



The Youth Net

A Charitable Incorporation Organisation

Charity No. 1199420

**Reports and Accounts
For Year Ending**

31st August 2023

1st September 2022 – 31st August 2023

The Youth Net
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for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

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The Youth Net **Annual Report of the Trustees**

The Youth Net

1st September 2022 – 31st August 2023

Registered Charity Number 1199420

Charity Address The Youth Net Offices
Asbury House
Merrey Road
Stafford
ST17 9LX

Trustees

Matthew Long	Chair
Andy Summers	Treasurer
Graham Russell	Vice Chair
John Lotz	
David Lawrence	
Chenda Nuttall	
Samantha Phillips	Director
Nerine Forrest	Resigned May 2023

Staff

Sam Phillips	Director
Alison Way	Explore Project Lead
Maddy Belle	Engage project Lead
Anji Haywood	IF Project Lead
Jon Phillips	Bank Staff
Cathy Short	IF project worker
Lottie Backhouse	Connect Worker – Doxey and St Paul's
Jo Adamson	Connect – Counselling
Laura Colley	Bank Staff
Scott Belle	Connect Stafford Youth

Bank Lloyds Bank PLC

Independent Examiner Mr T Herriott

The Youth Net

Annual Report of the Trustees

BACKGROUND

The Youth Net became a CIO in June 2022 but previously had been Mid Staffs Youth Net (with a working name of The Youth Net) with a charity number of 1100111. All assets were transferred into The Youth Net 1199420 from Mid Staffs Youth Net 1100111 and the transition for all projects and stakeholders was seamless. This is a strategic move to enable future growth.

The two organisations have existed in parallel for financial stability as supporters and grant givers move their support to the new bank account.

STRUCTURE

Governing Document

Constitution

dated 23rd June 2022

GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

The Trustees meet 3 times a year this year to oversee the strategic and legal oversight of the organization. Half termly reports keep Trustees up to date with the every day activity.

The day to day running of the organization is delegated to the Director. The Director is line managed by one of the Trustee group.

Trustees meet with the Director to bring accountability and to discuss and share vision for the future. These meetings provide an opportunity for Trustees to be kept up to date with the activities within projects and any plans for developments. Any matters arising in between meetings would be communicated via phone or email.

Trustees are also responsible for approving policies for the organisation, which are then applied to the day to day running of the various projects

The Youth Net has the following policies and procedures

- Access to learning (IF project)
- Appeals (If project)
- Adverse weather (Connect Stafford Youth)
- Business Continuity Plan
- Comments, Compliments and Complaints
- Compassionate and Bereavement Leave
- Data Protection (GDPR)
- Disciplinary Policy
- Equal Opportunities
- Finance Regulations
- Grievance procedures
- Health and Safety
- Maternity, Adoption, paternity and parental leave
- Privacy policy
- Safeguarding
- Volunteers
- Whistleblowing

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The Youth Net does not own any property but rents office space, storage space and uses meeting room space from Stafford Methodist Circuit, sharing their admin base. We also manage a small Community HUB in Doxey.

We have continued to be a Local Ministry Partner of Scripture Union benefitting from the access to a national and international organization bringing their expertise, skills, networks, support and resources that can benefit us locally.

When it is appropriate any prospective candidates for Trustee-ship will be invited by the current members to consider joining, in line with the process set out in the Trust Deed.

THE YOUTH NET

The Youth Net is made up of projects falling into 2 distinct areas – Schools and Community.

School projects

- ENGAGE - a faith based Secondary Schools project
- EXPLORE – a Primary faith based project
- IF Project – an alternative curriculum project
- Growth – a PHSEE project
- School counsellor through Connect

Community Projects

CONNECT – is the way we work with and for local churches, the local community and network with children, youth and family workers.

- Connect St Paul's and Doxey
- Connect Stafford Youth
- Connect Doxey Hub

STAFF

• Sam Phillips	Youth Net Director	30 hours a week
• Alison Way	EXPLORE project lead	32 hours a week
• Maddy Belle	Engage project lead	32 hours a week
• Anji Haywood	IF project lead	20 hours a week term time
• Jon Phillips	IF project worker	Bank Staff
• Lottie Backhouse	CONNECT St. Paul's/ Doxey	24 hours a week
• Scott Belle	Connect Stafford Youth Post	15 hours a week
• Cathy Short	IF project	10 hours a week
• Jo Adamson	Connect – Counselling	15 hours a week
• Laura Colley	Connect Stafford Youth	Bank Staff

Staff were TUPE'd over into The Youth Net 1199420 on January 1st 2023 from Mid Staffs Youth Net (The Youth Net) 1100111.

The Youth Net **Annual Report of the Trustees**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our objectives as stated in our constitution are as follows

- a. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the statement of beliefs appearing in the schedule hereto particularly amongst children and young people in the schools, colleges and other educational establishments in Mid-Staffordshire and elsewhere as the trustees may from time to time think fit.
- b. To advance education in accordance with Christian principles in the said locality and elsewhere as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

The vision of the Youth Net is

To see children and young people flourishing socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually: positively engaging with the Christian Faith and communities.

The Youth Net works with 3 primary stakeholders, children and young people, schools and Churches. We are involved in activities that help children and young people to flourish socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually both in and out of school. We work with all our stakeholders to resource and equip them in order to see this flourishing take place. We encourage positive engagement with the Christian Faith and encourage engagement with local communities. We also promote unity across the churches to achieve community engagement.

This year we worked to this vision is through the following projects:

- **Explore**
- **Engage**
- **IF project**
- **Growth**
- **Connect St Paul's and Doxey**
- **Connect Stafford youth**
- **Connect Counselling**
- **Connect Youth Net**

We want to once again recognize the hard work and dedication of our staff team in this report to keep adapting and changing in order to respond to the needs of the children, young people and the schools and communities we work with.

The staff team have been exceptional again this year.

Please note:

The reports of the Projects match those of the report for Mid Staffs Youth Net (the Youth Net 1100111)

For September – Dec 2022 they were delivered as Mid Staffs Youth Net (The Youth Net 1100111).

For January 23-August 23 they were delivered as The Youth Net 1199420

The Youth Net

Annual Report of the Trustees

EXPLORE

The EXPLORE project since Covid has worked less with local churches as the number of volunteers has reduced dramatically. This will be an important area of regrowth and reconnection for us over the coming years. For this year the Explore leader has worked predominantly alone delivering assemblies, workshops, sacred spaces and larger scale events.

Activities between September 22 and August 23

The first part of the Autumn Term was taken up with wellbeing workshops and Harvest and Creation RE lessons in local primary schools. The Christmas half term was full of Christmas events which was brilliant and nearly 700 children attended. Schools were extremely positive about these events.

The Spring term was spent working with a primary school to help them turn a polytunnel into a permanent prayer space, Explore, Engage and Reflect conferences and Easter Events. Overall, around 500 children attended these events. Schools are still requesting class-based events compared to the larger scale and inter school events we have delivered previously.

The summer term featured mostly Sacred Spaces and first aid workshops. Staff shortages in the organization impacted this project more in the last half term but a highlight was having our work profiled by prayer Spaces in Schools through one of their articles that Ali wrote.

ENGAGE

The Autumn term was full of Sacred Spaces, RE lessons and Assembly's which was great to see. Engaging with over 600 students has been a real positive since Covid.

The remainder of the year this project has been quiet as Maddy went on maternity leave in February. There has been some activity within the project but it has been dramatically reduced this year.

IF PROJECT

This is our alternative curriculum project. We work with year 9, 10 and 11 students in 3 different High Schools. Students follow the Princes Trust Achieve programme in Personal Development and Employability.

This programme gives learners the opportunity to:

- Develop their own personal growth and engagement in, and through, learning
- Engage in learning that is relevant to them and support their development of personal skills and attributes that are essential for working life and employment
- Prepare themselves for progression into further education programmes, apprenticeships or other work-based learning

The Youth Net **Annual Report of the Trustees**

- Develop their English and mathematics skills

This year's outcomes:

This year we had 7 groups in 3 different high schools spanning 3 school years. This equates to 70 pupils.

3 Year 11 groups (30 young people) achieved their extended Certificates working through 9 modules to achieve this.

3 New groups achieved their award by completing 2 modules and are well on their way to the certificate by the end of this year.

It has been good to be able to deliver using our normal youth work/ informal education style with games and interactive sessions and trips!

We have delivered modules in Teamwork, Wellbeing Physical activity and Wellbeing Healthy eating, personal development, Managing money, community Impact, Career planning and planning for the world of work.

GROWTH

Growth is our project formed around our delivery of Personal, Social, Health education.

This year we have delivered

- drugs and alcohol awareness sessions
- alcohol and consent sessions
- Sixth form transition
- First Aid sessions
- Wellbeing assemblies and workshops

We have engaged with 2747 students.

CONNECT YOUTH NET

Connect is our overarching project that works in the following ways

- **COMMUNITIES** - connecting people with their local communities
- **OUTREACH** - Focus, Imagine and social action days provide opportunities for outreach.
- **NETWORKS** - connecting people to other people
- **NURTURE** - gathering people together to support, encourage and learn together
- **EQUIPPING** - providing equipment and resources
- **COLLABORATING** - wherever we can we like to join with others because together we can do more
- **TRAINING** - connecting people to new knowledge and ideas

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CONNECT St Paul's and Doxey

This project/partnership has continued to thrive as Lottie has fully taken on this role. Youth Club, Family Support, Messy Churches, Doxey Friends, Doxey Kids at the Hub, Pupil voice and Worship council along with Collective Worship and RE lessons at the school mean this role is very active in the 2 local communities. The Churches are currently interregnum (without a vicar) and everything has continued really well.

Connect Counselling

This partnership has developed out of a longstanding relationship with a local High School who were looking to have a school counsellor on site. We were able to recruit Jo and work in partnership with the school to provide this service. She works for 2 days a week in the school counselling young people referred by the school.

Last year this project facilitated 206 hours of counseling with 18 students face to face.

This year

- Term 1 55 counselling hours with 12 different clients.
- Term 2 73 counselling hours with 11 different clients
- Term 3 78 counselling hours with 12 different clients

CONNECT STAFFORD YOUTH

This project continues to be funded by Stafford Borough Council. This year we continued focusing the project in 3 areas – detached work, early intervention work and community intervention work.

Total engagements this year

	YW hours	Total	Male	Female
September 22	42	432	244	188
October	25	223	126	97
November	45	237	156	81
December	27	159	80	79
January 23	60	293	167	126
February	74	372	198	174
March	62	243	140	103
April	50	193	105	88
May	60	191	104	87
June	30	136	68	68
July	20	35	18	17
August	72	268	176	92
TOTAL	567	2782	1582	1200

We have continued to deliver detached and outreach youth work, work in the local college, supporting a local pupil referral unit and supporting young people on a 1-1 basis.

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Annual Report of the Trustees

FINANCIAL REPORT

Overview

Due to the change in our charity structure these accounts only reflect the income and expenditure of 4 months. If you compare our income and expenditure on a pro-rata basis of the 2021/22 year you can see that our figures are more or less in line with those. We saw an overall surplus at the end of the 4 months of £103. The excellent reputation of The Youth Net has enabled it to secure work within schools in particular alternative provision, as well as work with churches. Funding has been obtained to run this work and employ the necessary staff. All surpluses are retained within the charity to further our objectives.

Grants

We continue to receive grant funding from Stafford Borough Council for the Connect Stafford Youth project. In a previous financial year, we also received additional grant funding from Stafford Borough Council to provide positive diversionary activities as an extension of our Connect Stafford Youth project. These funds were spent were fully spent in this year.

Remaining grant funding from #iWill received back in 2018 was eventually fully spent during this year. This funding has taken some time to be used due to interruptions during and post Covid.

Reserves Policy

The Youth Nets policy on holding financial reserves is to enable a sound financial base for future years work. As the majority of its income is voluntary, there is no certainty of income levels from year to year. The Trustees have had discussions during the year, which will involve using a substantial part of the current level of reserves, and are looking to ways of raising further funds to enable this work to be funded.

It is our policy to invest our funds in a bank deposit account.

All funds held at the conclusion of Mid-Staffs Youth Net when the charity structure was changed to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation – The Youth Net (Charity No. 1199420) – were transferred to it on 01/01/23.

IN CONCLUSION

This has been the first really normal year post covid and it has been exciting to see the outcomes achieved by each project. Projects are either performing really well in terms of outcomes or heading on a good trajectory away from the covid impact. The Engage project will be minimized for the duration of the maternity leave but hopefully at little detriment to the project on Maddy's return.

The move over to the CIO is a good strategic move for us and the immediate future focus is on ensuring all finances are moved over to this new organization and the old charity completely wound down. We have taken our time to ensure we do this well and at a pace that staff can handle with the constraints the maternity leave created on a small organization.

The Youth Net **Annual Report of the Trustees**

Nevertheless, it has been a good year. I feel we have stewarded our resources well and had a positive impact for the children and young people we serve.

The Trustees want to record their gratitude to team and to all who support this work in so many different ways. They are pleased to present this report for consideration.

Signed by



Mr Matthew Long
Chair of Trustees

Date
01/06/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Youth Net

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

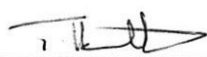
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- * to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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

Signed: 

Date: 1/6/24

Name: MATTHEW HEALD

Address: 15 BELARSLEY

WILSON

STAFFORD

ST17 4QP

The Youth Net

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

Income and expenditure for period 01/01/23 - 31/08/23

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 31/08/23	
	£	p	£	p	£	p
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	15,437.09		3,680.00		19,117.09	
Charitable activities	66,875.71		14,666.64		81,542.35	
Investment income	130.12		-		130.12	
Other	251.20		-		251.20	
Total Income	82,694.12		18,346.64		101,040.76	
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	-		-		-	
Charitable activities	64,141.36		18,346.64		82,488.00	
Other	2,826.81		-		2,826.81	
Total Expenditure	66,968.17		18,346.64		85,314.81	
Net (Expenditure)/Income	15,725.95		-		15,725.95	
Fund Balances brought forward at 1 January 2023	-		-		-	
Transferred 01/01/23 from Mid-Staffs Youth Net Charity No. 1100111	24,527.97		-		24,527.97	
Transfers between Funds	-		-		-	
Fund Balances carried forward 31st August 2023	40,253.92		-		40,253.92	

The Youth Net

Income

for the Year Ended 31st August 2023
Income for period 01/01/23 - 31/08/23

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 31/08/23
	£	p	£	p	£ p
<u>Donations and legacies</u>					
- 200 Club	8,986.00		-		8,986.00
- Churches	4,510.84		-		4,510.84
- Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed	1,940.25		-		1,940.25
- Grants	-		3,680.00		3,680.00
	15,437.09		3,680.00		19,117.09
<u>Charitable activities</u>					
- Explore	526.50		-		526.50
- Engage	770.20		-		770.20
- Growth	1,541.75		-		1,541.75
- Connect	22,926.80		14,666.64		37,593.44
- Doxey Hub	4,291.00		-		4,291.00
- IF	36,400.00		-		36,400.00
- Fundraising	419.46		-		419.46
	66,875.71		14,666.64		81,542.35
<u>Investment income</u>					
- Bank Interest Received	130.12		-		130.12
	130.12		-		130.12
<u>Other</u>					
- Other Income	251.20		-		251.20
	251.20		-		251.20
Total Income	82,694.12		18,346.64		101,040.76

The Youth Net

Expenditure

for the Year Ended 31st August 2023
Expenditure for period 01/01/23 - 31/08/23

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 31/08/23	
		£	p	£	p	£	p
<u>Raising funds</u>							
- Fundraising Expenses			-		-		-
			-		-		-
<u>Charitable activities</u>							
- Explore		6,159.02		-		6,159.02	
- Engage		2,034.01		-		2,034.01	
- Growth		883.00				883.00	
- Connect		18,346.30		14,666.64		33,012.94	
- Doxey Hub		271.77		-		271.77	
- IF		24,410.55		-		24,410.55	
- Core		12,036.71		3,680.00		15,716.71	
Note 2		64,141.36		18,346.64		82,488.00	
<u>Other</u>							
- Insurance		706.81		-		706.81	
- Professional services		2,000.00		-		2,000.00	
- Independent Examination		120.00		-		120.00	
		2,826.81		-		2,826.81	
Total Expenditure		66,968.17		18,346.64		85,314.81	

The Youth Net
Balance Sheet
as at 31st August 2023

	<u>Note</u>	£	p	£	p
Current Assets					
Debtors	3	14,940.30			
Cash at bank and in hand	4	38,424.52			
		<u>53,364.82</u>			
Creditors Due Within One Year	5	<u>13,110.90</u>			
Net Current Assets	8			<u>40,253.92</u>	
Accumulated Funds					
Balance at 1st January 2023				-	
Transferred 01/01/23 from Mid-Staffs Youth					
Net Charity No. 1100111				24,527.97	
Excess of Income over Expenditure				<u>15,725.95</u>	
Balance at 31st August 2023				<u>40,253.92</u>	

The Financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 01/06/24 and were signed on its behalf by



Mr M Long - Chair of Trustees

The Youth Net
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity meet the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

Depreciation

Assets are usually only capitalised where their cost is in excess of £3,000.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:-

Equipment & furniture - 10% on cost

Fund Accounting

Funds held by the Charity are either:

Unrestricted Funds - funds which can be used in accordance with the Charity's objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated Funds - funds set aside out of general funds for specific purposes.

Restricted Funds - funds that can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the charity.
Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds comprise expenditure incurred at our fundraising charity auction, and publicity.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of salaries, office costs and the direct costs of running the schoolwork and youthwork.

Other expenditure represents those items not classified as relating to any of the other categories.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Liability recognition

Generally liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure.

Grants received

Any grant received is treated as income in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is received. It may be treated as restricted or unrestricted.

2. Charity incorporation

On the 1st January 2023 the charity Mid-Staffordshire Youth Net charity no. 1100111 transferred all its assets, liabilities and staff over to The Youth Net CIO charity no. 1199420. There were no changes to the trustees.

In 2022 the process of incorporating the old charity to become a CIO was complete. The income and expenditure

The Youth Net

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

For period 01/01/23 - 31/08/23

2. Charitable Activities

	Staff costs	Resources	Travel	Other	TOTAL
Core	12,945.47	4.33	-	2,766.91	15,716.71
Explore	5,833.92	252.20	72.90	-	6,159.02
Engage	1,988.76	9.25	36.00	-	2,034.01
Growth	709.34	45.33	128.33	-	883.00
Connect	31,047.84	1,313.87	111.23	540.00	33,012.94
Doxey Hub	-	271.77	-	-	271.77
IF	20,776.10	1,722.92	426.53	1,485.00	24,410.55
	73,301.43	3,619.67	774.99	4,791.91	82,488.00

3. Debtors

	31/08/23
	£
Debtors	13,455.20
Accrued Income - Gift Aid Tax	1,177.50
Other debtors - HMRC	307.60
	14,940.30

4. Cash at bank and in hand

	31/08/23
	£
Lloyds Bank	
- Current Account:	3,231.50
- Deposit Account:	34,614.10
HSBC account	453.45
Petty cash	125.47
	38,424.52

5. Creditors Due Within One Year

	31/08/23
	£
Other Creditors for Goods and Services	571.95
Accruals	200.00
Deferred Income	12,336.00
Other Creditors	2.95
	13,110.90

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

Income and expenditure for period 01/01/23 - 31/08/23

6. Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 01/01/23	Transferred 01/01/23 from Mid-Staffs Youth Net Charity No. 1100111	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31/08/23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	-	24,528	82,694	(66,968)	-	40,254
	-	24,528	82,694	(66,968)	-	40,254

7 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/01/23	Transferred 01/01/23 from Mid-Staffs Youth Net Charity No. 1100111	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31/08/23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
SBC - Connect Stafford \	-	-	14,667	(14,667)	-	-
Admin Support Grant	-	-	3,680	(3,680)	-	-
	-	-	18,347	(18,347)	-	-

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

8. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

31/08/2023	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Current Assets	53,365	-	53,365
Creditors due within one year	(13,111)	-	(13,111)
Total Net Assets	40,254	-	40,254

9. Emoluments of Employees

	2023
	£
Gross wages	70,449
Social security costs	1,757
Employers pension contribution	1,095
	73,301
The average monthly number of employees during the year were as follows:-	2023
	10

There were no employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 during this year.

10. Trustees and other Related Parties

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2023, or the previous year.

During the year one trustee recharged IT purchases from their own company at cost price, totalling £116.

During the year the wife of one trustee was paid for bookkeeping and payroll services totalling £2,000. This has approval of the Charities Commission.