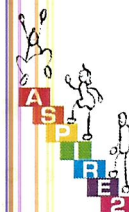




Trustees' Annual Report for the period



Period start date			Period end date		
Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
01	09	2022	29	02	2024
From			To		

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Aspire2

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1200410

Charity's principal address

c/o Aspire2

Blagdon Nursery School

Blagdon Road, Reading. Berkshire.

RG2 7NT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Charlie Clare	Chair		
2	David Shepherd			
3	Martin Salter			
4	Louise Harris			
5	Jacky Steele	Vice chair		
6	Janet Gavin	Funding	Resigned	
7	Frances Lancaster			
8	Molli Cleaver			
9	Talia Hickey			
10	Amitava Mukherjee		Resigned	

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

How the charity is constituted

We are a CIO, Charitable incorporated Organisation, our status changed on the 1st September 2022. We have maintained our Partnership relationships and Trustee Management Board elected from South Reading School governing bodies, Head Teachers and other local Education agencies and professionals working in the area.

Trustee selection methods	Elected annually at the AGM, or the first Management Meeting following the AGM.
---------------------------	---

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

- **Procedures for the induction and training of new trustees.**

All Trustees are DBS checked. We have a Safe guarding policy in place, which is reviewed annually and an induction pack for new trustees, our clerk undertakes a 1:2:1 meeting with new trustees to provide an overview of the charity, our key aims and ethos. Provision of the Charity Commission booklet 'The Essential Trustee' is also handed over.

- **Aspire2 Organisational structure:**

- **Management committee** – comprising of all Trustees.

- **Partnership committee** - formed of all Trustees and non-trustees (Partners), who wish to support the charity for specific programmes/events, or who may not yet wish to become a full trustee.

The charity through our manager works closely in partnership with the Whitley Excellence Cluster (WEC). The Treasurer, Chair and Vice Chair of Aspire2 have no links with WEC and any conflict of interest is declared at the beginning of each meeting and Trustees leave the meeting as appropriate.

- **Related parties:**

- **Whitley Excellence Cluster** – collaboration of the schools based in Whitley Ward, South Reading, managed by a Partnership of the head teachers and a project manager.

Reading Borough Council, Aspire2 works with officers based in South Reading, to ensure a holistic programme of support for our school holiday programme and links in to other community activities.

- **Major risks:**

-
- Any risk arising from a conflict of interest between Aspire2 and WEC is mitigated by our management procedures – i.e. two signatories needed for approval of any expenditure, from either the Chair, Treasurer or Vice Chair. All bids submitted have to be agreed at a Partnership/trustee meeting, trustees are our only mandated signatories.

- All of our Trustees and Partners are volunteers, and by linking with other organisations, such as WEC and the local authority, we are able to ensure that the programmes we support link in with other initiatives,

thereby maximising benefit for the community, rather than being 'standalone'.

- Our young people are our future, and being from an area of high economic and social deprivation, it is essential that their life aspirations are raised, so that they are able to secure employment and become good parents. We also work closely with our community to ensure that their views inform our fund-raising programme.
- We have financial and budgetary reports prepared and presented by our Treasurer at each bi-monthly meeting, these enable us to evaluate and plan future activities, whilst monitoring the cost of programmes to budgets and the benefits accrued. Because the funds secured are usually for specific projects, and therefore restricted, we do not hold large reserves.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

In Partnership with local schools and organisations, we fund and facilitate the provision of enrichment activities and other programs aimed at developing the skills and capacity of members of the community so that they aspire to having a greater stake in society through improved education, choice, opportunity and challenge.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Aspire2 was established in 2007, in order to support activities for families whose children attend the Whitley cluster of schools and for those living in the South Reading community.

In planning our activities year on year, we keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and this underpins the decisions taken at Partnership meetings regarding which activities we will support.

This is our first year as a CIO, Charitable Incorporated Organisation converting on the 1st September 2022 and as a result our first year has run for 18th months to the end of February 2024.

Our focus is unchanged and remains on the development of the personal skills and aspirations of the children, young people and the wider community of South Reading.

We continue to lease our 2,17-seater minibuses and the 5 year period whilst very successful helping support our stakeholder schools, we are approaching the final year and decisions will need to be made whether we renew the lease or start a new lease and gain financial support from financial sponsor, The John Sykes Foundation.

The minibuses have allowed us to offer free use of the buses and this has given the schools opportunities to make more frequent visits to local Berkshire events and educational/fun centres, so this lease is very important to us and we will do all we can to renew.

We have been able to offer a variety of extra-curricular enrichment activities including weekly early years music lessons, podcast recording sessions, competitions at Reading university for all Key Stage pupils (KS1 and above), a visit for all year 5 pupils to Reading university, workshops at an animal reservation, days at an outdoor education centre. and work with a selection of Reading's arts groups in preparation for our Carnival'23

We have no barriers to age, faith, gender or personal circumstances, our programmes are open to all – the only proviso being safe-guarding, so the requirement for DBS clearance (for those helping) and the preparation of full risk assessments are built into all of our programmes.

Aspire2 Partnerships

- Daily use of the Aspire2 minibuses
- University of Reading where we hold a Year 5 pupils Open day and our Poetry and Public Speaking competitions.
- Beale Park where we have funded workshops
- Berkshire Maestros who we've funded to provide an Early Years music project.

- The Rock Academy Foundation who we've funded to make "lock-down" podcasts
- Beautiful Creatures Theatre who we've funded to provide direction to our Carnival '23
- David Jones Co

The Earley Charity

We remain extremely grateful to the ongoing financial support of the Earley Charity and the grants they award, which are instrumental in helping us to deliver enrichment activities for children in Whitley. Their continued involvement is much appreciated.

John Sykes Foundation

Aspire2's partnership with the John Sykes Foundation really has opened up the wider world for Whitley children. Their generous funding towards our minibus leases has enabled us to commit to providing transport for all Whitley schools for a total of five years. We have already seen a huge demand for the minibuses, meaning children can go on trips and adventures that otherwise would be financially unachievable.

This project has already made a fundamental difference to Whitley children and we are very grateful for the freedom it offers them.

The National Foundation - Youth Music

Aspire2 is delighted to be a funded partner of Youth Music, supported by the Arts Council and the National Lottery. Their funding is key to our Early Years Music project, and has enabled us to launch this 2-year project across all nursery settings and in the community. Embedding music at an early age will deliver long term benefits in many areas of learning for all children in Whitley.

BCF

Funding from the Berkshire Community Foundation has contributed towards our Early Years Music project and has enabled us to grow this project to support more children.

We are looking forward to building on our relationship with BCF in future years.

Reading Borough Council

Over the last year Aspire2 has built relationships with several different departments in the council, and has benefited from council funding towards project and core costs.

We are continuing to strengthen and build on this relationship and

are grateful for the ongoing support we receive from across the council.

Reading Voluntary Action

RVA continue to offer Aspire2 advice and support in many aspects of running the charity, and their help is very much appreciated.

WCDA

We work closely with the Whitley Community Development Association to deliver our projects with the people of Whitley, and in association with the local community. By working in and with the community, rather than delivering to or for them, we are able to ensure that our projects are well received and deliver strong impact for our beneficiaries.

The CEP

The Reading Cultural Education Partnership supports Aspire2 by providing links to arts organisations, enrichment opportunities and vital advice and support. We are grateful to the CEP for inviting Aspire2 into their community.

Leighton Park School

We have developed a strong relationship with Leighton Park, and very much appreciate their support in offering sporting, cultural and artistic opportunities to pupils in our Whitley schools.

Wellington College

We were delighted to have a gained support in this period from Wellington College

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We remain focused on fundraising, but the economic climate is still proving very difficult. This year has proved more so as we lost our primary fundraiser and manager.

Minibuses

Our minibuses have proven to be extremely popular, thanks to our partnership with the John Sykes Foundation, the minibuses are available for all Whitley schools to book throughout the year, to use for school trips, events and activities that will open up new opportunities to pupils.

Both vehicles have been booked out most days during term time – we are grateful to The Ridgeway Primary School and their caretaker for the help and support in hosting and maintaining the minibuses.

**Podcast project**

Local charity, The Rock Academy has extended our podcast project to all primary schools in Whitley. Originally designed for Year 6 children during the pandemic lockdown, this project has evolved to encapsulate a wider sense of children's reflections of the past and hopes for the future and gives them their own voices to express their hopes, dreams and ambitions.

The use of podcast technology to record their stories helps to make this project relevant and exciting to this age group, and offers them a modern alternative to a school radio station or newspaper. The pupils have been very interested in the technology used and are keen to learn how they can create their own podcasts in the future.

Year 5 University Day

We continued to hold our annual Year 5 University Day – hosting all of Year 5 pupils from our primary schools. They enjoyed a lecture from an academic in one of the university's impressive lecture theatres. The children then embarked on a tour of the university campus with their teachers, and had the opportunity to ask current students questions about university life.

University Public Speaking Competition

We continued to hold our Public Speaking Competition with entries from each age group from KS1 onwards with pupils having the opportunity to deliver speeches on topics about which they are passionate on one of the major University's lecture stages – with their parents and carers as an audience.

University Poetry Competition

We also held our annual school's poetry competition, again hosted by the University of Reading. The standard as usual was extremely high, with significant contributions written and performed by pupils from Nursery right up to Year 10. We are grateful to the Whitley schools for holding their own internal competitions to make our shortlist, and to all the children who wrote and performed with confidence and poise.

Beale Park Trips



Our new partnership with Beale Park continues to flourish, this year has allowed every child in Year 2 across Whitley to experience a day out seeing the animals, countryside and (most importantly for some!) the train at Beale Park. With their entry provided at no cost by Beale Park and the Aspire2 minibuses available for transport, this was a trip that schools were able to provide completely free of charge to their Year 2 pupils.

Early Years Music

Our Early Years Music project, which began in September '21 has been running in all our early years settings since. This has proved to be a extremely successful.

Ufton Adventure

Our 10 year agreement for WEC pupils to have free access to Ufton Adventure ended in 2020 but our minibuses have still been used to transport pupils to Ufton for a variety of experiences.

Whitley Carnival

The inaugural Whitley Carnival took place on Saturday 11th June 2023 bringing together over 3500 people to walk through the streets of Whitley to celebrate the past, present and future of this diverse and complex suburban community.

In the run up to the carnival event this project successfully galvanised over 35 local arts and community organisations, working together for first time on this scale to engage the widest range of people across Whitley through a massive

programme of costume, arts, music, dance and music workshops in schools and community spaces.

Local people between the ages of 1 & 100 participated in Whitley carnival coming together to create this unique and participatory carnival. It truly was a transformative and memorable place making event.

Producer Helen Bligh our manager at Aspire2, engaged experienced local outdoor arts producer Danielle Corbishley to oversee the design of the project, event management and artistic curation. Together with support from Project Manager Sarah Stuffins, they coordinated with schools and community groups and a dynamic team of local freelancers to deliver a highly successful event.

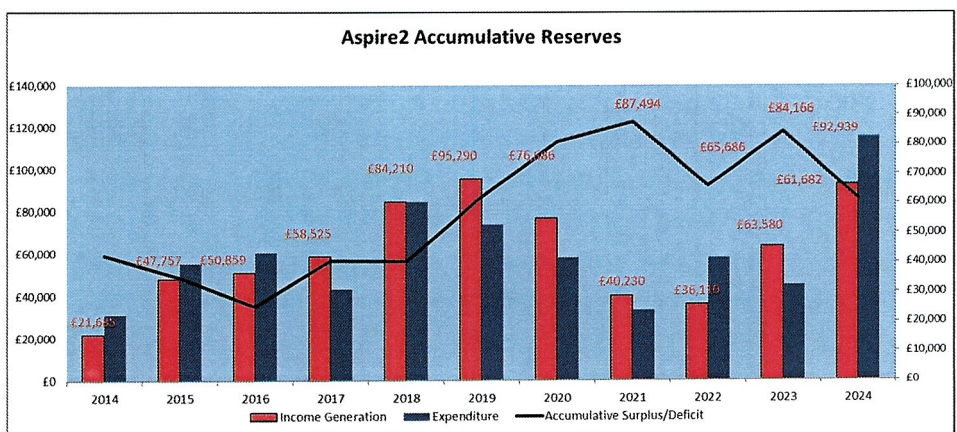
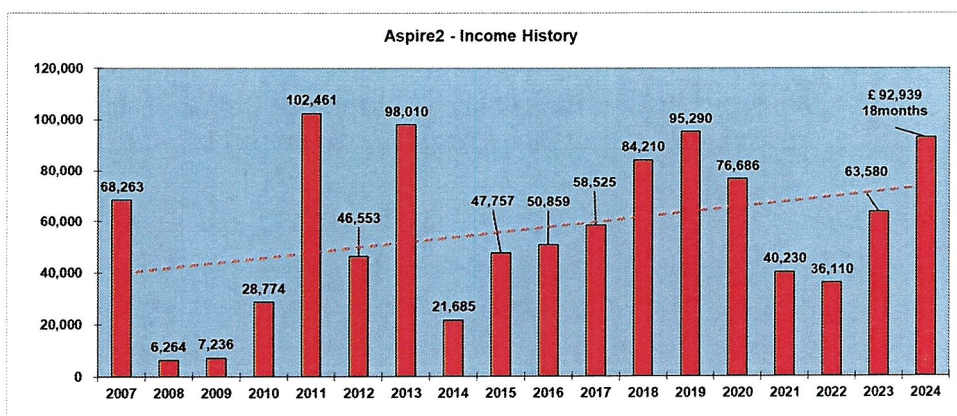
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We budget and bid for specific funding grants on identified events/projects and expenditures spent relatively within any one financial year are on those events/projects and as such our funding is and has been mostly restricted. We do not hold any land, buildings or assets, but do hold some financial investments, managed by The Charles Stanley Group.

Over the 18 years that Aspire2 has been active, we have generated and received significant sums of over £1m.

We show our 18 month budget and actuals.

Budget Projects	Opening Funds	18 mths Budget Income	18 mths Budget Spend	In Year Sept'22- Feb'24	Actual Income	Actual Spend	Closing Funds 29.2.2024	Notes
Infrastructure	£15,401	£32,500	£39,129	£66,829	£42,091	£28,451	£29,040	Manager Salaries/Payroll Costs + Other Staffing Resources, Manager left August Unspent budget, Ufton Court employee funds transferred in.
MiniBus	£7,085	£15,000	£25,000	£10,000	£16,500	£20,144	£3,441	MiniBus leasing costs + Insurance and other accidentals, only 15 mths costed to period
Ufton Court	£15,651		£15,750	£15,750	£2,000	£17,651	£0	Parental support Subsidies from Aspire2 / Staffing Costs transferred to Infrastructure as Ufton court closed down
Whitkey Carnival	£13,329	£30,000	£30,000	£0	£38,732	£38,803	£13,256	ACE bid Grant plus Early Charity
Early Years	£12,403	£9,940	£21,000	£11,060	£9,940	£21,229	£1,114	Berkshire Maestros Early Years Music Project funding to come from National Foundation, Youth Music
UoR Year 5 Day	£1,200		£1,200	£1,200		£1,200	£0	Not spent sponsored by UoR fund transferred to Unrestricted
Podcast v2	£2,400		£2,400	£2,400		£2,400	£0	Rock Academy
RePlay rollout	£2,400		£2,400	£2,400		£2,400	£0	Not spent sponsor by UoR fund transferred to Carnival
Poetry Competition	£600		£600	£600		£600	£0	Expenses spent prizes
Public Speaking Competition	£600		£600	£600		£600	£0	Expenses spent prizes
Transportation	£1,613			£0		£1,613	£0	Spent coach hire Leighton Park, balance transferred to Unrestricted income (Donations £1k); Unrestricted grant £3k Wellington College, fund transfers £3.5M) - Spends) Governance Costs £2.7k; Event costs £0.6k
UnRestricted General Fund	£10,485	£1,000	£5,000	£4,000	£7,633	£3,290	£14,828	£0
Post Covid Fun Activities	£1,000			£0		£1,000	£0	Not spent sponsor by UoR fund transferred to Carnival
				£0		£0	£0	
				£0		£0	£0	
				£0		£0	£0	
	£64,166	£68,440	£143,079	£56,630	£116,806	£190,380	£61,682	



The Charity's status changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on the 1.9.22 so our financial results and tables detailed here are for the 18 months 1.9.22 to 29.2.24 as per the Charity Commission. Our new charity number is 1200410 and our first financial year concluded on the 29.2.24

We started the year with an opening surplus reserve of £84,165 during the period we received income of £92,939 and expensed £115,423 and as such am adverse deficit of (£22,484), therefore we finish with a closing reserve of £61,682

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None to report, no issues reported under our audit report.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Income in the 18 months to 29.2.24:

Receipts	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
Grants & Donations			
Voluntary Receipts	2,100	87,122	89,222
Fundraising Activities	1,962		1,962
Event Income receipts	105	1,650	1,755
Total Receipts	4,167	88,772	92,939

Significant expenditures for the year:

Payments			Total
Fundraising Costs	396		396
Charitable Activities	1,863	31,851	33,714
Event Expenditure	488	67,949	68,437
Governance	544	12,333	12,877
Total Payments	3,291	112,133	115,424

Excess of receipts over Payments	876	-23,361	-22,485
Transfer between Funds	3,466	-3,466	0
Cash Funds last year end	10,485	73,681	84,165
Cash Funds this year end	14,827	46,854	61,681

Investments

Our investments managed by Charles Stanley at the start of the year was £44,798 and we finished the year 29th February 2024 £34,518

During the year we drew down a further funding tranche for the minibus lease and insurance of £15,000.

Section F

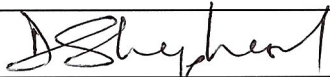
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	D.W. SHEPHERD	CHARLES LESLIE CLARK
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Chair
Date	13/12/2024	

CC Receipts & Payments Report

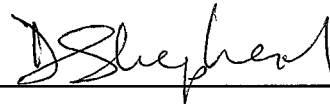
Charity name: Aspire2 CIO

Charity number: 1200410

For the period from 01/09/2022 to 29/02/2024

Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts	4,062	87,122	0	91,184	0
Fundraising Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Event Income Receipts	105	1,650	0	1,755	0
Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Other Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>4,167</u>	<u>88,772</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>92,939</u>	<u>0</u>
Asset and Investment sales etc					
Total receipts	<u>4,167</u>	<u>88,772</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>92,939</u>	<u>0</u>
Payments					
Voluntary Income Costs	0	0	0	0	0
Fundraising Costs	396	0	0	396	0
Charitable Activities Costs	1,863	31,851	0	33,714	0
Event Costs	488	67,949	0	68,437	0
Governance Costs	544	12,333	0	12,877	0
	<u>3,291</u>	<u>112,133</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>115,424</u>	<u>0</u>
Assets and investments gains/losses	0	0	0	0	0
Total payments	<u>3,291</u>	<u>112,133</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>115,424</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of receipts over payments	<u>876</u>	<u>-23,361</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-22,485</u>	<u>0</u>
Transfers between Funds	3,466	-3,466	0	0	0
Cash Funds Last Year End	10,485	73,682	0	84,167	0
Cash funds this year end	<u>14,827</u>	<u>46,855</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>61,682</u>	<u>0</u>

Treasurer : David W. Shepherd



Chair of Trustess : Charles Clare



13/12/2024



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

ASPURE2

On accounts for the year ended

2 9 0 2 2 4

Charity no (if any)

1 2 0 0 4 1 0

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 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 (other than that disclosed below*):

(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 Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

AS Robinson

Date

27/06/2024

Name

KAREN SAMANTHA ROBINSON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

MBA. BENQ. CENG. NICHEME

Address

FRESH WINDS
KILN CORDER
UPPER BASILDON
WEST BERKS. RG8 8SP

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

None.