

OUTSIDE THE BOX CIO

England & Wales · Charity number 1197431

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-01-11

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

Contact

Address Orangebox
1 Blackledge
Halifax
HX1 1AF

Phone 01422392003

Email outsideboxCIO@gmail.com

Website <https://outsidetheboxcio.org>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO, TO BE CARRIED OUT IN WEST YORKSHIRE, ARE:1) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE ARTS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY DEVELOPING AND DELIVERING CREATIVE PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS.2) TO ADVANCE IN LIFE, RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF AND HELP YOUNG PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS, LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND/OR NEURODIVERSITIES, BY ORGANISING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AND OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES, SUPPORT AND ADVICE AS A MEANS OF:A) DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS;B) PROVIDING RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE;C) PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Activities: Outside The Box develop participatory and well-being activities with, by and for people in West Yorkshire, particularly for young people with learning differences and/or neuro-diversities such as autism.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Bradford City
- Calderdale
- City Of Wakefield
- Kirklees
- Leeds City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£24,060	£10,102	-	-
2023-12-31	£11,460	£10,414	-	-
2022-12-31	£9,722	£2,370	-	-

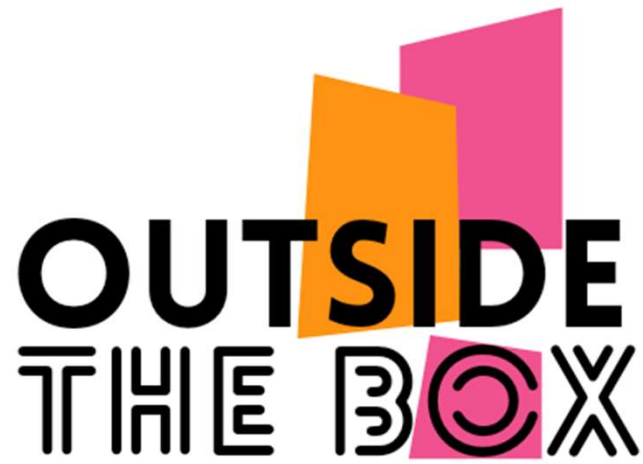
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Catherine Ray		2022-01-11
Emma Ruhkala		2022-02-25
Jodie Eagleton		2022-01-11
Matilda Ray		2022-01-11
Tom Kendall		2022-05-09

OUTSIDE THE BOX CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1197431

Accounts



Registered CIO: 1197431

Annual Report and Accounts

January - December 2024

Chair's Report

I am pleased to present the third Annual Report for Outside the Box CIO. We have had another brilliant year, with new young people joining Orange Box Choir, and new opportunities to sing in front of public audiences.

A big achievement was our successful application to the National Lottery Community Fund, and we are amongst the first cohort of applicants to receive brand new two-year grants from their Awards for All programme. This gives our charity some much needed security and breathing space until April 2026. Fundraising can be a very tiring treadmill! I feel proud to have made five successful applications in the last three years, raising almost £33,000 in grant funding.

I am a stuck record when it comes to singing the praises of our participants. One of the best things about Orange Box Choir is how welcoming and supportive the group is. Taking part in any creative activity isn't just about the activity itself - it's about the friendships, a break from the stresses we have in our lives, and holding each other up when we feel down. It's also about mixing with people you may not otherwise meet in your daily life, and the opportunity to learn from and support each other.

For me this is the end of an era, as I have chosen to step down as a Trustee and volunteer at the end of January 2025. It is time for Outside the Box CIO to refresh and renew it's governance.

So I want to take the time to say thank you to everyone who has been on this journey with me, and send a massive hug to all our wonderful participants. Keep being loud and proud! I will be there at your future gigs, cheering you on and singing along!

Maria Spadafora
Chair for Outside the Box CIO



Project Manager's Report

What a fantastic year it has been for Orange Box Choir which has seen our 2nd full year of session delivery since finding our new home with Outside The Box CIO.

We have welcomed some new participants to the group over the past year, formed new friendships and taken part in some fantastic performances!

Some highlights have included performing on the Piece Hall main stage for Calderdale Pride. For some of our choir members this was their first time performing on such a large

stage and in front of so many people. Everyone coped really well and delivered a brilliant performance which was really well received by the audience and generated some lovely feedback.

We have said goodbye to Maria who has moved on to pastures new but I'd like to thank her for all her hard work and leaving us in such a strong position. I'd like to also take this opportunity to thank our amazing choir leaders Amy-Rose and Jonny and our amazing Trustees and team of volunteers for all their dedication and hard work and of course our wonderful choir members.

Another highlight, as always, was the performance at KACCL 2024 where Orange Box Choir bravely performed to an audience of over 300 people. The performance brought many audience members to tears further cementing the relationship with our long-standing supporters on the Kirklees and Calderdale Charity Lunch committee. As well as our performance fee we received a donation of £2500 from some incredibly kind donors in the audience. This is a testament to how much they believe in what we do, and we thank them very much.

Cont...

Project Manager's Report

...Cont

I'm so proud of our choir members and our team of trustees, staff and volunteers for everything they have achieved over this past year. You really all are an incredible group of people and I hope you are proud of yourselves.

As I always say – "The future is bright. The future is Orange Box Choir!"

Jamie Eagleton
Project Manager, Orange Box Choir



Photo by Heather Magner

Our Purpose and Values

Outside The Box CIO develops participatory and wellbeing activities with, by and for people in Calderdale. We use creativity to enhance wellbeing, particularly for young people who are neurodiverse and have learning differences.

We do this by:

- delivering creative, participatory activities and events with, by and for participants
- enabling and supporting people to take part in opportunities that enhance wellbeing and encourage friendship
- providing or signposting to information, advice and support
- creating and promoting volunteering opportunities

We currently deliver Orange Box Choir on a weekly basis during term-time. Our group meets in the evening at Orange Box Young People's Centre.



Photo by Heather Magner

Our Trustees:

Maria Spadafora – Chair
Emma Ruhkala - Treasurer
Tilz Ray
Cathy Ray
Jodie Eagleton
Tom Kendall – Safeguarding

Trustees oversee the management of the charity and our activities

Our Freelance Delivery Team:

Jamie Eagleton – Project Manager & Safeguarding Lead
Amy-Rose Atkinson – Choir Facilitator
Jonny Keegan – Choir Facilitator

Our Policies and Procedures:

Safeguarding
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers
Conflicts of Interest
Managing Grievances
Managing Finances and Reserves
Data Protection (GDPR)
Health and Safety
Risk Management

Our Participants

In 2024:

21 people took part in **37** sessions

4 of these were new to our choir

11 attended with a parent or carer

10 attended independently

17 parents/carers also attended sessions

5 volunteers contributed over 140 hours of their time at workshops and events

2150+ people watched performances at **4** events

“What I love about choir is just how we all love singing and it’s just having everyone together that has the same interest and stuff. We’re all super supportive of each other and we just have loads of fun together, it’s great.”
– L, Participant

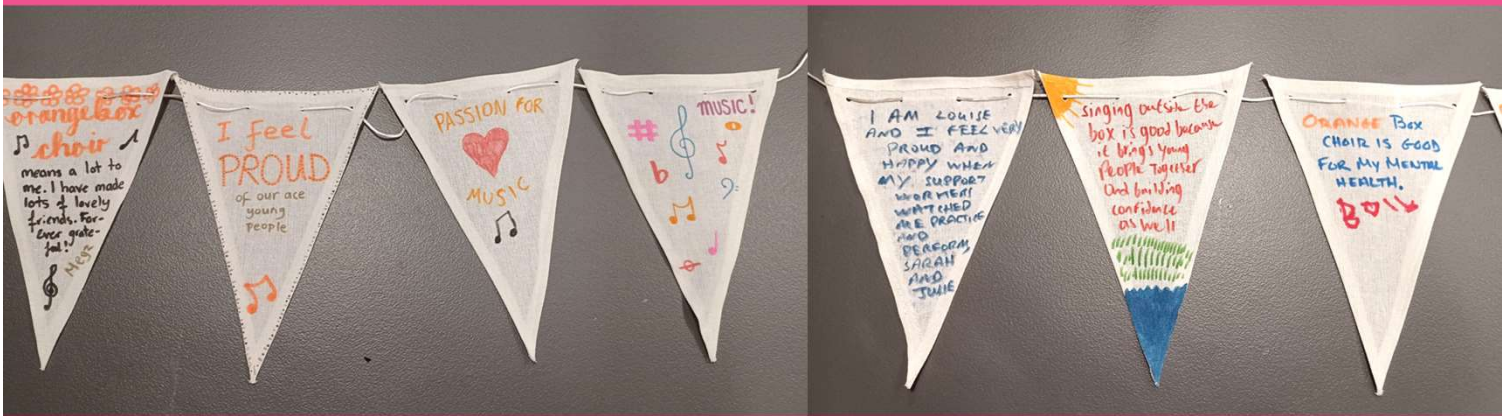
“When I first joined I was pretty nervous. I actually didn’t know what to expect. The only person I knew was my friend J but she’s moved to accommodated living now, so when I first came I didn’t know a single person, and now I know everyone. It feels great.”
– D, Participant

“We’ve got new members and I think it’s getting stronger. It’s good.”
– F, Participant



Photo by Martin Bown

Our Participants



“I felt nervous because I didn’t know anybody. Now I feel good in myself that I’ve done it.”
– J, Participant

“I’m loving every minute of it and I’ve made so many new friends. I love meeting new people who are similar to my age. I love coming to choir every week because I love meeting new friends and everyone is so welcoming.”

“I think it is very very good. I enjoy the singing. I think we’ve been very good at performing.”
– L, Participant



Photo by Cathy Ray



Photo by Maria Spadafora

Achievements in 2024



March 2024 We started the year with a successful funding application to the National Lottery. Securing a grant of £19,972 for two-years provided a significant boost to the delivery of Orange Box Choir, offering security until April 2026.



August 2024 We once again performed at Calderdale Pride, on the large Piece Hall stage. This was an incredible experience for our choir, singing to an audience of more than 1,000 people.

Photos by Martin Bown



December 2024 Once again Orange Box Choir held a regular slot at Kirklees and Calderdale Charity Lunch (KACCL), performing to approximately 300 people. We have been proud to support this event since 2017.



December 2024 We rounded off the year with lively and enjoyable gigs at The Piece Hall and Halifax Borough Market.



Photos by Cathy Ray

Audience members kindly donated almost £200 in cash.

Finances and Reserves

Finances for 2024 are presented on a cash accounting basis, and reflect income and expenditure as it's received and paid.

Our Reserves Policy

Trustees agreed to a target level of Reserves of between 3 and 6 months' running costs, outlining a minimum of £2,000.

The purpose of reserves is:

- 1) Continuity – bridging gaps, such as delays or shortfalls in income
- 2) Cyclical maintenance – such as repairing needed equipment
- 3) Dissolution – costs that need to be covered should we dissolve

At the end of 2024 we maintained unrestricted reserves of just over £8,000, and £14,000 in restricted reserves which are used to fund the costs of delivering the choir.

Finances and Reserves



Charity Name		No (if any)	
Outside the Box CIO		1197431	
Receipts and Payments Accounts			
CC16a			
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2024		31/12/2024



Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to the nearest £	Restricted to the nearest £	Endowment to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
<i>Brought Forward</i>	6,996	1,402	-	8,398	7,352
Sales	150	-	-	150	150
Suma	-	-	-	-	-
CFFC General	-	-	-	-	-
CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing	-	-	-	-	-
SWYP NHS Creative Minds	-	-	-	-	-
KACCL	3,667	-	-	3,667	58
Halifax Opportunity Staying Well	-	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	19,972	-	19,972	1
Donations	271	-	-	271	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,088	19,972	-	24,060	7,561
A2 Asset and investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,088	19,972	-	24,060	7,561
A3 Payments					
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Tutors	2,114	6,241	-	8,355	7,963
Choir Expenses	177	84	-	261	467
Other direct expenses	-	-	-	-	350
Entertaining	-	-	-	-	69
Room Hire	60	660	-	720	900
Telephone/Internet	-	8	-	8	62
IT	52	121	-	173	-
Insurance	323	-	-	323	303
Marketing	26	235	-	261	300
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,752	7,350	-	10,102	10,414

Finances and Reserves

A4 Asset and investment purchases.					
	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,752	7,350	-	10,102	10,414
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,336	12,622	-	13,958	- 2,853
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,996	1,402	-	8,398	-
Cash funds this year end	8,332	14,024	-	22,356	- 2,853

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	<i>Brought Forward</i>	6,996	1,402	-
	Sales	-	-	-
	Suma	-	-	-
	CFFC General	-	-	-
	CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing	-	-8	-
	SWYP NHS Creative Minds	-	-1,108	-
	KACCL	-	-287	-
	Halifax Opportunity Staying Well	-	160	-
	National Lottery Community Fund	-	13,865	-
	Reserves	1,336	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,332	14,024	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all	Signature	Print Name	Date of	
		EMMA RUHKALA	31/1/2025	
		MARIA SPADAFORA	31/1/2025	

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all our donors, and everyone who has supported us in 2024.

But, as usual, the biggest thank you has to go to all the choir participants and their amazing families, carers and support staff. You are what makes our little gang so special.

Keep using your voices, the world needs to hear you! We look forward to another year of singing with you.

**Trustees for Outside the Box CIO
February 2025**



OUTSIDE THE BOX CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1197431

Accounts



Registered CIO: 1197431

Annual Report and Accounts

January - December 2023

Chair's Report

I am pleased to present the second Annual Report for Outside the Box CIO.

This represents the second year of our charity's existence, but the first full year of delivering Orange Box Choir since 2019, due to the disruption of the pandemic and needing to find a new home.

And what a year it's been! We started off in a great position, having secured funding and generous donations, and ended the year winning Best New Charity at the Calderdale Community Spirit Awards. Long-standing choir member Sam collected our award, and seeing his face light up was the real prize!

Running even a small charity takes a lot of hard work. I feel incredibly proud of our whole team – Jamie, Amy-Rose and Jonny, our trustees, volunteers, parents, carers, and of course our incredible choir members. You are all amazing!

I look forward to another year of laughing and singing outside the box with you all.

Maria Spadafora
Chair for Outside the Box CIO



Photo by Odette

Project Manager's Report

What a fantastic year it has been for Orange Box Choir which has seen our first full year of session delivery since before the pandemic, and finding our new home with Outside The Box CIO.

This new stability has enabled us to welcome some new participants to the group, form new friendships and take part in some fantastic experiences!

Some highlights have included performing on the Piece Hall main stage for Calderdale Pride. For many of our choir members this was their first time performing on such a large stage and in front of so many people. Everyone coped really well and delivered a brilliant performance which was really well received by the audience and generated some lovely feedback.

Outside The Box CIO winning the best new charity award at the Community Spirit Awards was another amazing achievement and a testament to the hard work of our Chair Maria for keeping the choir in such a strong position, the team of trustees and volunteers, our amazing choir leaders Amy-Rose and Jonny and of course our wonderful choir members without out whom winning this award would not have been possible.



Photo: Community Spirit Awards 2023

Project Manager's Report

Another highlight, as always, was the performance at KACCL 2023 where Orange Box Choir bravely performed to an audience of approximately 300 people. They received a standing ovation and brought many audience members to tears with their emotional yet high-spirited performance. This further cemented the relationship with our long-standing supporters on the Kirklees and Calderdale Charity Lunch committee.

Seeing the choir develop and its members grow in confidence is truly rewarding. I'm so proud of our choir members and our team of trustees, staff and volunteers for everything they have achieved over this past year. You really all are an incredible group of people and I hope you are proud of yourselves.

I can't wait to see what accomplishments we will make in the future.

As I always say – “The future is bright. The future is Orange Box Choir!”

Jamie Eagleton
Project Manager, Orange Box Choir



KACCL 2023 Photo by Heather Magner

Our Purpose and Values

Outside The Box CIO develops participatory and wellbeing activities with, by and for people in Calderdale. We use creativity to enhance wellbeing, particularly for young people with learning differences and/or neurodivergence.

We do this by:

- delivering creative, participatory activities and events with, by and for participants
- enabling and supporting people to take part in opportunities that enhance wellbeing and encourage friendship
- providing or signposting to information, advice and support
- creating and promoting volunteering opportunities



KACCL 2022
Photo by John Steel

Governance and Delivery

OUR TRUSTEES:

Maria Spadafora – Chair
Emma Ruhkala - Treasurer
Tilz Ray
Cathy Ray
Jodie Eagleton
Tom Kendall – Safeguarding

Trustees oversee the management of the charity and our activities

OUR FREELANCE DELIVERY TEAM:

Jamie Eagleton – Project Manager & Safeguarding Lead
Amy-Rose Atkinson – Choir Facilitator
Jonny Keegan – Choir Facilitator

OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Safeguarding
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers
Conflicts of Interest
Managing Grievances
Managing Finances and Reserves
Data Protection (GDPR)
Health and Safety
Risk Management

Our Participants

In 2023:

24 young people took part in 34 sessions

9 of these were new to our choir

12 attended with a parent or carer

12 attended independently

34 parents/carers also attended sessions

6 volunteers supported

1000+ people attended 4 public performances



Calderdale Pride 2023, photo by Tina Bown

"I look forward to my week more because I go to choir. I see a friend at choir. I feel happy, I really enjoy singing."

– V, Participant

"Since joining the choir S has developed a feeling of being connected and belonging to the group. A great sense of camaraderie! He loves talking about choir to family members and staff at his day centre. He loves the performances especially."

– J, Parent

Our Participants

“My daughter thoroughly enjoys Orange Box Choir. After her initial session she came away and said ‘I like this choir, there are people here just like me.’ Because I care for my daughter I know that on a night when she’s had choir, she will be in a good mood until she falls asleep, making her bedtime routine more relaxed.”

- T, Parent

“Better mood, more relaxed after each session. Meeting more people and being more social than previously.”

- L, Participant

“I am pleased that my son is really enjoying it and getting on well with others in the choir. I think it’s good that he is in a group with other young people with disabilities, and fits in well.”

- M, Parent



Our Participants



Photo by Tina Bown

"I've been a member of the Orange Box Choir since 2023. I joined Orange Box Choir because I wanted something to do and I said to my Dad last year, 'I really want to set up a choir for people with disabilities' so that's why I came here. That's why my Dad spoke to you at KACCL, to see if I could join you. And I've been here for a year now and I love it.

I sing lots of different songs and it helps me with my mental health and just being myself as a young person. I like performing in front of people. We sang at Calderdale Pride in 2023 and I was a little bit nervous and I suddenly got used to it. I sang with the lyrics for a while, then at KACCL I realised I didn't need lyrics anymore and I've not been singing with lyrics since."

Achievements in 2023



January - March 2023 We started the year in a good position, securing grant funding from the Community Foundation for Calderdale Health and Wellbeing fund, Halifax Opportunities Trust Staying Well fund, and Creative Minds - a charity hosted by South West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

July 2023 Orange Box Choir performed alongside Cube Choir at Square Chapel, to an audience of around 250 people. Ellie and Lauren did a collection and raised £260 in cash donations!



August 2023 We proudly opened Calderdale Pride, performing to approximately 300 people. We shared the stage with Dame Shirley Bazzey to share a message of solidarity with Trans and non-binary people.

Achievements



Photo: Community Spirit Awards 2023

November 2023 Outside the Box CIO won the award for Best New Charity at the 2023 Community Spirit Awards.

Sam collected our award and told the audience how much Orange Box Choir means to him.

Our choir members have been taking it in turns to keep the award at home, so they can share it with family and friends.



KACCL 2023 Photo by Heather Magner

December 2023 We rounded off the year with two more performances – one at Kirklees and Calderdale Charity Lunch (KACCL) and one at Halifax Borough Markets. Around 300 people attended the KACCL performance, sharing in the joy and emotion of this wonderful event.

Finances and Reserves

Finances for 2023 are presented on a cash accounting basis, and reflect income and expenditure as it's received and paid.

OUR RESERVES POLICY

Trustees agreed to a target level of Reserves of between 3 and 6 months' running costs, outlining a minimum of £2,000.

The purpose of reserves is:

- 1) Continuity – bridging gaps, such as delays or shortfalls in income
- 2) Cyclical maintenance – such as repairing needed equipment
- 3) Dissolution – costs that need to be covered should we dissolve

At the end of 2023 we were fortunate enough to have secured £5,460 in unrestricted income, and allocated £5,000 to reserves.



Finances - January to December 2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<i>Brought Forward</i>	2,752	4,600	-	7,352	-
Sales	50	-	-	50	-
Suma	-	-	-	-	700
CFFC General	-	-	-	-	2,500
CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing	-	-	-	-	4,470
SWYP NHS Creative Minds	-	5,500	-	5,500	-
KACCL	5,000	-	-	5,000	2,000
Halifax Opportunity Staying Well	-	500	-	500	-
Donations	410	-	-	410	52
<i>Sub total(Gross income for AR)</i>	5,460	6,000	-	11,460	9,722



Finances - January to December 2023

A3 Payments					
Choir Tutors	-	7,963	-	7,963	1,821
Choir Expenses	194	273	-	467	178
Other direct expenses	350	-	-	350	28
Entertaining	69	-	-	69	
Room Hire	-	900	-	900	
Telephone/Internet	-	62	-	62	
IT	-	-	-	-	2
Insurance	303	-	-	303	341
Marketing	300	-	-	300	
<i>Sub total</i>	1,216	9,198	-	10,414	2,370

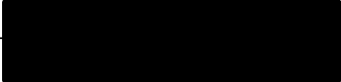
Finances - January to December 2023

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	
<i>Total payments</i>	1,216	9,198	-	10,414	2,370
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	4,244	- 3,198	-	1,046	7,352
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,752	4,600	-	7,352	-
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	6,996	1,402	-	8,398	7,352

Finances - January to December 2023

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	<i>Brought Forward</i>	-	-	-
	Sales	-	-	-
	Suma	-	-	-
	CFFC General	-	8	-
	CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing	-	-	-
	SWYP NHS Creative Minds	-	1,108	-
	KACCL	5,000	-	-
	Halifax Opportunity Staying Well	-	287	-
	Reserves	1,996	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,996	1,402	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		EMMA RUHKALA	09/08/2024
		MARIA SPADAFORA	16/08/2024

Looking Ahead

A huge thank you to all our donors, and everyone who has supported us in 2023. And a special thank you to the Community Foundation for Calderdale and everyone who nominated us as Best New Charity.

But, as usual, the biggest thank you has to go to all the choir participants and their amazing families, carers and support staff. You are what makes our little gang so special. Keep using your voices, the world needs to hear you!

We look forward to another year of singing with you!

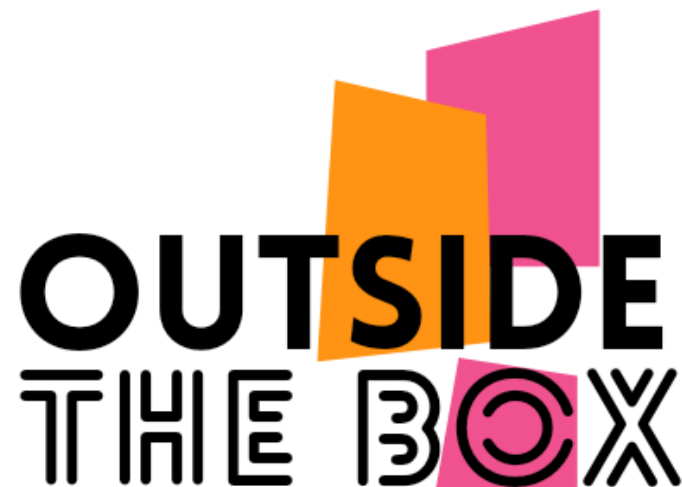
**Trustees for Outside the Box CIO
August 2024**



OUTSIDE THE BOX CIO

England & Wales - Charity number 1197431

Accounts



Registered CIO: 1197431

Annual Report and Accounts

January - December 2022

Chair's Report

I am thrilled to present the first Annual Report for Outside the Box CIO.

We set up this charity to continue and build upon the unique Orange Box Choir, which encourages young people and young adults, particularly those with additional needs, to use their voices. We weathered two major storms in 2020: the Covid-19 pandemic and losing our home, when Square Chapel Arts Centre went into administration before then being taken over by new management.

But we never gave up on Orange Box Choir! Brilliant volunteers boosted morale and kept us all connected for over two-years via regular online sing-a-longs, meetings and quizzes. We knew our community choir was special - a vital and valued resource for our young people.

In 2021 we began exploring options, and in January 2022 we officially registered Outside the Box as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Inspired by our slogan, 'Singing outside the box', our charity will create opportunities with, by and for people in Calderdale.

Life gave us lemons, and we turned them Orange!

Maria Spadafora
Chair for Outside the Box CIO

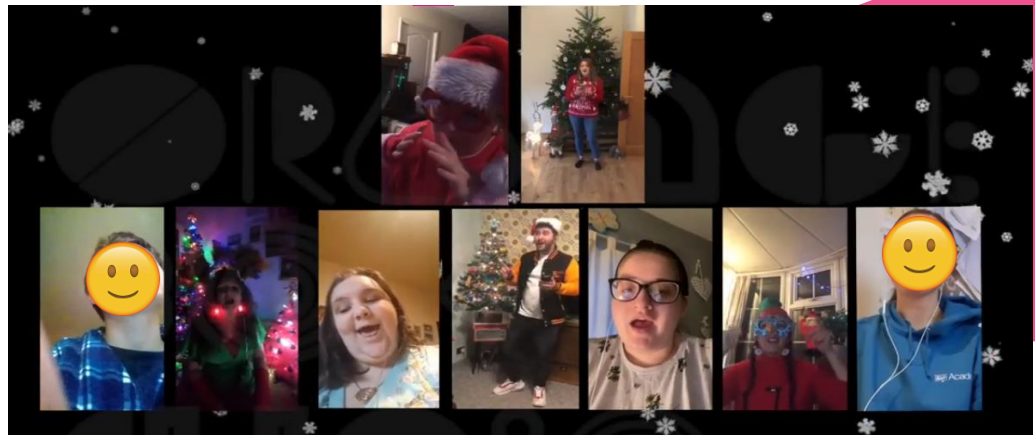


Project Manager's Report

Orange Box Choir has been on quite the journey since its beginnings in 2017. But every cloud has a silver lining, and the trials and tribulations we've experienced lead us on path to becoming fully independent and in control of our own future under the new charity - Outside the Box CIO.

This wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the support, dedication and enthusiasm our amazing participants, volunteers parents and carers keeping us going. Whilst on hiatus throughout the pandemic, and figuring out a solution to losing our home, we engaged virtually in many different ways. Through 'pass it on' we kept each other's spirits high by nominating members of our choir family to post their favourite songs on social media.

We also recorded four virtual music videos which with the help of Ellis and his fantastic editing skills. This included a special rendition of Shakin' Stevens 'Merry Christmas Everyone' to show our appreciation to Calderdale and Kirklees NHS.



Project Manager's Report

We replaced our in-person rehearsals with virtual sing-a-longs on Facebook, again with the help of fantastic young people and volunteers, this engaged our participants along with our wider social media community, and kept momentum and consistency for those involved with choir throughout a difficult period.

Starting in May 2020 and continuing until September 2022 this amounted to over 100 live, online sessions where we all sported a variety of hairstyles!

A special thanks to Keeley, who showed such dedication by taking part in delivering most of sessions, and was rightly recognised for this with a nomination from the Community Spirit Awards. Here's what Keeley had to say about choir and supporting the virtual sessions:



" I got a lot out of choir. I really enjoyed it. It was very good for my mental health. It was good spending time around like-minded people and I really enjoyed it. During Covid it allowed us to have a routine by me helping with the online shows which we managed to do over a hundred of them and it was just a really, really positive experience for me."

Project Manager's Report

We're now back on track and have to say a huge thanks to our trustees, especially Maria who spearheaded the formation of Outside The Box. Everything is looking really positive and we're really grateful to the support everyone has given us.

As we like to say in Orange Box Choir "the future is bright, the future is Orange!"

Jamie Eagleton
Project Manager
for Orange Box Choir



Our Purpose and Values

Outside The Box CIO develops participatory and wellbeing activities with, by and for people in Calderdale. We use creativity to enhance wellbeing, particularly for young people with learning differences and/or neurodiversities.

We do this by:

- delivering creative, participatory activities and events with, by and for participants
- enabling and supporting people to take part in opportunities that enhance wellbeing and encourage them to make new friends
- providing or signposting to information, advice and support
- creating and promoting volunteering opportunities



Annabelle and Caroline lead Orange Box Choir as part of Mind the Gap's 'Zara' in 2019

Governance and Delivery

OUR TRUSTEES:

Maria Spadafora – Chair
Emma Ruhkala - Treasurer
Tilz Ray
Cathy Ray
Jodie Eagleton
Tom Kendall – Safeguarding

Trustees oversee the management of the charity and our activities

OUR FREELANCE DELIVERY TEAM:

Jamie Eagleton – Project Manager & Safeguarding Lead
Amy-Rose Atkinson – Choir Facilitator
Jonny Keegan – Choir Facilitator

OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Safeguarding
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers
Conflicts of Interest
Managing Grievances
Managing Finances and Reserves
Data Protection (GDPR)
Health and Safety
Risk Management

Our Participants

In 2022:

16 young people/young adults took part in **9** sessions

10 of these attended with a parent or carer

6 attended independently

12 parents/carers also attended sessions

7 volunteers supported

300 people attended **1** public performance



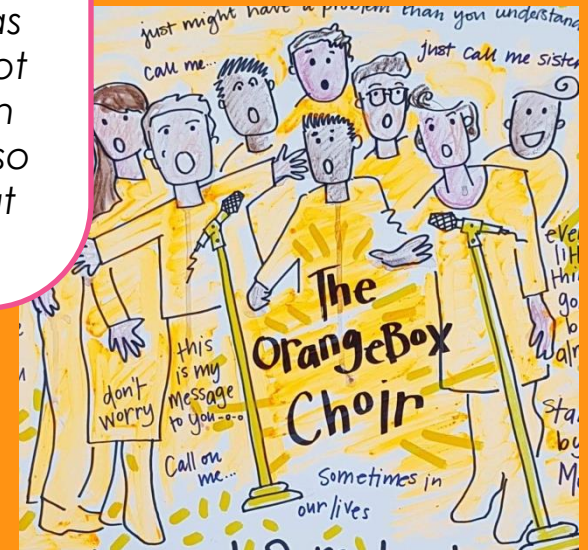
"I like Orange Box Choir because it's fun. It's good and I like the people. Jamie is funny and Amy-Rose is funny and Jonny is funny!" - JOSHUA

"I like Choir because I've got lovely friends here, and I enjoy my singing, and I like it when we do new songs. I like meeting people and I love it when I come here. When I was at KACCL I enjoyed it, and I loved singing with the group and it made me happy, and it made me giddy as well!" - SAM

Our Participants

"Orange Box Choir has kind of been there since I went into care. It's helped me with social skills, learning who to be friends with and who not to be, like hanging around with the right type of friend groups. Choir's really helped me a lot, it's got me out my shell a bit, like before this I used to hang around with all the wrong people. I put myself at risk quite a lot because I've got autism, ADHD and anxiety and all that. Choir makes me happy basically, I love it." - JO

"Lockdown felt really hard. We had some virtual meet-ups, which were good, but they weren't the same as proper choir, which made me sad because I liked coming to choir and hanging out with everybody. I missed that, and now that we get to do it again, it's good. It was very emotional because not everybody had seen each other for a very long time, so it were a bit emotional, but also exciting." - TILZ



Achievements

September 2021 Orange Box Choir was nominated for a National Diversity Award in 2020. We attended a magnificent ceremony at Liverpool Cathedral in 2021.

November 2021 After more than a year singing her heart out in online choir sessions, Keeley was nominated for a Young Volunteer award at Calderdale Community Spirit Awards.

January 2022 Outside the Box CIO was officially registered as a charity.

February 2022 We made our first successful funding application, and received a grant of £2,500 from Calderdale Community Foundation. Coupled with generous donations from SUMA, this helped us kick-start our independence.



Achievements

September 2022 After several months of changeable Covid-19 restrictions, we finally delivered our first in-person choir session, with kind support from Orange Box and Calderdale Young People's Services.

November 2022 Tilz was awarded Young Volunteer of the Year at Calderdale Community Spirit Awards! She was recognised for her brilliant contribution as a young trustee with autism, but also for her incredible fundraising efforts in support of The Epilepsy Society.

December 2022 We ended our first year as a new charity having delivered eight in-person Orange Box Choir sessions. A huge achievement after Covid-19 and not singing together for two and a half years.

And to top it off...



Achievements

We performed at Kirklees and Calderdale Charitable Lunch (KACCL)

This was our first live performance in three years, and after just eight meetings. A massive WELL DONE to our Choir Leaders, Volunteers, and all the parents and carers, but - most of all – our incredible Young People!



Photo: John Steel

Finances and Reserves

Finances for 2022 are presented on a cash accounting basis, and reflect income and expenditure as it's received and paid.

RESERVES POLICY

Trustees agreed to a target level of Reserves of between 3 and 6 months' running costs, outlining a minimum of £2,000.

The purpose of reserves is:

- 1) Continuity – bridging gaps, such as delays or shortfalls in income
- 2) Cyclical maintenance – such as repairing needed equipment
- 3) Dissolution – costs that need to be covered should we dissolve

At the end of 2022 we were fortunate enough to have secured £2,752 in unrestricted income, which was allocated to reserves.



Finances - January to December 2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
CFFC General		2,500	-	2,500	-
Suma	700	-	-	700	-
CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing	-	4,470	-	4,470	-
KACCL	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
Donations	52	-	-	52	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,752	6,970	-	9,722	-
A2 Asset and investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total				-	-
Total receipts	2,752	6,970	-	9,722	-



Finances - January to December 2022

A3 Payments					
Choir Tutors	-	1,821	-	1,821	-
Choir Expenses	-	178	-	178	-
Insurance	-	341	-	341	-
IT/Internet	-	2	-	2	-
Health & Safety	-	28	-	28	-
Sub total		2,370		2,370	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total					
Total payments	-	2,370	-	2,370	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,752	4,600	-	7,352	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	2,752	4,600	-	7,352	-



Finances - January to December 2022

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CFFC	-	4,600	-
	Suma	700	-	-
	Donations	52	-	-
	KACCL	2,000	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,752	4,600	
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Maria Spadafora	31/03/2023
	Emma Ruhkala	31/03/2023

Looking Ahead

At the time of writing this report, we have secured further grant funding from **Creative Minds** a charity hosted by South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, and a generous donation from Mr Krishnan Dev Sharma. This means Orange Box Choir is fully funded until the end of 2023, with healthy reserves to see us through any shortfalls in funding.

We are also excited to have been invited to perform at **Calderdale Pride** at the Piece Hall in August, alongside other opportunities to perform to live audiences.

A huge thank you to all our donors, and everyone who has supported us this first year!

**Trustees for Outside the Box CIO
March 2023**



Photo: John Steel