

PURPOSEFUL VENTURES

England & Wales · Charity number 1204622

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-09-07

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT:1) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION; AND2) TO RELIEVE THOSE IN NEED BY REASON OF YOUTH, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR OTHER DISADVANTAGE,IN SUCH MANNER AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE, INCLUDING THROUGH PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE FULL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY.

Activities: Purposeful Ventures will fund, develop, and grow not-for-profit initiatives that have the potential to transform lives by tackling challenges in education and society. Initiatives will focus on those who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Ireland
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£17,309,360	£16,196,192	£11,017,019	42
2024-08-31	£22,545,588	£12,641,794	£9,903,794	26

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Elizabeth Anne Dangoor		2023-09-07
Emilio Domingo Comins		2024-11-01
Gareth Lambert		2024-12-20
Justine Ludderodt		2025-04-01
Lucy Lauris Heller		2023-09-07
Nathaniel Sloane		2024-11-01
Tara Haig		2025-04-01

PURPOSEFUL VENTURES

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Accounts



Table of Contents

Reference and administrative details of the Charity, its Trustees and advisors.....2

Trustees’ report3

Statement of Trustees’ responsibilities 26

Independent auditors’ report to the members of Purposeful Ventures27

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2025..... 31

Balance sheet as at 31 August 2025..... 32

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 August 2025 33

Notes to the financial statements 34

Reference and administrative details of the Charity, its Trustees and advisors

Trustees	Elizabeth Dangoor, Chair Emilio Domingo (appointed 1 November 2024) Edward Fidoe Tara Haig (appointed 1 April 2025) Lucy Heller Gareth Lambert (appointed 20 December 2024) Justine Lutterodt (appointed 1 April 2025) Nat Sloane (appointed 1 November 2024)
Charity registered number	1204622
Principal office	1 EdCity Edcity Walk London W12 7TF
Independent auditors	Goodman Jones LLP Chartered Accountants 1st Floor, Arthur Stanley House 40-50 Tottenham Street London W1T 4RN
Bankers	The Co-Operative Bank 131-135 Northumberland Street Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne & Wear NE1 7AG Flagstone 1st Floor Clareville House 26-27 Oxendon Street London SW1Y 4EL

Trustees' report

Welcome from the Chair

Our vision is of a fairer society where all young people thrive.

Every child or young person should have a stable, supportive home life and access to the resources they need to participate and excel in education. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Today, 4.5 million children are living in poverty in the UK¹, with a million facing destitution². There are over 81,000 children in England growing up in the care system³ and over 130,000 more being raised by relatives in kinship care⁴.

In schools, the attainment gap continues to widen. Even among top performers in mathematics at age 11, only 50% of students from disadvantaged backgrounds go on to achieve top GCSE grades, compared to over 75% of their more affluent peers⁵. Beyond school, people from low socio-economic backgrounds are up to eight times less likely to pursue a master's course and 15 times less likely to pursue a PhD⁶.

These complex challenges have deep and lasting consequences for children's wellbeing and their future employment. Many excellent non-profits are already working hard to address them, but no single organisation can solve them alone.

Purposeful Ventures works in partnership to build and strengthen organisations improving young people's futures. Alongside our philanthropic partners, we provide tailored support to help existing organisations strengthen how they design, deliver and scale their impact to support more young people and to achieve system change. Where we find gaps, we collaborate with social entrepreneurs and philanthropists to create new solutions; taking on challenging issues with those who want to make the most difference. Our aim is to see meaningful improvements in young people's home environments, participation and attainment in education, access to employment and training, and overall wellbeing. We want to see effective solutions scaled and supported by policymakers and funders.

Over the past two years, we have doubled the number of organisations we support across our portfolios and attracted a diverse group of funders, amplifying our impact and increasing the leverage of our investment through partnerships. We have invested significantly in building Purposeful Ventures' capabilities and offer to enable us to extend our reach and deepen our impact over the long term, while maintaining our focus on delivering high-quality support to our partner organisations. If we succeed, the results will be transformational: widespread, population-level improvements in education equity, access, and opportunity.

This is the goal that keeps our excellent team motivated. I am excited to see what we can achieve together in the year ahead. We continue to be grateful for our extraordinary team and for our founding philanthropic partners, who support and challenge us so that we can do more together in the coming years. Thank you.

Libby Dangoor, Chair of Trustees

¹ Save the Children (2025), [Child Poverty in the UK](#)

² Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2023), [Destitution in the UK 2023](#)

³ Department for Education (2025), [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

⁴ Office for National Statistics (2023), [Kinship care in England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

⁵ Noyes, A., Brignell, C., Jacques, L., Powell, J., & Adkins, M. (2023). [The mathematics pipeline in England: Patterns, interventions and excellence](#). University of Nottingham Centre for Research in Mathematics Education

⁶ Institute for Fiscal Studies (2020), [Family background and access to postgraduate degrees](#)

Welcome from the Chief Executive

This year has been one of rapid growth at Purposeful Ventures.

We have welcomed 15 new partner organisations to our portfolios as well as grown from two to four incubated organisations. We have deployed over £16 million on charitable activities thanks to the support of our philanthropic partners, including working with 12 new funders this year. To effectively support over 30 organisations that help young people from their earliest years, we have expanded our team, bringing in new expertise across evaluation, philanthropy, and communications, as well as research and programme delivery.

This growth has strengthened every part of our organisation: our expertise, our reputation, our networks and our operational capacity, and it enables us to offer much more to our partner organisations and philanthropic partners. We can now offer both more specialised knowledge and more tailored support.

Rapid growth of our portfolios

This year has brought significant development across our portfolios, as well as to the way we approach our work. Four major shifts stand out, which are covered in more detail below:

1. Intensified research and strategy development – resulting in new pilots and collaborations, enabling partners to test solutions faster and reach more young people with evidence-driven approaches
2. Our incubation activity has blossomed – with a strengthened expert team, we now deliver high-challenge, high-reward programmes that help organisations scale effective and innovative interventions at pace
3. Our Children & Families and Maths portfolios expanded, and we launched a new Music & Arts portfolio – broadening our ability to support young people in and beyond the classroom, their families' wellbeing, and the most vulnerable
4. Stronger, more strategic philanthropy - we deepened and broadened our philanthropic relationships, forging long-term, strategic partnerships that enable them to create greater, more sustainable impact and deliver direct, tangible benefits to our partner organisations

An evidence-led approach

Research and evidence remain at the heart of how we work. This year, we commissioned, supported and published four major reports:

- [Scoping the "Maths Corps" in England](#) (November 2024) – enabling an important new strand of teacher development projects in the coming years
- [Investigating Maths Attitudes in England](#) (March 2025) – becoming a precursor to the UK's largest-scale research in this area and launching exploration projects to test solutions
- [Maths Horizons review](#) (May 2025) – launching this has since influenced the Curriculum and Assessment Review 2025
- [How England Should Reform Maths Education for the Age of AI](#) (June 2025) – informed the evolution of EdTechnical, one of our newest incubations

These publications help shape our strategy, refine our portfolio focus areas, and guide our investment approach. Rigorous research will continue to underpin our work towards system change. This is how we will determine what is needed to create a fairer society where all young people thrive.



The momentum we have built in 2024-2025 gives us a strong foundation for the years to come. In the year ahead, we will be refining our leadership and management structure to ensure it can continue to best serve us, our partner organisations and our investment strategy.

Our mission is unchanged and our motivation and desire to deliver it has never been stronger.

Michael Clark, Chief Executive

Our purpose and public benefit

Our aims are: 1) to advance education; and 2) to relieve those in need by reason of youth, financial hardship or other disadvantage, in such manner as the charity Trustees may from time to time determine, including through providing support and activities which develop skills, capacities and capabilities to enable full participation in society. In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to the general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity' (PB2).

Our approach and activities

As Purposeful Ventures has established itself as an independent charity over the last two years, our strategy and opportunities for impact have evolved. The partners we work with have grown in strength or scale. We have responded by refining and developing our investment strategy to become clearer on our different investment approaches and when our partner organisations need varying levels of support to maximise impact.

The refining of our investment strategy reflects that evolution, bringing greater clarity and intention to the ways we work.

Our investment strategy is underpinned by research and evaluation, including our due diligence processes, and test and learn activity to establish specific pillars within each of our three portfolios. Within these evidence-informed pillars, we support organisations to grow and thrive in three ways:

- 1. Incubate:** Purposeful Ventures has deep experience of starting and growing new organisations and preparing them to become independent. Incubating a new organisation is the most time and resource intensive intervention we can make in a priority area. We hold legal responsibility for the activities of the incubated organisation and build and lead its governance through creating an incubated organisation board. We will only incubate a new organisation where we believe there is a gap – we do not duplicate what already exists.
- 2. Accelerate:** We apply our expertise from starting and growing new organisations to supporting existing organisations. Our intention when working to accelerate a partner organisation is to work closely with them to change their trajectory so that they can grow their impact. This support is tailored to the organisations' specific needs, reflecting the bespoke relationships we have with our partners.
- 3. Fund:** Some of the organisations in our portfolios do not, or no longer, need accelerate support and our support will be primarily financial (in the form of a grant). There may also be times where we want to work with organisations in a lighter touch relationship to achieve more impact together.




For each portfolio, we have developed an investment strategy through analysing the existing evidence base and understanding the problem, exploring what existing interventions exist, and deploying the right support approaches.

We have increased the breadth and depth of our work within our portfolios, such as Early Years and AI & EdTech, and there have been three main portfolio developments this year:

- **Moving from STEM excellence to a Maths focus**
We have renamed and refocused this portfolio to 'Maths' to better reflect the work we do and offer a clearer focus both to our partner organisations and our philanthropic partners. This work has expanded to support a wide range of organisations helping young people engage with and excel at maths at every stage

- **Growing our Children & Families partnerships**
We have increased this portfolio from nine partner organisations in 2024 to 16 by 31st August 2025
- **Launching a Music & Arts portfolio, July 2025**

Our three portfolios are long-term commitments. For each pillar within a portfolio, we develop a specific strategy rooted in our research that identifies a set of focus areas where we believe the combination of our expertise and funding can have the greatest impact. This framework represents our core approach, which we will adapt and tailor as needed.

Portfolio	Pillar	Focus Area				
 Children & Families	Early Years	Secure attachment	Home learning environment	Access to quality education	Access to material goods	
	Vulnerable Children & Families	Early intervention	Alternative forms of permanence	Quality of Care	Prevent escalation	
	Mental Health & Wellbeing*					
 Maths	Classroom & Curriculum	Curriculum improvement	Classroom practice			
	Teachers	Recruitment	Retention	Deployment	Development	
	Talent & Enrichment	Curriculum resources	Competitions/challenges	Maths Circles	Maths Camps	Structured tutoring
	Attitudes	Family Maths				
	AI & EdTech	Use of Tech for teaching	Better Edtech products			
 Music & Arts	Classical Music Excellence	Education	Elite Training	Early Career		
	Access / Participation in Music & Arts					

Our portfolios

The work carried out in relation to our objectives between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025 was split into three portfolios: Children & Families, Maths, and Music & Arts.

Children & Families

Our society leaves too many families and young people behind. Often it is the most vulnerable members of our society who suffer the most.

Our Children & Families portfolio aims for every child to have the best possible start to life by strengthening early years' provision and supporting children's wellbeing. We also help vulnerable young people who face tough times beyond those critical early years overcome challenges, providing opportunities for them to thrive.

	Early years	Vulnerable Children & Families	Mental Health & Wellbeing
Pilot & Explore		Fatherhood Institute Reset Pilot	Independent Play
Incubate	Baby Bank Alliance		
Accelerate	Apples and Honey Nightingale Babyzone Boromi Learning with Parents People	Adoption UK Kinship Lighthouse Pedagogy Trust New Beginnings Foundation SHIFT Springboard	
Fund	Little Village	Frontline Pause	ROAM

Maths

In the UK, young people are not reaching their potential in maths and other STEM subjects at school and beyond.

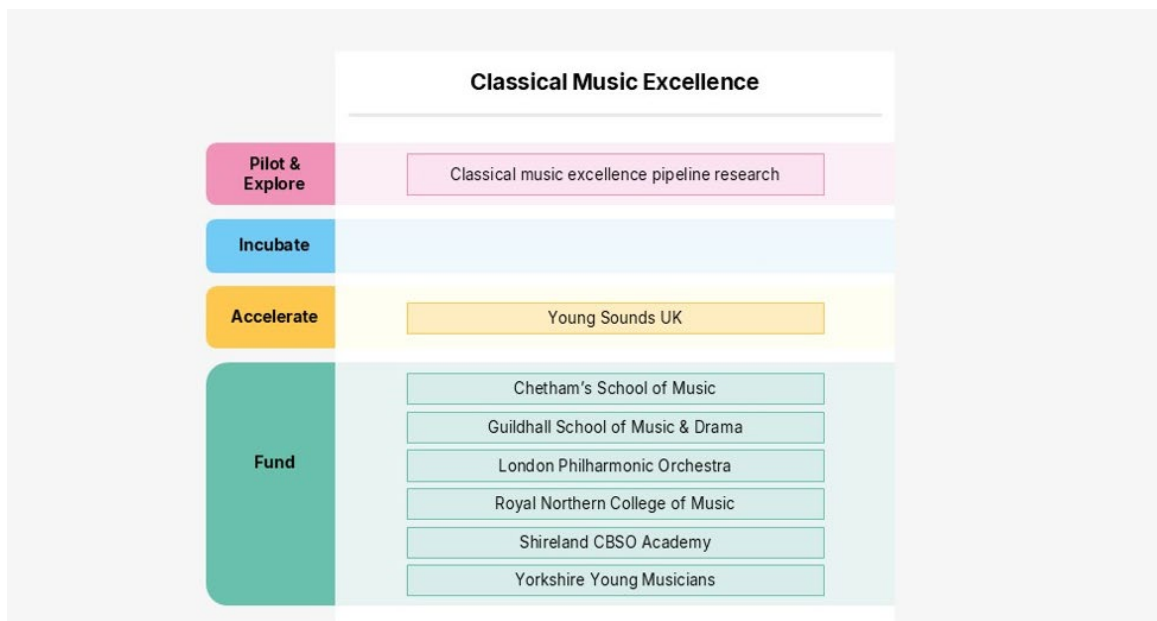
Our Maths portfolio seeks to identify and unlock where support is most needed, to help all young people engage with and excel at maths at every stage.

	Classroom & Curriculum	Teachers	Talent & Enrichment	Attitudes	AI & EdTech
Pilot & Explore	Maths Horizons		Maths Camps	Attitudes to Numeracy Study Family Maths Maths Narratives	AI in Teacher Development EdTech & AI in Maths Maths Teachers Use of Tech
Incubate			1729 Maths School Martingale Foundation		EdTechnical
Accelerate	Dr Frost		COMPOS First UK		
Fund	Maths Excellence Fund Observatory for Mathematical Education	Maths Teachers Fund	Get Further mA*ths	Leeds City of Maths	

Music & Arts

All young people should be able to experience music and the arts, and to progress their artistic interests as far as they would like. But for too many, the opportunities and support they need are difficult or impossible to access.

We would like to change this by helping more young people to enjoy the arts and fulfil their artistic potential, so that creative careers are possible for all.



Case Studies

Pilot spotlight: Maths Camps

Inspiring a generation of mathematically-gifted learners

The problem

The UK economy needs more mathematicians. But many gifted young mathematicians never get the opportunity to experience maths outside of the curriculum – or to fulfil their potential of pursuing mathematical study after school.

Our approach

During our research into supporting young mathematicians outside the classroom, we identified a gap in the UK for high-quality residential maths camps. These camps (which are more common in countries such as the USA) can foster a lasting interest in maths, increasing engagement and attainment by enabling students to explore beyond the standard curriculum in a community of like-minded peers.

Our first pilot delivered three camps for Years 7, 8 and 9 across two venues: Christ's Hospital School in Horsham and Churchill College in Cambridge. A total of 248 teacher-nominated students attended, 46% of whom are eligible for Free School Meals.

The residential camps covered content outside of the school curriculum, encouraging students to apply their mathematical knowledge in new and engaging ways. Sessions from inspirational speakers Professor Aoife Hunt MBE, Dr Tom Crawford, Bobby Seagull, Dr Jamie Frost and Zoe Griffiths explored a wide range of topics and highlighted the broad academic and career pathways opened up by mathematical study. The camps encouraged resilience, communication and collaboration, with students staying together on campus for two nights.

Impact

Most students agreed the camps had increased their enjoyment of maths (58% strongly agreed, 29% agreed) with 96% agreeing the activities were different from school. Students reported increased confidence and a broader sense of future possibilities through mathematical study. 82% would recommend a camp to another student.

Success will ultimately be measured in long-term outcomes. We want to see more students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, continue on the maths excellence pathway and progress to degrees in mathematical sciences and adjacent subjects, leading to exciting careers.

We are now extending the pilot into a second year to test longer five-day camps, build more evidence of impact, and trial a more scalable operating model to reduce costs per participant.

"I think the Maths Camp has been one of the best experiences that I've ever had, and I think it was a phenomenal opportunity for me to learn, and I hope that other students enjoy coming here as well in the future."

Maths Camp participant

"What I've enjoyed is that I've got to learn with other people. Because, as you learn, you all get to fill in each other's gaps in knowledge, and that all comes together to connect the puzzle in your brain."

Maths Camp participant

Spotlight

We received feedback from a teacher about one of their students who arrived at Maths Camps from challenging circumstances. Their school attendance and behaviour were understandably being impacted.

Last year, their teacher had told them they were in the top 5% of all students in maths and selected them to join the school's Maths Circle. It became their reason to go to school and avoid detention. When they were then selected for our summer Maths Camp at Churchill College, Cambridge, it changed everything for them.

According to their teacher, they say they now have purpose and are aiming for a future far from where their life started, focused on studying maths at Cambridge and with an ambition to apply to Churchill College.

Incubate spotlight: Baby Bank Alliance

Supporting and advocating for UK baby banks and families, to ensure families have the essentials they need to thrive.

The problem

4.5 million children are living in poverty in the UK⁷, with a million facing destitution⁸. Baby banks provide a vital lifeline, but most are run by volunteers in pop-up spaces, relying on word of mouth and community donations to keep afloat.

Our approach

We co-incubated the Baby Bank Alliance (BBA) in 2023 with Save the Children, with Little Village and Bristol Baby Bank Network as co-founders. BBA supports baby banks to grow and thrive, so they can support families experiencing poverty and disadvantage to give their children a better start in life.

Our work has included strengthening partnerships and communications to grow corporate support and awareness, alongside operational support and board-level strategy.

This year, BBA has grown to 233 members – over half of the baby banks nationwide. BBA members supported roughly 216,000 babies and children in 2024 and have gifted 3.2 million items, worth approximately £70 million.

Impact

This year, experienced Purposeful Ventures team members have run BBA with colleagues from Save the Children. We continued to provide high-level strategy and fundraising support, securing three new funders. Through this collaboration, we have:

- Built relationships with corporate partners, bringing in over £500,000 in funding
- Distributed £420,000 of unrestricted grants to 138 baby bank members across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and all regions in England.
- Secured and distributed gift in-kind donations: 22,500 books from the Book Trust, 13 electric vans from The National Family Centre and approximately £400,000 of baby toiletries from Kenvue, as well as essential items such as bottles, highchairs and prams.

This year, we will support BBA to direct further funding to baby banks and grow the number of baby banks it supports.

"Supporting the essential work of baby banks nationally is something we never could have achieved without Purposeful Ventures' expertise and approach. There is total willingness to roll sleeves up and get stuck in."

Dan Paskins, Director of UK Impact, Save the Children

⁷ Save the Children (2025), [Child Poverty in the UK](#)

⁸ Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2023), [Destitution in the UK 2023](#)

Accelerate spotlight: Kinship

Supporting family or friends who step up to raise a child

The problem

Over 130,000 children in England are raised by relatives in kinship care⁹. Children raised in kinship care consistently experience better long-term outcomes than those placed with unfamiliar foster or residential carers. However, most kinship carers receive less support than unrelated foster carers.

The charity Kinship had grown rapidly, delivering national services and leading campaigns to secure kinship family rights. But the organisation's infrastructure struggled to keep pace with this growth.

Our approach

We provided core unrestricted funding and seconded an experienced Venture Partner into Kinship's leadership team in January 2025. This embedded operational expertise such as People and Culture, Finance and IT, helping stabilise and scale operations, shape the organisation's future strategy and strengthen internal collaboration. Our support enables Kinship to sustain its frontline expansion and build resilience, as well as accessing our philanthropic networks and flexible, multi-year investment.

Impact

Within three months of disciplined cost management and strengthened financial oversight, Kinship moved from a projected budget deficit to a surplus. Improved governance and operational processes enabled two clean audits and more effective programme delivery, including reaching over 4,000 kinship carers with free training by March 2025. During the CEO's Churchill Fellowship in the USA, our Venture Partner stepped in to lead the organisation for seven weeks.

Our unrestricted support has enabled Kinship to continue its work advocating for systemic change, influencing local and national government to secure increased rights and entitlements for kinship carers. The organisational insights generated through this work are also shaping Purposeful Ventures' wider efforts to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families across the UK.

"We are delighted to partner with Purposeful Ventures on the next phase of our growth. The hands-on support through the secondment to our senior leadership team creates new opportunities and helps accelerate our impact."

Lucy Peake, CEO, Kinship

⁹ Office for National Statistics (2023), [Kinship care in England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

Fund spotlight: Maths Excellence Fund

Tackling barriers to maths progression

The problem

Among top maths performers at age 11, only 50% of disadvantaged students achieve top GCSE grades, compared to over 75% of their more affluent peers. However, those who do succeed at GCSE are just as likely to pursue maths at A-level, and significantly more likely to progress to a maths degree¹⁰.

Our approach

We launched the Maths Excellence Fund in September 2024 to help schools raise attainment and progression in maths, especially among disadvantaged students aged 11-18 with high prior attainment. We have committed approximately £8 million in grants over five years to four delivery partners (multi-academy trusts and education charities).

Our role includes shaping and strengthening partner programmes, sharing learning between partners and establishing an Advisory Board to enhance the fund's profile and impact. Over five years, the Fund will trial and evaluate programmes for effectiveness and scalability.

Impact

The Fund currently supports more than 2,000 young people, over 85% of whom are eligible for Pupil Premium or equivalent, across 47 schools and colleges. Each partner uses a 'Cohort and Champion' model, targeting high-potential students and appointing in-school champions accountable for their maths progress. All programmes are independently evaluated to assess effectiveness and scalability.

Funded programmes are expected to deliver improvements in student attainment and engagement across key stages, with core indicative outcomes that include:

- Increased enjoyment, confidence and engagement in maths for students aged 11–16
- Higher rates of top GCSE grades (7–9) in maths
- Greater progression to A-Level Maths, maths-related degrees and careers
- A measurable narrowing of the attainment gap between socio-economically disadvantaged students and their more advantaged peers

In 2024-25 our independent evaluator, National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), carried out the first year of implementation and process evaluation. This stage of evaluation is providing early insights into programme fidelity, delivery conditions and the experiences of schools and students. Champions reported some early professional benefits including greater confidence and networking opportunities. Findings also showed that schools and colleges were strengthening their routines, as we would expect in the first year of delivery. A further evaluation will follow after two years, including a focus on attainment and progression.

The Fund also brings together partners to strengthen delivery models and ensure evidence is robust and comparable. This collaborative approach is already identifying shared barriers and effective practices, enabling partners to adjust their models in real time. This, together with learning from the evaluation, will support a deeper understanding of what

¹⁰ Noyes, A., Brignell, C., Jacques, L., Powell, J., & Adkins, M. (2023). [The mathematics pipeline in England: Patterns, interventions and excellence](#). University of Nottingham Centre for Research in Mathematics Education

drives success for high-attaining disadvantaged students in maths and lay the groundwork for scalable, sector-wide change.

“The support and guidance from the Maths Excellence Fund have been invaluable in establishing the programme at United Learning. It has been inspiring to see interventions and enrichment activities come to life in schools, and to witness the enthusiastic response from pupils engaging with the enriched curriculum. We’re excited to see how the programme continues to develop in future years, and we look forward to the positive impact it will have on pupils’ maths outcomes across our schools.”
Jonathan Payne, Maths Excellence Developer, United Learning Trust

Funder Spotlight: AKO Foundation

Funding brighter futures for pre-school learners from lower socio-economic families

Purposeful Ventures was approached by the AKO Foundation, a long-standing supporter of our work as Ark Ventures, as they were looking to support early childhood development.

The problem

Nearly one in three children are not ready for school by age five, and those from lower income families are disproportionately affected¹¹. 42% of children living in the most disadvantaged households currently do not reach a 'good level of development' by age five, compared with 23% of children in the most advantaged households¹². This has long-term consequences, placing many on a path of lower educational attainment.

Our approach

Investing in early childhood delivers some of the highest returns for long-term societal wellbeing. Outcomes in education, health and earnings are profoundly shaped by the first five years of life, and there is robust evidence about which interventions improve outcomes.

Our extensive research into the sector analysed different focus areas in Early Years. For each focus area, we researched the size of the opportunity for positive change, strength of the evidence base and room for funding. We undertook due diligence of charities on behalf of the Foundation and shared recommendations on partner organisations within our existing portfolio. Together we identified the right partners for the Foundation. We continue to oversee the direct grant-making process, with all the partner organisations receiving ongoing tailored support from our Ventures team alongside their grants for the next two years.

Impact

Over the last two years, this thematic partnership has included £1.55 million of funding made up of:

- Unrestricted grants direct to organisations
- Capacity-building support to accelerate the partner organisations
- Core funding for Purposeful Ventures
- Additional funding to organisations that could absorb more funding to further increase their impact.

We continue to work closely with the Foundation, meeting and speaking regularly to provide comprehensive updates on their portfolio and to ensure they benefit from the full breadth of expertise across our team. By bringing in expert colleagues, we've been able to offer wide-ranging insight and strategic guidance that reflects both the Foundation's priorities and emerging opportunities across the sector.

As our relationship has deepened and our understanding of their ambitions has grown, we've continued to share a pipeline of compelling organisations and funding opportunities from across our portfolios and the wider sector. This has not only helped the theme

¹¹ Powell, L., Spencer, S., Clegg, J., Wood, M. L., et al (2024). [An evidence-based approach to supporting children in the preschool years](#). Child of the North/ N8 Partnership

¹² Department for Education (2024), [Early years foundation stage profile results](#)

expand, but has also supported the Foundation to grow its impact in a meaningful and sustained way.

Our partnership has now evolved beyond Early Years, with the strength of our relationship enabling us to support the Foundation more broadly in shaping and advancing their philanthropic ambitions in education.

"We asked Purposeful Ventures to help us develop our approach to narrowing the stark gap in development between pre-school learners from lower socio-economic families and their more affluent peers, so that every child can be school-ready. From the outset, they matched our desire to reduce this inequity. They have been very easy to work with – proactive, organised, and genuinely collaborative at every stage."

John Mulvihill, Grants Manager, AKO Foundation

Key events and achievements: 1 September 2024 - 31 August 2025

September 2024

- Maths Excellence Fund programme launches
- Martingale celebrates its second anniversary and publishes its first impact report
- Maths Horizons programme launches

October 2024

- Purposeful Ventures team moves to its new office space at EdCity, sharing space with three of our partners: Ark, Lift Schools and Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation
- Baby Bank Alliance partners with IKEA and runs the [Big Baby Bank Appeal campaign](#) with ITV Lorraine and Morrisons

November 2024

- Publish our report, ['Exploring EdTech and AI in Maths Teaching'](#)
- Publish our report, ['Scoping the "Maths Corps" in England'](#)
- Purposeful Ventures appoints Emilio Domingo and Nat Sloane to the Board

December 2024

- Publish our *Tes* article, ['What schools need to get right on AI'](#)
- Purposeful Ventures appoints Gareth Lambert to the Board

January 2025

- [Purposeful Ventures welcomes](#) Adoption UK, Kinship and New Beginnings into the Children & Families portfolio

February 2025

- Our Maths Horizons programme publishes its ['Interim Report'](#)
- 1729 Maths School [is announced](#), *The Times*

March 2025

- Publish our report, ['Investigating Maths Attitudes in England'](#), with article in *Tes*
- Purposeful Ventures welcomes Peeples, Boromi, Learning with Parents, and Apples and Honey Nightingale into the [Children & Families portfolio](#)

April 2025

- Purposeful Ventures appoints Justine Lutterodt and Tara Haig to the Board

May 2025

- Our first [Leading with Purpose](#) event at EdCity (10 CEOs of our partner organisations attended to hear guest speaker Sara Nilsson from Bain)
- Purposeful Ventures [team away day](#), hosted at UBS

June 2025

- Our Maths Horizons programme publishes its report, ['How England should reform maths education for the age of AI'](#), with a reception at the House of Lords

July 2025

- Our [Music & Arts portfolio launches](#) with five initial grantees
- [EdTechnical](#) announces its incubation with Purposeful Ventures, expanding into research and investment, during a live podcast recording at EdCity

August 2025

- [Maths Camps pilots](#) welcomed 248 students to three Years 7-9 residential camps at Christ's Hospital School and Churchill College, Cambridge

Assessing our impact

This year, we developed our Theory of Change to guide our work over the next 10 years. We are embedding this outcome-driven thinking into how we plan, fund, and evaluate our efforts, and shape the way we work every day.

Specifically, we use it to:

Develop portfolio, investment and organisational strategies that align with our intended outcomes. It will help us identify and prioritise new areas of work, and guide decisions about what to continue, adapt, or stop – always with a focus on achieving our long-term impact.

Select partner organisations. We will expect our partner organisations to contribute to at least one of our three long-term outcome domains:

- Stable and supportive home environment
- Access to the resources young people need to participate and excel in education, training and future employment
- Well-being of children, young people and their families

We will also support and expect partners to monitor and evaluate progress in these areas.

Guide operational planning and resource allocation, ensuring our work is focused and aligned with our impact goals.

Communicate our identity and approach, explaining clearly who Purposeful Ventures is, what we do, and how we create change.

This also provides a framework to better understand how our work supports partner organisations, children and young people. We use this learning to improve and share the impact of our work and help us define our success in the future.



Plans for the future

Over the next 1-3 years, Purposeful Ventures plans to:

- Deliver the current projects within our existing portfolios to support families, some of the country's most vulnerable young people, and enable all young people to access, thrive and excel in maths, music and the arts
- Strengthen our core – team, systems, portfolios, partners and funders
- Secure funding to launch and grow our Incubations and co-investments for our existing partner organisations from new philanthropic partners
- Incubate new organisations such as Reset and EdTechnical
- Further refine Purposeful Ventures' approach to delivering impact and develop a rigorous evaluation framework, so we can better understand and report on our impact
- Prepare to spin out incubated organisations so they can thrive independently
- Initiate partner organisation community events, including the Leading with Purpose CEO talk series, to foster collaboration and shared learning among their leaders

Our medium to long-term plans over the next 5-10 years include:

- Growing the pipeline of incubated organisations across our portfolios, ensuring they consistently demonstrate impact for young people
- Expanding our work areas, in partnership with a broader pool of philanthropic partners, into other challenges that young people are currently facing, so that more get the opportunity to thrive
- Strengthening our portfolios, building ongoing support for our partner organisations through regular community events
- Increasing our focus on advocacy and policy engagement, amplifying our impact and driving systemic change
- Diversifying our funder base, ensuring financial stability and long-term growth

Principal financial risks and mitigations

Risk	Existing mitigation and ongoing monitoring	Further planned mitigation
We continue to be reliant on a small number of funders and the scale of their giving and ambition makes diversification at a meaningful level unlikely	Continue to strengthen relationships with major funders, including building understanding of their longer-term plans	Deliver our fundraising strategy to secure financial stability and long-term growth with a diversified funder base

Non-financial risks and mitigations

Category	Risk	Existing mitigation and ongoing monitoring	Further planned mitigation
People	People risks on the risk register mainly reflect the speed of growth and volume of work	Continue strategic workforce planning as we grow. Continue to develop well designed roles; training, tools and resources for the team, and invest in team and culture building	Continue to invest in strong people practices which enable us and our ventures to achieve their missions, for people to thrive and do their best work
Impact and strategy	As the team and our reach grows, defining a clear strategy is crucial. Relatedly, we need to develop our impact measurement	Continue to review our Theory of Change and develop our evaluation framework	Ensure our long-term strategy is rigorous and agile, shared with the team and that we monitor progress against the KPIs and objectives linked to it
Reputation	Partner organisation or philanthropic partner does something that negatively impacts our reputation, or negatively impacts our ability to work with government or unlock statutory funding	Communications team monitors media/social media, our ventures and management teams uphold relationships with partners and maintain quarterly reporting with every partner organisation	Continue to ensure we are organisationally set up to monitor, review and manage relationships with our partners and ensure appropriate governance around our ethical fundraising policy

Financial Review

Income for the year ended August 2025 totalled £17,310,000 compared to £22,546,000 in 2024. The main driver of the reduced income was the provision of a one-off grant from Ark of £10,263,000 following the transfer of some ongoing programmes from Ark to Purposeful Ventures. In 2025 Ark provided ongoing support in the form of a grant of £150,000.

Our income is largely derived from grants and donations. In 2024 supplemental trading income from the International Maths Olympiad totalled £150,000, however in 2025 supplemental trading income totalled £33,000. Our income includes the value of our pro bono experts contributed in the form of donated services. This was £2,093,000 in the past year, compared to £2,395,000 in 2024. All of these sources of income are used to deliver our programmes including providing onward grant funding.

Expenditure increased to £16,197,000 from £12,642,000 in 2024, reflecting the growth in our capacity and capability. This resulted in a surplus for the period of £1,113,000 (2024 - £9,904,000).

At the balance sheet date, the charity had reserves of £11,017,000, increased from £9,904,000 at the end of 2024, of which £8,812,000 (2024 - £7,995,000) was held in restricted funds and £2,205,000 (2024 - £1,909,000) in unrestricted funds.

Policy on holding reserves

The Charity shall seek to hold between three to six months' core operating expenditure by way of 'free reserves'. Core operating expenditure is the cost of running the Charity on an ongoing basis and excludes one-off costs and pass-through grants. This equates to a level that is designed to ensure that the Charity can navigate uncertainty in a planned and timely manner, ensuring that the interests of beneficiaries, stakeholders, creditors and staff are protected. In addition, the Charity will aim to hold between three and six months of core operating costs in restricted reserves for incubated organisations until they are able to generate their own free reserves.

Three to six months' core operating expenditure is c.£1,340,000 - £2,680,000 (2024 - £788,000 - £1,576,000). At the balance sheet date, free reserves totalled £2,191,000 (2024 - £1,888,000), which is within the bounds of our policy.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Details regarding fundraising

Purposeful Ventures' fundraising is primarily done by our Chief Executive, Michael Clark, and our Director of Philanthropy, Holly Piercy, with a Philanthropy Manager to support gift administration and stewardship. Purposeful Ventures continues to be supported by freelance Philanthropy Adviser, Doug Thomson. As the incubated ventures grow and get closer to their independence, the responsibility for fundraising transitions to the chief executive and advisory board. In addition, other members of

the Purposeful Ventures team may make introductions and share their connections.

We fundraise by soliciting donations from a defined list of individuals, companies, and charitable trusts and foundations. This list is carefully considered, and approaches are only made to those we already have a connection to, or we think may have an interest in our work. We do not conduct mass mailing or telephone campaign fundraising and do not outsource fundraising activities. Our partner organisations also conduct their own fundraising and may use fundraising platforms such as Just Giving to promote specific campaigns.

Donor data is handled securely and with care in accordance with statutory obligations. Purposeful Ventures is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and complies with advice and guidance set by it. We have never received any fundraising complaints and make use of our Ethical Fundraising and Acceptance of Donations Policy to protect individuals when carrying out fundraising.

Structure, governance and management

Purposeful Ventures is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by a Constitution and Scheme of Delegation, dated 7 September 2023.

The Charity is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets at least three times per year. The Board of Trustees makes objective, long-term decisions on key issues in order to advance the organisation's mission and goals. Such key issues include but are not limited to:

- Goal setting
- Strategy
- Programme or product design
- Relationships with important stakeholders (e.g. funders and government)
- Public relations
- Finances
- Employment
- Safeguarding
- Other legal matters

Operational matters connected with implementation of the strategy, together with responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Charity, are delegated to the chief executive and management team.

The Board of Trustees is committed to considering decisions objectively and seeking to reach consensus where possible. However, recognising that this may not always be possible or desirable, the Board of Trustees adheres to the following decision-making process, which is consistent with our Constitution:

- For any substantive decision to be formally agreed, a quorum (the number nearest to one third of the total number of Trustees, whichever is greater, or such larger number as the Trustees may decide from time to time) of Trustees must be present
- In the first instance, decisions are made according to a simple majority vote of a quorum of Trustees
- In the event of a tied vote, the Chair has the opportunity to cast a deciding vote or to reconvene the decision at a later time.

The Board of Trustees may decide, in the future, to convene sub-groups or sub-committees to focus on particular issues and delegate certain responsibilities to those sub-groups. This may include 'standing groups', such as a Finance, Audit and Risk

Committee or a People and Remuneration Committee. This may also include 'task and finish groups' to focus on a particular project or issue.

Any 'standing group' must have a separate terms of reference, to be agreed by the Board of Trustees. It is recommended that any 'task and finish group' has a separate terms of reference, but this may be agreed pragmatically on a case-by-case basis.

New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees in accordance with the Charity's constitution. There should always be a minimum of three Trustees. The induction and training of Trustees includes:

- An induction programme – face to face meetings with leaders, visit to partner organisations and sharing of documentation
- Dissemination of guidance on being a Trustee from the Charities Commission and other leading organisations
- Funded conference places
- Opportunities to access online training, e.g. safer recruitment
- Short relevant training sessions as part of the board meetings, e.g. on funding partner organisations

The Board of Trustees is responsible for reviewing and setting the remuneration of the senior management team, after due consideration for market rates, skill sets and performance.

Acknowledgements

Our mission is made possible by our generous partners who share our ambition to see young people thrive. We would like to use this opportunity to thank all our donors who have supported us, our partner organisations and our incubations, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous. We are grateful for their continued support.

Purposeful Ventures' unrestricted funders

Anonymous donor
AKO Foundation
Ark
Bain & Company*
UBS Optimus Foundation
XTX Markets

Supporters of our partner organisations

Golden Bottle Trust
Hg Foundation

Supporters of our incubated organisations

Baby Bank Alliance

Anonymous donor ^
Barratt Redrow Foundation
BookTrust*
Collective Futures
IKEA
Multibank*
Pears Foundation
Save the Children **

EdTechnical

XTX Markets ^
Jacobs Foundation

Reset

Blaine Tomlinson

Martingale Foundation

XTX Markets ^
Google DeepMind
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
King's College London
University of Manchester
University of Oxford
Queen Mary University London
St John's College, Cambridge*
UK Atomic Energy Authority
University College London

KEY:

^ *Founding donor*
* *Gift in kind*
** *Co-incubation partner*

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the CIO Foundation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, Goodman Jones LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:



Elizabeth Dangoor

Chair

Date: 16-04-2026

Independent auditors' report to the members of Purposeful Ventures

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Purposeful Ventures (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn. This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as of 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud

or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the charity and sector, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to sector regulations and unethical and prohibited business practices, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011, Charity Commission and sector regulations, and UK Tax Legislation.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Appropriate audit procedures in response to these risks were carried out. These procedures included:

- discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- obtaining and reading correspondence from legal and regulatory bodies including HMRC;
- identifying and testing journal entries;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members; and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the

charity and its Trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Goodman Jones LLP *Goodman Jones LLP*
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
1st Floor, Arthur Stanley House
40 50 Tottenham Street
London
W1T 4RN

Date: 17-04-26

Goodman Jones LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
	Note				
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	3,127	13,734	16,861	22,250
Charitable activities	5	33	-	33	-
Other trading activities	6	-	-	-	150
Investments	7	416	-	416	146
Total income		3,576	13,734	17,130	22,546
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	287	-	287	-
Charitable activities	8	2,993	12,917	15,910	150
Total expenditure		3,280	12,917	16,197	12,642
Net movement in funds		296	817	1,113	9,904
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		1,909	7,995	9,904	-
Net movement in funds		296	817	1,113	9,904
Total funds carried forward		2,205	8,812	11,017	9,904

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet as of 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £000	2025 £000	2024 £000	2024 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		<u>14</u>		<u>21</u>
			14		21
Current assets					
Debtors	13	534		362	
Investments	14	4,874		3,426	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>12,254</u>		<u>10,732</u>	
		17,662		14,520	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(6,659)		(4,637)	
Net current assets			<u>11,003</u>		<u>9,883</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>11,017</u>		<u>9,904</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset			11,017		9,904
Total net assets			<u>11,017</u>		<u>9,904</u>
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	17		8,812		7,995
Unrestricted funds	17		2,205		1,909
Total funds			<u>11,017</u>		<u>9,904</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

Elizabeth Dangoor

.....
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Elizabeth Dangoor

Chair

Date: 16-04-2026

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 August 2025

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	1,113	9,904
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	7	2
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(416)	(146)
Increase in debtors	(77)	(285)
Increase in creditors	2,022	4,638
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in operating activities	2,649	14,113
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest	321	69
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(23)
Transfer to short-term deposits	(1,448)	(3,427)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,127)	(3,381)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	1,522	10,732
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	10,732	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	12,254	10,732
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2025 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	10,732	1,522	12,254
Liquid investments	3,426	1,448	4,874
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,158	2,970	17,128
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Notes to the financial statements

1. General information

Purposeful Ventures is a charity limited by guarantee in England and Wales, it is registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1204622. The registered office address of the Charity is 1 EdCity, EdCity Walk, London, W12 7TF. The objectives of the Charity are set out in the Trustees' Report.

2. Accounting policies

2.1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Purposeful Ventures meets 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.

The financial statements have been prepared in Sterling, the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements cover a year, from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The comparative period was less than 12 months, running from date of registration on 7 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

2.2. Going concern

At the time of approving these financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The Trustees consider that there is no material uncertainty about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern after considering budgets, forecasts, cashflow forecasts, reserves, cash balances, and the future plans of the Charity. As a result, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

2.3. 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.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis and to the extent that any attached performance conditions have been met. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4. Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

2.6. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment - 33%

2.7. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9. Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10. Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11. Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

2.12. Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgement:

Income recognition - the Charity receives grant income some of which includes funding for onwards grants paid. Judgement is taken in determining whether the charity acts as a principal or agent in certain transactions, including considering the extent to which the Charity has control over the funds provided for the onward grants, and therefore whether the income is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Grants and donations	1,995	12,773	14,768	<i>19,855</i>
Donated services	1,132	961	2,093	<i>2,395</i>
	<u>3,127</u>	<u>13,734</u>	<u>16,861</u>	<u><i>22,250</i></u>
Total 2024	<u>2,817</u>	<u>19,433</u>	<u>22,250</u>	

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Income from charitable activities – Maths	28	28	-
Income from charitable activities – Children & Families	5	5	-
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 33	<hr/> -

6. Income from other trading activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Sponsorship	-	-	150
	<hr/> -	<hr/> -	<hr/> 150
Total 2024	<hr/> 150	<hr/> 150	

7. Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Investment income	416	416	146
	<hr/> 416	<hr/> 416	<hr/> 146
Total 2024	<hr/> 146	<hr/> 146	

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

8. Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Maths				
Activities	26	2,905	2,931	<i>3,438</i>
Onwards grants	-	4,877	4,877	<i>4,411</i>
Support	1,973	961	2,934	<i>2,676</i>
Subtotal	<u>1,999</u>	<u>8,743</u>	<u>10,742</u>	<i><u>10,525</u></i>
Children & Families				
Activities	181	497	678	<i>232</i>
Onwards grants	-	2,511	2,511	<i>1,305</i>
Support	806	-	806	<i>461</i>
Subtotal	<u>987</u>	<u>3,008</u>	<u>3,995</u>	<i><u>1,998</u></i>
Music & Arts				
Activities	-	258	258	<i>49</i>
Onwards grants	-	908	908	<i>43</i>
Support	294	-	294	<i>27</i>
Subtotal	<u>294</u>	<u>1,166</u>	<u>1,460</u>	<i><u>119</u></i>
Total 2025	<u><u>3,280</u></u>	<u><u>12,917</u></u>	<u><u>16,197</u></u>	<i><u><u>12,642</u></u></i>
Total 2024	<u><u>3,352</u></u>	<u><u>9,290</u></u>	<u><u>12,642</u></u>	

As part of its charitable activities, the Charity makes grants to recipient organisations alongside providing strategic and operational support to these entities. Grants ranged from £1,000 to £480,000 and details of grant recipients are disclosed in the Annual Report and on the Charity's website (<https://purposefulventures.org/>).

Recipients of material grants comprise:

Dr Frost learning - £450,000

First UK - £335,000

University of Oxford COMPOS - £270,000

SHiFT - £447,000

Little Village - £360,000

Inspiration Trust - £380,000

The Co-operative Academies Trust - £480,000

United Church Schools in Trust - £360,000

Mathematics in Education and Industry - £337,000

Global Talent Fund - £240,000

Renaissance Philanthropy UK - £240,000

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra - £250,000

Total - £4,149,000

Remaining grants are individually immaterial - £4,147,000

2024:

Dr Frost Learning - £750,000

Global Talent Network -£472,206

Inspiration Trust - £470,000

Mathematics in Education and Industry - £490,000

United Church Schools Trust - £520,000

Other grants (individually not material) - £3,058,000

9. Support costs

	Support costs 2025 £000	Total costs 2025 £000	<i>Total costs 2024 £000</i>
Raising funds			
Staff costs	287	287	-
Charitable activities			
Staff costs	1,198	1,198	<i>684</i>
Pro bono consulting support	2,093	2,093	<i>2,109</i>
HR	90	90	<i>66</i>
Finance	176	176	<i>109</i>
IT	49	49	<i>33</i>
Office	138	138	<i>150</i>
Other	3	3	<i>13</i>
Total 2025	<u>4,035</u>	<u>4,035</u>	<u><i>3,164</i></u>
Total 2024	<u>3,164</u>	<u>3,164</u>	

Included in finance costs above are audit fees of £18,000 (2024 - £24,000).

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

10. Staff costs

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Wages and salaries	2,959	<i>1,571</i>
Social security costs	373	<i>188</i>
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	328	<i>171</i>
	<u>3,660</u>	<i><u>1,930</u></i>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Incubated ventures	10	<i>10</i>
Purposeful Ventures core	32	<i>16</i>
	<u>42</u>	<i><u>26</u></i>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	2	<i>3</i>
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	<i>2</i>
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	<i>3</i>
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	4	<i>-</i>
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	2	<i>-</i>
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	<i>-</i>
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	<i>-</i>
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	2	<i>-</i>
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	1	<i>1</i>
In the band £180,001 - £190,000	1	<i>-</i>

During the period, the Charity incurred costs including employer's national insurance and employer's pension contributions in respect of key management personnel totaling £1,028,000 (2024 - £550,000).

11. Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - *£NIL*).

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - *£NIL*).

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £000
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2024	<u>23</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>23</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2024	2
Charge for the year	<u>7</u>
At 31 August 2025	<u>9</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	<u>14</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>21</u>

13. Debtors

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	30	247
Other debtors	178	102
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>326</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u>534</u>	<u>362</u>

14. Current asset investments

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Short-term cash deposits	<u>4,874</u>	<u>3,426</u>

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £000	<i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Trade creditors	232	948
Other taxation and social security	122	74
Other creditors	45	27
Accruals and deferred income	<u>6,259</u>	<u>3,588</u>
	<u>6,659</u>	<u><i>4,637</i></u>
	2025 £000	<i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	3,525	-
Resources deferred during the year	6,171	3,525
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(3,525)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6,171</u>	<u><i>3,525</i></u>

Deferred income represents grant funding received in advance for specific projects to be carried out in a future period as determined by the donor.

16. Financial instruments

	2025 £000	<i>2024</i> <i>£000</i>
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	<u>17,128</u>	<u>14,158</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and short-term cash investments.

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

17. Statement of funds

Current year	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
Unrestricted funds				
General funds – all funds	<u>1,909</u>	<u>3,576</u>	<u>(3,280)</u>	<u>2,205</u>
Restricted funds				
Maths	6,265	10,269	(8,743)	7,791
Children & Families	1,749	2,124	(3,009)	864
Music & Arts	(19)	1,341	(1,165)	157
	<u>7,995</u>	<u>13,734</u>	<u>(12,917)</u>	<u>8,812</u>
Total funds	<u>9,904</u>	<u>17,310</u>	<u>(16,197)</u>	<u>11,017</u>

Restricted funds comprise:

Maths (previously called STEM) - funds received towards the Maths programmes, in particular in Maths excellence and Martingale projects.

Children & Families - funds received towards projects designed to support children to enable them to grow up in stable and supportive family environments.

Music & Arts - funds received towards projects designed to promote excellence in music.

Prior year	<i>Income</i> £000	<i>Expenditure</i> £000	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024</i> £000
Unrestricted funds			
General funds – all funds	<u>5,260</u>	<u>(3,351)</u>	<u>1,909</u>
Restricted funds			
Maths	13,927	(7,662)	6,265
Children & Families	3,285	(1,536)	1,749
Music & Arts	73	(92)	(19)
	<u>17,285</u>	<u>(9,290)</u>	<u>7,995</u>
Total funds	<u>22,545</u>	<u>(12,641)</u>	<u>9,904</u>

Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Tangible fixed assets	14	-	14
Current assets	3,971	13,691	17,662
Creditors due within one year	(1,780)	(4,879)	(6,659)
	<u>2,205</u>	<u>8,812</u>	<u>11,017</u>
Prior year	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £000</i>
Tangible fixed assets	21	-	21
Current assets	4,000	10,520	14,520
Creditors due within one year	(2,112)	(2,525)	(4,637)
	<u>1,909</u>	<u>7,995</u>	<u>9,904</u>

19. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £328,000 (2024 - £175,000). Contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date totaled £45,000 (2024 - £25,000) and are included in creditors due within one year.

20. Related party transactions

The Charity was spun out of another entity, Absolute Return for Kids ("ARK"), in November 2023. Lucy Heller, Trustee, is CEO of ARK. During the year, the Charity received an amount of £280,000 (2024 - £10,263,000), representing grant income from ARK, in 2024 it was the balance on funds from programmes previously run by ARK. In addition, during the period ARK provided various services including office, HR, finance and IT support to the Charity at a value of £154,000 (2024 - £509,000), and the Charity provided strategic support to ARK at a value of £nil (2024 - £112,000). At the balance sheet date, the Charity owed an amount of £13,000 (2024 - £37,000) to ARK and was owed an amount of £nil by ARK (2024 - £10,000).

Other than disclosed in this note and elsewhere in these financial statements, there were no other transactions with related parties requiring disclosure.

PURPOSEFUL VENTURES

England & Wales - Charity number 1204622

Accounts



Purposeful
Ventures

Charity number: 1204622

Purposeful Ventures

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 August 2024

Table of Contents

<i>Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers</i>	3
<i>Trustees' report</i>	4
<i>Independent auditors' report</i>	17
<i>Statement of financial activities</i>	20
<i>Balance sheet</i>	21
<i>Statement of cash flows</i>	22
<i>Notes to the financial statements</i>	23

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers for the period ended 31 August 2024

Trustees	Elizabeth Dangoor, Chair (appointed 7 September 2023) Emilio Domingo (appointed 1 November 2024) Edward Fidoe (appointed 7 September 2023) Tara Haig (appointed 1 April 2025) Lucy Heller (appointed 7 September 2023) Gareth Lambert (appointed 20 December 2024) Justine Lutterodt (appointed 1 April 2025) Nat Sloane (appointed 1 November 2024)
Charity registered number	1204622
Principal office	1 EdCity EdCity Walk London W12 7TF
Independent auditors	Goodman Jones LLP Chartered Accountants 1 st Floor, Arthur Stanley House 40-50 Tottenham Street London W1T 4RN
Bankers	The Co-Operative Bank 131-135 Northumberland Street Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne & Wear NE1 7AG Flagstone 1 st Floor, Clareville House 26-27 Oxendon Street London SW1Y 4EL

Trustees' report

For the period ended 31 August 2024

Welcome from the Chair

Our vision is of a fairer society where all young people thrive.

Not every child and young person has a stable and supportive home environment, or access to what they need to participate and excel in education. This has far-reaching consequences for their employment and well-being and it needs to change.

At Purposeful Ventures, we partner with social entrepreneurs and philanthropists to improve the education and well-being of young people from their earliest years. We do this by selecting, accelerating and, where we find a gap, incubating organisations focused on a particular issue. Together, we test and scale effective solutions and influence system change.

The challenges we seek to address are complex, and while there are many great non-profits already tackling them, they often struggle to scale or maximise their impact. No single organisation can solve these problems. Instead, we need an ecosystem of effective non-profits working collaboratively around a shared goal. Purposeful Ventures focuses on understanding the root causes of issues facing young people then supports the development of this ecosystem, ensuring that efforts are coordinated, scalable and sustainable.

Philanthropy plays a crucial enabling role. There are many individuals, trusts and foundations who want to make a difference and seek the most effective ways to direct their support. At Purposeful Ventures, we help philanthropists identify high-impact organisations and gaps in the market where funding can drive the greatest change. Whether by directing funding to a specific non-profit, catalysing systemic change in a particular portfolio area or investing across multiple non-profits with a thematic focus, we ensure that philanthropic resources are used to generate meaningful and lasting impact.

In our first year since spinning out from Ark, we have made significant progress. We have welcomed 16 non-profits into the Purposeful Ventures family, launched two new funds and incubated two new organisations within our Children and Families and STEM Excellence portfolios. These milestones reflect the momentum we are building and the potential for even greater impact in the years ahead.

We are building a strong team with relevant sectoral and functional expertise. Our new senior leaders have brought excellent networks with them and having additional capacity at this level enables us to offer more peer-to-peer senior leadership support to our partner organisations. This is an investment in the impact that we intend to have over time. In addition, we are building a diverse and effective board to ensure that Purposeful is stewarded effectively.

I am excited to see what this excellent team can achieve for young people in 2025.

Libby Dangoor, Chair of Trustees

Welcome from the Chief Executive

It has been an exciting and fast-moving period for Purposeful Ventures. We have an ambitious vision and have been growing rapidly – in our team, our partner organisations and the funds we are delivering. We are now looking forward to driving meaningful impact for young people this year and beyond.

Our initial focus was on setting ourselves up as an independent organisation following the spin-out from Ark, ensuring that we had the right structures, team and partnerships in place to deliver our mission. As we move into our second year of operation, our focus is on delivering our portfolio goals as well as deepening our foundations – refining our strategy and strengthening our approach to impact measurement.

A key part of this next phase will be evolving our strategy and theory of change to ensure we are working in the areas where we can make the greatest difference. In addition to the growing work within our Children and Families and STEM Excellence portfolios, which you will read about in this report, we have identified emerging areas of importance for us, including mental health and music and arts.

These themes reflect our commitment to giving young people the best start in life, recognising that education and career progression are deeply connected to well-being and opportunities for creativity and self-expression. We are excited to expand our work in these areas over the coming years, delivering innovative projects such as 1729 Maths School and incubating new initiatives such as Reset (read more in our case studies). This new work will offer innovative and scalable solutions to philanthropists who are as passionate about supporting young people as we are.

Our first annual report outlines key progress measures. Developing our evaluation framework will enable us to report more robustly on clear outcome measures in future years as well as helping us to refine our approach, ensuring we build on our impact to date.

Becoming independent from Ark was a significant milestone and a necessary step for us to fulfil our potential. Our independence has allowed us to be more agile, take a broader perspective beyond education and work across multiple sectors to build a more equitable society. We are grateful to Ark for their incredible support throughout the transition and continue to work in partnership.

In this coming year, as we refine our approach and grow our impact, we will remain focused on the following long-term outcomes to support young people:

- Increased participation and attainment in education, employment and training
- Improved home environment
- Improved well-being
- Increased scaling of effective solutions and recognition by policy makers and funders.

These measures will guide our decision-making and help us assess how we are contributing to a fairer society.

We are excited about what lies ahead and are grateful to our partners, funders and team members for their commitment and collaboration. Together, we are not only supporting change financially but shaping the systems that will enable all young people to thrive for generations to come.

Michael Clark, Chief Executive

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Charity for the period 7 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

Our purpose and public benefit

Our aims are: 1) to advance education; and 2) to relieve those in need by reason of youth, financial hardship or other disadvantage, in such manner as the charity trustees may from time to time determine, including through providing support and activities which develop skills, capacities and capabilities to enable full participation in society.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to the general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity' (PB2).

Our approach and activities

Through our partnerships with non-profits and funders, we:

- Define and diagnose the issues affecting children and young people, analyse evidence and explore the most promising solutions.
- Select organisations through a rigorous due diligence process, partnering with those who share strong theories of change and mirror our ambitions
- Accelerate and grow our partner organisations or incubate new organisations to address genuine gaps.

We have a responsive, tailored approach to working with all the organisations we support, the core elements of which are:

Expertise	We have a team of ex-charity and for-profit CEOs, COOs, founders and consultants, who do anything from strategy reviews and evaluation to organisation design and interim management for our portfolio
Network	We introduce our portfolio to potential funders, partners, policy teams and anyone else who can help them grow and thrive
Reputation	We use our reputation for sourcing and scaling non-profits to help them secure funding, contracts and staff, and to open doors that would otherwise be closed to organisations of their size and track record
Operations	We provide back-office support from partnerships through to provision in IT, HR, governance, finance and operations. We also have room in our offices so that organisations can co-locate if helpful
Funding	We provide catalytic grants tailored to the needs of the organisation. This could range from a small grant to fund a new team member, to covering the first three years of operating costs

In partnership with visionary philanthropists, we support organisations to grow and thrive in three ways:

- **Incubation:** building organisations from scratch and spinning them out once they have demonstrated impact, strong governance and financial sustainability.
- **Acceleration:** providing tailored support and funding (typically £50k - £500k per annum for 1-3 years) to help existing organisations grow and scale. Renewal of this support is based on clear KPIs and a mutual bespoke agreement between us, the organisation and our funders.
- **Sustaining and funding:** offering funding to existing organisations with fewer support needs and/or managing our own funds whose specific goals can be achieved by grantees.

Our portfolios

The work carried out in relation to our objectives between September 2023 and August 2024 was split into three portfolios:

Children and Families portfolio

Every child should grow up in a stable and supportive family environment and have the opportunity to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. In our Children and Families portfolio, we build and strengthen organisations that support parents, families and carers through children's early years and young people who face tough circumstances, so they can thrive despite the challenges they encounter.

STEM Excellence portfolio

In the UK, young people are not reaching their potential in maths and other STEM subjects during their education. Our work in the STEM Excellence portfolio seeks to identify and unlock where support is most needed, to help all young people engage with and excel at maths at every stage.

Music and Arts portfolio

Fewer young people from low socio-economic backgrounds are excelling in classical music and arts. We are building a new portfolio to support more of these young people to progress to the highest level in these subjects and, if they choose, pursue related careers.

Case studies and impact

Baby Bank Alliance: Helping families living in poverty by raising the profile and impact of baby banks nationwide

4.3 million children are living in poverty in the UK, with a million facing destitution. Baby banks provide a vital service for families experiencing poverty and disadvantage, allowing their children to have a better start in life.

We have been working with Little Village (originally when we were part of Ark Ventures) since 2016, supporting them to establish a network of baby banks in London. We could all see the impact that baby banks were making across the country and were convinced that more could be achieved by working more closely together. Based on this insight, we co-incubated the Baby Bank Alliance with Save the Children, alongside Little Village and Bristol Baby Bank Network as partners. The Alliance aspires to connect the nation's baby banks: raising their profile, championing their cause, bringing in funding and creating a national movement for change.

Impact

As part of our co-incubation of the Baby Bank Alliance, we have seconded experienced Purposeful Ventures team members to run the Alliance alongside Save the Children. Together, we have:

- Forged relationships with corporate partners to increase awareness and bring in over £600,000 in funding and in-kind donations
- Distributed £150,000 of unrestricted grants to 112 baby banks in round one of the Development Fund.

Since launching in 2023, the Baby Bank Alliance has rapidly grown to over 200 members – over half of the ~350 baby banks nationwide. Alliance members supported roughly 100,000 babies and children in 2023 and have gifted 600,000 items worth c. £13.7 million. In the coming year, the Alliance will be directing further funding to baby banks and growing the number of baby banks it supports.

'Being part of a national Alliance gives us a national voice and a united front, whilst remaining independent and supporting our community in the way that suits them. It gives us the opportunity to raise the profile of the vital work we are doing for families.'

Leanne Simcoe, Founder of Little Stars Baby Bank and Baby Bank Alliance member

Reset: Creating better futures for the most vulnerable children by testing and piloting a new programme

In 2024, our research uncovered that a growing number of children with complex needs present a high risk to themselves and, at times, others. Many experience multiple placement breakdowns and are placed on Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) orders – a last-resort measure to restrict a child's liberty without consent to ensure their safety when no other legal or care option is available. In 2023, 1,368 children were subject to DoL applications, a 12x increase since 2017. These children are often self-harming, facing mental health struggles, experiencing exploitation, exhibiting aggression and/or are going missing.

In response, Purposeful Ventures is developing Reset, a bold new initiative to transform the lives of these young people. We identified a critical gap in provision and are building a solution from the ground up, co-designed with frontline practitioners to ensure it is grounded in real-world expertise.

Reset aims to reduce the risk of future harm, help children achieve safe and stable living environments, improve relationships and develop self-confidence and aspiration. Led by Sophie Humphreys OBE – our Social Entrepreneur in Residence and founder of [Pause](#) and [SHiFT](#) – the programme is based on these organisations' Breaking Cycles Core Ingredients. The pilot will see children receiving 18 months of 1:1 support from a skilled Reset Partner, a 12-week immersive residential placement and sustained follow-on support during the first year of reintegration into their community.

Purposeful Ventures has led the research and high-level programme design process, ensuring a rigorous and innovative approach rooted in evidence and best practice. We are now seeking funding for the pilot phase, which will lay the foundation for scaling this initiative and driving lasting systemic change for vulnerable children across the UK.

Martingale Foundation: Supporting a new generation of postgraduates to become STEM leaders

Students from low socio-economic backgrounds are up to 15 times less likely than their most privileged counterparts to progress to postgraduate study, which is increasingly associated with academic and career advancement. With student loans often falling short – especially for living costs – many are unable to continue without family financial support.

As Ark Ventures, we worked closely with a funder to design a solution to this issue, focused on supporting future STEM leaders, and launched the Martingale Foundation in September 2022. The Martingale Foundation came with us from Ark and we continue to support them on their journey to independence.

Martingale partners with world-leading universities to support talented STEM students through fully-funded Scholarships and access to a network of leaders in academia and industry – helping them thrive at postgraduate level and make a meaningful contribution to research.

The organisation is driving systemic change in the postgraduate sector. With the government's 'New Deal for Postgraduates' and the cost-of-living crisis on the agenda, Martingale is well positioned to shape policy and amplify the voices of underrepresented students.

Impact

Our incubation has included:

- Securing £12 million in funding from founding donor XTX Markets for the pilot phase
- Piloting new AI Masters Scholarships, funded by Google DeepMind
- Establishing partnerships with eight leading UK universities
- Hiring a high-performing team and expert advisory board
- Seconding an interim C-suite team while recruiting a permanent CEO
- Providing crucial back-office support, including finance, HR, IT and office space.

Martingale's impact is growing rapidly. By August 2024, they were supporting 50 postgraduate Scholars, with more than £3.5 million committed in Scholarship funding. Alongside its generous Scholarship package, Martingale provides extensive leadership training to Scholars. It is expanding its offer into other STEM subjects, starting with the pilot of the Google DeepMind AI Masters Scholarships, supported by Google DeepMind.

'Being incubated within Purposeful Ventures means we have been able to scale quickly, supported by their in-house experts and vast network. It has enabled us to focus primarily on growing our programme in a fast-paced, outcomes-focused environment rather than on operations and systems like many new charities.'

Cassie Hugill, CEO, Martingale Foundation

Maths Excellence Fund: excellence and equity in maths education at secondary schools

Maths is a gateway to future educational and career opportunities, but socio-economically disadvantaged students in the UK face significant barriers. Amongst top performers in maths at age 11, only half of disadvantaged students go on to achieve top GCSE grades, compared to over three quarter of their more affluent peers. Many lose interest and confidence in maths during secondary school, limiting their paths to STEM studies and careers.

In 2023, we worked with XTX Markets and Hg Foundation to expand their work in maths education. Having previously worked on large-scale education interventions within Ark, we saw an opportunity to help our funders maximise their impact.

Informed by the *Maths Excellence Pathways* research by the University of Nottingham and XTX Markets, we recognised the challenges in supporting secondary students to stay on the maths excellence pathway, especially students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Impact

The result was the creation of the Maths Excellence Fund, a pioneering initiative designed to boost student attainment and progression in maths, with a particular focus on students from disadvantaged backgrounds with high prior attainment.

After a competitive selection process, four delivery partners were announced in early 2024: Co-op Academies Trust, Inspiration Trust with the University of East Anglia, MEI and United Learning. Together, they are now supporting over 2,000 young people, over 80% of whom are eligible for the pupil premium or equivalent. Their interventions were built using a 'Cohort and Champion' approach, focussing on the target cohort of young people with an in-school champion accountable for their success in maths. We appointed Dr Helen Drury as Dean of Maths Excellence to ensure high standards in programme design and delivery, and each programme is being independently evaluated for effectiveness and scalability across the sector.

In 2024, the Fund led programme and evaluation co-design, and collaboration and shared learning between sector leaders. With expert-led evaluation and building on the existing evidence base, the Fund is laying the foundation for long-term systemic change, ensuring that all young people can thrive in maths and access greater opportunities.

'The expertise, resources and strategic support from Purposeful Ventures through the Maths Excellence Fund have guided us from inception to implementation. This partnership has helped us reach more pupils with high-quality maths enrichment and inter-school competitions, improving attainment and broadening aspirations. None of this would be possible without Purposeful Ventures and we are excited to further develop and embed these programmes within schools.'

Jay Timotheus, Director of Mathematics, Co-op Academies Trust

Key events and achievements

Timeline of key events September 2023 – August 2024

Autumn 2023:

- Purposeful Ventures launches, along with its new [website](#) and [LinkedIn page](#)
- **Martingale Foundation** announces three new partner universities: The University of Bristol, The University of Edinburgh and the University of Manchester.

Winter 2023:

- **Maths Excellence Fund** launches, announcing four delivery partners for improving maths outcomes for high-potential pupils in secondary schools and colleges across the UK
- **STEM Talent Fund** launches its European Grants Programme, providing grants to initiatives that target students with the potential to achieve at Olympiad level, particularly those from under-represented groups
- Purposeful Ventures announces its **Children and Families portfolio**, awarding grants to nine organisations in our first round of Children and Families partnerships and providing strategic and operational support to maximise each organisation's impact.

Spring 2024:

- Purposeful Ventures **welcomes a host of sector experts** and experienced senior leaders to the team, including [Nick Darbyshire](#), [Helen Drury](#), [Tom O'Beirne](#), [Courtney Gainer](#) and [David Monis-Weston](#)
- Purposeful Ventures partners with **Leading Routes**, which strengthens the pipeline for the next generation of Black academics in the UK, working alongside CEO Paulette Williams to develop their strategy, maximise impact and support fundraising.

Summer 2024:

- Purposeful Ventures delivers the 65th **International Maths Olympiad**, bringing together young mathematicians from over 100 countries in Bath to compete for the title
- The **Baby Bank Alliance** launches publicly, calling on the new government to prioritise tackling the root causes of child poverty and launching its Development Fund to provide critical funds to members through unrestricted grants.

Assessing our impact

We have hired a Head of Evaluation to develop our evaluation framework over 2024/2025 so that we can better understand and report on our impact. We will also be providing more tailored support to our partner organisations to evaluate their activities so that they understand their impact and use findings to strengthen design and delivery.

Plans for future periods

Summary of plans for future

Our plans over the next 1-3 years include:

- To successfully deliver the current projects within our existing portfolios
- To expand our portfolios by launching new partner organisations in the Children and Families space, conducting research in maths to identify key levers for change, and incubating new organisations such as Reset and the UK's first specialist maths secondary school – 1729 Maths School
- To further refine the Purposeful Ventures' approach to delivering impact and develop a rigorous evaluation framework so that we can better understand and report on our impact
- To spin out incubated organisations so they can thrive independently
- To initiate partner organisation community events, starting with the *Leading with Purpose* CEO talk series, to foster collaboration and shared learning among their leaders.

Our medium to long-term plans over the next 5-10 years include:

- To grow the pipeline of incubated organisations across our portfolios, ensuring that they consistently demonstrate impact for young people
- To expand our areas of work into other themes, in partnership with a broad pool of philanthropic supporters
- To strengthen our ecosystem, building ongoing support for our family of partner organisations through regular community events
- To increase our focus on advocacy and policy engagement, amplifying our impact and driving systemic change
- To diversify our funder base, ensuring financial stability and long-term growth.

Principal financial risks and mitigations

Risk	Existing mitigation and ongoing monitoring	Further planned mitigation
We continue to be reliant on a small number of funders and the scale of their giving and ambition makes diversification at a meaningful level unlikely	Continue to strengthen relationships with major funders, including building understanding of their longer-term plans	Develop a three-year fundraising strategy to deliver financial stability and long-term growth with a diversified funder base

Non-financial risks and mitigations

Category	Risk	Existing mitigation and ongoing monitoring	Further planned mitigation
People	Several people risks have risen on the risk register, mainly reflecting the speed of growth and volume of work	Invest in team building and Purposeful culture development Continue to forecast staff requirements and develop our recruitment and HR skills and policies	Ensure that growth plans take into account capacity for delivery, growth and special projects Continue to prioritise team culture and career development paths within Purposeful Ventures
Impact and strategy	As the team and our reach grows, defining a clear strategy is crucial. Relatedly, we need to develop our impact measurement	Continue to review our theory of change and develop our evaluation framework	Ensure our longer-term strategy is rigorous and agile, is shared with the team and we monitor progress against KPIs and objectives linked to it

Financial review

Income for the period totalled £22,545,588, including £10,263,008 received from Ark following the transfer of some ongoing programmes from Ark to Purposeful Ventures. Our income is largely derived from grants and donations supported by income received directly from our activities (such as Maths Olympiad Observer fees) and is used to deliver our programmes including grant funding.

Expenditure totalled £12,641,794 resulting in a surplus for the period of £9,903,794.

At the balance sheet date, the charity had reserves of £9,903,794, of which £7,995,153 was held in restricted funds and £1,908,641 in unrestricted funds.

Policy on holding reserves

The charity shall seek to hold between three to six months' core operating expenditure by way of "free reserves". Core operating expenditure is the cost of running the charity on an ongoing basis and excludes one-off costs and pass-through grants. This equates to a level that is designed to ensure that the charity can navigate uncertainty in a planned and timely manner, ensuring that the interests of beneficiaries, stakeholders, creditors and staff are protected. In addition, the charity will aim to hold between three and six months of core operating costs in restricted reserves for incubated organisations to ensure they can navigate uncertainty in a similar way to that outlined above.

Three to six months' core operating expenditure is c. £788k - £1.576m. At the balance sheet date, free reserves totalled £1.909m, slightly exceeding that required by the reserves policy. Given that we are continuing to expand our operations, we expect that the amount of reserves we need to hold will increase, bringing us back in line with our reserves policy.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Details regarding fundraising

In our first year, Purposeful Ventures was supported by freelance Philanthropy Adviser Doug Thomson as we began to build our fundraising team. With a Philanthropy Manager to support gift administration and stewardship, the majority of fundraising was done by our Chief Executive, Michael Clark. In September 2024, Holly Piercy joined as the Director of Philanthropy.

We fundraise by soliciting donations from a defined list of individuals, companies, and charitable trusts and foundations. This list is carefully considered, and approaches are only made to those we already have a connection to, or we think may have an interest in our work. We do not conduct mass mailing or telephone campaign fundraising and do not outsource fundraising activities. Our partner organisations also conduct their own fundraising and may use fundraising platforms such as Just Giving to promote specific campaigns. Donor data is handled securely and with care in accordance with statutory obligations. The charity has not yet signed up to any voluntary codes of conduct regarding fundraising but is planning to do this in the coming year. We have never received any fundraising complaints and make use of our Ethical Fundraising Policy to protect individuals when carrying out fundraising.

Structure, governance and management

Purposeful Ventures is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), governed by a Constitution and Scheme of Delegation, dated 7 September 2023.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets at least three times per year. The Board of Trustees makes objective, long-term decisions on key issues in order to advance the organisation's mission and goals. Such key issues include but are not limited to:

- Goal setting
- Strategy
- Programme or product design
- Relationships with important stakeholders (e.g. funders and government)
- Public relations
- Finances
- Employment
- Safeguarding
- Other legal matters

Operational matters connected with implementation of the strategy, together with responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity, are delegated to the CEO and management team.

The Board of Trustees is committed to considering decisions objectively and seeking to reach consensus where possible. However, recognising that this may not always be possible or desirable, the Board of Trustees adheres to the following decision-making process, which is consistent with our Constitution:

- For any substantive decision to be formally agreed, a quorum (the number nearest to one third of the total number of trustees, whichever is greater, or such larger number as the trustees may decide from time to time) of trustees must be present
- In the first instance, decisions are made according to a simple majority vote of a quorum of trustees
- In the event of a tied vote, the Chair has the opportunity to cast a deciding vote or to reconvene the decision at a later time.

The Board of Trustees may decide, in the future, to convene sub-groups or sub-committees to focus on particular issues and delegate certain responsibilities to those sub-groups. This may include 'standing groups', such as an Audit and Risk Committee or a Remuneration Committee. This may also include 'task and finish groups' to focus on a particular project or issue.

Any 'standing group' must have a separate terms of reference, to be agreed by the Board of Trustees. It is recommended that any 'task and finish group' has a separate terms of reference, but this may be agreed pragmatically on a case-by-case basis.

New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees in accordance with the charity's constitution. There should always be a minimum of three Trustees. The induction and training of trustees includes:

- An induction programme – face to face meetings with leaders, visit to partner organisations and sharing of documentation
- Dissemination of guidance on being a Trustee from the Charities Commission and other leading organisations
- Funded conference places
- Opportunities to access online training, e.g. safer recruitment
- Short relevant training sessions as part of the board meetings, e.g. on funding partner organisations

The Board of Trustees is responsible for reviewing and setting the remuneration of the senior management team, after due consideration for market rates, skill sets and performance.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our funders for their support over an impactful first year of operation. We look forward to our continued partnership and growth.

Core funders

- AKO Foundation
- Ark
- Bain & Company*
- UBS Optimus Foundation
- XTX Markets
- Anonymous donor

Project Partners

- Elba Foundation
- Hg Foundation

Supporters of our incubated organisations

Baby Bank Alliance

- Amazon
- Deloitte*
- Save the Children**
- Anonymous donor[∨]
- The Sun's 'Cosy at Christmas' campaign

Martingale Foundation

- XTX Markets[∨]
- Google DeepMind
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Edinburgh
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of Manchester
- University of Oxford
- University College London
- St John's University, Cambridge*

* *Gift in kind*

** *Co-incubation partner*

[∨] *Founding donor*

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the CIO Foundation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, Goodman Jones LLP, were appointed in the period and have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Elizabeth Dangoor,
Chair

Date: 17 June 2025

Independent auditors' report to the members of Purposeful Ventures

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Purposeful Ventures (the 'charity') for the period ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records or returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the company and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to industry sector regulations and unethical and prohibited business practices, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011, Charity Commission and sector regulations, and UK Tax Legislation. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Appropriate audit procedures in response to these risks were carried. These procedures included:

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Obtaining and reading correspondence from legal and regulatory bodies including HMRC;
- Identifying and testing journal entries;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members; and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Goodman Jones LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
1st Floor, Arthur Stanley House
40-50 Tottenham Street
London
W1T 4RN

Date: 26 June 2025

Goodman Jones LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of financial activities

For the period ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 202 4 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	4	5,114,376	16,873,909	21,988,285
Charitable activities	5	-	261,468	261,468
Other trading activities	6	-	150,000	150,000
Investments	7	145,835	-	145,835
Total income		5,260,211	17,285,377	22,545,588
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	8	3,351,570	9,290,224	12,641,794
Total expenditure		3,351,570	9,290,224	12,641,794
Net movement in funds		1,908,641	7,995,153	9,903,794
Reconciliation of funds:				
Net movement in funds		1,908,641	7,995,153	9,903,794
Total funds carried forward		1,908,641	7,995,153	9,903,794

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period.

The notes on pages 23 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

As at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	14	21,472
		<u>21,472</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	15	362,032
Investments	16	3,426,105
Cash at bank and in hand		10,732,240
		<u>14,520,377</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(4,638,055)</u>
Net current assets		<u>9,882,322</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>9,903,794</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>9,903,794</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>9,903,794</u></u>
Charity funds		
Restricted funds	19	7,995,153
Unrestricted funds	19	1,908,641
Total funds		<u><u>9,903,794</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Libby Dangoor

.....
 Elizabeth Dangoor
 Chair
 Date: 17 June 2025

The notes on pages 23 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the period ended 31 August 2024

	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities	
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>14,035,868</u>
Cash flows from investing activities	
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	145,835
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(23,358)
Transfer to short-term deposits	(3,426,105)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(3,303,628)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	<u>10,732,240</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	<u><u>10,732,240</u></u>

The notes on pages 23 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 31 August 2024

1. General information

Purposeful Ventures is a charity limited by guarantee in England and Wales, it is registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1204622. The registered office address of the Charity is 1 EdCity, EdCity Walk, London, W12 7TF. The objectives of the Charity are set out in the Trustees' Report.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Purposeful Ventures meets 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.

The financial statements have been prepared in Sterling, the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements cover a period of less than 12 months, from the date of registration on 7 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

2.2 Going concern

At the time of approving these financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The Trustees consider that there is no material uncertainty about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern after considering budgets, forecasts, cashflow forecasts, reserves, cash balances, and the future plans of the Charity. As a result, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.3 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.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis and to the extent that any attached performance conditions have been met. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity.

Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs. All expenditure includes irrecoverable VAT.

Grants payable are charged in the period when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the period end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment - 33%

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the period.

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgement:

Income recognition - the Charity receives grant income. These agreements may include quantitative and qualitative milestones, performance conditions, and/or donor-imposed time conditions which must be met in order for the Charity to have entitlement to the funds.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Grants	2,720,050	16,873,909	19,593,959
Donated services	2,394,326	-	2,394,326
	<u>5,114,376</u>	<u>16,873,909</u>	<u>21,988,285</u>

5. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from charitable activities – STEM	261,468	261,468

6. Income from other trading activities
Income from non charitable trading activities

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Sponsorship	150,000	150,000

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment income	145,835	145,835

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities
Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
STEM	2,863,639	7,662,425	10,526,064
Children & Families	460,509	1,536,091	1,996,600
Music & Arts	27,422	91,708	119,130
	3,351,570	9,290,224	12,641,794

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total funds
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
STEM	3,438,373	4,411,370	2,676,321	10,526,064
Children & Families	230,666	1,305,425	460,509	1,996,600
Music & Arts	48,532	43,176	27,422	119,130
	<u>3,717,571</u>	<u>5,759,971</u>	<u>3,164,252</u>	<u>12,641,794</u>

Analysis of support costs

	STEM	Children & Families	Music & Arts	Total funds
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	578,184	99,487	5,924	683,595
Pro bono consulting support	1,784,067	306,980	18,279	2,109,326
Premises costs	127,066	21,864	1,302	150,232
HR and other staffing costs	56,121	9,657	575	66,353
Financial and governance costs	91,830	15,801	941	108,572
Information technology	27,877	4,797	286	32,960
Other	11,176	1,923	115	13,214
	<u>2,676,321</u>	<u>460,509</u>	<u>27,422</u>	<u>3,164,252</u>

10. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Institutions	Total funds
	2024	2024
	£	£
Grants, STEM	4,411,370	4,411,370
Grants, Children & Families	1,305,425	1,305,425
Grants, Music & Arts	43,176	43,176
	<u>5,759,971</u>	<u>5,759,971</u>

As part of its charitable activities, the Charity makes grants to recipient organisations alongside providing strategic and operational support to these entities. Grants ranged from £1,000 to £750,000 and details of grant recipients are disclosed in the Annual Report and on the Charity's website (<https://purposefulventures.org/>). Recipients of material grants comprise:

Dr Frost Learning - £750,000
 Global Talent Network - £472,206
 Inspiration Trust - £470,000
 Mathematics in Education and Industry - £490,000
 United Church Schools Trust - £520,000
 Other grants (individually not material) - £3,057,765

11. Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £24,000.

12. Staff costs

	2024 £
Wages and salaries	1,570,959
Social security costs	188,119
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	175,226
	<u>1,934,304</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the period was as follows:

	2024 No.
Incubated ventures	10
PV core	16
	<u>26</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	3
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	3
In the band £140,001 - £150,000	1

During the period, the Charity incurred costs including employer's national insurance and employer's pension contributions in respect of key management personnel totalling £552,332.

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the period, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits.

During the period ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred.

14. Tangible fixed assets
**Computer
equipment
£**
Cost or valuation

Additions

23,358

At 31 August 2024

23,358
Depreciation

Charge for the period

1,886

At 31 August 2024

1,886
Net book value

At 31 August 2024

21,472
15. Debtors
**2024
£**
Due within one year

Trade debtors

247,028

Other debtors

101,753

Prepayments and accrued income

13,251
362,032
16. Current asset investments
**2024
£**

Short-term cash deposits

3,426,105
17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year
**2024
£**

Trade creditors

947,779

Other taxation and social security

73,828

Other creditors

28,701

Accruals and deferred income

3,587,747
4,638,055
**2024
£**

Resources deferred during the period

3,525,000

Deferred income represents grant funding received in advance for specific projects to be carried out in a future period as determined by the donor.

18. Financial instruments
**2024
£**
Financial assets

 Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure **14,158,345**

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and short-term cash investments.

19. Statement of funds
Statement of funds – current period

	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds			
General Funds - all funds	<u>5,260,211</u>	<u>(3,351,570)</u>	<u>1,908,641</u>
Restricted funds			
STEM	13,927,178	(7,662,425)	6,264,753
Children & Families	3,284,999	(1,536,091)	1,748,908
Music & Arts	73,200	(91,708)	(18,508)
	<u>17,285,377</u>	<u>(9,290,224)</u>	<u>7,995,153</u>
Total funds	<u><u>22,545,588</u></u>	<u><u>(12,641,794)</u></u>	<u><u>9,903,794</u></u>

Restricted funds comprise:

STEM - funds received towards the STEM programmes, in particular in Maths excellence.

Children & Families - funds received towards projects designed to support children to enable them to grow up in stable and supportive family environments.

Music & Arts - funds received towards projects designed to promote excellence in music. The fund was in deficit at the balance sheet date but this has been cleared by operational capital received in September 2024.

20. Analysis of net assets between funds
Analysis of net assets between funds – current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	21,472	-	21,472
Current assets	4,000,224	10,520,153	14,520,377
Creditors due within one year	(2,113,055)	(2,525,000)	(4,638,055)
Total	1,908,641	7,995,153	9,903,794

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	9,903,794
Adjustments for:	
Depreciation charges	1,886
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(145,835)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(362,032)
Increase in creditors	4,638,055
Net cash provided by operating activities	14,035,868

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £
Cash in hand	10,732,240
Total cash and cash equivalents	10,732,240

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	10,732,240	10,732,240
Liquid investments	3,426,105	3,426,105
	14,158,345	14,158,345

24. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £175,226. Contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date totalled £24,883 and are included in creditors due within one year.

25. Related party transactions

The Charity was spun out of another entity, Absolute Return for Kids ("Ark"), in November 2023. Lucy Heller, Trustee, is CEO of Ark. During the period, the Charity received an amount of £10,263,008, representing the balance on funds for programmes previously run by Ark but now run by the Charity. In addition, during the period Ark provided various services including HR, finance and IT support to the Charity at a value of £509,276, and the Charity provided strategic support to Ark at a value of £112,034. At the balance sheet date, the Charity owed an amount of £36,813 to Ark and its subsidiaries, and was owed an amount of £9,775 by Ark.

Other than disclosed in this note and elsewhere in these financial statements, there were no other transactions with related parties requiring disclosure.