

THE WATER ADVENTURE CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 508340

Details

Other names CANOEING, WAC, WATER CENTRE

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1979-12-30

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

Contact

Address The Old Boathouse
Fairfield Locks
Off Maddison Road
Droylsden
M43 6ES

Phone 01613012673

Email info@wateradventurecentre.org.uk

Website www.wateradventurecentre.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PROVISION OF A WATER BASED ADVENTURE PLAY AND YOUTH CENTRE AT FAIRFIELD LOCKS ON THE ASHTON CANAL AT DROYLSDEN MANCHESTER FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, POVERTY OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR SUCH CHILDREN BY PROMOTING THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN THE CRAFT OF BOAT BUILDING AND BOAT HANDLING. FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE CONSTITUTION ADOPTED 27 NOVEMBER 1978.

Activities: WAC is a vibrant youth project blending youth work, canoes and water. Focusing on developing confidence and self esteem, awareness of self, others and our environment communication and collaborative working. Young people 8 to 19 join our youth clubs, whereas groups of all ages book canoeing sessions. WAC aims to work with those most affected by disability, discrimination and disadvantage.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bolton
- Bury
- Manchester City
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford City
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Trafford
- Wigan

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£106,755	£190,980	-	-
2024-03-31	£136,836	£177,299	-	-
2023-03-31	£167,172	£184,772	-	-
2022-03-31	£237,017	£197,203	-	-
2021-03-31	£165,837	£174,521	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DIANE KING		
David Naraynsingh		2023-07-24
JOHN BYRNE		2023-07-24
Suzanne Vincent		2019-07-22

THE WATER ADVENTURE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 508340

Accounts

Charity Number: 508340

Water Adventure Centre

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st March 2025

Water Adventure Centre

Reference and administrative information

for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Exec presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name	Water Adventure Centre
Charity Registration Number	508340
Principal Office	The Old Boathouse Fairfield Locks Off Maddison Road Droylsden Manchester M43 6ES

Executive Committee

Allan Donoghue	Chair (until 19/08/2024, deceased on 08/11/2024)
Suzanne Vincent	Deputy Chair (Chairperson from 19/08/2024)
Elizabeth Quartey	Treasurer
John Byrne	Secretary
Diane King	Trustee
Dave Naraynsingh	Trustee

Principal staff

Pauline Venus	Director
Mike McGuinn	Youth and Play Worker
Bridget Halliday	Youth and Play Worker
Steph McDonagh	Youth and Play Worker
Lauren Woodward	Youth and Play Worker

Independent Examiner

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA
Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
Ashton-under-Lyne (A) Branch
Warrington Street
Ashton-under-Lyne
Lancashire
OL6 6JL

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31/03/2025.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's Objects ("the objects") are.

- a) To maintain and develop a water-based adventure play and youth centre at Fairfield Locks on the Ashton Canal at Droylsden, Manchester, or at other urban sites which the Exec may from time to time determine.
- b) To offer at the above sites, and at other sites such as the Exec may from time to time determine, a variety of water activities and water-related activities to individual children and young people, mainly, but not exclusively, from the Droylsden and Higher Openshaw areas, and to groups of children and young people from adventure playgrounds, youth groups, play schemes and educational institutions mainly, but not exclusively, from the Greater Manchester area
- c) Within the general context of b) to concentrate particular attention on the needs of disadvantaged children and young people, who would normally not have the opportunity to participate in such activities.
- d) Through the activities referred to in b) above, to pursue the following general aims:
 - i) Through adventure play, expeditions, and holidays, mainly centred on boats but also using a range of craft including Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP's), to enable children and young people to enjoy themselves and to develop their powers of expression, imagination, communication and emotional learning.
 - ii) Through the development of children and young people's boat handling and craft skills to stimulate physical and mental confidence and movement leading to the development of further practical skills, and the ways of understanding which relate to them.
 - iii) Through their involvement in a variety of water environments, to increase children's and young people's intellectual and emotional awareness of their environment, or rural and wilderness settings, of industrial, social and economic history, and of the complex relationship between industrialism, human beings and the rest of nature.
- e) To sponsor, as the Exec may from time to time determine, such other projects that include within their purposes the furtherance of any or all the general aims referred to in d) above.
- f) To offer, as the Exec may from time to time determine, training in water activities to adults either for the purposes of training to work with young people or for general educational purposes.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

To engage, at the discretion of the Exec, in several campaigns and social action projects, to serve the needs of educational institutions, youth groups and disadvantaged groups within the community, any profits deriving from this activity to be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes laid out in this Constitution.

Aims and Objectives

To achieve the objectives above by working with children and young people who are most disadvantaged in our communities by combining youth and play work with canoeing in WAC's unique way. All this work is for the benefit of the public. The following review of Achievement and Performance summarises WAC's work in 2024-2025.

Strategies

To obtain grants, contracts, and donations to enable WAC's aims and objectives to be met within a context that takes risk and the wider physical, social, environmental and economic issues into account.

Use of volunteers

WAC encourages volunteering by both adults and young people from our own youth clubs, see below for more details. Volunteers are DBS checked (Disclosure and Barring Service) and are supported to gain valuable experience that often leads to paid employment or further education.

Public Benefit

In developing the objectives and strategy, the Board of Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees 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. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance

The charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities focus on working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults across GM, and are undertaken to further Water Adventure Centre charitable purposes for the public benefit.

This year we have continued to work in partnership with the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, and the South Network Youth network to support the work we deliver at Chorlton Water Park. Where we have capacity, we support community festivals and deliver family fun days. We continued to deliver our water play and youth offer to groups who come to WAC from across Greater Manchester.

We are now in our 48th year of innovative and creative work with children and young people.

Our major achievement has been simply to continue to be creative in providing quality youth work, play and canoeing provision in this extremely challenging economic climate, impacted by the current cost of living crisis. Essential to achieving this has been partnership working with a variety of organisations like the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, Manchester City Council, Troydale Tenants and Residents Association, the South Manchester Youth Network, Barlow Moor Community Association, Tameside Youth Service, Action Together (formerly Community and Voluntary Action Tameside - CVAT), and the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership.

Canoeing Groups

As already mentioned, our GM group work on the water has remained constant. We have been extremely busy with new contacts and new user group requests. Groups have been keen to return to WAC for the unique kayaking and water play experience we offer. We have had an increase in groups with additional needs, and we have been asked to provide additional staffing to support non-swimmers, who may have also missed out on learning to swim during the first Covid years. We have delivered some additional work with Manchester SEND young people and families in the school summer holidays. We have also continued to work with home schooled networks who are supporting young people who are home educated. There has been an increase the numbers of young people who are home schooled since the Covid Pandemic.

WAC'S Youth Clubs

Sunday Funday offers targeted play and youth work for children aged 8-13 years. Our offer is mostly outdoors in good weather, with water play and kayaking the focus. Boys and girls attended mainly from the local areas of Manchester and Tameside, often requiring parental support around travel. We deliver the canoeing and water play all year round, but we also engage young people in several creative projects, including improving our grounds and open spaces. These projects are inspired by young people's ideas to create chill out spaces, that provide the creative canvas for their self-directed play activities and games.

Thursday Youth Club is open to all aged 11-16 years from Greater Manchester, and is mainly attended by young people from Droylsden, and other parts of Tameside/East Manchester. It is a place 'just to be' with friends, and the year-round programme offers canoeing, discussion, arts projects, and essential youth work support. There is a core group of young people who attend each week, and the focus of the sessions is water fun and play, with young people organising their own games on the water and supporting new members who join from further

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

afield. There has been an increase in young people who have attended from other parts of GM, signposted by social workers and Early Help workers.

Girls' and Young Women's Evening provides a safe space for young women aged 8-19 to explore issues that affect their lives, we run two sessions back-to-back for young women aged 8-12 years, then for young women aged 13-19 years. The main focus of the sessions has been on kayaking and water play, in particular jumping in the water and self-directed play activities on the Stand up Paddleboards.

We have delivered a youth mentoring project with girls and young women for those most at risk of crime, offending and exploitation. This project was funded via Street Games as part of the GM Violence Reduction Unit and has enabled young women to learn some digital media skills as part of the 'Feel Good Your Way' project. As with most of our youth and play clubs, word of mouth is by far the best way to reach out to young people.

Pure Adventure, based at Chorlton Water Park in Manchester, mainly attracts young people from the Mersey Bank estate and Wythenshawe. We deliver 2 sessions each week back-to-back, the Junior sessions are for children and young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior sessions are for young people aged 13-19 years.

We resumed our kayaking and water play offer on the lake at Chorlton Water Park at Easter. The water park continues to be busy with families and people of all ages, and this generates a lot of 'passing trade' interest. We publicise our offer via the City Council's 'All Sorts to Do' programme, and support the South Manchester Network and HAF schemes, as well as partners like Barlow Moor Community Association, who work primarily with young people from the Barlow Moor Estate.

Active Adventure is located beside the Rochdale canal on the Troydale Estate in Newton Heath Manchester. There are 2 sessions that we deliver back-to-back on Tuesdays, the Junior session is for young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior session is for young people aged 13-19 years. Our delivery is a water-based youth and play offer with some dry land games and a bean bag 'chill out area'. The junior session remains busy, but the senior session is a bit quieter. As young people get older, the juniors become the seniors so will recruit itself more organically. We have continued the partnership work with Canal and River Trust, supporting canal clean ups and litter picking. The Stand-up Paddleboards are very popular with young people, organising their own games and activities.

Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA) is a youth engagement project we have been involved with for the last eight years. In 2017 WAC applied to be part of the project and we were successful – we now have 2 young people who are part of the GM wide youth voice representing the voluntary sector. We are now in our 2nd year of our 4th Term of Office, a wonderful achievement for WAC, for our Youth Voice and to raise WAC's profile in Greater Manchester!

It's an important and influential role, advising the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham on key youth issues and concerns, providing solutions and a critical voice, scrutinising the work of the Mayor and GMCA and undertaking specific pieces of work such as developing the Opportunity Pass 'Our Pass', the Curriculum for Life, and environmental issues like Climate Change. We have continued to work closely with Tameside Youth Council and have a mutually beneficial partnership relationship.

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for the year ended 31 March 2025

Support work for Partnerships based at WAC and GM locations.

We had a busy season on the canal throughout 2024 and 2025 with several GM bookings from Easter, continuing during the summer months. We have worked with groups who regularly attend, as well as new contacts. We have supported local and national partnerships via festivals and community events throughout the Spring and Summer, plus various HAF schemes mainly in Manchester and Tameside. We have been involved in the South Manchester Network, the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, Street Games and the Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET), which is committed to support and develop adventurous outdoor activities for Manchester's children and young people. We continue to work closely with the Canal and River Trust, supporting community events and generally raising environmental awareness around climate change and engagement in youth social action.

Tameside Early Help and Early Intervention This year and we have continued to work closely with colleagues across Manchester and Tameside, to help to coordinate the support offer of activities for children, young people and families. We have also worked closely with Action Together, Tameside Council and Tameside Youth Service through a youth social action programme and the promotion of our local offer. We continue to keep in contact with parents and carers and have seen an increase in new members from the Tameside area and across GM via Early Help referrals.

Financial review

This year has been particularly challenging with increases in wages and running costs, and a reduction in our funding income. Our key funders have been Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Manchester City Council Youth and Play Fund. Other funders have included Street Games (VRU fund), Garfield Weston, Tesco Community Grants, Manchester Guardian Society, Action Together and Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET). The landscape across the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector has been a reduction in the overall funding available alongside an increase in demand for funding, which has led to an increased level of competition for funding, and a reduction in the budgets available for groups. This has meant that we have been unable to secure funding from BBC Children in Need for the last two years.

We have had some consultancy support from the Pilot lighters 360 programme 360, which has been beneficial, giving us some guidance on succession planning for staff and Trustees, and ideas for future income generation by expanding our offer to businesses.

Moving forward, our priority is to secure longer term funding and explore opportunities to collaborate with partners.

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for the year ended 31 March 2025

Reserves policy

WAC's fixed assets, which are the buildings, land and equipment, come to £122,884.

We aim to set aside 3-4 months' working capital in case of emergency, but this year has been extremely challenging with increases in wages and running costs. As a result of our reduction in income and increase in expenditure, we have had to use our reserves to pay our wages and running costs.

Rebuilding our financial reserves is our main priority for 2025-2026.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

(Suzanne Vincent – Chairperson)Date 30/07/2025

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Plans for the future

We plan to move our existing charity to our new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2025. The CIO structure will better protect our Trustees and their personal liabilities. We will continue to use QuickBooks for our accounts, which is beneficial for remote working and the monitoring of funding applications. This should save time going forward which will be beneficial in identifying new funding streams.

Recruitment of new staff and succession planning for staffing and Trustees remains a priority for the future. There needs to be an investment in training and staff development across the youth and play sector as voluntary organisations and statutory services are all struggling to recruit into youth and play work roles. The emphasis needs to shift from 'youth activities' to 'youth and play work', as activities are the tools that we use to engage young people rather than the development journey that quality youth work ensures.

Developing partnership working continues to be a priority and we are looking at recruiting staff across partnerships. This would help WAC with our seasonal demand and ensure that we have a skilled and experienced work force to cover our busy spring and summer seasons, and our unique kayaking and water play offer.

We are continuing to look for new funders which will give WAC financial stability for the next 2/3 years.

Structure, governance and management

WAC is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity on 27 November 1978 (revised on 3 July 2000) in England and Wales.

The charity is constituted under a constitution 27/11/1978. The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 6 to the accounts.

We have also set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This was set up on 27/07/2023. We will be moving our current unincorporated charity to this new incorporated organisation in 2025.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

As outlined in other parts of this report, WAC are actively involved in several partnerships across Greater Manchester. These can be summarised as follows.

Manchester – for the last few years Manchester City Council commissioned Young Manchester to administer Service Level Agreements with several partnerships across the city. This role has now been taken back 'in house', by MCC. WAC has been part of the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership (EMYPP), plus partnership with Barlow Moor Community Association (BMCA), and Groundwork for our work in South Manchester.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Culture and Social Impact Fund. WAC currently receives funding from GMCA on a 3 year basis, to deliver several kayaking and water play sessions for young people and vulnerable adults across the 10 Greater Manchester boroughs.

We receive funding from Street Games via the Violence Reduction Unit, to provide targeted mentoring support for young people at risk of committing crime and offending behaviour.

We have strong partnerships in place with several Tameside organisations who develop the voice of children and young people across the Borough of Tameside. These include Action Together, Tameside Council, Tameside Youth Practitioners and Tameside Youth Service.

As outlined already, this year WAC has been successful in developing relationships with other funders who provide unrestricted support for our youth and play offer. These include Garfield Weston, Tesco 'bags of help', and Action Together.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

WAC has nothing to declare.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- 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.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 30/07/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Suzanne Vincent (Chairperson)

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Water Adventure Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited,
Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

22/08/2025

Water Adventure Centre
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts					
Donations		190	-	190	19
Grants	3	20,500	79,412	99,912	129,644
Fees and other income	4	5,590	-	5,590	5,420
Bank interest	5	1,063	-	1,063	1,753
Total receipts		27,343	79,412	106,755	136,836
Payments					
Salaries		48,537	109,100	157,637	149,360
Premises Costs		11,069	-	11,069	8,672
Canoes, equipment & repairs		530	-	530	1,800
Transport		1,301	-	1,301	854
Administration		3,697	-	3,697	3,583
Insurance		8,895	-	8,895	8,729
Accountancy		1,944	-	1,944	1,872
Training		1,631	-	1,631	664
Clients		4,276	-	4,276	1,765
Total payments		81,880	109,100	190,980	177,299
Net receipts/(payments)		(54,537)	(29,688)	(84,225)	(40,463)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit)		(54,537)	(29,688)	(84,225)	(40,463)

Water Adventure Centre
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds</i> 2024 £
Note				
Cash funds				
Bank and cash balances at start of year	86,374	29,688	116,062	<i>156,525</i>
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(54,537)	(29,688)	(84,225)	<i>(40,463)</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Bank and cash balances at end of year	31,837	-	31,837	<i>116,062</i>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Other assets				
	Fund		2025	2024
Debtors	Unrestricted		8,881	<i>7,255</i>
Freehold Land and Buildings	Unrestricted		111,793	<i>118,821</i>
Fixtures and fittings	Unrestricted		1,508	<i>1,323</i>
Equipment	Unrestricted		9,583	<i>11,978</i>
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other assets			131,765	<i>139,377</i>
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Liabilities				
	Fund		2025	2024
Creditors	Unrestricted		7,345	<i>5,548</i>
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities			7,345	<i>5,548</i>
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Approved by the Executive Committee on 30/07/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis.

2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

3 Grants received

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Street Games (VRU Fund)	-	9,910	9,910	12,388
GMCA	-	41,100	41,100	41,100
MCC Youth and Play Fund	-	28,402	28,402	43,640
MCC Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)	-	-	-	4,896
Garfield Weston	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Manchester Guardian Society	500	-	500	-
One Oldham - Action Together	-	-	-	1,000
Tesco Community Grant	-	-	-	1,000
MOET - COVID Recovery Fund	-	-	-	4,050
MOET - Young Women's Festival	-	-	-	1,470
Small grants	-	-	-	100
	20,500	79,412	99,912	129,644
	20,500	79,412	99,912	129,644

4 Receipts from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Group Payments and Fees	5,215	-	5,215	4,420
Donations	190	-	190	19
Paid Services	375	-	375	1,000
	5,780	-	5,780	5,439
	5,780	-	5,780	5,439

5 Investment receipts

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Bank interest	1,063	-	1,063	1,753
	1,063	-	1,063	1,753
	1,063	-	1,063	1,753

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

6 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year.

No trustee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £nil (2023: £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

7 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Street Games (VRU Fund)	5,188	9,910	(15,098)	-	-
GMCA	-	41,100	(41,100)	-	-
MCC Youth and Play Fund	-	28,402	(28,402)	-	-
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	4,500	-	(4,500)	-	-
TMBC WAC Partnership	20,000	-	(20,000)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	29,688	79,412	(109,100)	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Name of fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

Street Games (VRU Fund)	Mentoring project for girls and young women at risk of offending
GMCA	Work with primarily children and young people from Greater Manchester
MCC Youth and Play Fund	Detached seasonal open access youth and play work (South and East areas)
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	To develop youth voice in partnership with TMBC Youth Council and GMYCA
TMBC WAC Partnership	To develop opportunities for girls and young women and LGBTQ+ young people

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

8 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Minibus fund	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Garfield Weston	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	-
	35,000	-	(15,000)	-	20,000
	35,000	-	(15,000)	-	20,000

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Minibus Fund	Towards the purchase of a new minibus when this is needed as the current vehicle is 17 years old.
Garfield Weston	Funds ringfenced for 2024-25

9 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2025 £
Designated funds	35,000	-	(15,000)	-	20,000
General fund	51,374	27,343	(66,880)	-	11,837
	86,374	27,343	(81,880)	-	31,837
	86,374	27,343	(81,880)	-	31,837

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	<p>We aim to set aside 3-4 months working capital in case of emergency.</p> <p>This is calculated by taking this year's expenditure (on-going running costs excluding one-off equipment) of £190,980 and dividing by four to give a minimum amount of £47,745 (max amount is £58,680) This year's General Fund is £11,837 and is not between 3 and 4 months working capital.</p>

Funds	£
Restricted	-
Designated	20,000
General	11,837
	31,837
Total	31,837

THE WATER ADVENTURE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 508340

Accounts

Charity Number: 508340

Water Adventure Centre

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st March 2024

Water Adventure Centre

Reference and administrative information

for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Exec presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name	Water Adventure Centre
Charity Registration Number	508340
Principal Office	The Old Boathouse Fairfield Locks Off Maddison Road Droylsden Manchester M43 6ES

Executive Committee

Allan Donoghue	Chair
Suzanne Vincent	Deputy Chair
Elizabeth Quartey	Treasurer
John Byrne	Secretary
Diane King	Trustee
Dave Naraynsingh	Trustee

Principal staff

Pauline Venus	Director
Mike McGuinn	Youth and Play Worker
Ben Evans	Youth and Play Worker (left 31/08/2023)
Bridget Halliday	Youth and Play Worker
Steph McDonagh	Youth and Play Worker

Independent Examiner

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA
Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
Ashton-under-Lyne (A) Branch
Warrington Street
Ashton-under-Lyne
Lancashire
OL6 6JL

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31/03/2024.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's Objects ("the objects") are.

- a) To maintain and develop a water-based adventure play and youth centre at Fairfield Locks on the Ashton Canal at Droylsden, Manchester, or at other urban sites which the Exec may from time to time determine.
- b) To offer at the above sites, and at other sites such as the Exec may from time to time determine, a variety of water activities and water-related activities to individual children and young people, mainly, but not exclusively, from the Droylsden and Higher Openshaw areas, and to groups of children and young people from adventure playgrounds, youth groups, play schemes and educational institutions mainly, but not exclusively, from the Greater Manchester area
- c) Within the general context of b) to concentrate particular attention on the needs of disadvantaged children and young people, who would normally not have the opportunity to participate in such activities.
- d) Through the activities referred to in b) above, to pursue the following general aims:
 - i) Through adventure play, expeditions, and holidays, mainly centred on boats but also using a range of craft including Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP's), to enable children and young people to enjoy themselves and to develop their powers of expression, imagination, communication and emotional learning.
 - ii) Through the development of children and young people's boat handling and craft skills to stimulate physical and mental confidence and movement leading to the development of further practical skills, and the ways of understanding which relate to them.
 - iii) Through their involvement in a variety of water environments, to increase children's and young people's intellectual and emotional awareness of their environment, or rural and wilderness settings, of industrial, social and economic history, and of the complex relationship between industrialism, human beings and the rest of nature.
- e) To sponsor, as the Exec may from time to time determine, such other projects that include within their purposes the furtherance of any or all the general aims referred to in d) above.
- f) To offer, as the Exec may from time to time determine, training in water activities to adults either for the purposes of training to work with young people or for general educational purposes.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

To engage, at the discretion of the Exec, in several campaigns and social action projects, to serve the needs of educational institutions, youth groups and disadvantaged groups within the community, any profits deriving from this activity to be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes laid out in this Constitution.

Aims and Objectives

To achieve the objectives above by working with children and young people who are most disadvantaged in our communities by combining youth and play work with canoeing in WAC's unique way. All this work is for the benefit of the public. The following review of Achievement and Performance summarises WAC's work in 2023-2024.

Strategies

To obtain grants, contracts, and donations to enable WAC's aims and objectives to be met within a context that takes risk and the wider physical, social, environmental and economic issues into account.

Use of volunteers

WAC encourages volunteering by both adults and young people from our own youth clubs, see below for more details. Volunteers are DBS checked (Disclosure and Barring Service) and are supported to gain valuable experience that often leads to paid employment or further education.

Public Benefit

In developing the objectives and strategy, the Board of Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees 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. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

The charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities focus on working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults across GM, and are undertaken to further Water Adventure Centre charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

This year our face-to-face delivery has prioritised supporting young people around their mental health, impacted by the periods of social isolation they experienced during Covid times; and encouraged them to become more active. We continued to work in partnership with the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, and where we have capacity, we support community festivals, and deliver family fun days. We continued to deliver our water play and youth offer to groups who come to WAC from across Greater Manchester, and supported the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF), by providing an alternative activity offer with eligible partners, supporting children and young people on free school meals.

We are now in our 47th year of innovative and creative work with children and young people.

Our major achievement has been simply to continue to be creative in providing quality youth work, play and canoeing provision in this extremely challenging economic climate. Essential to achieving this has been partnership working with a variety of organisations like the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, Manchester City Council and the HAF programme, N-Gagement+ Partnership, Troydale Tenants and Residents Association, the South Manchester Youth Network, Barlow Moor Community Association, Tameside Youth Service, Action Together (formerly Community and Voluntary Action Tameside - CVAT), and the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership.

Canoeing Groups

Our Greater Manchester group work on the water this year has been extremely busy with new contacts, and groups that have attended WAC for many years. Groups have been keen to return to WAC for the unique kayaking and water play experience we offer. We have had an increase in groups with additional needs, and we have been asked to provide additional staffing to support non-swimmers, who may have also missed out on learning to swim during the first Covid years. We have delivered some additional work with Manchester SEND young people. There has also been increased demand from individuals and groups who are home educated.

WAC'S Youth Clubs

Sunday Funday offers targeted play and youth work for children aged 8-13 years, with water play and kayaking the focus. Boys and girls attended mainly from the local areas of Manchester and Tameside, often requiring parental support around travel. We have resumed the canoeing and water play for most of the year, but we also engaged young people in several creative projects. A highlight is always the celebration of National Tree Dressing Day, and we have continued to encourage young people to get involved in canal clean ups, litter picking, and environmental projects.

Thursday Youth Club is open to all aged 12-19 from Greater Manchester, and is mainly attended by young people from Droylsden, the priority age range is young people aged 12-16 years from Tameside and East Manchester. It is a place 'just to be' with friends, and the year-round programme offers canoeing, discussion, arts projects, and essential youth work support.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

This year the popularity of the club has continued to grow, by invitation to the older Sunday Funday and Young Women's Evening members, for a new outdoor offer! The advantage of this has meant that there already a 'buy in' from young people as they are existing members; with some new members joining via friendship networks. The Stand Up Paddleboards are always really popular, with young people organising their own team games and challenges.

Girls' and Young Women's Evening provides a safe space for young women aged 8-19 to explore issues that affect their lives, we run two sessions back-to-back for young women aged 8-12 years, then for young women aged 13-19 years.

Like our other youth and play clubs we had to develop a new way of connecting with girls and young women and initially needed to deliver leaflets locally and some door knocking. The girls and young women's work is going from strength to strength, with a lot of interest in kayaking and water play, in particular the popularity of the Stand-Up Paddleboards.

Pure Adventure, based at Chorlton Water Park in Manchester, mainly attracts young people from the Mersey Bank estate and Wythenshawe. We deliver 2 sessions each week back-to-back, the Junior sessions are for children and young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior sessions are for young people aged 13-19 years.

The water park continues to be busy with families and people of all ages attending the play areas, walking, jogging and cycling which means we pick up new members each week who are 'passing by'. We publicise our offer via the City Council's 'All Sorts to Do' programme, and support the South Manchester Network and HAF schemes, as well as partners like Barlow Moor Community Association, who work primarily with young people from the Barlow Moor Estate. The sessions on the water remain busy, especially the junior sessions, although there is also a core group of senior young people who attend regularly, including a cluster of young people who are home educated. The SUP's remain popular!

Active Adventure is located beside the Rochdale canal on the Troydale Estate in Newton Heath Manchester. There are 2 sessions that we deliver back-to-back on Tuesdays, the Junior session is for young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior session is for young people aged 13-19 years. Our delivery is a water-based youth and play offer with some dry land games and a bean bag 'chill out area'. The junior session remains busy with a regular group of home educated young people, and the senior session has a core group of SEND young people. As young people get older, the juniors become the seniors so will recruit itself more organically. We have continued the partnership work with Canal and River Trust, supporting canal clean ups and litter picking.

Play Clayton provides play activities to children from Clayton, Manchester. This year we have delivered our sessions from the Beacon Centre, a local community centre. Children aged 8 to 13 enjoy and learn from creative, adventurous play. We delivered some bespoke sessions at the Beacon Centre, both indoors and outdoors, and we have encouraged young people to attend our youth and play sessions at WAC, which are only a short walk or tram ride away. Young people have become regular attenders on Thursday nights and Sundays.

Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA) is a youth engagement project we have been involved with for the last seven years. In 2017 WAC applied to be part of the project and we were successful – we now have 2 young people who are part of the GM wide youth voice representing the voluntary sector. This is a wonderful achievement for WAC, for our Youth Voice and also to raise WAC's profile in Greater Manchester!

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

It's an important and influential role, advising the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham on key youth issues and concerns, providing solutions and a critical voice, scrutinising the work of the Mayor and GMCA and undertaking specific pieces of work such as developing the Opportunity Pass 'Our Pass', the Curriculum for Life, and environmental issues like Climate Change. We have continued to work closely with Tameside Youth Council and have a mutually beneficial partnership relationship.

Support work for Partnerships based at WAC and GM locations

We had a busy season on the canal throughout 2023 with several GM bookings from Easter, continuing during the summer months. These were some of our regular groups, plus some new groups who got in touch. We supported local and national partnerships via festivals and community events throughout the Spring and Summer, plus various HAF schemes mainly in Manchester and Tameside. We have been involved in the development of the South Manchester Network, and the newly formed Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET), which is committed to support and develop adventurous outdoor activities for Manchester's children and young people. We continue to work closely with the Canal and River Trust, supporting community events and generally raising environmental awareness around climate change and engagement in youth social action.

Tameside Early Help and Early Intervention

This year and we have continued to support several virtual networking events and Learning Circles to help to coordinate the support offer of activities for children, young people and families. We have also worked closely with Action Together, Tameside Council and Tameside Youth Service through a youth social action programme and the promotion of our local offer. We continue to keep in contact with parents and carers and have seen an increase in new members from the Tameside area via Early Help referrals.

Financial review

Despite the increasingly challenging economic environment, our key funders remain Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), and Manchester City Council. Other funders include Street Games, Garfield Weston, Tesco Bags of Help, Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET), and Action Together.

We have a good partnership with Tameside Youth Service who are a key player in the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership; they are supporting WAC to develop work with girls and young women, work with LGBTQ+ young people, and 'youth voice' via the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA). We

As always, each funder got what they paid for and more! We add value by combining funding and by accessing grants that are not restricted to a particular locality, age group or purpose. As more and more workers have taken severance and early retirement, and Local Authority youth provision has been closed or drastically reduced; this has had an impact on the groups and contacts that have used WAC for several years. This situation is also echoed in the voluntary sector, and where groups do survive, it is often on a reduced budget so trips to WAC are curtailed. It is a challenge to continually find new contacts and ways of reaching new groups; this has taken time and 'out of the box' thinking. The purchase of our two Kayak Pro Ergos, our XL Stand Up Paddleboard and 'play trailer', has expanded our offer and enabled us to have additional activities to take out into different communities, and to support events, as well as promoting our centre. This is on top of plugging gaps in other areas of our work because of both

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

these cuts, increasing poverty and challenges to young peoples' mental health. Alongside this is the ever increasing detailed and demanding evidence required for funding bids and their subsequent monitoring. Whilst we are told that the information we provide is excellent, it takes much time to produce, and we continually must balance service delivery against essential paperwork.

Longer-term funding from Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester City Council, Street Games and Garfield Weston have been crucial. Every funder requires proof of ongoing income, hence sustainability. These guarantees of ongoing funding have enabled us to secure both new and continuing funding.

Our Business and Development Plan has provided a solid basis which has guided development and supported funding bids. It was informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders, especially young people but also their parents, neighbours and professionals. We are currently updating the plan with a key priority of ongoing implementation of our funding strategy, to continue building long term financial stability.

We have been able to maintain the quality and amount of work by creative collaboration with partners and sharing resources and expertise. We have built on existing and new links to bring in more support in the shape of resources, expertise and people. We are looking forward to some future pro-bono support via the Pilot lighters 360 programme.

Reserves policy

WAC's fixed assets which are the buildings, land and equipment come to £139,377.

We aim to set aside 3-4 months working capital in case of emergency.

This is calculated by taking this year's expenditure (on-going running costs excluding one-off equipment) of £176,040 and dividing by four to give a minimum amount of £44,010 (max amount is £58,680) This year's General Fund is between 3 and 4 months working capital ie. £51,374 (Designated Funds - New minibus fund now £20,000 and Garfield Weston now £15,000 ringfenced for 2024-25).

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

..... Allan Donoghue (Chair)..... Date

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Plans for the future

We have now completed the submission of our new organisational structure that will better protect our Trustees and their liabilities by becoming a CIO, a Community Interest Organisation. We are also now using QuickBooks for our accounts, which is beneficial for remote working and the monitoring of funding applications. This should save time going forward which will be beneficial in identifying new funding streams.

Recruitment of new staff and succession planning remains a priority for the future. There needs to be an investment in training and staff development across the youth and play sector as voluntary organisations and statutory services are all struggling to recruit into youth and play work roles. The emphasis needs to shift from 'youth activities' to 'youth and play work', as activities are the tools that we use to engage young people rather than the development journey that quality youth work ensures.

Developing partnership working continues to be a priority and we are looking at recruiting staff across partnerships. This would help WAC with our seasonal demand and ensure that we have a skilled and experienced work force to cover our busy spring and summer seasons and our unique kayaking and water play offer.

We are continuing to look for new funders which will give WAC financial stability for the next 2/3 years.

Structure, governance and management

WAC is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity on 27 November 1978 (revised on 3 July 2000) in England and Wales.

The charity is constituted under a constitution 27/11/1978. The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 6 to the accounts.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

As outlined in other parts of this report, WAC are actively involved in several partnerships across Greater Manchester. These can be summarised as follows.

Manchester – for the last few years Manchester City Council commissioned Young Manchester to administer Service Level Agreements with several partnerships across the city. This role has now been taken back 'in house', by MCC. WAC has been part of the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership (EMYPP), plus the N-Gagement + Partnership for our work in South Manchester.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Culture and Social Impact Fund. WAC currently receives funding from GMCA on a bi-annual basis, to deliver several kayaking and

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

water play sessions for young people and vulnerable adults across the 10 Greater Manchester boroughs.

We receive funding from Street Games via the Violence Reduction Unit, to provide targeted mentoring support for young people at risk of committing crime and offending behaviour.

We have strong partnerships in place with several Tameside organisations who develop the voice of children and young people across the Borough of Tameside. These include Action Together, Tameside Council, Tameside Youth Practitioners and Tameside Youth Service.

As outlined already, this year WAC has been successful in developing relationships with other funders who provide unrestricted support for our youth and play offer. These include Garfield Weston, Tesco 'bags of help', and Action Together.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

WAC has nothing to declare.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- 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.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on ___/___/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Allan Donoghue
Chair

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Water Adventure Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited,
Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Water Adventure Centre
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Receipts					
Donations		19	-	19	10,591
Grants	3	25,620	104,024	129,644	152,840
Fees and other income	4	5,420	-	5,420	2,970
Bank interest	5	1,753	-	1,753	771
Total receipts		32,812	104,024	136,836	167,172
Payments					
Salaries		51,783	97,577	149,360	153,993
Premises Costs		8,672	-	8,672	11,490
Canoes, equipment & repairs		541	1,259	1,800	1,155
Transport		854	-	854	1,720
Administration		3,583	-	3,583	3,474
Insurance		8,729	-	8,729	8,125
Accountancy		1,872	-	1,872	1,740
Training		664	-	664	376
Clients		1,765	-	1,765	2,699
Total payments		78,463	98,836	177,299	184,772
Net receipts/(payments)		(45,651)	5,188	(40,463)	(17,600)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit)		(45,651)	5,188	(40,463)	(17,600)

Water Adventure Centre
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2024	<i>Total funds</i> 2023
Note	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Bank and cash balances at start of year	132,025	24,500	156,525	174,125
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(45,651)	5,188	(40,463)	(17,600)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Bank and cash balances at end of year	86,374	29,688	116,062	156,525
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Other assets				
	Fund		2024	2023
Debtors	Unrestricted		7,255	6,282
Freehold Land and Buildings	Unrestricted		118,821	125,849
Fixtures and fittings	Unrestricted		1,323	1,588
Equipment	Unrestricted		11,978	13,714
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total other assets			139,377	147,433
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Liabilities				
	Fund		2024	2023
Creditors	Unrestricted		5,548	6,213
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities			5,548	6,213
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Approved by the Executive Committee on _____ and signed on their behalf

Allan Donoghue (Chair)

Liz Quartey (Treasurer)

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis.

2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

3 Grants received

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	30,490
Street Games (VRU Fund)	-	12,388	12,388	-
GMCA	-	41,100	41,100	41,100
MCC Youth and Play Fund	-	43,640	43,640	49,500
MCC Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)	-	4,896	4,896	4,150
Garfield Weston	20,000	-	20,000	25,000
Young Manchester	-	-	-	1,000
One Oldham - Action Together	-	1,000	1,000	-
Tesco Community Grant	-	1,000	1,000	-
MOET - COVID Recovery Fund	4,050	-	4,050	1,600
MOET - Young Women's Festival	1,470	-	1,470	-
Small grants	100	-	100	-
	<u>25,620</u>	<u>104,024</u>	<u>129,644</u>	<u>152,840</u>

4 Receipts from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Group Payments and Fees	4,420	-	4,420	2,970
Donations	19	-	19	10,591
Paid Services	1,000	-	1,000	-
	<u>5,439</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,439</u>	<u>13,561</u>

5 Investment receipts

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Bank interest	1,753	-	1,753	771
	<u>1,753</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,753</u>	<u>771</u>

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

6 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year .

No trustee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £nil (2023: £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

7 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Street Games (VRU Fund)	-	12,388	(7,200)	-	5,188
GMCA	-	41,100	(41,100)	-	-
MCC Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)	-	4,896	(4,896)	-	-
MCC Youth and Play Fund	-	43,640	(43,640)	-	-
One Oldham - Action Together	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
TMBC WAC Partnership	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Tesco Community Grant	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Total	24,500	104,024	(98,836)	-	29,688

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Street Games (VRU Fund)	Mentoring project for girls and young women at risk of offending
GMCA	Work with primarily children and young people from Greater Manchester
Manchester City Council (HAF)	Holiday Activity Fund for Manchester children and young people
MCC Youth and Play Fund	Detached seasonal open access youth and play work (South and East areas)
One Oldham - Action Together	Oldham 'micro grant' to fund community events
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	To develop youth voice in partnership with TMBC Youth Council and GMYCA
TMBC WAC Partnership	To develop opportunities for girls and young women and LGBTQ+ young people
Tesco Community Grant	To raise environmental awareness and support 'greener spaces initiatives'

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

8 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Minibus fund	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Garfield Weston	-	20,000	(5,000)	-	15,000
	20,000	20,000	(5,000)	-	35,000
	20,000	20,000	(5,000)	-	35,000

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Minibus Fund	Towards the purchase of a new minibus when this is needed as the current vehicle is 17 years old.
Garfield Weston	Funds ringfenced for 2024-25

9 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2024 £
Designated funds	20,000	20,000	(5,000)	-	35,000
General fund	112,025	12,812	(73,463)	-	51,374
	132,025	32,812	(78,463)	-	86,374
	132,025	32,812	(78,463)	-	86,374

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	<p>We aim to set aside 3-4 months working capital in case of emergency.</p> <p>This is calculated by taking this year's expenditure (on-going running costs excluding one-off equipment) of £176,040 and dividing by four to give a minimum amount of £44,010 (max amount is £58,680) This year's General Fund is between 3 and 4 months working capital ie. £51,374 (Designated Funds - New minibus fund now £20,000 and Garfield Weston now £15,000 ringfenced for 2024-25).</p>

Funds	£
Restricted	29,688
Designated	35,000
General	51,374
	116,062
Total	116,062

THE WATER ADVENTURE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 508340

Accounts

Charity Number: 508340

Water Adventure Centre

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st March 2023

Water Adventure Centre

Reference and administrative information

for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Exec presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name	Water Adventure Centre
Charity Registration Number	508340
Principal Office	The Old Boathouse Fairfield Locks Off Maddison Road Droylsden Manchester M43 6ES

Executive Committee

John Byrne	<i>Chair</i>
Elizabeth Quartey	<i>Treasurer/ Deputy Chair</i>
Allan Donoghue	<i>Secretary/ Deputy Chair</i>
Diane King	
Suzanne Vincent	

Principal staff

Pauline Venus	Director
Mike McGuinn	Youth and Play Worker
Ben Evans	Youth and Play Worker
Bridget Halliday	Youth and Play Worker
Steph McDonagh	Youth and Play Worker

Independent Examiner

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA
Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
Ashton-under-Lyne (A) Branch
Warrington Street
Ashton-under-Lyne
Lancashire
OL6 6JL

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31/03/2023.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's Objects ("the objects") are.

- a) To maintain and develop a water-based adventure play and youth centre at Fairfield Locks on the Ashton Canal at Droylsden, Manchester, or at other urban sites which the Exec may from time to time determine.
- b) To offer at the above sites, and at other sites such as the Exec may from time to time determine, a variety of water activities and water-related activities to individual children and young people, mainly, but not exclusively, from the Droylsden and Higher Openshaw areas, and to groups of children and young people from adventure playgrounds, youth groups, play schemes and educational institutions mainly, but not exclusively, from the Greater Manchester area
- c) Within the general context of b) to concentrate particular attention on the needs of disadvantaged children and young people, who would normally not have the opportunity to participate in such activities.
- d) Through the activities referred to in b) above, to pursue the following general aims:
 - i) Through adventure play, expeditions, and holidays, mainly centred on boats but also using a range of craft including Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP's), to enable children and young people to enjoy themselves and to develop their powers of expression, imagination, communication and emotional learning.
 - ii) Through the development of children and young people's boat handling and craft skills to stimulate physical and mental confidence and movement leading to the development of further practical skills, and the ways of understanding which relate to them.
 - iii) Through their involvement in a variety of water environments, to increase children's and young people's intellectual and emotional awareness of their environment, or rural and wilderness settings, of industrial, social and economic history, and of the complex relationship between industrialism, human beings and the rest of nature.
- e) To sponsor, as the Exec may from time to time determine, such other projects that include within their purposes the furtherance of any or all the general aims referred to in d) above.
- f) To offer, as the Exec may from time to time determine, training in water activities to adults either for the purposes of training to work with young people or for general educational purposes.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

To engage, at the discretion of the Exec, in several campaigns and social action projects, to serve the needs of educational institutions, youth groups and disadvantaged groups within the community, any profits deriving from this activity to be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes laid out in this Constitution.

Aims and Objectives

To achieve the objectives above by working with children and young people who are most disadvantaged in our communities by combining youth and play work with canoeing in WAC's unique way. All this work is for the benefit of the public. The following review of Achievement and Performance summarises WAC's work in 2022-2023.

Strategies

To obtain grants, contracts, and donations to enable WAC's aims and objectives to be met within a context that takes risk and the wider physical, social, environmental and economic issues into account.

Use of volunteers

WAC encourages volunteering by both adults and young people from our own youth clubs, see below for more details. Volunteers are DBS checked (Disclosure and Barring Service) and are supported to gain valuable experience that often leads to paid employment or further education.

Public Benefit

In developing the objectives and strategy, the Board of Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

Achievements and performance

The charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities focus on working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults across GM, and are undertaken to further Water Adventure Centre charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

This year our face-to-face delivery has returned to 'business as usual', following the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We have supported young people around their mental health, impacted by the periods of social isolation they experienced during Covid times; and encouraged them to become more active. We continued to work in partnership with the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, and where we have capacity, we support community festivals, and deliver family fun days. We continued to deliver our water play and youth offer to groups who come to WAC from across Greater Manchester, and supported the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF), by providing an alternative activity offer with eligible partners, supporting children and young people on free school meals.

We are now in our 47th year of innovative and creative work with children and young people.

Our major achievement has been simply to continue to be creative in providing quality youth work, play and canoeing provision in this extremely challenging economic climate, impacted by

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

the Covid-19 Pandemic, and the current cost of living crisis. Essential to achieving this has been partnership working with a variety of organisations like the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, Manchester City Council and the HAF programme, N-Gagement+ Partnership, Troydale Tenants and Residents Association, the South Manchester Youth Network, Barlow Moor Community Association, Tameside Youth Service, Action Together (formerly Community and Voluntary Action Tameside - CVAT), and the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership.

Canoeing Groups

As already mentioned, our GM group work on the water has remained constant. We had a slight blip for a couple of years with the impact of the Covid Pandemic, but since then, we have been extremely busy with new contacts and new user group requests. Groups have been keen to return to WAC for the unique kayaking and water play experience we offer. We have had an increase in groups with additional needs, and we have been asked to provide additional staffing to support non-swimmers, who may have also missed out on learning to swim during the first Covid years. We have delivered some additional work with Manchester SEND young people and families in the school summer holidays.

WAC'S Youth Clubs

Sunday Funday offers targeted play and youth work for children aged 8-13 years. Our offer has mostly remained outdoors, with water play and kayaking the focus. Boys and girls attended mainly from the local areas of Manchester and Tameside, often requiring parental support around travel. We have resumed the canoeing and water play for most of the year, but we also engaged young people in several creative projects. A highlight is always the celebration of National Tree Dressing Day; this year young people decorated some CD's which we hung in our cherry tree. As well as being reflective themselves, we also added some extra light with some fairy lights on timers. Again, local people passing by really appreciated WAC's unique 'light show', until about 9.30pm each evening.

Thursday Youth Club is open to all aged 12-19 from Greater Manchester, and is mainly attended by young people from Droylsden, the priority age range is young people aged 12-16 years from Tameside and East Manchester. It is a place 'just to be' with friends, and the year-round programme offers canoeing, discussion, arts projects, and essential youth work support. This year following the impact of Covid-19, the popularity of the club has continued to grow. We re-started the club, initially by invitation only to the older Sunday Funday and Young Women's Evening members, for a new outdoor offer! The advantage of this has meant that there already a 'buy in' from young people as they are existing members; with some new members joining via friendship networks.

Girls' and Young Women's Evening provides a safe space for young women aged 8-19 to explore issues that affect their lives, we run two sessions back-to-back for young women aged 8-12 years, then for young women aged 13-19 years.

Like our other youth and play clubs we had to find a new way to connect with girls and young women, whom we had lost some contact with. We did some initial outreach work, door knocking and hand delivering some leaflets. We were planning to re-launch our girls' and young women's face-to-face work with a big celebration, but we had to delay our plans due to Covid-19. We are pleased with how the new club is developing, with a lot of interest in kayaking and water play. As with most of our youth and play clubs, word of mouth is by far the best way to reach out to young people.

Pure Adventure, based at Chorlton Water Park in Manchester, mainly attracts young people

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

from the Mersey Bank estate and Wythenshawe. We deliver 2 sessions each week back-to-back, the Junior sessions are for children and young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior sessions are for young people aged 13-19 years.

Following the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have continued with our kayaking and water play offer on the lake at Chorlton Water Park. The water park continues to be busy with families and people of all ages participating in their daily exercise, which means we pick up new members each week. We publicise our offer via the City Council's 'All Sorts to Do' programme, and support the South Manchester Network and HAF schemes, as well as partners like Barlow Moor Community Association, who work primarily with young people from the Barlow Moor Estate.

We continue working with 2 Young Women who are WAC's representatives on the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA), who advise the Elected Mayor Andy Burnham on several key issues and within the forums of key working groups, in particular Climate Change and other important Environmental Issues; plus, new opportunities like 'Our Pass'. Rather than the face-to-face meetings, these meetings were mostly via Zoom, apart from the highlight of the year which was an Autumn Development Day based at WAC.

Active Adventure is located beside the Rochdale canal on the Troydale Estate in Newton Heath Manchester. There are 2 sessions that we deliver back-to-back on Tuesdays, the Junior session is for young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior session is for young people aged 13-19 years. Our delivery is a water-based youth and play offer with some dry land games and a bean bag 'chill out area'. The junior session remains busy, but the senior session is much quieter since the Covid-19 pandemic. As young people get older, the juniors become the seniors so will recruit itself more organically. We have continued the partnership work with Canal and River Trust, supporting canal clean ups and litter picking.

Play Clayton provides play activities to children from Clayton, Manchester. This year we have delivered our sessions from the Beacon Centre, a local community centre. Children aged 8 to 13 years enjoy and learn from creative, adventurous play. We delivered some bespoke sessions at the Beacon Centre, both indoors and outdoors, and we have encouraged young people to attend our youth and play sessions at WAC, which are only a short walk or tram ride away. Young people have become regular attenders on Thursday nights and Sundays.

Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA) is a youth engagement project we have been involved with for the last six years. In 2017 WAC applied to be part of the project and we were successful – we now have 2 young people who are part of the GM wide youth voice representing the voluntary sector. We are now in our 2nd year of our 3rd Term of Office, a wonderful achievement for WAC, for our Youth Voice and to raise WAC's profile in Greater Manchester!

It's an important and influential role, advising the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham on key youth issues and concerns, providing solutions and a critical voice, scrutinising the work of the Mayor and GMCA and undertaking specific pieces of work such as developing the Opportunity Pass 'Our Pass', the Curriculum for Life, and environmental issues like Climate Change. We have continued to work closely with Tameside Youth Council and have a mutually beneficial partnership relationship.

Support work for Partnerships based at WAC and GM locations.

We had a busy season on the canal throughout 2022 with several GM bookings from Easter,

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

continuing during the summer months. These were some of our regular groups who have missed the kayaking and water play sessions, plus some new groups who got in touch. We supported local and national partnerships via festivals and community events throughout the Spring and Summer, plus various HAF schemes mainly in Manchester and Tameside. We have been involved in the development of the South Manchester Network, and the Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET), which is committed to support and develop adventurous outdoor activities for Manchester's children and young people. We continue to work closely with the Canal and River Trust, supporting community events and generally raising environmental awareness around climate change and engagement in youth social action.

Tameside Early Help and Early Intervention

This year and we have continued to support several virtual networking events and Learning Circles to help to coordinate the support offer of activities for children, young people and families. We have also worked closely with Action Together, Tameside Council and Tameside Youth Service through a youth social action programme and the promotion of our local offer. We continue to keep in contact with parents and carers and have seen an increase in new members from the Tameside area via Early Help referrals.

Financial review

Despite the increasingly challenging economic environment, our key funders remain Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester City Council, and BBC Children in Need. Other funders included Street Games, Tesco Bags of Help and Action Together. We have been successful in acquiring additional funding to support Covid recovery and a return to play and youth work from UK Youth, the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, and government funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

In addition, WAC is administering a TMBC Partners Together grant which benefits Droylsden children and young people by providing resources to Prime Youth Club and WAC. We have a good partnership with Tameside Youth Service who are a key player in the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership; they are supporting WAC to develop work with girls and young women, work with LGBTQ+ young people, and 'youth voice' via the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA).

As always, each funder got what they paid for and more! We add value by combining funding and by accessing grants that are not restricted to a particular locality, age group or purpose. As more and more workers have taken severance and early retirement, and Local Authority youth provision has been closed or drastically reduced; this has had an impact on the groups and contacts that have used WAC for several years. This situation is also echoed in the voluntary sector, and where groups do survive, it is often on a reduced budget so trips to WAC are curtailed. It is a challenge to continually find new contacts and ways of reaching new groups; this has taken time and 'out of the box' thinking.

The purchase of our two Kayak Pro Ergos, our XL Stand Up Paddleboard and our 'play trailer', has expanded our offer and enabled us to have additional activities to take out into different communities, and to support events, as well as promoting our centre. This is on top of plugging gaps in other areas of our work because of both these cuts, increasing poverty and challenges to young peoples' mental health. Alongside this is the ever increasing detailed and demanding

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

evidence required for funding bids and their subsequent monitoring. We get positive feedback from our funders about the quality of our monitoring reports, but these are time consuming to produce, and we have to balance service delivery against essential paperwork.

Longer term funding from Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester City Council, BBC Children in Need and previously Street Games have been crucial. Every funder requires proof of ongoing income, hence sustainability. These guarantees of ongoing funding have enabled us to secure both new and continuing funding. Success really does breed success!

Our Business and Development Plan has provided a solid basis which has guided development and supported funding bids. It was informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders, especially young people but also their parents, neighbours' and professionals. We are currently updating the plan with a key priority of ongoing implementation of our funding strategy, to continue building long term financial stability.

We have been able to maintain the quality and amount of work by creative collaboration with partners and sharing resources and expertise. We have built on existing and new links to bring in more support in the shape of resources, expertise, and people. Liz Cross and Liz Allen from The Connectives are on hand to provide invaluable pro bono consultancy time when required. Voluntary Youth Manchester (VYM) and Action Together, gave support with networking, grants, and processes.

Reserves policy

WAC's fixed assets which are the buildings, land and equipment come to £141,151.

Following Charity Commission information and discussion with advisers, we aim to keep a reserve of six months' working capital. The precise figure is based on the whole year's expenditure (on-going running costs not one-off equipment) which for 2022-23 is £184,772.00 so for six months is £ 92,386.00. This figure is now in our General Fund. These funds would enable us to deal with unforeseen emergencies, risks and cash flow problems that may arise with contracts and funders. Critically, if for any reason WAC needed to cease operation, these would be sufficient funds for redundancy payments and to ensure an efficient wind-up. In line with recommendations from The Charity Commission this is now held in General funds in Reserves rather than in a separate contingency fund.

We remain confident that we can continue as a going concern.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

..... John Byrne (Chair)..... Date **24/07/2023**



Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Plans for the future.

This year we have completed the submission of our new organisational structure that will better protect our Trustees and their liabilities by becoming a CIO, a Community Interest Organisation. We are also now using QuickBooks for our accounts, which is beneficial for remote working and the monitoring of funding applications. This should save time going forward which will be beneficial in identifying new funding streams.

Recruitment of new staff remains a priority for the future. There needs to be an investment in training and staff development across the youth and play sector as voluntary organisations and statutory services are all struggling to recruit into youth and play work roles. The emphasis needs to shift from 'youth activities' to 'youth and play work', as activities are the tools that we use to engage young people rather than the development journey that quality youth work ensures.

Developing partnership working continues to be a priority and we are looking at recruiting staff across partnerships. This would help WAC with our seasonal demand and ensure that we have a skilled and experienced work force to cover our busy spring and summer seasons and our unique kayaking and water play offer.

We are continuing to look for a 4th Funder which will give WAC financial stability for the next 2/3 years. The rising costs of running the project, (without our funding income increasing), plus increases in staff wages, means that we must bring in more money to stay afloat.

This year we had our buildings valued, and as a result of this, alongside cost of living increases, our insurance costs rose significantly.

We remain optimistic however, that this will be achieved.

Structure, governance, and management

WAC is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity on 27 November 1978 (revised on 3 July 2000) in England and Wales.

The charity is constituted under a constitution 27/11/1978. The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 6 to the accounts.

We are looking to recruit new Trustees from the Youth and Play sector, with a particular focus on those who have experience of empowering young people and developing youth voice. This is to support our priority in involving young people in WAC's governance, and training/employment pathways.

We are hoping to recruit some new Trustees for the 2023-2024 financial year. These positions will be ratified by the AGM in July 2023.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Initially we will contact experienced youth and play practitioners still working in the field, and then we will cast the net wider via open evenings. In the past, we have worked with Action Together who periodically hold Trustee and Volunteer Recruitment evenings for the whole of Tameside. We have provided visual displays and done presentations at these events, that aim to match organisations with potential new recruits. This has been really beneficial in the past.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

As outlined in other parts of this report, WAC are actively involved in several partnerships across Greater Manchester. These can be summarised as follows.

Manchester – for the last few years Manchester City Council commissioned Young Manchester to administer Service Level Agreements with several partnerships across the city. This role has now been taken back 'in house', by MCC. WAC has been part of the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership (EMYPP), plus the N-Gagement + Partnership for our work in South Manchester.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Culture and Social Impact Fund. WAC currently receives funding from GMCA on a bi-annual basis, to deliver several kayaking and water play sessions for young people and vulnerable adults, across the 10 Greater Manchester boroughs.

BBC Children in Need funds WAC to deliver a youth and play offer for young people across GM, prioritising those most in need.

We have strong partnerships in place with several Tameside organisations who develop the voice of children and young people across the Borough of Tameside. These include Action Together, Tameside Council, Tameside Youth Practitioners and Tameside Youth Service.

As outlined already, this year WAC has been successful in developing relationships with other funders who have supported a 'return to play and youth work'. These include the DCMS, UK Youth and the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

WAC has nothing to declare.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- 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.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Water Adventure Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited,
Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Water Adventure Centre
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2023	<i>Total funds</i> 2022
Note	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations	10,591	-	10,591	883
Grants	3 25,500	127,340	152,840	233,367
Fees and other income	4 2,970	-	2,970	2,750
Bank interest	5 771	-	771	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	39,832	127,340	167,172	237,017
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Payments				
Salaries	14,017	139,976	153,993	150,989
Premises Costs	11,490	-	11,490	13,729
Canoes, equipment & repairs	1,155	-	1,155	13,357
Transport	1,720	-	1,720	808
Administration	3,474	-	3,474	4,895
Insurance	8,125	-	8,125	3,889
Accountancy	1,740	-	1,740	2,282
Training	376	-	376	1,184
Clients	2,699	-	2,699	6,070
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total payments	44,796	139,976	184,772	197,203
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net receipts/(payments)	(4,964)	(12,636)	(17,600)	39,814
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(deficit)	(4,964)	(12,636)	(17,600)	39,814
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Water Adventure Centre
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2023	<i>Total funds</i> 2022
Note	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Bank and cash balances at start of year	136,989	37,136	174,125	134,311
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(4,964)	(12,636)	(17,600)	39,814
	132,025	24,500	156,525	174,125
Other assets				
	Fund		2023	2022
Debtors	Unrestricted		6,282	2,977
Freehold Land and Buildings	Unrestricted		125,849	132,877
Fixtures and fittings	Unrestricted		1,588	1,852
Equipment	Unrestricted		13,714	17,143
			147,433	154,849
Liabilities				
	Fund		2023	2022
Creditors	Unrestricted		6,213	1,872
			6,213	1,872

Approved by the Executive Committee on 24/07/2023 and signed on their behalf by:



John Byrne (Chair)



Liz Quartey (Treasurer)

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis.

2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

3 Grants received

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
BBC Children in Need	500	29,990	30,490	39,448
GMCA		41,100	41,100	41,100
MCC Youth and Play Fund	-	49,500	49,500	-
MCC Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)		4,150	4,150	14,015
MCC - NIF	-	-	-	1,500
TMBC Business Rates Grant	-	-	-	13,869
Garfield Weston	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
DCMS Youth Covid-19 Support Fund	-	-	-	13,389
HMRC JRS	-	-	-	2,309
First 1000 days	-	-	-	2,640
Young Manchester	-	1,000	1,000	58,250
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	-	-	11,590
DCMS Youth Investment Fund	-	-	-	10,257
COVID Recovery Fund	-	1,600	1,600	-
	<u>25,500</u>	<u>127,340</u>	<u>152,840</u>	<u>233,367</u>

4 Receipts from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Group Payments and Fees	2,970	-	2,970	2,750
Donations	10,591	-	10,591	883
	<u>13,561</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,561</u>	<u>3,633</u>

5 Investment receipts

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Bank interest	771	-	771	17
	<u>771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>17</u>

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

6 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year .

No trustee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £nil (2021: £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

7 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
BBC Children in Need	9,996	29,990	(39,986)	-	-
GMCA	-	41,100	(41,100)	-	-
MCC Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)	-	4,150	(4,150)	-	-
MCC Youth and Play Fund	-	49,500	(49,500)	-	-
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
TMBC WAC Partnership	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
First 1000 days	2,640	-	(2,640)	-	-
Young Manchester	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
COVID Recovery Fund	-	1,600	(1,600)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	37,136	127,340	(139,976)	-	24,500
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
BBC Children in Need	Work with Children and Young People
GMCA	Work with primarily children and young people from Greater Manchester
Manchester City Council (NIF and HAF)	Neighbourhood Investment Fund and Holiday Activity Fund for Children and Young People from Manchester
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	To develop the voice of young people (Youth Council) in partnership with Tameside Youth Council (who are part of TMBC) across Greater Manchester as part of the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA)
TMBC Partners Together	Work with Prime and Fairfield Juniors in Droylsden
TMBC WAC Partnership	Girls and Young Women's work. Work with LGBT+ young people
First 1000 days	Walking project with children and young people from East Manchester
Young Manchester	Targeted work with children and young people from South and East Manchester
COVID Recovery Fund	Strategic development to support work with East Manchester young people

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

8 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Minibus fund	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Minibus Fund	Towards the purchase of a new minibus when this is needed as the current vehicle is 17 years old.

9 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
General fund	116,989	39,832	(44,796)	-	112,025
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	136,989	39,832	(44,796)	-	132,025
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	We aim to set aside 6 months working capital in case of emergency.

This is calculated by taking this year's expenditure (on-going running costs excluding one-off equipment) of £184,772 and dividing by two to give the six month target figure of £92,386. This year's General Fund is now £112,025. (Designated Funds - New Minibus Fund now £20,000).

Funds	£
Restricted	24,500
Designated	20,000
General	112,025
	<hr/>
Total	156,525
	<hr/> <hr/>

THE WATER ADVENTURE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 508340

Accounts

Charity Number: 508340

Water Adventure Centre

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st March 2022

Water Adventure Centre

Reference and administrative information

for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Exec presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name	Water Adventure Centre
Charity Registration Number	508340
Principal Office	The Old Boathouse Fairfield Locks Off Maddison Road Droylsden Manchester M43 6ES

Executive Committee

John Byrne	Chair
Elizabeth Quartey	Treasurer/ Deputy Chair
Allan Donoghue	Secretary/ Deputy Chair
Diane King	
Suzanne Vincent	

Principal staff

Pauline Venus	Director
Mike McGuinn	Youth and Play Worker
Ben Evans	Youth and Play Worker
Bridget Halliday	Youth and Play Worker

Independent Examiner

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA
Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
Ashton-under-Lyne (A) Branch
Warrington Street
Ashton-under-Lyne
Lancashire
OL6 6JL

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31/03/2022.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's Objects ("the objects") are.

- a) To maintain and develop a water-based adventure play and youth centre at Fairfield Locks on the Ashton Canal at Droylsden, Manchester, or at other urban sites which the Exec may from time to time determine.
- b) To offer at the above sites, and at other sites such as the Exec may from time to time determine, a variety of water activities and water-related activities to individual children and young people, mainly, but not exclusively, from the Droylsden and Higher Openshaw areas, and to groups of children and young people from adventure playgrounds, youth groups, play schemes and educational institutions mainly, but not exclusively, from the Greater Manchester area
- c) Within the general context of b) to concentrate particular attention on the needs of disadvantaged children and young people, who would normally not have the opportunity to participate in such activities.
- d) Through the activities referred to in b) above, to pursue the following general aims:
 - i) Through adventure play, expeditions, and holidays, mainly centred on boats but also using a range of craft including Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP's), to enable children and young people to enjoy themselves and to develop their powers of expression, imagination, communication and emotional learning.
 - ii) Through the development of children and young people's boat handling and craft skills to stimulate physical and mental confidence and movement leading to the development of further practical skills, and the ways of understanding which relate to them.
 - iii) Through their involvement in a variety of water environments, to increase children's and young people's intellectual and emotional awareness of their environment, or rural and wilderness settings, of industrial, social and economic history, and of the complex relationship between industrialism, human beings and the rest of nature.
- e) To sponsor, as the Exec may from time to time determine, such other projects that include within their purposes the furtherance of any or all the general aims referred to in d) above.
- f) To offer, as the Exec may from time to time determine, training in water activities to

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

adults either for the purposes of training to work with young people or for general educational purposes.

To engage, at the discretion of the Exec, in several campaigns and social action projects, to serve the needs of educational institutions, youth groups and disadvantaged groups within the community, any profits deriving from this activity to be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes laid out in this Constitution.

Aims and Objectives

To achieve the objectives above by working with children and young people who are most disadvantaged in our communities by combining youth and play work with canoeing in WAC's unique way. All this work is for the benefit of the public. The following review of Achievement and Performance summarises WAC's work in 2021-2022.

Strategies

To obtain grants, contracts, and donations to enable WAC's aims and objectives to be met within a context that takes risk and the wider physical, social, environmental and economic issues into account.

Use of volunteers

WAC encourages volunteering by both adults and young people from our own youth clubs, see below for more details. Volunteers are DBS checked (Disclosure and Barring Service) and are supported to gain valuable experience that often leads to paid employment or further education.

Public Benefit

In developing the objectives and strategy, the Board of Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees 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. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and performance

The charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities focus on working with children, young people and vulnerable adults across GM, and are undertaken to further Water Adventure Centre charitable purposes for the public benefit

Achievements and Performance

This year our face-to-face delivery has been developed and adapted following the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, to adhere to all the Government, National Youth Agency (NYA), and British Canoeing Advice and Guidance, but most importantly, to keep children and young people. The main impact has been a more targeted offer where numbers have reduced to keep activities safe, rather than the open access youth and play offer we usually deliver. We continued to work in partnership with the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership to deliver a number of family fun days in those communities most in need, as well as our core weekly offer. We continued to 'roll out', our box trailer which has become our 'play mobile'; which has given us an alternative to the water, kayaking and play offer, and allowed us to safely engage young people in pre-booked face-to-face sessions in the outdoors. We were able to safely deliver the water play, and youth offer to groups who come to WAC from across Greater Manchester, and supported the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF), by providing an alternative offer with eligible partners, supporting children and young people on free school meals.

We are now in our 45th year of innovative and creative work with children and young people.

Our major achievement has been simply to continue to be creative in providing quality youth work, play and canoeing provision in this extremely challenging economic climate, now also impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Essential to achieving this has been partnership working with a variety of organisations like Young Manchester East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, Manchester City Council and the HAF programme, N-Gagement+ Partnership, Troydale Tenants and Residents Association, Tameside Youth Service, Action Together (formerly Community and Voluntary Action Tameside - CVAT), and the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership.

Canoeing Groups

As already mentioned, our GM group work on the water has essentially returned to 'business as usual' and has recovered well since the Covid Pandemic in 2020, with new contacts and user groups. Groups have been keen to return to WAC for the unique kayaking and water play experience we offer. We have had an increase in groups with additional needs, and we have been asked to provide additional staffing to support non-swimmers, who may have also missed out on learning to swim during the first Covid years.

WAC'S Youth Clubs

Sunday Funday offers targeted play and youth work for children aged 8-13 years. Our offer has mostly remained outdoors for the whole year and numbers have had to be reduced, so the offer was mostly pre-booked rather than open access. Boys and girls attended mainly from the local areas of Manchester and Tameside, often requiring parental support around travel. We have resumed the canoeing and water play for most of the year, but we also engaged young people in several creative projects. A highlight is always the celebration of National Tree Dressing Day; this year young people decorated some CD's which we hung in our cherry tree. As well as being reflective themselves, we also added some extra light with some fairy lights on timers. Again, local people passing by really appreciated WAC's unique 'light show', until about 9.30pm each evening.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Thursday Youth Club is open to all aged 12-19 from Greater Manchester, and is mainly attended by young people from Droylsden, the priority age range is young people aged 12-16 years from Tameside and East Manchester. It is a place 'just to be' with friends, and the year-round programme offers canoeing, discussion, arts projects, and essential youth work support. This year following the impact of Covid-19, we have re-started the club, initially by invitation only to the older Sunday Funday and Young Women's Evening members, for a new outdoor offer! The advantage of this has meant that there already a 'buy in' from young people as they are existing members; with some new members joining via friendship networks.

Girls' and Young Women's Evening provides a safe space for young women aged 8-19 to explore issues that affect their lives, we run two sessions back-to-back for young women aged 8-12 years, then for young women aged 13-19 years.

Like our other youth and play clubs we had to develop a new way of connecting with girls and young women and initially needed to deliver leaflets locally and some door knocking. We were planning to re-launch our girls' and young women's face-to-face work, but we had to delay our plans due to Covid-19. We are pleased with how the new club is developing, with a lot of interest in kayaking and water play. One of the highlights of the year was a young women's residential to Linnet Clough Scout Camp in February 2022.

Pure Adventure, based at Chorlton Water Park in Manchester, mainly attracts young people from the Mersey Bank estate and Wythenshawe. We deliver 2 sessions each week back-to-back, the Junior sessions are for children and young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior sessions are for young people aged 13-19 years.

Following the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have returned to our kayaking and water play offer on the lake at Chorlton Water Park. The water park continues to be busy with families and people of all ages participating in their daily exercise, which means we pick up new members each week. We publicise our offer via the City Council's 'All Sorts to Do' programme, and support the South Manchester Network and HAF schemes, as well as partners like Barlow Moor Community Association, who work primarily with young people from the Barlow Moor Estate.

We continue working with 2 Young Women who are WAC's representatives on the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA), who advise the Elected Mayor Andy Burnham on several key issues and within the forums of key working groups, in particular Climate Change and other important Environmental Issues; plus, new opportunities like 'Our Pass'. Rather than the face-to-face meetings, these meetings were mostly via Zoom, apart from the highlight of the year which was an Autumn Development Day based at WAC.

Active Adventure is located beside the Rochdale canal on the Troydale Estate in Newton Heath Manchester. There are 2 sessions that we deliver back-to-back on Tuesdays, the Junior session is for young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior session is for young people aged 13-19 years. Our delivery is a water-based youth and play offer with some dry land games and a bean bag 'chill out area'. The junior session remains busy, but the senior session is much quieter since the Covid-19 pandemic. As young people get older, the juniors become the seniors so will recruit itself more organically.

Play Clayton provides play activities to children from Clayton, Manchester. This runs primarily during term time in Clayton Park from March to August. Children aged 8 to 13 enjoy and learn from creative, adventurous play. We delivered some bespoke sessions in Clayton Park and

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

encourage young people to attend our youth and play sessions at WAC, which are only a short walk or tram ride away.

Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA) is a youth engagement project we have been involved with for the last five years. In 2017 WAC applied to be part of the project and we were successful – we now have 2 young people who are part of the GM wide youth voice representing the voluntary sector. We have also been successful for our 3rd Term of Office, wonderful news for WAC, for our Youth Voice and also to raise WAC's profile in Greater Manchester!

It's an important and influential role, advising the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham on key youth issues and concerns, providing solutions and a critical voice, scrutinising the work of the Mayor and GMCA and undertaking specific pieces of work such as developing the Opportunity Pass 'Our Pass', the Curriculum for Life, and environmental issues like Climate Change. We have continued to work closely with Tameside Youth Council and have a mutually beneficial partnership relationship.

Support work for Partnerships based at WAC and GM locations

We had a busy season on the canal throughout 2021 with several GM bookings from Easter, continuing during the summer months. These were some of our regular groups who have missed the kayaking and water play sessions in 2020, plus some new groups who got in touch. We supported local and national partnerships via festivals and community events throughout the Spring and Summer, plus various HAF schemes mainly in Manchester and Tameside. We have been involved in the development of the South Manchester Network, and the newly formed Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET), which is committed to support and develop adventurous outdoor activities for Manchester's children and young people. We continue to work closely with the Canal and River Trust, supporting community events and generally raising environmental awareness around climate change and engagement in youth social action.

Tameside Early Help and Early Intervention

This year and we have continued to support several virtual networking events and Learning Circles to help to coordinate the support offer of activities for children, young people and families. We have also worked closely with Action Together, Tameside Council and Tameside Youth Service through a youth social action programme and the promotion of our local offer. We continue to keep in contact with parents and carers and have seen an increase in new members from the Tameside area via Early Help referrals.

Financial review

Despite the increasingly challenging economic environment, our key funders remain Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Young Manchester, and BBC Children in Need. Other funders included Street Games, Tesco Bags of Help and Action Together. We have been successful in acquiring additional funding to support Covid recovery and a return to play and youth work from UK Youth, the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, and government funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

In addition, WAC is administering a TMBC Partners Together grant which benefits Droylsden children and young people by providing resources to Prime Youth Club and WAC. We have a good partnership with Tameside Youth Service who are a key player in the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership; they are supporting WAC to develop work with girls and young

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

women, work with LGBTQ+ young people, and 'youth voice' via the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA). We

As always, each funder got what they paid for and more! We add value by combining funding and by accessing grants that are not restricted to a particular locality, age group or purpose. As more and more workers have taken severance and early retirement, and Local Authority youth provision has been closed or drastically reduced; this has had an impact on the groups and contacts that have used WAC for several years. This situation is also echoed in the voluntary sector, and where groups do survive, it is often on a reduced budget so trips to WAC are curtailed. It is a challenge to continually find new contacts and ways of reaching new groups; this has taken time and 'out of the box' thinking. The purchase of our two Kayak Pro Ergos, our XL Stand Up Paddleboard and 'play trailer', has expanded our offer and enabled us to have additional activities to take out into different communities, and to support events, as well as promoting our centre. This is on top of plugging gaps in other areas of our work because of both these cuts, increasing poverty and challenges to young peoples' mental health. Alongside this is the ever increasing detailed and demanding evidence required for funding bids and their subsequent monitoring. Whilst we are told the level of information we provide is excellent, it takes much time to produce, and we continually must balance service delivery against essential paperwork.

Longer term funding from Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Young Manchester, BBC Children in Need and previously Street Games have been crucial. Every funder requires proof of ongoing income, hence sustainability. These guarantees of ongoing funding have enabled us to secure both new and continuing funding.

Our Business and Development Plan has provided a solid basis which has guided development and supported funding bids. It was informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders, especially young people but also their parents, neighbours' and professionals. We are currently updating the plan with a key priority of ongoing implementation of our funding strategy, to continue building long term financial stability.

We have been able to maintain the quality and amount of work by creative collaboration with partners and sharing resources and expertise. We have built on existing and new links to bring in more support in the shape of resources, expertise and people. Liz Cross and Liz Allen from The Connectives are on hand to provide invaluable pro bono consultancy time when required. Voluntary Youth Manchester (VYM) and Action Together, gave support with networking, grants and processes.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Reserves policy

WAC's fixed assets which are the buildings, land and equipment come to £151,872.

Following Charity Commission information and discussion with advisers, we aim to keep a reserve of six months working capital. The precise figure is based on the whole year's expenditure (on-going running costs not one-off equipment) which for 2021-22 is £197,203 so for six months is £98,602. This figure is now in our General Fund. These funds would enable WAC to deal with unforeseen emergencies, risks and cash flow problems that may arise with contracts and funders. Critically, if for any reason WAC needed to cease operation, these would be sufficient funds for redundancy payments and to ensure an efficient wind-up. In line with recommendations from The Charity Commission this is now held in General funds in Reserves rather than in a separate contingency fund.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

..... John Byrne (Chair)..... Date

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Plans for the future

This year we have been working towards a new organisational structure that will better protect our Trustees and their liabilities by becoming a CIO, a Community Interest Organisation. This will be ratified at our next AGM in July 2022. We are also now using QuickBooks for our accounts, which is beneficial for remote working and the monitoring of funding applications. This should save time going forward which will be beneficial in identifying new funding streams.

Recruitment of new staff remains a priority for the future. There needs to be an investment in training and staff development across the youth and play sector as voluntary organisations and statutory services are all struggling to recruit into youth and play work roles. The emphasis needs to shift from 'youth activities' to 'youth and play work', as activities are the tools that we use to engage young people rather than the development journey that quality youth work ensures.

Developing partnership working continues to be a priority and we are looking at recruiting staff across partnerships. This would help WAC with our seasonal demand and ensure that we have a skilled and experienced work force to cover our busy spring and summer seasons and our unique kayaking and water play offer.

We are continuing to look for a 4th Funder which will give WAC financial stability for the next 2/3 years.

Structure, governance and management

WAC is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity on 27 November 1978 (revised on 3 July 2000) in England and Wales.

The charity is constituted under a constitution 27/11/1978. The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 6 to the accounts.

We use several methods to recruit WAC Trustees which include arranging open days/evenings where volunteers and potential new Trustees are invited along to WAC to meet our staff and Trustees and find out more about our organisation. As well as this we have done presentations at Voluntary Organisation recruitment events where people go along who are interested in becoming Trustees. The last one we attended was in 2019 and organised by Action Together. This resulted in a new Trustee joining our Board.

Colleagues and practitioners who visit WAC with a group of young people often approach us expressing an interest in becoming a Trustee, as they love the organisation and want to get involved to 'give something back'. This is also the case with students on placement, or young people who were once members at WAC and want to give something back.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

As well as the methods described, we use our website and social media as avenues of communication, inviting people to get in touch if they are interested in volunteering or becoming a Trustee.

We are no longer required to have representatives from Manchester City Council or GMCA (previously AGMA), although we do have a representative from Tameside Council, due to their interest as their role is a manager for Tameside Youth Service.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

As outlined in other parts of this report, WAC are actively involved in several partnerships across Greater Manchester. These can be summarised as follows;

Manchester – for the last few years Manchester City Council commissioned Young Manchester to administer Service Level Agreements with several partnerships across the city. WAC has been part of the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership (EMYPP), plus the N-Gagement + Partnership for our work in South Manchester.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Culture and Social Impact Fund. WAC currently receives funding from GMCA on a bi-annual basis, to deliver a number of kayaking and water play sessions for young people and vulnerable adults across the 10 Greater Manchester boroughs.

BBC Children in Need funds WAC to deliver a youth and play offer for young people across the Greater Manchester most in need.

We have strong partnerships in place with a number of Tameside organisations who develop the voice of children and young people across the Borough of Tameside. These include Action Together, Tameside Council, Tameside Youth Practitioners and Tameside Youth Service.

As outlined already, this year WAC has been successful in developing relationships with other funders who have supported a 'return to play and youth work'. These include the DCMS, UK Youth and the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

WAC has nothing to declare.

Water Adventure Centre
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- 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
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 Charities Act 2011. 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Water Adventure Centre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022 which are set out on pages 13 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited,
Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Water Adventure Centre
 Receipts and Payments Account
 for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2022	<i>Total funds</i> 2021
Note	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations	883	-	883	990
Grants	3 66,157	167,210	233,367	164,789
Fees and other income	4 2,750	-	2,750	-
Bank interest	5 17	-	17	58
	69,807	167,210	237,017	165,837
Payments				
Salaries	-	150,989	150,989	150,127
Premises Costs	9,063	4,666	13,729	5,939
Canoes, equipment & repairs	9,522	3,835	13,357	708
Transport	808	-	808	1,467
Administration	3,395	1,500	4,895	1,538
Insurance	3,889	-	3,889	4,586
Accountancy	2,282	-	2,282	2,272
Training	1,184	-	1,184	1,086
Clients	6,070	-	6,070	6,798
	36,213	160,990	197,203	174,521
Net receipts/(payments)	33,594	6,220	39,814	(8,684)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit)	33,594	6,220	39,814	(8,684)

Water Adventure Centre
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Cash funds					
Bank and cash balances at start of year		103,395	30,916	134,311	<i>142,995</i>
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account		33,594	6,220	39,814	<i>(8,684)</i>
		136,989	37,136	174,125	<i>134,311</i>
		136,989	37,136	174,125	<i>134,311</i>
Other assets					
	Fund			2022	<i>2021</i>
Debtors	Restricted			-	<i>8,750</i>
Debtors	Unrestricted			2,977	<i>4,005</i>
Freehold Land and Buildings	Unrestricted			132,877	<i>139,904</i>
Fixtures and fittings	Unrestricted			1,852	<i>2,117</i>
Equipment	Unrestricted			17,143	<i>16,163</i>
				154,849	<i>170,939</i>
				154,849	<i>170,939</i>
Liabilities					
	Fund			2022	<i>2021</i>
Creditors	Unrestricted			1,872	<i>2,710</i>
				1,872	<i>2,710</i>
				1,872	<i>2,710</i>

Approved by the Executive Committee on _____ and signed on their behalf by:

John Byrne (Chair)

Liz Quartey (Treasurer)

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis.

2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

3 Grants received

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
BBC Children in Need	-	39,448	39,448	48,492
Doorsteps (Streetgames)	-	-	-	6,280
GMCA	-	41,100	41,100	41,050
KCYPS	-	-	-	4,000
MCC Holiday Activity Fund	-	14,015	14,015	40,750
MCC - NIF	-	1,500	1,500	-
TMBC Business Rates Grant	13,869	-	13,869	10,000
TMBC CRF	-	-	-	1,000
Garfield Weston	25,000	-	25,000	-
Parents and Family	-	-	-	1,890
Canal and Rivers Trust	-	-	-	1,500
Sport England	-	-	-	3,000
DCMS Youth Covid-19 Support Fund	13,389	-	13,389	-
HMRC JRS	2,309	-	2,309	6,827
First 1000 days	-	2,640	2,640	-
Young Manchester	-	58,250	58,250	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	11,590	-	11,590	-
DCMS Youth Investment Fund	-	10,257	10,257	-
	<u>66,157</u>	<u>167,210</u>	<u>233,367</u>	<u>164,789</u>

4 Receipts from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Group Payments and Fees	2,750	-	2,750	-
Donations	883	-	883	990
	<u>3,633</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,633</u>	<u>990</u>

5 Investment receipts

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Bank interest	17	-	17	58
	<u>17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>58</u>

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

6 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year .

No trustee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £nil (2021: £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

7 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April		Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31 March	
	2021	2022				2021	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BBC Children in Need	-	39,448	(29,452)	-	9,996		
Doorsteps (Street Games)	1,500	-	(1,500)	-	-		
GMCA	-	41,100	(41,100)	-	-		
MCC Holiday Activity Fund	-	14,015	(14,015)	-	-		
MCC - NIF	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-		
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	4,500	-	-	-	4,500		
TMBC Partners Together	4,916	-	(4,916)	-	-		
TMBC WAC Partnership	20,000	-	-	-	20,000		
First 1000 days	-	2,640	-	-	2,640		
Young Manchester	-	58,250	(58,250)	-	-		
DCMS Youth Investment Fund	-	10,257	(10,257)	-	-		
Total	30,916	167,210	(160,990)	-	37,136		

Name of fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
BBC Children in Need	Work with Children and Young People
Doorsteps (Street Games)	Work with Children and Young People
GMCA	Work with primarily children and young people from Greater Manchester
Manchester City Council (NIF and HAF)	Neighbourhood Investment Fund and Holiday Activity Fund for Children and Young People from Manchester
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	To develop the voice of young people (Youth Council) in partnership with Tameside Youth Council (who are part of TMBC) across Greater Manchester as part of the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA)
TMBC Partners Together	Work with Prime and Fairfield Juniors in Droylsden
TMBC WAC Partnership	Girls and Young Women's work. Work with LGBT+ young people
First 1000 days	Walking project with children and young people from East Manchester
Young Manchester	Targeted work with children and young people from South and East Manchester
Youth Investment Fund	Equipment and resources for our Manchester Youth and Play provision

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

8 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Minibus fund	14,000	-	-	6,000	20,000
	<u>14,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>

Name of fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

Minibus Fund

Towards the purchase of a new minibus when this is needed as the current vehicle is 17 years old.

9 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds	14,000	-	-	6,000	20,000
General fund	89,395	69,807	(36,213)	(6,000)	116,989
	<u>103,395</u>	<u>69,807</u>	<u>(36,213)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>136,989</u>

Name of fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund

We aim to set aside 6 months working capital in case of emergency.

This is calculated by taking this year's expenditure (on-going running costs excluding one-off equipment) of £197,203 and dividing by two to give the six month target figure of £98,602. This year's General Fund is now £116,989. (Designated Funds - New Minibus Fund now £20,000).

Funds	£
Restricted	37,136
Designated	20,000
General	116,989
	<u> </u>
Total	174,125
	<u> </u>

THE WATER ADVENTURE CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 508340

Accounts

Registered charity number 508340

Water Adventure Centre

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2021

Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Executive Committee
For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Exec presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name	Water Adventure Centre
Charity Registration Number	508340
Principal Office	The Old Boathouse Fairfield Locks Off Maddison Road Droylsden Manchester M43 6ES

Executive Committee

John Byrne	<i>Chair</i>
Elizabeth Quartey	<i>Treasurer/ Deputy Chair</i>
Allan Donoghue	<i>Secretary/ Deputy Chair</i>
Diane King	
Suzanne Vincent	

Principal staff

Pauline Venus	Director
Mike McGuinn	Youth and Play Worker
Ben Evans	Youth and Play Worker
Bridget Halliday	Youth and Play Worker

Independent Examiner

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA
Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
Ashton-under-Lyne (A) Branch
Warrington Street
Ashton-under-Lyne
Lancashire
OL6 6JL

Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Executive Committee
For the year ended 31 March 2021

Advisors

Liz Cross
Liz Allen
Chris Brain

The Connectives - Consultant
The Connectives - Consultant
British Canoeing Technical Advisor

Young Advisors

Cameron Holden
Ellie Chesters
TJ Monaghan-John
Jade Gee

Sunday Funday Volunteer
Girls' and Young Women's Evening
Girls' and Young Women's Evening
WAC member

**Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Executive Committee
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Water Adventure Centre (WAC) is governed by the Constitution adopted 10th October 1978 and revised 3rd July 2000.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited from the users of WAC, their parents, representatives, and workers. They are elected at the Annual General Meeting, which is held in conjunction with an Open Evening at WAC.

Induction and training of trustees

Each trustee is given information published by the Charity Commission and discusses the responsibilities with a WAC worker. The first meeting of the Exec (Management Committee or Board, hereafter referred to as the Exec) after the AGM also covers roles and responsibilities and Trustees are invited to relevant training sessions.

Risk management

Major risks to WAC continuing as an effective charity fall into the following five categories:

1. Governance risks, for example, conflict of interest or an inappropriate organisational structure.
2. Operational risks, for example, health and safety issues or costing our services.
3. Financial risks, for example, the accuracy of information or the adequacy of reserves.
4. External risks, for example, public perception or new building near to us.
5. Compliance with law and regulation, for example, breach of employment law or British Canoeing/Canoe England regulations.

These risks have been formally reviewed and systems established to mitigate the occurrence and possible effects of potential risks.

Related parties

No member of the Exec received any payment.

Objectives and activities

Objects

The Charity's Objects ("the objects") are.

- a) To maintain and develop a water-based adventure play and youth centre at Fairfield Locks on the Ashton Canal at Droylsden, Manchester, or at other urban sites which the Exec may from time to time determine.
- b) To offer at the above sites, and at other sites such as the Exec may from time to time determine, a variety of water activities and water-related activities to individual children and young people, mainly, but not exclusively, from the Droylsden and Higher Openshaw areas, and to groups of children and young people from adventure playgrounds, youth groups, play schemes and educational institutions mainly, but not exclusively, from the Greater Manchester area.

**Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Executive Committee
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

- c) Within the general context of b) to concentrate particular attention on the needs of disadvantaged children and young people, who would normally not have the opportunity to participate in such activities.
- d) Through the activities referred to in b) above, to pursue the following general aims:
 - i) Through adventure play, expeditions, and holidays, mainly centred on boats but also using a range of craft including Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP's), to enable children and young people to enjoy themselves and to develop their powers of expression, imagination, communication and emotional learning.
 - ii) Through the development of children and young people's boat handling and craft skills to stimulate physical and mental confidence and movement leading to the development of further practical skills, and the ways of understanding which relate to them.
 - iii) Through their involvement in a variety of water environments, to increase children's and young people's intellectual and emotional awareness of their environment, or rural and wilderness settings, of industrial, social and economic history, and of the complex relationship between industrialism, human beings and the rest of nature.
- e) To sponsor, as the Exec may from time to time determine, such other projects that include within their purposes the furtherance of any or all the general aims referred to in d) above.
- f) To offer, as the Exec may from time to time determine, training in water activities to adults either for the purposes of training to work with young people or for general educational purposes.

To engage, at the discretion of the Exec, in several campaigns and social action projects, to serve the needs of educational institutions, youth groups and disadvantaged groups within the community, any profits deriving from this activity to be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes laid out in this Constitution.

Aims and Objectives

To achieve the objectives above by working with children and young people who are most disadvantaged in our communities by combining youth and play work with canoeing in WAC's unique way. All this work is for the benefit of the public. The following review of Achievement and Performance summarises WAC's work in 2020-2021.

Strategies

To obtain grants, contracts, and donations to enable WAC's aims and objectives to be met within a context that takes risk and the wider physical, social, environmental and economic issues into account.

**Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Board of Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Use of volunteers

WAC encourages volunteering by both adults and young people from our own youth clubs, see below for more details. Volunteers are DBS checked (Disclosure and Barring Service) and are supported to gain valuable experience that often leads to paid employment or further education.

Public Benefit

In developing the objectives and strategy, the Board of Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

Achievements and Performance

This year our face-to-face delivery has been developed and adapted because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, to adhere to all the Government, National Youth Agency (NYA), and British Canoeing Advice and Guidance. We worked in partnership with the East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership to resource and create paper bag playschemes, Activity packs for different age groups and needs, and various online quizzes and interventions. We purchased a box trailer which became our 'play mobile'; this gave us an alternative to the water, kayaking and play offer, and allowed us to safely engage young people in pre-booked face-to-face sessions in the outdoors. We could not deliver the water play and youth offer across Greater Manchester, but instead continued to support the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority Offer online, and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Creative Care Packs.

We are now in our 44th year of innovative and creative work with children and young people.

Our major achievement has been simply to continue to be creative in providing quality youth work, play and canoeing provision in this extremely challenging economic climate, now also impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Essential to achieving this has been partnership working with a variety of organisations like Young Manchester East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership, N-Gagement+ Partnership, Troydale Tenants and Residents Association, Tameside Youth Service, Action Together (formerly Community and Voluntary Action Tameside - CVAT) and the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership.

Canoeing Groups

As already mentioned, our GM group work on the water has been severely impacted this year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Groups that we had booked in had to be cancelled, as we were unable to deliver our water work. The British Canoeing guidance did not allow any work with under 18's, plus it wasn't possible for groups to safely travel due to the local restrictions and social distancing measures. We kept groups informed via our web site and we are hopefully that we will return to a kayaking and canoeing offer as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

WAC'S Youth Clubs

Sunday Funday offers targeted play and youth work for children aged 8-13 years. Our offer remained outdoors for the whole year and numbers had to be reduced, so the offer was pre-booked rather than open access. Boys and girls attended mainly

**Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Board of Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

from the local areas of Manchester and Tameside, often requiring parental support around travel. We did resume the canoeing and water play when we could safely do so, but we also engaged young people in several creative projects, where we delivered resources and young people produced some amazing designs and clay models. A highlight was the celebration of National Tree Dressing Day. We asked our neighbour Liam from Lazerian Designs to create some plywood models that young people decorated, and we hung in our cherry tree.

Thursday Youth Club is open to all aged 12-19 from Greater Manchester, and is mainly attended by young people from Droylsden, the priority age range is young people aged 12-16 years from Tameside and East Manchester. It is a place 'just to be' with friends, and the year-round programme offers canoeing, discussion, arts projects, and essential youth work support. This year with the impact of Covid-19, we have needed to develop a new offer where we have kept in touch with young people via online quizzes, Activity packs and via Detached Youth Work. In short, our offer has been outdoors! We also developed a 'garden gate offer' which consisted of socially distanced meetings in the WAC grounds, on the local estate or via the Detached route in other parts of Droylsden. We have also signposted young people to our website for further information as this provides a gateway to other services offering advice and information, placements and job seeker sessions, special events and projects.

Girls' and Young Women's Evening provides a safe space for young women aged 8-19 to explore issues that affect their lives, we run two sessions back-to-back for young women aged 8-12 years, then for young women aged 13-19 years. Like our other youth and play clubs we had to develop a new way of connecting with girls and young women via the 'garden gate' routes, staying connected online or via young women specific Activity packs. We were planning to re-launch our girls' and young women's face-to-face work, but we had to delay our plans due to Covid-19; we are optimistic that this will be a great success when we can return to our open access offer.

Pure Adventure, based at Chorlton Water Park in Manchester, mainly attracts young people from the Mersey Bank estate and Wythenshawe. We deliver 2 sessions each week back-to-back, the Junior sessions are for children and young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior sessions are for young people aged 13-19 years.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we could not deliver the usual kayaking and canoeing on the lake at Chorlton Water Park. Instead, we developed a 'dry land offer' using our Kayak Pro Ergo machines, and our 'play mobile' trailer. As the water park was busy with families and people of all ages participating in their daily exercise, we publicised an offer via the City Council's 'All Sorts to Do' on the nearby Parkway Playing fields, a different part of the Barlow Moor Estate.

We continued working with 2 Young Women who are WAC's representatives on the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA), who advise the Elected Mayor Andy Burnham on a number of key issues and within the forums of key working groups, in particular Climate Change and other important Environmental Issues; plus new opportunities like 'Our Pass'. Rather than the face-to-face meetings, these meetings were all via Zoom.

**Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Board of Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Active Adventure is located beside the Rochdale canal on the Troydale Estate in Newton Heath Manchester. There are 2 sessions that we deliver back-to-back on Tuesdays, the Junior session is for young people aged 8-12 years, and the Senior session is for young people aged 13-19 years. The impact of Covid-19 meant that we could not deliver the water work. Instead, we supported young people by involving them in creative projects, online quizzes, detached work and via the 'play mobile' trailer.

Play Clayton provides play activities to children from Clayton, Manchester. This runs primarily during term time in Clayton Park from March to August. Children aged 8 to 13 enjoy and learn from creative, adventurous play. We delivered some bespoke sessions in Clayton Park, and invited young people to attend some additional play sessions in Copperas Fields with the 'play mobile'. We also supported young people with Activity packs, online quizzes, and via several creative projects.

Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA) is a youth engagement project we have been involved with for the last four years. In 2017 WAC applied to be part of the project and we were successful – we now have 2 young people who are part of the GM wide youth voice representing the voluntary sector. We have also been successful for our 2nd Term of Office, wonderful news for WAC and for our Youth Voice!

It's an important and influential role, advising the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham on key youth issues and concerns, providing solutions and a critical voice, scrutinising the work of the Mayor and GMCA and undertaking specific pieces of work such as developing the Opportunity Pass 'Our Pass', the Curriculum for Life, and environmental issues like Climate Change. We have continued to work closely with Tameside Youth Council and have a mutually beneficial partnership relationship.

Support work for Partnerships based at WAC and GM locations

We had a busy season on the canal planned for 2020 with several GM bookings from Easter, which we then had to cancel due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We would also ordinarily support local partnerships via festivals and community events throughout the Spring and Summer, but again we had to cancel the bookings that we had in place. We communicated with groups via Zoom meetings, phone calls, emails and via our website, which we continually updated. Like we have mentioned elsewhere, we supported the distribution of the Creative Care Packs across GM, and supported the virtual GMYCA meetings, ensuring that WAC young people continue to have a voice across GM.

Tameside Early Help and Early Intervention

This year and we have continued to support several virtual networking events and Learning Circles to help to coordinate the support offer of activities for children, young people and families. We have also worked closely with Action Together, who supported the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership with some additional funding for Activity Packs during the Covid-19 Pandemic, when we were unable to deliver sessions.

**Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Board of Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Volunteers and Placements

We offer placements to students from universities as well as to our own youth club members, and Year 10 young people who approach us to do their work experience. We had a placement in place for June 2020, but unfortunately, we had to cancel this due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We also work with the Prince's Trust, offering work experience opportunities, and volunteers from the NCS (National Citizenship Service). Young volunteers supported much of our work and assist with the youth clubs, groups and special events like our Open Day and the International Women's Week events. Like already mentioned, we could not support face-to-face volunteering opportunities this year, but kept in contact with young people via online routes.

We generally support adult volunteers on big community events as well as individuals who help more intensively on our youth clubs. Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) students from Trafford, Tameside, Manchester, London and Ireland have been supported on placements in the past.

Events

We provide free canoeing with the public on Family Days, Women's Events at the Aquatics, WAC Open Day and AGM and Friends of Copperas Field event. We had planned to take our two Kayak Pro Ergo machines out to support several events across GM in community centres, parks, and town centres, but sadly we had to cancel these events due to Covid-19. These machines are like the gym rowing machines and simulate the action of paddling. We set up fun 100 metre challenges with a leader board; the Kayak Pro Ergo's are in great demand! In the past, we have also supported several Moving Forces events, that support veterans and their families around mental health issues, as well as encouraging them to become more active.

Impact of Covid-19

Following the Government instruction regarding the outbreak and spread of the Covid-19 and then the start of Lockdown towards the end of March, several groups, youth clubs, training events and celebrations had to be cancelled, and those planned for April onwards. As we could not deliver face-to-face work, the full-time staff continued to work from home and got involved with several initiatives with partners and providers to create and deliver resource and activity packs, paper bag playschemes and support several community initiatives. This involved applying for additional funding for WAC as well as supporting local partnerships like the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership, and the East Manchester Youth and Play partnership.

As our part-time sessional staff deliver 100% face-to-face work, we followed guidance and upon agreement furloughed our sessional staff to keep them safe and protect their jobs. The further impact of Covid-19 will be realised in the coming weeks and months, and how we can be creative around our delivery to meet the safe social distancing guidance to limit the spread of Covid-19.

We remain optimistic – our funders are very supportive, and we are a creative team who will work hard to remain true to our ethos and values and have the skills and experience to widen our core offer.

**Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Board of Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Finance

Despite the increasingly challenging economic environment, our key funders remain Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Young Manchester, and BBC Children in Need. Other funders included Street Games and Action Together.

In addition, WAC is administering a TMBC Partners Together grant which benefits Droylsden children and young people by providing resources to Prime Youth Club and WAC. We have a good partnership with Tameside Youth Service who are a key player in the Tameside Youth Practitioners Partnership; they are supporting WAC to develop work with girls and young women, work with LGBTQ+ young people, and 'youth voice' via the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA).

As always, each funder got what they paid for and more! We add value by combining funding and by accessing grants that are not restricted to a particular locality, age group or purpose. As more and more workers have taken severance and early retirement, and Local Authority youth provision has been closed or drastically reduced; this has had an impact on the groups and contacts that have used WAC for several years. This situation is also echoed in the voluntary sector, and where groups do survive, it is often on a reduced budget so trips to WAC are curtailed. It is a challenge to continually find new contacts and ways of reaching new groups; this has taken time and 'out of the box' thinking. The purchase of our two Kayak Pro Ergos and our XL Stand Up Paddleboard, has expanded our offer and enabled us to have additional activities to take out into different communities, and to support events, as well as promoting our centre. This is on top of plugging gaps in other areas of our work because of both these cuts and increasing poverty. Alongside this is the ever increasing detailed and demanding evidence required for funding bids and their subsequent monitoring. Whilst we are told the level of information we provide is excellent, it takes much time to produce, and we continually must balance service delivery against essential paperwork.

Longer term funding from Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Young Manchester, BBC Children in Need and previously Street Games have been crucial. Every funder requires proof of ongoing income, hence sustainability. These guarantees of ongoing funding have enabled us to secure both new and continuing funding.

Our Business and Development Plan has provided a solid basis which has guided development and supported funding bids. It was informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders, especially young people but also their parents, neighbours' and professionals. We are currently updating the plan with a key priority of ongoing implementation of our funding strategy, to continue building long term financial stability.

We have been able to maintain the quality and amount of work by creative collaboration with partners and sharing resources and expertise. We have built on existing and new links to bring in more support in the shape of resources, expertise and people. Liz Cross and Liz Allen from The Connectives are on hand to provide invaluable pro bono consultancy time when required. Voluntary Youth Manchester (VYM) and Action Together, gave support with networking, grants and processes.

**Water Adventure Centre
Report of the Board of Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Reserves Policy

WAC's fixed assets which are the buildings, land and equipment come to £158,184.

Following Charity Commission information and discussion with advisers, we aim to keep a reserve of six months working capital. The precise figure is based on the whole year's expenditure (on-going running costs not one-off equipment) which for 2020-21 is £174,521 so for six months is £87,260. This figure is now in our General funds. These funds would enable WAC to deal with unforeseen emergencies, risks and cash flow problems that may arise with contracts and funders. Critically, if for any reason WAC needed to cease operation, these would be sufficient funds for redundancy payments and to ensure an efficient wind-up. In line with recommendations from The Charity Commission this is now held in General funds in Reserves rather than in a separate contingency fund.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

..... John Byrne (Chair) ..19/07/2021..... Date

Independent Examiner's Report
To the Board of Trustees of the Water Adventure Centre
For the year ended 31 March 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021 which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited,
Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Lofts
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

1/11/2021

Water Adventure Centre
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Receipts					
Donations		990	-	990	912
Grants	3	59,767	105,022	164,789	173,811
Fees and other income	4	-	-	-	4,326
Bank interest	5	58	-	58	304
Total receipts		60,815	105,022	165,837	179,353
Payments					
Salaries		42,605	107,522	150,127	149,714
Premises Costs		5,939	-	5,939	14,567
Canoes, equipment & repairs		708	-	708	14,209
Transport		1,467	-	1,467	779
Administration		1,538	-	1,538	6,575
Insurance		4,586	-	4,586	3,840
Accountancy		2,272	-	2,272	2,269
Training		1,086	-	1,086	213
Clients		5,798	1,000	6,798	3,945
Float		-	-	-	52
Total payments		65,999	108,522	174,521	196,163
Net receipts/(payments)		(5,184)	(3,500)	(8,684)	(16,810)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit)		(5,184)	(3,500)	(8,684)	(16,810)

Water Adventure Centre
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Cash funds					
Bank and cash balances at start of year		108,579	34,416	142,995	<i>159,805</i>
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account		(5,184)	(3,500)	(8,684)	<i>(16,810)</i>
		103,395	30,916	134,311	<i>142,995</i>
		103,395	30,916	134,311	<i>142,995</i>
 Other assets					
	Fund			2021	<i>2020</i>
Debtors	Restricted			8,750	<i>4,000</i>
Debtors	Unrestricted			4,005	<i>2,995</i>
Freehold Land and Buildings	Unrestricted			139,904	<i>146,932</i>
Fixtures and fittings	Unrestricted			2,117	<i>2,382</i>
Equipment	Unrestricted			16,163	<i>20,203</i>
				170,939	<i>176,512</i>
				170,939	<i>176,512</i>
 Liabilities					
	Fund			2021	<i>2020</i>
Creditors	Unrestricted			2,710	<i>1,718</i>
				2,710	<i>1,718</i>
				2,710	<i>1,718</i>

Approved by the Executive Committee on 19/07/2021 and signed on their behalf by:

John Byrne (Chair)

Liz Quartey (Treasurer)

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis.

2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

3 Grants received

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
BBC Children in Need	-	48,492	48,492	30,153
Doorsteps (Streetgames)	-	6,280	6,280	500
GMCA	41,050	-	41,050	41,100
KCYPS	-	4,000	4,000	-
Young Manchester	-	40,750	40,750	74,240
TMBC Business Rates Grant	10,000	-	10,000	-
TMBC CRF	-	1,000	1,000	-
TMBC WAC Partnership	-	-	-	20,000
UK Youth	-	-	-	5,000
Tameside 4 Good	-	-	-	2,818
Parents and Family	1,890	-	1,890	-
Canal and Rivers Trust	-	1,500	1,500	-
Sports England	-	3,000	3,000	-
HMRC JRS	6,827	-	6,827	-
	<u>59,767</u>	<u>105,022</u>	<u>164,789</u>	<u>173,811</u>

4 Receipts from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Group Payments and Fees	-	-	-	4,326
Donations	990	-	990	912
	<u>990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>5,238</u>

5 Investment receipts

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Bank interest	58	-	58	304
	<u>58</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>304</u>

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

6 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year.

One trustee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £316 (2020: £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

7 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
BBC Children in Need	-	48,492	(48,492)	-	-
Doorsteps (Street Games)	-	6,280	(4,780)	-	1,500
Young Manchester	-	40,750	(40,750)	-	-
TMBC GMYCA Youth Councils	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
TMBC Partners Together	4,916	-	-	-	4,916
TMBC WAC Partnership	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
UK Youth	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
KCYPS	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Canal and Rivers Trust	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Sports England	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
TMBC Community Regeneration Fund	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Total	34,416	105,022	(108,522)	-	30,916

Name of fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

BBC Children in Need	Work with Children and Young People
Doorsteps (Street Games)	Work with Children and Young People
Young Manchester	Targeted work with Manchester young people
TMBC/GMYCA	To develop the voice of young people (Youth Council) in partnership with Tameside Youth Council (who are part of TMBC) across Greater Manchester as part of the Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (GMYCA)
TMBC Partners Together	Work with Prime and Fairfield Juniors in Droylsden
TMBC WAC Partnership	Girls and Young Women's work. Work with LGBT+ young people
UK Youth	Work to enhance WAC core Youth and Play provision
KCYPS - Keeping Children & Young People Safe	Workshops for Manchester children on themes of personal safety.
Canal and Rivers Trust	To improve access to the canal at the Newton Heath project.
Sports England	"Return to Play" to assist with reopening of our clubs and projects.
TMBC Community Regeneration Fund	To buy playscheme bags.

Water Adventure Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

8 Designated Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
New Minibus fund	14,000	-	-	-	14,000
	14,000	-	-	-	14,000
	14,000	-	-	-	14,000

Name of fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

New Minibus Fund

Towards the purchase of a new minibus when this is needed as the current vehicle is 15 years old.

9 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds	14,000	-	-	-	14,000
General fund	94,579	60,815	(65,999)	-	89,395
	108,579	60,815	(65,999)	-	103,395
	108,579	60,815	(65,999)	-	103,395

Name of fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund

We aim to set aside 6 months working capital in case of emergency.

This is calculated by taking this year's expenditure (on-going running costs excluding one-off equipment) of £174,521 and dividing by two to give the six month target figure of £87,260. This year's General Fund is now £89,395. (Designated Funds - New Minibus Fund now £14,000).

Funds	£
Restricted	30,916
Designated	14,000
General	89,395
	134,311
Total	134,311