



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2025 Period start date To 31/03/2026 Period end date

Charity name: Adventure Community Learning Experience (ACLE)

Charity registration number: 1212825

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Adventure Community Learning Experience (ACLE) is established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the purpose: “To advance in life and help young people... through the provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life; and by providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.”
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	During the reporting period, ACLE delivered a wide-ranging programme of adventurous, developmental and community-based activities designed to improve young people's wellbeing, confidence, resilience and life skills. These activities directly further the charity's objects by providing safe, structured opportunities for growth, responsibility and participation. Activities included: • Expeditions and outdoor learning, including the Edinburgh expedition and kayaking at Tees Barrage. • Seasonal residentials and overnight experiences, such as the Halloween residential and Christmas sleepover at Thorp Perrow. • Community engagement projects, including participation in the VE Day service and local volunteering.

		• Creative workshops and skills-building sessions, delivered weekly at the Community Field. • Youth Voice sessions, enabling young people to shape programme content through reflection and shared decision-making. • Volunteer development, including training, mentoring and safe-recruitment processes. • Fundraising events (Picture Draw, Breakfast Morning, Bonfire Night, Christmas Fete, Subculture live music night) which strengthened community cohesion and supported programme sustainability. These activities are clearly linked to the charity's objects by: • improving young people's conditions of life through positive leisure-time activities; and • developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to participate confidently and responsibly in society.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm that, in planning and delivering ACLE's activities during the year, they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, ensuring that all programmes, decisions and use of resources further the charity's purposes and provide identifiable public benefit to young people and the wider community.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	NA
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	NA
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Volunteers continue to be central to the delivery, culture, and sustainability of Adventure Community Learning Experience (ACLE). As highlighted in the Annual Report, "Volunteers remain the backbone of ACLE,

		providing continuity, stability, and positive role models.” During the reporting period, volunteers contributed significantly to: • Programme delivery – supporting weekly sessions, expeditions, residentials, and creative workshops. • Youth development – acting as mentors, role models, and facilitators of reflection and shared decision-making. • Safeguarding and welfare – completing DBS checks, following safe-recruitment procedures, and upholding ACLE’s ethos of dignity, respect, and listening. • Fundraising – organising and running community events such as the Picture Draw, Breakfast Morning, Bonfire Night, Christmas Fete, and Subculture live music night. • Operational support – assisting with transport, equipment, administration, and the maintenance of the Community Field. • Governance and leadership – trustees and volunteer leads strengthened policy development, risk management, and audit trails. The charity benefits from a highly committed volunteer base, whose contribution enables ACLE to deliver a wide-ranging programme at low cost while maintaining high standards of safety, inclusion, and youth empowerment. Their work materially enhances the charity’s impact and ensures that resources are directed primarily toward activities that further ACLE’s charitable purposes. In line with SORP requirements, the trustees note that the value of volunteer time is not included in the financial statements, but its contribution is essential to the charity’s operations and public benefit.
Other		NA

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
--	----------------	--

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	During the reporting period, Adventure Community Learning Experience (ACLE) delivered a wide-ranging programme of adventurous, developmental, and community-focused activities that made a measurable difference to the lives of young people and contributed positively to the wider community. Impact on Young People (Beneficiaries) ACLE's work directly advanced its charitable purpose of helping young people to develop skills, confidence, resilience, and responsibility. The Annual Report highlights that ACLE continues to be: “a vibrant, community-rooted charity dedicated to empowering young people through adventure, learning, and connection.” Key achievements include: ● Improved confidence and self-esteem through expeditions, kayaking, residential, and outdoor learning at the Community Field. ● Enhanced social skills and teamwork, with young people working together in challenging environments and shared decision-making sessions. ● Greater resilience and emotional wellbeing, supported by reflective practice embedded in weekly Youth Voice activities. ● Development of leadership skills, with young people increasingly taking responsibility for planning, feedback, and group coordination. ● Increased sense of belonging and safety, with ACLE providing a consistent, trusted environment where young people feel listened to and respected. These outcomes align directly with the constitution's objects to <i>“advance in life and help young people... and develop their skills, capacities and capabilities.”</i> Wider Benefits to Society ACLE's work also generated broader community benefits: ● Strengthened community cohesion through inclusive fundraising events
--	------------------	--

		such as the Picture Draw, Breakfast Morning, Bonfire Night, Christmas Fete, and Subculture live music night. • Positive intergenerational relationships, with volunteers acting as role models and mentors. • Increased civic engagement, demonstrated by participation in the VE Day service and local community projects. • Enhanced local wellbeing, with the Community Field serving as a safe, natural space for exploration, connection, and environmental appreciation. • Volunteer development, improving local skills, confidence, and community capacity. Programme Highlights Demonstrating Achievement The charity delivered a rich programme across all seasons, including: • Edinburgh expedition • Kayaking at Tees Barrage • Halloween residential • Christmas sleepover at Thorp Perrow • Weekly creative workshops • Community Field outdoor learning • Youth Voice reflection sessions These activities demonstrate ACLE's commitment to providing inclusive, safe, empowering experiences that make a tangible difference to young people's lives and contribute positively to the wider community.
--	--	--

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	NA
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	NA
		NA

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		NA

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of the financial year (31 March 2026), Adventure Community Learning Experience (ACLE) remained in a stable financial position with a total balance of £4,132.88 across all accounts. Income for the year totalled £10,661.23, with expenditure of £6,660.90, resulting in a surplus of £4,000.33. The charity's largest and most reliable income stream continued to be subs and community fundraising, supported by donations and small activity fees. Expenditure remained proportionate to delivery, with costs focused on training, activities, clothing, materials, transport, insurance, and fuel. The Annual Report confirms: “ACLE is sustainable in the short to medium term, provided fundraising remains steady and cost monitoring continues.”
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	ACLE's reserves policy is to maintain a modest unrestricted reserve to: • ensure continuity of programme delivery; • provide a buffer against fluctuations in fundraising income; • cover essential running costs such as insurance, training, and safeguarding requirements; • support emergency expenditure relating to young people's welfare or safety; • ensure responsible financial stewardship in line with the CIO's constitution (Clause 5: proper application of income and property). The trustees review reserves annually as part of the financial oversight cycle.

Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	At 31 March 2026, ACLE held £4,132.88 in unrestricted reserves, comprising: • Lloyds Account 1: £3,329.74 • Lloyds Account 2: £670.53 • Petty Cash: £132.61 These reserves represent the charity's available funds for future programme delivery and operational stability.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable. ACLE holds positive unrestricted reserves and does not operate with zero reserves.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	The charity had no funds in deficit during the reporting period. All income and expenditure were managed responsibly, and the charity ended the year with a healthy surplus.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The trustees consider ACLE to be a going concern. The charity has: • a strong volunteer base; • consistent community fundraising; • stable programme delivery; • positive unrestricted reserves; • proportionate and well-managed expenditure. The Annual Report notes that sustainability is dependent on continued fundraising and cost monitoring, but there are no material uncertainties that would cast doubt on the charity's ability to continue operating for the foreseeable future.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	ACLE's principal sources of funds during the reporting period were: • Community fundraising events • Subs and participant contributions • Activity fees and training contributions • Donations • Interest from savings • Internal transfers
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	ACLE does not operate an investment portfolio and holds no social investments. In line with its constitution (Clause 5: proper

		application of income and property), the charity's policy is to: • hold funds in standard bank accounts; • maintain liquidity to support programme delivery; • avoid financial risk; • ensure all funds are used to further the charity's objects.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The trustees maintain a risk register and strengthened risk management processes during the year. The principal risks identified include: 1. Fundraising volatility As fundraising is the charity's largest income stream, fluctuations could affect programme continuity. This is mitigated through diverse community events and careful cost monitoring. 2. Safeguarding risks Given ACLE's work with young people, safeguarding is a critical risk area. This is mitigated through: • a Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy; • annual safeguarding training; • safe recruitment and DBS checks; • clear reporting and escalation procedures. 3. Health & Safety risks in outdoor and adventurous activities Activities such as expeditions, kayaking, and residential carry inherent risks. These are managed through: • updated Health & Safety policies; • trained volunteers; • risk assessments; • appropriate insurance. 4. Volunteer capacity As volunteers are essential to delivery, any reduction in volunteer availability could impact operations. ACLE mitigates this through training, mentoring, and strong community engagement.

		5. Access to the Community Field Long-term access to the Field is vital for weekly delivery. The trustees have identified this as a strategic priority for 2026/27. 6. Data protection and digital risks With increased digital communication and record-keeping, data protection remains a key risk. Updated policies and secure systems mitigate this. These risks are reviewed annually as part of ACLE's governance cycle, and trustees act in accordance with their constitutional duty to manage the charity in good faith and in the best interests of beneficiaries.
Other		NA

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	ACLE is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It has: - voting members, who are separate from the trustees; and - charity trustees, who manage the affairs of the CIO.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustee selection methods and constitutional provisions Trustees are appointed and retire in accordance with the provisions of Clause 12 and Clause 13 of the constitution. Key constitutional rules on trustee selection: - Minimum number of trustees: 3 - Maximum number: No maximum - Eligibility: Trustees must be natural persons aged 16 or over (Clause 12(2)) - First trustees: Named in the constitution (Margaret Lenahan, Helen Leary, Angela Rawe) Appointment and rotation (Clause 13): - At the first AGM, <i>all trustees retire</i> from office. - At every subsequent AGM, <i>one-third of trustees retire</i> by rotation. - Trustees retiring by rotation may stand for re-appointment. - If trustees were appointed on the same day, those retiring are determined by length of service, or by lot if equal. - Members may appoint trustees at the AGM to fill vacancies. - Trustees may appoint additional trustees between AGMs, provided the minimum/maximum rules are met. - Trustees appointed by trustees (not members) retire at the next AGM. Removal of trustees (Clause 14):

		Trustees may be removed: • by resignation; • by absence from meetings for six months; • by medical incapacity; • by disqualification under the Charities Act; • by a resolution of members, passed by a two-thirds majority at a properly convened general meeting. Member involvement: Because ACLE is an Association Model CIO, members have the power to: • elect trustees; • remove trustees; • call general meetings; • vote on constitutional changes and key governance matters.
--	--	---

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	ACLE has a clear and supportive approach to trustee induction and ongoing development. All new trustees receive: • A copy of the governing document, as required by Clause 13(a) of the constitution. • The latest Trustees' Annual Report and accounts, also required under Clause 13(b). • An induction meeting covering safeguarding, health & safety, finance, risk management, and ACLE's values and programme. • Access to all core policies, including Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Finance, Transport, EDI, and Data Protection. • Role-specific guidance, particularly for designated leads (e.g., Safeguarding Lead, Treasurer, Youth Voice Lead). • Ongoing training, including annual safeguarding training, first aid where relevant, and updates linked to policy review cycles.
--	-----------	--

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	ACLE operates as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with: • Voting members • A board of charity trustees • A volunteer team supporting delivery Organisational structure • The trustees provide strategic leadership, governance, safeguarding oversight, financial management, risk management, and policy development. • Trustees hold designated roles including Chair, Treasurer, Safeguarding Lead, Health & Safety Lead, Youth Voice, Transport, Volunteer Support, Digital & Data, Funding, and Communications. • Volunteers support weekly delivery, expeditions, residentials, fundraising, and mentoring. • Young people contribute through Youth Voice, shaping programme content and priorities. CLE works within a community network that includes: • Local families and supporters • Community venues and event organisers • Outdoor activity providers (e.g., Tees Barrage) • Local civic organisations (e.g., VE Day service partners) • Training providers for safeguarding and first aid • Local businesses supporting fundraising and donations
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	ACLE has no related party transactions during the reporting period. Trustees and volunteers may participate in activities or fundraising events, but no trustee or connected person received any remuneration, financial benefit, or preferential treatment, in accordance with Clauses 5 and 6 of the constitution. Any potential conflicts of interest are managed under Clause 7 of the constitution, requiring trustees to declare interests and withdraw from discussions where necessary.

Other		NA

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Adventure Community Learning Experience
Other name the charity uses	ACLE
Registered charity number	1212825
Charity's principal address	ACLE Great Aycliffe Village Hall North Terrace AYCLIFFE County Durham DL5 6LG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Kevin Thwaites	Chair	02/09/2025	
2	Margaret Lenahan	Trustee	30/06/2025	
3	Susan Hindle	Trustee	04/05/2025	
4	Callum Gibb-Lenahan	Trustee	30/06/2025	
5	Helen Leary	Trustee	01/12/2025	
6	Helen Lyon	Trustee	30/06/2025	
7	Angela Rawe	Trustee	30/06/2025	
8	Carl Simpson	Trustee	01/10/2025	
9	Weronika Janczewska	Trustee	04/07/2025	
10	Louise Porter	Trustee	04/07/2025	
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				

	20			
--	----	--	--	--

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

Director name			
None			

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	ACLE does not hold any assets in a custodian trustee capacity . All assets, funds, equipment, and resources are owned directly by Adventure Community Learning Experience and used solely to further its charitable purposes.
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Not applicable. ACLE does not act as a custodian trustee for any other charity or organisation, and therefore holds no assets on behalf of another body .
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not applicable. As ACLE does not hold assets for any other charity, there is no requirement for segregation or separate custody arrangements . All assets held are the property of ACLE and are managed in accordance with its constitution and financial policies.

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

NA

Other optional information

NA

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Kevin Thwaites

Margaret Lenahan

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chairman

Trustee

Date

01/06/2026

Adventure Community Learning Experience (ACLE)

Charity Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Charity Number: 1212825

1. Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that:

- The charity keeps proper accounting records.
- Annual accounts are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
- The charity operates within its charitable purposes and complies with its governing document.

2. Accounting Policies

- Basis of accounting: Receipts and payments.
- Funds: All funds are unrestricted.
- Fixed assets: The charity owns no fixed assets.
- Depreciation: Not applicable.
- Employees: The charity has no paid employees.
- Related parties: No related party transactions occurred.
- VAT: The charity is not VAT registered.

3. Summary of Receipts (Income)

The charity's income for the year totalled £10,661.23, received from the following sources:

3.1 Donations & Legacies

- General donations: £5261.20

3.2 Charitable Activities

- Subs and participant contributions: £3,035.50
- Activity income : £1,602.00
- Training income: £240.00

3.3 Other Trading Activities

- Clothing 522

3.4 Investment Income

- Bank interest: £0.53

Total Income: £10,661.23

4. Summary of Payments (Expenditure)

Total expenditure for the year was £6,660.90, spent on the following categories:

4.1 Charitable Activity Costs

- Activity : £1974.53
- Clothing : £715.88
- Materials : £318.25
- Insurance : £1158.18
- Fees: £199.75
- Transport : £610.64
- Training costs : £208.14

4.2 Fundraising Costs

- Fundraising materials, food, tickets, venue costs: £746.33

Total Expenditure: £6,601.90

5. Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

Category	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Endowment (£)	Total (£)
Income	10,661.23	—	—	10,661.23

Expenditure	6,601.90	—	—	6,601.90
Net Income	4,000.33	—	—	4,000.33
Funds Brought Forward	0	—	—	0
Funds Carried Forward	4,132.88	—	—	4,132.88

6. Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2026, the charity held the following balances:

6.1 Assets

- Lloyds Account 1: £3,329.74
- Lloyds Account 2: £670.53
- Petty Cash: £132.61

Total Assets: £4,132.88

6.2 Liabilities

- The charity had no liabilities at year end.

6.3 Net Assets

- Total Net Assets: £4,132.88 (all unrestricted)

7. Notes to the Accounts

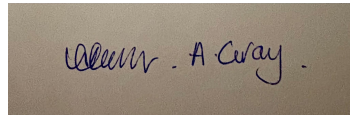
- The charity operates entirely with unrestricted funds.
- No grants were made during the year.
- No restricted income was received.
- No fixed assets are held.
- No employees are engaged.
- No trustee or connected person received remuneration or benefits.
- All expenditure relates directly to charitable activities or fundraising.

8. Independent Verification

The accounts were independently verified and signed by:

Anji Gray

Date: 20 May 2026

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anji Gray".

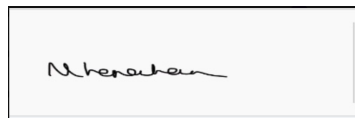
9. Trustees' Approval

These accounts were approved by the trustees on:

3rd June 2026

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Margaret Lenahan
Trustee

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Lenahan".