 , which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

S.R. Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA
Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited
20 Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1BP

Date: 5 October 2022

LEARN AND THRIVE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestrict ed funds £	Restricted funds £	Year Ended Total funds £
RECEIPTS				
Grants	2	-	64,913	64,913
Donations	3	52,474	-	52,474
Fundraising		-	-	-
Charitable Activities		-	-	-
Total		<u>52,474</u>	<u>64,913</u>	<u>117,387</u>
PAYMENTS				
Costs of Generating Funds		-	-	-
Charitable Activities	4	325	18,292	18,617
Management and Administration Costs	5	240	1,893	2,133
Other Expenditure		-	-	-
Total		<u>565</u>	<u>20,185</u>	<u>20,750</u>
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)		<u>51,909</u>	<u>44,728</u>	<u>96,637</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	6			
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>51,909</u></u>	<u><u>44,728</u></u>	<u><u>96,637</u></u>

LEARN AND THRIVE

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.03.2022 Total funds £
Monetary Assets			
Cash at Bank and in Hand	51,909	44,728	96,637
	<u>51,909</u>	<u>44,728</u>	<u>96,637</u>
Debtors			
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Current Liabilities			
Social Security and Other Taxes	-	1,323	1,323
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,323</u>	<u>1,323</u>
Other Assets			
			31.03.2022 Cost £
Computer Equipment			-
			<u>-</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 October 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

K Taylor - Trustee

N Walker - Trustee

LEARN AND THRIVE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2. GRANTS

	31.03.2022
	£
Grants - National Lottery (via 21 Together)	54,982
Grants - Awards for All	9,931
	<u>64,913</u>

3. DONATIONS

	31.03.2022
	£
Donations - 21 Together	28,894
Donations - Corporate	20,000
Donations - Enthuse	3,580
	<u>52,474</u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE

	31.03.2022
	£
Direct Wages	9,161
Pension Costs	264
Resource Creation	225
Recruitment	142
Staff Training	75
Venue Cost	408
Bought-in Services	8,342
	<u>18,617</u>

LEARN AND THRIVE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	31.03.2022
	£
IP, Licence, Permissions	300
Website Maintenance	448
Bank Fees	56
IT Software & Consumables	12
Software Costs	139
Postage, Freight & Courier	18
Subscriptions	677
Insurance	483
	<u>2,133</u>

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund Name	01.04.2021	Receipts	Payments	31.03.2022
	£	£	£	£
National Lottery	-	54,982	(18,685)	36,297
Awards for All	-	9,931	(1,500)	8,431
	<u>-</u>	<u>64,913</u>	<u>(20,185)</u>	<u>44,728</u>

Trustees during reporting period:

Name	Date Appointed	Role
Nicola Walker	05 July 2021	Chair
Kate Rosanna Taylor	22 September 2021	Treasurer
Vikki Leach	05 July 2021	Trustee
Karen Michelle McGuigan	05 July 2021	Trustee
Shilpa Bose	05 July 2021	Trustee
Andrea Melanie Wilson	05 July 2021	Trustee

The Key Management Personnel are the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO):
Johanna Aiyathurai - CEO

Registered Office & Operational Address:

MCSC, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HH

Independent Examiner:

S R Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA, Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited, 20 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1BP

Bank:

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA



Governance and Structure:

Type of governing document

Foundation Registered 05 July 2021

How the charity is constituted

Foundation CIO

Trustee selection methods

Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Nicola Walker

Chairman



Kate Taylor

Treasurer

