

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

England & Wales · Charity number 222533

Details

Other names	BLACKBURN AND DISTRICT CHILDREN'S HOMES, BLACKBURN AND DISTRICT ORPHANAGE AND CHILDREN'S HOME, BLACKBURN CHILD CARE SOCIETY, BLACKBURN CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	00820660
Registered	1963-10-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Buckshaw Parkway 2 Buckshaw Station Approach Buckshaw Village Chorley Lancashire PR7 7NR
Phone	01254244700
Email	enquiries@canw.org.uk
Website	www.canw.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1 To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons and the parents of such children and young persons who are in need of care and attention including (but not limited to) children and young persons involved in the provision of care for others; 2 To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons who are disabled and in need of care and attention and the parents of such children and young persons; 3 To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons who have learning difficulties and the parents of such children and young persons; 4 To provide support, care and supervision for young persons and for mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable persons of any age arrested or being questioned by the police or any other prosecuting authority, remanded on bail by the police or a court or otherwise at risk of being remanded in custody including but not limited to by operation of a service providing appropriate adults to accompany such persons where provided for by law. 5 To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Activities: To work with disadvantaged and underprivileged children and young people, their families and communities, to improve their life chances.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Accommodation/housing, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Blackburn With Darwen
- Blackpool
- Bolton
- Bury
- Lancashire
- Manchester City
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford City
- Trafford

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£8,023,431	£7,307,801	£5,067,273	97
2024-03-31	£6,566,637	£6,797,963	£3,082,361	104
2023-03-31	£5,958,945	£6,346,359	£3,172,199	100
2022-03-31	£6,266,999	£6,049,158	£3,706,827	109
2021-03-31	£5,057,639	£4,869,644	£3,397,007	92

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Stephen Peddie	Chair	2024-05-09
Fay Walker		2026-05-11
Lewis Alexander Baxter		2023-07-24
Rachel Covey		2024-05-09
Sajid Iqbal		2026-05-11
Sarah Booth-Henry		2024-05-24

Accounts

Charity registration number 222533 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 00820660

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST
ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr S Peddie	(Appointed 9 May 2024)
	Mrs M Webb	
	Mr J Comyn-Platt	
	Mr L A Baxter	
	Ms R Covey	(Appointed 9 May 2024)
	Ms S Booth-Henry	(Appointed 24 May 2024)
Secretary	Ms A Stathers-Tracey	
Senior Management Team	Mr S Peddie	Chair
	Ms A Stathers-Tracey	Chief Executive
	Ms N Hollinshead	Chief Operating Officer
	Ms C Robinson	Corporate Services Director
	Ms M Dixon	Strategic Director of Operations
Charity number (England and Wales)	222533	
Company number	00820660	
Registered office	Buckshaw Parkway 2 Buckshaw Station Approach Buckshaw Village Chorley Lancashire PR7 7NR	
Regional office	4B Springfield Court Summerfield Road Off Manchester Road Bolton Lancashire BL3 2NT	
Regional office	CANWe Solutions CIC Dixon House Whalley Road Wilpshire Blackburn BB1 9LL	
Auditor	PM+M Solutions for Business LLP New Century House Greenbank Technology Park Challenge Way Blackburn Lancashire BB1 5QB	

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)".

Objectives and activities

Child Action Northwest (CANW) operates predominantly in the northwest of England, namely across Lancashire, Greater Manchester and the surrounding area, including Cheshire and Cumbria. For specific services, there is a wider scale of delivery, covering a wider footprint across the country, into the West Midlands and the north of England. The charity provides a broad range of services to support children, young people and their families. The work with young people sits predominantly with the Criminal Justice service of the charity and as part of this service, the charity regularly seeks to provide additional services where there is an identified need. There is significant diversity across the population supported by Child Action Northwest's activities, from working in the areas of lowest deprivation, through to those with the highest levels of affluence. The charity regularly monitors service delivery to ensure it is representative of all the communities to which it serves.

The charitable objectives of Child Action Northwest are:

- To support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young people and the parents of such children and young people who are in need of care and attention including (but not limited to) children and young people involved in the provision of care for others
- To support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young people who are disabled and in need of care and attention and the parents of such children and young people
- To support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young people who have learning difficulties and the parents of such children and young people
- To provide support, care and supervision for young people and for mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable persons of any age arrested or being questioned by the police or any other prosecuting authority, remanded on bail by the police or a court or otherwise at risk of being remanded in custody including but not limited to by operation of a service providing appropriate adults to accompany such persons where provided for by law
- To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Further to the objects, Child Action Northwest has the following powers:

- Provide homes according to the needs of any such child or young person
- Establish, maintain and operate assisted community homes within the provision of the Children's Act 1989, in accordance with the provisions of an Instrument of Management made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Health
- Provide or assist in the provision of appropriate schooling and tuition and training for employment
- Provide, establish and maintain workshops, training, establishment camps, recreation grounds, farms and gardens
- Promote, organise or otherwise be involved in the provision of foster care to children and young persons

In pursuit of these objects, CANW provides a range of services under the following headings:

- Care and Accommodation – providing foster care for children and young people who are unable to live within their own family network. The charity is also about to open its first residential children's home, providing a caring, welcoming home for three children.
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing – providing a range of services to support children and young people with their emotional health and wellbeing, through group and individual interactions for short or sustained periods of time.
- Criminal Justice and Social Inclusion – providing appropriate adults to support children and young people through the custody system and providing social inclusion projects for the benefit of all
- Pro Contact – providing services for contact arrangements and supervised sessions for children whose families are separating
- Corporate Services – supply finance, administration, HR, business development and communications services for staff, carers and volunteers and corporate fundraising and partnership services to support the charity's work

Overall in the 24/25 financial period, charitable expenditure across the range of services totalled £7,209,522, of which £7,185,875 was unrestricted and £23,647 was restricted.

Continuing to achieve in each of these areas, whilst developing the services delivered will ensure that the charity will further its purpose. Over the next 12 months, the Board of Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team will be working across the organisation to continue to refine and redevelop the charity's mission, vision and values. They will inform our code of conduct and expected behaviours across the charity. They are, and will continue to be, integral to our recruitment framework.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association permit the Board of Trustees to make financial investments of funds not immediately required for meeting the objectives of the organisation. In addition, the Articles of Association permits the Board of Trustees to make decisions on property owned, leased or rented by the Charity to further benefit its aims and objects.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Those funds not immediately required are placed in investments, securities or property as may be thought appropriate, subject to any legal requirements. The Charity's investments have been acquired in accordance with this power. There are clear investment and reserve policies in place and a sub-group makes a report to the Trustee Board on all matters in relation to investment or property.

During the reporting period, the charity uses a number of criteria and measures to assess its success.

These include:

- KPIs for the number of foster care placements available and the number of children in care
- Considering the number of contact services provided through both public and private law proceedings, providing long term solutions to family time
- Identifying the number of families supported to arrange sustainable child arrangements and recommendations made to help families move forwards
- Looking at the number of children and young people supported by appropriate adults whilst in the criminal justice system
- Reviewing grant and donation income and the impact it has made to users of the charity's services
- KPIs for the number of young people being provided with access to emotional health and wellbeing services in an education facility
- Identifying the number of young carers across Blackburn with Darwen who have been provided with support

At the end of March 2025 we had 21 volunteers registered within two service areas in CANW, including Trustees. This amounted to a total of 327 volunteer hours from April 2024 – March 2025. If this contribution is equated to pay at the minimum wage of £11.44 per hour (as at April 2024) the financial value of this support to CANW is £3,740.88.

Volunteer work included a team clearing the garden and allotment area at the Homestead, with another team wrapping Christmas presents for the children and young people.

The charity has recently created the new role of Volunteer Coordinator, with a remit to grow volunteer engagement across many areas of the business.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance

Our People

At Child Action Northwest we recognise that our dedicated staff and volunteers are our most valuable asset.

Over the last 12 months the HR team have continued to fully support the staff team, and further refined processes in relation to hybrid working. Office working is now underway with a minimum expectation of office-based for half of the working week. This falls in line with a move to the charity's new Head Quarters property, in March 2025. Departments, teams and individual staff members have adapted well to the new way of working and managers report no issues with productivity as a result of less 'contact time' with staff. Equally, the new open plan office environment has created significant collaboration across teams. Hybrid working has paved the way for creativity and innovation for departments and the wider organisations.

Alongside the HR system, the organisation rolled out a Learning Management System (LMS) in October 2024, which has been a resounding success across the organisation. Levels of completion have remained exceptionally high month on month, with variation from 100% attributed only to new starters yet to undertake training. As the organisation increases in size, it is outgrowing its HRIS, which will be re-procured during 25/26.

Recruitment has continued in all areas across the organisation, with hiring managers taking responsibility for shortlisting and interviews, with some extremely successful appointments in all teams.

The charity continues to be a Real Living Wage employer. A full employee assistance programme, Unum Help@hand, has been implemented for staff offering such services as counselling sessions, physiotherapy appointments and finance, lifestyle and wellbeing advice. BenefitsHub was also available, offering discounted rates on shopping and recreational activities.

Staff have access to a number of benefits, including additional annual leave purchase, the award of additional leave for continuous service and access to the pension scheme.

Care and Accommodation

The service thrived in the financial year, continuing to build on the strengths of the OFSTED inspection in October 2023. As at 31st March 2025, there were 53 children placed in foster care, with 3 regular respite placements. All new placements are allocated on an initial six week period to support with settling in to family life. Regular activity days continue to be offered, with children and their families enjoying days out across the Northwest, with children and young people involved in the decision making for these days.

The 2024 Annual Care Conference was well attended and allowed carer participation and sharing of questions and potential service developments they wanted CANW to consider.

The service also created the Youth Council – a group of young people living with our foster families, who come together regularly to share ideas and shape services.

Following the passing of planning permission in September 2024 to convert previous CANWe office space to a three bedroomed residential children's home, work began with earnest in January 2025, with the renovations completing at the end of April. The home is now just awaiting on OFSTED approval.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

The Young Carers service continues to support children across the Blackburn with Darwen region. This service supported over 360 young carers during the year. Through a grant from the Eric Wright charitable trust, the service is also able to offer therapeutic support to those young carers who require specialist support when dealing with the stresses and strains of being a young carer. The charity continued to offer the Family Autism Service, delivering services for those children and young people with, or waiting for, a diagnosis of autism, along with their families.

Our practitioners continued to support children and young people in schools, working separately with 11 schools across the county (supporting 260 children) and 1,471 children through the Emotional Health and Wellbeing partnership with Lancashire County Council.

Alongside this, the Our Voice project continued, supporting children and young people in care with their emotional health and wellbeing. 107 children in care were supported during the last financial year.

Similarly, funded through a grant from the Dulverton Trust, the team were able to work with 122 young farmers in and around the Ribble Valley, to develop knowledge and understanding of common mental health issues to help them become more self-aware.

Criminal Justice and Social Inclusion

The Appropriate Adult service works with seven police forces across England and in the 24-25 financial year, accepted over 19,000 referrals for support to children and young people in the criminal justice system.

CANW stands as a beacon of commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, actively ensuring that teams reflect the diverse backgrounds and needs of the communities served. The focus is on local recruitment and engagement with local agencies. Throughout the recruitment processes, CANW diligently ensures that the motivations of prospective appropriate adults align with the purpose of the AA role – to safeguard the interests of children and/or vulnerable persons. The organisation encourages active involvement of those with lived experience in the recruitment process, and consideration of each applicant's motivations and attitudes.

As part of statutory reparation, helping young people to break the cycle between adversity and anti-social behaviour, working alongside communities and the police, a team helped to clear gardens and pathways at a local community centre, as well as maintain Blackburn old cemetery. In the last financial year, 31 young people were supported through this service, completing 544 hours of community reparation.

Our practitioners worked with young people aged 16-20 as part of the Minds4All project, who have faced inequalities whilst trying to access mental health services. The young people co-designed a training package that was delivered to mental health professionals, working with this target age group.

The Virtual Decision pilot programme, which was funded by the Community Alcohol Partnership Innovation Fund, worked with young people over the age of 11, delivering sessions focussing on the early prevention of crime, involvement in gangs and substance misuse, whilst also promoting mental wellbeing and social responsibility. The charity is very proud that one of the team was awarded the Chair's Award from the partnership, for his innovative approach to tackling youth-related issues, including the use of virtual reality headsets.

Break the Cycle is a community rooted early intervention programme, providing intensive support to vulnerable young people across Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Burnley. The project works primarily with those released from police custody with no further action (NFA), disrupting patterns of reoffending and promote long-term positive life outcomes. The programme received 33 referrals, all of whom received 3 to 6 months of intensive support.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Pro Contact

Improving Child and Family Arrangements (ICFA)

Pro Contact enables contact and reduces parental conflict. CANW delivers Improving Child and Family Arrangements (ICFA), supporting families with sustainable child arrangements and making recommendations to help families move forwards. CANW delivers ICFA services across the North and West, with nine sub-contractors. During 24/25, across the two areas, CANW have delivered 377 referrals, with sub-contractors

In Q4 of 24-25, feedback was as below:

- How close do parents think they are to agreeing next steps and preparing a Parenting Plan to ensure spending time with arrangements are improved, sustainable, safe and beneficial? 52% of parents agreed against a national average of other providers of 47%.
- How do parents feel their communication currently supports safe, beneficial and sustainable spending time with arrangements? 64% of parents agreed against a national average of other providers of 53%.

Contact Services

Contact Services often re-establishes or maintains contact in both private and public law proceedings or as a long-term solution to family time. In 24-25, 66 families were supported, with 100% of children giving 5/5 to the staff that have supported them. Contact Services offers supervised and supported contact sessions, as well as supported handover.

Planning Together for Children (PTC)

PTC aims to improve co-parenting. CANW delivers PTC across the Northwest of England. In 24-25, CANW worked with 904 parents.

- 90% of parents state 'high satisfaction' with the programme and support offered.
- 92% of participants report having a clearer understanding of the impact of family conflict on children.
- 98% of participants report that they will take action to place the child at the centre of all communications and agreements.
- 89% of parents were able to give examples of what they will do differently as a result of completing the programme.

Progress against strategic plan

During 24-25, the charity has continued to out-deliver against its strategic plan, delivering strong outputs across each of its services and continuing to grow and develop relationships and opportunities. Alongside this, CANW also relocated to new HQ premises, facilitating efficient delivery of services and collaboration across teams.

Fundraising

During 24-25, the charity predominantly focussed its fundraising activities around building relationships with corporate partners and through the legacy Orphanage Cup football event. In kind donations were also received in the form of office furniture and skip hire, through local companies. The charity has strong values and principles in ensuring individual givers do not intrude on a person's privacy or place the individual under any pressure.

In November 2024, CANW held a successful charity ball, with the theme 'Shining a Light' – portraying the work of the charity and the support it provides to children, young people and their families.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, communities and members of the public, for Christmas 2024 we were yet again overwhelmed with kindness, receiving donations of gifts worth over £6,000. Every single gift reached a child in need, and we are deeply grateful for the support that makes this possible. We are also grateful to every individual and business who donated Easter eggs.

The charity was also lucky to receive a number of volunteer hours during 24-25, reference to which is made earlier in this report.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial review

The group's incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2025 amounted to £8,023,431 and outgoing resources amounted to £7,307,801. The surplus reported during the year was £771,712, which was supported by a gain on investment assets of £56,082 and the disposal of 273 Preston New Road of £355,598.

A zero based budgeting exercise was undertaken for the financial year 24-25, with the budget position a marginal deficit of £11,000. This exercise recognised changes in commissioned contracts, staffing costs and a new management structure. This budget was agreed by the Board in the context that work over the coming years would include steps to bring the financial position to an underlying breakeven position.

During the year the Fostering Service continued to be a key contributor to the group's turnover, with uplifts to contract values negotiated well at the beginning of the financial year. Service numbers remained steady, with a drive for the service being on recruiting and retaining new foster carers.

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing service continued to operate in a variety of settings across Lancashire and beyond. The contract with Lancashire County Council (LCC) continued to produce excellent results in terms of favourable outcomes, as did our work with schools and other commissioners. The LCC service made a deficit during the 24-25 financial year, with an uplift to the contract being applied from April 2024, along with a slightly different funding and delivery model for intensive cases. That said, the service still remains in a deficit position at the end of March 2025.

The ProContact services continued to perform important work in difficult economic circumstances and continued to be developed and delivery outcomes improved. This continues to be an exciting area of development for the service. The Planning Together for Children (PTC) continues to prove extremely successful.

Young Carers continues to be supported by the Eric Wright grant, providing funding for a therapeutic practitioner to work with those children who need additional intervention and support.

Criminal Justice services continue to do excellent work meeting increasing demand with growing referral numbers across the extended geography that we support. Many contracts ran into the +1 extension during the 24/25 financial year.

Principal Funding

The majority of funding is from services commissioned by local authorities and other public bodies predominantly across the North of England. Grant funding during the year amounted to £23,393, with contributions from the public totalling £51,971.

Investments

The investment portfolio is held by Schroders, Cazenove Capital, on a discretionary basis with the overall objective being to produce the best financial return possible, within a low to medium risk rating, over a medium to long term period. The financial markets were settled in the financial period 24-25 - this resulted in a realised and unrealised gain of £56,082.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Reserves

The reserves policy in place is reviewed at least annually by the board.

The group held total funds of £5,067,273 at 31 March 2025. Of these, £45,900 was restricted, therefore these funds were not available for the general purposes of the group. The group held unrestricted funds of £5,021,373 at 31 March 2025. However, of this, £1,867,670 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets. Therefore, on 31 March 2025, the group had available liquid unrestricted reserves of £3,153,703.

The required level of reserves, set out in the policy, to cover organisational running costs, if necessary, is £1,650,000. This is based on the planned expenditure in 2025-26. The actual free liquid reserves held at 31 March 2025 were, therefore, £1,503,703. The Board feels that it is prudent to maintain these surplus free reserves and has already designated some of these for future use - £40,000 for the procurement and development of an IT system, and £166,601 for future property purchases. The remaining £1,297,102 will fund the lease costs for one year (£120,000) of the Buckshaw HQ, whilst an income stream is being generated from the Homestead property.

The board remains open to possibility of investing in new services, or the expansion of existing ones, whose aims are in line with objectives of the group and which have the potential to contribute to the financial base of the organisation.

The board holds no uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern in the coming financial year.

Plans for future periods

The last year has seen CANW continuing to address and respond to growing levels of need demonstrated across the communities and individuals we support. Alongside this, the charity delivered exceptionally against the strategic plan and continued to invest in its people, systems and networks to ensure it is well placed to address the many challenges facing the sector.

The impact of inflation and an increase in real living wage continues to influence our financial position – whilst this is much more under control than at the same time last year, the impact is still being felt across some services. In particular, some contract uplifts have had to be negotiated and as we move into the coming 12 months, a number of contracts will be coming to an end. This will mean the re-negotiation of some of these contracts, where CANW is best placed to deliver the services through its talented workforce. In line with these re-negotiations, the strategic plan will continue to be monitored and implemented.

Plans to transform the original Homestead building back into a space for children, rooting the charity in its origins are fast progressing, with exciting developments taking place.

The charity is also excited to receive Ofsted accreditation for its first residential children's home, providing a safe and nurturing environment in which three young people can live.

Our plans to grow and develop our service offer has therefore never been more important and our efforts to generate additional voluntary income are designed to provide the sustainability needed to ensure our team can support and engage with more children, families and communities.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We have consulted with our stakeholders, children and commissioners and to understand what is important to them and the services and gaps they would like to see us deliver going forward; Children and Young People have told us about the things that are important to them and what they would like from CANW. They told us that being supported in schools and getting opportunities to learn and develop skills is important to them, that relationships with friends and families can sometimes be difficult and they would like support there. They said that sometimes they feel anxious and down and would like support with their mental health and wellbeing. They also told us that they enjoyed spending time together and that they would like more opportunities to meet together and enjoy activities.

Foster carers have told us that it is important that they receive practical and emotional support and that children in foster families want to receive their own support and that being a voluntary fostering agency with a strong value base is important. They want opportunities to meet with each other and gain peer support and that the relationships with their support workers is important.

Our commissioners and other stakeholders have told us that they want to further develop partnership working, that they can see gaps in mental health provision and that early intervention is important to them. There continues to be gaps in mental health and wellbeing support for Children and Young People who have been looked after and are leaving care. In addition, risk management of the needs of very complex young people is important.

Partnership working across the voluntary sector has also come into focus this year and will grow as a priority over the next 12 – 18 months and organisations look for opportunities to come together solve complex social problems, rather than working in isolation.

Structure, governance and management

This is the annual report of the Trustees for Child Action Northwest for the financial year ending 31 March 2025, incorporating Child Action Northwest and its subsidiary company CANWe CIC Solutions.

Child Action Northwest (CANW) is a registered charity and Company Limited by Guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum of Articles of Association. The members of the committee are therefore Trustees of the charity and directors of the company.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr S Peddie	(Appointed 9 May 2024)
Mrs M Webb	
Mr G H Fairweather	(Resigned 2 December 2024)
Mr J Comyn-Platt	
Mr S Damp	(Resigned 29 September 2025)
Mr L A Baxter	
Ms M Rathmell	(Resigned 29 September 2025)
Ms R Covey	(Appointed 9 May 2024)
Ms T Short	(Appointed 17 May 2024 and resigned 1 December 2025)
Ms S Booth-Henry	(Appointed 24 May 2024)
Ms P Campbell	(Appointed 4 November 2024 and resigned 3 November 2025)
Mr N Eatwell	(Resigned 29 August 2024)

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The board of Trustees has appointed one trustee as director for the CIC to represent the interests of the Charity's Trustees. An independent director also sits on the CIC board.

The current trustees are listed in this report. The chairperson and vice chair are honorary officers. There is not currently the role of treasurer on the board, instead, the board agreed that the scrutiny of finance and assets for the charity was absorbed into the Finance and Assets sub-group and the business agenda for the main board.

The honorary officers are elected each year at the annual general meeting (AGM).

Recently, there has been a small number of resignations from the board of trustees, due to changes in personal circumstances, therefore recruitment of new trustees is underway.

Recruitment to the board of trustees is undertaken following any resignation and is facilitated through a number of channels, including personal approaches, recommendations, social media and website presence, along with the use of agencies, as required.

Following on from the recruitment of new trustees, a board development programme has been commissioned, to be attended by all trustees.

Continuing the structure of board meetings from the previous financial year, the board meets bi-monthly, with the three sub-groups (fundraising and volunteering, safeguarding and finance and assets) taking place quarterly. A fourth sub-group, policy review, has also been recently added to the governance structure of the charity. Members of the Senior Leadership Team continue to be present at every board and sub-group meeting.

The charity makes its decisions using this subgroup and board structure, with some decision making delegated to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership team as required.

The board has nominated a trustee to take the lead on safeguarding and there are quarterly meetings with lead staff responsible for operational safeguarding to ensure the charity has robust safeguarding controls in place. The board reviews safeguarding arrangements on an annual basis.

The finance and assets subgroup oversees the charity's investments and makes recommendations on these to the main board, as well as to advise initially on any service or proposition development that requires financial support or may have a financial impact. Additionally, this sub-group also advises on all matters relating to charity properties.

The Executive Senior Leadership Team meets fortnightly, with all members providing an update from their area. This information feeds into the Chief Executive's report that is presented at every board meeting. The wider Senior Leadership Team joins these meetings on a six-weekly basis, again providing updates from their service area.

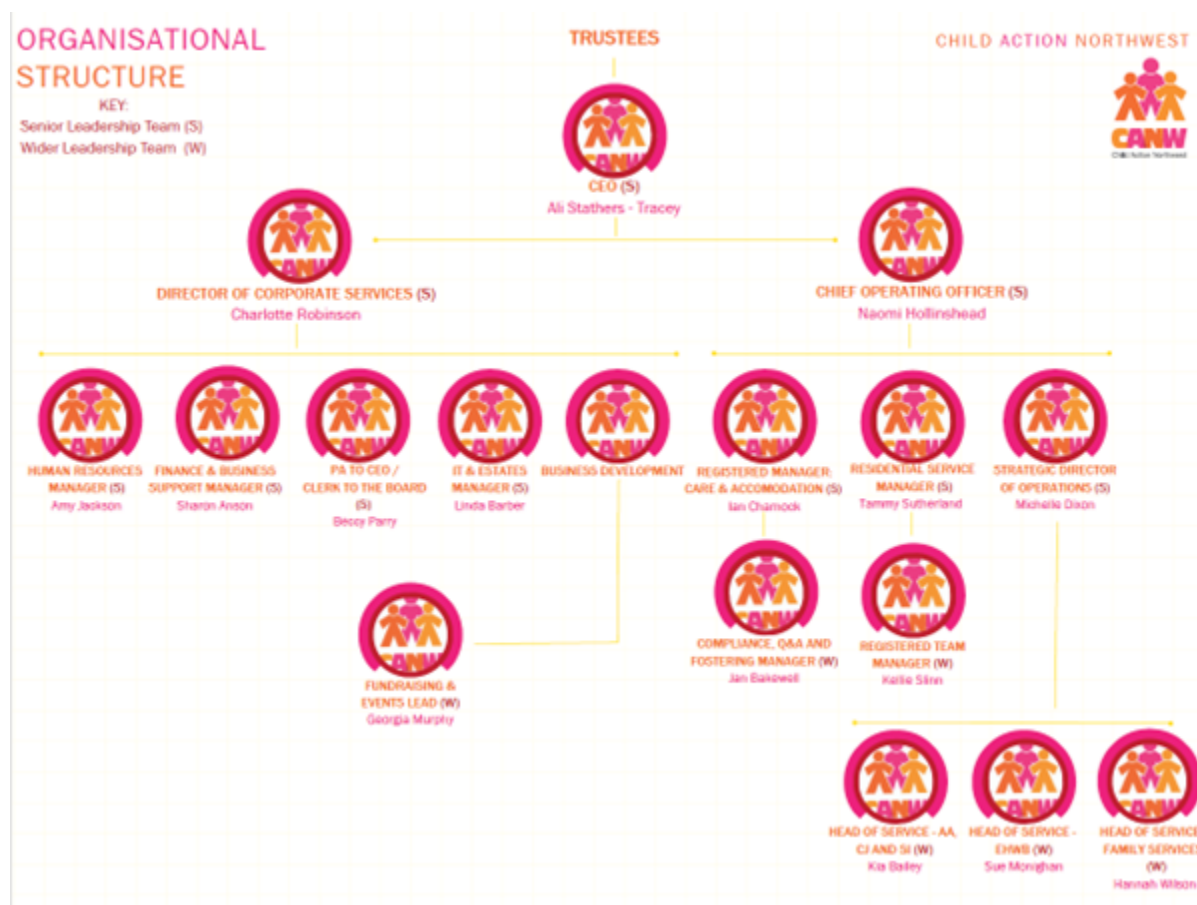
Newly appointed Trustees are invited to attend the CANW induction with the CEO and are provided with an information pack which includes: -

- Child Action Northwest's mission statement
- History of Child Action Northwest
- Introduction to the Charity's services
- Trustee's role description
- Payment and expenses
- Contact details of Trustees and Managers
- Responsibilities of Trustees
- Training and development
- Code of conduct
- Terms of reference
- Fundraising (Creative Partnerships)

In addition, all Trustees complete a Disclosure and Barring application, sign and agree to the Trustee Code of Conduct and sign a declaration of eligibility to act as a Trustee. During this past year both the use of remote technology but more predominantly in person direct service advice has been used to ensure that induction and service visits can be undertaken for the new Trustees. Operational teams attend board meetings on a frequent basis to advise of the delivery of operational services and projects throughout the year.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



The Board approve and monitor the strategic plan and delegate delivery oversight of operational business plans to the CEO. During the year the Board of Trustees, along with the Chief Executive, review the strategic direction of the Charity, taking into account the type of risk faced by it and the likelihood that risks may materialise. The operational and financial risks, once assessed, are monitored through a number of internal management systems including monthly senior managers' meetings, quarterly finance meetings and bi-monthly reports to the Trustee Board. A scheme of delegation is in place to ensure clarity of the financial decision-making process.

The charity was awarded Trusted Standards level 2 accreditation in September 2024, with an action plan developed from this report, which is reviewed and updated regularly by the Senior Leadership Team. Annual meetings will take place with Trusted Standards to review progress against these actions.

Child Action Northwest has a 'Quality Assurance Framework' for all the operational teams. It was implemented in November 2024. The framework is a systematic set of arrangements designed to enable our organisation to know how well it is performing its objectives and responsibilities, and to then use that knowledge to drive planning and development.

CANW offer a wide range of services which needs quality assurance activity specific to the intervention and service it delivers.

The information is collated by the Senior Leadership Team via audits completed by themselves and auditors within the service; findings are shared within the bi-monthly quality assurance meetings and with the trustees. This meeting is chaired by the Chief Operating Officer.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

All practitioners who work for CANW have a vital role in quality assurance and ensuring learning is acted upon and embedded into practice. Practitioners will be informed of any audits/ dip samples / quality assurance activity completed and learning shared. Practitioners would also be responsible for sharing any good practice and dip-sampling alongside managers.

Leaders and managers within CANW are responsible for ensuring high standards of practice through role modelling, oversight, respectful challenge and support. This takes place through:

- Creating a culture where quality assurance activity is valued as business as usual
- Participating in regular quality assurance activity, including management oversight, supervision, dip sampling, practice evaluations, team diagnostics and seeking service feedback from our children, families and vulnerable adults.
- Observing the practice of each practitioner quarterly and providing feedback about areas of strengths and areas that may need improving
- Promoting shadowing opportunities across all services. Back to the floor (practitioners and managers of all levels shadow practitioners) to ensure a good understanding of practice across the organisation.
- Provision of an annual appraisal, which helps practitioners reflect on how their work is helping to improve outcomes for children. Identify themes from appraisals to inform future staff development opportunities!
- Nomination of good practice via the good practice process
- Providing constructive feedback when approving reports and documents
- Providing high quality, reflective supervision that offers support, challenge and sets high aspirations when planning for children
- Helping practitioners to understand and interpret performance data through discussions in team meetings and supervision
- Using team action plans as a tool to determine priorities for improvements and to provide clarity about how the improvements can be made.

Following the quality assurance meetings are the bi-monthly 'Safeguarding Steering Group' and the 'Safeguarding Subgroup' which specifically looks at all safeguarding incident reports within the organisation, ensuring that the safeguarding policy and process is adhered. The meetings also look at outcomes for children and vulnerable adults, areas of good practice and learning for the organisation.

The steering group is chaired by the CEO where in-depth discussion takes place, the subgroup is attended by trustees who feed back to the board and themes of critical incidents they need to be aware of.

In January 2025, a staff consultation began to align paycales to NJC (National Joint Council) to benchmark against other organisations within the voluntary sector, as well as the public sector. This was successfully implemented. The charity has a full appraisal system in place, with all staff receiving an appraisal with their line manager. The CEO and Chair have ensured that the Board and Management Teams have had access to expert advice, including Finance, Commissioning and Business Development as required. The Chair of the Board meets regularly with the CEO

Stakeholder events have been held over the year where the trustees and staff have the opportunity to meet a range of stakeholders including foster carers, other charities and organisations who have an interest in Child Action Northwest. In addition, the operational managers are involved in several strategic planning groups across the region where there is an opportunity to contribute to developments that will be positive for its beneficiaries. A number of partnership arrangements are in place, supported by a Memorandum of Understanding, where direct services are delivered in line with the charitable objects. Over the past year, many of the external meetings have continued to be held remotely as it has been found to be an effective use of time. Relationships with other organisations, particularly those in the VCFSE sector have continued to grow and flourish this year, along with some strong corporate partnerships.

Previous staff surveys have identified that hybrid working (attending office bases on certain days, not full time) were positive in creating and supporting a work life balance and allowed reduction of unnecessary travel to office bases. This led to the creation of a hybrid working policy for the organisation, which has been very well received.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Our Community Interest Company CANWe Solutions

The Community Interest Company (CIC) is a trading arm of CANW whose surpluses are gift aided to the Charity to support its charitable work.

The Articles state;

The Company's object is to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to:

- operate as a social enterprise in conjunction with Child Action Northwest (Company number 00820660) which itself exists to meet the objects listed above;

To further meet the needs of the community the CIC will develop and provide a range of training, consultancy and contract services to the public and private sectors;

- provide work-based learning for young people in the North West;
- provide accredited training for young people in the North West;
- provide consultancy and training to other community interest and public benefit bodies to improve the effectiveness of their activities;
- obtain funding through commissions, contracts and (where appropriate) development grants with the purpose of generating income from its services to support the charity named in its Articles of Association and its work among the communities in the Northwest;
- deliver a range of services in furtherance of these objects and of the objects of the charity named in its Articles of Association, re-investing its surpluses, either directly in the social enterprise itself or in the charity named in its Articles of Association, for the benefit of young people throughout the Northwest.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Child Action NorthWest for the purpose of company law, 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).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

Auditor

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP were appointed as auditor to the company and a resolution proposing that they be re-appointed will be put at a General Meeting.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mr S Peddie
Trustee

15 December 2025

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Child Action NorthWest (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 *Auditor's 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 UK, including the FRC'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 auditor's 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 auditor's 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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we have considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the Charity's remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and involving relevant specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: timing of recognition of commercial income, posting of unusual journals and complex transactions; and manipulating the Charity's performance profit measures and other key performance indicators to meet remuneration targets and externally communicated targets. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, employment law, health and safety regulations, pensions legislation and tax legislation.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the identified risks of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

Ceri Dixon BSc (Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of PM+M Solutions for Business LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

New Century House

Greenbank Technology Park

Challenge Way

Blackburn

Lancashire

BB1 5QB

Date: 27/01/2026

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	51,971	-	51,971	68,339	-	68,339
Charitable activities	4	7,513,438	42,500	7,555,938	6,387,671	41,211	6,428,882
Investments	5	38,549	-	38,549	40,922	-	40,922
Other income	6	376,973	-	376,973	28,494	-	28,494
Total income		7,980,931	42,500	8,023,431	6,525,426	41,211	6,566,637
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		98,279	-	98,279	141,416	-	141,416
Charitable activities		7,185,875	23,647	7,209,522	6,604,716	51,831	6,656,547
Total expenditure		7,284,154	23,647	7,307,801	6,746,132	51,831	6,797,963
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	56,082	-	56,082	141,488	-	141,488
Net income/(expenditure)		752,859	18,853	771,712	(79,218)	(10,620)	(89,838)
Transfers between funds		14,778	(14,778)	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses:							
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets		1,213,000	-	1,213,000	90,000	-	90,000
Net movement in funds	9	1,980,637	4,075	1,984,712	10,782	(10,620)	162
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		3,040,736	41,825	3,082,561	3,029,754	52,445	3,082,199
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		5,021,373	45,900	5,067,273	3,040,536	41,825	3,082,361

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14	1,867,670		565,736	
Investments	15	2,040,985		2,480,314	
		<u>3,908,655</u>		<u>3,046,050</u>	
Current assets					
Debtors	16	1,315,405		1,142,489	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,036,340		486,835	
		<u>2,351,745</u>		<u>1,629,324</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(1,193,127)		(1,593,013)	
Net current assets		<u>1,158,618</u>		<u>36,311</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>5,067,273</u>		<u>3,082,361</u>	
Income funds					
Restricted funds - general	19	45,900		41,825	
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	20	861,271		475,736	
General unrestricted funds		2,947,102		2,474,800	
Revaluation reserve		1,213,000		90,000	
		<u>5,021,373</u>		<u>3,040,536</u>	
		<u>5,067,273</u>		<u>3,082,361</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15 December 2025



Mr S Peddie
Trustee

Company registration number 00820660

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14	1,867,670		565,736	
Investments	15	2,040,985		2,480,314	
		<u>3,908,655</u>		<u>3,046,050</u>	
Current assets					
Debtors	16	1,330,800		1,142,930	
Cash at bank and in hand		872,696		396,483	
		<u>2,203,496</u>		<u>1,539,413</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(1,186,537)		(1,573,138)	
Net current assets/(liabilities)		<u>1,016,959</u>		<u>(33,725)</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>4,925,614</u>		<u>3,012,325</u>	
Income funds					
Restricted funds - general	19	45,900		41,825	
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	20	682,337		475,736	
General unrestricted funds		2,984,377		2,404,764	
Revaluation reserve		<u>1,213,000</u>		<u>90,000</u>	
		<u>4,879,714</u>		<u>2,970,500</u>	
		<u>4,925,614</u>		<u>3,012,325</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15 December 2025

Mr S Peddie

Mr S Peddie
Trustee

Company registration number 00820660

The consolidated accounts of the Group include the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertaking for the year ended 31 March 2025. A separate Statement of Financial Activities for the charity has not been presented because the subsidiary has taken advantage of exemption by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The gain of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 was £772,090 (2024: Deficit £92,580).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	24		(199,806)		(4,681)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(194,682)		(7,891)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		355,598		-	
Purchase of investments		-		(2,551,303)	
Proceeds from disposal of investments		497,245		2,571,787	
Interest received		21,375		28,494	
Investment income received		38,549		40,922	
Net cash generated from investing activities			718,085		82,009
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			518,279		77,328
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			534,349		457,021
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,052,628		534,349

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Child Action NorthWest is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Buckshaw Parkway, 2 Buckshaw Station Approach, Buckshaw Village, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 7NR.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts of the Group include the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertaking for the year ended 31 March 2025. A separate Statement of Financial Activities for the charity has not been presented because the subsidiary has taken advantage of the exemption by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The revaluation reserve represents the difference between the historical cost of fixed assets and the revalued amount included within the balance sheet.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Grants where entitlement is conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant, upon delivery of the specified performance. Income receivable under contract is recognised when the contractual have been fulfilled. Where the contract is still in progress, income is recognised to the extent that it has been earned. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the trustee's annual report.

1.6 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 under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, fundraising and trading activities undertaken by the CIC.

Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the operation of the child and young person related activities and include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities. The costs also include the costs of the CIC for delivery such projects.

Support and governance costs include the costs of central functions and those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets, associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Support and governance costs are allocated to each activity on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold Land and buildings	4% straight line
Leasehold land and buildings	1.8% - 6.5% straight line
Furniture & fittings	10% straight line
Motor Vehicles	25% straight line
Equipment	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

There is no readily available split of the land element included within land and buildings and so the entire balance has been depreciated.

1.8 Fixed asset investments

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.14 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Funding on payment by results contracts

In respect of payment by result contracts, management are required to assess the stage of project delivery at the year end in order to calculate the entitlement earned. If confirmation has not been received by the commissioner on the approved project delivery then the income included within the accounts is based on management's best assessment of the delivery achieved. Any amounts earned but not yet received are included within accrued income and the converse is accounted for within deferred income in order to ensure that the funding is recognised in the same accounting period as the related services are provided.

3 Group donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds general £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations	51,971	-	51,971	68,339
For the year ended 31 March 2024	68,339	-	-	68,339

4 Group Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Care Services	2,631,700	-	2,631,700	2,137,329	-	2,137,329
Youth and Community Support	107,966	40,000	147,966	120,574	28,500	149,074
Family Support	3,428,745	2,500	3,431,245	2,941,610	12,711	2,954,321
Youth Justice	1,104,917	-	1,104,917	1,055,147	-	1,055,147
Adult Community Services	240,110	-	240,110	133,011	-	133,011
	7,513,438	42,500	7,555,938	6,387,671	41,211	6,428,882

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5 Investment Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from listed investments	<u>38,549</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,549</u>	<u>40,922</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2024	<u>40,922</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,922</u>

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	355,598	-
Interest receivable	<u>21,375</u>	<u>28,494</u>
	<u>376,973</u>	<u>28,494</u>

7 Gift aid payment of trading subsidiary

The Community Interest Company, CANWe Solutions CIC is a trading arm of CANW whose surpluses are gift aided to the Charity to support its charitable work. A summary of the trading results for the year ended 31 March 2025 is:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Turnover	239,906	133,012
Operating costs	<u>(174,837)</u>	<u>(130,432)</u>
Operating profit	<u>65,069</u>	<u>2,580</u>
Interest	<u>212</u>	<u>201</u>
Profit before taxation	<u>65,281</u>	<u>2,781</u>

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Gift aid payment of trading subsidiary

(Continued)

The profits are gift aided to the Charity within 9 months of the year end. The total amount gift aided in the year to 31 March 2025 totalled £7k this represented the taxable profits for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:

Current assets	185,930	110,274
Current liabilities	(50,373)	(40,238)
Total net assets	135,557	70,036
Aggregate share capital and reserves	135,557	70,036

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Support costs allocated to activities

									Total 2025	Total 2024
	Basis of allocation	Care Services	Youth Engagement and Support	Family Support	Youth Justice	Public Relations	Central Management	Adult Community Services		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Costs directly allocated to activities										
Staff costs	Direct	461,747	66,446	1,310,824	769,205	61,998	496,020	101,885	3,268,125	3,161,929
National Insurance	Direct	47,859	4,917	102,205	33,939	6,049	53,778	9,690	258,437	245,047
Pension Fund Contributions	Direct	14,740	1,575	38,591	11,457	3,207	18,731	3,208	91,509	99,001
Private Medical Insurance	Direct	615	169	2,953	238	104	559	208	4,846	4,127
Subcontractor costs	Direct	7,699	-	1,222,504	20,552	-	22,071	2,712	1,275,538	1,162,266
Other staff costs	Direct	26,657	1,249	48,128	76,242	712	6,850	6,569	166,407	211,070
Carers costs	Direct	1,468,944	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,468,944	1,197,815
Service operating costs	Direct	5,533	1,191	2,439	8,371	8,630	2,588	8,722	37,474	24,574
Training costs	Direct	6,724	-	6,148	678	2,000	14,094	-	29,644	24,151
Fundraising costs	Direct	1,750	-	160	-	505	880	-	3,295	15,177
Support and governance costs allocated to activities										
Rent	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	22,147	-	22,147	-
Other property costs	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	140,681	1,861	142,542	124,917
Insurance	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	148,645	-	148,645	146,392
Office running costs	Usage	15,196	3,028	27,730	25,067	2,915	186,230	3,648	263,814	285,628
Central management	Usage	299,395	20,344	632,860	266,920	-	(1,219,519)	-	-	-
Audit fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	18,030	6,330	24,360	25,635
Legal fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	4,293	34	4,327	5,276
Depreciation	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	72,888	-	72,888	60,998
Bank charges	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	2,372	93	2,465	1,144
Other central costs	Usage	1,630	1,047	615	558	-	20,821	(2,277)	22,394	2,816
For the year ended 31 March 2025		2,358,489	99,966	3,395,157	1,213,227	86,120	12,159	142,683	7,307,801	6,797,963
For the year ended 31 March 2024		2,222,246	151,475	3,084,444	1,083,953	141,416	-	114,429		6,797,963

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9	Net movement in funds	2025	2024
		£	£
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Fees payable to the charity's auditor:		
	- for the audit of the charity's financial statements	12,500	11,375
	- for the audit of the subsidiary's financial statements	4,000	3,750
	- for accountancy and other financial services	3,500	3,425
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	72,888	60,988
	Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(355,598)	-
	Operating lease charges	22,140	2,744

10 Trustees

During the year, TNZ Global Limited a company in which Tina Short, a Trustee, is also a Director, provided services to the charity totalling £2,000 (2024: nil). The total amount outstanding at year end was £nil (2024: £nil).

No other trustees (or any persons connected to them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Office and management - full time	27	27
Office and management - part time	11	9
Others - full time	26	23
Others - part time	33	45
Total	97	104

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	3,268,125	3,161,929
Social security costs	258,436	245,047
Other pension costs	91,509	99,001
	3,618,070	3,505,977

The full time equivalent of the part time staff is 57.5 (2024: 27). In addition the charity has made use of an average of 103 (2024: 110) sessional staff during the year working differing hours as and when required. During the year the charity had available to use an average of 169.08 (2024: 168) sessional staff. As at the year end the charity had 278 (2024: 186) available members of staff.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Employees

(Continued)

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,000 to £70,000	2	1
£80,000 to £90,000	1	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate remuneration	189,539	117,771
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The board has identified the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operating Office and the Corporate Services Director as key management personnel. In the prior year this was the Chief Executive Officer only as the other roles are new roles in the current year and are included for a part year only. The employee benefits paid in respect of key management personnel includes employers pension and employers NI contributions.

12 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	56,082	141,488
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14 Tangible fixed assets

Group and Charity	Freehold Land and buildings	Leasehold land and buildings	Plant & Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2024	775,752	808,943	306,144	5,181	75,338	1,971,358
Additions	132,868	-	36,786	25,028	-	194,682
Disposals	(48,048)	-	-	-	-	(48,048)
Revaluation	515,386	(385,616)	-	-	-	129,770
At 31 March 2025	1,375,958	423,327	342,930	30,209	75,338	2,247,762
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2024	531,020	514,530	283,700	1,034	75,338	1,405,622
Depreciation charged in the year	20,511	32,357	16,997	3,023	-	72,888
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(15,188)	-	-	-	-	(15,188)
Revaluation	(536,343)	(546,887)	-	-	-	(1,083,230)
At 31 March 2025	-	-	300,697	4,057	75,338	380,092
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2025	1,375,958	423,327	42,233	26,152	-	1,867,670
At 31 March 2024	244,732	294,413	22,444	4,147	-	565,736

Land and buildings with a carrying amount of £194k were revalued at July 2024 by Eddison's, independent valuers not connected with the Charity on the basis of market value. Further land and buildings with a carrying value of £262k have been revalued at July 2025 by Aspinall Verdi, independent valuers not connected with the Charity on the basis of market value. The valuations conform to International Valuation Standards and was based on recent market transactions on arm's length terms for similar properties.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Fixed asset investments

Group	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024	2,480,314
Valuation changes	56,082
Other	1,834
Disposals	(497,245)
At 31 March 2025	2,040,985
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	2,040,985
At 31 March 2024	2,480,314

	2025 £	2024 £
Investments at fair value comprise:		
Cazenove Unit Trust	-	26,383
Equities	937,562	1,130,454
Bonds	515,855	662,873
Alternative	382,260	305,765
Others	177,446	305,421
Cash	27,862	49,418
	2,040,985	2,480,314

Charity	Group 2025 £	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2025 £
Other investments comprise:				
Investments in subsidiaries	-	-	1	1

The charity also controls CANWe Solutions CIC, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales, which was incorporated on 18 March 2009 and of which Child Action Northwest is the sole member. The CIC commenced trading on 1 April 2009. The principal activity of the company is that of benefiting the community by working with adults and young people suffering from worklessness, through funding from the government incentives.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Debtors

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Trade debtors	571,782	558,922	549,808	548,101
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	-	-	43,783	20,363
Prepayments and accrued income	743,623	583,567	737,209	574,466
	<u>1,315,405</u>	<u>1,142,489</u>	<u>1,330,800</u>	<u>1,142,930</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Trade creditors	91,519	242,026	90,764	241,073
Other taxation and social security	64,212	63,965	63,481	63,255
Other creditors	42,411	36,190	42,225	36,010
Accruals and deferred income	994,985	1,250,832	990,067	1,232,800
	<u>1,193,127</u>	<u>1,593,013</u>	<u>1,186,537</u>	<u>1,573,138</u>

Deferred Income

	Group 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	786,196	786,196
Movement in the year	289,293	289,293
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	<u>496,903</u>	<u>496,903</u>

The deferred income balance of held by the group relates to payments on account received for contracts or performance related grants. The brought forward deferred income was released in full during the year.

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>91,509</u>	<u>99,001</u>

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

Outstanding pension contributions at 31 March 2025 amounted to £18,215 (2024: £15,763).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

Group and Charity	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Young Peoples Outdoor Space	-	6,500	-	5,900	12,400
Young Carers Blackburn	21,147	33,500	(21,147)	-	33,500
Young Peoples Space Fund	20,678	-	-	(20,678)	-
Pro Contact - Contact Centre	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
	<u>41,825</u>	<u>42,500</u>	<u>(23,647)</u>	<u>(14,778)</u>	<u>45,900</u>

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
National Lottery Leaving Care Grant	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
Young Farmers Blackburn	-	10,211	(10,211)	-	-
Young Carers Blackburn	21,767	28,500	(29,120)	-	21,147
Young Peoples Space Fund	20,678	-	-	-	20,678
Pro Contact - Contact Centre	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
	<u>52,445</u>	<u>41,211</u>	<u>(51,831)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,825</u>

The Young People's outdoor space is a pot of funding to provide for the specific purpose to develop outdoor spaces for young people on CANW premises. This development was ongoing at year end.

The Young Carers Blackburn monies is a specific pot of funding to provide therapeutic support to children in Blackburn and Darwen who are young carers.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20 Unrestricted funds

Group and Charity	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2025 £
Fixed Asset Fund	475,736	-	-	178,934	-	654,670
IT Software Procurement	-	-	-	40,000	-	40,000
Future property Fund	-	-	-	166,601	-	166,601
General funds	2,474,800	7,980,931	(7,284,154)	(280,557)	56,082	2,947,102
	2,950,536	7,980,931	(7,284,154)	104,978	56,082	3,808,373
Revaluation reserve	90,000	-	-	(90,000)	1,213,000	1,213,000
	3,040,536	7,980,931	(7,284,154)	14,978	1,269,082	5,021,373
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2024 £
Fixed asset funds	528,843	-	-	(53,107)	-	475,736
General funds	2,410,911	6,525,426	(6,656,132)	53,107	141,488	2,474,800
	3,029,754	6,525,426	(6,746,132)	-	141,488	2,950,536
Revaluation reserve	90,000	-	-	-	-	90,000

The balance carried on the fixed asset fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets, less the balance on the revaluation reserve. Depreciation is to be charged against the fixed asset fund in future years.

The IT software procurement fund is monies specifically identified to support the implementation of a fit for purpose IT solution, primarily to support those services delivered by Family Services, but that could also be used across other service areas of CANW.

The future property fund is reserves specifically identified to support the growth of CANW's estate in future years.

The allocation of the general funds pot is detailed in the charity's reserves policy and includes funds to cover operating costs and for future projects to ensure the growth and sustainability of the charity,

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Group			
Tangible assets	1,867,670	-	1,867,670
Investments	2,040,985	-	2,040,985
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,112,718	45,900	1,158,618
	<u>5,021,373</u>	<u>45,900</u>	<u>5,067,273</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Charity			
Tangible assets	1,867,670	-	1,867,670
Investments	2,040,985	-	2,040,985
Current assets/(liabilities)	971,059	45,900	1,016,959
	<u>4,879,714</u>	<u>45,900</u>	<u>4,925,614</u>

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

Prior year analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
Group	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
Tangible assets	565,736	-	565,736
Investments	2,480,314	-	2,480,314
Current assets/(liabilities)	(5,514)	41,825	36,311
	<u>3,040,536</u>	<u>41,825</u>	<u>3,082,361</u>
Charity	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£
Tangible assets	565,736	-	565,736
Investments	2,480,314	-	2,480,314
Current assets/(liabilities)	(75,550)	41,825	(33,725)
	<u>2,970,500</u>	<u>41,825</u>	<u>3,012,325</u>

22 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
Group and Charity	£	£
Within one year	135,615	726
Between two and five years	501,000	1,089
	<u>636,615</u>	<u>1,815</u>

23 Related party transactions

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption conferred by FRS102 Section 33, in that transactions entered into between two or more members of the group are not disclosed, provided that any subsidiary which is a party to the transaction is wholly owned by such a member.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

24	Cash absorbed by operations	2025 £	2024 £
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	771,712	(89,838)
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(59,924)	(69,132)
	Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(355,598)	-
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	(56,082)	(141,488)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	72,888	60,998
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in debtors	(172,916)	(40,922)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(399,886)	275,701
	Cash absorbed by operations	(199,806)	(4,681)
25	Analysis of changes in net funds		

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

Accounts

Company Registration No. 00820660 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity No. 222533

Child Action Northwest

Company Limited by Guarantee

**Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Legal and administration details

Status: Child Action Northwest is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act 1995. Its governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees:	Mrs M Webb Mr G H Fairweather Mr J Comyn-Platt Mr S Damp Mr L A Baxter Ms M Rathmell Mr S Peddie Ms R Covey Ms T Short Ms S Booth-Henry Mr A Botterill Mr M Roe Mr N Eatwell	Chair Appointed 24 July 2023 Appointed 22 January 2024 Appointed 9 May 2024 Appointed 9 May 2024 Appointed 17 May 2024 Appointed 24 May 2024 Vice Chair - Resigned 22 January 2024 Resigned 22 January 2024 Resigned 29 August 2024
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Strategic Management Team:

Ms S Cotton	Chief Executive (resigned 2 April 2024)
Ms A Stathers-Tracey	Chief Executive (appointed 2 April 2024)
Ms N Hollinshead	Chief Operating Officer (appointed 22 July 2024)
Ms C Robinson	Corporate Services Director (appointed 5 August 2024)
Ms M Dixon	Strategic Director of Operations
Mr S Chaplin	Deputy Chief Executive (resigned August 2023)
Mr J Cobbold	Director of Business Development (resigned September 2023)
Miss R Coaker	Finance Director (resigned April 2024)
Ms J Dawkins	Strategic Director Care & Accommodation (resigned May 2024)

Operational Management Team:

Amy Jackson	HR Manager
Sue Monighan	Head of Service – Emotional Health and Wellbeing (EHWB)
Sharon Anson	Finance and Business Support Manager
Linda Barber	IT and Estates Manager
Mark Saunders	Head of Service – Criminal Justice
Paul Barlow	Head of Service – Criminal Justice
Hannah Wilson	Head of Service – ProContact
Ian Charnock	Registered Manager (Care and Accommodation)
Tammy Sutherland	Registered Inspector (Residential)
Nicola Goggins	HR Manager (resigned January 2024)
Lesley Hall	Associate Director EHWB Service (resigned May 2024)
Laura O'Hare	Business Development Manager (resigned March 2024)
Joanne Lever	HR Manager (resigned August 2023)

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Legal and administration details (continued)

Company Number:	00820660
Registered Charity Number:	222533
Registered Office:	The Homestead Whalley Road Wilpshire Blackburn BB1 9LL
Regional Office:	4b Springfield Court Summerfield Road Off Manchester Road Bolton BL3 2NT
Regional Office:	CANWe Solutions CIC Dixon House Whalley Road Wilpshire Blackburn BB1 9LL
Solicitors:	Forbes Solicitors Rutherford House 4 Wellington Street (St Johns) Blackburn BB1 8DD
Auditors:	MHA Statutory Auditors Chartered Accountants Richard House 9 Winckley Square Preston PR1 3HP

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

This is the annual report of the Trustees for Child Action Northwest for the financial year ending 31 March 2024, incorporating Child Action Northwest and its subsidiary company CANWe CIC Solutions.

Child Action Northwest (CANW) is a registered charity and Company Limited by Guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum of Articles of Association. The members of the committee are therefore Trustees of the charity and directors of the company.

Structure, governance and management

The board of Trustees has appointed two trustees as directors for the CIC to represent the interests of the Charity's Trustees. An independent director also sits on the CIC board.

The current trustees are listed in this report. The chairperson and vice chair are honorary officers. The Board agreed in March 24 that they would delete the role of Treasurer given that this role had not been in place for the 2023-24 reporting year due to retirement of the previous Treasurer. Scrutiny of Finance and Assets has absorbed into the business agenda for the main Board.

The honorary officers are elected each year at the annual general meeting (AGM). The chairperson and treasurer are ex-officio members of the committee. One third of the remaining trustees who are not honorary officers are elected annually by the members of the company. Six new trustees have been elected, mostly during the period and have undertaken an initial induction programme, with more training and development to follow. Recruitment to the board of trustees is undertaken following any resignation and is facilitated through a number of channels, including personal approaches, recommendations, social media and website presence.

Notably, the CEO Ms Sue Cotton announced her retirement from CANW in September 2023, and the Board embarked on an extensive external recruitment and selection process for a new CEO. Alison Stathers-Tracey was appointed in December 2023 and started in role in January 2024.

In light of the number of changes to the board of Trustees and the arrival of the new CEO, the Board commissioned a full, independent review of the governance for the charity in January 2024 to enable more effective decision making for the next period of transformation of the business plan for CANW and CANWe.

The Trustees have agreed a standard rolling agenda for board meetings and to meet bi-monthly. In addition, three sub-groups have been created (finance and assets, fundraising and volunteering and safeguarding) to facilitate more complex matters for in depth discussion before presentation to the main board. Members of the Senior Leadership Team are also present at every board meeting.

The charity makes its decisions using this subgroup and board structure, with some decision making delegated to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership team as required.

The board has nominated a trustee to take the lead on safeguarding and there are quarterly meetings with lead staff responsible for operational safeguarding to ensure the charity has robust safeguarding controls in place. The board reviews safeguarding arrangements on an annual basis.

The finance and assets subgroup will oversee the charity's investments and make recommendations on these to the main board, as well as to advise initially on any service or proposition development that requires financial support or may have a financial impact.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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The Senior and Operational Leadership Teams meeting fortnightly, with all members providing an update from their area. This information feeds into the Chief Executive's report that is presented at every board meeting. The CIC board also meets quarterly, with the minutes and any key reports provided to the relevant board meeting.

A skills, experience and governance audit is undertaken each year with the board and any skill gaps in the board identified. This process enables the identification of any developmental needs within the board so that the appropriate training or other opportunities can be identified throughout the year; this includes an annual team building and training event. The audit also informs recruitment to the board, enabling it to be focussed on meeting any skill gaps identified. Recruitment to the board is via advertising through various media and networks, completion of an application form and interview by the Chair with the CEO. If this stage is successful, then interested members are invited to observe a Board meeting.

A governance review was undertaken by an Independent Governance specialist rather than the Chair of the Board in January 2024 in order to assess the effectiveness of the Board structures and decision making and recommendations made to ensure that the board follows ethical guidance, is representative of the diverse communities we operate within and receives representation from service users.

Newly appointed Trustees are invited to attend the CANW induction with CEX and are provided with an information pack which includes: -

- Child Action Northwest's mission statement
- History of Child Action Northwest
- Introduction to the Charity's services
- Trustee's role description
- Payment and expenses
- Contact details of Trustees and Managers
- Responsibilities of Trustees
- Training and development
- Code of conduct
- Terms of reference for pre-trustees meeting
- Fundraising (Creative Partnerships)

In addition, all Trustees visit the Charity's projects as part of their induction, meet with key members of the Senior Manager Team, complete a Disclosure and Barring application, sign and agree to the Trustee Code of Conduct and sign a declaration of eligibility to act as a Trustee. They also receive, on a bi-monthly basis and receive a copy of the Good Trustee Guide published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). During this past year both the use of remote technology but more predominantly in person direct service advice has been used to ensure that induction and service visits can be undertaken for the new Trustees.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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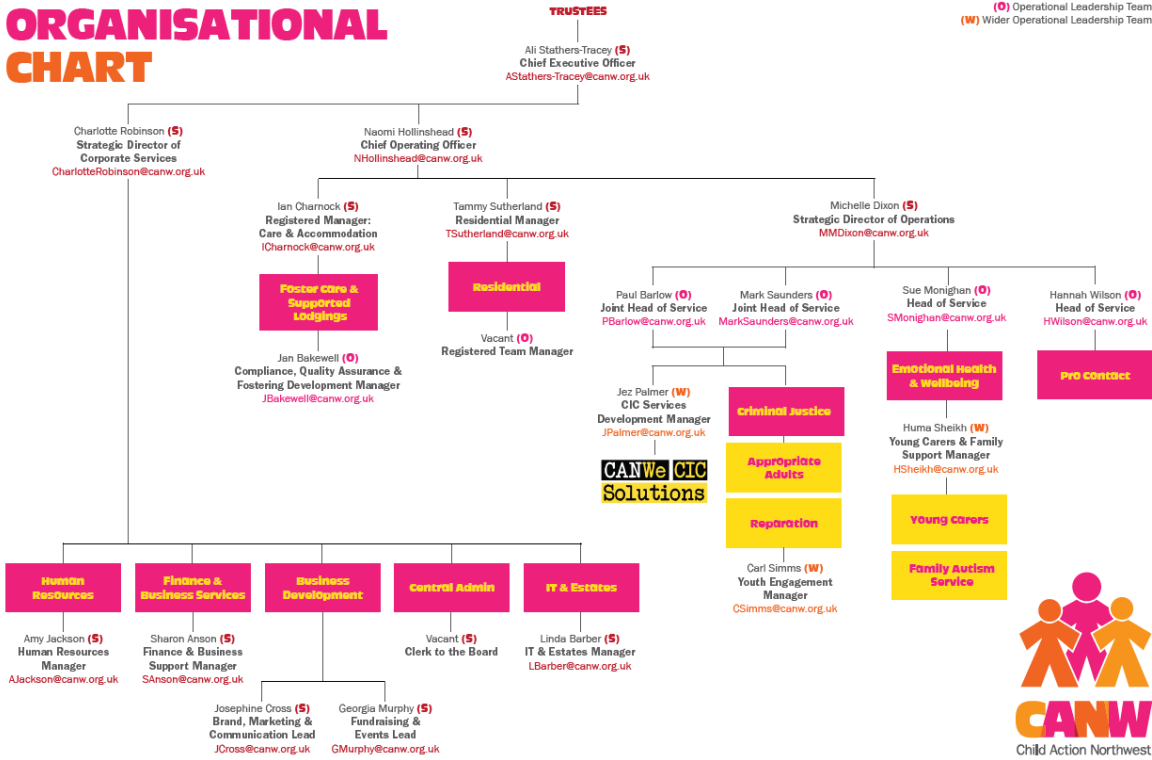
CANW

ORGANISATIONAL

CHART

September 2024

(S) Senior Leadership Team
(O) Operational Leadership Team
(W) Wider Operational Leadership Team



The Board approve and monitor the strategic plan and business plan of Child Action Northwest and during the year the Board of Trustees, along with the Chief Executive, review the strategic direction of the Charity, taking into account the type of risk faced by it and the likelihood that risks may materialise. The operational and financial risks, once assessed, are monitored through a number of internal management systems including monthly senior managers' meetings, quarterly finance meetings and monthly reports to the Trustee Board. A scheme of delegation is in place to ensure clarity of the financial decision-making process.

The Trustee Board undertook a full governance review against Charity Commission guidance and standards during 2023. A quality framework was agreed, following the Trusted Charity methodology, and an action plan is in place with a three-year rolling review programme in place. The Trusted Charity quality review is planned for 2023 however due to changes in administration of the Trusted Standards scheme, the level 2 re-assessment process only commenced in January 2024. Training has been provided for the Trustee Board on aspects of governance and constructive challenge over the year notably in the area of managing grievances and sickness absence.

The pay of the new Chief Executive was set by the Board. It is benchmarked against the NJC (National Joint Council) payscales and has been benchmarked against other similar organisations within the voluntary sector. The Chair of the Board meets regularly with the CEO, to undertake appraisal and to monitor objectives set by the Board. A closed meeting was held with the retiring CEO to review her performance of the CEO against these objectives. The structure and pay of the Senior Management team was reviewed by the new CEO when she arrived in post in January, necessitated by the resignation of several senior staff members. New job roles and descriptions were agreed by the Board with pay rates also reviewed against the NJC payscale and external benchmarking. The CEO undertakes an annual appraisal and regular supervision of the Management Team and

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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discusses performance of the operational team with the Chair although due to staff departures, the dominant task of the CEO and Chair during February and March 24 has been recruiting to the new Leadership Team, The CEO and Chair have ensured that the Board and Management Teams have had access to expert advice, including Finance, Commissioning and Business Development with external support sourced for the latter months of the year pending successful recruitment of a new Corporate Service Director and Chief Operating Officer.

Stakeholder events have been held over the year where the trustees and staff have the opportunity to meet a range of stakeholders including foster carers, other charities and organisations who have an interest in Child Action Northwest. In addition, the operational managers are involved in several strategic planning groups across the region where there is an opportunity to contribute to developments that will be positive for its beneficiaries. A number of partnership arrangements are in place, supported by a Memorandum of Understanding, where direct services are delivered in line with the charitable objects. Over the past year, many of the external meetings have continued to be held remotely as it has been found to be an effective use of time. However key meetings have resumed to face to face following the lifting of all Covid 19 restrictions over the year.

The Board met in person each month with the opportunity for members to join remotely if circumstances prevented attendance physically. The Board has approved and reviewed the risk management processes to enable a return to 'hybrid' working. Research and consultation undertaken during the Covid 19 pandemic has provided organisational learning that time efficiencies could be made for some meeting attendance and the use of resources reduced for some meetings to remain virtual. Staff surveys have identified that hybrid working (attending office bases on certain days, not full time) were positive in creating and supporting a work life balance and allowed reduction of unnecessary travel to office bases.

Objectives and activities

Child Action Northwest (CANW) operates predominantly in the northwest of England, namely across Lancashire, Greater Manchester and the surrounding area, including Cheshire and Cumbria. For specific services, there is a wider scale of delivery, covering a wider footprint across the country, into the West Midlands and the north of England. The charity provides a broad range of services to support children, young people and their families. The work with young people sits predominantly with the Criminal Justice service of the charity and as part of this service, the charity regularly seeks to provide additional services where there is an identified need. There is significant diversity across the population supported by Child Action Northwest's activities, from working in the areas of lowest deprivation, through to those with the highest levels of affluence. The charity regular monitors service delivery to ensure it is representative of all the communities to which it serves.

The charitable objectives of Child Action Northwest are:

- To support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young people and the parents of such children and young people who are in need of care and attention including (but not limited to) children and young people involved in the provision of care for others
- To support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young people who are disabled and in need of care and attention and the parents of such children and young people
- To support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young people who have learning difficulties and the parents of such children and young people
- To provide support, care and supervision for young people and for mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable persons of any age arrested or being questioned by the police or any other prosecuting authority, remanded on bail by the police or a court or otherwise at risk of being remanded in custody including but not limited to by operation of a service providing appropriate adults to accompany such persons where provided for by law

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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- To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Further to the objects, Child Action Northwest has the following powers:

- Provide homes according to the needs of any such child or young person
- Establish, maintain and operate assisted community homes within the provision of the Children's Act 1989, in accordance with the provisions of an Instrument of Management made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Health
- Provide or assist in the provision of appropriate schooling and tuition and training for employment
- Provide, establish and maintain workshops, training, establishment camps, recreation grounds, farms and gardens
- Promote, organise or otherwise be involved in the provision of foster care to children and young persons

In pursuit of these objects, CANW provides a range of services under the following headings:

- Care and Accommodation – providing foster care for children and young people who are unable to live within their own family network.
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing – providing a range of services to support children and young people with their emotional health and wellbeing, through group and individual interactions for short or sustained periods of time.
- Criminal Justice and Social Inclusion – providing appropriate adults to support children and young people through the custody system and providing social inclusion projects for the benefit of all
- Pro Contact – providing services for contact arrangements and supervised sessions for children whose families are separating
- Central Support Services – supply finance, administration, HR, business development and communications services for staff, carers and volunteers and corporate fundraising and partnership services to support the charity's work

Overall in the 23/24 financial period, expenditure across the range of services totalled £6,797,963, of which £6,746,132 was unrestricted and £51,831 was restricted.

Continuing to achieve in each of these areas, whilst developing the services delivered will ensure that the charity will further its purpose. Over the next 12 months, the Senior Leadership Team will be working across the organisation to refine and redevelop the charity's mission, vision and values. They will inform our code of conduct and expected behaviours across the charity. They are, and will continue to be, integral to our recruitment framework.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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The Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association permits the Board of Trustees to make financial investments of funds not immediately required for meeting the objectives of the organisation. In addition, the Articles of Association permits the Board of Trustees to make decisions on property owned, leased or rented by the Charity to further benefit its aims and objects.

Those funds not immediately required are placed in investments, securities or property as may be thought appropriate, subject to any legal requirements. The Charity's investments have been acquired in accordance with this power. There are clear investment and reserve policies in place and a sub-group makes a report to the Trustee Board on all matters in relation to investment or property.

During the reporting period, the charity uses a number of criteria and measures to assess its success.

These include:

- KPIs for the number of foster care placements available and the number of children in care
- Considering the number of contact services provided through both public and private law proceedings, providing long term solutions to family time
- Identifying the number of families supported to arrange sustainable child arrangements and recommendations made to help families move forwards
- Looking at the number of children and young people supported by appropriate adults whilst in the criminal justice system
- Reviewing grant and donation income and the impact it has made to users of the charity's services
- KPIs for the number of young people being provided with access to emotional health and wellbeing services in an education facility
- Identifying the number of young carers across Blackburn with Darwen who have been provided with support

The pandemic has continued to further impact upon volunteering at CANW and at the end of March 2024 we had 12 volunteers registered within 3 service areas in CANW, including Trustees. This amounted to a total of 838.33 volunteer hours from April 2023 – March 2024. If this contribution is equated to pay at the minimum wage of £10.42 per hour (as at April 2023) the financial value of this support to CANW is £8,735.40. Over the coming 12 months the organisation has a strategy to grow volunteer engagement across many areas of the business.

Our Community Interest Company CANWe Solutions

The Community Interest Company (CIC) is a trading arm of CANW whose surpluses are gift aided to the Charity to support its charitable work.

The Articles state;

The Company's object is to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to:

- operate as a social enterprise in conjunction with Child Action Northwest (Company number 00820660) which itself exists to meet the objects listed above;

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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To further meet the needs of the community the CIC will develop and provide a range of training, consultancy and contract services to the public and private sectors;

- provide work-based learning for young people in the North West;
- provide accredited training for young people in the North West;
- provide consultancy and training to other community interest and public benefit bodies to improve the effectiveness of their activities;
- obtain funding through commissions, contracts and (where appropriate) development grants with the purpose of generating income from its services to support the charity named in its Articles of Association and its work among the communities in the Northwest;
- deliver a range of services in furtherance of these objects and of the objects of the charity named in its Articles of Association, re-investing its surpluses, either directly in the social enterprise itself or in the charity named in its Articles of Association, for the benefit of young people throughout the Northwest.

Achievements and performance

Our People

At Child Action Northwest we recognise that our dedicated staff and volunteers are our most valuable asset.

Over the last 12 months the HR team have continued to fully support the staff team, and further refined processes in relation to hybrid working. Office working is now underway with a minimum expectation of office-based one to two days per week. Departments, teams and individual staff members have adapted well to the new way of working post-Covid and managers report no issues with productivity as a result of less 'contact time' with staff. Hybrid working has paved the way for creativity and innovation for departments and the wider organisations. Remote events are now scheduled in regularly to enable better cascading of information and visibility of the Senior Leadership Team.

PeopleHR, the new HR system, was rolled out and developed during 2023-24. We have seen a significant change in HR Managers during the period with the permanent team recruited in February 2024. The new team are expert users of People HR and have worked at pace to implement and improve functionality of the system. The system has been received positively by staff and has enabled HR to move away from many manual processes, including payroll, with easy access to reports and information. Staff have a range of self-service options available to them and managers are able to manage their own recruitment, with automated sign off processes in place to ensure compliance.

The charity's registration to become a Real Living Wage provider which was honoured fully in March 24 and backdated for key employees. A full employee assistance programme, Unum Help@hand, has been implemented for all staff offering such services as counselling sessions, physiotherapy appointments and finance, lifestyle and wellbeing advice. BenefitsHub was also rolled out, offering discounted rates on shopping and recreational activities.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Care and Accommodation

In October 2023, the service underwent an OFSTED inspection and was rated good across each of the four domains of the inspection. There are currently 53 children placed in foster care, with 55 carers across 31 households. All new placements are allocated on an initial six week period to support with settling in to family life. Regular activity days continue to be offered, with children and their families enjoying days out across the Northwest, with children and young people involved in the decision making for these days.

The 2023 Annual Care Conference was well attended and allowed carer participation and sharing of questions and potential service developments they wanted CANW to consider.

Early in 2024, the board of trustees approved a plan for the previous office space of the CANWe organisation to be converted into a three bedroomed residential children's home. Planning permission for this was passed in September 2024, with work beginning on the conversion imminently.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Support continues to be provided to children in both primary and secondary schools across the Northwest of England, with excellent feedback received. The Young Carers service also continues to support children across the Blackburn with Darwen region.

In June 2023, the charity was successful in receiving funding to deliver services for those children and young people with autism, along with their families, and this contract has been extended for another 12 months. At the end of March 2024, there were 620 parents receiving support. A number of family activity days open to families and their siblings were arranged to the places such as the sensory gym and snow tubing and were a huge success.

The charity has supported 360 young carers, ranging in age from 5 to 18, with one young carer being awarded BBC Radio Lancashire's 'Make A Difference Highly Commended Carers Award' in 2023.

In 23-24, across all of the services, Emotional Health and Wellbeing received 2,463 referrals and delivered 11,625 sessions for children and young people, along with 21 parent/carer sessions.

Criminal Justice and Social Inclusion

As part of the Peer Action Collective (PAC) work, looking at how young people affected by violence have an equal voice in decisions made at school, research was carried out with 75 young people aged between 10 and 20, identified six key principles to be embedded into further work.

The Appropriate Adult service works with six police forces across England and in the 23-24 financial year, accepted 18,566 referrals for support to children and young people in the criminal justice system.

CANW stands as a beacon of commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, actively ensuring that teams reflect the diverse backgrounds and needs of the communities served. The focus is on local recruitment, engagement with local agencies supporting minority ethnic communities, and holding kitemarks in LGBTQ+ and disability awareness showcasing dedication to fostering an inclusive environment. Throughout the recruitment processes, CANW diligently ensures that the motivations of prospective appropriate adults align with the purpose of the AA role – to safeguard the interests of children and/or vulnerable persons. The organisation encourages active involvement of those with lived experience in the recruitment process, and consideration of each applicant's motivations and attitudes.

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As part of statutory repatriation, helping young people to break the cycle between adversity and anti-social behaviour, working alongside communities and the police, a team helped to restore the garden of a local community centre and undertook painting of toilet and community rooms. The centre is used by hundreds of people each week and the community garden would become part of a day care centre for the elderly.

Pro Contact

Pro Contact enables contact and reduces parental conflict. CANW delivers Improving Child and Family Arrangements (ICFA), supporting families with sustainable child arrangements and making recommendations to help families move forwards. CANW delivers ICFA services across the North and West, with nine sub-contractors.

In Q4 of 23-24, feedback was as below:

- How close do parents think they are to agreeing next steps and preparing a Parenting Plan to ensure spending time with arrangements are improved, sustainable, safe and beneficial? 57% of parents agreed against a national average of other providers of 45%.
- How do parents feel their communication currently supports safe, beneficial and sustainable spending time with arrangements? 63% of parents agreed against a national average of other providers of 52%.

Contact Services

Contact Services often re-establishes or maintains contact in both private and public law proceedings or as a long-term solution to family time. In 23-24, 109 families were supported.

Planning Together for Children (PTC)

PTC aims to improve co-parenting. CANW delivers PTC across the Northwest of England. In 23-24, CANW worked with 1547 parents.

- 91% of parents state 'high satisfaction' with the programme and support offered.
- 93% of participants report having a clearer understanding of the impact of family conflict on children.
- 96% of participants report that they will take action to place the child at the centre of all communications and agreements.

During 23-24, the charity has progressed well against its objectives, delivering strong outputs across each of its services and continuing to grow and develop relationships and opportunities.

Fundraising

During 23-24, the charity predominantly focussed its fundraising activities around building relationships with corporate partners and through the legacy Orphanage Cup football event. In kind donations were also received in the form of office furniture and skip hire, through local companies. The charity has strong values and principles in ensuring individual givers do not intrude on a person's privacy or place the individual under any pressure.

The charity was also lucky to receive a number of volunteer hours during 23-24, reference to which is made earlier in this report.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Financial review (including reserves policy review)

The group's incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2024 amounted to £6,566,637 and outgoing resources amounted to £6,797,963. The deficit reported during the year was £89,838, which was supported by an unrealised gain on investment assets of £141,488. The operating deficit for the year was £231,326. The plan for the year was a deficit plan due to the challenges in continuing to deliver large, commissioned contracts particularly with the cost of living crisis. This deficit plan was set by the Board in the context of the three to five year plan which would include steps to bring the financial position back to an underlying breakeven position.

During the year the Fostering Service continued to be a key contributor to the group's turnover, however with most agreements having no increases in rate the service went into deficit. Towards the end of the year placement numbers have recovered and during the year with a refocus on service development was set. A number of contract uplifts have been negotiated for the new financial year.

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing service continued to operate in a variety of settings across Lancashire and beyond. The contract with Lancashire County Council (LCC) continued to produce excellent results in terms of favourable outcomes, as did our work with schools and other commissioners. The LCC service made a deficit during the 23-24 financial year, however an uplift to this contract was negotiated from April 2024.

The Supported Contact services continued to perform important work in difficult economic circumstances and continued to be developed. Supported Contact services continued to be developed during the year. This continues to be an exciting area of development for the service. The Planning Together for Children (PTC) was mobilised in early 2023-24 and has proved extremely successful.

Young Carers has ringfenced monies in 23-24, from previous financial years, with additional funding secured throughout the year for new projects, including the Autism service. The service continues to find innovative ways to extend reach and value, continuing to deliver excellent services.

Criminal Justice services continue to do excellent work meeting increasing demand with growing referral numbers across the extended geography that we support. Some contract uplifts were also negotiated during the 23-24 financial year to ensure that services remain viable.

The principal risks for CANW are those associated with contracted income and this not being reviewed in line with inflation and other increases. There are also risks associated with some shorter term contracts of work that do not provide stability for longer term financial planning. To manage these risks, the charity is regularly reviewing its risk register, undertaking contract negotiation meetings with commissioners and also developing its growth strategy to focus on income generating activity for the business, as well as identifying longer contracts, to provide more stability.

Principal Funding

The majority of funding is from services commissioned by local authorities and other public bodies predominantly across the North of England. Grant funding during the year amounted to £120,607, with contributions from the public totalling £68,339.

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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Investments

The investment portfolio is held by Schroders, Cazenove Capital, on a discretionary basis with the overall objective being to produce the best financial return possible, within a low to medium risk rating, over a medium to long term period. The financial markets have recovered slightly in the 23-24 financial period. This resulted in a realised and unrealised gain of £141,488.

Reserves

The reserves policy in place is reviewed at least annually by the board.

The group held total funds of £3,082,361 at 31 March 2024. Of these, £41,825 were restricted, therefore these funds were not available for the general purposes of the group. The group held unrestricted funds of £3,040,536 at 31 March 2024. However, of this, £565,736 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets. Therefore, at 31 March 2024, the group had available liquid unrestricted reserves of £2,474,800.

The required level of reserves, set out in the policy, to cover organisational running costs, if necessary, is £1,650,000. This is based on the planned expenditure in 2023-24. The actual free liquid reserves held at 31 March 2024 were, therefore, £824,800. The Board feels that it is prudent to maintain these surplus free reserves.

The board remains open to possibility of investing in new services, or the expansion of existing ones, whose aims are in line with objectives of the group and which have the potential to contribute to the financial base of the organisation.

The board holds no uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern in the coming financial year.

Plans for future periods

The last year has seen CANW continuing to address and respond to growing levels of need demonstrated across the communities and individuals we support. This has led the Charity to review its strategic plan and objectives and to continue to invest in its people and systems to ensure we are well placed to address the many challenges of inequality and inequity.

The impact of inflation continues to influence our financial position – whilst this is much more under control than at the same time last year, the impact is still being felt across some services. In particular, some contract uplifts have had to be negotiated and as we move into the coming 12 months, a number of contracts will be coming to an end. This will mean the re-negotiation of some of these contracts, where CANW is best placed to deliver the services through its talented workforce. In line with these re-negotiations, the strategic plan will continue to be monitored and implemented.

The charity is about to move to a new HQ facility, which leaves exciting opportunity for the original Blackburn orphanage building, The Homestead. Over the next twelve months, plans will be developed to transform the building back into a space for children, rooting the charity in its origins.

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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The charity is also excited to continue to build and expand its residential offer, with planning permission recently having been granted to convert a previous office premises into a three bedroom residential home for children. It is anticipated that over the coming years, more residential properties will be acquired, increasing the number of places available for those children in need of a loving, caring home and where staying within the family unit or in foster care is not an option for them.

Our plans to grow and develop our service offer has therefore never been more important and our efforts to generate additional voluntary income are designed to provide the sustainability needed to ensure our team can support and engage with more children, families and communities.

We have consulted with our stakeholders, children and commissioners and to understand what is important to them and the services and gaps they would like to see us deliver going forward; Children and Young People have told us about the things that are important to them and what they would like from CANW. They told us that being supported in schools and getting opportunities to learn and develop skills is important to them, that relationships with friends and families can sometimes be difficult and they would like support there. They said that sometimes they feel anxious and down and would like support with their mental health and wellbeing. They also told us that they enjoyed spending time together and that they would like more opportunities to meet together and enjoy activities.

Foster carers have told us that it is important that they receive practical and emotional support and that children in foster families want to receive their own support and that being a voluntary fostering agency with a strong value base is important. They want opportunities to meet with each other and gain peer support and that the relationships with their support workers is important.

Our commissioners and other stakeholders have told us that they want to further develop partnership working, that they can see gaps in mental health provision and that early intervention is important to them. There continues to be gaps in mental health and wellbeing support for Children and Young People who have been looked after and are leaving care. In addition, risk management of the needs of very complex young people is important. Unfortunately, colleagues across our Emotional Health and Wellbeing team have also reported significant increases in levels of self-harm and suicidal ideation, as well as problematic rises in the impact of worrying content from social platforms such as TikTok and Instagram. A focus on mitigating the impact of online content is a priority for the team as well as considering how to develop and disseminate positive digital content.

Partnership working across the voluntary sector has also come into focus this year and will grow as a priority over the next 12 – 18 months and organisations look for opportunities to come together solve complex social problems, rather than working in isolation.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of Trustees’ responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Child Action Northwest for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees’ Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company’s auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

MHA are deemed to be re-appointed under section 487 (2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees’ report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 4 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Marguerite Webb

.....
Mrs Webb – Chair

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Child Action Northwest (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and the Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006 and 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 group's or parent charitable company'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 trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's 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.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 42, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 group's and parent charitable company'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 group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

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 auditor's 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.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiries with management about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Enquires with management about any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Auditing the risk of fraud in revenue, including through the testing of income cut off at the period end and through income transaction testing to provide comfort that revenue is completely stated in the financial statements;
- Examination of journal entries and other adjustments to test for appropriateness and identify any instances of management override of controls;
- Review of legal and professional expenditure to identify any evidence of ongoing litigation or enquiries.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company'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 charitable company's members and its trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nicola Mason MA(Cantab) FCA DChA
 Senior Statutory Auditor
 For and on behalf of MHA, Statutory Auditor
 Preston, United Kingdom

November 21, 2024

MHA is the trading name of MacIntyre Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC312313)

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	68,339	-	68,339	51,637
Charitable activities	5	6,387,671	41,211	6,428,882	5,834,190
Investment income	6	40,922	-	40,922	37,042
Other income	7	28,494	-	28,494	36,076
Total incoming resources		6,525,426	41,211	6,566,637	5,958,945
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		141,416	-	141,416	135,814
Charitable activities					
Care and Accommodation Services		2,212,246	10,000	2,222,246	1,996,749
Youth and Engagement Support		122,355	29,120	151,475	120,552
Family Wellbeing:					
Family Support		3,071,733	12,711	3,084,444	3,005,097
Youth Justice		1,083,953	-	1,083,953	900,643
Adult Community Services		114,429	-	114,429	187,504
Total outgoing resources	8	6,746,132	51,831	6,797,963	6,346,359
		(220,706)	(10,620)	(231,326)	(387,414)
Realised gains/(losses) on investment assets		-	-	-	(58,974)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets		141,488	-	141,488	(88,240)
Net income/(expenditure)		(79,218)	(10,620)	(89,838)	(534,628)
Transfers between funds	14 & 15	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(79,218)	(10,620)	(89,838)	(534,628)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	14 & 15	3,119,754	52,445	3,172,199	3,706,827
Total funds carried forward	14 & 15	3,040,536	41,825	3,082,361	3,172,199

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

All activities derive from continuing activities.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**BALANCE SHEET****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

		Group		Charity	
		2024	2023	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	565,736	618,843	565,736	618,843
Investments	11	2,480,314	2,394,904	2,480,314	2,394,904
		<u>3,046,050</u>	<u>3,013,747</u>	<u>3,046,050</u>	<u>3,013,747</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	1,142,489	1,101,851	1,142,930	1,035,608
Cash at bank and in hand		486,835	373,913	396,483	356,162
		<u>1,629,324</u>	<u>1,475,764</u>	<u>1,539,413</u>	<u>1,391,770</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,593,013)	(1,317,312)	(1,573,138)	(1,300,612)
Net current assets / liabilities		36,311	158,452	(33,725)	91,158
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>3,082,361</u>	<u>3,172,199</u>	<u>3,012,325</u>	<u>3,104,905</u>
Capital and reserves					
Restricted funds	15	41,825	52,445	41,825	52,445
Unrestricted funds:					
- Revaluation reserve	14	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
- Fixed asset funds	14	475,736	528,843	475,736	528,843
- General unrestricted funds	14	2,474,800	2,500,911	2,404,764	2,433,617
		<u>3,040,536</u>	<u>3,119,754</u>	<u>2,970,500</u>	<u>3,052,460</u>
		<u>3,082,361</u>	<u>3,172,199</u>	<u>3,012,325</u>	<u>3,104,905</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 4 November 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

Marguerite Webb

.....
Mrs Webb - Chair

Company number: 00820660

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash generated from operating activities	1	(4,681)	(367,047)
Cash provided by investing activities			
Interest received		28,494	14,076
Income from listed investments		40,922	37,042
		69,416	51,118
Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(7,891)	(7,531)
Payments to acquire investments		(2,551,303)	(1,114,607)
Receipts from sales of investments		2,571,787	894,488
		12,593	(227,650)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year			
		77,328	(543,579)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		457,021	1,000,600
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2	534,349	457,021

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT NOTES****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****1 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net incoming resources	(89,838)	(534,628)
Unrealised (gains)/losses on investment assets	(141,488)	88,240
Depreciation of tangible assets	60,998	63,359
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangible assets	-	-
(Profit)/loss on disposal of investments	-	58,974
Bank interest received	(28,494)	(14,076)
Income from listed investments	(40,922)	(37,042)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(40,638)	(422,617)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	275,701	430,743
	<u>(4,681)</u>	<u>(367,047)</u>

2 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flow £	Other non cash changes £	At 31 March 2024 £
Net cash:				
Cash at bank and in hand	373,913	15,922	97,000	486,835
Overdraft	-	-	-	-
	<u>373,913</u>	<u>15,922</u>	<u>97,000</u>	<u>486,835</u>
Cash on short term deposit	83,108	63,310	(97,000)	49,418
Net funds	<u>457,021</u>	<u>79,232</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>536,253</u>

3 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	2024 £	2023 £
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	15,922	(541,904)
Increase/(decrease) in liquid resources	63,310	(1,675)
Movement in net funds in the year	<u>79,232</u>	<u>(543,579)</u>
Opening net funds	457,021	1,000,600
Closing net funds	<u>536,253</u>	<u>457,021</u>

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Legal form

The charity constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is as stated on page 4.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Child Action Northwest 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 notes.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate all assets and liabilities and income and expenditure of the wholly owned non-charitable subsidiary community interest company, CANWe Solutions CIC, made to up 31 March 2024.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

At the time of approval of the financial statements, the trustees have considered the charity's financial position and performance. The trustees have considered the twelve month period following approval of the accounts and have concluded that the charity appears to have sufficient cash resources to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. This is supported by an investment portfolio of £2,480,314 at 31 March 2024 which could be liquidised to fund short term working capital requirements should the need arise. Therefore the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied:

- Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies, is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.
- Grants where entitlement is conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant, upon delivery of the specified performance.
- Income receivable under contract is recognised when the contractual obligations have been fulfilled. Where the contract is still in progress, income is recognised to the extent that it has been earned.
- Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the trustees' annual report.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, fundraising and trading activities undertaken by the CIC.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the operation of the child and young person related activities and include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities. The costs also include the costs of the CIC for delivering such projects.
- Support and governance costs include the costs of central functions and those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets, associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Support and governance costs are allocated to each activity on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

Fund accounting

The group has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

All other funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for particular purposes.

The revaluation reserve represents the difference between the historical cost of fixed assets and the revalued amount included within the balance sheet.

Pension scheme

The group operates group personal pension arrangements. Contributions payable are charged to the profit and loss account in the year they are payable.

Taxation

Child Action North West is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities. CANWe Solutions CIC is a taxable entity and therefore provisions for tax are included where relevant.

VAT

As the charity is not registered for VAT all resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Homestead & Springfield Court land and buildings	-	4% straight line
Other land and buildings	-	1.8% - 6.5% straight line
Property alterations	-	4% straight line
Furniture & fittings	-	10% straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25% straight line
Equipment	-	20% straight line

There is no readily available split of the land element included within land and buildings and so the entire balance has been depreciated.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The charity has taken advantage of the transitional provisions of section 35.10 (d) of FRS 102 and has continued to include land and buildings at a combination of cost and a valuation undertaken before the implementation of the Reporting Standard.

Paragraph 16.4A of FRS102 provides an accounting policy choice for group members which rent investment property to another group entity to account for those properties at either fair value through profit or loss or by transferring them to property, plant and equipment and applying the cost model. The latter accounting policy choice has been selected.

Stocks

No account is taken of stocks of food or other consumable items at the accounting date, on the grounds that the balance is immaterial in value.

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.

Investments are re-stated at their fair value at each subsequent year end and any unrealised gains or losses are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are outlined below:

Funding on payment by result contracts

In respect of payment by result contracts, management are required to assess the stage of project delivery at the year end in order to calculate the entitlement earned. If confirmation has not been received by the commissioner on the approved project delivery then the income included within the accounts is based on management's best assessment of the delivery achieved. Any amounts earned but not yet received are included within accrued income and the converse is accounted for within deferred income in order to ensure that the funding is recognised in the same accounting period as the related services are provided.

Impairment of tangible fixed assets

At each reporting date the trustees are required to assess whether there is any indication of impairment. This is done with reference to third party valuations, if obtained during the period. If not, impairment indicators are considered with reference to the estimated value in use and the assets' future service potential to the charity's beneficiaries.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiary, CANWe Solutions CIC.

Total incoming resources for the charity alone are £6,449,466 (2023: £5,755,664) and the net decrease in funds for the year is £92,580 (2023: decrease of £550,405).

4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Other donations	68,339	-	68,339	51,637
	68,339	-	68,339	51,637

Income from donations and legacies totalled £51,637 (2022: £51,747) all of which was unrestricted in nature in both the current and previous year.

5 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Care Services	2,137,329	-	2,137,329	1,799,169
Youth and Community Support	120,574	28,500	149,074	120,448
Family Wellbeing:				
Family Support	2,941,610	12,711	2,954,321	2,800,260
Youth Justice	1,055,147	-	1,055,147	886,332
Adult Community Services	133,011	-	133,011	227,981
	6,387,671	41,211	6,428,882	5,834,190

Prior year incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Care Services	1,799,169	-	1,799,169	2,163,382
Youth and Community Support	120,448	-	120,448	95,786
Family Wellbeing:				
Family Support	2,797,971	2,289	2,800,260	2,980,139
Youth Justice	886,332	-	886,332	699,043
Adult Community Services	227,981	-	227,981	230,203
	5,831,901	2,289	5,834,190	6,168,553

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Income from listed investments	40,922	-	40,922	37,042
	40,922	-	40,922	37,042

Investment income totalled £40,922 (2023: £37,042), all of which was unrestricted in nature in both the current and previous year.

7 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	28,494	-	28,494	14,076
Other grant income received	-	-	-	22,000
	28,494	-	28,494	36,076

Other income totalled £28,494 (2023: £36,076), of which £nil (2023: £nil) was restricted and £28,494 was unrestricted (2023: £36,076).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Total resources expended

	Basis of allocation	Care Services £	Youth Engagement and Support £	Family Support £	Youth Justice £	Public Relations £	Central Management £	Adult Community Services £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Costs directly allocated to activities										
Salaries and Wages	Direct	393,174	92,153	1,313,525	698,726	103,903	469,088	91,360	3,161,929	2,916,297
National Insurance	Direct	38,691	6,898	100,597	30,020	10,573	50,068	8,200	245,047	236,614
Pension Fund Contributions	Direct	16,597	2,233	40,299	11,919	4,557	20,503	2,893	99,001	95,388
Private Medical Insurance	Direct	400	195	2,615	445	130	342	-	4,127	6,426
Subcontractor costs	Direct	42,409	-	1,080,310	34,705	-	-	4,842	1,162,266	1,149,823
Other staff costs	Direct	36,723	2,205	55,590	72,314	664	42,011	1,563	211,070	181,610
Carers costs	Direct	1,197,815	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,197,815	1,047,861
Service operating costs	Direct	5,705	1,641	3,484	4,458	5,803	2,711	772	24,574	28,938
Training costs	Direct	14,939	1,209	4,616	571	667	2,149	-	24,151	25,145
Fundraising costs	Direct	1,773	2,568	-	-	5,489	5,347	-	15,177	13,817
Support and governance costs allocated to activities										
Rent	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,437
Other property costs	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	122,989	1,928	124,917	113,687
Insurance	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	146,392	-	146,392	135,431
Office running costs	Usage	29,466	3,003	28,586	41,520	9,630	170,679	2,744	285,628	288,868
Central management	Usage	441,947	39,161	454,822	189,275	-	(1,125,205)	-	-	-
Audit fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	25,635	-	25,635	18,903
Legal fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	5,276	-	5,276	6,559
Depreciation	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	60,998	-	60,998	63,359
Loss on disposal of assets	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	1,017	127	1,144	410
Other central costs	Usage	2,607	209	-	-	-	-	-	2,816	8,786
		2,222,246	151,475	3,084,444	1,083,953	141,416	-	114,429	6,797,963	6,346,359

Total resources expended amounted to £6,797,963 (2023: £6,346,359), of which £6,746,132 was unrestricted (2023: £6,320,258) and £51,831 was restricted (2023: £26,101).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Total resources expended (continued)

Prior year total resources expended

	Basis of allocation	Care Services £	Youth Engagement and Support £	Family Support £	Youth Justice £	Public Relations £	Central Management £	Adult Community Services £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Costs directly allocated to activities										
Salaries and Wages	Direct	321,332	76,339	1,165,343	549,059	89,068	566,541	148,615	2,916,297	2,729,927
National Insurance	Direct	30,637	6,178	93,637	21,636	9,470	64,245	10,811	236,614	211,281
Pension Fund Contributions	Direct	13,281	2,053	37,990	6,319	3,856	30,017	1,872	95,388	88,249
Private Medical Insurance	Direct	976	-	358	-	-	5,092	-	6,426	6,599
Subcontractor costs	Direct	32,902	3,010	1,083,380	23,658	-	-	6,873	1,149,823	1,080,753
Other staff costs	Direct	51,566	2,154	47,655	69,589	5,196	3,227	2,223	181,610	88,014
Carers costs	Direct	1,047,861	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,047,861	1,178,397
Service operating costs	Direct	10,999	992	981	4,016	9,474	890	1,586	28,938	62,526
Training costs	Direct	9,710	305	3,419	474	368	10,869	-	25,145	19,864
Fundraising costs	Direct	1,220	-	250	16	8,331	4,000	-	13,817	1,654
Support and governance costs allocated to activities										
Rent	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,437	8,437	5,846
Other property costs	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	112,062	1,625	113,687	68,678
Insurance	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	135,431	-	135,431	163,813
Office running costs	Usage	24,988	4,403	35,590	40,276	10,041	170,340	3,230	288,868	246,846
Central management	Usage	448,722	25,032	535,938	185,275	-	(1,194,967)	-	-	10,118
Audit fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	18,903	-	18,903	15,495
Legal fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	6,559	-	6,559	5,721
Depreciation	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	61,455	1,904	63,359	63,973
Loss on disposal of assets	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	287	123	410	561
Other central costs	Usage	2,555	86	556	325	10	5,049	205	8,786	843
		1,996,749	120,552	3,005,097	900,643	135,814	-	187,504	6,346,359	6,049,158

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

8 Total resources expended (continued)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Total resources expended include:		
Fees payable to the charity's auditor (exclusive of VAT):		
Audit of the charity's annual accounts	11,375	10,350
Audit of the subsidiary's annual accounts	3,750	3,400
	<u>15,125</u>	<u>13,750</u>
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for other services (exclusive of VAT):		
Accountancy and other services	3,425	3,125
	<u>3,425</u>	<u>3,125</u>
	2024	2023
	£	£
Indemnity insurance for the committee and senior employees	13,467	10,219
Operating lease rentals		
- land and buildings	-	-
- other	2,744	4,391
Depreciation of tangible assets	60,988	63,359
Profit/(loss) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Profit/(loss) on disposal of investments	-	(58,974)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(58,974)</u>

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****9 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel**

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff Costs		
Salaries and wages	3,161,929	2,916,297
National insurance	245,047	236,614
Pension fund contributions	99,001	95,388
	<u>3,505,977</u>	<u>3,248,299</u>

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

		2024	2023
Office and management	- full time	27	23
	- part time	9	9
Others	- full time	23	26
	- part time	45	42
		<u>104</u>	<u>100</u>

The full time equivalent of the part time staff is 27 (2023: 31). In addition the charity has made use of an average of 110 (2023: 90) sessional staff during the year working differing hours as and when required. During the year the charity had available to use an average of 168 sessional staff (2023: 131). As at the year end the charity had 186 available members of staff (2023: 143).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2024	2023
£60,000 - £70,000	-	1
£80,000 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

The Trustees claimed £nil (2023: £229) in respect of reimbursement of mileage claims and other expenses.

The Board has identified the Chief Executive as being the key management personnel. The employee benefits paid in respect of key management personnel, including employer's pension contributions and employer's national insurance contributions, during the year was £117,771 (2023: £96,728).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****10 Tangible fixed assets****Charity**

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture & Fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost						
Balance at 1 April 2023						
At deemed cost on transition to FRS102	-	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
At Cost	808,943	685,752	5,181	64,488	266,442	1,830,806
	808,943	775,752	5,181	64,488	266,442	1,920,806
Additions	-	-	-	-	7,891	7,891
Disposals	-	-	-	(47,224)	-	(47,224)
Balance at 31 March 2024	808,943	775,752	5,181	17,264	274,333	1,881,473
Depreciation						
Balance at 1 April 2023	482,185	514,132	518	64,488	240,640	1,301,963
Charge for the year	32,345	16,888	516	-	11,249	60,998
Disposals	-	-	-	(47,224)	-	(47,224)
Balance at 31 March 2024	514,530	531,020	1,034	17,264	251,889	1,315,737
Net book value						
31 March 2024	294,413	244,732	4,147	-	22,444	565,736
31 March 2023	326,758	261,620	4,663	-	25,802	618,843

The original cost of the land and buildings included at a valuation of £90,000 is not known.

Group

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture & Fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost						
Balance at 1 April 2023						
At deemed cost on transition to FRS102	-	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
At Cost	808,943	685,752	5,181	122,562	298,253	1,920,691
	808,943	775,752	5,181	122,562	298,253	2,010,691
Additions	-	-	-	-	7,891	7,891
Disposals	-	-	-	(47,224)	-	(47,224)
Balance at 31 March 2024	808,943	775,752	5,181	75,338	306,144	1,971,358
Depreciation						
Balance at 1 April 2023	482,185	514,132	518	122,562	272,451	1,391,848
Charge for the year	32,345	16,888	516	-	11,249	60,998
Disposals	-	-	-	(47,224)	-	(47,224)
Balance at 31 March 2024	514,530	531,020	1,034	75,338	283,700	1,405,622
Net book value						
31 March 2024	294,413	244,732	4,147	-	22,444	565,736
31 March 2023	326,758	261,620	4,663	-	25,802	618,843

The original cost of the land and buildings included at a valuation of £90,000 is not known.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****11 Fixed Assets – Investments (Group and charity)**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Listed investments		
Market value at 1 April 2023	2,311,796	2,238,891
Additions	2,551,303	1,114,607
Disposals	(2,573,691)	(953,465)
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation at 31 March 2024	141,488	(88,237)
At 31 March 2024	2,430,896	2,311,796
Cash held within investment portfolio	49,418	83,108
Total investments	2,480,314	2,394,904
Represented by:	2024	2023
	£	£
Listed on Recognised Stock Exchange:		
Cazenove Unit Trust		
Equities: UK Equities	26,383	53,136
Europe (ex UK)	37,430	-
Global	1,093,024	1,031,576
Bonds: UK Bonds	388,492	300,894
Global	274,381	369,313
Alternative: Hedge Funds	107,603	138,545
Property		120,531
Commodities	147,377	136,721
Structured Products	50,785	56,601
Others	305,421	104,479
Cash	49,418	83,108
	2,480,314	2,394,904
Historical cost at 31 March 2024	2,276,718	2,163,953

Charity

In addition to the above investments, the charity also controls CANWe Solutions CIC, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales, which was incorporated on 18 March 2009 and of which Child Action Northwest is the sole member. The CIC commenced trading on 1 April 2009.

The principal activity of the company is that of benefiting the community by working with adults and young people suffering from worklessness, through funding from the government incentives. Its turnover for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £133,011 (2023: £227,980) and the surplus for the year then ended was £2,742 (2022: £15,577). The aggregate of its share capital and reserves at 31 March 2024 was £70,036 (2023: £67,294).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

12 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	558,922	479,663	548,101	479,663
Prepayments	583,567	622,188	574,466	555,945
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertaking	-	-	20,363	-
	<u>1,142,489</u>	<u>1,101,851</u>	<u>1,142,930</u>	<u>1,035,608</u>

13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	242,027	165,243	241,073	164,289
Accruals and deferred income	1,250,832	1,059,593	1,232,800	1,059,593
Taxation and social security	63,965	56,072	63,255	52,733
Other creditors	36,189	36,404	36,010	13,915
Amounts due to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	-	10,082
	<u>1,593,013</u>	<u>1,317,312</u>	<u>1,573,138</u>	<u>1,300,612</u>

Included within creditors falling due within one year is deferred income held by the group of £786,196 (2023: £706,282) relating to payments on account received for contracts or performance related grants. The brought forward deferred income of £706,282 was released in full during the year.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14 Analysis of unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains on investments £	At 31 March 2024 £
Charity general unrestricted funds						
Revaluation reserve - property	90,000	-	-	-	-	90,000
Fixed asset fund	528,843	-	-	(53,107)	-	475,736
General unrestricted	2,433,617	6,408,255	(6,631,703)	53,107	141,488	2,404,764
	3,052,460	6,408,255	(6,631,703)	-	141,488	2,970,500
CANWe Solutions CIC general unrestricted funds						
Fixed asset fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
General unrestricted	67,294	133,212	(130,470)	-	-	70,036
	67,294	133,212	(130,470)	-	-	70,036
Total general unrestricted funds	3,119,754	6,541,467	(6,762,173)	-	141,488	3,040,536
Total group unrestricted funds	3,119,754	6,541,467	(6,762,173)	-	141,488	3,040,536

15 Analysis of restricted funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains on investments £	At 31 March 2024 £
Charity restricted funds						
Care Services						
National Lottery Leaving Care Grant	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-	-
Young Carers						
Young Farmers	-	10,211	(10,211)	-	-	-
Young Carers Blackburn	21,767	28,500	(29,120)	-	-	21,147
Young Peoples Space Fund	20,678	-	-	-	-	20,678
Pro Contact - Contact Centre	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-	-
	52,445	41,211	(51,831)	-	-	41,825
CANWe Solutions CIC restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group restricted funds	52,445	41,211	(51,831)	-	-	41,825
Total funds - charity	3,104,905	6,449,466	(6,683,534)	-	141,488	3,012,325
Total funds - group	3,172,199	6,582,678	(6,814,004)	-	141,488	3,082,361

During the year ended 31 March 2022 the Charity was awarded a restricted grant from the National Lottery to support a Leaving Care project.

The Young Carers fund and Young Farmers funds relate to donations received for the specific purpose of supporting young carers with activities.

The Young Peoples' Space Fund is a pot of funding that was set up to develop the Young Peoples' Space at the head office building. This development was ongoing at the year end.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Analysis of funds – prior year

Analysis of unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2023 £
Charity general unrestricted funds							
Revaluation reserve - property	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Fixed asset fund	582,766	-	-	(53,923)	-	-	528,843
General unrestricted	2,906,087	5,753,575	(6,132,754)	53,923	(58,974)	(88,240)	2,433,617
	3,578,853	5,753,575	(6,132,754)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,052,460
CANWe Solutions CIC general unrestricted funds							
Fixed asset fund	1,904	-	-	(1,904)	-	-	-
General unrestricted	49,813	203,080	(187,503)	1,904	-	-	67,294
	51,717	203,080	(187,503)	-	-	-	67,294
Total general unrestricted funds	3,630,570	5,956,655	(6,320,257)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,119,754
Total group unrestricted funds	3,630,570	5,956,655	(6,320,257)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,119,754

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2023 £
Charity restricted funds							
Care Services							
Children in Need	57	-	(57)	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Leaving Care Grant	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Young Carers							
Young Farmers	-	2,289	(2,289)	-	-	-	-
Young Carers Blackburn	44,403	-	(22,636)	-	-	-	21,767
Young Peoples Space Fund	21,797	-	(1,119)	-	-	-	20,678
	76,257	2,289	(26,101)	-	-	-	52,445
CANWe Solutions CIC restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group restricted funds	76,257	2,289	(26,101)	-	-	-	52,445
Total funds - charity	3,655,110	5,755,864	(6,158,855)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,104,905
Total funds - group	3,706,827	5,958,944	(6,346,358)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,172,199

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****17 Analysis of net assets between funds**

Charity	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	565,736	565,736
Investments	-	2,480,314	2,480,314
Current assets	41,825	1,497,588	1,539,413
Current liabilities	-	(1,573,138)	(1,573,138)
Total net assets	41,825	2,970,500	3,012,325

Group	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	565,736	565,736
Investments	-	2,480,314	2,480,314
Current assets	41,825	1,587,499	1,629,324
Current liabilities	-	(1,593,013)	(1,593,013)
Total net assets	41,825	3,040,536	3,082,361

Prior year analysis of net assets between funds

Charity	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	618,843	618,843
Investments	-	2,394,904	2,394,904
Current assets	52,445	1,339,325	1,391,770
Current liabilities	-	(1,300,612)	(1,300,612)
Total net assets	52,445	3,052,460	3,104,905

Group	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	618,843	618,843
Investments	-	2,394,904	2,394,904
Current assets	52,445	1,423,319	1,475,764
Current liabilities	-	(1,317,312)	(1,317,312)
Total net assets	52,445	3,119,754	3,172,199

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

18 Financial instruments

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets				
Measured at fair value through net income/expenditure	2,480,314	2,394,904	2,480,314	2,394,904
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	558,922	479,663	548,101	479,663
	3,039,236	2,874,567	3,028,415	2,874,567
Carrying amount of financial liabilities				
Measured at amortised cost	342,181	257,719	340,338	241,019

19 Pension commitments

The group operates group personal pension arrangements. Contributions payable by the group amounted to £98,299 (2023: £95,388). Outstanding pension contributions at 31 March 2024 amounted to £15,763 (2023: £15,947).

20 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the group and the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

Charity	Land & buildings		Other assets	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	-	-	726	2,524
Within two to five years	-	-	1,089	-
Over 5 years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	1,815	2,524
Group				
	Land & buildings		Other assets	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	-	-	726	2,524
Within two to five years	-	-	1,089	-
Over 5 years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	1,815	2,524

21 Related party transactions

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption conferred by FRS 102 Section 33, in that transactions entered into between two or more members of the group are not disclosed, provided that any subsidiary which is a party to the transaction is wholly owned by such a member.

There were no related party transactions apart from any disclosed in note 9 relating to expenses paid to trustees and key management personnel remuneration.

Accounts

Company Registration No. 00820660 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity No. 222533

Child Action Northwest

Company Limited by Guarantee

Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Legal and administration details

Status: Child Action Northwest is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act 1995. Its governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees:	Mrs M Webb	Chair
	Mr A Botterill	Vice Chair
	Mr G H Fairweather	
	Mr J Comyn-Platt	
	Mr A May	Resigned 26 September 2022
	Mr J Hussain	Resigned 23 May 2022
	Mr M Roche	Resigned 27 February 2023
	Mr S Damp	
	Mr M Jameson	Resigned 27 March 2023
	Ms N Islam-Khan	Resigned 27 March 2023
	Mr N Eatwell	
	Mr M Roe	Appointed 27 June 2022
	Mr L A Baxter	Appointed 24 July 2023

Strategic Management Team:	Ms S Cotton	Chief Executive
	Mr S Chaplin	Deputy Chief Executive
	Miss R Coaker	Strategic Director of Finance and Resources
	Mr J Cobbold	Strategic Director – Business Development, Innovation and Growth

Operational Management Team:	Julie Dawkins	Registered Manager Fostering Services: Head of Service Care & Accommodation
	Joanne Lever	Head of HR
	Sue Monighan	Head of Service – Emotional Health and Wellbeing
	Adam Desai	Fostering Service Team Manager – resigned 6 th May 2022
	Huma Sheikh	Young Carers Team Leader
	Lesley Hall	Assistant Director – Family Support and Wellbeing
	Michelle Dixon	Assistant Director – Criminal Justice and Social Inclusion
	Hannah Wilson	Head of Service – ProContact

Company Number: 00820660

Registered Charity Number: 222533

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Legal and administration details (continued)

Registered Office:	The Homestead Whalley Road Wilpshire Blackburn BB1 9LL	Regional Office:	4b Springfield Court Summerfield Road Off Manchester Road Bolton BL3 2NT
		Regional Office:	CANWe Solutions CIC Dixon House Whalley Road Wilpshire Blackburn BB1 9LL
Solicitors:	Forbes Solicitors Rutherford House 4 Wellington Street (St Johns) Blackburn BB1 8DD	Auditors:	MHA Moore and Smalley Statutory Auditors Chartered Accountants Richard House 9 Winckley Square Preston PR1 3HP

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Structure governance and management

This is the annual report of the Trustees for Child Action Northwest for the financial year ending 31 March 2023, incorporating Child Action Northwest and its subsidiary company CANWe Solutions CIC.

Child Action Northwest (CANW) is a registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum of Articles of Association. The members of the Committee are therefore Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the Company.

The Board of Trustees has appointed two Trustees as Director's for the CIC to represent the interests of the Charity's Trustees. An independent Director also sits on the CIC board.

The current Trustees are listed on page 1. The Chairman and Treasurer are Honorary Officers. The Honorary Officers are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman and Treasurer are ex-officio members of the committee. One third of the remaining Trustees who are not Honorary Officers are elected annually by the members of the company. One new Trustee has been appointed over the year and has undertaken an induction programme.

To facilitate their responsibilities, the Trustees have agreed a rolling agenda. In addition, a finance committee has met during the year, to be replaced at the latter end of the year by full Senior Leadership team representation at the beginning of every board meeting.

The board has nominated a Trustee to take the lead on Safeguarding and there are quarterly meetings with the lead staff responsible for Operational Safeguarding to ensure the Charity has robust safeguarding controls in place. The Board reviews safeguarding arrangements on an annual basis.

To further its work, the Board of Trustees has a treasurer and has arrangements in place to oversee the Charity's investments and any proposed service development that requires financial support.

The Safeguarding Governance meetings and the Finance and Resources meetings report back to the Trustee Board.

Strategic Directors provide a monthly report to the Board of Trustees, and the Operational Director for the CIC provides a quarterly report on its performance.

A 'Skills, Experience and Governance' audit is undertaken each year with the Board and any skill gaps in the Board are identified. This process enables the identification of any developmental needs within the board so that the appropriate training or other opportunities can be identified throughout the year; this includes an annual team building and training event. The audit also informs recruitment to the board, enabling it to be focussed on meeting any skill gaps identified. Recruitment to the Board is via advertising through various media and networks, completion of an application form and interview by the Chair with the CEO. If this stage is successful, then interested members are invited to observe a Board meeting.

A governance review is undertaken annually led by the Chair of the Board and recommendations made to ensure that the board follows ethical guidance, is representative of the diverse communities we operate within and receives representation from young people.

Newly appointed Trustees are invited to attend the CANW induction day for new staff and are provided with an information pack which includes: -

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- Child Action Northwest's mission statement
- History of Child Action Northwest
- Introduction to the Charity's services
- Trustees role description
- Payment and expenses
- Contact details of Trustees and Managers
- Responsibilities of Trustees
- Training and development
- Code of conduct
- Terms of reference for Pre-Trustees Meeting and Reserves Management Meeting
- Fundraising (Creative Partnerships)

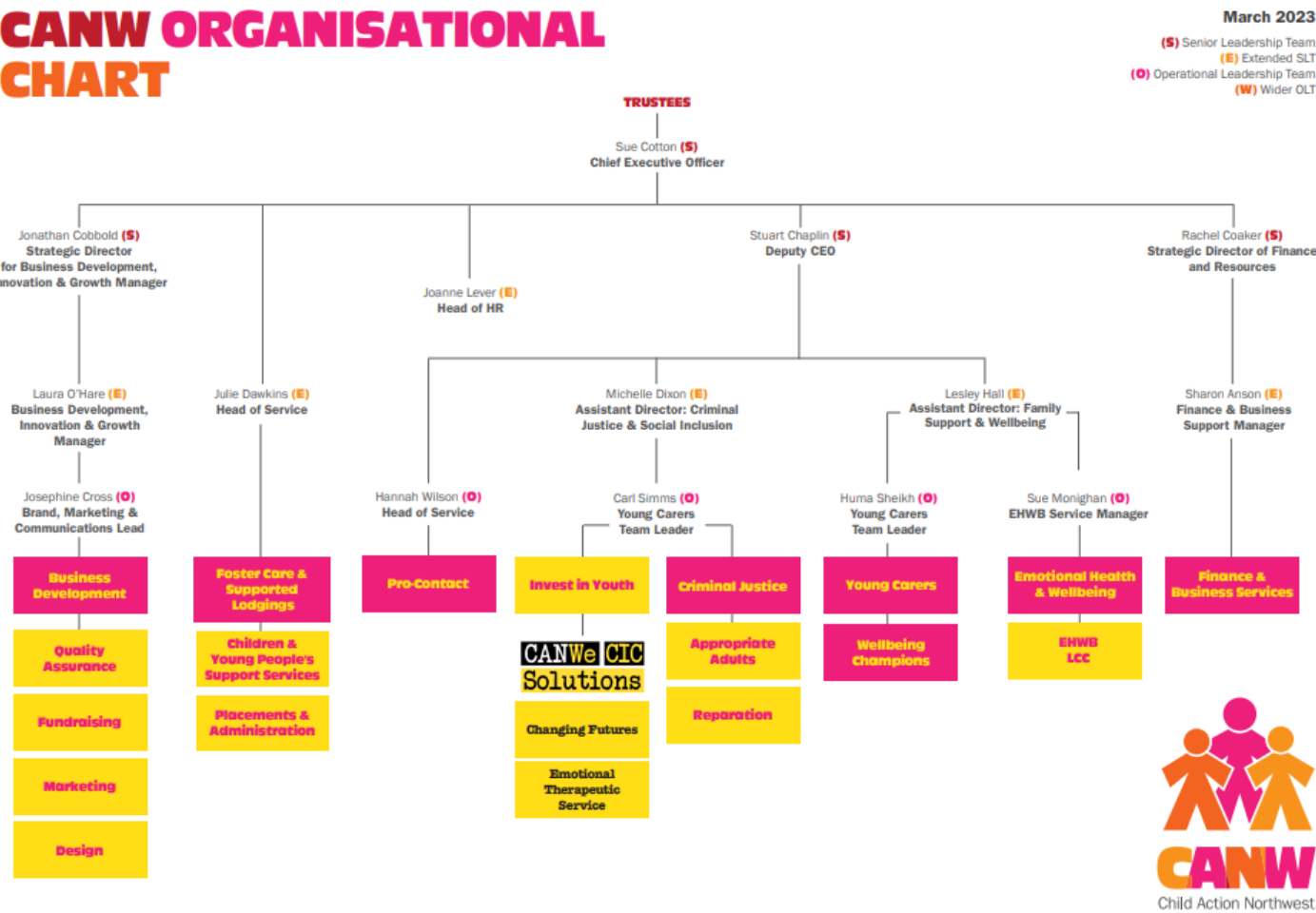
In addition, all Trustees visit the Charity's projects as part of their induction, meet with key members of the Senior Manager Team, complete a Disclosure and Barring application, sign and agree to the Trustee Code of Conduct and sign a declaration of eligibility to act as a Trustee. They also receive, on a bi-monthly basis, a copy of Governance Magazine to keep them informed on trustee and governance matters, and receive a copy of the Good Trustee Guide published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). During this past year remote technology has been used to ensure that induction and service visits can be undertaken remotely.

The organisational structure chart is provided below:

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The Board approve and monitor the strategic plan and business plan of Child Action Northwest and during the year the Board of Trustees, along with the Chief Executive, review the strategic direction of the Charity, taking into account the type of risk faced by it and the likelihood that risks may materialise. The operational and financial risks, once assessed, are monitored through a number of internal management systems including monthly senior managers' meetings, quarterly finance meetings and monthly reports to the Trustee Board. A scheme of delegation is in place to ensure clarity of the financial decision-making process.

The Trustee Board undertook a full governance review against Charity Commission guidance and standards during 2021. A quality framework was agreed, following the Trusted Charity methodology, and an action plan is in place with a three-year rolling review programme in place. The Trusted Charity quality review is planned for 2023. Training has been provided for the Trustee Board on aspects of governance and constructive challenge over the year.

The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the Board and reviewed on an annual basis. It is benchmarked against the NJC (National Joint Council) payscales and has been benchmarked against other similar organisations within the voluntary sector. The Chair of the Board meets regularly with the CEO, to undertake appraisal and to monitor objectives set by the Board. A closed meeting is held annually by the Board to review the performance of the CEO against these objectives. The pay of the Senior Management team is also reviewed against the NJC payscale and external benchmarking. The CEO undertakes an annual appraisal and regular supervision of the Management Team and discusses performance of the operational team with the Chair.

Stakeholder events have been held over the year where the trustees and staff have the opportunity to meet a range of stakeholders including foster carers, other charities and organisations who have an interest in Child Action Northwest. In addition, the operational managers are involved in several strategic planning groups across the region where there is an opportunity to contribute to developments that will be positive for its beneficiaries. A number of partnership arrangements are in place, supported by a Memorandum of Understanding, where direct services are delivered in line with the charitable objects. Over the past year, many of the external meetings have continued to be held remotely as it has been found to be an effective use of time. However key meetings have resumed to face to face following the lifting of all Covid 19 restrictions over the year.

The Board resumed Face to Face meetings in April 2022 with the opportunity for members to join remotely if circumstances prevented attendance physically. The Board has approved and reviewed the risk management processes to enable a return to 'hybrid' working. Research and consultation undertaken during the Covid 19 pandemic has provided organisational learning that time efficiencies could be made for some meeting attendance and the use of resources reduced for some meetings to remain virtual. Staff surveys have identified that hybrid working (attending office bases on certain days, not full time) were positive in creating and supporting a work life balance and allowed reduction of unnecessary travel to office bases.

2 Objectives and activities

Child Action Northwest operates primarily in the Northwest of England, predominantly in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and surrounding area, including Cheshire East and Cumbria. For specific services the geographical delivery covers a wider footprint across the north and west of England. The Charity provides a broad range of services to support children, families and vulnerable adults, currently the work with vulnerable adults is primarily in the Criminal Justice service the Charity is actively reviewing opportunities to provide additional services where there is identified need. The region of operations is very diverse and includes areas of deprivation alongside affluent and prosperous areas. Across the region there is a general diversity within the population and the Charity monitors service delivery to ensure it is representative of the communities it serves.

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The charitable objects of Child Action Northwest are:

- To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons and the parents of such children and young persons who are in need of care and attention including (but not limited to) children and young persons involved in the provision of care for others;
- To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons who are disabled and in need of care and attention and the parents of such children and young persons;
- To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons who have learning difficulties and the parents of such children and young persons;
- To provide support, care and supervision for young persons and for mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable persons of any age arrested or being questioned by the police or any other prosecuting authority, remanded on bail by the police or a court or otherwise at risk of being remanded in custody including but not limited to by operation of a service providing appropriate adults to accompany such persons where provided for by law.
- To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Further to the Objects Child Action Northwest has the following powers;

- Provide homes according to the needs of any such children or young persons;
- Establish maintain and operate assisted community homes within the provision of the Children Act 1989 in accordance with the provisions of an Instrument of Management made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Health;
- Provide or assist in the provision of appropriate schooling and tuition and training for employment;
- Provide establish and maintain workshops, training, establishment camps, recreation grounds, farms and gardens.
- Promote, organise or otherwise be involved in the provision of foster care to children and young persons.

In pursuance of these objects CANW provides a range of services under the following headings:

- **Care & Accommodation** - Provide Foster Care and Supported Lodgings placements for children and young people who are unable to live within their own family network and provide leaving care support for young people who have been looked after by the Local Authority.
- **Targeted Early Support and Specialist Services (TESS)** - Provide a range of services in the community to support children, young people and families in partnership with a number of organisations including Schools, Youth Offending Teams, Local Authority Children's Services, Health and the Police. To provide contact arrangements and advice and support for children whose families are separating.

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- **Central Support Services** - Supply Finance, Administration, Human Resource, Marketing and Business Development, Training and Development Services for staff, carers and volunteers, and Corporate Partnership, Fundraising and Communications to support the charity's work.

Our Mission, Vision and Value statements drive our work, we are ambitious for the children and families we work with. Over the year we have reviewed and updated our Mission and Vision statements. We aim to inspire lives and change futures by looking beyond the obvious to understand and provide the support individuals need to reach their potential.

Mission

The inequality that exists up and down the country means that many communities face complex challenges - simply getting by is tough. Our mission is to support children, adults and families across the country, ensuring that when life presents difficult circumstances, we're there every step of the way to make sure they get the support they need. Inspiring lives, changing futures. Inspiring lives, changing futures.

Vision

Our vision is that everyone gets the support they need, when they need it, to navigate the challenges they face in their day-to-day life.

Values

- **Never Give up** - We have belief in the potential of ourselves and those we support and will do all we can to promote the ability in every individual for positive growth and change.
- **Caring** - We will always demonstrate kindness, consideration and concern for those around us.
- **Empowerment** - We will ensure that those we support and engage with are able to take more control of what happens in their lives and to become stronger, more independent and gain confidence.

Our values were agreed following consultation with the staff team, trustees and stakeholders, they inform our code of conduct and standards of behaviour expected across the charity. They are integral to our recruitment framework.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association permits the Board of Trustees to make financial investments of funds not immediately required for meeting the objectives of the organisation. In addition, the Articles of Association permits the Board of Trustees to make decisions on property owned, leased or rented by the Charity to further benefit its aims and objects.

Those funds not immediately required are placed in investments, securities or property as may be thought appropriate, subject to any legal requirements. The Charity's investments have been acquired in accordance with this power. There are clear investment and reserve policies in place and a sub group reports to the Trustee Board all matters in relation to investment or property.

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Our People

At Child Action Northwest we recognise that our dedicated staff and volunteers are our most valuable asset. As of 31 March 2023, we employed a total of 97 permanent staff members and 131 sessional workers, bringing the total workforce of the Charity to 228 staff.

The pandemic has continued to further impact upon volunteering at CANW and at the end of March 2023 we had 12 volunteers registered within 3 service areas in CANW, including Trustees. This amounted to a total of 838.33 volunteer hours from April 2022 – March 2023. If this contribution is equated to pay at the minimum wage of £9.50 per hour the financial value of this support to CANW is £7964.14.

Over the last 12 months the HR team have continued to fully support the staff team, and further refined processes in relation to hybrid working. Office working is now underway with a minimum expectation of office-based one to two days per week. Departments, teams and individual staff members have adapted well to the new way of working post-Covid and managers' report no issues with productivity as a result of less 'contact time' with staff. Hybrid working has paved the way for creativity and innovation for departments and the wider organisations. Remote events are now scheduled in regularly to enable better cascading of information and visibility of the Senior Leadership Team. Examples of such meetings are monthly whole org, CANW Catch Ups and monthly, Meet the CEO sessions for onboarders.

PeopleHR, the new HR system, was rolled out from April 2022 and has been implemented with minimal teething problems. The system has been received positively by staff and has enabled HR to move away from many manual processes, including payroll, with easy access to reports and information. Staff have a range of self-service options available to them and managers are able to manage their own recruitment, with automated sign off processes in place to ensure compliance.

During 22-23, HR have worked on updating the benefits and compensation package provided to staff. This included registering to become a Real Living Wage provider, to be implemented from April 2023. A full employee assistance programme, Unum Help@hand, has been implemented for all staff offering such services as counselling sessions, physiotherapy appointments and finance, lifestyle and wellbeing advice. BenefitsHub was also rolled out, offering discounted rates on shopping and recreational activities. HR have also been busy setting up the salary sacrifice Electric Vehicle scheme and also, Medicash –offering cashback for various health related appointments - for eligible members of staff.

3 Our Community Interest Company Canwe Solutions

The Community Interest Company (CIC) is a trading arm of CANW whose surpluses are gift aided to the Charity to support its charitable work.

The Articles state;

The Company's object is to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to:

- operate as a social enterprise in conjunction with Child Action Northwest (Company number 00820660) which itself exists to meet the objects listed above;

To further meet the needs of the community the CIC will develop and provide a range of training, consultancy and contract services to the public and private sectors;

- provide work-based learning for young people in the North West;
- provide accredited training for young people in the North West;

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- provide consultancy and training to other community interest and public benefit bodies to improve the effectiveness of their activities;
- obtain funding through commissions, contracts and (where appropriate) development grants with the purpose of generating income from its services to support the charity named in its Articles of Association and its work among the communities in the North West;
- deliver a range of services in furtherance of these objects and of the objects of the charity named in its Articles of Association, re-investing its surpluses, either directly in the social enterprise itself or in the charity named in its Articles of Association, for the benefit of young people throughout the North West.

4 Our Objectives and Achievements for 2022-23

Child Action Northwest are one year into delivering a three-year strategy from 2022-2025 based on the following key areas.

Growing our Impact and Innovation – Address the increase in the need for our services through growth and operational excellence, delivering services that make a positive difference to life chances and by increasing the numbers of children and families accessing our services. We will identify and meet gaps in support needs to ensure those who need our services are able to access them in a timely manner.

Operational Excellence – That delivers the right support at the right time with the right outcome.

Sustainability – A stable, well governed and financially sustainable organisation that looks after its people and lives up to its values.

Speak up and Speak out – We will speak up and speak out about the inequities that affect the people we support.

The challenging operating environment over the last 12 months of increased need and reduced capacity, the impact of emerging from Covid 19 restrictions and the loss of the financial support provided, alongside the cost-of-living crisis has contributed to a significant end of year deficit position, with the further impact of loss of investment value to the uncertainty across world markets indicating that this level of challenge is likely to continue.

The group's incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2023 amounted to £5,958,945 and outgoing resources amounted to £6,346,359. The deficit reported during the year was £534,628 which included net realised and unrealised losses on investments of £147,214 (excluding dividend and other investment income). The operating deficit for the year was £387,414. The plan for the year was a deficit plan due the full year effect of the investment put into business development in 2021-22 and the challenges in continuing to deliver large, commissioned contracts particularly with the emerging cost of living crisis. This deficit plan was set by the Board in the context of the three to five year plan which would include steps to bring the financial position back to an underlying breakeven position. Moving into 2023/24, the board have agreed a reduced end of year deficit of 280k with a longer-term plan to move to break even and surplus position on a phased basis.

Achievements

- Over the course of 2022/23 services across Child Action Northwest supported well in excess 15,000 children, young people and their families across the North-West and beyond.
- We continued to deliver outstanding Appropriate Adult support across Lancashire, Cumbria, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Durham and were success in our bid to renew our contract across Greater Manchester.
- We also consolidated and strengthened the support we offer to the community across Blackburn with Darwen, successfully bidding to renew our Statutory Reparation contract and rolling out a number of new programmes across the borough. This includes our Blackburn with Darwen Wellbeing Champions programme.

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- We were successful with a range of funding applications to delivery new programmes of support. This includes funding from the Dulverton Trust to develop a programme to support the emotional health and wellbeing of Young Farmers across the region, National Lottery Funding to deliver our Break the Cycle programme to young people released from police custody, and much more.
- Satisfaction levels were consistently high across all of our services with participants, commissioners and sub-contractors all reporting high levels of appreciation for our work. For instance, over 95% of custody staff (from over 200 responses) report that a) our Appropriate Adults are knowledgeable, b) our Appropriate Adults meet their expectations.
- Our Emotional Health and Wellbeing team also achieved positive outcomes for young people over the year with: 100% young people feeling listened to by their worker, 98% young people reporting a better understanding of Mental Health after the sessions, 99% of young people aged 4-11 said seeing a CANW practitioner helped them, 98% of parents would recommend CANW services to other people, 100% of referrers said they would use the CANW service again. These positive results were mirrored across our Young Carer team with 100% of young people reporting that the service had made a positive contribution to their caring role and that they were happy with the support received.
- Our Care and Accommodation team continued to work hard to support young people into suitable homes and provide ongoing support to both the young people and families they live with. We ended the year with 36 registered foster families (63 carers), including 4 new carers, and 41 young people in placements.
- Our ProContact team worked with over 1,000 parents across their Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP) and Improving Child and Family Arrangements (ICFA). Despite the challenging nature of this work those who accessed the support of our team reported high levels of satisfaction, with our team rated on average 4.8/5 in terms of quality and our contact sessions rated 4.3/5. Pleasingly, 96% of parents who accessed our SPIP service said the sessions had helped them to develop their understanding of what their children need following parental separation.
- Operationally we have implemented a number of important systems to help the organisation to function more effectively, including SAGE (Finance System), PeopleHR, and HubSpot (CRM System).
- Following the challenges of Covid-19, 2022/23 saw the Business Development team start delivering a calendar of events for the first time in a number of years. The 2022 Orphanage Cup was a particular highlight as we saw 40 teams taking part, as was the Festive Fayre in early December that gave staff, their families and the local community the chance to come together at our Wiltshire Head Office and celebrate the start of the festive period.

5 Our Services

Our Services are delivered through our Care and Accommodation services which focuses upon children who are or have been looked after by the Local Authority, and our Targeted Early Support Services (TESS), for children, families and disadvantaged adults living in the community.

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5.1 Care and Accommodation

Description of Service

The Care & Accommodation service comprises of a registered fostering service, a leaving care service and supported lodgings provision. The foster care service has been running for over 20 years and provides good quality foster homes for all the local authorities across the North West of England who ensure a sufficiency of placements for the children in their care. The service has up to 50 children living in its foster homes and operates a number of different fostering schemes to meet the varying needs of children. The 'step-down' fostering scheme operates for those young people who have been in residential care or who are on the cusp of residential care and this service is provided for young people across the region. The Opening Doors project provides therapeutic foster placements for young people with complex emotional needs across the region. In addition, the service provides short term and long-term foster homes for single children and sibling groups, plus a specialist provision for children with disabilities. The service has one Supported Lodging host who provides care for children moving on into independent living.

We work with young people from 0 to 18 years within the fostering service and up to age 25 in Supported Lodgings with the aim of providing stable home environments and support which enables young people to meet their potential and stay connected to the significant people in their lives. We are an inclusive service and tailor our care offers to meet the needs of the young people to help promote their identity and potential.

The service was inspected by Ofsted in January of 2020 and received an outcome of good across all areas with a judgement of Good.

The service offers an enhanced 'Leaving Care' service through grant funding that provides support and engages with young people and foster carers who are beginning to work towards independence. Further work is planned in developing this service over the next year.

Achievements over 2022-2023

Over the last 12 months the service has reviewed salaries and the organisation has committed to paying the Living Wage to ensure that the charity remains an attractive and viable place to work. The service delivers training days, support and celebration events and face to face fostering panels which have assisted in keeping foster carers and staff connected and the Team CANW identity alive.

At the beginning of the year the service set key priorities for the growth and development of the service:

- **To continue to grow the service by the recruitment of new foster carers and the development of the service within geographic areas** - Over the last year 4 new foster carers were approved, bringing additional skills to the agency.
- **To continue to develop tailored support and provision to retain our current foster carers** - During the year, 5 carers left the service. Two carers retired and two families experienced changes in their personal circumstances with one carer moving to a closer agency in Cumbria. This meant that at the end of March 2023 we had 36 fostering households and 1 Supported Lodging household.

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- **Develop therapeutic fostering support that meets the assessed needs of the child** - During the year we worked closely with an independent Consultant Clinical Psychologist. Consultation and planning with foster carers and staff saw the creation of a model of therapeutic intervention which offered monthly peer learning workshops and 1-1 sessions for those carers offering placements to children with more complex emotional needs.
- **Consult with children, young people and families to drive service delivery and development** - The Carers WhatsApp group and Wednesday morning catch ups were successful during the year, enabling foster carers forming connections with other carers across a wider geographical spread. This enabled the development of group support connected to Autism and a platform to share knowledge and gain support. The young people's activities resumed over the year and the November 'Board of Trustees' takeover made a welcomed return, where young people had the opportunity to share what is important to them and in return, they received a continued commitment from the board to develop the outdoor space.

Placements of young people.

During the year 2022-23, the numbers of children benefiting from living in a fostering placement increased steadily with the initial 37 children increasing to 40 at the end of the year. 66 children have been cared for over the course of the year, an increase from the 63 children looked after in 2021-22.

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care (May 2022) note:

"We do not have enough foster carers. Over the last six years there has been a 4% increase in the number of approved foster carers, whilst the number of children living in foster care has increased by 11% over the same period (Ofsted, 2021b).⁷⁶ Even though there are more approved foster carers than there are children in foster care, there are significant challenges in matching these foster families"

The service experienced 22 placement endings over the year, a decrease from the 24 endings experienced in 2021-22, with just 3 children experiencing unplanned endings.

Foster carers

The engagement and involvement of foster carers has developed over the year, with active involvement in recruitment and promotion with involvement in a montage of videos aimed at informing and encouraging prospective new carers. The chief executive, to ensure that foster carers had their voice heard, began to undertake monthly home visits to acknowledge the need for the service to work together to overcome the staffing challenges. The feedback from these meetings suggests that the carers have united and are happy with the decision-making process and direction of the service.

45 enquiries were received in 2022-23, with 6 progressing through to an application.

No complaints have been raised by foster carers this year and feedback to date demonstrates that they feel listened to and well supported.

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Service Feedback

Over the year we have received positive feedback from many people involved in the service:

Foster Carers - "We are 1000% happy with CANW and we know CANW is always there for us as we are for CANW. We confidently can say we gain experience daily and not only are we grateful for all the support and training, we are grateful and thankful to be a part of the amazing team."

"The support groups, Whatsapp group and fostering team as a support system is really helpful, positive and keeps us informed, motivated and feeling valued."

LA Social Workers - "During this review period, it is evident R & A go above and beyond to ensure A's experience's similar opportunities as his peers."

"During visits and A's participation in reviews it has been great to see A happy and proud of his progress, which is as a result of the high level of care afforded. It is evident R & A are child centred and it is evident A is central to their practice. Thank you for all your dedication and hard work, it is appreciated."

"Really good communication"

"Always share information in a timely manner"

"No concerns with your service"

Education Provider - "M and D are very lucky to have A and S, there is no doubt that this should be a long-term placement. The children are thriving in their care."

Young person - "My foster carers are always there when I need to talk, and they give me good advice"

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5.2 Targeted Early Support and Specialist Services (TESS)

TESS services provide support to children, families and communities across Blackburn, Lancashire, Cumbria and Greater Manchester. The Appropriate Adult service is also delivered in County Durham. A wide range of services are provided including Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Family Support, Criminal Justice, Youth Support and Social Inclusion, and support in Employment and Education. The service is delivered under the management of a Strategic Director, with Service Managers based in the localities.

The service area raises income primarily through providing commissioned services on behalf of the Local Authority and grant funding.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 the following services were provided:

5.3 ProContact

ProContact enables contact and reduces parental conflict. Families are usually in private court proceedings and have had a breakdown in child arrangements. ProContact opened in 1999 and joined CANW in 2014. Improving Child and Family Arrangements (ICFA) and Contact Services support families with sustainable child arrangements. ICFA makes recommendations to help families move forward. Contact Services often re-establishes contact. Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP) aims to improve co-parenting. ICFA operates across the North and West with nine subcontractors. SPIP operates across Cumbria, Lancashire, and part of Greater Manchester with three subcontractors. Contact Services operates from CANW Bolton and CANW Wiltshire.

ProContact works with children of all ages and parents. ProContact works with all genders and ethnicities.

The service delivered two contracts with Cafcass to deliver the Improving Child and Family Arrangements Service (ICFA) in the North and West of England over the year. ICFA is a service to help families agree safe, beneficial, and sustainable 'spending time with' arrangements when they are finding it difficult to do so on their own. The ICFA work is short term, and a referral can only be made by Cafcass and if it is court ordered. The ICFA includes 9 sub-contracted partners who have all been supported in their practice to achieve outcomes for children.

The ICFA programme aims:

- To reduce barriers and resistance to agreeing arrangements and manage any risks so that these are safe.
- To promote positive communication within families.
- To ensure children's wishes and feelings are heard and considered.
- To help families agree a Parenting Plan to avoid future issues arising.

ICFA North covers working with families in Cumbria, Darlington, Durham, Humberside, Lancashire, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Teesside, Tyneside, West Yorkshire, York.

ICFA West covers working with families in Birmingham, the Black Country, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Herefordshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

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Service achievements and outcomes 2022-2023

- ICFA North – we had 239 referrals and subcontractors had 160 referrals.
- ICFA North (CANW) worked with 262 families
- ICFA West – we had 230 referrals and subcontractors had 244 referrals.
- ICFA West (CANW) - worked with 249 families

Outcomes and Impact of the Service

- ICFA North and ICFA West, CANW and Subcontractors - 59% of parents said their parenting plan had improved compared to a national score of 47%.
- ICFA North and ICFA West, CANW and Subcontractors - 70% of parents said the communication had improved compared to a national score of 57%.
- ICFA North and ICFA West, CANW and Subcontractors - 56% of parents said their focus on their child's needs, wishes and feeling had improved compared to a national score of 48%.

Feedback and Quotes

- ICFA North Referrer – “*STAFF* pulled out all the stops in getting the parents to engage and in developing a plan”.
- ICFA West Referrer – “The assessment was thorough, and the outcome was positive. Both parents gave positive feedback about the ICFA service”.
- ICFA West quote from child - “The places where we met were perfect.”
- ICFA West quote from adult - “It was very helpful and has helped move things on to gain a better relationship with my daughter. Staff who was involved in the case was very helpful hard working and understanding thank you very much”
- ICFA North quote from parent - “We met over video call and then met face to face at a park where contact was taking place. I felt so at ease and reassured that my daughter would feel safe and comfortable with seeing her father for the first time in 3 years.”

The Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP)

Is a service to help separated parents, or those who have responsibility for children, to better understand and respond differently to conflict and communication. The 4-hour programme encourages separated parents to behave in the best interests of their children and to become clearer about what their children need most from them. The programme also equips parents with skills to take steps for themselves; this may include developing agreements that do not need court intervention. Most parents who have attended a SPIP found the programme positive, and all wished that they had attended much earlier.

SPIP took place across Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester and benefitted hundreds of children by their parent's attendance.

Service Achievements

- SPIP – we worked with 794 parents and subcontractors worked with 351 parents.
- SPIP – we delivered 3 face to face sessions within the reporting period to help parents with accessibility issues

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Outcomes and Impact of the Service

The service has been able to provide positive outcomes across its delivery areas:

- SPIP - 96% of parents who attended SPIP with CANW said they learnt things on SPIP that may help their understanding of what children need after their parents separate.
- 93% of parents who attended SPIP said that they had learnt ways to improve their co-parenting relationship.
- 96% of parents who attended SPIP said that they had improved their understanding of what children need after their parents separate?
- SPIP - 97% of parents rated the trainer that ran the SPIP with CANW as 4 or 5 out of 5
- SPIP 91% of parents said that attending SPIP said that by attending the programme there would be a positive impact on their family, community and wider society.
- 88% of children answered yes to – Now that you have been to Pro Contact, CANW, do you think your parents are working together better?

Feedback and quotes

- Quote from parent - *My experience was a positive one and the course was very insightful, and I learnt a lot from it and can take away a lot of positive things that can lead to better way of dealing with situations that my occur whilst co-parenting.*
- Quote from parent – *Course was informative and helped a lot*
- Quote from parent – *The trainer was brilliant. They helped us understand how the way we were was having a negative impact on the children*

Contact Services

Contact Services has three services areas. Supervised Contact is delivered in CANW Bolton and CANW Wilshire and usually supports families who are in private law proceedings but also has referrals from Children's Social Care for out of area public law cases. Indirect Contact supports families across the country who require letterbox support where parents write to children, and we act as the third party to pass these on. Video contact supports families across the country who need support with having video calls and we supervise this contact.

Service Achievements

- We worked with 16 families in CANW Wilshire providing contact services to 19 children and young people
- We worked with 91 families in CANW Bolton providing contact services to 103 children and young people

Outcomes and impact from the service

- How would you rate the supervised contact sessions? Parents rated this 4.2 out of 5
- Do you think the sessions have helped? Parents rated this as 4.3 out of 5

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Ambition for the coming year

We will continue to develop the ICFA service. We will mobilise the Planning together for Children service (replaces SPIP). We will grow the Contact Services offer with financially viable services.

- To ensure ICFA is delivered with a financially sustainable envelope
- To secure ICFA contract extension for year 4
- To develop appropriate feedback mechanisms to capture the voice of the child
- To secure 1 LA contact service contract
- To effectively mobilise and deliver PTC, ensuring operational quality and financial efficiency

To develop our contact services offer including supported contact and supported handover

5.4 CANW Young Carers Service

About the Service

Child Action Northwest's Young Carers Service supports young carers aged 5-18. Young carers are children and young people who are looking after a parent or sibling with an illness or disability, mental health problems or alcohol/substance misuse issues. Our aim is to look at how to reduce a Young Carers caring role; signposting families to appropriate services; moving Young Carers onto Universal Services once their intervention is complete.

CANW is commissioned to deliver the young carers service in Blackburn with Darwen.

According to the last Census, there were an estimated 1543 Young Carers in BwD alone. Our aim is to continue to find these hidden Young Carers in order to provide support to them and their families.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of Young Carers referrals over the last year. With the Young Carers school work, we are confident that Young Carers can be found sooner so that earlier interventions can be offered in order that Young Carers and their families receive the appropriate support at the right time.

Service achievements

The service has continued to see an increased need for support for Young Carers and their families. Over a 12-month period:

- 147 new referrals, with 36 referrals received on average each Quarter.
- 294 Young Carers registered within our service.
- 179 Young Carers - White British, 98 families from a Black or Minority Ethnic Background, with an additional 17 families from other groups.
- 23 young Carers were involved in the infant 'Superstars' group – aged 5-7
- 229 young carers were aged 8-15 years
- 42 young adult carers (YAC) were aged 16-18 years
- 127 were male and 167 were female
- A face to face 8-week Infant Young Carers Programme in place for those aged 5-7 – 18 sessions
- A face to face 10-week Young Carers Programme in place for those aged 8-15. 42 sessions were held across the year for this cohort;
- Regular social events were held for the 'Young Adult Carers' aged 16-18 which included monthly pizza night catch ups, walk and talks in the park, trips out to venues such as the Bowling, etc;
- Provision of a 3- or 6-week therapeutic programme within school clusters – 36 cyp accessed sessions
- The service's Therapeutic Practitioner has worked alongside the Young Carers Schools Link Worker to support all 87 schools across Blackburn with Darwen in order to roll out the Young Carers in School (YCiS) programme

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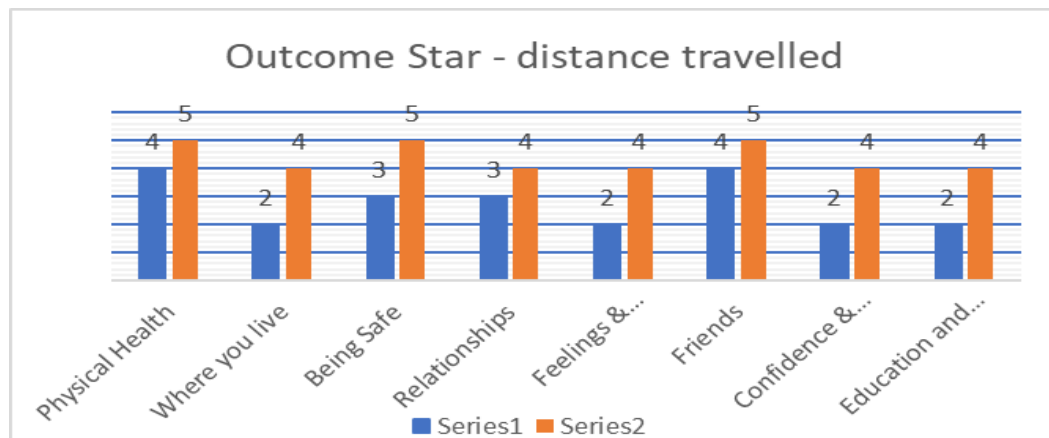
Outcomes and Impact

- 100% of those that we supported were in some form of education, training or employment.
- 100% of those that attended our 8 or 10-week programmes stated that their awareness of keeping safe had increased through the workshops on First Aid and Fire Safety, etc;
- 100% of those that attended our 8 or 10-week programmes stated that their awareness of keeping healthy had increased through the workshops;
- 98% of those we supported said they felt more confident in their caring role
- 100% said they knew where to turn to for help when required

The service has been able to demonstrate wider impact through its involvement with The Children's Society Young Carers programme that is providing additional support and training in the Blackburn with Darwen area and through partnership work with Voluntary Sector partners.

We have helped Young Carers tackle the cost of living with the Vodafone UK campaign #everyoneconnected to reduce digital poverty in the UK. Our Young Carers were donated SIM cards that allowed free data, phone calls and text messages for 6 months. This initiative has helped to tackle digital exclusion, supporting those experiencing financial hardship due to the rising cost of living.

Following YC being referred into our Young Carers Service, here are their results following our intervention:



We have supported young carers to share their voice to facilitate change in local and national initiatives, for example;

The Children's Society:

The BwD YC Service was one of 5 Young Carers services chosen to partake in Phase 2 of the Co-Op funding Project via The Children's Society. This phase involved developing a National Participation Young Carers Group, with the focus on reducing isolation and loneliness amongst young carers and how we could better identify and support those young carers.

The three areas that were suggested by the Young Carers who attended the Participation group were:

1. Young Carers' mental well being
2. Young Carers and school
3. Young Carers and doctors/health professionals

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Feedback and quotes

When asked: how has the Eric Wright Community Trust helped you with therapeutic support, one Young Carer wrote:

'N has really helped me a lot with the therapy sessions she has provided me with. This has helped with dealing with stress levels during school hours and also helping cope at home, as well N has done an amazing job helping me by coming into school and sitting with me and talking to me and making me feel better. I always looked forward to seeing N as she helped me talk things through. I really appreciated her support, thanks N!'

BBC Radio Lancashire Make a Difference awards:

Our Young Carer, Mehak, aged 15, was awarded BBC Radio Lancashire's 'Highly Commended Carer Award 2022'. We are incredibly proud of her every day in the challenging role she has but these awards provide recognition and awareness to many hidden young carers.

Mehak has a lot of passion about helping others. She has overcome and continues to overcome so many obstacles in her life.

Young Carer - *"You have helped me by making me realise I am not alone in caring for someone. There's others like me. Also, I learnt about mental health and how to help myself and cope with my emotions. So, thank you!"*

Parent - *"Thank you for all you've done for us. We can't thank you enough!"*

Commissioner - *"The service continues to provide invaluable support to young carers in BwD. WEW have nothing but praise for all they do"*

Ambitions for 2022-2023:

- We will explore further opportunities to meet increasing need of hidden young carers
- We will develop a community-based family support offer for families not currently accessing statutory services
- Develop quality assurance processes for all stakeholders ensuring feedback shapes practice
- Continuing to ensure that our young people have a voice that informs change, locally, regionally and nationally

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5.5 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services (EHWB)

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing (EHWB) Service provides therapeutic interventions to children and young people, their families, and adults across Lancashire, including Blackburn with Darwen, South Cumbria and Greater Manchester. The Service is delivered by a dedicated team of counsellors, play therapists and therapeutic practitioners, via a blended offer of face to face, remote, 1-1 and groupwork interventions which are tailored to the needs of the individual. Working in collaboration and partnership with statutory and voluntary organisations, the EHWB Service aims to develop mental health awareness, improve resilience, build on strengths, and achieve positive and sustainable outcomes.

Lancashire County Council Emotional Health and Wellbeing Early Support Service – a partnership with 10 partner agencies offering time limited interventions to children and young people aged between 4 and 19 years (25 Special Educational Needs (SEND)). This project covers East, Central, and North Lancashire (excluding Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) and works in partnership with the Children and Family Wellbeing Service supporting children and young people via an Early Help Offer.

Commissioned School Service – a bespoke service funded by schools across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen, Cumbria and Greater Manchester delivering therapeutic support to children and young people aged 4-18 years facilitated by 1-1, group work or drop-in support services.

Children in Care Pilot Project (Our Voice) - a 12-month pilot programme, funded by NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria (LSC) Integrated Care Board to offer a therapeutic support package to Children in Care, including 1-1 and group support sessions, diversionary activities to support children and young people, their foster families and birth families. The aim of this project is to gather data to measure the effectiveness of the interventions, and to support children and young people to build resilience.

Bolton Together - commissioned by the Bolton Together consortium to provide 1-1 and family support to children aged between 4 -8 years, support offered to parents and carers to enable a sustainable intervention.

Young Farmers Project- funded by various grant funding applications and benefactors to support young farmers (10-25yrs) and their families to raise awareness of common mental health issues building resilience and strategies to manage mental health and promote effective and healthy coping strategies.

Think Family – funded by Blackburn with Darwen this is a 6-week therapeutic group work programme for parents in Blackburn with Darwen aimed at raising parents' self-awareness to improve relationships and build resilience, self-confidence, and self-esteem.

Healthy Thinking for Me! Project- consortium partnership providing a 6-8 week therapeutic 1-1 or group work intervention to young people aged 12-18 years in Central and East Lancashire offering early support and prevention around negative eating patterns.

SPACE (Supporting Parents & Carers Emotionally) a 12-month project, consortium funded to facilitate a peer support group for parents and carers across Lancashire, the aim of this project is to improve strategies and community support engagement for parents and carers of children and young people experiencing common mental health issues.

NHS IAPT Trainee programme – Working in continued partnership with health services to increase workforce skills in the Mental Health Sector, we are a recognised host for Children and Young People's Wellbeing Practitioners (CYWP), providing opportunity this year for six trainees who completed their training successfully.

Student Pathway – supporting professional development in the EHWB Sector offering Student Placements.

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Service Achievements over 2022-2023

The service set objectives for the year 2022-23 including;

- Continue to deliver services in current operational areas- The EHWPB team continue to deliver services in Lancashire, Greater Manchester, and Blackburn with Darwen.
- Determine new service delivery areas- The EHWPB service has developed new partnerships and services and are now delivering across rural Lancashire, a new project in Bolton (Greater Manchester) and new projects in East Lancashire.
- Additional work/service development -The EHWPB service offers a hybrid approach to children, young people and families, which has a positive impact by reducing barriers to support and providing continuity. New projects and programmes have been delivered with the ability to offer remotely or face to face, there has been an increase in the numbers of CYP presenting with anxiety since the beginning of the pandemic.

Service Outputs and Outcomes

Over the year the service has worked with 1,561 young people and 41 adults (IAPT + Spot Purchase Adults + Think Family), delivering 14,170 young people's sessions across all young people services and 103 adult sessions. The EHWPB partnership has received 1666 referrals. In addition, the service has supported 24 schools through Service Level Agreements.

As part of our ambition to involve stakeholders in the continual shaping of services we encourage feedback on the success of our projects. This is to help us understand what difference our delivery makes to the lives of those we support. Our respondents have informed us:

- 100% young people felt listened to by their worker – (young people 12+)
- 98% young people reported a better understanding of Mental Health after the sessions
- 99% of young people aged 4-11 said seeing a CANW practitioner helped them
- 98% of parents would recommend CANW services to other people
- 100% of referrers said they would use the CANW service again

We have a commitment to continue consultation and involve young people's voice in the shaping of mental health services both internally and externally.

Children, young people, and parents have reported that they have seen an improvement in mental and emotional health and increased awareness of mental health following an intervention.

Teachers and parents report an improvement in the child/young person's ability to regulate their emotions.

Following the feedback of a group of parents who had successfully completed the Think Family therapeutic group, a peer support group has been established; each parent completing the group is offered the opportunity to attend the peer support group and meet with parents who have previously completed the programme. This has been agreed and arranged in partnership with BwD commissioners of the Think Family group.

As a result of additional funding during the pandemic the team have co-designed resource packs which are given to children, young people or families at the end of an intervention or whilst waiting for an intervention to begin.

Feedback

Our feedback is collated using verbal, digital and written platforms. Examples of quotes from stakeholders:

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- *I've been able to explore my feelings and emotions with practitioner that I wouldn't have been able to share with anyone else. (Young Person Oct 2022 Age 12)*
- *These sessions have left me uplifted in my mental health and personality. The sessions have made me feel much more listened to and not ignored. (Young Person Jan 2023 Age 13)*
- *The counselling has helped me. I was nervous when I first came but now, I feel fine and find it helpful with my autism. I can talk about any problems I have, and this helps me (Young Person March 2023 Age 12)*
- *Child action northwest have helped my children realise that the trauma they have endured is not normal. CANW have helped my children open up and talk openly about their experiences instead of bottling these feelings up. (Parent Feb 2023)*
- *To give the worker the recognition he deserves, he is absolutely amazing and kind and even though he wasn't there for me as such he was there to listen about my worries and helped my child and I a lot (Parent Sept 2022)*
- *Great service and vital in supporting children (Referrer Jan 2023)*

Ambition for the coming year

We have identified a growing need for our emotional health and wellbeing services, and we plan to continue to grow and develop sustainable services for children, young people and families through the year by:

- Increasing participation and engagement of children and young people in the co-design of our EHWP projects.
- Continuing to develop and retain a highly skilled staff team through the development of training packages and hosting students and trainees.
- To ensure all projects have robust quality assurance and data is gathered to measure impact we have with the communities we support.
- To retain our Investors in Children Award
- To continue to develop our digital and remote offer to meet the needs of children, young people and families increasing access to engagement.

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5.6 Criminal Justice Services

Appropriate Adult Service

The role of the appropriate adults is to safeguard the interests, rights, entitlements and welfare of children and vulnerable adults who are suspected of a criminal offence, ensuring that they are treated in a fair and just manner and are able to contribute effectively. Children are aged between 10 and 17 years of age.

The service covers a wide area -

- PAN Cheshire (Children only – 9am to midnight)
- County Durham (Children & Vulnerable Adults - 24/7)
- Cumbria (Children & Vulnerable Adults - 24/7)
- Derbyshire (Children & Vulnerable Adults - 24/7)
- Greater Manchester (Children & Vulnerable Adults - 9am to midnight)
- PAN Lancashire (Children & Vulnerable Adults - Children 9am to midnight – Adults 24/7)

Service achievements and outcomes

The AA service has been successful in developing its services over the period, successfully retaining commissions for its existing AA service in Greater Manchester. The service delivers child focused services and we have supplied custody suites with distraction items including chalk, paint and pens, some soft footballs, colouring books and pens, reading books and snap cards. This has all been well received from the Custody Staff and made a positive difference to those detained. All Lancashire custody suites have received boxes of children's books to allow those detained something to keep them occupied, the books were donated by Holy Cross High School, Chorley when they renewed their library stock.

Throughout the year the service has continued to attend all existing commissioning and quarterly partnership meetings. These meetings have included Custody Review Meetings in all Geographic areas which attended by the Police, Youth Justice Services managers, Children Social Care, Liaison and Diversion and speech and language practitioners. The meetings enable a review of the children detained in Custody and identify best practice and areas for improvement.

The Head of Service has also been involved in Custody innovation meetings across all areas to improve and develop the Custody offer with an aim to making the Custody suites a more child friendly and improved trauma informed custody environments. Also attending all National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) board meetings and NAAN member meetings to keep updated to any changes in legislation and to share best practice

Feedback is obtained in all areas by using a QR Code and has proven to be a very successful addition to the service, allowing custody professionals to feedback directly to the service privately.

- When asked if our AA's arrive in good time 88% said always and 12% said yes mostly.
- How knowledgeable are our AA's – Graded 4.88 out of 5.
- Do our AA's meet your expectations – Graded 4.95 out of 5.
- Total referral numbers – 16,266, an increase from the previous year of 4,795 equating to a 42% increase.
- Referrals for Children was 5,518 against the period of 2021 – 2022 was 3,978 this is an increase of 28%.

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- Referrals for Vulnerable Adults was 10,948 against the period of 2021 – 2022 was 8,042 this is a percentage increase of 26.5%.
- Carried out a total of 121 visits to projects across the borough
- Completed 363 hrs of community reparation
- Completed 140 hrs of unpaid work

Outcomes and impact of the service.

- Children and Vulnerable Adults have spent less time in Custody due to the efficiency of the service. 100% of referrals were acknowledged by the AA contacting Custody within 15 minutes of accepting the referral.
- 99% of all referrals were responded to within 1 hour, the National Appropriate Adult Network guidance is 2 hours.
- 100% of all Outcome Forms were shared with the relevant authorities.
- 100% of all Safeguarding issues were identified and shared with relevant agencies.

Ambition for 2023-2024

- Continue to deliver existing services meeting contractual expectations
- Secure 1 new AA service, further developing our geographic footprint and service offer
- Continue to respond to referrals 98% of the time within 2 hours
- Develop and pilot PACE bed offer

5.7 Statutory Reparation

This service is commissioned by Blackburn with Darwen and its remit is to work with young people in the community through a multi-agency approach, whereby agencies work in partnership to deliver an integrated service. The service delivers community reparation, through unpaid work and a mentoring scheme. Young people who offend are supported to change their behaviour and encouraged to make amends. One of the ways that young people can make amends is to carry out reparation either directly to the victim or, when this is not possible or practical, to the community. The service has been operating with Working with Young people on statutory court orders who attend our Reparation Service for the last 15 years.

Service achievements over the year

- 27 young people were referred into the scheme
- 26 of those accessing the service received an ASDAN award - 2 of which gained Gold awards
- 7 additional delivery locations secured
- 100% stakeholder satisfaction achieved throughout the reporting year
- Investing in Children accreditation secured

Outcomes and impact

- Reduction of homelessness – 2 people accessing the service have renovated and moved into property
- Renovated external communal space – increasing community engagement and participation
- 96% of those attending the service identified their self-esteem had increased
- 100% reduction in reduction in criminal behaviour in those accessing the service
- For those accessing education 97% continued to actively engage

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- 100% of those who engaged said their confidence had increased and felt more comfortable in seeking employment

Feedback

Host feedback Greensleeves: Hazel - Ruth: *'We really can't thank you enough for all the support you and the young people have given to our community garden, and it is really taking shape and hopefully it will be enjoyed by all the local community for years to come'*

Feedback Host Nightsafe N R: *"Your services have been invaluable, and we can't thank the young people who worked here enough they've been fantastic and what a result, it really has transferred the place. If it wasn't for services like yourselves, we would not be anywhere, and this will make a real difference to those vulnerable people that we work with. Many thanks."*

Host feedback: Elaine head of business development - *"What a difference you and the young people have made with the shop it has really transformed the front. We can't thank you enough and when the tiles are completed it will look like a brand-new outlet, thanks from everyone at Age UK"*

Public/community feedback - *"Thank you for carrying out the clear up it looks so nice not having litter and weeds all around the area and if any of the young people would like to help on weekends, we do have weddings and they can support us any time"*

Ambitions for 2023-2024

- Continue to deliver Statutory Reparation across Blackburn with Darwen, supporting CYPs as directed by BwD YJS
- Identify additional indoor and outdoor space to strengthen delivery offer, linking in with local communities and community leaders to promote and raise awareness of service.
- Develop partnerships within the Black and Minority Ethnic community
- Develop and deliver a mentoring and befriending programme to offer additional support to the YJS delivery practitioners
- Recruit volunteers to assist with delivery and offer further support when 2 to 1 engagement is required
- Following participation with the CYPs, be innovative to develop more activities and programmes

5.8 Invest in Youth

Invest in Youth is a project aimed at engaging and inspiring the most disengaged young people resident in the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area. It works with 15–24-year-olds who are unemployed or economically inactive with multiple social, emotional and economic barriers. These young people are faced with a confusing environment of challenges including intergenerational unemployment, poverty, benefit dependency, low skills and lack of employment experience and they often live in communities with few working role models. Invest in Youth supports young people who are aged 15–24 and who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and young people aged 15–18 at risk of becoming NEET. These young people will experience multiple and complex barriers to employment. The service has been operating since 2016 and finished as of March 31st, 2023.

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Achievements 2022-23

Between April 2022 and March 2023, the IY has supported 45 Young People with 15 of those successfully moving into education and/or training and 6 into meaningful employment.

Participants have been supported on a 1:1 basis in a variety of settings such as home & community centres, as well as focussing on getting participants back into education, training or employment the project also helped the participants overcome their initial barriers such as supported housing, opening a bank account or attending short courses in small settings as many participants struggle to face large crowds, this allows the participant to sustain any hard outcome.

The project met targets for Phase 2 and was funded for the final Phase 3 which will take the project to year end, March 2023. The project recruited 3 new members of staff in 2022 to meet the demands of the service and KPI's set as per service level agreement.

Several objectives were set at the beginning of the year, and these were progressed throughout the period.

- Continuing to develop quality person-centred support to vulnerable young people and adults – The remote working was designed around individual needs and ensured that the service was able to continue to focus on specific needs.
- Forging links with new organisations and services by promoting the Invest in Youth model – partnerships continued to grow throughout the pandemic, in particular with the Blackburn with Darwen borough as this is a new geographical area for the service to deliver, the service has built up good relationships with BwD Job Centre and attend weekly transforming lives panel meetings with professionals from external agencies with BwD.
- Developing specific trauma informed approaches to support – C.B.T. practitioner delivering within the B.B.O. service in addition to Emotional Therapeutic Support.
- Working more closely with the Criminal Justice Service team developing a referral pathway into the BBO project from this service – This is embedded and on-going with the Invest in Youth Service.
- Developing new approaches to support participants and those affected by COVID 19 by offering a blended service including face 2 face, telephone, groups sessions and virtual.
- Develop relationships with external agencies by presenting the services on offer – invest in Youth & CANW as organisation. Examples are;
 - Prince's trust
 - Educational establishments
 - Youth Justice Services
 - Local Authorities
 - Third sector organisations
 - Health & Well-Being providers

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Outcomes and Impact

The Invest in Youth Service has supported young people to make significant progress over the last year, and over 90% of the participants on the programme have been actively engaged in the support offered. Some of the key outcomes and achievements include:

- 6% secured employment
- 33% went into education and or training
- 51% of those participants said they had increased confidence
- 55% said they felt more positive about their future
- 29% Said they felt a better about their loneliness and self-isolation
- 60% said they felt their needs had been listened to

By supporting participants with their barriers or complex needs – participants have been able to:

- Secure Employment / Training or Education
- Move into supported Living
- Secure their own tenancy
- Improved confidence & well-being
- Volunteering

Case Study

Background:

Owen was referred into the Invest in Youth project during lockdown in August 2021. Owen was referred from New Direction in Blackburn, for needing support with Low Confidence due to his weight and Anxiety.

Owen was very difficult to engage with at first and struggled to express himself initially I had to have a 3-way conversation and get some information from his mother who helped to express what Owen wanted to get across

After discussing Owen's main barriers, we devised an Action Plan which consisted of;

- *Therapeutic Support from CANW – Emotional Therapeutic Support*
- *Help or support to lose weight*
- *Attend college but only in small group settings*

From his Life Circle - Owen said he enjoyed cooking as well as playing video games on his P.C.

Engagement:

Engagement with Owen was always over the phone as he would not leave the house due to his anxiety and low confidence. During the telephone appointments Owen would be on his P.C. (gaming) and his answers were often 'What' 'Yes' or 'No'. I was persistent with Owen and didn't want to give up and after a few phone calls he eventually answered the phone to me directly rather than me going via his mum to speak to me - this was good progress.

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Actions taken:

The first steps were to make a referral to CANW's Emotional Therapeutic Support (E.T.S.) to help address the issue of Owen's anxiety.

In the early stages we looked at a short health and fitness course that was put on by the Prince's Trust, but this was too much for Owen initially and he wanted to focus on doing something that involved cooking as this is his passion.

Owen wanted to wait for his E.T.S. sessions to start first before doing a course and his preference was small class sizes due to his anxiety. As his E.T.S. sessions went on we explored several options including an apprenticeship with Gregs bakers but Owen wanted to do Maths and English also so we explored North Lancs Training Group in Accrington that could offer a course in employability and then training in small class sizes of around 8 students, and he would do his Maths and English alongside this. Owen was keen on this and we applied for the course.

Owen's mum took him to the interview as he was still anxious and would not go alone, Owen said "I was really anxious about going and felt sick inside but felt better after being shown around". Owen started off doing small taster sessions so he could get used to his new surroundings and then went on to enrol in August. I met Owen after he enrolled at North Lancs Training and he had a full-on conversation with me and said, "Thank You Carl – I couldn't have done it without you". I said to Owen that he met me halfway and to give himself some credit. Owen said he can now look at people in the eye when they talk to him and he answers back with more than 'what, yes or no'. Owen is also looking at doing some work experience and North Lancs Training will help find him a work placement.

I gave Owen a lift home and his mum said he has come on leaps and bounds. He now accompanies her when she goes food shopping and has dropped 3 clothes sizes since starting North Lancs Training. Owen said he has a younger brother (aged 13) who is going the same way he did and that he won't leave the house and does his school lessons via virtual learning, so Owen is going to help his little brother.

To encourage Owen even more the project has given Owen a Steps Count Watch.

Testimonial

I can now look at people in the eye when they talk to him and I can answer back with more than "what, yes or no" and I can have a conversation with them now.

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6 Business Development, Fundraising and Communications

6.1 Business Development

The Business Development Team is primarily responsible for supporting sustainability and growth of the CANW service offer, through income generation, inclusive of submitting high quality proposals in response to tender and grant opportunities, fundraising and community engagement, ensuring brand compliance and supporting a high level of marketing activity.

Key responsibilities:

- To respond to all relevant tender opportunities in line with organisational aims
- To ensure a pipeline of grant/charitable trust applications supporting identified service objectives
- To grow and expand the charities charitable income to support the enhancement of our core offer
- To support the increase of independent income through compliant corporate, fundraising and community engagement
- To ensure the organisation has a strong brand and clear messages communicated to a wide range of stakeholders both internal and external

The team are also responsible for supporting Quality Assurance and associated accreditation.

Income in 2022/23

Business Development and Fundraising continued to be challenging throughout 22/23 as the new team continued to take shape and evolve and as the cost-of-living crisis made it more difficult to raise voluntary income. Despite this, 22/23 saw the team achieve a number of notable successes, including securing multi-year Patronage from a variety of businesses and philanthropists, successful grant applications to a range of grant makers, and several successful submissions for public sector contracts (both for new services and to renew existing contracts).

Some specific highlights from the last year include:

- The team ran another very successful Orphanage Cup football tournament with 40 teams from across Lancashire and Greater Manchester taking part.
- The team launched the first ever Junior Orphanage Cup, with 16 teams taking part in a tournament on the same day as the adults final at AFC Darwen.
- We were once again delighted to be supported by the local Wilpshire community, businesses, schools and community groups over the Easter and Christmas periods, with well over 400 Easter Eggs and 600 presents being donated to the charity. As with Easter, this meant that every young person (and many parents) were able to open a gift from CANW on Christmas morning. Napthens PLC chose CANW as their charity of choice for the annual toy appeal as well as sponsoring our Christmas fair, Barton Grange chose CANW as one of their chosen charities for their Christmas appeal and let us borrow their Santa for the day at the Christmas fair, and many others supported in a range of ways.
- 2022/23 saw the team start to seek multi-year funding commitments from Major Donors and were delighted to confirm Patronage from Roger Dugdale and Blackburn Chemicals. Both of whom have committed to 3 and 5 years support respectively.
- Despite having no fundraiser in post for 6 months, CANW continued to receive strong fundraising support from the local community, with over £40,000 being raised from these sources. Organisations like DHL Saffran, Napthens, Forbes Solicitors, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, and the South Lancashire Caravan Centre raised money for us throughout the year.

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Over the next twelve months, the team will continue to focus on Fundraising alongside Grant and Tender applications, but with important strategic changes in approach and increased focus on corporate and community fundraising.

New Contracts in 2022/23

- Blackburn with Darwen Wellbeing Champions
- Blackburn with Darwen Statutory Reparation
- Outwood Grange Student Coaching and Wellbeing Framework
- Greater Manchester Appropriate Adult contract
- White Rose Foster Care Framework

New Grants in 2022/23

- Eric Wright Charitable Trust – Young Carers - £25,000
- Eric Wright Charitable Trust – Core Costs and Additional Donation - £30,000
- KFC – Young Carers - £2,000
- Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner – Social Inclusion - £10,000
- Arnold Clark Community Fund – ProContact - £1,000
- Duchy of Lancaster – Young Farmers - £5,000
- Dulverton Trust – Young Farmers - £50,000
- Greenspaces – Outdoor Space - £3,935

Business Development Objectives 2023/24

High volume, low value community and corporate fundraising: Focus on using our range of warm prospects, specifically schools, local businesses and community groups to generate a large number of fundraising activities that each generate a minimum of £250. In many cases, especially with businesses, the amount raised will far exceed this.

Target driven approach to both activity and income: Develop clear financial targets for all fundraising activity, clear KPIs focused on activities, detailed action plans, and clear reporting processes and dashboards that make it easy to monitor performance, assess what is or isn't working and report on all to the board and SLT

Lean but focused calendar or events: Deliver an events calendar that 1) provides a strong return on investment/profit, 2) provides excellent cultivation and engagement opportunities to current donors and prospects, and 3) provides opportunities for our beneficiaries to get involved.

High quality cultivation, engagement, thanks to prospects and donors: Focus on high-quality, consistent, impact focused, and personal cultivation activity. Practically this will include things like highly responsive thank you messages following donations/support, sharing of case studies and impact stories, and personalized cultivation activities.

Deliberate use of external capacity and partner led events, fundraising and charity of the year work: Seek to use external capacity to develop a pipeline of fundraising activity that does not require significant internal capacity or organizing.

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Quality Assurance and Impact

CANW continue to hold a number of quality marks, each of which represents our commitment to excellence in the relevant area. We continue to hold Trust Charity Level 2 (and are in the process of applying to renew this in 2023), Investors in People and Investors in Children, and were successful in our renewal application for Cyber Essentials in late 2022.

2022/23 was a year in which we made a significant impact on thousands of children, vulnerable adults and families across the country.

It's important that the individuals and families that access our support feel that what we offer is of a high quality, so we regularly sought their feedback on what we do. Examples of this feedback can be found below:

- ICFA North – On average, Parents overwhelmingly believed that their Practitioner supported their family, with an average score of 4.8 out of 5.
- SPIP – 96% of Parents agreed that the programme of support they received helped them to understand their children's needs
- EMHW - 100% young people felt listened to by their worker
- EMHW - 98% young people reported a better understanding of Mental Health after the sessions
- EMHW - 99% of young people aged 4-11 said seeing a CANW practitioner helped them
- EMHW - 98% of parents would recommend CANW services to other people
- EMHW - 100% of referrers said they would use the CANW service again
- CJ – Over 95% of custody staff (from over 200 responses) report that a) our Appropriate Adults are knowledgeable, b) our Appropriate Adults meet their expectations
- CJ – Qualitative feedback included reports that our Appropriate adults were friendly, knowledgeable and helpful (most common descriptions).

6.2 Marketing and Communications

During 2022/23 we continued to maintain a strong social media presence, using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn in particular. June 2022 saw the launch of a new website for the charity (www.canw.org.uk) as well as the implementation of a new CRM system (HubSpot) for the Business Development team to use to track relationships, manage external communications and build income pipelines.

Having a well-developed communications and marketing strategy is essential for any charity and is especially for Child Action Northwest as we look to develop our brand, increase our reach regionally, build a sustainable model of business development and income generation, and continue to develop and maintain a strong culture across our team of paid staff, volunteers and partners.

Importantly, we recognize that effective charity communications are not just about engaging with external stakeholders, but with CANW staff, volunteers, board members and supporters too. As such, one of the key focus areas for 23-24 will be to develop and implement a robust internal communications strategy that ensures stakeholders who are part of the CANW family receive high quality comms when they need and in a way that suits them.

Over the next 12 months, the team will focus their work on:

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Focused use of External Comms to grow brand awareness: Increased focus on developing brand awareness across the rest of the North-West region, outside of Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire.

Intentional use of Press and PR: We'll share news and stories about the work we do and the impact we make on individuals, families and communities across the North-West and beyond. This will involve the targeted use of press releases and other materials, engaging in proactive media outreach, and building strategic relationships with journalists and other media contacts.

Targeted use of Social Media to reach specific audiences: we'll use our social channels and reach to target specific audiences with a clear purpose in mind. That might mean using social media to support with the recruitment of Foster Carers, Appropriate Adults or any other roles at the charity. Equally, it might mean using social media to share good news, celebrate the achievements of those we work with, or generate income through active fundraising campaigns.

Campaigns that support Fundraising and Income Generation: Use external communications strategies and various social platforms to drive engagement with fundraising campaigns, celebrate and thank supporters, showcase our work, and publicise events. Evaluate and refresh all appropriate marketing and fundraising collateral to support the organisations ongoing fundraising efforts.

Outstanding Internal Business Partner support: Provide outstanding internal business partner communications and marketing support to all services. Provide ongoing ad-hoc support to the wider organisation, ensuring their marketing and communications needs are met in a timely fashion with high quality output.

Timely and functional internal communications: Develop, launch and refine our approach to internal communication, ensuring all CANW staff receive the information they need, when they need, in a way that works for them and the organisation.

7 Community Interest Company, CANWe Solutions (CIC)

CANWe Solutions CIC is an independent organisation, established in 2009, as the trading arm and community interest company of Child Action Northwest (CANW), a regional charity achieving positive change for 130 years. We passionately believe that everyone has the right to achieve their full potential despite facing significant barriers and deliver a range of services aimed at improving the wellbeing and quality of life of vulnerable people from across the region, who have multiple needs and live chaotic lives. Support enables individuals to reduce barriers and achieve positive outcomes, using person-centered approaches. Support is offered in multiple settings; outreach, home visits, HMOs and community venues. The organisation has a remit to increase trading opportunities, ensuring any profits (in excess of those needed to sustain the organisation and maintain a reasonable level of reserves) are contributed to Child Action Northwest through an asset lock.

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7.1 BBO – Changing Futures

The Changing Futures Project has been running since February 2017 and offers inclusive support to individuals aged 15+, supporting disadvantaged groups in promoting social inclusion and combating poverty. The individuals supported by the service have complex issues and lack the skills they need to enter the labour market or understand how they fit into the employment market. The project helps individuals address their own barriers, taking small steps to helping them access employment and training in the future.

The project supports individuals in relation to:

- Education & Training
- Employment/Volunteering
- Supported Housing
- Benefits support
- Debt support
- Physical health
- Emotional & Therapeutic support to manage anxiety, mild depression
- Confidence/self-esteem.

The Changing Futures model covers areas within East Lancashire to include:

- Blackburn with Darwen
- Burnley and Pendle
- Rossendale
- Hyndburn

There has been a backdrop of uncertainty throughout the past 12 months due to a number of significant contracts ending. Our Building Better Opportunities (BBO) work was finally completed in March 2023 after 6 ½ years of service delivery. Throughout this period our Invest in Youth (IY), Changing Futures (CF) and Emotional Therapeutic (ETS) services have worked with over **1000** young people and vulnerable adults supporting them with mental health needs and into employment, education, or training.

All permanent staff members have been redeployed.

Service achievements

The service has supported 52 participants over the year and achieved the results and soft outcomes listed below: -

Referrals	52
Completed	52
Employment/Self-Employment	7
Training/Education	12
Job Search	4
Soft Outcomes	251

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- Support has been provided for individuals who had suicidal ideation, helping them to access NHS crisis / home treatment teams, for immediate support with their mental health.
- In addition, the service has supported individuals to access Shelter to gain support with Financial issues and debt support.
- Throughout the period the service has continued to forge links with new organisations and services by promoting the Changing Futures model.
- The service was recognised at the Selnet awards in November 22 when we were awarded Social Enterprise of the Year award for the second consecutive year.

Outputs outcomes and impact

Of the 25 individuals directly engaging with the service the following outcomes were achieved:

- 60 % successfully entered into education and training
- 5 % successfully entered into employment
- 17% successfully entered into jobsearch
- 62.2% achieved a positive result

Quotes/Feedback

KS has been out of work for the last 5 years, struggling with mental health barriers, housing issues, financial issues and poor wellbeing. She needed intensive support to transform and improve her situation and longer-term outlook. KS was sofa surfing which caused instability and anxiety. Through our Calico offer KS was supported into supported accommodation and receives weekly support by the CF team. KS is heavily committed to volunteering at Towneley park which has increased her fitness levels and outdoor engagement. KS was nominated for the volunteer of the year award by Selnet in November 2022

7.2 Emotional Therapeutic Service

The Emotional Therapeutic Service supported individuals who were receiving support from the BBO project in accessing employment and education opportunities. This is delivered PAN Lancashire.

We offered support for up to 10 weeks using a 1:1 person-centred approach to support people to tackle barriers on a personal level by; building confidence and self-esteem, building motivation, developing coping strategies to help with depression, stress and anxiety, talking about feelings and emotions, managing negative relationships and improving personal health and wellbeing. We also offered CBT therapy for those whose needs required this input.

We worked with individuals across the 3 BBO projects – Invest in Youth (age 15 – 25), Changing Futures (age 25 – 50) and Age of Opportunity (age 50 onwards).

Service achievements

- Over the last year we have supported 92 individuals.
- 23 from the Invest in Youth project
- 25 from the Changing Futures project
- 44 from the Age of Opportunity project
- 100% feel they have benefited from the service

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Key Outcomes

- 98% of participants felt they have increased optimism
- 96% of participants felt increased confidence
- 98% of participants felt increased self-esteem
- 96% of participants feel an increased ability to deal with problems
- 94% of participants report feeling more relaxed.

This has enabled individuals to overcome barriers to engaging in employment, education and training.

Quotes and feedback

IY participant - *"It's helped me control and reduce my worries. Coming out of the house to sessions has lifted my mood and built my confidence up. Coming to a relaxed environment and speaking to the same practitioner each time has been more useful than other services I have experienced."*

AOP Participant - *"It has been very helpful and useful and I have been encouraged every step of the way. Emotionally I have been able to talk about my life, going right back to the beginning, as I lost my Mum when I was born. When I came out of hospital from a Section 3 I felt really lost and lonely. The practitioner really cheered me up emotionally and helped me to stabilise my mood. Thank you so much for everything."*

Go Figure

This was a short-term funding opportunity (December 2022 – March 2023). The service aimed to help adults improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work. This could be improving household finances, helping children with homework, making more sense of the facts in the media, or improving numeracy skills specific to a line of work. Multiply offered a range of options such as free personal tutoring, digital training and flexible courses to fit around people's lives and was tailored to specific needs, circumstances, sectors and industries

Service Achievements

- 54 young people accessed the service within 3 months (1 month mobilisation period)
- Delivery was a blend of 1 to 1 and group sessions in person and also sessions via TEAMS

Outcomes and impact

- 22% of young people achieved an ASDAN qualification in Maths
- 100% of young people said they felt more confident with numeracy
- 100% of those who accessed employability support said they felt better equipped when applying for employment

During a very small window of engagement the Go Figure service engaged 54 young people who were not accessing any support from any other service. The trust gained during the 4 months has given the young people more confidence to reach out and seek support.

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7.3 Break the Cycle

The Youth Engagement service has been awarded funding from the Police Crime Commissioner of £10k which was match funded by the CANW Board of Trustees. Break the Cycle is delivered in East Lancashire. 'Break the Cycle' will allow us to support children and young people who are released from Police custody without any further action or those who have had to be spoken to by the Police regarding low level incidents that are on the periphery of committing crime. We engaged with those at risk of committing further crime or anti-social behaviour. The young people we engaged with are aged between 10 and 17 years of age.

The service aimed to reduce the number of young people engaging in crime and or committing further offences by educating them on the consequences of crime and attempting to divert them to more positive activities within their lives.

Service achievements

- Between September 2022 and March 2023, the Break the Cycle has seen 27 referrals into the project
- 4 young people supported back into education and training
- 4 young people engaged with positive activities
- Children & Young People will be accessing Therapeutic Well-Being through CANW (CIC) as part of the programme.

Attended – Youth Panel meetings;

- Hyndburn Youth Panel
- Hyndburn Community Alcohol Partnerships
- Burnley Youth Panel
- Involved with Team Around the Family meetings in school settings

Impact and outcomes

The project is new but has supported children and young people with training and back into school as well as providing positive activities that supports the young person's physical well-being.

- 3 young people supported back into education & training
- 1 supported back into school after an 18-month gap
- 1 supported into further education
- 1 supported onto an apprenticeship

Children & young people have accessed external well-being support through external sources such as The Wish Centre.

Quotes and feedback

"Thank you for helping me get this far, by getting me into college and helping me change my life around, I don't smoke anymore and feel much better."

Ambitions for 2023/24

- Secure further funding in order to grow the service geographically

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- Develop model to ensure inclusivity
- Develop feedback mechanisms to capture the voice of stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries

8 Financial review

The group's incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2023 amounted to £5,958,945 and outgoing resources amounted to £6,346,359. The deficit reported during the year was £534,628 which included net realised and unrealised losses on investments of £147,214 (excluding dividend and other investment income). The operating deficit for the year was £387,414. The plan for the year was a deficit plan due the full year effect of the investment put into business development in 2021-22 and the challenges in continuing to deliver large, commissioned contracts particularly with the emerging cost of living crisis. This deficit plan was set by the Board in the context of the three to five year plan which would include steps to bring the financial position back to an underlying breakeven position.

During the year the Fostering Service continued to be a key contributor to the group's turnover, however with a reduction in placements and, for most agreements no increases in rate in the recent past the service went into deficit for the first time. Towards the end of the year placement numbers have recovered and during the year with a refocus on service development was set. OFSTED were due to inspect the service in the last quarter of 2022-23 and development funds were made available to support the readiness process.

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing service continued to operate in a variety of settings across Lancashire and beyond. The contract with Lancashire County Council (LCC) continued to produce excellent results in terms of favourable outcomes, as did our work with schools and other commissioners. The service made a deficit during the year which was predominantly related to the non-continuation of funding which supported the Schools service offer. Without that grant funding the schools service is unsustainable. This has been addressed in 2023-24. The anticipated financial challenges with the new LCC Early Years contract were mitigated in part by the correction in deferred income balances which released c£113k into the financial position.

The Supported Contact services continued to perform important work in difficult economic circumstances. The new Improving Child and Family Arrangements services contract mobilised in 2022-23 had a slight reduction in referrals and recruitment challenges meant that during the year a shift in operating model was required to ensure the service was being delivered at the quality levels previously met. These challenges were ongoing during 2022-23. Supported Contact services continued to be developed during the year. This continues to be an exciting area of development for the service. The Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP) came to an end of March 2023 and the service was successful in winning significant elements of its replacement programme Planning Together for Children (PTC) which was mobilised in early 2023-24.

Young Carers services has ring fenced funding received in 2020-23 with additional funding secured in the early part of 2022-23 to contribute to the delivery and expansion of these services. The service continues to find innovative ways to extend reach and value, continuing to deliver excellent services.

Criminal Justice services continue to do excellent work meeting increasing demand with growing referral numbers across the extended geography that we support. The highly regarded Reparation service was retained during the year with a focus on getting additional funding to financially support the service. Overall, Criminal Justice services made a small surplus in the year.

Principal Funding

The majority of funding is from services commissioned by local authorities and other public bodies predominantly across the North of England. Grant funding during the year amounted to £48,655, with contributions from the public totalling £51,637.

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Investments

The investment portfolio is held by Schroders, Cazenove Capital, on a discretionary basis with the overall objective being to produce the best financial return possible, within a low to medium risk rating, over a medium to long term period. The financial markets have contracted during the year due to the global impact of the war in Ukraine which has also exacerbated the growing cost of living crisis. This resulted in a realised and unrealised loss, net of investment income, of £147,214.

Reserves

The reserves policy in place is reviewed at least annually by the board.

The group held total funds of £3,172,199 at 31 March 2023. Of these, £52,445 were restricted, therefore these funds were not available for the general purposes of the group. The group held unrestricted funds of £3,119,754 at 31 March 2023. However, of this, £618,843 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets. Therefore, at 31 March 2023, the group had available liquid unrestricted reserves of £2,500,911.

The required level of reserves, set out in the policy, to cover organisational running costs, if necessary, is £1,650,000. This is based on the planned expenditure in 2022-23. The actual free liquid reserves held at 31 March 2023 were, therefore, £850,911. The Board feels that it is prudent to maintain these surplus free reserves.

The board remains open to possibility of investing in new services, or the expansion of existing ones, whose aims are in line with objectives of the group and which have the potential to contribute to the financial base of the organisation.

9 Going Forward

The last year has seen CANW continuing to address and respond to growing levels of need demonstrated across the communities and individuals we support. This has led the Charity to review its strategic plan and to invest in its people and systems to ensure we are well placed to address the many challenges of inequality and inequity that we have identified.

The impact of the cost-of-living crisis has significantly shaped our current financial position and plans for 2023-24 and beyond. There are signs that Government policy and plans may suggest that higher inflation may come under control in the next year or so, the impact for the organisation is likely to be felt for a longer period of time, both in terms of securing income uplifts, managing costs, attracting staff and the increasing demand for our services. The wider global outlook particularly with the climate crisis and ongoing war in Ukraine may continue to exacerbate this position. The need for strategic planning over a three-to-five-year time horizon has possibly not been as important as now. We need to ensure that we are making decisions that ensure organisational sustainability but also carefully choose how we use our resource to deliver our mission and support as many people as possible.

The financial pressures that are impacting on the charity are also, unfortunately, being felt most acutely by many of the young people and families we support. Levels of deprivation are rising universally but areas across the North-West have been particularly badly hit, with over 40% of young people living below the poverty line in a number of wards we support.

Our plans to grow and develop our service offer has therefore never been more important and our efforts to generate additional voluntary income are designed to provide the sustainability needed to ensure our team can support and engage with more children, families and communities.

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9.1 Analysis of the external environment

With the level of need increasing across the communities CANW serve, as part of the 2023/24 planning process, colleagues from across the operational and senior leadership teams took part in a number of sessions that were designed to highlight and focus in on the areas where:

- 1) There is a clear increase in the level of need
- 2) There is potential for CANW to deliver support that would make a positive difference
- 3) There are a range of potential avenues to fund this work

This process considered both the national and local picture, feedback from our beneficiaries and key stakeholders, public policy (current and future), and much more. The next step will be for the Senior Leadership Team to lead an engagement and consultation process with our wider staff team, the communities we serve (our beneficiaries), and key stakeholders (including commissioners, donors and partner organisations).

Whilst many of the issues we are seeing across our communities have stayed relatively static over the last 12 months, the level of severity, impact and number of people effected have increased. In some cases dramatically – with many more families living in poverty, with many families who have never been ‘vulnerable’ before experienced significant challenges linked to cost-of-living crisis, food and fuel poverty.

There continues to be a skills gap between vacancies in social care posts and skilled and experienced applicants, an increase in the number of children in care and coming to the attention of social care, significant gaps in health indicators for children with many of the geographical regions we operate in, a direct correlation between health and social outcomes based on race and culture, and evidence of significant stresses on families and communities. The situation is challenging and calls for clear strategic thinking and planning to ensure we target our work where we can make the biggest impact.

We have consulted with our stakeholders, children, commissioners and other stakeholders to understand what is important to them and the services and gaps they would like to see us deliver going forward; Children and Young People have told us about the things that are important to them and what they would like from CANW. They told us that being supported in schools and getting opportunities to learn and develop skills is important to them, that relationships with friends and families can sometimes be difficult and they would like support there, they said that sometimes they feel anxious and down and would like support with their mental health and wellbeing. They also told us that they enjoyed spending time together and that they would like more opportunities to meet together and enjoy activities.

Foster carers have told us that it is important that they receive practical and emotional support and that children in foster families want to receive their own support. That being a voluntary fostering agency with a strong value base is important. That they want opportunities to meet with each other and gain peer support, and that the relationships with their support workers is important.

Our Commissioners and other stakeholders have told us that they want to further develop partnership working, that they can see gaps in mental health provision and that early intervention is important to them. There continues to be gaps in mental health and wellbeing support for Children and Young People who have been looked after and are leaving care. Our colleagues in health are interested in further development of a place based early intervention offer. In addition, risk management of the needs of very complex young people is important. Unfortunately, colleagues across our Emotional Health and Wellbeing team have also reported significant increases in levels of self-harm and suicidal ideation, as well as problematic rises in the impact of worrying content from social platforms such as TikTok and Instagram. A focus on mitigating the impact of online content is a priority for the team as well as considering how to develop and disseminate positive digital content.

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Partnership working across the voluntary sector has also come into focus this year and will grow as a priority over the next 12 – 18 months and organisations look for opportunities to come together solve complex social problems, rather than working in isolation.

10 Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Child Action Northwest for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

11 Auditor

MHA Moore and Smalley are deemed to be re-appointed under section 487 (2) of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board of trustees:



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Mrs Webb – Chair

Date 02/11/2023

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Child Action Northwest (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and the Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement 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).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company'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 charitable company's members and its trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006 and 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 group's or parent charitable company'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.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 42, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 group's and parent charitable company'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 group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiries with management about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Enquires with management about any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Examination of journal entries and other adjustments to test for appropriateness and identify any instances of management override of controls;
- Review of legal and professional expenditure to identify any evidence of ongoing litigation or enquiries.
- Review of the systems for recording income, and testing of a sample of income transactions throughout the year to check they have been recorded in the accounts and in the correct period.

Because of the field in which the client operates we identified that employment law, health and safety legislation and compliance with the UK Companies Act are the areas most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non-compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognise the non-compliance.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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 auditor's report.

Nicola Mason

Nicola Mason (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
MHA Moore and Smalley
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Richard House
Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3 HP

Date: 06/11/2023

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	51,637	-	51,637	51,747
Charitable activities	5	5,831,901	2,289	5,834,190	6,168,553
Investment income	6	37,042	-	37,042	31,574
Other income	7	36,076	-	36,076	15,125
Total incoming resources		<u>5,956,656</u>	<u>2,289</u>	<u>5,958,945</u>	<u>6,266,999</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		135,814	-	135,814	96,961
Charitable activities					
Care and Accommodation Services		1,996,692	57	1,996,749	2,030,892
Youth and Engagement Support		96,797	23,755	120,552	93,817
Family Wellbeing:					
Family Support		3,002,808	2,289	3,005,097	2,948,976
Youth Justice		900,643	-	900,643	694,674
Adult Community Services		187,504	-	187,504	183,838
Total outgoing resources	8	<u>6,320,258</u>	<u>26,101</u>	<u>6,346,359</u>	<u>6,049,158</u>
		(363,602)	(23,812)	(387,414)	217,841
Realised gains/(losses) on investment assets		(58,974)	-	(58,974)	(5,644)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets		(88,240)	-	(88,240)	97,623
Net income/(expenditure)		(510,816)	(23,812)	(534,628)	309,820
Transfers between funds	14 & 15	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(510,816)	(23,812)	(534,628)	309,820
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	14 & 15	3,630,570	76,257	3,706,827	3,397,007
Total funds carried forward	14 & 15	<u>3,119,754</u>	<u>52,445</u>	<u>3,172,199</u>	<u>3,706,827</u>

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

All activities derive from continuing activities.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	618,843	674,671	618,843	672,767
Investments	11	2,394,904	2,323,674	2,394,904	2,323,674
		<u>3,013,747</u>	<u>2,998,345</u>	<u>3,013,747</u>	<u>2,996,441</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	1,101,851	679,234	1,035,608	675,577
Cash at bank and in hand		373,913	915,817	356,162	867,079
		<u>1,475,764</u>	<u>1,595,051</u>	<u>1,391,770</u>	<u>1,542,656</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,317,312)	(886,569)	(1,300,612)	(883,987)
Net current assets		158,452	708,482	91,158	658,669
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>3,172,199</u>	<u>3,706,827</u>	<u>3,104,905</u>	<u>3,655,110</u>
Capital and reserves					
Restricted funds	15	52,445	76,257	52,445	76,257
Unrestricted funds:					
- Revaluation reserve	14	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
- Fixed asset funds	14	528,843	584,670	528,843	582,766
- General unrestricted funds	14	2,500,911	2,955,900	2,433,617	2,906,087
		<u>3,119,754</u>	<u>3,630,570</u>	<u>3,052,460</u>	<u>3,578,853</u>
		<u>3,172,199</u>	<u>3,706,827</u>	<u>3,104,905</u>	<u>3,655,110</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 02/11/2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mrs Webb - Chair

Company number: 00820660

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash generated from operating activities	1	(367,047)	123,944
Cash provided by investing activities			
Interest received		14,076	1,439
Income from listed investments		37,042	31,574
		51,118	33,013
Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(7,531)	(53,364)
Payments to acquire investments		(1,114,607)	(663,430)
Receipts from sales of investments		894,488	421,053
		(227,650)	(295,741)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(543,579)	(138,784)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,000,600	1,139,384
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2	457,021	1,000,600

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT NOTES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Net incoming resources	(534,628)	309,820
Unrealised (gains)/losses on investment assets	88,240	(97,623)
Depreciation of tangible assets	63,359	63,973
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangible assets	-	-
(Profit)/loss on disposal of investments	58,974	5,644
Bank interest received	(14,076)	(1,439)
Income from listed investments	(37,042)	(31,574)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(422,617)	(153,862)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	430,743	29,005
	(367,047)	123,944

2 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flow £	Other non cash changes £	At 31 March 2023 £
Net cash:				
Cash at bank and in hand	915,817	(541,904)	-	373,913
Overdraft	-	-	-	-
	915,817	(541,904)	-	373,913
Cash on short term deposit	84,783	(1,675)	-	83,108
Net funds	1,000,600	(543,579)	-	457,021

3 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	2023 £	2022 £
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	(541,904)	(108,725)
Increase/(decrease) in liquid resources	<u>(1,675)</u>	<u>(30,059)</u>
Movement in net funds in the year	(543,579)	(138,784)
Opening net funds	1,000,600	1,139,384
Closing net funds	457,021	1,000,600

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Legal form

The charity constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is as stated on page 4.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Child Action Northwest 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 notes.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate all assets and liabilities and income and expenditure of the wholly owned non-charitable subsidiary community interest company, CANWe Solutions CIC, made up to 31 March 2023.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

At the time of approval of the financial statements, the trustees have considered the charity's financial position and performance. The trustees have considered the twelve month period following approval of the accounts and have concluded that the charity appears to have sufficient cash resources to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. This is supported by an investment portfolio of £2,394,904 at 31 March 2023 which could be liquidised to fund short term working capital requirements should the need arise. Therefore the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied:

- Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies, is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.
- Grants where entitlement is conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant, upon delivery of the specified performance.
- Income receivable under contract is recognised when the contractual obligations have been fulfilled. Where the contract is still in progress, income is recognised to the extent that it has been earned.
- Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the trustees' annual report.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, fundraising and trading activities undertaken by the CIC.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the operation of the child and young person related activities and include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities. The costs also include the costs of the CIC for delivering such projects.
- Support and governance costs include the costs of central functions and those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets, associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Support and governance costs are allocated to each activity on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

Fund accounting

The group has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

All other funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for particular purposes.

The revaluation reserve represents the difference between the historical cost of fixed assets and the revalued amount included within the balance sheet.

Pension scheme

The group operates group personal pension arrangements. Contributions payable are charged to the profit and loss account in the year they are payable.

Taxation

Child Action North West is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities. CANWe Solutions CIC is a taxable entity and therefore provisions for tax are included where relevant.

VAT

As the charity is not registered for VAT all resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Homestead & Springfield Court land and buildings	-	4% straight line
Other land and buildings	-	1.8% - 6.5% straight line
Property alterations	-	4% straight line
Furniture & fittings	-	10% straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25% straight line
Equipment	-	20% straight line

There is no readily available split of the land element included within land and buildings and so the entire balance has been depreciated.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The charity has taken advantage of the transitional provisions of section 35.10 (d) of FRS 102 and has continued to include land and buildings at a combination of cost and a valuation undertaken before the implementation of the Reporting Standard.

Paragraph 16.4A of FRS102 provides an accounting policy choice for group members which rent investment property to another group entity to account for those properties at either fair value through profit or loss or by transferring them to property, plant and equipment and applying the cost model. The latter accounting policy choice has been selected.

Stocks

No account is taken of stocks of food or other consumable items at the accounting date, on the grounds that the balance is immaterial in value.

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.

Investments are re-stated at their fair value at each subsequent year end and any unrealised gains or losses are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are outlined below:

Funding on payment by result contracts

In respect of payment by result contracts, management are required to assess the stage of project delivery at the year end in order to calculate the entitlement earned. If confirmation has not been received by the commissioner on the approved project delivery then the income included within the accounts is based on management's best assessment of the delivery achieved. Any amounts earned but not yet received are included within accrued income and the converse is accounted for within deferred income in order to ensure that the funding is recognised in the same accounting period as the related services are provided.

Impairment of tangible fixed assets

At each reporting date the trustees are required to assess whether there is any indication of impairment. This is done with reference to third party valuations, if obtained during the period. If not, impairment indicators are considered with reference to the estimated value in use and the assets' future service potential to the charity's beneficiaries.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiary, CANWe Solutions CIC.

Total incoming resources for the charity alone are £5,755,664 (2022: £6,036,791) and the net decrease in funds for the year is £550,405 (2022: increase of £271,192).

4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Other donations	51,637	-	51,637	51,747
	51,637	-	51,637	51,747

Income from donations and legacies totalled £51,637 (2022: £51,747) all of which was unrestricted in nature in both the current and previous year.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Care Services	1,799,169	-	1,799,169	2,163,382
Youth and Community Support	120,448	-	120,448	95,786
Family Wellbeing:				
Family Support	2,797,971	2,289	2,800,260	2,980,139
Youth Justice	886,332	-	886,332	699,043
Adult Community Services	227,981	-	227,981	230,203
	5,831,901	2,289	5,834,190	6,168,553

Prior year incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Care Services	2,128,496	34,886	2,163,382	2,040,125
Youth and Community Support	55,286	40,500	95,786	81,515
Family Wellbeing:				
Family Support	2,980,139	-	2,980,139	1,912,845
Youth Justice	699,043	-	699,043	573,422
Adult Community Services	230,203	-	230,203	224,714
	6,093,167	75,386	6,168,553	4,832,621

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Income from listed investments	37,042	-	37,042	31,574
	37,042	-	37,042	31,574

Investment income totalled £37,042 (2022: £31,574), all of which was unrestricted in nature in both the current and previous year.

7 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Bank interest	14,076	-	14,076	1,439
Other grant income received	22,000	-	22,000	-
CJRS income	-	-	-	13,686
	36,076	-	36,076	15,125

Other income totalled £36,076 (2022: £15,125), of which £nil (2022: £13,686) was restricted and £36,076 was unrestricted (2022: £1,439).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8 Total resources expended

	Basis of allocation	Care Services £	Youth Engagement and Support £	Family Support £	Youth Justice £	Public Relations £	Central Management £	Adult Community Services £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Costs directly allocated to activities										
Salaries and Wages	Direct	321,332	76,339	1,165,343	549,059	89,068	566,541	148,615	2,916,297	2,729,927
National Insurance	Direct	30,637	6,178	93,637	21,636	9,470	64,245	10,811	236,614	211,281
Pension Fund Contributions	Direct	13,281	2,053	37,990	6,319	3,856	30,017	1,872	95,388	88,249
Private Medical Insurance	Direct	976	-	358	-	-	5,092	-	6,426	6,599
Subcontractor costs	Direct	32,902	3,010	1,083,380	23,658	-	-	6,873	1,149,823	1,080,753
Other staff costs	Direct	51,566	2,154	47,655	69,589	5,196	3,227	2,223	181,610	88,014
Carers costs	Direct	1,047,861	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,047,861	1,178,397
Service operating costs	Direct	10,999	992	981	4,016	9,474	890	1,586	28,938	62,526
Training costs	Direct	9,710	305	3,419	474	368	10,869	-	25,145	19,864
Fundraising costs	Direct	1,220	-	250	16	8,331	4,000	-	13,817	1,654
Support and governance costs allocated to activities										
Rent	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,437	8,437	5,846
Other property costs	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	112,062	1,625	113,687	68,678
Insurance	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	135,431	-	135,431	163,813
Office running costs	Usage	24,988	4,403	35,590	40,276	10,041	170,340	3,230	288,868	246,846
Central management	Usage	448,722	25,032	535,938	185,275	-	(1,194,967)	-	-	10,118
Audit fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	18,903	-	18,903	15,495
Legal fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	6,559	-	6,559	5,721
Depreciation	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	61,455	1,904	63,359	63,973
Loss on disposal of assets	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	287	123	410	561
Other central costs	Usage	2,555	86	556	325	10	5,049	205	8,786	843
		1,996,749	120,552	3,005,097	900,643	135,814	-	187,504	6,346,359	6,049,158

Total resources expended amounted to £6,346,359 (2022: £6,049,158), of which £6,320,258 was unrestricted (2022: £5,988,928) and £26,101 was restricted (2022: £60,230).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Total resources expended (continued)

Prior year total resources expended

	Basis of allocation	Care Services £	Youth Engagement and Support £	Family Support £	Youth Justice £	Public Relations £	Central Management £	Adult Community Services £	CANWe Solutions CIC Trading £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Costs directly allocated to activities											
Salaries and Wages	Direct	371,548	60,979	1,210,233	465,684	60,411	410,729	150,344	-	2,729,927	2,316,053
National Insurance	Direct	33,382	4,843	91,225	19,583	5,998	43,225	13,026	-	211,281	173,675
Pension Fund Contributions	Direct	15,532	1,577	38,734	7,351	2,765	19,519	2,772	-	88,249	87,502
Private Medical Insurance	Direct	1,004	-	1,246	-	-	4,349	-	-	6,599	4,795
Subcontractor costs	Direct	29,297	30	1,042,503	8,863	-	60	-	-	1,080,753	596,741
Other staff costs	Direct	13,334	1,140	27,720	40,812	2,120	1,582	1,305	-	88,014	73,970
Carers costs	Direct	1,178,397	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,178,397	1,084,408
Service operating costs	Direct	8,323	2,920	558	880	198	47,280	1,035	1,331	62,526	52,562
Training costs	Direct	5,157	3,710	3,435	28	1,000	5,583	951	-	19,864	11,136
Fundraising costs	Direct	1,497	22	-	-	135	-	-	-	1,654	350
Support and governance costs allocated to activities											
Rent	Usage	29,157	1,116	30,130	9,586	-	(69,989)	5,846	-	5,846	6,670
Other property costs	Usage	450	39	951	-	244	63,339	2,813	841	68,678	63,047
Insurance	Usage	48,536	1,859	50,156	15,957	-	47,306	-	-	163,813	114,853
Office running costs	Usage	22,106	2,343	43,073	32,562	10,468	128,237	5,747	2,310	246,846	194,956
Central management	Usage	285,536	13,274	396,234	93,519	5,880	(784,325)	-	-	10,118	8,352
Audit fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	15,480	-	15	15,495	14,835
Legal fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	5,721	-	-	5,721	6,485
Depreciation	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	61,541	-	2,432	63,973	57,871
Loss on disposal of assets	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	363	-	198	561	841
Other central costs	Usage	230	-	-	-	-	-	-	613	843	542
		2,043,486	93,852	2,936,196	694,826	89,219	-	183,839	7,740	6,049,158	4,869,644

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Total resources expended (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Total resources expended include:		
Fees payable to the charity's auditor (exclusive of VAT):		
Audit of the charity's annual accounts	10,350	8,675
Audit of the subsidiary's annual accounts	3,400	2,915
	13,750	11,590
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for other services (exclusive of VAT):		
Accountancy and other services	3,125	2,600
	2023 £	2022 £
Indemnity insurance for the committee and senior employees	10,219	8,242
Operating lease rentals		
- land and buildings	-	-
- other	4,391	4,882
Depreciation of tangible assets	63,359	63,973
Profit/(loss) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Profit/(loss) on disposal of investments	(58,974)	(5,644)

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff Costs		
Salaries and wages	2,916,297	2,729,927
National insurance	236,614	211,281
Pension fund contributions	95,388	88,249
	3,248,299	3,029,457

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

		2023	2022
Office and management	- full time	23	21
	- part time	9	10
Others	- full time	26	33
	- part time	42	45
		100	109

The full time equivalent of the part time staff is 31 (2022: 28). In addition the charity has made use of an average of 90 (2022: 69) sessional staff during the year working differing hours as and when required. During the year the charity had available to use an average of 131 sessional staff (2022: 122). As at the year end the charity had 143 available members of staff (2022: 125).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2023	2022
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
£80,000 - £90,000	1	-
	2	1

The Trustees claimed £229 (2022: £nil) in respect of reimbursement of mileage claims and other expenses.

The Board has identified the Chief Executive as being the key management personnel. The employee benefits paid in respect of key management personnel, including employer's pension contributions and employer's national insurance contributions, during the year was £96,728 (2022: £91,819).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Tangible fixed assets

Charity

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture & Fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost						
Balance at 1 April 2022						
At deemed cost on transition to FRS102	-	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
At Cost	808,943	685,752	-	64,488	264,092	1,823,275
	808,943	775,752	-	64,488	264,092	1,913,275
Additions	-	-	5,181	-	2,350	7,531
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2023	808,943	775,752	5,181	64,488	266,442	1,920,806
Depreciation						
Balance at 1 April 2022	449,827	497,233	-	64,488	228,960	1,240,508
Charge for the year	32,358	16,899	518	-	11,680	61,455
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2023	482,185	514,132	518	64,488	240,640	1,301,963
Net book value						
31 March 2023	326,758	261,620	4,663	-	25,802	618,843
31 March 2022	359,116	278,519	-	-	35,132	672,767

The original cost of the land and buildings included at a valuation of £90,000 is not known.

Group

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture & Fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost						
Balance at 1 April 2022						
At deemed cost on transition to FRS102	-	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
At Cost	808,943	685,752	-	122,562	295,903	1,913,160
	808,943	775,752	-	122,562	295,903	2,003,160
Additions	-	-	5,181	-	2,350	7,531
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2023	808,943	775,752	5,181	122,562	298,253	2,010,691
Depreciation						
Balance at 1 April 2022	449,827	497,233	-	122,562	258,867	1,328,489
Charge for the year	32,358	16,899	518	-	13,584	63,359
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2023	482,185	514,132	518	122,562	272,451	1,391,848
Net book value						
31 March 2023	326,758	261,620	4,663	-	25,802	618,843
31 March 2022	359,116	278,519	-	-	37,036	674,671

The original cost of the land and buildings included at a valuation of £90,000 is not known.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12 Fixed Assets – Investments (Group and charity)

	2023 £	2022 £
Listed investments		
Market value at 1 April 2022	2,238,891	1,904,535
Additions	1,114,607	663,430
Disposals	(953,465)	(426,697)
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation at 31 March 2023	(88,237)	97,623
At 31 March 2023	2,311,796	2,238,891
Cash held within investment portfolio	83,108	84,783
Total investments	2,394,904	2,323,674
Represented by:	2023 £	2022 £
Listed on Recognised Stock Exchange:		
Cazenove Unit Trust		
Equities: UK Equities	53,136	139,967
Europe (ex UK)	-	-
Global	1,031,576	1,032,374
Bonds: UK Bonds	300,894	109,926
Global	369,313	345,595
Alternative: Hedge Funds	138,545	140,456
Property	120,531	138,831
Commodities	136,721	173,461
Structured Products	56,601	53,006
Others	104,479	105,275
Cash	83,108	84,783
	2,394,904	2,323,674
Historical cost at 31 March 2023	2,163,953	1,940,920

Charity

In addition to the above investments, the charity also controls CANWe Solutions CIC, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales, which was incorporated on 18 March 2009 and of which Child Action Northwest is the sole member. The CIC commenced trading on 1 April 2009.

The principal activity of the company is that of benefiting the community by working with adults and young people suffering from worklessness, through funding from the government incentives. Its turnover for the year ended 31 March 2023 was £227,981 (2022: £230,203) and the surplus for the year then ended was £15,577 (2022: £38,628). The aggregate of its share capital and reserves at 31 March 2023 was £67,294 (2022: £51,717).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	479,663	471,361	479,663	471,361
Prepayments	622,188	207,873	555,945	204,216
	<u>1,101,851</u>	<u>679,234</u>	<u>1,035,608</u>	<u>675,577</u>

14 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	165,243	310,305	164,289	310,305
Accruals and deferred income	1,059,593	493,499	1,059,593	493,499
Taxation and social security	56,072	56,066	52,733	54,678
Other creditors	36,404	26,699	13,915	13,725
Amounts due to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	10,082	11,780
	<u>1,317,312</u>	<u>886,569</u>	<u>1,300,612</u>	<u>883,987</u>

Included within creditors falling due within one year is deferred income held by the group of £706,282 (2022: £306,528) relating to payments on account received for contracts or performance related grants. The brought forward deferred income of £306,528 was released in full during the year.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15 Analysis of unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2023 £
Charity general unrestricted funds							
Revaluation reserve - property	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Fixed asset fund	582,766	-	-	(53,923)	-	-	528,843
General unrestricted	2,906,087	5,753,575	(6,132,754)	53,923	(58,974)	(88,240)	2,433,617
	3,578,853	5,753,575	(6,132,754)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,052,460
CANWe Solutions CIC general unrestricted funds							
Fixed asset fund	1,904	-	-	(1,904)	-	-	-
General unrestricted	49,813	203,080	(187,503)	1,904	-	-	67,294
	51,717	203,080	(187,503)	-	-	-	67,294
Total general unrestricted funds	3,630,570	5,956,655	(6,320,257)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,119,754
Total group unrestricted funds	3,630,570	5,956,655	(6,320,257)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,119,754

16 Analysis of restricted funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2023 £
Charity restricted funds							
Care Services							
Children in Need	57	-	(57)	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Leaving Care Grant	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Young Carers							
Young Farmers	-	2,289	(2,289)	-	-	-	-
Young Carers Blackburn	44,403	-	(22,636)	-	-	-	21,767
Young Peoples Space Fund	21,797	-	(1,119)	-	-	-	20,678
	76,257	2,289	(26,101)	-	-	-	52,445
CANWe Solutions CIC restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group restricted funds	76,257	2,289	(26,101)	-	-	-	52,445
Total funds - charity	3,655,110	5,755,864	(6,158,855)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,104,905
Total funds - group	3,706,827	5,958,944	(6,346,358)	-	(58,974)	(88,240)	3,172,199

Children in Need is grant funding received from the BBC to support care services.

During the prior year the Charity was awarded a restricted grant from the National Lottery to support a Leaving Care project.

The Young Carers fund relate to donations received for the specific purpose of supporting young carers with activities.

The Young Peoples' Space Fund is a pot of fund that was set up to develop the Young Peoples' Space at the head office building. This development was ongoing at the year end.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Analysis of funds – prior year

Analysis of unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2022 £
Charity general unrestricted funds							
Revaluation reserve - property	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Fixed asset fund	590,944	-	-	(8,178)	-	-	582,766
General unrestricted	2,342,187	5,947,720	(5,797,349)	321,550	(5,644)	97,623	2,906,087
	3,023,131	5,947,720	(5,797,349)	313,372	(5,644)	97,623	3,578,853
CANWe Solutions CIC general unrestricted funds							
Fixed asset fund	4,336	-	-	(2,432)	-	-	1,904
General unrestricted	8,753	230,208	(191,580)	2,432	-	-	49,813
	13,089	230,208	(191,580)	-	-	-	51,717
Total general unrestricted funds	3,036,220	6,177,928	(5,988,929)	313,372	(5,644)	97,623	3,630,570
Charity designated funds							
Development fund	313,372	-	-	(313,372)	-	-	-
	313,372	-	-	(313,372)	-	-	-
Total group unrestricted funds	3,349,592	6,177,928	(5,988,929)	-	(5,644)	97,623	3,630,570

Analysis of restricted funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2022 £
Charity restricted funds							
Care Services							
Children in Need	5,068	24,886	(29,897)	-	-	-	57
National Lottery Leaving Care Grant	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Young Carers							
Young Carers Blackburn	23,631	35,000	(14,228)	-	-	-	44,403
Young Peoples Space Fund	18,716	5,500	(2,419)	-	-	-	21,797
CJRS income	-	13,686	(13,686)	-	-	-	-
	47,415	89,072	(60,230)	-	-	-	76,257
CANWe Solutions CIC restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group restricted funds	47,415	89,072	(60,230)	-	-	-	76,257
Total funds - charity	3,383,918	6,036,792	(5,857,579)	-	(5,644)	97,623	3,655,110
Total funds - group	3,397,007	6,267,000	(6,049,159)	-	(5,644)	97,623	3,706,827

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Charity	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	618,843	618,843
Investments	-	2,394,904	2,394,904
Current assets	52,445	1,339,325	1,391,770
Current liabilities	-	(1,300,612)	(1,300,612)
Total net assets	52,445	3,052,460	3,104,905
Group	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	618,843	618,843
Investments	-	2,394,904	2,394,904
Current assets	52,445	1,423,319	1,475,764
Current liabilities	-	(1,317,312)	(1,317,312)
Total net assets	52,445	3,119,754	3,172,199

Prior year analysis of net assets between funds

Charity	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	672,766	672,766
Investments	-	2,323,674	2,323,674
Current assets	76,257	1,466,400	1,542,657
Current liabilities	-	(883,987)	(883,987)
Total net assets	76,257	3,578,853	3,655,110
Group	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	674,671	674,671
Investments	-	2,323,674	2,323,674
Current assets	76,257	1,518,794	1,595,051
Current liabilities	-	(886,569)	(886,569)
Total net assets	76,257	3,630,570	3,706,827

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

18 Financial instruments

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets				
Measured at fair value through net income/expenditure	2,394,904	2,323,674	2,394,904	2,323,674
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	479,663	471,361	479,663	471,361
	2,874,567	2,795,035	2,874,567	2,795,035
Carrying amount of financial liabilities				
Measured at amortised cost	257,719	393,070	241,019	390,488

19 Pension commitments

The group operates group personal pension arrangements. Contributions payable by the group amounted to £95,388 (2022: £88,249). Outstanding pension contributions at 31 March 2023 amounted to £15,947 (2022: £13,777).

20 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the group and the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

Charity	Land & buildings		Other assets	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	-	-	2,524	4,391
Within two to five years	-	-	-	2,524
Over 5 years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	2,524	6,915
Group				
	Land & buildings		Other assets	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	-	-	2,524	4,391
Within two to five years	-	-	-	2,524
Over 5 years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	2,524	6,915

21 Related party transactions

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption conferred by FRS 102 Section 33, in that transactions entered into between two or more members of the group are not disclosed, provided that any subsidiary which is a party to the transaction is wholly owned by such a member.

There were no related party transactions apart from any disclosed in note 10 relating to expenses paid to trustees and key management personnel remuneration.

Accounts

Company Registration No. 00820660 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity No. 222533

Child Action Northwest

Company Limited by Guarantee

Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Legal and administration details

Status: Child Action Northwest is a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act 1995. Its governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees:	Mrs M Webb	Chair
	Mr A Botterill	Vice Chair
	Mr J Townend	Resigned 25 October 2021
	Mr G H Fairweather	
	Mr J Comyn-Platt	
	Mr P Griffin	Resigned 22 November 2021
	Mrs J Hetherington	Resigned 26 April 2021
	Mr A May	
	Mr J Hussain	Resigned 23 May 2022
	Mr M Roche	
	Mr S Damp	Appointed 23 August 2021
	Mr M Jameson	Appointed 28 February 2022
	Ms N Islam-Khan	Appointed 28 February 2022
	Mr N Eatwell	Appointed 28 March 2022
	Mr M Roe	Appointed 27 June 2022

Strategic Management Team:

Ms S Cotton	Chief Executive
Mr S Chaplin	Deputy Chief Executive
Miss R Coaker	Strategic Director of Finance and Resources (appointed 17 June 2021)
Ms K Wilkinson	Strategic Director Business Development and QA (resigned 29 August 2021)
Mr J Cobbold	Strategic Director – Business Development, Innovation and Growth (appointed 22 November 2021)

Operational Management Team:

Julie Dawkins	Registered Manager Fostering Services: Head of Service Care & Accommodation
Joanne Lever	Head of HR
Sue Monighan	Head of Service – Emotional Health and Wellbeing
Adam Desai	Fostering Service Team Manager
Huma Sheikh	Young Carers Team Leader
Lesley Hall	Assistant Director – Family Support and Wellbeing
Michelle Dixon	Assistant Director – Criminal Justice and Social Inclusion
Hannah Wilson	Head of Service – ProContact

Company Number: 00820660

Registered Charity Number: 222533

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Legal and administration details (continued)

Registered Office:	The Homestead Whalley Road Wilpshire Blackburn BB1 9LL	Regional Office:	4b Springfield Court Summerfield Road Off Manchester Road Bolton BL3 2NT
		Regional Office:	CANWe Solutions CIC Dixon House Whalley Road Wilpshire Blackburn BB1 9LL
Solicitors:	Forbes Solicitors Rutherford House 4 Wellington Street (St Johns) Blackburn BB1 8DD	Auditors:	MHA Moore and Smalley Statutory Auditors Chartered Accountants Richard House 9 Winckley Square Preston PR1 3HP

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Structure governance and management

This is the annual report of the Trustees for Child Action Northwest for the financial year ending 31 March 2022, incorporating Child Action Northwest and its subsidiary company CANWe Solutions CIC.

Child Action Northwest (CANW) is a registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum of Articles of Association. The members of the Committee are therefore Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the Company.

The Board of Trustees has appointed two Trustees as Director's for the CIC to represent the interests of the Charity's Trustees. An independent Director also sits on the CIC board.

The current Trustees are listed on page 3. The Chairman and Treasurer are Honorary Officers. The Honorary Officers are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman and Treasurer are ex-officio members of the committee. One third of the remaining Trustees who are not Honorary Officers are elected annually by the members of the company. Three new Trustees have been appointed over the year and have undertaken an induction programme.

To facilitate their responsibilities, the Trustees have agreed a rolling agenda. In addition, monthly Pre-Trustees meetings are held to consider items in detail.

The board has nominated a Trustee to take the lead on safeguarding and there are quarterly meetings with the lead staff responsible for operational safeguarding to ensure the Charity has robust safeguarding controls in place. The Board reviews safeguarding arrangements on an annual basis.

To further its work, the Board of Trustees holds a Reserves Management Group that meets quarterly to oversee the Charity's investments and any proposed service development that requires financial support.

Both the Pre-Meeting and Reserve Management meetings report back to the Trustee Board.

Strategic Directors provide a quarterly service report to the Board of Trustees, and the Business Director for the CIC provides a quarterly report on its performance.

A 'Skills, Experience and Governance' audit is undertaken each year with the Board and any skill gaps in the Board are identified. This process enables the identification of any developmental needs within the board so that the appropriate training or other opportunities can be identified throughout the year; this includes an annual team building and training event. The audit also informs recruitment to the board, enabling it to be focussed on meeting any skill gaps identified. Recruitment to the Board is via advertising through various media and networks, completion of an application form and interview by the Chair with the CEO. If this stage is successful, then interested members are invited to observe a Board meeting.

A governance review is undertaken annually led by the Chair of the Board and recommendations made to ensure that the board follows ethical guidance, is representative of the diverse communities we operate within and receives representation from young people.

Newly appointed Trustees are invited to attend the CANW induction day for new staff and are provided with an information pack which includes: -

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

- Child Action Northwest's mission statement
- History of Child Action Northwest
- Introduction to the Charity's services
- Trustees role description
- Payment and expenses
- Contact details of Trustees and Managers
- Responsibilities of Trustees
- Training and development
- Code of conduct
- Terms of reference for Pre-Trustees Meeting and Reserves Management Meeting
- Fundraising (Creative Partnerships)

In addition, all Trustees visit the Charity's projects as part of their induction, meet with key members of the Senior Manager Team, complete a Disclosure and Barring application, sign and agree to the Trustee Code of Conduct and sign a declaration of eligibility to act as a Trustee. They also receive, on a bi-monthly basis, a copy of Governance Magazine to keep them informed on trustee and governance matters, and receive a copy of the Good Trustee Guide published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). During this past year remote technology has been used to ensure that induction and service visits can be undertaken remotely.

The organisational structure chart is provided below:

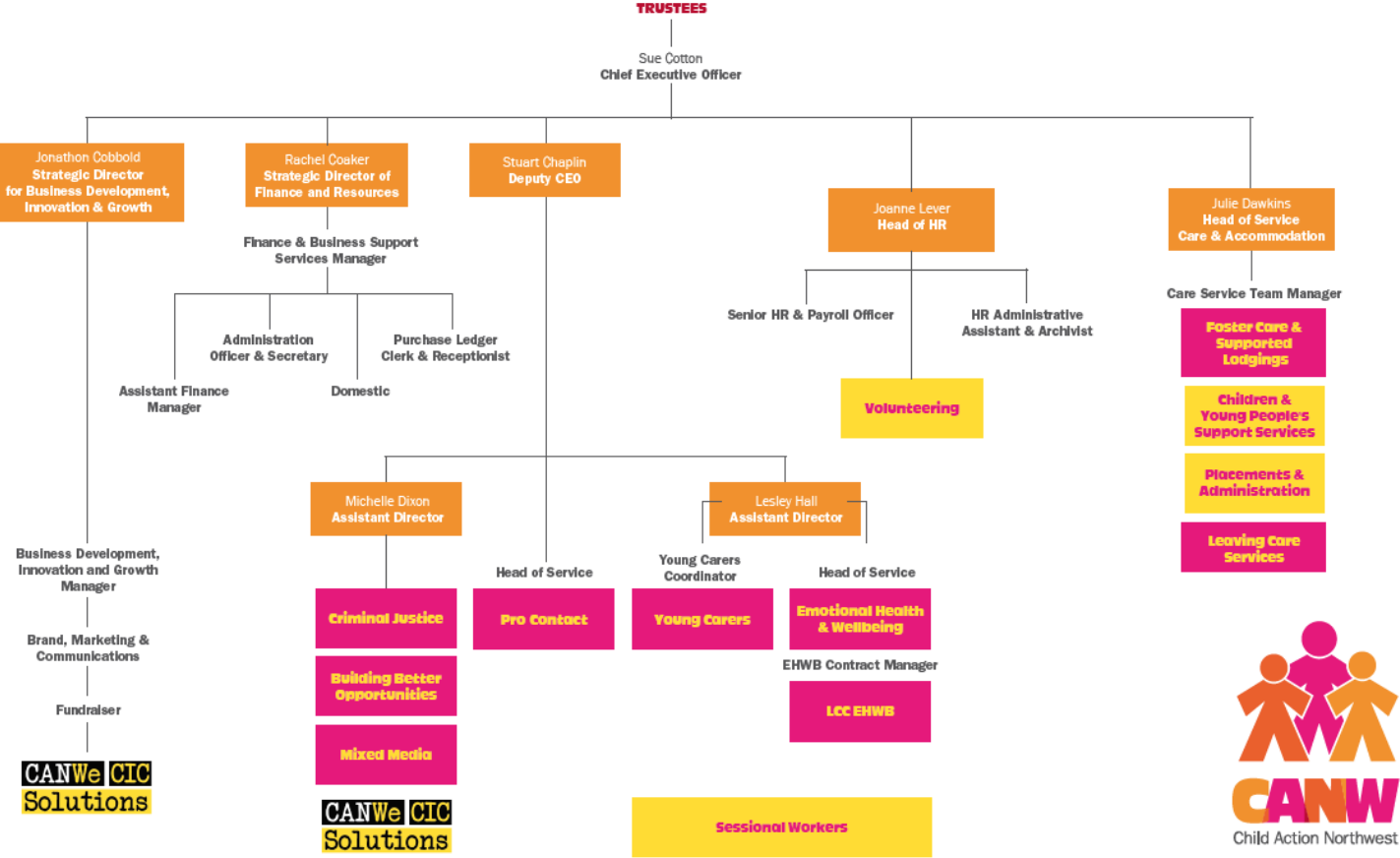
CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

CANW ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES CHART

MARCH 2022



CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Board approve and monitor the strategic plan and business plan of Child Action Northwest and during the year the Board of Trustees, along with the Chief Executive, review the strategic direction of the Charity, taking into account the type of risk faced by it and the likelihood that risks may materialise. The operational and financial risks, once assessed, are monitored through a number of internal management systems including monthly senior managers' meetings, Pre-Trustee's meetings and quarterly Reserves Management meetings. A scheme of delegation is in place to ensure clarity of the financial decision making process.

Over the previous year the Trustee Board undertook a full governance review against Charity Commission guidance and standards. A quality framework was agreed and an action plan is in place with a three-year rolling review programme in place.

The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the Board and reviewed on an annual basis. It is benchmarked against the NJC (National Joint Council) payscales and has been benchmarked against other similar organisations within the voluntary sector. The Chair of the Board meets regularly with the CEO, to undertake appraisal and to monitor objectives set by the Board. A closed meeting is held annually by the Board to review the performance of the CEO against these objectives. The pay of the Senior Management team is also reviewed against the NJC payscale and external benchmarking. The CEO undertakes an annual appraisal and regular supervision of the Management Team and discusses performance of the operational team with the Chair.

A number of stakeholder events are held over the year where the trustees and staff have the opportunity to meet a wide range of stakeholders including other charities and organisations who have an interest in Child Action Northwest. In addition, the operational managers are involved in a number of strategic planning groups across the region where there is an opportunity to contribute to developments that will be positive for its beneficiaries. A number of partnership arrangements are in place, supported by a Memorandum of Understanding, where direct services are delivered in line with the charitable objects. Over the past year, due to restrictions imposed due to government guidance, these meetings have continued in the main, being held remotely using technology such as Zoom and Teams. The end of the year saw the lifting of most restrictions and some meetings have now returned to face to face.

During the pandemic the Board have continued to meet regularly and have used secure digital platforms to ensure they have been able to continue governance as usual. All sub meetings have continued. The Board has approved and reviewed the Covid risk management processes, received an update in relation to Covid at each meeting, agreed and supported remote working and ensured that the Charity continued to operate and fulfil its obligations. As government restrictions and guidance was lifted the Board began to meet in person with the facility for board members or members of the executive team to join remotely if needed. It is anticipated board meetings will be held in person over the coming year.

2. Objectives and activities

Child Action Northwest operates primarily in the North West of England, predominantly in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and surrounding area, including Cheshire East and Cumbria. For specific services the geographical delivery covers a wider footprint across the north and west of England. The Charity provides a broad range of services to support children, families and vulnerable adults, currently the work with vulnerable adults is primarily in the Criminal Justice service but following the change of objects in the previous year the Charity is considering a broader range of service delivery to support adults who experience disadvantage. The region of operations is very diverse and includes areas of deprivation alongside affluent and prosperous areas. The population within Blackburn with Darwen, parts of Lancashire and areas of Manchester include a high proportion of individuals from a Pakistani or Indian background. Across the region there is a general diversity within the population and the Charity monitors service delivery to ensure it is representative of the communities it serves.

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The charitable objects of Child Action Northwest are:

- To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons and the parents of such children and young persons who are in need of care and attention including (but not limited to) children and young persons involved in the provision of care for others;
- To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons who are disabled and in need of care and attention and the parents of such children and young persons;
- To relieve support, assist, counsel or otherwise benefit children and young persons who have learning difficulties and the parents of such children and young persons;
- To provide support, care and supervision for young persons and for mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable persons of any age arrested or being questioned by the police or any other prosecuting authority, remanded on bail by the police or a court or otherwise at risk of being remanded in custody including but not limited to by operation of a service providing appropriate adults to accompany such persons where provided for by law;
- To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

Further to the Objects Child Action Northwest has the following powers;

- Provide homes according to the needs of any such children or young persons;
- Establish maintain and operate assisted community homes within the provision of the Children Act 1989 in accordance with the provisions of an Instrument of Management made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Health;
- Provide or assist in the provision of appropriate schooling and tuition and training for employment;
- Provide establish and maintain workshops, training, establishment camps, recreation grounds, farms and gardens.
- Promote, organise or otherwise be involved in the provision of foster care to children and young persons.

In pursuance of these objects CANW provides a range of services under the following headings:

- **Care & Accommodation** – Provide Foster Care and Supported Lodgings placements for children and young people who are unable to live within their own family network and provide leaving care support for young people who have been looked after by the Local Authority.

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- **Targeted Early Support and Specialist Services (TESS)** – Provide a range of services in the community to support children, young people and families in partnership with a number of organisations including Schools, Youth Offending Teams, Local Authority Children's Services, Health and the Police. This service provides contact arrangements and advice and support for children whose families are separating.
- **Central Support Services** – Supply Finance, Administration, Human Resource, Marketing and Business Development, Training and Development Services for staff, carers and volunteers, and Corporate Partnership, Fundraising and Communications to support the charity's work.

Our Mission, Vision and Value Statements drive our work, we are ambitious for the children and families we work with. Over the year we have reviewed and updated our Mission and Vision statements. We aim to inspire lives and change futures by looking beyond the obvious to understand and provide the support individuals need to reach their potential.

Mission

The inequality that exists up and down the country means that many communities face complex challenges - simply getting by is tough. Our mission is to support children, adults and families across the country, ensuring that when life presents difficult circumstances, we're there every step of the way to make sure they get the support they need.

Inspiring lives, changing futures.

Vision

Our vision is that everyone gets the support they need, when they need it, to navigate the challenges they face in their day-to-day life.

Values

- **Never give up** - We have belief in the potential of ourselves and those we support and will do all we can to promote the ability in every individual for positive growth and change.
- **Caring** - We will always demonstrate kindness, consideration and concern for those around us.
- **Empowerment** - We will ensure that those we support and engage with are able to take more control of what happens in their lives and to become stronger, more independent and gain confidence.

Our values were agreed following consultation with the staff team, trustees and stakeholders, they inform our code of conduct and standards of behaviour expected across the charity. They are integral to our recruitment framework.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association permits the Board of Trustees to make financial investments of funds not immediately required for meeting the objectives of the organisation. In addition, the Articles of Association permits the Board of Trustees to make decisions on property owned, leased or rented by the Charity to further benefit its aims and objects.

Those funds not immediately required are placed in investments, securities or property as may be thought appropriate, subject to any legal requirements. The Charity's investments have been acquired in accordance with

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this power. There are clear investment and reserve policies in place and a sub group reports to the Trustee Board all matters in relation to investment or property.

Our People

At Child Action Northwest we recognise that our dedicated staff and volunteers are our most valuable asset. As of 31 March 2021 we employed a total of 97 permanent staff members and 122 sessional workers, bringing the total workforce of the Charity to 219 staff.

The pandemic has continued to further impact upon volunteering at CANW and at the end of March 2022 we had 19 volunteers registered within 4 service areas in CANW, including Trustees. This amounted to a total of 840.3 volunteer hours from April 2021 – March 2022. If this contribution is equated to pay at the minimum wage of £8.91 per hour the financial value of this support to CANW is £7487.07.

Over the last 12 months the HR team have fully supported the staff team, and refined processes to adapt to a hybrid way of working, with a reintroduction of part-time office-based working following the easing of pandemic related restrictions. A new HR system has been procured and implemented. Further work will continue to embed the new system during 2022-23.

The Human Resources team oversee a training programme outsourced to a local consortium, Spring North. The programme includes but is not limited to;

- Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- Equality and Diversity
- Data protection/GDPR

In addition, an annual audit of learning and development needs is undertaken and appropriate programmes put into place.

The impact of Covid-19

HR have continued to guide the organisation through the ongoing human impact of the pandemic: The team have ensured that support information has been shared, provided updates, and communicated any changes to be made. In addition, risk assessments have been regularly updated and staff supported to return to hybrid working.

3. Our Community Interest Company Canwe Solutions

The Community Interest Company (CIC) is a trading arm of CANW whose surpluses are gift aided to the Charity to support its charitable work.

The Articles state;

The Company's object is to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to:

- operate as a social enterprise in conjunction with Child Action Northwest (Company number 00820660) which itself exists to meet the objects listed above;

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To further meet the needs of the community the CIC will develop and provide a range of training, consultancy and contract services to the public and private sectors;

- provide work-based learning for young people in the North West;
- provide accredited training for young people in the North West;
- provide consultancy and training to other community interest and public benefit bodies to improve the effectiveness of their activities;
- obtain funding through commissions, contracts and (where appropriate) development grants with the purpose of generating income from its services to support the charity named in its Articles of Association and its work among the communities in the North West;
- deliver a range of services in furtherance of these objects and of the objects of the charity named in its Articles of Association, re-investing its surpluses, either directly in the social enterprise itself or in the charity named in its Articles of Association, for the benefit of young people throughout the North West.

4. Our Objectives and Achievements for 2021-22

We set four strategic aims over 2021-2022:

- To make a positive difference to the lives of children and families.
- To ensure a strong governance framework so that we are providing services of the highest quality.
- To use our resources as efficiently as possible to offer excellent value for money and assure sustainability
- To provide a range of effective and innovative services across the North West.

The year continued to be one that was dominated by the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic but the Charity was able to retain the flexibility of response that has meant we were able to achieve many of the aims we had set. We continued to work closely with staff, funders and beneficiaries to ensure that the services over the year remained focused and able to meet the continuing demand for support.

The group's incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2022 amounted to £6,266,999 and outgoing resources amounted to £6,049,158. The surplus reported during the year was £309,820 which included net unrealised surpluses on investments of £91,979 (excluding dividend and other investment income). The operating surplus for the year was £217,841. Due to the continued uncertainty of the impact of Covid-19 on the delivery of services, and therefore the security of income throughout the year, a breakeven budget was set with limited investment agreed by the Board.

At the beginning of the year we planned key actions in line with the business plan and have been successful in meeting these objectives. Our plans included the following:-

- The geographical growth of our Appropriate Adult service ensuring children and vulnerable adults receive support in custody settings. – We were successful in securing the Appropriate Adult service in Derbyshire and ensuring child focussed and appropriate support for all detainees.
- To provide emotional and school support for young carers – we developed our young carer offer to include therapeutic wellbeing and school support workers.
- To provide evidence based emotional health and wellbeing support across the Northwest through digital innovation and direct face to face provision – We increased the number of children we supported, developed 'Positive Pals' school programme and continued to grow and develop our digital offer.
- We aimed to embed and develop the child contact service across new areas – We have successfully delivered this service with partners across the North and West of England.
- Continued growth and development of our fostering service to provide high quality fostering placements for more children across the North West and West Yorkshire region – We recruited 2 new foster carers over the period.

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- The provision of a leaving care service – We continued to deliver our Leaving Care Service until March 2021, reaching 21 young people, following the end of this funding we were able to continue to deliver targeted leaving care support to young people in CANW foster homes.
- We planned to develop our emotional and employment support to children and disadvantaged adults – We were successful in retaining our contracts to support these groups and in being awarded the Social Enterprise of the Year award for the outstanding outcomes achieved by the services.
- We planned to ensure our governance structures were inclusive and diverse, representing all the communities we serve – We have successfully recruited to the Trustee Board increasing diversity and representation on the Board.
- We planned to invest in our management and support structures to ensure capacity for growth, quality and development – We successfully developed our Human Resources, Finance and Business Development capacity by investment in new systems and new team members.
- We planned to continue to develop external partnerships to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our beneficiaries – We have successfully grown our partnership arrangements, and the representation of our team at national and regional working groups and partnerships to ensure we fully contribute to national and regional plans.
- We planned to ensure that participation and stakeholder engagement is central to our service and organisational development – throughout the year we have held stakeholder events to ensure that consultation, engagement and participation is central to our development and growth.

5. Our Services

Our Services are delivered through our Care and Accommodation services which focuses upon children who are or have been looked after by the Local Authority, and our Targeted Early Support Services (TESS), for children, families and disadvantaged adults living in the community

5.1 Care and Accommodation

Description of Service

The Care & Accommodation service comprises of a registered fostering service, a leaving care service and supported lodgings provision. The foster care service has been running for over 20 years and provides good quality foster homes for all the local authorities across the North West of England who ensure a sufficiency of placements for the children in their care. The service has up to 50 children living in its foster homes and operates a number of different fostering schemes to meet the varying needs of children. The 'step-down' fostering scheme has been developed for those young people who have been in residential care or who are on the cusp of residential care and this service is provided for young people across the region. The Opening Doors project provides therapeutic foster placements for young people with complex needs across the region. In addition, the service provides task centered and long term foster homes for single children and sibling groups, plus a specialist provision for children who have additional needs. The service currently has two Supported Lodging Hosts who provide care for children who are moving on into independent living.

We work with young people from 0 to 18 years within the fostering service and up to age 25 in the Leaving Care and Supported Lodgings with the aim of providing stable home environments and support which enables young people to meet their potential and stay connected to the significant people in their lives. We are an inclusive service and tailor our care offers to meet the needs of the young people to help promote their identity and potential.

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The service was inspected by Ofsted in January 2020 and received an outcome of good across all areas which evidences that the service is well managed and provides safe and nurturing care to the children. Changes have been made by Ofsted to the frequencies of inspections and it is expected that the agency will be inspected in the 3 year cycle ending March 2023.

The impact of Covid-19 and response

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was significant to the service given the nature of fostering as home based care for vulnerable children and the agency has followed government and service specific national guidance throughout the period. Dialogue with carers has continued to ensure they had all relevant guidance and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and information about access to school and fostering related issues such as statutory visits and family time (Birth family contact). Organisational, service specific and individual risk assessments were in place across the service. Safeguarding measures remained paramount throughout the period. Work with children has drawn upon the guidance produced by the National Youth Agency. The Local Authorities, for whom CANW provide fostering families, put in their own monitoring systems. Throughout the pandemic no children have had to move placement due to illness within their household.

Following changes in government and service specific guidance towards the second half of 2021 the service started to return to normal whilst navigating the challenges posed by the new variant of the virus. There was an acknowledgement that foster carers and young people were in need of face-to-face contact after a two-year period beset with lockdowns and isolation. Risk assessments were undertaken prior to any visit to ensure that household members were symptom free, staff were undertaking lateral flow tests prior to contact and it was ensured that anyone with additional health vulnerabilities were in agreement to have face to face contact.

Achievements over 2021-2022

At the beginning of the year the service set key priorities for the growth and development of the service:

- To continue to grow the service by the recruitment of 12 foster carers and the development of the service within geographic areas: over the last year 2 new foster carers were approved. Both were referred to the agency by existing carers. This has meant that we have developed a hub of foster carers north of Preston through to Morecambe which means we have a notable offer to Lancashire and Cumbria Local Authorities
- To continue to develop excellent support and provision to retain our current foster carers. During the year 2 carers left. One due to retirement and one due to changes in their personal circumstances which meant that the number of carers remained at 37 at the end of March 2022. During the year we celebrated two fostering households celebrating 10 years of fostering with CANW.
- Develop therapeutic fostering support that meets the assessed needs of the child. During the year we developed the relationship with an independent Consultant Clinical Psychologist post pandemic. Consultation and planning with foster carers and staff saw the creation of a model of therapeutic intervention which was to be offered monthly through peer learning workshops and 1-1 for those carers offering placements to children with more complex emotional needs.
- Consult with children, young people and families to drive service delivery and development. The carers WhatsApp group and Wednesday morning catch ups were very successful during the year, enabling foster carers forming connections with other carers across a wider geographical spread. Some foster carers have asked to be much more involved in areas such as foster carer recruitment and we have feedback from carers about forms used and the information on the website. Our young people have told us very clearly that they want to come back to face-to-face contact and spend time in the young people's space and think about how they can develop and utilise the outdoor space.

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Impact of service

Placements of young people.

The Covid pandemic had less of an impact upon the numbers of children placed in the year with the vaccine programme giving foster carers the confidence to enable children to come into their homes along with the easing of restrictions on the overall public. However, during the year, the numbers of children benefiting from living in a fostering placement decreased by 11 with the initial 50 children, peaked at 53 but reducing to 39 at the end of the year, 63 children have been cared for over the course of the year. Although there were considerations of risk on children moving in and out of fostering placements, the service noticed more children coming into care once statutory services returned to normal and children's wellbeing and risk was adequately monitored. Dialogue within the fostering forums highlighted that the demand for placements was higher than supply nationally.

The service experienced 24 placement endings over the year which included 3 foster homes experiencing unplanned endings of 7 children (sibling group of 5 plus two single placements) We saw 4 young people remain with carers post 18 through 'Staying Put' or Shared Lives.

Foster carers

Last year despite the challenges of the fluctuation of Covid outbursts there was more opportunity for foster carers to meet face to face. Together they showcased the part they play within CANW by creating a series of videos, #why we care, to celebrate Foster Care Fortnight which is a national campaign to recruit more foster carers. Recommend a friend still is the most successful way to recruit foster carers. This however does not generate enough enquiries through to approval, so an investment has been made for the 2022-23 to recruit a designated officer to lead recruitment.

No complaints have been raised by foster carers this year and feedback to date demonstrates that they feel listened to and well supported. The change of role of a member of staff to foster carer development worker has proven to increase foster carer engagement and ability for foster carers to share their views and opinions more easily.

Service Feedback

Over the year we have received positive feedback from many people involved in the service:

"I just wanted to pass on behalf of Rochdale BC our thanks for the placement of XX. He is 18 tomorrow and I know he has been with the agency and carers for a significant amount of time (almost 11 years). Thank you for everything CANW have done for him" (Commissioners)

We were absolutely thrilled to pieces when we got approved last November and when we got our first placement in December our lives changed for the better. Now we have our second placement and our little family is now complete. We love being Foster carers and truly the best decision we ever made was hanging on those couple of years then joining CANW. CANW have been truly amazing from the start to now and we know this will continue, whatever we query the answer is always there. SSW;s & Management are so lovely and we think a lot of everyone. We hope that our relationship continues for many, many years as at last we've found the reason that fully makes our life complete and our house a happier place. (Newly approved carers)

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Feedback from a CANW foster carer: "would just like to say a massive thank you for all the support and everything you did for me and the boys through my first fostering placement. I couldn't have asked for anymore from CANW and you have all been amazing support when we need you"

Young People Feedback

"I think that this Foster going service is fantastic because it has helped me for so many years and it offers so many great things advice Adventures as well as of support when you need it.

I would love to go on another residential in the future because I enjoyed our October girls weekend we had last year especially when we all sat by the fire toasting marshmallows and having a great time.

CANW is a fantastic fostering agency ... the staff and colleagues are welcoming kind and Understanding as well as giving up a lot of their own time for young people and trips out during holidays". (Young person's reflection after turning 18)

Service objectives for the coming year 2022-23

- Recruit 12 new foster carers across GM, Lancs, Cumbria
- Retain 90% of foster carers. We currently have 37 foster carers, we are aware of planned endings that will lead to the retirement of 8 carers. We intend to recruit an additional 7 fostering families by the end of Dec 2023 and a further 5 in the months January – March.
- Increase placements to 65 occupied placements (current baseline = 42).
- Develop the quality assurance systems, processes and child outcomes to 100% satisfaction of young people in placement, 100% completion of scheduled audits.
- Develop the leaving care offer to ensure 100% of children in fostering placements and carers who meet the leaving care criteria have access to additional support, pathway planning and carer guidance.

5.2 Leaving Care Service

The Leaving Care service began in November 2018 and was funded through Children in Need until November 2021. The service supported any young person aged 15+ who was on the cusp of leaving Local Authority care or had recently left the care system. The service delivered a programme of workshops and tailored 1:1 support to assist young people to develop core independence skills, achieve improved emotional and physical health and better manage personal risk and safety.

Feedback from Children in Need at the project close stated:

'Thank you so much for all your hard work over the past three years, we appreciate that you have supported very vulnerable young people through some incredibly challenging times, and I hope you are very proud of what you have achieved'.

(AF, Children in Need, Regional Officer North)

Service Response to Covid-19

The Leaving Care Service was prompt in its response to the pandemic and developed a new model of working that could continue to serve those young people who are often considered the most vulnerable in our society. Since January 2022 we have listened to the young people and have offered more activity at the Young People's Space: Wilshire and at events held in the community.

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Service activity 2021-22

The service was maintained as a remote model of working engaging young people in real time via Zoom workshops. In line with the wishes of the young people a WhatsApp group was also set up where they are able to express thoughts, feelings, success stories and images relating to their lived experiences, artwork, and dishes they have created during cooking workshops etc.

The Leaving Care Service continued to support young people preparing to become care leavers and supported them to prepare for and sustain independent living up to November 2021.

Throughout the period the service:-

- Intensively supported 21 young people preparing to leave care;
- Distributed £3,000 worth of iPads, cooking equipment, art supplies, yoga mats & bedding;
- Established a 24/7 WhatsApp group to reduce isolation and loneliness;
- Partnered with DWP to access the Kickstart Programme, which offers job placements for 16-24-year olds who are at risk of long-term unemployment;
- Leveraged a booster grant from Children in Need to support an additional 18 young people.

The Leaving Care Service has been maintained post November 2021 through grant funding to support young people within CANW foster placements who are in preparation for leaving care.

Participation remained central to the service and young people have been encouraged to share their thoughts in regard to ways in which the service can be enhanced and to lead workshops for their peers.

5.3 Targeted Early Support and Specialist Services (TESS)

TESS services provide support to children, families and communities across Blackburn, Lancashire, Cumbria and Greater Manchester. The Appropriate Adult service is also delivered in County Durham. A wide range of services are provided including Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Family Support, Criminal Justice, Youth Support and Social Inclusion, and support in Employment and Education. The service is delivered under the management of a Strategic Director, with Service Managers based in the localities.

The service area raises income primarily through providing commissioned services on behalf of the Local Authority and grant funding.

Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 the following services were provided:

5.4 ProContact

ProContact enables and promotes contact between children and parents and aims to reduce parental conflict through a range of services. ProContact works with families who are usually in private court proceedings and where there is a break down in contact arrangements for the children of separated parents. ProContact works with children who are reluctant to have contact, parents who need support in having contact or parents who need help supporting contact with the co-parent. The service makes recommendations to help families move forward and supports families to keep these arrangements in place. The service has been operating since 1999 and works across the North and West of England. Most Contact Services were reopened slowly following covid-19 restrictions including supervised contact and indirect contact.

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Covid response and changes

During this period ProContact worked on the new Cafcass contract, Improving Child and Family Arrangements (ICFA) and completed the previous contract Child Contact Interventions (CCI). This was mainly done face to face to support children in re-establishing relationships with their parents. Most Contact Services were carefully reopened face to face but for most of the year there were no new referrals accepted until March 2022. The Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP) continued to successfully take place on Zoom with some face to face sessions taking place in Spring 2022 to support engagement.

Service achievements and outcomes 2021-2022

The service was successful in gaining two contracts with Cafcass to deliver the Improving Child and Family Arrangements Service in the North and West of England which began in May 2021. ICFA is a service to help families agree safe, beneficial, and sustainable 'spending time with' arrangements when they are finding it difficult to do so on their own. The ICFA work is short term and a referral can only be made by Cafcass and if it is court ordered. The ICFA includes 9 sub-contracted partners who have all been supported in their practice to achieve outcomes for children.

The ICFA programme aims:

- To reduce barriers and resistance to agreeing arrangements and manage any risks so that these are safe.
- To promote positive communication within families.
- To ensure children's wishes and feelings are heard and considered.
- To help families agree a parenting plan to avoid future issues arising.

ICFA North covers working with families in Cumbria, Darlington, Durham, Humberside, Lancashire, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Teesside, Tyneside, West Yorkshire and York. ICFA North CANW worked with 272 families and supported 3 partners to work with 174 families.

ICFA West covers working with families in Birmingham, the Black Country, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Herefordshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. ICFA West CANW worked with 176 families and supported 6 partners to work with 202 families.

The Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP) is a service to help separated parents, or those who have responsibility for children, to better understand and respond differently to conflict and communication. The 4-hour programme encourages separated parents to behave in the best interests of their children and to become clearer about what their children need most from them. The programme also equips parents with skills to take steps for themselves; this may include developing agreements that do not need court intervention. Most parents who have attended a SPIP found the programme positive and all wished that they had attended much earlier.

SPIP took place across Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester and benefitted hundreds of children by their parent's attendance. 96% of parents said that they learnt on SPIP things that would help them understand what children need after parents separate. SPIP CANW worked with 347 parents who attended SPIP in Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester and we supported 3 partners to work with 471 parents.

Existing families who accessed Contact Services were able to continue to be supported. These families had had significant disruption during 2020-2021 so having consistent face to face contact supported children and parents to reconnect. CANW worked with 50 families to access our contact services such as supervised contact and indirect contact.

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Outcomes and Impact of the Service

The service has been able to provide positive outcomes across its delivery areas despite the challenges of ongoing Covid restrictions over the period.

Improving Child and Family Arrangements (ICFA):

- ICFA North - 100% of children rated their Family Practitioner who supported their family 5/5.
 - ICFA North - 92% of parents rated their Practitioner that supported their family 5 out of 5.
 - ICFA West – 76% of parents rated their Practitioner the supported their family 4 or 5 out of 5.
 - ICFA West – 68% of parents said that by attending ICFA they feel their communication supports safe, beneficial and sustainable spending time with arrangements for their children.
 - ICFA North 80% of parents said that attending ICFA with CANW said that there would be a positive impact on their family, community and wider society.
 - ICFA West 80% of parents said that attending ICFA with CANW said that there would be a positive impact on their family, community and wider society
- #### Separated Parenting Information Programme (SPIP)
- SPIP - 96% of parents who attended SPIP with CANW said they learnt things on SPIP that may help their understanding of what children need after their parents separate.
 - SPIP - 97% of parents rated the trainer that ran the SPIP with CANW as 4 or 5 out of 5
 - SPIP 91% of parents said that attending SPIP said that by attending the programme there would be a positive impact on their family, community and wider society.
 - 88% of children answered yes to – Now that you have been to Pro Contact, CANW, do you think your parents are working together better?
 - One child commented of their Practitioner that they are very good at their job and reassuring “The next family are lucky to have her as their practitioner”.
 - ICFA children rated the staff who supported their family 5/5 stars.

Feedback and quotes

- ICFA North quote from parent - *We met over video call and then met face to face at a park where contact was taking place. I felt so at ease and reassured that my daughter would feel safe and comfortable with seeing her father for the first time in 3 years.*
- ICFA West quote from child - *The places where we met were perfect.*
- ICFA West quote from adult - *It's was very helpful and has helped move things on to gain a better relationship with my daughter. Staff who was involved in the case was very helpful hard working and understanding thank you very much.*
- SPIP quote from parent - *My Experience was a positive one and the course was very insightful and I learnt a lot from it and can take away a lot of positive things that can lead to better way of dealing with situations that my occur whilst co-parenting.*

Ambition for the coming year

We will be expanding our range of contact services and the geographical area in which we operate these services. This includes launching supervised contact in the community and relaunching Supported Contact and Supported Handover. We also plan to offer services beyond Lancashire and Greater Manchester to cover the North of England.

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5.5 CANW Young Carers Service

About the Service

Child Action Northwest's Young Carers Service supports young carers aged 5-18. Young carers are children and young people who are looking after a parent or sibling with an illness or disability, mental health problems or alcohol/substance misuse issues. Our aim is to look at how to reduce a Young Carers caring role; signposting families to appropriate services; moving Young Carers onto Universal Services once their intervention is complete. CANW is commissioned to deliver the young carers service in Blackburn with Darwen.

According to the last Census, there were an estimated 1543 Young Carers in BwD alone. Our aim is to continue to find these hidden Young Carers in order to provide support to them and their families.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of Young Carers referrals over the last year. With the Young Carers school work, we are confident that Young Carers can be found sooner so that earlier interventions can be offered in order that Young Carers and their families receive the appropriate support at the right time.

Changes made due to Covid-19

The Pandemic has shown that many Young Carers struggled emotionally. The service has appointed a Therapeutic Practitioner, to be able to offer therapeutic interventions to Young Carers, as well as delivering therapeutic groups in school clusters in order to address the ever-increasing number of referrals.

With some Young Carers having spent a considerable amount of time at home due to the Pandemic, with their caring roles increasing quite considerably, the YCs Service has seen a significant rise in referrals, with some very complex cases. This has resulted in our offer of support having to be extended, as well as provide other forms of interventions including therapeutic groups and therapy sessions (counselling sessions), etc.

With families from BAME communities classed as being at greater risk of contracting COVID coupled with underlying health conditions, we found that new Young Carers had been identified through this factor. We supported Young Carers by providing them with therapeutic support as some expressed real concern around the fear of losing a loved one to Covid.

Service Activity over 2021-2022

The service has continued to see an increased need for support of young carers and over the last year the service has worked with over 297 Young Carers in comparison to 243 Young Carers last year, 246 Young Carers resided in Blackburn whilst 51 resided in Darwen. Out of the 297 Young Carers that we worked with, 90 of these families stemmed from a Black or Minority Ethnic Background, with an additional 14 families from other ethnicity groups with English not being classed as their first language.

- 46 young Carers were involved in the infant 'Superstars' group – aged 5-7
- 194 young carers were aged 8-15 years
- 57 young adult carers (YAC) were aged 16-18 years
- 119 were male and 178 were female

The work delivered has included

- over 70 group sessions over the year, with face to face sessions resuming in Sept 2021 following NYA guidelines.

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- A face to face 8-week Infant Young Carers Programme in place for those aged 5-7, from a local Children's Centre.
- A face to face 10-week Young Carers Programme in place for those aged 8-15, from the Young People's Space at the Wilpshire Office
- Regular social events for the 'Young Adult Carers' aged 16-18 in order that they feel supported given their other commitments alongside their caring role;
- Provision of a 3- or 6-week therapeutic programme within school clusters delivered by the therapeutic counsellor.

The service has made contact with all 87 schools across Blackburn with Darwen in order to roll out the Young Carers in School (YCiS) programme, offering training and guidance. The service has also been involved in the delivery of 'Pause for Thought' and 'Positive Pals' both programme to support the emotional wellbeing of young people.

In addition, the service has been engaged in partnership work and development over the year including involvement with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation roundtable discussion looking at issues Young Carers continue to face today to ensure focused campaigning and involvement in the Young Carers Research and Practice Forum' led by academics from 3 universities, looking at issues appearing in the world of young carers as we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes and Impact

Following our interventions:

- 100% of those that we supported were in some form of education, training or employment.
- 100% of those that attended our 8 or 10-week programmes stated that their awareness of keeping safe had increased through the workshops on First Aid and Fire Safety, etc;
- 100% of those that attended our 8 or 10-week programmes stated that their awareness of keeping healthy had increased through the workshops;

The service has been able to demonstrate wider impact through its involvement with The Children's Society Young Carers programme that is providing additional support and training in the Blackburn with Darwen area and through partnership work with Voluntary Sector partners.

Participation and engagement of young people

Young Carers accessing the service were asked for their views to ensure they contributed to the development of the service and organisation. They have been involved in staff interviews, and were provided with tablets to access online support and access education.

Quotes

You have helped me by making me realise I am not alone in caring for someone. There's others like me. Also, I learnt about mental health and how to help myself and cope with my emotions. So, thank you!"

Progress against 2021-2022 objectives

The service intends to continue to develop the Young Carers service offer through several initiatives:

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- Working with schools – Schools across Blackburn with Darwen have been regularly signing up to the Young Carers in School initiative. Training has been delivered to schools in order to support them to achieve the Bronze Young Carers in School award. We have seen a positive impact in that more hidden Young Carers are being identified within a school setting due to the work being undertaken. Young Carers are being identified sooner, and so, early interventions for the Young Carer and family have helped to reduce the risk of families requiring social care interventions later down the line.
- Young Carers Champions - We have established young carers champions in various disciplines such as school nurses, pastoral needs etc, significantly increasing the knowledge and understanding of the needs of young carers.
- Increasing Young Carers referrals from GP practices – we have been engaged in working on a regional digital directory that is to be rolled out across GP surgeries – the Young Carers Service has been piloting this scheme. Prescription pads for GP surgeries have now been produced, ready to be rolled out, and positive engagement to promote young carers via the GP bulletin

Ambitions for 2022-2023

- To continue to deliver and develop the service for young carers in BwD and across the North West region
- Continue to deliver and develop the Young Carers in Schools programme
- Further develop Young Carers in School offer through a school link worker post
- Develop the therapeutic offer for young carers through a Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner
- Develop a student placement offer:
- To widen service portfolio with clear links to the Young Carers Service

5.6 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services (EHWB)

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service (EHWB) offers therapeutic support to children, young people, families, and adults across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen, Greater Manchester and Cumbria.

The service is focussed on strengthening early intervention, prevention and building resilience to support positive change; is primarily aimed at young people aged 4 – 19 years (25 SEND) and delivers bespoke projects facilitating a holistic approach to supporting families and adults. The service can offer a tailored approach, utilising both 1-1 work and groupwork through a hybrid approach of remote or face to face work to respond to need and ensure the most effective outcome.

The service works in partnership with other community based and statutory services to integrate pathways of support for early intervention for children and young people.

Delivery models throughout 2021 – 2022 (commissioned and grant funded):

- **Lancashire County Council Emotional Health and Wellbeing Early Support Service** - Working in partnership with 8 other organisations to deliver time limited EHWB interventions to children and young people aged between 4 and 19 years (25 SEND). This project covers East, Central, and North Lancashire (excluding Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) and works in partnership with the Children and Family Wellbeing Service supporting young people and families who would benefit from a targeted Early Help Offer.
- **Commissioned school service** - working in schools across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen, Cumbria and Greater Manchester to deliver therapeutic support to children and young people aged 4-18 years via 1-1, group work or drop-in support service.
- **Bolton Together** - commissioned by the Bolton Together consortium to provide 1-1 and family support to children aged between 4 -8 years and their parents

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- **IAPT (Increased Access to Psychological Therapy)** - a project led by Lancashire Women, the Service delivers one-to-one therapeutic counselling support to adults over the age of 16yrs, with no upper age limit, this project is delivered in the Ribble Valley with a self-referral process.
- **Think Family** - therapeutic group work programme for parents in Blackburn with Darwen Eating Disorder pilot- Partner within a consortium to provide therapeutic 1-1 or group work to young people aged 13 years plus who had been identified as low risk of harm. This project was a pilot programme delivering a 12-week model of intervention.
- **Bespoke EHWB Programmes Positive Pals and Reboot: Positive Pals** – Group based Programme to equip Primary School Children to improve resilience and become 'Mental Health Buddies' in their school. Reboot – Our EHWB digital support programme for 7-11 year olds, using evidence based low level CBT resources to help increase resilience and develop self-awareness.
- **NHS IAPT Trainee programme** – Working in continued partnership with health services to increase workforce skills in the Mental Health Sector, we are a recognised host for Children and Young People's Wellbeing Practitioners (CYWP), providing opportunity this year for six trainees who completed their training successfully.
- **Student Pathway** – supporting professional development in the EHWB Sector offering Student Placements

Response to Covid-19

The service has been proactive in the response to the pandemic shifting to a blended or remote support services through the use technology. The service has integrated the flexible service offer into its ongoing way of working.

Service Achievements over 2021-22

The service objectives for 2021 – 2022 EHWB outlined maintaining the current service areas whilst developing additional areas and models as a result of the pandemic. The service has achieved its objectives through the continuation of the Early Support Commission and growth in schools across some of our geographical areas. The Positive Pals programme has been delivered across 31 Lancashire primary schools. In addition, over the year we have expanded our services into Bolton through our work in partnership with Bolton Together and the I-Thrive programme offer for children and families. The service aims to provide early intervention to support outcomes improving mental health and wellbeing for children, young and families.

Service Outputs and Outcomes

Over the course of the year the service has continued to respond to increasing need as a result of the pandemic. We have worked in partnership with local voluntary and statutory services; participating within the Mental Health Networks and Steering groups to coordinate and promote pathways to EHWB services. Throughout all EHWB projects the service has achieved the following outputs:

Total referrals into projects: young people: **1,917**

Total Number of Adults (IAPT + Spot Purchase Adults): **44**

Number of young people sessions – all projects: **19,229**

Number of schools – **56** (Commissioned and Positive Pals)

Number of referrals EHWB partnership: **1,449**

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As part of our ambition to involve stakeholders in the continual shaping of services we encourage feedback on the success of our projects. This is to help us understand what difference our delivery makes the lives of those we support. Our respondents have informed us:

- 100% young people felt listened to by their worker – (young people 12+)
- 95% young people reported a better understanding of Mental Health after the sessions
- 98% of young people aged 4-11 said seeing a CANW practitioner helped them
- 97% of parents would recommend CANW services to other people
- 98% of referrers said they would use the CANW service again

Our commitment to continue consultation and involve young people's voice in the shaping of mental health services both internally and externally has developed this year and in collaboration with our commissioned schools we have cascaded our CANW participation strategy into schools and have commenced forming participation groups with this ongoing into 2022-2023.

Through our holistic approach and early intervention to supporting children, young people and families to improve mental health, our work often supports positive outcomes in other areas. 96% of our respondents over 12 years stated that they felt they could use their learning in other aspects of their lives and through verbal feedback we know that our provisions have helped young people re-engage with school, other services and improve relationships with families or peers. Additionally, our early intervention and strengths-based approach prevents escalation of need which contributes to reducing need for statutory service.

Through our commitment to increase the mental health workforce we have provided 14 trainee and student placements throughout the year which help to increase skills and knowledge whilst providing vital experience for those qualifying in EHWP.

Student Feedback: "I finish my placement this week at CANW and just wanted to say thank you for making me feel so welcome into the team. I have learnt so much and can definitely transfer those skills into my future practice. Thank you".

Feedback

Our feedback is collated using verbal, digital and written platforms. Examples of quotes from stakeholders:

- *My child's support has honestly most definitely has been positive. I can't believe how eager my child has been to come to the sessions as he usually won't be persuaded to do anything! I'm so grateful. He's really enjoyed it. Thank you (Parent)*
- *My Counsellor was amazing, she made me feel so listened to and valid with everything I was saying. I can't thank her enough for everything. (Young Person aged 17)*
- *Helped me to explore my feelings around my mental and not to be afraid of telling others and it has helped to increase my self-esteem and confidence and managing my anger (young person 12 years +)*
- *My child's anxieties have reduced significantly. She occasionally worries and gets upset but this is rare now. This is a huge improvement on her previous anxiety levels. When we referred her to you, she was struggling to complete any learning because her anxiety was taking over, thank you (Parent)*

Ambition for the coming year

We have successfully secured the Early Support Service commission, which will result in our partnership increasing to 11 agencies delivering EHWP support to children, young people and families across Lancashire.

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Our principal objective is to mobilise the service maintaining a high quality of delivery and stakeholder satisfaction across CANW and the partnership.

We recognise that the mental wellbeing of children has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and societal pressures. We aim to grow and develop our emotional health and wellbeing services to meet this growing need. We therefore aim continue to grow our schools offer through our Bespoke programmes and commissioned service, whilst seeking further grant funding to pilot new programmes and enrich our Reboot/Positive Pals projects. As part of our schools work we are exploring the development of our external supervision and therapeutic offer to professionals.

5.7 Criminal Justice Services

Criminal Justice – Appropriate Adult Service

The Appropriate Adult (AA) Service provides a service to children, young people, and vulnerable adults whilst in Police Custody. This includes interviews under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), voluntary interviews, missing from home and age assessments. The service works closely with a number of statutory agencies, including the police, Liaison and Diversion, and Youth Justice Services, to ensure the delivery of a high-quality service.

The service covers a wide delivery area as outlined below:-

- Blackburn with Darwen (Children and Vulnerable Adults)
- Lancashire (Children and Vulnerable Adults)
- Blackpool (Vulnerable Adults)
- Greater Manchester (Children and Vulnerable Adults)
- Cheshire (Children)
- Cumbria (Children and Vulnerable Adults)
- Durham and Darlington (Children and Vulnerable Adults)
- Derbyshire (Children and Vulnerable Adults)

The service ensures that children and vulnerable adults are provided with the appropriate support and advice from trained appropriate adults.

The service works with children from 10 years of age up to 17 years of age and vulnerable adults who are aged 18+.

We have a simple and robust method for requesting an AA, operating on a 24/7 basis in some areas. We strive to offer the shortest possible response time for persons in police detention. Our AAs have designated home stations to ensure the quickest response possible to the Custody suite.

Over the period 2021-2022 the service supported 3978 young people and 8047 adults, receiving a total of 12025 referrals over the period. This is a significant increase from 7691 the previous year (up 56.4%).

Appropriate Adult service achievements and outcomes over the year

The AA service has been successful in developing its services over the period, successfully retaining new commissions for its existing AA services in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Cumbria. In addition, the service has also been successful in securing delivery of AA services in Derbyshire, where delivery began in September 2021. The service delivers child focused services and we have supplied the new custody suites with distraction items including chalk paint and pens, some footballs, colouring books and pens, reading books, snap

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cards and ear defenders. This has all been well received from the Custody Staff and made a positive difference to those detained.

Throughout the year the service has continued to attend all existing commissioning and quarterly partnership meetings. These meetings have included Custody Review Meetings in all Geographic areas which attended by the Police, Youth Justice Services managers, Children Social Care, Liaison and Diversion and speech and language practitioners. The meetings enable a review of the children detained in Custody and identify best practice and areas for improvement. The Head of Service has also been involved in Custody innovation meetings across all areas to improve and develop the Custody offer with an aim to making the Custody suites a more trauma informed custody environment. There have been developments made with regards to the rights and entitlements booklet, these entitlements will now be offered in video format to enable a better understanding by the detainee.

The Head of Service attended all National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) board meetings and NAAN member meetings to keep updated to any changes in legislation and to share best practice around delivery during Covid-19.

The team has been successful in its objective to electronically streamline the service and now uses online system to manage process and recording.

The learning developed throughout the pandemic has been embedded into the service, with electronic access to systems having been improved and remote meetings being held as appropriate.

Feedback fobs are now used to gather feedback from custody professionals that allows a simple and efficient way to gather feedback through QR codes. To date the service has received 161 feedback forms completed and are currently working on extending the feedback opportunities to detained Adults and Children.

When asked if our AAs arrive in good time 88% said always and 12% said yes mostly

How knowledgeable are our AAs – Graded 4.94 out of 5

Do our AAs meet your expectations – Graded 4.95 out of 5

Feedback

- Always willing to go that extra mile, she's a credit to the company.
- On time, polite and very welcoming for the detained person. Explained everything well.
- Did a fantastic job looking after the wellbeing of the client.
- The service from start to finish was outstanding! I could not have asked for better communication.

Outcomes and impact of the service.

- Children and Vulnerable Adults have spent less time in Custody due to the efficiency of the service. 100% of referrals were acknowledged by the AA contacting Custody within 15 minutes of accepting the referral.
- 99% of all referrals were responded to within the National Appropriate Adult Network guidance of 2 hours.
- 100% of all Outcome Forms were shared with the relevant authorities
- 100% of all Safeguarding issues were identified and shared with relevant agencies
- Children and Vulnerable Adults have additional distraction tools within the Custody Environment to enable them to feel more relaxed and occupied whilst in Custody.

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Ambition for 2022-23

- Continue to deliver existing services
- Secure new AA services, further developing our geographic footprint and service offer
- Continue to maintain the high level of service delivery and efficient referral response times
- Continue to develop external partnership relationships by being present on Custody and child focused meetings
- Develop and pilot PACE bed offer
- Develop and pilot telephone support line for parents and guardians

Statutory Reparation

This service is commissioned by Blackburn with Darwen and its remit is to work with young people in the community through a multi-agency approach, whereby agencies work in partnership to deliver an integrated service. Young people who offend are systematically assessed, helped and directed to change their behaviour, appropriately punished and encouraged to make amends to the victims of their crimes. One of the ways in which young people can make amends is to carry out reparation either directly to the victim or, when this is not possible or practical, to the community as a whole. Over the last year the service has developed a mentoring and befriending service for Blackburn with Darwen children, supported by the Statutory Reparation worker. The service supports children who have worries or issues that exist at the end of their engagement with Youth Justice Services, when they are signed off from YJS with no further support being offered. This will help with motivation, confidence building, achieve their goals and assist with education and training options.

Response to Covid-19

The numbers of young people accessing the service has increased since some of the covid restrictions were reduced but have not returned to their pre pandemic numbers. The service continued to provide services in line with government advice in relation to Covid throughout the period and risk assessments were undertaken. Engagement with the service is primarily delivered outdoors.

Statutory Reparation Service achievements and outcomes over the year

Over the year 21 young people were referred into the scheme, 20 males and 1 female, this is an increase of 4 from the previous year. 90% of young people supported by the service were successful in achieving ASDAN awards. The service continues to focus on participation and engagement with young people and over the year was successful in gaining the 'Investment in Children' award in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen's Youth Justice service

Feedback

*I've really enjoyed working at Bridge St and making up for my offence there, she never shouted at me and at the end I even got asked if I wanted paid work absolutely buzzin. **Young person***

*'LC has done everything I have asked of him although there may have been a few ups and downs in the road he persevered with the work I set him and he's now completed his hours on Reparation. I'm really proud of him and how he has presented himself as being polite and courteous and never complained he's a good worker. I'm placing a lot of trust in him now and want to offer him a position as a glass cleaner over the Christmas period as a way of thanks and for him to earn some extra pocket money, don't let me down. **Host***

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Ambitions for 2022-2023

- Continue to deliver Statutory Reparation across Blackburn with Darwen, supporting CYPs as directed by BwD YJS
- Identify additional indoor and outdoor space to enable strengthen delivery offer, linking in with local communities and community leaders to promote and raise awareness of service.
- Develop partnerships within the Black and Minority Ethnic community
- Develop and deliver a mentoring and befriending programme to offer additional support to the YJS delivery practitioners
- Recruit volunteers to assist with delivery and offer further support when 2 to 1 engagement is required
- Following participation with the CYPs, be innovative to develop more activities and programmes

5.8 Invest in Youth

About the Project

Invest in Youth is a project aimed at engaging and inspiring the most disengaged young people resident in the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area. It works with 15-24 year olds who are unemployed or economically inactive with multiple social, emotional, and economic barriers. These young people are faced with a confusing environment of challenges including intergenerational unemployment, poverty, benefit dependency, low skills and lack of employment experience and they often live in communities with few working role models. Invest in Youth supports young people who are aged 15–24 and who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and young people aged 15–18 at risk of becoming NEET. These young people will experience multiple and complex barriers to employment. The service has been operating since 2016.

Delivery areas

The Invest in Youth Project covers Pan-Lancashire with CANW delivering to:

- Hyndburn
- Burnley
- Pendle
- Rossendale
- Ribble Valley
- Blackburn with Darwen

Response to Covid 19

During the period 2021-2022 measures brought in during the covid-19 pandemic continued during periods of government advice and guidance. Many of the aspects of delivery proved effective and have been retained as a means of enhancing and developing the service offer. We now offer a telephone service, face 2 face appointments in community settings or video calls, giving our participants flexibility and the option to choose.

Achievements over 2021-22

Between April 2021 and March 2022, the IY has supported 65 Young People 15+ who were classed as 'NEET', supporting 12 into education & training and 13 into employment. We work closely with schools for this age group and between April 2021–March 2022 we worked with 16 schools.

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A number of objectives were set at the beginning of the year, and these were progressed throughout the period:

- Continuing to develop quality person-centred support to vulnerable young people and adults – The remote working was designed around individual needs and ensured that the service was able to continue to focus on specific needs.
- Forging links with new organisations and services by promoting the Invest in Youth model – partnerships continued to grow throughout the pandemic, in particular with the Blackburn with Darwen Borough as this is a new geographical area for the service to deliver, the service has built up good relationships with BwD Job Centre and attend weekly transforming lives panel meetings with professionals from external agencies with BwD.
- Developing specific trauma informed approaches to support – C.B.T. practitioner delivering within the B.B.O. service in addition to Emotional Therapeutic Support.
- Working more closely with the Criminal Justice Service team developing a referral pathway into the BBO project from this service – This is embedded and on-going with the Invest in Youth Service.
- Developing new approaches to support participants and those affected by COVID 19 by offering a blended service including face 2 face, telephone, groups sessions and virtual.
- Develop relationships with external agencies by presenting the services on offer – invest in Youth & CANW as organisation. Examples are;
 - Princes trust
 - Educational establishments
 - Youth Justice Services
 - Local Authorities
 - Third sector organisations
 - Health & Well-Being providers
- October 2021 successful – Investors in Children's Award for the service
- Selnet Awards – Awarded Social Enterprise of the year award

Outcomes and Impact

The Invest in Youth Service has supported young people to make significant progress over the last year, and over 90% of the participants on the programme have been actively engaged in the support offered. The young people engaged on the scheme have struggled with engaging with.

Some of the key outcomes and achievements include:

- 34 participants attended an interview for employment or training – **52.3%**
- 27 participants have improved their basic, digital, financial, or personal skills – **41.5%**
- 40 participants have accessed health and wellbeing provisions such as (GP, dentist, substance misuse support) - **61.5%**
- 9 participants have started a work placement, work experience, or job trial while on a BBO project - **13.8%**
- 1 participant has started volunteering – **1.5%**
- 5 participants with caring responsibilities has increased knowledge of their childcare/respite care options in preparation for getting back to work – **7.7%**
- 12 participants have reported an improvement in their housing situation - **18.5%**

By supporting participants with their barriers or complex needs – participants have been able to:

- Secure Employment / Training or Education

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- Move into supported Living
- Secure their own tenancy
- Improved confidence & well-being
- Volunteering

Quotes/Feedback

Young person

'Thank You for the help, it has really helped with my anxiety knowing I have got someone I can really break things down with and get real support from and not pressured into something that's not right for me, appreciate it a lot'

Ambition for the coming year

The coming year is the final year with the current funding support. We plan to continue to work with high numbers of young people helping them access employment and training support and seeing improvements in their confidence and wellbeing. We are using the learning from the programme to apply for further funding and develop tailored packages of support into employment, education and training.

Youth Engagement (Formally Mixed Media)

The Youth Engagement service supports children & young people 10 - 24 in the community who may be involved in crime or anti-social behaviour (ASB) and children & young people who are involved in county lines & exploitation— providing a range of diversionary provisions and providing wrap around support, examples of wrap around support are physical activities e.g., football / cycling and Emotional Well-Being Support for those that have

been identified. The service uses a multi-agency partnership approach so that children and young people achieve a better outcome. The service operates in East Lancashire with a vision to expand into a larger geographical footprint going forwards.

Between April 2021 and March 2022, the Youth Engagement Service supported 44 Young People with 6 having additional well-being support and 12 young people taking part in physical activities. At the beginning of the year the programme finished delivering final numbers on the Youth Endowment Fund and provided support through an online wellbeing offer to 3 young people in partnership with the Princes Trust. Other highlights include presentation to East Lancashire Police on an Away Day and local community based projects including, a project in Whitebirk, funded from the Police Crime Commissioner to work with an identified group of young people in the Whitebirk estate and a 4-week project in Hyndburn around anti-social behaviour to an identified group of young people.

Outputs and Outcomes

As a result of the outreach youth work taken between April 2021 to March 2022 6 Young People have improved Mental Health / Well-being and 6 Young People keeping healthy and improved well-being through sports in partnership with Accrington Stanley Community Football. We have supported 44 young people during the period April 2021 & March 2022.

Feedback

Quote from a Teacher at St Thomas' School

"Thank you for your sessions with my students. The feedback from both was very positive."

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We carried on the session some 20 minutes into normal lessons and discussed how we could better manage our emotions.

All the students discussed the ways they could behave differently in a number of situations based on your advice. XX even said he wanted to work with “angry kids like me when I grow up, because I know what they feel like so I could help them.”

XX can be a handful, so thanks for the expert way you kept him on track and involved.”

Service ambitions for 2022-23

The Youth Engagement project intends to continue forging links with external partners, maintaining positive activities with Children and Young People, concentrating on issues that may lead to young people engaging in risk taking and negative anti-social behavior. The service intends to use the mobile unit as an outreach hub and work closely with the police and other partners to provide positive outcomes for CYP across Lancashire. The service will need additional funding to develop and grow this much needed area of work and this will be a focus of our development team.

The service has identified a gap with children & young people that are released from custody with ‘no further action’. A model ‘Break the Cycle’ has been developed to address this and funding opportunities have been identified and applications have been submitted.

6. Business Development, Fundraising and Communications

6.1 Business Development

The Business Development Team is primarily responsible for supporting sustainability and growth of the CANW service offer, through income generation, inclusive of submitting high quality proposals in response to tender and grant opportunities, fundraising and community engagement, ensuring brand compliance and supporting a high level of marketing activity.

Key responsibilities:

- To respond to all relevant tender opportunities in line with organisational aims
- To ensure a pipeline of grant/charitable trust applications supporting identified service objectives
- To grow and expand the charities charitable income to support the enhancement of our core offer
- To support the increase of independent income through compliant corporate, fundraising and community engagement
- To ensure the organisation has a strong brand and clear messages communicated to a wide range of stakeholders both internal and external

The team are also responsible for supporting Quality Assurance and associated accreditation.

Income in 2021/22

2021/22 was a year of change and transition for the Business Development team, with our Director of Business Development, Kate Wilkinson, moving on and several new colleagues joining the team in the autumn. Despite this change, the organisation still successfully generated significant funds, with £6,266,999 raised over the course of the year.

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This income can be split across the following areas:

Area of income	Total (£)
Donations and fundraising	51,747
Grants and Trusts	335,546
Service Level Agreements	265,459
Contracts	3,404,166
Foster Care	2,163,382
Investment income & Interest	31,574
Other income	15,125
Total	6,266,999

Business Development Objectives 2022/23

- Build a self-sustaining model of business development that combines highly effective and compelling fundraising campaigns with robust and mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses and local authorities.
- Support the wider organisation with a high-quality, timely and innovative marketing and comms service that enables CANW to grow into a recognised national charity.
- Embed a fit for purpose CRM system that supports colleagues across the organisation to manage their external relationships with the highest levels of professionalism and data compliance.

New Contracts in 2021/22

- Criminal Justice - BwD AA Service Refresh – £27,000
- Criminal Justice - AA Service Lancashire Constabulary - £165,000
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing - EHWP BBO Projects for Lancashire (phase 3) – £133,977
- Criminal Justice - Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner AA and Triage Service
- Criminal Justice - Cumbria AA Police and Crime Commissioner – £110,000
- Criminal Justice - LCC AA Service – £135,000
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing - Mental Health Integrated Community Care Programme VCFSE – Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Trust
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing - Lancashire EHWP Service – £3,900,000 over 3 years

New Grants 2021-2022

- Young Carers - Eric Wright Charitable Trust – £26,500
- Young Carers St James Place – £2,500
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing - Reaching Communities - £300,000
- Young Carers Eric Wright Charitable Trust – £10,000
- Various - Nigel Brooks Foundation – Young Peoples Space - £2,000
- Young Carers - Leonard Curtis Foundation - £1,000
- Care and Accommodation - The National Lottery Awards for All – £10,000

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Quality Assurance and Impact

CANW continue to hold a number of quality marks, each of which represents our commitment to excellence in the relevant area. We continue to hold Trust Charity Level 2, Investors in People and Investors in Children, and were successful in our application for Cyber Essentials in late 2021.

2021/22 was a year in which we made a significant impact on thousands of children, vulnerable adults and families across the country. It's important that the individuals and families that access our support feel that what we offer is of a high quality, so we regularly sought their feedback on what we do. Examples of this feedback can be found below:

- ICFA North - 92% of parents rated the Practitioner that supported their family 5 out of 5.
- SPIP - 97% of parents rated the trainer that ran the SPIP with CANW as 4 or 5 out of 5
- EMHW - 100% young people felt listened to by their worker – (young people 12+)
- EMHW - 95% young people reported a better understanding of Mental Health after the sessions
- EMHW - 98% of young people aged 4-11 said seeing a CANW practitioner helped them
- EMHW - 97% of parents would recommend CANW services to other people
- EMHW - 100% of referrers said they would use the CANW service again
- CJ – our Appropriate Adults knowledge base was rated 4.94/5
- CJ – Over 97% of those surveyed said that our met their expectations

6.2 Fundraising

2021/22 continued to be a challenging year from a fundraising perspective as the Covid-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on donor sentiment. The team were successful with a number of key grant applications, however, and continued to develop and grow relationships locally. Despite ongoing staffing change, these local relationships ensured a steady stream of individual giving and stand-alone donations from the community and local businesses.

The next 12 months will see an ongoing focus on securing grant income, whilst deliberately developing our fundraising efforts around events, major donors, and individual giving. Our "What Can You Do" campaign will provide ongoing engagement opportunities locally as well as a highly marketable option to present across the region.

Examples of community support over the last 12 months

- CANW were chosen as the Captains Charity of the Year for 2021, with over £4,000 being donated over the course of the year.
- Roger Dugdale continued to support our Emotional Health and Wellbeing work, with a donation of £10,000 to support our work across Ribble Valley.
- We have continued to develop a strong relationships with Wiltshire Wanderers FC who fundraise at their annual dinner and donate to CANW.
- A large number of local businesses continued to donate Easter Eggs and Christmas Gifts during each festive period. We were pleased to be able to offer gifts to families in particularly challenging circumstances, ensuring both the children and parents had presents to open on Christmas Day.
- A number of local businesses continued to provide support to CANW, with organisations such as Presspart and Blackburn Chemicals making standalone donations to the charity.

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6.3 Marketing and Communications

During 2021/22 we continued to maintain a strong social media presence, using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn in particular. Foster Care Fortnight was a particular highlight, with a range of videos profiling our Foster Carers taking centre stage and receiving positive feedback from both our community and the Foster Carers themselves.

Marketing and Communication Objectives 2022/23:

- Continue to develop and iterate CANWs online presence, seeking opportunities to reach and engage new audiences whilst better engaging current stakeholders
- Develop a suite of marketing materials that accurately reflect the work we do and that we are able to easily tailor to different audiences
- Work closely with service areas to plan and deliver a coherent comms strategy throughout 2022/23
- Work alongside service areas, SLT and the charity board to develop and launch the new website in Spring 2022
- Purchase and embed a new CRM system that enables the charity to more effectively manage external relationships, communications and to conduct ongoing analysis of our sales and marketing activities.

7. Community Interest Company, CANWe Solutions (CIC)

CANWe Solutions CIC is the trading arm and community interest company of Child Action Northwest. It was established in 2009 with a focus to develop new services, outside the charities remit. In 2020-21 a review of the company memorandum and relationship with the Charity was undertaken through Forbes Solicitors and a closer alliance was developed with the Charity to ensure the best possible opportunities and outcomes for the socially excluded individuals and disadvantaged communities we serve and to enable the development and piloting of new services and projects.

The main objectives of CANWe Solutions CIC are to enable disadvantaged people and communities to access appropriate services, reducing social isolation and supporting individuals to exercise positive choices about their lives. So that through a coordinated approach, the health and wellbeing of the people we support is improved by facilitating services to become responsive and connected, delivering support as a whole solution and not in isolation. The Company is working to increase its offer of support in relation to employment support, training and complex needs and is developing a broader employment offer, STEPS that will offer holistic and tailored support to individuals who benefit from a tailored approach.

7.3 Rapid Rehousing Pathway Navigators

The main remit of this service is to reduce homelessness within Blackburn Town Centre and surrounding areas (Ribble Valley) to deliver better outcomes for homeless individuals with complex needs and chaotic lives, to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and to support service users to additional support and services. CANWe Solutions is subcontracted to deliver this work through the SpringNorth Consortia.

The Navigators are assigned to rough sleepers from the Council homeless register who would benefit from tailored support. The support is targeted to those with higher and more complex needs, including health-related support needs, and those who have been sleeping rough for a longer period.

The Navigators focus on developing a relationship with the individual, offering personalised, creative, innovative, and effective support. It is a relationship focussed service with the Navigators building trust and working in an inclusive and empowering way and acting as a single point of contact.

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The Navigators provide support in finding housing but also support individuals in their recovery to improve their health and wellbeing, find employment, undertake training, develop budgeting skills, cultivate positive social circles, and be better equipped to maintain their accommodation and independence and avoid returning to the street.

The RRPN Navigators have supported over 30 homeless people within the borough of Blackburn with Darwen over the last year, both street homeless and residents at the temporary accommodation Pods as part of the severe weather emergency protocol (SWEP).

Response to Covid-19

The service was regularly reviewed against government Covid-19 guidance over the period with clear risk assessment plans in place. The service has continued to delivery direct face to face outreach services over the period with appropriate PPE and operating guidance in place.

From April 21 – March 22, the team supported 30 unique individuals. Individuals accessing the service receive support for 3 months on average. 100% have been supported to access non-accommodation related support, 15 of which were supported into their own independent housing or supported housing. The team predominantly supported individuals housed in temporary accommodation, self-contained pods at Shadsworth, just outside Blackburn. The team also maintained a presence in the town centre and surrounding areas to ensure all individuals were able to access support.

Outcomes

Due to the chaotic nature of this cohort and the outreach approach taken by the team, whose work takes place predominantly on the streets, it is difficult to measure outcomes formally using validated tools. The team report quantitative data monthly; average time worked with each individual, number supported to access non-accommodation support, number supported into suitable accommodation. Qualitative outcomes are demonstrated through case studies and feedback (both supported individuals and professionals).

Case study;

AB lost his wife suddenly and turned to drugs to cope. AB states he has been a functioning heroin user for 20 plus years. He found himself homeless in Blackburn. AB slept rough and would routinely beg for money to feed his habit. He refused to engage with services but we persisted and eventually build his trust. After several months engagement and understanding, his reluctance to consider a hostel we arranged for him to visit a bedsit. The RRPN team assisted with benefits, housing support, introducing addiction support and his own roof over his head. AB's life has improved and he is no longer begging on the town and is 12 weeks clean of heroin. He has claimed that he still has days when he wants to use but he is proud of how far he has come and is determined to not use again

Ambitions for the coming year

This commissioned service will come to an end in 2022-23 and the delivery will return to the Local Authority. However, the company is reviewing alternative geographic areas and further funding opportunities to offer similar support to the RRPN model.

7.3 BBO Changing Futures

The Changing Futures Project has been running since February 2017 and offers inclusive support to individuals aged 15+, supporting disadvantaged groups in promoting social inclusion and combating poverty. The individuals supported by the service have complex issues and lack the skills they need to enter the labour market or understand how they fit into the employment market.

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The project helps individuals address their own barriers, taking small steps to helping them access employment and training in the future. The project supports individuals in relation to:

- Education & Training
- Employment/Volunteering
- Supported Housing
- Benefits support
- Debt support
- Physical health
- Emotional & therapeutic support to manage anxiety and mild depression
- Confidence/self-esteem

Delivery areas

The Changing Futures model covers areas within East Lancashire to include:

- Blackburn with Darwen
- Burnley and Pendle
- Rossendale
- Hyndburn

The service has supported 52 participants over the year and achieved the results and soft outcomes listed below:

Referrals	52
Completed	52
Employment/Self-Employment	7
Training/Education	12
Job Search	4
Soft Outcomes	251

Changes made due to Covid-19

The service has followed government guidance during the period and has delivered services through a mix of face to face, remote and online sessions.

Achievements and outcomes of the service over the past year

Since April 21, the Changing Futures Project team have supported 52 individuals within East Lancashire gaining some fantastic results and outcomes. The service worked to ensure individuals received practical support and supported a large number of individuals within East Lancashire, continuing to offer a blended approach of both face to face and virtual sessions. This approach was extended due to the feedback from participants, some of which preferred the virtual delivery.

As the Covid restrictions eased the opportunity to engage with participants outdoors was more readily available. A strong partnership link was formed with Towneley Park Volunteering group and a number of regular sessions are delivered there each week. The Changing Futures Team are embedded within the sessions held.

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Support has been provided for individuals who had suicidal ideation, helping them to access NHS crisis / home treatment teams, for immediate support with their mental health.

In addition, the service has supported individuals to access Shelter to gain support with financial issues and debt support.

Throughout the period the service has continued to forge links with new organisations and services by promoting the Changing Futures model.

The service was recognised at the Selnet awards in November 22 when we were awarded Social Enterprise of the Year award for the second consecutive year.

Outputs outcomes and impact

Of the 52 individuals directly engaging with the service the following outcomes were achieved.

- **24%** successfully entered into education and training (12 out of 52 people)
- **13%** successfully entered into employment (7 of the 52 people)
- **100%** achieved a positive outcome, feeling more confident and less anxious

Qualitative outcomes

- **47** Participants report feeling listened to, supported and increased motivation
- **52** Participants demonstrated an increased willingness to engage, improved access to further support
- **33** Participants will increase and sustain their access to a range of additional development and support opportunities, delivering increased positive change, resulting in improved future life changes.

Quotes/Feedback

KS has been out of work for the last 5 years, struggling with mental health barriers, housing issues, financial issues and poor wellbeing she needed intensive support to transform and improve her situation and longer term outlook. KS was sofa surfing which caused instability and anxiety. Through our Calico offer KS was supported into supported accommodation and receives weekly support by the CF team. KS is heavily committed to volunteering at Towneley park which has increased her fitness levels and outdoor engagement. KS was nominated for the volunteer of the year award by Selnet in November 22.

Emotional Therapeutic Service: -

The Emotional Therapeutic Service (ETS) has adapted efficiently and effectively to provide a blended approach of either face to face direct work or a remote online or phone offer.

They have partnered with CANW's Changing Futures team to deliver wellbeing sessions within their park set up, which has provided the added benefit of social interaction, the formation of new peer friendships and support as well as the obvious benefits of volunteering and working in nature, while being supported by a specialist practitioner.

The team share information around the ever changing face of mental health support across the county, and keep partners up to date with effective referral pathways and positive community events/groups, to provide further support to participants.

Having recognised the level of need getting higher for ETS referrals, the service has recruited a self-employed High Intensity CBT practitioner to manage cases that the practitioners would have previously had to refer to long waiting lists in other services, thus extending the support we can offer individuals.

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The service has supported:

- 25 referrals from Investing in Youth
- 40 referrals from Changing Futures
- 32 referrals from age of opportunity

Total = 97

Referral numbers overall were (including those who ended up disengaging):

- ILY – 50 referrals from Investing in Youth
- CF – 37 referrals from Changing Futures
- AOP – 68 referrals from Age of Opportunity

Total = 155

Quotes/Case Studies

“It has made such a difference to me and helped me so much. At first I wasn’t sure as this was all new to me, but meeting with you and talking with you each week helped me to open up. You’ve helped me so much and I’m much better now than I was at the start. Thank you.”

After speaking and meeting with me David felt able and ready to take the next step towards counselling, which was a massive step for him. He found the service friendly and appreciated my time in helping him through things.

8. Financial review

The group’s incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2022 amounted to £6,266,999 and outgoing resources amounted to £6,049,158. The surplus reported during the year was £309,820 which included net unrealised surpluses on investments of £91,979 (excluding dividend and other investment income). The operating surplus for the year was £217,841. Due to the continued uncertainty of the impact of Covid-19 on the delivery of services, and therefore the security of income throughout the year, a breakeven budget was set with limited investment agreed by the Board.

During the year the Fostering Service continued to be a key contributor to the group’s umbrella of services, supporting the financial performance to 31st March 2022. Towards the end of the year placement numbers started to decline which is anticipated to have an adverse impact in 2022-23, however the service has a robust plan to increase both placements and foster carers.

The Emotional Health and Wellbeing service continued to operate in a variety of settings across Lancashire and beyond. The contract with Lancashire County Council (LCC) continued to produce excellent results in terms of favourable outcomes, as did our work with schools and other commissioners. The service made a surplus during the year. The LCC contract came to an end on 31st March 2022, with the new contract starting on 1st May 2022. The new contract will provide some financial challenges which have been included within the 2022-23 plan.

The Supported Contact services continued to perform important work in difficult economic circumstances. Services continued to be significantly disrupted with the majority of face-to-face activity ceasing. The service’s SPIP provision continued to be delivered online. Work to recommence face to face provision was encouraged by commissioners towards the second half of the year. During the first half of the year the service mobilised the new contract for the delivery of Improving Child and Family Arrangements services. This enables the service to grow in new geographical areas. The successful mobilisation of the service was achieved delivering a small surplus for Supported Contact services for the year.

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Building Better Opportunities (BBO) continued to support the Invest in Youth Project in the Charity and Changing Futures and EHWP in the CIC. Delivery of services have been able to continue online. These projects are financially marginal, and we are working with partners to improve processes and viability.

Young Carers services has ring fenced funding received in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to support delivery. There have been challenges with recruitment which the service has found innovative ways to work around to continue to deliver excellent services. Additional funding has also been secured in the early part of 2022-23 to contribute to the delivery and expansion of these services.

Criminal Justice services grew during the year with the award of the new Appropriate Adult contract in Derbyshire. The mobilisation of this contract was successful with it contributing a surplus in the first year. Overall, Criminal Justice services made a small surplus in the year. Appropriate Adult work forms most of the provision.

Principal Funding

The majority of funding is from commissioned service with local authorities predominantly across the North of England, however with the expansion of the Supported Contact services this geographical area has expanded. Grant funding during the year amounted to £332,200, with contributions from the public totalling £51,747.

Investments

The investment portfolio is held by Schroders, Cazenove Capital, on a discretionary basis with the overall objective being to produce the best financial return possible, within a low to medium risk rating, over a medium to long term period. The financial markets have, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, remained reasonably stable throughout the year resulting in a realised and unrealised gain, net of investment income, of £60,405.

Reserves

The reserves policy in place is reviewed at least annually by a sub-committee of the board, the Reserves Management Committee, with recommendations taken to the board for approval. Where significant events take place during the year that impact reserves, the committee review the policy to ensure it continues to meet the objectives of the organisation.

The group held total funds of £3,706,827 at 31 March 2022. Of these, £76,258 were restricted, therefore these funds were not available for the general purposes of the group. The group held unrestricted funds of £3,630,569 at 31 March 2022. However, of this, £672,767 can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets. Therefore, at 31 March 2022, the group had available liquid unrestricted reserves of £2,957,802.

The required level of reserves, set out in the policy, to cover organisational running costs, if necessary, is £2,000,000. This is based on the planned expenditure in 2022-23. The actual free liquid reserves held at 31 March 2022 were, therefore, £957,802 above target. A reasonable level of investment has been committed for 2022-23 and the Board feels that it is prudent to maintain these surplus free reserves.

The board remains open to possibility of investing in new services, or the expansion of existing ones, whose aims are in line with objectives of the group and which have the potential to contribute to the financial base of the organisation.

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9. Covid-19 Response

The continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to present challenges over the period. The group's first priority has remained the safety of its clients, staff and other stakeholders. The group implemented its business continuity and risk assessment plans to ensure the organisation was able to continue to deliver its activities in a safe and effective way. A baseline risk assessment was undertaken across the organisation and individual assessments across service and support areas, incorporating the activities of the entire organisation. The risk assessment process has been dynamic and responsive to changing government guidance and legislation.

Many areas of the business have integrated the service provision changes into their delivery plans and the Charity has continued to deliver and meet all of its obligations to beneficiaries, funders and stakeholders. Over the year guidance and legislation has changed and the Charity has responded efficiently to the changes. The office provision of the Charity fully reopened in March 2022 with the adoption of a hybrid method of working in response to beneficiary and staff preference and to ensure efficiency and flexibility of response.

Communication and support of staff has remained paramount with regular weekly meetings to constantly review a changing environment, virtual peer support sessions have been arranged, staff surveys on Covid response and future plans undertaken, and regular wellbeing check ins and information and support shared.

10. Going Forward

The last year has seen CANW continuing to address and respond to growing levels of need demonstrated across the communities and individuals we support. This has led the Charity to review its strategic plan and to invest in its people and systems to ensure we are well placed to address the many challenges of inequality and inequity that we have identified. The Covid pandemic has demonstrated starkly the social inequities within the North of England and we plan to grow and develop our services to address this increased need. We plan to grow and develop our services to ensure they can support and engage with more children, families and communities and we plan to ensure that our systems and governance approaches are robust and efficient to better support our operational delivery. We are focussed on operational excellence to ensure our targeted interventions have the most significant impact on those who need our support. We also plan to find our voice as a Charity and to speak out where we see injustice.

Our Strategy for the next 5 years

1. The growth of our targeted and impactful services that will make a positive difference to life chances, and increase the number of children and families accessing our services
2. The expansion of our geographical and service delivery reach across the North West of England to meet gaps in service need and to ensure that those who need our services are able to access them
3. Operational excellence that delivers the right support, at the right time, with the right outcome.
4. A strong stable and financially secure organisation that looks after its people and lives up to its values.
5. We will speak out and speak up about the inequities that affect the people we support

We will meet our strategic aims by focusing on those service areas that we know will have the greatest impact:

- We will provide targeted support to reduce social inequalities and provide opportunities to enable individuals to make the changes they have identified through our Youth, Criminal Justice and employment and education services.
- We will provide support to families and children by supporting their emotional health and wellbeing, relationships and family life.

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- We will provide outstanding supportive foster homes and support for young people who have been in care

We will ensure that our infrastructure and finances provide a solid base for us to focus on our mission:

- By increasing our income to enable us to deliver high quality services for those who need that additional support
- By investing and believing in our people creating a motivated, skilled, supported and caring workforce
- By having strong financial governance and outcomes
- Delivering operational excellence demonstrated by the outcome and impact of our services on the lives of individuals
- Ensuring we are an inclusive and diverse organisation who develop and deliver services based on engagement, consultation and dialogue
- By our governance structures, systems and processes

10.1 Analysis of the external environment

As part of the planning process for 2022-2023 the wider operational and senior leadership teams undertook planning sessions where they completed a PESTEL (political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal) analysis and reviewed what this meant for the organisation via a SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) analysis on the potential impact of the external operating environment upon the Charity and the impact for Children, Families and communities we serve. This was undertaken from a local and national perspective.

Some of the key points included:

- The impact of Covid-19 on the national and local social and economic fabric and the ongoing uncertainty and potential changes that this has caused.
- The uncertainty and impact caused by the current war in Ukraine
- The uncertain political climate that remains turbulent and demonstrates a lack of consensus.
- The political changes at a more local level and the possible impact of devolution of power from centralized government
- The economic impact of rises in inflation, cost of living increases, economic impact of Covid and outcome of Brexit and multi geographic political alliances that will impact upon decisions around public spending.
- The direct impact of real reductions in salary, and spending on individuals on lower wages, or with significant financial commitments.
- The increase in child poverty
- The disproportionate impact of inequality in the North of England as seen in The Child of the North Reports, and the Marmot Health inequalities review.
- The potential for displacement of individuals due to climate change and the direct impact of more extreme weather events
- the changes in the structure of health and social care systems, a political drive to reduce costs whilst increasing preventative services

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- An increased focus on 'community' and place based community ownerships and assets
- The Kruger report focusing on the role of civic societies and the contribution they are able to make to change

The broader operating and environmental position has a direct impact upon our beneficiaries and our organisational challenges. Research, statistics and direct experience is showing, an increase in children and adults reporting difficulties with emotional and mental health and wellbeing. There are more families living in poverty, there is a skills gap between vacancies in social care posts and skilled and experienced applicants, an increase in the number of children in care and coming to the attention of social care, significant gaps in health indicators for children with many of the geographical regions we operate in, a direct correlation between health and social outcomes based on race and culture, and evidence of significant stresses on families and communities. The situation is challenging and calls for clear strategic thinking and planning to ensure we target our work where we can make the biggest impact.

We have consulted with our stakeholders, children, commissioners and other stakeholders to understand what is important to them and the services and gaps they would like to see us deliver going forward;

Children and Young People have told us about the things that are important to them and what they would like from CANW. They told us that being supported in schools and getting opportunities to learn and develop skills is important to them, that relationships with friends and families can sometimes be difficult and they would like support there, they said that sometimes they feel anxious and down and would like support with their mental health and wellbeing. They also told us that they enjoyed spending time together and that they would like more opportunities to meet together and enjoy activities.

Foster carers have told us that it is important that they practical and emotional support and children in foster families want to receive their own support. That being a voluntary fostering agency with a strong value base is important. That they want opportunities to meet with each other and gain peer support, and that the relationships with their support workers is important.

Our Commissioners and other stakeholders have told us that they want to further develop partnership working, that they can see gaps in mental health provision and that early intervention is important to them. We have been told that there are gaps in mental health and wellbeing support for Children and Young People who have been looked after and are leaving care. Our colleagues in health are interested in further development of a place based early intervention offer. In addition, risk management of the needs of very complex young people is important. Specialist support in the areas of self-harm and eating disorder is needed. There are gaps in youth provision for young people who experience disadvantage and find it more difficult to access services. Appropriate fostering provision and sufficient placement choice remains a priority for many local authorities.

11. Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Child Action Northwest for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

12. Auditor

MHA Moore and Smalley are deemed to be re-appointed under section 487 (2) of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board of trustees:



.....
Mrs Webb – Chair

Date 04/10/2022
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CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Child Action Northwest (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and the Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement 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).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company'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 charitable company's members and its trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006 and 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 group's or parent charitable company'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.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 42, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they 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 group's and parent charitable company'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 group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

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 auditor's 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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiries with management about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Enquires with management about any known or suspected instances of fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Examination of journal entries and other adjustments to test for appropriateness and identify any instances of management override of controls;
- Review of legal and professional expenditure to identify any evidence of ongoing litigation or enquiries.

Because of the field in which the client operates we identified that employment law, health and safety legislation and compliance with the UK Companies Act are the areas most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non-compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognise the non-compliance.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

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 auditor's report.

Nicola Mason

Nicola Mason (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
MHA Moore and Smalley
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Richard House
Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3 HP

Date: 07/10/2022
.....

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	4	51,747	-	-	51,747	36,899
Charitable activities	5	6,093,167	75,386	-	6,168,553	4,832,621
Investment income	6	31,574	-	-	31,574	20,309
Other income	7	1,439	13,686	-	15,125	167,810
Total incoming resources		6,177,927	89,072	-	6,266,999	5,057,639
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		96,961	-	-	96,961	72,189
Charitable activities						
Care and Accommodation Services		1,999,953	30,939	-	2,030,892	1,909,777
Youth and Engagement Support		93,771	46	-	93,817	98,733
Family Wellbeing:						
Family Support		2,920,067	28,909	-	2,948,976	1,959,462
Youth Justice		694,338	336	-	694,674	612,861
Adult Community Services		183,838	-	-	183,838	216,622
Total outgoing resources	8	5,988,928	60,230	-	6,049,158	4,869,644
		188,999	28,842	-	217,841	187,995
Realised gains/(losses) on investment assets		(5,644)	-	-	(5,644)	98,355
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets		97,623	-	-	97,623	181,822
Net income/(expenditure)		280,978	28,842	-	309,820	468,172
Transfers between funds	14 & 15	313,372	-	(313,372)	-	-
Net movement in funds		594,350	28,842	(313,372)	309,820	468,172
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	14 & 15	3,036,220	47,415	313,372	3,397,007	2,928,835
Total funds carried forward	14 & 15	3,630,570	76,257	-	3,706,827	3,397,007

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

All activities derive from continuing activities.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Group		Charity	
		2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	674,671	685,280	672,767	680,944
Investments	11	2,323,674	2,019,377	2,323,674	2,019,377
		<u>2,998,345</u>	<u>2,704,657</u>	<u>2,996,441</u>	<u>2,700,321</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	679,234	525,372	675,577	516,903
Cash at bank and in hand		915,817	1,024,542	867,079	1,000,783
		<u>1,595,051</u>	<u>1,549,914</u>	<u>1,542,656</u>	<u>1,517,686</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(886,569)	(857,564)	(883,987)	(834,089)
Net current assets		708,482	692,350	658,669	683,597
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>3,706,827</u>	<u>3,397,007</u>	<u>3,655,110</u>	<u>3,383,918</u>
Capital and reserves					
Restricted funds	15	76,257	47,415	76,257	47,415
Unrestricted funds:					
- Revaluation reserve	14	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
- Fixed asset funds	14	584,670	595,280	582,766	590,944
- Designated funds	14	-	313,372	-	313,372
- General unrestricted funds	14	2,955,900	2,350,940	2,906,087	2,342,187
		<u>3,630,570</u>	<u>3,349,592</u>	<u>3,578,853</u>	<u>3,336,503</u>
		<u>3,706,827</u>	<u>3,397,007</u>	<u>3,655,110</u>	<u>3,383,918</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 04/10/2022 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mrs Webb - Chair

Company number: 00820660

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash generated from operating activities	1	123,944	589,649
Cash provided by investing activities			
Interest received		1,439	1,084
Income from listed investments		31,574	20,309
		33,013	21,393
Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(53,364)	(39,116)
Payments to acquire investments		(663,430)	(908,872)
Receipts from sales of investments		421,053	707,724
		(295,741)	(240,264)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year			
		(138,784)	370,778
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,139,384	768,606
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2	1,000,600	1,139,384

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT NOTES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Net incoming resources	309,820	468,172
Unrealised (gains)/losses on investment assets	(97,623)	(181,822)
Depreciation of tangible assets	63,973	57,871
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangible assets	-	-
(Profit)/loss on disposal of investments	5,644	(98,355)
Bank interest received	(1,439)	(1,084)
Income from listed investments	(31,574)	(20,309)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(153,862)	329,568
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	29,005	35,608
	123,944	589,649

2 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Cash flow £	Other non cash changes £	At 31 March 2022 £
Net cash:				
Cash at bank and in hand	1,024,542	(108,725)	-	915,817
Overdraft	-	-	-	-
	1,024,542	(108,725)	-	915,817
Cash on short term deposit	114,842	(30,059)	-	84,783
Net funds	1,139,384	(138,784)	-	1,000,600

3 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	2022 £	2021 £
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	(108,725)	317,252
Increase/(decrease) in liquid resources	(30,059)	53,526
Movement in net funds in the year	(138,784)	370,778
Opening net funds	1,139,384	768,606
Closing net funds	1,000,600	1,139,384

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

Legal form

The charity constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is as stated on page 4.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Child Action Northwest 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 notes.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate all assets and liabilities and income and expenditure of the wholly owned non-charitable subsidiary community interest company, CANWe Solutions CIC, made up to 31 March 2022.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

At the time of approval of the financial statements, the trustees have considered the charity's financial position and performance. The trustees have considered the twelve month period following approval of the accounts and have concluded that the charity appears to have sufficient cash resources to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. This is supported by an investment portfolio of £2,323,674 at 31 March 2022 which could be liquidised to fund short term working capital requirements should the need arise. Therefore the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied:

- Voluntary income, including donations, gifts and legacies, is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.
- Grants where entitlement is conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant, upon delivery of the specified performance.
- Income receivable under contract is recognised when the contractual obligations have been fulfilled. Where the contract is still in progress, income is recognised to the extent that it has been earned.
- Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the trustees' annual report.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, fundraising and trading activities undertaken by the CIC.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the operation of the child and young person related activities and include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities. The costs also include the costs of the CIC for delivering such projects.
- Support and governance costs include the costs of central functions and those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets, associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Support and governance costs are allocated to each activity on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

Fund accounting

The group has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular purpose or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

All other funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for particular purposes.

The revaluation reserve represents the difference between the historical cost of fixed assets and the revalued amount included within the balance sheet.

Pension scheme

The group operates group personal pension arrangements. Contributions payable are charged to the profit and loss account in the year they are payable.

Taxation

Child Action North West is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities. CANWe Solutions CIC is a taxable entity and therefore provisions for tax are included where relevant.

VAT

As the charity is not registered for VAT all resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Homestead & Springfield Court land and buildings	-	4% straight line
Other land and buildings	-	1.8% - 6.5% straight line
Property alterations	-	4% straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25% straight line
Equipment	-	20% straight line

There is no readily available split of the land element included within land and buildings and so the entire balance has been depreciated.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The charity has taken advantage of the transitional provisions of section 35.10 (d) of FRS 102 and has continued to include land and buildings at a combination of cost and a valuation undertaken before the implementation of the Reporting Standard.

Paragraph 16.4A of FRS102 provides an accounting policy choice for group members which rent investment property to another group entity to account for those properties at either fair value through profit or loss or by transferring them to property, plant and equipment and applying the cost model. The latter accounting policy choice has been selected.

Stocks

No account is taken of stocks of food or other consumable items at the accounting date, on the grounds that the balance is immaterial in value.

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.

Investments are re-stated at their fair value at each subsequent year end and any unrealised gains or losses are reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are outlined below:

Funding on payment by result contracts

In respect of payment by result contracts, management are required to assess the stage of project delivery at the year end in order to calculate the entitlement earned. If confirmation has not been received by the commissioner on the approved project delivery then the income included within the accounts is based on management's best assessment of the delivery achieved. Any amounts earned but not yet received are included within accrued income and the converse is accounted for within deferred income in order to ensure that the funding is recognised in the same accounting period as the related services are provided.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements (continued)

Impairment of tangible fixed assets

At each reporting date the trustees are required to assess whether there is any indication of impairment. This is done with reference to third party valuations, if obtained during the period. If not, impairment indicators are considered with reference to the estimated value in use and the assets' future service potential to the charity's beneficiaries.

3 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiary, CANWe Solutions CIC.

Total incoming resources for the charity alone are £6,036,791 (2021: £4,828,573) and the net increase in funds for the year is £271,192 (2021: £472,264).

4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Other donations	51,747	-	51,747	36,899
	51,747	-	51,747	36,899

Income from donations and legacies totalled £51,747 (2021: £36,899), all of which was unrestricted in nature in both the current and previous year.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Care Services	2,128,496	34,886	2,163,382	2,040,125
Youth and Community Support	55,286	40,500	95,786	81,515
Family Wellbeing:				
Family Support	2,980,139	-	2,980,139	1,912,845
Youth Justice	699,043	-	699,043	573,422
Adult Community Services	230,203	-	230,203	224,714
	6,093,167	75,386	6,168,553	4,832,621

Prior year incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Care Services	1,984,005	56,120	2,040,125	1,961,815
Youth and Community Support	56,208	25,307	81,515	278,090
Family Wellbeing:				
Family Support	1,883,840	29,005	1,912,845	2,026,546
Youth Justice	573,422	-	573,422	618,894
Learning and Development	-	-	-	1,450
Adult Community Services	224,714	-	224,714	261,547
	4,722,189	110,432	4,832,621	5,148,342

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6 Investment income

Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Income from listed investments	31,574	-	31,574	20,309
	31,574	-	31,574	20,309

Investment income totalled £31,574 (2021: £20,309), all of which was unrestricted in nature in both the current and previous year.

7 Other incoming resources

Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Bank interest	1,439	-	1,439	1,084
CJRS income	-	13,686	13,686	166,726
	1,439	13,686	15,125	167,810

Other income totalled £15,125 (2021: £167,810), of which £13,686 (2021: £166,726) was restricted and £1,439 was unrestricted (2021: £1,084).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8 Total resources expended

	Basis of allocation	Care Services £	Youth Engagement and Support £	Family Support £	Youth Justice £	Public Relations £	Central Management £	Adult Community Services £	CANWe Solutions CIC Trading £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Costs directly allocated to activities											
Salaries and Wages	Direct	371,548	60,979	1,210,233	465,684	60,411	410,729	150,344	-	2,729,927	2,316,053
National Insurance	Direct	33,382	4,843	91,225	19,583	5,998	43,225	13,026	-	211,281	173,675
Pension Fund Contributions	Direct	15,532	1,577	38,734	7,351	2,765	19,519	2,772	-	88,249	87,502
Private Medical Insurance	Direct	1,004	-	1,246	-	-	4,349	-	-	6,599	4,795
Subcontractor costs	Direct	29,297	30	1,042,503	8,863	-	60	-	-	1,080,753	596,741
Other staff costs	Direct	13,334	1,140	27,720	40,812	2,120	1,582	1,305	-	88,014	73,970
Carers costs	Direct	1,178,397	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,178,397	1,084,408
Service operating costs	Direct	8,323	2,920	558	880	198	47,280	1,035	1,331	62,526	52,562
Training costs	Direct	5,157	3,710	3,435	28	1,000	5,583	951	-	19,864	11,136
Fundraising costs	Direct	1,497	22	-	-	135	-	-	-	1,654	350
Support and governance costs allocated to activities											
Rent	Usage	29,157	1,116	30,130	9,586	-	(69,989)	5,846	-	5,846	6,670
Other property costs	Usage	450	39	951	-	244	63,339	2,813	841	68,678	63,047
Insurance	Usage	48,536	1,859	50,156	15,957	-	47,306	-	-	163,813	114,853
Office running costs	Usage	22,106	2,343	43,073	32,562	10,468	128,237	5,747	2,310	246,846	194,956
Central management	Usage	285,536	13,274	396,234	93,519	5,880	(784,325)	-	-	10,118	8,352
Audit fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	15,480	-	15	15,495	14,835
Legal fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	5,721	-	-	5,721	6,485
Depreciation	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	61,541	-	2,432	63,973	57,871
Loss on disposal of assets	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	363	-	198	561	841
Other central costs	Usage	230	-	-	-	-	-	-	613	843	542
		2,043,486	93,852	2,936,196	694,826	89,219	-	183,839	7,740	6,049,158	4,869,644

Total resources expended amounted to £6,049,158 (2021: £4,869,644), of which £5,988,928 was unrestricted (2021: £4,611,236) and £60,230 was restricted (2021: £258,408).

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9 Total resources expended (continued)

Prior year total resources expended

	Basis of allocation	Care Services £	Youth Engagement and Support £	Family Support £	Youth Justice £	Public Relations £	Central Management £	Adult Community Services £	CANWe Solutions CIC Trading £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Costs directly allocated to activities											
Salaries and Wages	Direct	349,626	60,445	914,138	407,694	40,955	351,214	183,680	8,301	2,316,053	2,569,017
National Insurance	Direct	30,980	4,920	66,902	16,806	3,363	35,575	15,019	110	173,675	202,846
Pension Fund Contributions	Direct	18,455	1,649	32,533	7,913	2,231	19,034	5,548	139	87,502	110,900
Private Medical Insurance	Direct	1,001	-	793	-	102	2,899	-	-	4,795	3,088
Subcontractor costs	Direct	20,589	-	532,702	270	-	43,180	-	-	596,741	811,822
Other staff costs	Direct	19,531	868	7,937	33,616	28	9,874	2,116	-	73,970	216,117
Carers costs	Direct	1,084,408	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,084,408	1,074,321
Service operating costs	Direct	12,464	2,710	-	2,699	216	32,967	138	1,368	52,562	73,459
Training costs	Direct	5,314	1,618	1,560	985	-	1,059	600	-	11,136	20,147
Fundraising costs	Direct	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350	12,064
Support and governance costs allocated to activities											
Rent	Usage	24,538	3,510	31,620	9,360	-	(62,358)	-	-	6,670	27,669
Other property costs	Usage	1,606	-	260	-	-	59,496	773	912	63,047	87,288
Insurance	Usage	26,197	4,265	63,481	24,785	-	(3,875)	-	-	114,853	110,719
Office running costs	Usage	25,748	6,188	28,124	25,334	5,774	92,824	8,779	2,185	194,956	222,981
Central management	Usage	288,970	12,560	279,411	83,400	2,983	(658,972)	-	-	8,352	9,980
Audit fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	14,820	-	15	14,835	17,277
Legal fees	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	6,485	-	-	6,485	3,187
Depreciation	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	55,152	-	2,719	57,871	59,327
Loss on disposal of assets	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98
Bank charges	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	626	-	215	841	1,133
Other central costs	Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	542	542	1,713
		1,909,777	98,733	1,959,461	612,862	55,652	-	216,653	16,506	4,869,644	5,635,153

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9 Total resources expended (continued)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Total resources expended include:		
Fees payable to the charity's auditor (exclusive of VAT):		
Audit of the charity's annual accounts	8,675	7,850
Audit of the subsidiary's annual accounts	2,915	3,250
	<u>11,590</u>	<u>11,100</u>
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for other services (exclusive of VAT):		
Accountancy and other services	2,600	1,800
	<u>2,600</u>	<u>1,800</u>
	2022	2021
	£	£
Indemnity insurance for the committee and senior employees	8,242	6,156
Operating lease rentals		
- land and buildings	-	6,670
- other	4,882	6,664
Depreciation of tangible assets	63,973	57,871
Profit/(loss) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Profit/(loss) on disposal of investments	(5,644)	98,355
	<u>(5,644)</u>	<u>98,355</u>

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff Costs		
Salaries and wages	2,729,927	2,316,053
National insurance	211,281	173,675
Pension fund contributions	88,249	87,502
	<u>3,029,458</u>	<u>2,577,230</u>

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

		2022	2021
Office and management	- full time	21	17
	- part time	10	11
Others	- full time	33	35
	- part time	45	29
		<u>109</u>	<u>92</u>

The full time equivalent of the part time staff is 28 (2021: 21). In addition the charity has made use of an average of 69 (2021: 49) sessional staff during the year working differing hours as and when required. During the year the charity had available to use an average of 122 sessional staff (2021: 118). As at the year end the charity had 125 available members of staff (2021: 119).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2022	2021
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and the cost of key management personnel (continued)

The Trustees claimed £nil in respect of reimbursement of mileage claims and other expenses, in both the current and the previous year.

The Board has identified the Chief Executive as being the key management personnel. The employee benefits paid in respect of key management personnel, including employer's pension contributions and employer's national insurance contributions, during the year was £91,819 (2021: £86,190).

11 Tangible fixed assets

Charity

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Freehold land and buildings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost					
Balance at 1 April 2021					
At deemed cost on transition to FRS102	-	90,000	-	-	90,000
At Cost	808,943	668,034	64,488	228,446	1,769,911
	808,943	758,034	64,488	228,446	1,859,911
Additions	-	17,718	-	35,646	53,364
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2022	808,943	775,752	64,488	264,092	1,913,275
Depreciation					
Balance at 1 April 2021	417,469	480,329	64,488	216,681	1,178,967
Charge for the year	32,358	16,904	-	12,279	61,541
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2022	449,827	497,233	64,488	228,960	1,240,508
Net book value					
31 March 2022	359,116	278,519	-	35,132	672,767
31 March 2021	391,474	277,705	-	11,765	680,944

The original cost of the land and buildings included at a valuation of £90,000 is not known.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

11 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Group

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Freehold land and buildings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost					
Balance at 1 April 2021					
At deemed cost on transition to FRS102	-	90,000	-	-	90,000
At Cost	808,943	668,034	122,562	260,257	1,859,796
	808,943	758,034	122,562	260,257	1,949,796
Additions	-	17,718	-	35,646	53,364
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2022	808,943	775,752	122,562	295,903	2,003,160
Depreciation					
Balance at 1 April 2021	417,469	480,329	122,562	244,156	1,264,516
Charge for the year	32,358	16,904	-	14,711	63,973
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2022	449,827	497,233	122,562	258,867	1,328,489
Net book value					
31 March 2022	359,116	278,519	-	37,036	674,671
31 March 2021	391,474	277,705	-	16,101	685,280

The original cost of the land and buildings included at a valuation of £90,000 is not known.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12 Fixed Assets – Investments (Group and charity)

	2022 £	2021 £
Listed investments		
Market value at 1 April 2021	1,904,535	1,423,206
Additions	663,430	908,872
Disposals	(426,697)	(609,365)
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation at 31 March 2022	97,623	181,822
At 31 March 2022	2,238,891	1,904,535
Cash held within investment portfolio	84,783	114,842
Total investments	2,323,674	2,019,377
Represented by:	2022 £	2021 £
Listed on Recognised Stock Exchange:		
Cazenove Unit Trust		
Equities: UK Equities	139,967	133,871
Europe (ex UK)	-	45,874
Global	1,032,374	898,974
Bonds: UK Bonds	109,926	167,954
Global	345,595	270,706
Alternative: Hedge Funds	140,456	47,601
Property	138,831	119,127
Structured Products	173,461	42,910
Commodities	53,006	94,185
Others	105,275	83,333
Cash	84,783	114,842
	2,323,674	2,019,377
Historical cost at 31 March 2022	1,940,920	1,776,450

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12 Fixed Assets – Investments (continued)

Charity

In addition to the above investments, the charity also controls CANWe Solutions CIC, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales, which was incorporated on 18 March 2009 and of which Child Action Northwest is the sole member. The CIC commenced trading on 1 April 2009.

The principal activity of the company is that of benefiting the community by working with adults and young people suffering from worklessness, through funding from the government incentives. Its turnover for the year ended 31 March 2022 was £230,203 (2021: £224,715) and the surplus for the year then ended was £38,628 (2021: deficit of £4,092). The aggregate of its share capital and reserves at 31 March 2022 was £51,717 (2021: £13,089).

13 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	471,361	324,916	471,361	324,916
Prepayments	207,873	193,956	204,216	191,987
	679,234	518,872	675,577	516,903

14 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	310,767	144,935	310,305	144,473
Accruals and deferred income	493,499	612,103	493,499	612,103
Taxation and social security	61,201	53,522	54,678	46,999
Other creditors	41,995	40,504	13,725	12,234
Amounts due to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	11,780	18,280
	907,462	851,064	883,987	834,089

Included within creditors falling due within one year is deferred income held by the group of £306,528 (2021: £499,466) relating to payments on account received for contracts or performance related grants. The brought forward deferred income of £499,466 was released in full during the year.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

15 Analysis of unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2022 £
Charity general unrestricted funds							
Revaluation reserve - property	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Fixed asset fund	590,944	-	-	(8,178)	-	-	582,766
General unrestricted	2,342,187	5,947,720	(5,797,349)	321,550	(5,644)	97,623	2,906,087
	3,023,131	5,947,720	(5,797,349)	313,372	(5,644)	97,623	3,578,853
CANWe Solutions CIC general unrestricted funds							
Fixed asset fund	4,336	-	-	(2,432)	-	-	1,904
General unrestricted	8,753	230,208	(191,580)	2,432	-	-	49,813
	13,089	230,208	(191,580)	-	-	-	51,717
Total general unrestricted funds	3,036,220	6,177,928	(5,988,929)	313,372	(5,644)	97,623	3,630,570
Charity designated funds							
Development fund	313,372	-	-	(313,372)	-	-	-
	313,372	-	-	(313,372)	-	-	-
Total group unrestricted funds	3,349,592	6,177,928	(5,988,929)	-	(5,644)	97,623	3,630,570

The board agreed the release of the designated unrestricted fund of £313,372 into general unrestricted funds.

The balance carried on the fixed asset fund represents the net book value of the tangible fixed assets, less the balance on the revaluation reserve.

16 Analysis of restricted funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2022 £
Charity restricted funds							
Care Services							
Children in Need	5,068	24,886	(29,897)	-	-	-	57
National Lottery Leaving Care Grant	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Young Carers							
Young Carers Blackburn	23,631	35,000	(14,228)	-	-	-	44,403
Young Peoples Space Fund	18,716	5,500	(2,419)	-	-	-	21,797
CJRS income	-	13,686	(13,686)	-	-	-	-
	47,415	89,072	(60,230)	-	-	-	76,257
CANWe Solutions CIC restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group restricted funds	47,415	89,072	(60,230)	-	-	-	76,257
Total funds - charity	3,383,918	6,036,792	(5,857,579)	-	(5,644)	97,623	3,655,110
Total funds - group	3,397,007	6,267,000	(6,049,159)	-	(5,644)	97,623	3,706,827

Children in Need is grant funding received from the BBC to support care services.

During the year the Charity was awarded a restricted grant from the National Lottery to support a Leaving Care project.

The Young Carers fund relate to donations received for the specific purpose of supporting young carers with activities.

The Young Peoples' Space Fund is a pot of fund that was set up to develop the Young Peoples' Space at the head office building. This development was ongoing at the year end.

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

16 Analysis of funds – prior year

Analysis of unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2021 £
Charity general unrestricted funds							
Revaluation reserve - property	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Fixed asset fund	606,977	-	-	(16,033)	-	-	590,944
General unrestricted	1,919,623	4,555,758	(4,220,032)	(193,339)	98,355	181,822	2,342,187
	2,616,600	4,555,758	(4,220,032)	(209,372)	98,355	181,822	3,023,131
CANWe Solutions CIC general unrestricted funds							
Fixed asset fund	7,058	-	-	(2,722)	-	-	4,336
General unrestricted	10,123	224,723	(228,815)	2,722	-	-	8,753
	17,181	224,723	(228,815)	-	-	-	13,089
Total general unrestricted funds	2,633,781	4,780,481	(4,448,847)	(209,372)	98,355	181,822	3,036,220
Charity designated funds							
Emotional Health and Wellbeing fund	162,389	-	(162,389)	-	-	-	-
Development fund	104,000	-	-	209,372	-	-	313,372
	266,389	-	(162,389)	209,372	-	-	313,372
Total group unrestricted funds	2,900,170	4,780,481	(4,611,236)	-	98,355	181,822	3,349,592

Analysis of restricted funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Realised investment gains £	Unrealised investment gains £	At 31 March 2021 £
Charity restricted funds							
Care Services							
Children in Need	8,376	56,120	(59,428)	-	-	-	5,068
Pro Contact							
CAFCASS	-	21,135	(21,135)	-	-	-	-
CAFCASS - GM SPIP	-	2,600	(2,600)	-	-	-	-
CAFCASS SPIP Cumbria	-	2,600	(2,600)	-	-	-	-
Contact Centre	-	2,670	(2,670)	-	-	-	-
Young Carers							
Young Carers Blackburn	-	25,307	(1,676)	-	-	-	23,631
Young Peoples Space Fund	20,289	-	(1,573)	-	-	-	18,716
CJRS income	-	162,383	(162,383)	-	-	-	-
	28,665	272,815	(254,065)	-	-	-	47,415
CANWe Solutions CIC restricted funds	-	4,343	(4,343)	-	-	-	-
Group restricted funds	28,665	277,158	(258,408)	-	-	-	47,415
Total funds - charity	2,911,654	4,828,573	(4,636,486)	-	98,355	181,822	3,383,918
Total funds - group	2,928,835	5,057,639	(4,869,644)	-	98,355	181,822	3,397,007

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Charity	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	672,766	672,766
Investments	-	2,323,674	2,323,674
Current assets	76,257	1,466,400	1,542,657
Current liabilities	-	(883,987)	(883,987)
Total net assets	76,257	3,578,853	3,655,110

Group	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	674,671	674,671
Investments	-	2,323,674	2,323,674
Current assets	76,257	1,518,794	1,595,051
Current liabilities	-	(886,569)	(886,569)
Total net assets	76,257	3,630,570	3,706,827

Prior year analysis of net assets between funds

Charity	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	680,944	680,944
Investments	-	2,019,377	2,019,377
Current assets	47,415	1,470,267	1,517,682
Current liabilities	-	(834,085)	(834,085)
Total net assets	47,415	3,336,503	3,383,918

Group	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	685,280	685,280
Investments	-	2,019,377	2,019,377
Current assets	47,415	1,495,999	1,543,414
Current liabilities	-	(851,064)	(851,064)
Total net assets	47,415	3,349,592	3,397,007

CHILD ACTION NORTHWEST

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

18 Financial instruments

	Group		Charity	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets				
Measured at fair value through net income/expenditure	2,323,674	2,500,706	2,323,674	2,500,706
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	471,361	324,916	471,361	324,916
	2,795,035	2,825,622	2,795,035	2,825,622
Carrying amount of financial liabilities				
Measured at amortised cost	413,963	238,961	390,488	221,986

19 Pension commitments

The group operates group personal pension arrangements. Contributions payable by the group amounted to £88,249 (2021: £87,502). Outstanding pension contributions at 31 March 2022 amounted to £13,777 (2021: £12,234).

20 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the group and the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

Charity	Land & buildings		Other assets	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	-	-	4,391	4,882
Within two to five years	-	-	2,524	6,915
Over 5 years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	6,915	11,797
Group				
	Land & buildings		Other assets	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	-	-	4,391	4,882
Within two to five years	-	-	2,524	6,915
Over 5 years	-	-	-	-
	-	-	6,915	11,797

21 Related party transactions

During the year ended 31 March 2022 the charity was commissioned to deliver services of £3,600 (2021: £9,970) to Shadsworth Junior School, which shares a common trustee with the charity.