



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2023
To 31st March 2024

Period start date
Period end date

Charity name: Friends Together Crook

Charity registration number: 1201793

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Our charity aims to promote social inclusion by preventing social exclusion and assisting individuals to integrate into society. In the past year, we have focused on providing services, activities, and support to empower marginalized groups and community connections. This report highlights our achievements, financial activities, and plans for the future.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Our charity exists to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing social exclusion and assisting individuals to integrate into society. This year, we delivered a range of creative and community-focused activities, alongside organized trips, to achieve our mission. Key activities</p> <p>Singing Workshops and Performances by Guest Singers We organized regular singing workshops and invited guest singers to perform for and with our participants.</p> <p>Simple Chair Exercises for Well-being To promote physical activity in an accessible way, we conducted regular chair-based exercise sessions.</p>

		<p>Art Workshops and Creative Projects Our art activities gave individuals the opportunity to express themselves, such as painting drawing and creative projects.</p> <p>Dance and Movement Sessions Dancing to live singers, to engage in light, fun, and inclusive movement activities.</p> <p>Trips Out and Cultural Experiences We organized trips to local attractions, including museums, theatres and parks. These outings provided participants with opportunities to experience new environments.</p> <p>Through these programs, we can directly engaged up to 100 individuals per week, providing them with opportunities for creative expression, physical activity, and social interaction. By combining arts, entertainment, exercise, and community engagement, our charity has made meaningful strides in reducing isolation and promoting social inclusion for those who are most at risk</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when planning the charity's activities and delivering its objectives. All programs and initiatives undertaken during the year were designed to further the charity's aim of promoting social inclusion, ensuring that the benefits provided were accessible to the public and targeted at those at risk of social exclusion.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Over the past year, our charity has made significant strides in promoting social inclusion and improving the lives of our beneficiaries through creative, physical, and community-focused activities. Key achievements and their impact include:</p> <p>Improved Well-being and Social Connection Through our singers, workshops, performances, we brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds to share the joy of music. These activities reduced loneliness and fostered meaningful connections among participants, helping them feel part of a supportive community.</p> <p>Enhanced Physical and Mental Health Our chair-based exercise sessions and dance classes provided an accessible way for participants to stay active, particularly for those with limited mobility. Regular participation improved their physical fitness, boosted mental well-being, and created a sense of routine and accomplishment.</p> <p>Increased Confidence and Creative Expression Art workshops offered beneficiaries the opportunity to explore their creativity, express themselves, and develop new skills. Participants reported increased self-esteem and pride in their work, with some projects displayed in local exhibitions, helping to foster a sense of achievement and community recognition.</p>

		<p>Broadened Horizons through Trips Out Organized trips to cultural and recreational destinations allowed participants to engage with new experiences and environments. These outings provided a break from isolation, encouraged social interaction, and inspired personal growth.</p> <p>Wider Benefits to Society Our work has not only transformed the lives of our beneficiaries but has also contributed to the community by fostering inclusion, reducing isolation, and promoting shared cultural experiences. The friendships and support networks formed through our programs have empowered participants to engage more actively in their communities, strengthening the social fabric as a whole. The positive changes in the circumstances of our beneficiaries highlight the value of our mission and the ongoing need for our work.</p>
--	--	--

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of the reporting period, the charity's financial position remains stable, with total income of £42,747, total expenditure of £30,839 and a surplus of £11,908. The charity continues to operate within its budget, and we have maintained a careful approach to managing our funds, ensuring that resources are directed towards achieving our charitable objectives.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves provide financial security, enabling the charity to meet its obligations and maintain operations without disruption. The charity aims to hold sufficient reserves to cover [e.g., three to six months of operational expenses], allowing for smooth service delivery and stability.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£38,479
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<p>The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position and future funding prospects and acknowledge certain uncertainties regarding its ability to continue as a going concern. These uncertainties include potential reductions in grant funding and increased operational costs.</p> <p>To address these challenges, the trustees are actively seeking new funding opportunities, exploring cost-saving measures, and engaging with stakeholders to ensure the charity's long-term sustainability. The trustees remain committed to taking the necessary steps to safeguard the charity's operations and ensure it can continue to deliver its vital services.</p>

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		The charity operates under a trust deed , which outlines its charitable purposes, governance structure, and operational procedures. The trust deed is the formal governing document that guides all activities and decisions made by the trustees.
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	As above
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	The charity is constituted as an unincorporated association. This means that the charity does not have a separate legal identity distinct from its trustees, and the trustees are personally responsible for managing the charity's assets and activities.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are selected based on [e.g., election, appointment, etc.]. According to our governing document, trustees are [e.g., elected by members at the annual general meeting (AGM)]

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Friends Together Crook
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1201793
Charity's principal address	18 Victoria Avenue Crook Co Durham DL15 9DB

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	Eunice May Smith	Chairperson		
2	Pauline Dobson		14/03/2024 – 05/04/2024	
3	Lindsey Ann Stores			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

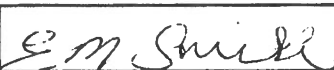
Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	The charity holds the following assets in its capacity as custodian on behalf of Friends Together Crook The charity holds tangible assets such as equipment for entertainment, and other physical items raffle and bingo prizes and includes funds held in designated bank accounts
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Friends Together Charity work in promoting social inclusion. The custodian charity ensures that the assets are appropriately managed and used for the benefit of the specified charity, in accordance with both its own and the other charity's objectives.
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	The charity has implemented clear arrangements to ensure the safe custody and proper segregation of these assets from its own resources. The assets are held in separate bank accounts, physical storage locations metal secure container, and secure digital platforms that are exclusively designated for the use of Friends Together Crook Charity . Access to these assets is restricted to authorized personnel, and the assets are regularly reviewed and monitored to ensure they are being used in accordance with the intended charitable purposes. Additionally, the charity's accounting and financial systems maintain strict segregation of these assets from its own funds. Regular audits are conducted to confirm that the assets are secure and are being used appropriately, as per the guidelines set by both the custodian charity.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		15-1-2025
Full name(s)	Eunice May Smith	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	
Date	15/01/2025	

18

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from

06-Apr-23

To

05-Apr-24


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					
Grants Funding		29,059	-	29,059	23,770
Raffles / Games	3,658	-	-	3,658	2,867
Summer Fayre	-	-	-	-	231
Christmas Fayre	-	-	-	-	185
Christmas Meal Deposit	-	-	-	-	592
Theatre Deposits	-	-	-	-	375
Ticket Refunds	-	-	-	-	67
Donations	608	-	-	608	
Subscriptions	3,104	-	-	3,104	1,721
Bank interest received	6,308	-	-	6,308	3,367
	10	-	-	10	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	13,688	29,059	-	42,747	33,175
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,688	29,059	-	42,747	33,175
A3 Payments					
Trips / Taxis	6,285	-	-	6,285	3,789
Crafts and Miscellaneous	1,950	-	-	1,950	894
DBS	89	-	-	89	38
Raffle Prizes	1,729	-	-	1,729	1,508
Christmas Meal Out	1,641	-	-	1,641	1,838
Christmas Gifts	-	-	-	-	492
Flowers/ Birthday /Anniversary	-	-	-	-	1,197
Easter Eggs	-	-	-	-	563
Hall Rent	1,745	640	-	2,385	2,295
Refreshments	7,185	-	-	7,185	3,557
Days Out	269	-	-	269	5,384
Petrol	-	-	-	-	195
Ticket Refunds	-	-	-	-	67
Group Expenses	-	-	-	-	739
Macmillan Nurses	-	-	-	-	187
Platters Cutlery Serviettes	-	-	-	-	657

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

[illegible]

B5 Liabilities

<div> <div>Signature</div> <div>  </div> </div>		<div> <div>Date of approval</div> <div> 15 / 12 / 2025 </div> </div>	
<div> <div>Print Name</div> <div> Mrs E M Smith </div> </div>		<div> <div>DATE</div> <div> 15 / 12 / 2025 </div> </div>	

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

Prof. Smith

Mrs E M Smith

15.1.2025



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Friends Together Crook

**On accounts for the year
ended**

5th April 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1201793

Set out on pages

1 - 2

(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 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 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:

15/01/2025

Name:

Azets Audit Services

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body**

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW)

Address

Bede House, 3 Belmont Business Park, Durham, DH1 1TW

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

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