

Ouseburn Community Centre Annual Report and Financial Statement Year End 31st March 2023

Charity number: 1195661

Legal Structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O)

Period covered: 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

Chairperson's Report

My thanks to our Staff, Volunteers, Colleagues and Supporters

It has been another challenging year for our charity having transitioned from the COVID pandemic back to full normal operations, only to enter a cost-of-living crisis putting a squeeze on all our customers pockets matched with increasing overheads. This year has been one of stabilisation in terms of keeping our centre busy, providing a wide range of socially motivated activities benefitting our community of interest, matched with generating income to cover our operating costs.

Once again, the dedication and commitment of our staff, volunteers, partners and supporters has meant we have managed to minimise the impact of the cost-of-living squeeze on our income generation, increasing our total over the previous year. This has helped us to ensure our overall deficit did not push us into an unhealthy financial position for our coming financial year 2023/24.

So, I would like to begin this report by giving my personal and heartfelt gratitude to our management team – H.C. Horizons C.I.C. who have worked tirelessly to keep our centre vibrant and busy providing a wide range of activities, supporting families and their children from low-income households, vulnerable adults and children, whilst carefully balancing the need to trade space to help cover our operating costs. I would also like to thank them for helping to maintain our business continuity and a resilient balance sheet over the past 12 months, where our response to community needs and aspirations are a priority within our resourcing and budgeting strategy.

I would also like to personally thank our board of trustees, who have continued to attend board meetings, making critical business decisions, and continued to provide strategic leadership and direction to our contracted staff team.

Introduction

The purpose of my annual report is to provide our stakeholders with relevant information about our charity's performance over the past 12 months having only recently incorporated.

Our charitable objectives are to further or benefit the residents of Newcastle Upon Tyne and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

In the furtherance of those objectives our stewardship and management of the building has been focused on maintaining a vibrant, inclusive and diverse community centre, offering a

wide range of activities to our communities of interest alongside the continual development and creation of new ways to generate income to keep our charity financially viable.

A key focus for our board has been supporting H.C. Horizons with the challenge of balancing our social focus in helping those in need alongside the requirement to generate income in an equally challenging commercial environment generated by a significant rise in inflation matched with ever increasing overheads that need to be met to run our centre.

My report and associated accounts, when read together, provide key information about our organisation, what has been achieved as the result of those activities, how we are governed and our future plans.

Asset Transfer

In preparing our charity for asset transfer, we have continued to commission H.C. Horizons C.I.C. in supporting us through the asset transfer process. Progress is still very slow with the Council and we are now waiting for the new 35-year lease to complete the transfer process.

We are fully prepared to take the opportunities this now presents, with the right terms and will work to best practice, with systems, resourcing, and tools in place to ensure our future success and longevity.

The Trustees of our Charity

- Stephen Powers
- Walter Morauf
- Kevin Anderson
- June Conway

Summary of activities

Following on from our previous years' work I am pleased to report our management arrangements continue to work well for our centre and our activities are continuing to grow from strength to strength despite the challenges we now face from the cost-of-living crisis. Our reach has evolved over the past 12 months with some of our old partners ceasing to operate and moved on and new partners joining us providing new exciting activities for our beneficiaries.

In brief, as a board we have worked with H.C. Horizons C.I.C. to date in undertaking the following activities this has included:

- Continued negotiations for a new lease for the building for the next 35 years.
- Brought a range of new users to the building with a focus on adults with physical and mental disabilities, adults looking to learn new skills and children and young people with a focus on early years development.
- Continued to liaise with the school to pursue opportunities for collaboration.
- Increasing income and identifying further opportunities for income generation so we are not dependent on grants.
- Making the Centre accessible to all and flexible options to meet beneficiaries needs

- Bringing in and attracting new services so our offer is extended and diverse

Users

Over the past 12 months Ouseburn Community Centre has supported a wide range of existing and new user groups. Our approach has ensured our centre has family and children support and development at the heart of its offer.

Our partners are diverse in nature and include but not exhaustive:

Hotspur Primary School – continues to be a central partner to our centre, delivering their well-utilised Tree House after school and holiday provision. I am very grateful for their continued support of our charity and look forward to continuing to work closely with them in to the future.

Adventure Babies – We have established a strong working relationship with our local franchise running regular classes on a Wednesday. Their Sensory Storytelling Baby Classes or Toddler Classes ensure that children enjoy sensory activities which support their speech and language development, sensory development, physical development, social and emotional development. However, we have noted that Adventure Babies is finding it challenging due to the cost-of-living crisis with numbers beginning to dwindle so we have worked with them to find a way for them to continue operating.

Bloom Baby Newcastle – We supported a local entrepreneur establish her Bloom Baby franchise in Newcastle using our centre as her venue. Bloom Baby Classes support parents by teaching baby play activities that can be replicated at home. Our partnership with Bloom Baby sadly came to a close in July 2022 which the operator stated was due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Busy Bees – Is an NHS and Council funded service unique to Newcastle that supports families with children that have autism. Their focus was on helping parents care for autistic children, bringing families together to share mutual support, offering help, support, advice and guidance in dealing with this challenging condition. We have enjoyed working with and supporting Busy Bees but unfortunately our work sadly came to an end in December 2022 when they moved to new premises provided by the council free of charge.

Crossroads Project – Our work with Crossroads continues to go from strength to strength with them now being a regular fixture within our building. They are now incorporated through help and support provided by H.C. Horizons becoming a bonafide social business with a focus on supporting vulnerable, isolated, elderly, physical and mentally disabled people; helping them lead fulfilled and active lives by socialising with likeminded people, learning new skills, having nutritious food choices but ultimately having fun in a safe and inclusive environment.

The company primarily provides fun and educational activities to beneficiaries with the aim of stimulating their motor and cognitive senses to help maintain and improve their bodily and mental functions. We supplement our activities with a lunch service to provide healthy, nutritious and affordable hot food.

They offer a range of healthy services and activities including but not limited to:

- Zumba
- Arts and crafts
- Bingo
- Indoor bowling
- Dancing

- Singing
- Accredited training in First Aid

This new venture has added a whole new dimension to our social purpose by helping and supporting a very vulnerable group of interest.

Newcastle Diamond Way Buddhist Group – Are a new group to us and we welcome this new faith into our centre in support of our drive for greater social integration, community cohesion and racial integration, building tolerance between communities of interest and identity.

Elite P.E. and Wellbeing – We partnered up with Elite P.E. and Wellbeing who specialise in delivering high quality PE and wellbeing sessions to schools and community venues. We partnered up with them to support the Government's holiday activities and food programme which provides food and activities to children on free school meals during the school holiday periods.

Friends Action North East (FANE) – FANE are now a regular customer and their group continues to go from strength to strength. Their main purpose is to help adults in the Northeast of England with learning disabilities to make and keep friends. FANE champions friendship, raising expectations and creating opportunities to do ordinary things. Having this organisation within our centre helps us to reinforce our support for vulnerable adults from within our local community.

Hartbeeps – Our work with Hartbeeps came to an end in April 2022 again due to a downturn in numbers, which we believe is linked to the cost-of-living crisis. Our relationship with Hartbeeps helped reinforce our commitment to children and early years development but sadly now ended.

Mana Christian Church – Continue to be a regular customer of ours and use our centre for their sermons every Sunday which is predominantly attended by members of the BME community. We see this as a great platform to welcome people from all denominations into our centre and help them integrate into our local community.

Foodnation – We are continuing to develop our collaborative relationship with Foodnation by hosting their Men's pie club which is popular with its participants and has grown to two sessions per week. We are working on plans to upgrade our kitchen area to make it fully commercially compliant once the asset transfer is complete, which should help us open up new markets and opportunities associated with food and cooking opening up new traded income options.

Nourish Food School – Nourish Food School continue to be a solid partner of ours and previously a part of social enterprise Food Nation. They use our centre as their registered operating address and provide cookery classes, workshops and food events in partnership with us. The company's focus is to positively shape the way people see, eat and experience food every day at every age. They believe food should be enjoyed and a positive part of every lifestyle, and that everyone should have access to the skills, knowledge and confidence to make that happen. Everything they do matches up with our social mission - allowing us to support our local community's health, well-being, skills and happiness. They have worked with us to cascade key messages.

Mixed in between all of our structured and organised activities, classes and groups we also hosted a range of events and activities with a variety of local organisations and local residents to broaden our reach into the local community and also help with the accessibility of essential and key health services needed by local people including:

- Vita Health Group – one to one mental health support commissioned via the NHS;
- Newcastle City Council – with COVID vaccinations, family support work and community meetings;

- Yoga – we are home to a local YOGA club set and ran by a local resident;
- Table Top Sale – we provided free use of our hall to a local resident to pilot and indoor 'boot sale';
- Lego Club – set up by a local resident as a way of getting children off their hand held devices and socialising;
- Family Fun Zone – we applied for grant funding from the Council to operate a Family Fun Zone from March 2023 as part of the Warm zone initiative aimed at helping keep families warm during the Winter period. Our session is the only one aimed at families and children and open at a weekend. We worked with Elite P.E. and Kids Kitchen to provide good quality food and activities to keep people active.

Summing Up

I firmly believe our move to a C.I.O. puts us in a better position to ensure the longevity of our charity looking into the future. With the continued help and support of H.C. Horizons C.I.C. I am confident that we will continue to grow our portfolio of social partners and increase our social impact whilst still hoping to take ownership of the building in 2023 and maintaining a healthy balance sheet to ensure our financial sustainability.

Statement of Accounts 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Charity Number: 1195661

Please note this statement of financial activities has been independently examined.

The charity was incorporated on the 31st of August 2021 as a C.I.O. From that date it began operating as Ouseburn Community Centre C.I.O. This is a financial statement of the accounts of the new charity covering the first full 12-month operating period from the 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

Independent Accounts for year ending March 31st 2023.

Please find a full breakdown of our full year's accounts on the next page.

Please note

- Spending out stripped total income but this was to be expected due to the cost-of-living crisis and significantly increased operating overheads.

Approved by the Trustees ?????? 2023 signed on their behalf by: Stephen Powers

Chairperson

Stephen Powers ()

Ouseburn Community Centre

Accounts for the year ending Mar 2023

	This year		21/22 Comparison
	£	£	£
Income			
Grants & Donations			
NOC Grant	5,532		10,667
Miscellaneous Donors	350		61
		5,882	10,728
Traded Income			
Subscriptions	0		0
Room Hire	37,371		30,930
Refreshments	0		0
NPOWER Photovoltaic	3,055		2,776
Miscellaneous	600		0
		41,027	33,707
Investment Income			
Bank Interest	693		0
Other Income		693	-35
TOTAL INCOME		47,601	44,399
Direct Charitable costs			
Rent and Rates	945		0
Heat, Light and Power	6,526		4,130
Telephone and Computer	989		1,603
Maintenance	1,944		1,699
Staff costs & Administration	46,000		51,464
Consultancy, IT and Support	555		1,797
Bad Debt Write Off	0		960
		56,959	61,653
Other Costs			
Miscellaneous	724		0
Events & Festivals	1,560		0
Petty Cash	0		0
		2,284	0
TOTAL COSTS		59,243	61,653
NET PROFIT/LOSS FOR THE YEAR		-11,641	-17,253
Cash & Bank Balances at 31st March 2021		60,389	0
Cash & Bank Balances at 31st March 2022		48,657	60,389
Statement of Assets			
Deposit Account	40,592		45,819
Current Account	8,066		14,570
Debtors Control Account	85		-5
Total Assets		48,742	60,384



Independently produced by Chris Armstrong - Solid Base Non-Profit Support

Signed by Stephen Powers - Chairperson

Date

18/11/24

On behalf of the Management Committee