

Love Dunston
Registered Charity No. 1204373

Financial Statements

Financial Period to 30 August 2025

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **Love Dunston**

Charity No: **1204373**

Trustees:	Councillor Dorothy Burnett	Chair
	Councillor Brenda Clelland	Secretary
	Allison Thompson	Treasurer (to June 2025)
	Councillor Gary Haley	
	Deborah Bell	
	Molly Sendall	
	Andrew Smith	
	Christopher Folwell	

Address: Collingwood Terrace
Dunston
Gateshead
NE11 9DU

Independent
Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 5LB

Love Dunston

Management Committee Report For the Period Ended 30 August 2025 to update

2024/2025 has been a roller-coaster of a year for Love Dunston, with the focus of activities being the youth programme delivered at the Drop In. Notwithstanding that, the charity managed to deliver several litter-picks across Dunston, organise Christmas lights in Dunston and Teams, organise Remembrance Day poppies in Dunston and Teams as well as delivering a very well-attended community summer fair in Dunston Park.

As part of a strategic analysis of the organisation carried out in early 2024; trustees, staff, and other stakeholders all contributed their thoughts about the current state and future of Love Dunston. This work recognised that poverty, rising living costs and young people's mental health will shape the future of our organisation and especially the work that we are increasingly delivering for young people. We know that our open access youth project, with its structure of advice, support and guidance, not only provides positive fun activities for young people as an alternative to possibly anti-social or harmful behaviours but also offer opportunities for growth and personal development and can transform the lives of young people struggling with complex or difficult challenges so we set out our mission to ensure that we provide the best quality, relevant youth service for young people in and around Dunston, responsive to the needs and ideas of young people, recognising that the youth project at the Drop In has been the main focus of the charity's activities.

The year started with considerable uncertainty about the financial future of the project – indeed, with only a finite amount of money in our coffers, trustees were forced to give notice to all members of staff. Luckily an injection of funds from the Ballinger Trust, Sir James Knott, The Joicey Trust, and Barbour Foundation gave us a much-needed cash boost, and our finances were further helped with funding for a joint Gateshead Council and National Lottery project – Reaching Communities Plus. This revolutionary approach has allowed us to deliver intensive support to specific individual young people, enabling them to identify and overcome the challenges they face.

Our weekly evening youth groups for ages 8-25 have enjoyed a steady increase in membership, and new staff members have helped to cultivate a passionate core of young people volunteering their own time. Several staff and volunteers have been working very hard to complete their level 3 in youth work, bringing valuable new skills to improve the lives of local young people.

Early in 2025, we lost our Project Lead – Jon McGee, whose enthusiasm and commitment helped get the Drop In off the ground. Thankfully, Dave Walton, who has been involved with the project since its earliest days in a part-time capacity, made the bold decision to join Love Dunston full-time in what was initially a temporary position as centre manager. He has since impressed us all with his passion for youth work, his support of the staff and service users, and his unwavering commitment to doing things the best possible way.

Later that summer, we were delighted to receive indications that the National Lottery would support us with substantial funding, thus supporting our sustainability for the immediate future. The quest for future funding is constant, and we will continue to search for income streams which will enable us to continue offering a free access youth project for many years to come.

Looking forward to the next financial year, National Lottery funding will enable us not only to employ a much-needed additional member of staff but to move all staff onto proper contracts of employment, paying tax, National Insurance and with proper pension provision. Trustees greatly value our staff and recognise the positive impact that staff enthusiasm and commitment has upon the project as a whole.

Staff and trustees are keen for Love Dunston to become a more active and visible part of the local community. Planning for projects to improve the local environment will involve young people and look to offer further volunteering opportunities for other local people. Plans for trustee recruitment are well underway to enable more passionate volunteers to help steer the organisation, and Connected Voice will support us through an Organisational Health Check to help maximise our impact and sustainability.

Finally, we intend that the next financial year will allow us to make some big improvements to The Drop In. We want to invest in this vital community space and ensure it remains available for young people long into the future.

Our thanks to Allison Thompson, who resigned from the board of trustees as treasurer in June 2025.

Approved by:

Signed:.....

Brenda Clelland

Secretary

March 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**Report to the
trustees of**

Love Dunston

**On accounts for
the year ended**

30 August 2025

Charity no 1204373

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner**

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- 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 Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; 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: 20 April 2026

**Name:
Address:**

Mark Thompson MAAT
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB

Love Dunston

Statement of Financial Activities, period ending 30 August 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025
Receipts				
			£	£
Transfer in from Unincorporated Association			0	22512
Grants		107108	107108	93527
Rent	2900		2900	4150
Other Income	1702		1702	487
Total Receipts	4602	107108	111710	120676
Payments				
Youth Workers		89341	89341	57751
Activity Costs		14318	14318	4098
Rent		5760	5760	5055
Office Equipment		835	835	2399
General Office Costs		1063	1063	1777
Utilities		4702	4702	467
Insurance		1158	1158	749
Telephone & Internet		725	725	136
Accountancy		400	400	250
Bank Charges		84	84	72
Total Payments	0	118386	118386	72754
Surplus / deficit for the year	4602	-11278	-6676	47922
Funds at 30 August 2024	16669	31253	47922	
Funds at 30 August 2025	21271	19975	41246	47922

Love Dunston

Balance Sheet at 30 August 2025

	Notes	Aug 2025 £	Aug 2024 £
Current Assets:			
Cash at Bank & in Hand		44658	47922
Total Nett Assets		44658	47922
Current Liabilities	5	-3412	
Net Current Assets at 30 August 2024		41246	47922
Represented by			
Unrestricted Funds		21271	16669
Restricted Funds		19975	31253
Total Funds		41246	47922

The financial statements were approved by the following Trustees :

Signed Position

Signed Position

Date

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 August 2025

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

Love Dunston meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assests and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

2. Legal Status

The organisation became a Registered Charity no 1204373 (CIO) on 16th August 2023.

This financial period covers 16th August 2023 to 30th August 2024.

Funds from the previous Unincorporated Association were transferred to the new charity at the start of the financial period.

3 Staff and Freelance Workers

No staff are employed directly the Charity, work carried out by by freelancers.

Total amount paid for freelance work £89,341.

4. Grants Received

Big Local Gateshead (Xmas Lights)	1256
Ballinger Trust	10000
Gateshead Council (Reaching Communities)	32464
Sir James Knott Trust	10000
The Joicey Trust	1500
Awards For All	19500
National Lottery	16664
Community Foundation	624
The Barbour Foundation	15000
Total Grants Received	107008

Restricted Funds	Balance Sept 2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance Aug 2025
National Lottery	22219	16664	38883	0
Northumbria Police PCC	740		740	0
Big Local Gateshead (Xmas Lights)		1256	1256	0
Ballinger Trust		10000	10000	0
Gateshead Council (Reaching Communities)		32464	23012	9452
Sir James Knott Trust		10000	10000	0
The Joicey Trust		1500	1500	0
Awards For All		19500	12927	6573
Community Foundation		624	624	0
The Barbour Foundation		15000	11050	3950
Netherton Park	3050		3050	0
UKSPF (Community Foundation)	5244		5244	0
Total	31253	107008	118286	19975

5. Current Liabilities

A grant of £4,036 was received from the Community Foundation.
£3,412 was returned to them as an underspent grant in September 2025.