

The Bytes Project

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105711

Details

Known as Bytes

Status Received

Company number [27446](#)

Registered 2016-09-21

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

Contact

Address Bytes
297 Antrim Road
Glengormley
BT36 7qn
BT36 7QN

Phone 028 9028 8810

Email administrator@bytes.org

Website www.bytes.org

Activities

Purposes: 3.1 The Charity's Objects are specifically restricted to the following: to advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 16-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular: 3.1.1. To enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities; 3.1.2. To provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI; 3.1.3. Work collaboratively with other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation. Nothing in the articles shall authorise an application of the property of the Charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with s.2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

What the charity does: The advancement of education

How the charity works: Community enterprise, Education/training, Human rights/equality, Research/evaluation, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse),Asylum seekers/refugees,Children (5-13 year olds),Community safety/crime prevention,Ethnic minorities,Ex-offenders and prisoners,Homelessness,Interface communities,Learning disabilities,Mental health,Parents,Physical disabilities,Sexual orientation,Specific areas of deprivation,Unemployed/low income,Voluntary and community sector,Volunteers,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,440,652	£1,526,895	£-430,913	46

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Adrian Smyth		
Mr Andrew Hamilton		
Mr Ben Carter		
Mr Ciaran Connolly		
Mr Derek Browne		
Mr Edward Axon		
Mrs Andrea Mcloughlin		
Ms Jill Aicken		

The Bytes Project

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105711

Accounts

Charity Registration No. NIC 105711

Company Registration No. NI027446 (Northern Ireland)

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE BYTES PROJECT

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**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

CHARITABLE REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors	Ben Carter (Chair) Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair) Ed Axon Ciaran Connolly Andrew Hamilton Jill Aicken Derek Browne Adrian Smyth	(Appointed 31 August 2025) (Appointed 14 May 2024)
Company secretary	Stephen Dallas	
Chief executive officer	Stephen Dallas	
Charity number	NIC 105711	
Company number	NI027446	
Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland	NIC105711	
Registered office and principal office	297 Antrim Road Newtownabbey Northern Ireland BT36 5EG	
Independent Auditor	Johnston Kennedy DFK Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 10 Pilots View Heron Road Belfast BT3 9LE	
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Belfast City Branch 4 - 8 High Street Belfast BT1 2BA	

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2024 (unless stated).

Ben Carter (Chair)

Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)

Ed Axon

Ciaran Connolly

Neil Cooke

(Resigned 26 November 2024)

Andrew Hamilton

Stephen Murray

(Resigned 26 November 2024)

Jill Aicken

Derek Browne

(Appointed 31 August 2025)

Adrian Smyth

(Appointed 14 May 2024)

Directors' interests

None of the directors of the company held a beneficial interest in the assets of the company. There were no emoluments paid to directors during the current year. Directors did not claim any expenses during the current year in their capacity as directors.

Chief Executive Officer

Since April 2021 the Chief Executive Officer, known as the Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, has been Stephen Dallas.

Structure, governance and management

The Bytes Project is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 April 1993, and registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on 21 September 2016. It is governed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Governance is exercised by the Trustees, who voluntarily contribute senior experience from commerce, industry, civil service, academia, and community service. New Directors are appointed following an assessment process and receive induction on the strategic plan and financial activities.

Public Benefit Statement

The charity's beneficiaries are children and young people. Public benefit is demonstrated through increased knowledge, skills, qualifications and employability; strengthened self-esteem and confidence; and improved progression into education, training and employment. Evidence of these benefits includes:

- Attendance at Youth Hubs (unique participants and average weekly reach).
- Completion and feedback from programmes and accredited learning.
- Completion of creative technology projects and participant feedback.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Principal Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are the following:

- to advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 14-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular;
- to enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities;
- to provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI;
- provide regional support to other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation.

Strategy

Our vision and mission are:

- **Vision / Purpose:** Young people transform their world for good.
- **Mission:** Each year we will ensure that over 3,000 young people access digital technology in communities of promise.

Our new strategy from 2021-24 has named four pillars to drive our work:

- Youth Voice
- Youth Empathy
- Youth Digital
- Youth Places

In April 2023, we refined them to:

- Youth Empowerment
- Youth Employment and Digital
- Youth Empathy

These themes shape this report. During the next financial year, Bytes will release a new strategy for 2025-30.

Achievements and performance

Summary highlights for the year are set out below.

Youth Empowerment - Local Youth Hubs

North West

Sperrins

Background & Provision: Two nights per week provision across Park (Juniors/Seniors) and Aughabrack (Juniors/Seniors), aligned to EA's six thematic areas.

Participation: >70 thematic sessions delivered across the year. Average weekly attendance: Park Juniors ~25; Park Seniors ~19; Aughabrack ~27.

Curriculum & Focus: Emotional Health & Wellbeing (EHW&WB), inclusion & good relations, youth voice & leadership, online safety, and community participation.

Waterside & Faughan

Background & Provision: Local project responding to identified needs in the Waterside/Faughan DEAs, delivered via structured centre-based work and targeted programmes.

Participation: 197 young people engaged (106 aged 9-13; 91 aged 14-18) across 144 sessions (average 10 per session).

Curriculum & Focus: EHW&WB, online safety, positive peer relationships, inclusion/good relations.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Foyleside (City)

Background & Provision: Multi-session weekly delivery via the Strand Road youth hub.

Participation: Six three-hour weekly sessions for 14–18s, with up to 100 participants weekly at peak (2023/24 baseline).

Curriculum & Focus: EHW&WB (including RSPB climate action), digital inclusion, youth leadership; NEET support strands ran alongside hub provision.

Mid Ulster & Causeway Coast and Glens

Carntogher (Rural)

Background & Provision: Four nights/week across Upperlands and Clady hubs. Bytes North East Team mobilised in May 2024, consolidating rural delivery and volunteer capacity.

Participation: Average weekly attendance: Clady Juniors ~50; Clady Seniors ~27; Upperlands Juniors ~20; Upperlands Seniors ~18.

Curriculum & Focus: EHW&WB, youth voice, inclusion, and online safety are tailored to the rural context; youth committees and volunteer support are embedded.

Ballymoney / Churchlands

Background & Provision: The New Ballymoney Youth Hub at Seymour Street increased capacity and improved the youth-friendly environment. Delivery spans centre-based, detached/outreach (Ballymoney train station, Megaw Park), and thematic/leadership programmes. Attendance increased following the move; detached/outreach transitions young people into structured programmes.

Participation: The average weekly engagement is over 60 young people.

Curriculum & Focus: Mental health (exam stress, ASMR relaxation, nutrition/fitness), Fearless confidence programme (inc. abseiling the Europa), OCN L1 Youth Work, youth leadership & volunteering

Antrim & Newtownabbey / Mid & East Antrim

Ballyclare (A&N)

Background & Provision: Bytes' hub activity evidences regular developmental sessions and stakeholder inputs (PSNI/NIFRS) that complement local needs.

Participation: Hub records show steady weekend/evening groups with on-street → centre transitions. The average weekly engagement is over 100 young people.

Curriculum & Focus: Anti-social behaviour awareness, safety and community relations, delivered alongside generic youth work.

Kells (Mid & East Antrim)

Background & Provision: Open access youth work delivered with Kells & Connor Community Improvement Association (KCCIA).

Participation: 129 participants engaged.

Curriculum & Focus: EHW&WB, inclusion/good relations, online safety, youth voice/leadership and community participation, plus generic youth sessions for continuity and progression. Clearly delivered with an understanding of rural need.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Regional Support

In 2022, Bytes updated our articles to enable us to provide regional support to local youth organisations across NI. This enables Bytes to support youth projects in other locations and improve youth empowerment across NI. Below we detail the support we offered this financial year:

Sector Support & Reach

- 35 member organisations supported across Northern Ireland, each receiving tailored needs assessments and ongoing guidance.
- 270 support sessions delivered to members, covering governance, compliance, program development, and quality assurance.
- Member satisfaction: 88% "very satisfied," 12% "satisfied"

Workforce Development

- 5 accredited youth work courses delivered (OCN Level 2 & Level 3).
- 46 youth workers completed OCN Level 2; 26 leaders supported through Level 3 cohorts (delivered with Regional Development Funding partners).
- 24 sector training sessions delivered, covering youth work practice, governance, and outcomes.
- First Aid training: 26 certified; SEND training: 28 participants.

Safeguarding

- 4 safeguarding training sessions delivered, with 35 participants.
- AccessNI umbrella service provided to 7 member organisations, supporting safer recruitment and compliance.

Youth Voice & Data

- Voices for Impact platform rolled out, engaging 500+ young people across 23 organisations in 2024/25.
- Regional data and youth voice insights shared with sector partners and funders.

Key Outcomes

- Strengthened the capacity and resilience of the youth sector across NI.
- Improved workforce skills and sector compliance through accredited training.
- Improved the capacity for youth organisations to engage the voices of children and young people.
- Enhanced safeguarding standards and safer recruitment practices.
- Amplified youth voice and participation at a regional level.
- Maintained high satisfaction among member organisations.

Youth Empathy – Good Relations and Inclusion

We delivered eleven good relations programmes across our Youth Hubs this financial year. This is the most significant increase in these types of programmes for Bytes since 2021.

These were significant projects spanning three to eight months, engaging over 350 young people and working with several community-based organisations. Young people established new relationships, explored good relationships, learned together, and became involved in social activities.

Our NE Hub in Ballymoney also delivered the Engage programme, which provided individual support for young people on the edge of serious organised crime.

Youth Employment & Digital

We were part of a successful consortium bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for an employment support programme called Youth Start. The key statistics from April 2023 to March 2024 include:

Engagement & activity

- Economically inactive young people engaged with support services: 71
- Supported to engage in job searching: 63
- Supported to engage in life skills: 43
- Qualifications supported to gain: 17 (achieved this year to date)
- Work experience participants: 15
- Received support to retain employment: 6

Progression outcomes

- Into employment (incl. self-employment): 25
- Into education/training: 31

Additional strand (MULTIPLY – Money Works)

- Participants/Qualifications in: 9
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THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Digital

We continued to strengthen our digital infrastructure and services.

Digital Inclusion

PA Foundation: The digital upskilling programme, funded by The PA Foundation, is designed to provide young people with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's digital world. Participants have learned about various digital tools and technologies through workshops, hands-on training, and mentorship. The programme aims to bridge the digital divide and create opportunities for young people to excel in their careers.

Santander: In 2023, we secured three years of funding from the Santander Foundation to support our digital upskilling and leadership initiatives. The programme's emphasis on digital financial literacy ensured that participants understood online transactions, digital banking, and financial management tools comprehensively.

Digital Infrastructure

Tech Secure is The Bytes Project's evidence-based response to the persistent digital infrastructure and cybersecurity gaps facing Northern Ireland's community and voluntary sector (CVS). Delivered through our social enterprise subsidiary, Bytes Digital Innovation Ltd, and developed with NICVA, Kero (SME technical partner) and Reconome (circular economy devices), the pilot was funded by Innovate UK and independently evaluated by Stats & Stories (July 2025). Our baseline assessments confirmed widespread risks across small charities—unmanaged devices, weak access controls, outdated software and network vulnerabilities—against a policy backdrop where Northern Ireland lacks a direct equivalent to the Cyber Local funding currently available to organisations in England.

The project implements a three-stage model—Assess, Fix & Standardise, Upskill—to create durable digital resilience. Across four charities, we established 4 Microsoft 365 Business Premium tenancies, upgraded 26 devices to fully managed Windows 11 Pro, deployed 32 user accounts with 100% multi-factor authentication, and introduced a standardised security stack with 24/7 monitoring and automated patching. Post-training evaluation shows staff self-ratings at 100% "excellent/good" for cybersecurity, collaboration, data & information management, and software skills; AI awareness increased to 91%, and "accessing IT support" to 90.9%. Organisations progressed to Cyber Essentials compliance, moving from reactive, high-risk IT to managed, auditable environments that protect data and enable productivity.

Looking ahead, the future of Tech Secure is being sustained through our social value partnership with Fujitsu, which is supporting us in maintaining the service with four CVS organisations. At the same time, we build a scalable operating model with Kero and NICVA. To close the systemic gap and reach many more charities, we recommend that the Department for the Economy invest in the CVS through a targeted programme modelled on the Cyber Local approach in England—leveraging social value and SME delivery to standardise secure infrastructure, upskill staff and reduce regional cyber risk. This aligns directly with the Economic Vision's priorities on productivity, skills, innovation, and regional balance, and would convert a proven pilot into sector-wide resilience.

Future developments in Digital (2025–26)

- LMS — Move from Learn Dash to Moodle.
- CRM — Salesforce is in place, which will better map our impact based on our new outcomes framework.
- Voices for Impact – continue to roll out and develop through SEUPB funding.

Plans for future periods (2025–26)

- Consolidate and enhance the quality and reach of Youth Hubs through evidenced programming and partnership working.
- Strengthen workforce capability, wellbeing and leadership through continuous professional development and accredited training.
- Scale digital inclusion and creative technology programmes: expand LMS content; progress CRM build, subject to funding.
- Deepen data and insight capability (outcomes, progression, destinations) and publish accessible impact reporting.
- Engage constructively in sector reform discussions and crossdepartmental partnerships to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Grow the scope of our two new subsidiaries.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Risk management

The Trustees maintain a strategic risk register as a standing Board agenda item. Principal risks include:

- Funding volatility and cashflow risk.
- Workforce capacity, recruitment/retention, and well-being.
- Safeguarding and quality assurance.
- Data protection/cyber security
- Estates/health & safety and business continuity.

Mitigations include: diversified funding development; accredited training and supervision; safeguarding policies and escalation procedures; data and cyber controls; documented operating procedures; and regular Board assurance.

Financial review

The results are set out on pages 13 to 24. The Bytes Project returned net expenditure for the year of £86,243 (2024: £17,248) which comprised a net unrestricted deficit of £86,271 and net restricted surplus of £28.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to £571,947 of which £264,207 was designated towards fixed assets leaving free reserves of £307,740. During the year the charity purchased premises at a cost of £231,000 plus associated outlays of £3,327. While the expenditure was funded from free unrestricted reserves the asset provides security to support the charity's operating cashflow facilities. Restricted funds at the year end amounted to £97,721 of which £41,847 was designated towards fixed assets.

Reserves policy

The unrestricted funds are essential to supply sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity if current levels of income are not maintained. The charity's reserve policy is to hold cover in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. For 2025-26 the Directors aim to retain at least 6 months operating costs in reserve which would be just over £565k. Our free reserves at year end amounted to £307,740.

Political and Charitable Donations

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

Reference and Administrative Details

The organisations' details are as disclosed on the administrative details page.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bytes Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditor's services will be re-tendered in line with our financial procedures.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board

Ben Carter

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Ben Carter (Chair)

Dated: 25 November 2025

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bytes Project (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Gage

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James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)

**for and on behalf of:
Johnston Kennedy DFK
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
10 Pilots View
Heron Road
Belfast
BT3 9LE**

Dated: 25 November 2025

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Charitable activities	4	61,508	1,379,144	1,440,652	1,293,882
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	135,248	1,391,647	1,526,895	1,311,130
Total expenditure		135,248	1,391,647	1,526,895	1,311,130
Net outgoing		(73,740)	(12,503)	(86,243)	(17,248)
Transfers between funds	14&15	(12,531)	12,531	-	-
Net movement in funds		(86,271)	28	(86,243)	(17,248)
Total funds brought forward		658,218	97,693	755,911	773,159
Total funds carried forward		571,947	97,721	669,668	755,911

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in notes 2 and 3.

Historical cost

The results as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities and the net outgoing resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		306,054		85,302
Current assets					
Debtors	10	472,462		238,419	
Cash at bank and in hand		322,065		699,647	
		<u>794,527</u>		<u>938,066</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(426,162)</u>		<u>(250,930)</u>	
Net current assets			368,365		687,136
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>674,419</u>		<u>772,438</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(4,751)		(16,527)
Net assets			<u><u>669,668</u></u>		<u><u>755,911</u></u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	14		97,721		97,693
Unrestricted income funds	15		571,947		658,218
Total funds	16		<u><u>669,668</u></u>		<u><u>755,911</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 25 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Carter

Ben Carter
Director

Andrea McLoughlin

Andrea McLoughlin
Director

Company Registration No. NI027446

Charity No. NIC 105711

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	24		(83,082)		425,074
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(282,724)		(51,748)	
Net cash used in investing activities			<u>(282,724)</u>		<u>(51,748)</u>
Financing activities					
(Repayments) / advances from bank loans		(11,776)		(8,334)	
Net cash used in financing activities			<u>(11,776)</u>		<u>(8,334)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			<u>(377,582)</u>		<u>364,992</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			699,647		334,655
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>322,065</u>		<u>699,647</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Bytes Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal office is 297 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EG, Northern Ireland. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the directors' report on page 3 of these financial statements.

1.1 Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.3 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.4 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold land and buildings	nil
Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

1.6 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.8 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

2 Statement of Financial Activities: Unrestricted funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	61,508	105,843
Total income	<u>61,508</u>	<u>105,843</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	135,248	100,523
Total expenditure	<u>135,248</u>	<u>100,523</u>
Net incoming / (outgoing):	(73,740)	5,320
Transfers between funds	<u>12,531</u>	<u>5,669</u>
Net movement in funds	(86,271)	10,989
Total funds brought forward	<u>658,218</u>	<u>647,229</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>571,947</u></u>	<u><u>658,218</u></u>

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Statement of Financial Activities: Restricted Funds

	2025 £	2024 £
Income from:		
Charitable activities	1,379,144	1,188,039
Total income	<u>1,379,144</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	1,391,647	1,210,607
Total expenditure	<u>1,391,647</u>	<u>1,210,607</u>
Net incoming / (outgoing):	(12,503)	(22,568)
Transfers between funds	<u>12,531</u>	<u>(5,669)</u>
Net movement in funds	28	(28,237)
Total funds brought forward	<u>97,693</u>	<u>125,930</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>97,721</u></u>	<u><u>97,693</u></u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Education Authority	-	461,249	461,249	561,741
A&NBC	-	61,457	61,457	60,845
TBUC / CGRF	-	236,764	236,764	219,461
SEUPB - Voices 4 Impact	-	48,570	48,570	-
Rank Foundation	-	29,303	29,303	28,795
PA Foundation	-	23,443	23,443	27,500
Youth Action NI	-	293,049	293,049	200,821
National Lottery - Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	2,020	2,020	10,302
Fees for services delivered	61,508	-	61,508	92,713
Santander	-	36,540	36,540	85,959
International Fund for Ireland	-	36,113	36,113	-
Innovate UK	-	41,576	41,576	-
Translink NI	-	-	-	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	59,600	59,600	5,745
Sir Halley Stewart Trust	-	7,757	7,757	-
Radius Housing	-	9,579	9,579	-
CINE	-	9,021	9,021	-
DCSDC	-	23,103	23,103	-
	<u>61,508</u>	<u>1,379,144</u>	<u>1,440,652</u>	<u>1,293,882</u>

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted fund	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Activity costs	103,345	1,130,464	1,233,809	1,029,659
Support costs	31,903	261,183	293,086	281,471
	<u>135,248</u>	<u>1,391,647</u>	<u>1,526,895</u>	<u>1,311,130</u>

6 Net income/(expenditure)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	40,859	38,875
Auditor's remuneration (including accountancy services)	7,935	6,152
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	21,113	-
	<u>70,907</u>	<u>45,127</u>

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
	46	40
	<u>46</u>	<u>40</u>

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

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

8 Directors' remuneration

No director received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenditure from the charity during the current or previous year.

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	-	130,689	309,153	439,842
Additions	234,327	17,441	30,956	282,724
Disposals	-	(37,178)	-	(37,178)
	<u>234,327</u>	<u>110,952</u>	<u>340,109</u>	<u>685,388</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	-	86,255	268,285	354,540
Depreciation charged in the year	-	10,485	30,374	40,859
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(16,065)	-	(16,065)
	<u>-</u>	<u>80,675</u>	<u>298,659</u>	<u>379,334</u>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	<u>234,327</u>	<u>30,277</u>	<u>41,450</u>	<u>306,054</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>44,434</u>	<u>40,868</u>	<u>85,302</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>44,434</u></u>	<u><u>40,868</u></u>	<u><u>85,302</u></u>
10 Debtors			2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:			£	£
Activity debtors			410,345	123,939
Prepayments and accrued income			62,117	114,480
			<u>472,462</u>	<u>238,419</u>
			<u><u>472,462</u></u>	<u><u>238,419</u></u>
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			2025	2024
	Notes		£	£
Bank loans	13		8,333	8,333
Other taxation and social security			36,038	404
Activity creditors			102,243	70,404
Amounts due to fellow group undertakings			2,150	-
Other creditors			14,262	4,230
Accruals and deferred income			263,136	167,559
			<u>426,162</u>	<u>250,930</u>
			<u><u>426,162</u></u>	<u><u>250,930</u></u>

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	13	4,751	16,527

13 Loans and overdrafts

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	13,084	24,860
Payable within one year	8,333	8,333
Payable after one year	4,751	16,527

14 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Education Authority	23,716	461,249	(487,217)	10,042	7,790
A&NEC - Life Skills	-	61,457	(67,832)	6,375	-
Rank Foundation	1	29,303	(29,303)	(1)	-
PA Foundation	1,114	23,443	(23,443)	-	1,114
Youth Action NI	849	293,049	(275,593)	(3,966)	14,339
National Lottery - Dormant Accounts - CRM Street 1	5,029	2,020	(2,020)	-	-
PCSP Projects	20,306	-	(59)	-	20,247
TBUC / CGRF	402	236,764	(241,478)	4,312	-
SEUPB - Voices 4 Impact	-	48,570	(44,782)	(1,795)	1,993
YP - Tech Projects	2,022	-	(1,188)	-	834
Santander	9,131	36,540	(37,842)	-	7,829
International Fund for Ireland	-	36,113	(37,271)	1,158	-
Innovate UK	-	41,576	(41,627)	51	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	3,300	59,800	(46,934)	-	15,966
Sir Halley Stewart Trust	-	7,757	(7,757)	-	-
Radius Housing	-	9,579	(12,768)	3,189	-
CINE	-	9,021	(7,769)	-	1,252
DCSDC	-	23,103	(23,103)	-	-
Other Small Funds	31,823	-	(3,661)	(1,805)	26,357
	97,693	1,379,144	(1,391,647)	12,531	97,721

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	658,218	61,508	(135,248)	(12,531)	571,947
	<u>658,218</u>	<u>61,508</u>	<u>(135,248)</u>	<u>(12,531)</u>	<u>571,947</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds	41,847	55,874	97,721
Unrestricted Income Funds	264,207	307,740	571,947
	<u>306,054</u>	<u>363,614</u>	<u>669,668</u>

17 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

18 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Between two and five years	43,200	18,496
	<u>43,200</u>	<u>18,496</u>

19 Capital commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2025 and at 31 March 2024.

20 Related party transactions

During the year the company shared resources and provided financial management services to a related entity. Total costs transacted during the year amounted to £46,714. At 31 March 2025, the balance due to the related entity amounted to £2,150 creditor (2024: nil) and is included in creditors due within one year. No interest is charged on this loan.

21 Company status

The company is as company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

22 Control

The directors control the company. The directors are appointed by and are accountable to the members.

23 Financial commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2025 and at 31 March 2024.

24 Cash generated from operations	2025	2024
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(86,243)	(17,248)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	40,859	38,875
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangibel fixed assets	21,113	-
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(234,043)	299,085
Increase in creditors	175,232	104,362
	<u>(83,082)</u>	<u>425,074</u>
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	<u>(83,082)</u>	<u>425,074</u>

25 Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	699,647	(377,582)	322,065
Loans falling due within one year	(8,333)	-	(8,333)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(16,527)	11,776	(4,751)
	<u>674,787</u>	<u>(365,806)</u>	<u>308,981</u>
	<u>674,787</u>	<u>(365,806)</u>	<u>308,981</u>

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The Bytes Project

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105711

Accounts

Charity Registration No. NIC 105711

Company Registration No. NI027446 (Northern Ireland)

THE BYTES PROJECT
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

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**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

CHARITABLE REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors	Ben Carter (Chair) Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair) Ed Axon Ciaran Connolly Neil Cooke Andrew Hamilton Stephen Murray (Treasurer) Jill Aicken	(Appointed 1 September 2023)
Company secretary	Stephen Dallas	
Chief executive officer	Stephen Dallas	
Charity number	NIC 105711	
Company number	NI027446	
Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland	NIC105711	
Registered office and principal office	300-302 Antrim Road Newtownabbey Northern Ireland BT36 5EG	
Independent Auditor	Johnston Kennedy DFK Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 10 Pilots View Heron Road Belfast BT3 9LE	
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Belfast City Branch 4 - 8 High Street Belfast BT1 2BA	

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2023 (unless stated).

Ben Carter (Chair)	
Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)	
Ed Axon	
Aimee Clint	(Resigned 16 May 2023)
Ciaran Connolly	
Neil Cooke	
Andrew Hamilton	
Stephen Murray (Treasurer)	
Ross Thompson	(Resigned 23 January 2024)
Jill Aicken	(Appointed 1 September 2023)

Directors' interests

None of the directors of the company held a beneficial interest in the assets of the company. There were no emoluments paid to directors during the current year. Directors did not claim any expenses during the current year in their capacity as Directors.

Chief Executive Officer

Since April 2021 the Chief Executive Officer, known as the Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, has been Stephen Dallas.

Structure, governance and management

The Bytes Project is a youth work charity that has been working with the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland. We were established in April 1993, when a small group of people designed an innovative concept for Belfast, based on experience in an inner-city project in the USA. The original aim was to build on the entertainment and amusement attraction of computers with marginalised young adults with a focus on 16–25-year-olds.

The Bytes Project is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 April 1993, and registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on 21 September 2016. It is governed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Bytes Project's governance is exercised by the Trustees, who are individuals whose extensive experience at senior executive and management levels in commerce, industry, civil service, academic and community service is made available to Bytes voluntarily. New Directors are appointed following an assessment process. Following appointment, new Directors receive induction briefings on the strategic plan and financial activities of the company.

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. A risk register is now included as a standing agenda at Board meetings. This financial year, the board reviewed five policies.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Public Benefit Statement

The charity's beneficiaries are young people.

The public benefits of the charity include increased knowledge, skills and qualifications and improved employability for young people, increased knowledge, skills, work-related experience, improved employability, increased self-esteem and confidence for the workplace, and increased access to further education, training and employment.

These direct benefits are demonstrated through:

- The number of young people who attend our youth hub provision.
- The number of young people completing programmes with youth workers and achieving accredited qualifications and their feedback on their learning.
- The number of young people who complete creative technology projects and their feedback on their learning.
- The number of young people who progress into education, training and employment using personal development plans and feedback on their learning.

Principal Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are the following:

- To advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 14-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular:
- To enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities;
- To provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI;
- Provide regional support to other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation.

Our vision and mission are:

- **Vision / Purpose:** Young people transform their world for good.
- **Mission:** Each year we will ensure that over 3,000 young people access digital technology in communities of promise.

Our new strategy from 2021-24 has named four pillars to drive our work:

- Youth Voice
- Youth Empathy
- Youth Digital
- Youth Places

This report is based on these themes.

In April 2023, we refined them to:

- Youth Empowerment
- Youth Employment and Digital
- Youth Empathy

These themes shape this report.

Youth Empowerment

During this financial year, Bytes made significant strides in the growth of Local Youth Hubs.

Northwest: After celebrating our second year at our Strand Road Youth Hub, we developed a range of new services to enable this hub to offer youth services across the Foyleside DEA, the Sperrins, and Carrtogether. This development enabled an increased level of activity and relationship-building with several new partners.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Antrim and Newtownabbey: After moving into our new Youth Hub in Glengormley, we were able to extend our support to open a new Youth Hub in Ballyclare and enhance our support with our partners Rathenraw Youth Centre. The team delivers open-access services and detached work to engage young people and direct them into a wide range of Bytes programmes.

North Antrim: Our Ballymoney Hub has entered its second year of service, extending our reach in the town and across Villages. This area has been very productive in building partnerships with other organisations with whom Bytes has yet to have previous contact. In April 2023, in collaboration with West Bann Community Association, we opened a new Youth Hub in Churchlands.

Mid & East Antrim: We have continued our partnership with Kells & Connor Community Improvement Association (KCCIA), supplying open-access youth services in Kells. We have also deepened our partnerships, and our main objective this coming year is to open a new provision in Dunlug.

Expanding our services has been a source of pride for our staff and Directors. At the end of March 2024, we estimate that we reach over one thousand young people weekly through our Youth Hubs.

We have also sought to develop our regional support role with the EA to support local groups. We have grown our membership by 200% in this financial year. This will enable us to support youth places in areas where we have no presence but can help others achieve high-quality services for young people.

Last year, we wanted to continue developing a digital platform to empower the voices of children and young people. In collaboration with key regional partners, we wanted to evolve the digital platform to capture the needs of young people through agreed themes and questions with structured questions, incorporating scales and one qualitative response, and develop a function for organisations to leave detailed feedback. In September 2023, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation supported a bid from Bytes, YMCA Ireland, Boys and Girls Clubs and Youth Initiative to undertake a fundamental review of our digital platform, including a rebrand to Voices for Impact. We have been working to develop the site focusing on using the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are planning to relaunch the site in late 2024.

Youth Empathy

This year, we delivered eight good relations programmes across our Youth Hubs. These were significant projects spanning three to eight months, engaging over 250 young people and working with six community-based organisations. Young people established new relationships, explored good relationships, learned together, and became involved in social activities.

This year, we also supported Hillcroft Special Schools in using our Glengormley Youth Hub to help their Year 12 students develop their independent living skills.

Youth Employment and Digital

We were part of a successful consortium bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for an employment support programme called Youth Start. The key statistics from April 2023 to March 2024 include:

- 82 young people engaged with support services.
- 78 supported in job searching.
- 71 engaged in life skills programmes.
- 52 gained new qualifications.
- 68 returned to education.
- 29 participated in work experience programmes.
- 33 found employment, with 22 sustaining it for six months.

Feedback from participants:

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

"Gemma helped me get into barbering. It was too late to register for the course and I nearly gave up before I even started. But Gemma didn't let me quit—she was right there with me, every step of the way. She even came with me to talk to the course director to plead my case, explaining why I should be allowed to join despite the late start. And when my anxiety tried to get the better of me, Gemma walked with me to my first few classes. Her support made all the difference; it gave me the courage to pursue the career I really want."

"When Bytes helped me land a new job at E&I engineering, I was buzzing, but I hit a snag with getting out there and not having steel toecap boots. The staff at Bytes sorted me out with taxis and even got me a pair of boots so I could start the job. This got me sorted for the first few weeks until I found a workmate who passed by my place and could give me a lift. Without this help, I wouldn't have made it onto the shop floor on the first day. It was a real lifesaver."

Digital

Our digital team has been driving innovation and efficiency within our organisation. Over the past year, we have undertaken several key initiatives to enhance our digital infrastructure and improve service delivery. Our digital and IT activities have significantly strengthened our capabilities, positioning us for continued success and growth.

During this period, we agreed to work towards ISO27001 Data Management, with the first steps being Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus certifications, to enhance our cybersecurity. Additionally, we have undertaken a significant project to digitise our asset register, ensuring that all our equipment and resources are accurately tracked and managed.

We have also delivered a range of digital projects:

Gaming: The development of our gaming programme for youth clubs has been a collaborative effort, starting with creating a gaming curriculum and securing funding from The Education Authority. This allowed us to equip local youth clubs with state-of-the-art gaming devices and provide training sessions for youth workers. The program has enhanced social skills, increased engagement, and transferred critical thinking skills to other areas of life. Participants took on leadership roles, fostering a sense of responsibility and confidence. The program also strengthened community bonds within the clubs and increased parental involvement.

Online Youth Work: The development of our online youth work programme for youth clubs has successfully enhanced digital engagement by addressing accessibility, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness while overcoming challenges like the digital divide and online safety. Training for 24 youth workers from 13 groups led to 81 pilot sessions, with positive feedback on the framework and curriculum. The finalised Online Youth Work Framework and Curriculum, developed in March 2024, effectively built leadership, decision-making, and digital literacy skills, resulting in increased confidence and community involvement among participants. This initiative has standardised online delivery for the youth sector, supporting young people's holistic development in a digital world.

PA Foundation: The digital upskilling programme, funded by The PA Foundation, is designed to provide young people with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's digital world. Participants have learned about various digital tools and technologies through workshops, hands-on training, and mentorship. The programme aims to bridge the digital divide and create opportunities for young people to excel in their careers.

Santander: In 2023, we secured three years of funding from the Santander Foundation to support our digital upskilling and leadership initiatives. One of the key achievements of the programme this year has been 53 young participants' successful completion of the Level 1 OCN in Online Transactions. The programme's emphasis on digital financial literacy ensured that participants understood online transactions, digital banking, and financial management tools comprehensively.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Future Developments in Digital

We are working on three activities for 2024-25:

LMS: Our organisation recently implemented the LearnDash LMS system, a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing digital literacy, streamlining training processes, and improving overall efficiency. The LMS provides a digital platform for delivering training and educational content, ensuring consistency and accessibility for all users. Implementing the LMS has brought numerous benefits, including higher learner engagement and retention rates.

CRM: Our organisation has been ideating a bespoke Salesforce CRM system in collaboration with Enclude. The system aims to improve data capture and recording and reduce administrative workload to enhance frontline services for children and young people. We are currently awaiting funding support to develop our plan.

Voices for Impact: We will move from our old platform, Positive Sparks, and return to the original concept of Voices for Impact. We will seek additional funding and embed lessons from this process.

Achievements and performance

We worked with over ten funders this year and engaged over 1,000 young people. Some examples:

- UK Government: We support almost 100 young people in accessing employment or training.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council – we provided services engaging over 500 young people.
- Good Relations Programmes – Through various funders, we have engaged over 350 young people in these projects.
- EA projects – through direct delivery or partnership, we delivered 11 EA specifications. This required the weekly engagement of over 300 young people.

Organisational Development

We supported 20 people (including 7) staff to complete an OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. We also completed two staff development days exploring:

1. HR and Finance
2. Critical Reflection

Financial review

The results are set out on pages 12 to 23. The Bytes Project returned net expenditure for the year of £17,248 (2023: £126,042 income) which comprised a net unrestricted surplus of £10,989 and net restricted deficit of £28,237.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to £658,218 of which £40,557 was designated towards fixed assets leaving free reserves of £617,661. Restricted funds at the year end amounted to £97,693 of which £44,745 was designated towards fixed assets.

Reserves policy

The unrestricted funds are essential to supply sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity if current levels of income are not maintained. The charity's reserve policy is to hold cover in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. For 2024-25 the Directors aim to retain at least 6 months operating costs in reserve which would be just over £655k. Our free reserves at year end amounted to £617,660.

Political and Charitable Donations

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

Reference and Administrative Details

The organisations' details are as disclosed on the administrative details page.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bytes Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditor's services will be re-tendered in line with our financial procedures.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board

Ben Carter

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Ben Carter (Chair)

Dated: 17 December 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bytes Project (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Gage

.....

James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of:

Johnston Kennedy DFK

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

10 Pilots View

Heron Road

Belfast

BT3 9LE

Dated: 17 December 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Income from:</u>	Notes				
Charitable activities	4	105,843	1,188,039	1,293,882	1,133,285
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	5	100,523	1,210,607	1,311,130	1,007,243
Total expenditure		100,523	1,210,607	1,311,130	1,007,243
Net incoming/(outgoing)		5,320	(22,568)	(17,248)	126,042
Transfers between funds	14&15	5,669	(5,669)	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,989	(28,237)	(17,248)	126,042
Total funds brought forward		647,229	125,930	773,159	647,117
Total funds carried forward		658,218	97,693	755,911	773,159

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in notes 2 and 3.

Historical cost

The results as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities and the net outgoing resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		85,302		72,429
Current assets					
Debtors	10	238,419		537,504	
Cash at bank and in hand		699,647		334,655	
		<u>938,066</u>		<u>872,159</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(250,930)</u>		<u>(146,568)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>687,136</u>		<u>725,591</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>772,438</u>		<u>798,020</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		<u>(16,527)</u>		<u>(24,861)</u>
Net assets			<u><u>755,911</u></u>		<u><u>773,159</u></u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	14		97,693		125,930
Unrestricted income funds	15		658,218		647,229
Total funds	16		<u><u>755,911</u></u>		<u><u>773,159</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Carter

Ben Carter
Director

Andrea McLoughlin

Andrea McLoughlin
Director

Company Registration No. NI027446

Charity No. NIC 105711

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	24		425,074		310,454
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(51,748)		(40,163)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(51,748)		(40,163)
Financing activities					
(Repayments) / advances from bank loans		(8,334)		(8,819)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(8,334)		(8,819)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			364,992		261,472
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			334,655		73,183
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>699,647</u>		<u>334,655</u>

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Bytes Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal office is 300-302 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EG, Northern Ireland. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the directors' report on page 3 of these financial statements.

1.1 Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.3 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.4 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

1.6 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.8 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

2 Statement of Financial Activities: Unrestricted funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	105,843	79,188
Total income	<u>105,843</u>	<u>79,188</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	100,523	63,464
Total expenditure	<u>100,523</u>	<u>63,464</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing)	5,320	15,724
Transfers between funds	<u>5,669</u>	<u>127,889</u>
Net movement in funds	10,989	143,613
Total funds brought forward	<u>647,229</u>	<u>503,616</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>658,218</u></u>	<u><u>647,229</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Statement of Financial Activities: Restricted Funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	1,188,039	1,054,097
Total income	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>1,054,097</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	1,210,607	943,779
Total expenditure	<u>1,210,607</u>	<u>943,779</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing)	(22,568)	110,318
Transfers between funds	<u>(5,669)</u>	<u>(127,889)</u>
Net movement in funds	(28,237)	(17,571)
Total funds brought forward	<u>125,930</u>	<u>143,501</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>97,693</u></u>	<u><u>125,930</u></u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	fund	fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	-	-	-	4,714
Education Authority	-	561,741	561,741	157,981
SEUPB - PEACE	-	-	-	2,792
ANBC	-	60,845	60,845	80,291
PCSP	-	-	-	51,760
T:BUC / CGRF	-	219,461	219,461	254,201
ESF - Launch Pad	-	-	-	275,307
Voices 4 Impact	-	5,745	5,745	22,524
YP - Tech Projects	-	-	-	149,136
Miscellaneous Restricted	-	-	-	47,613
Rank Foundation	-	28,795	28,795	-
PA Foundation	-	27,500	27,500	-
Youth Start	-	200,821	200,821	-
Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	10,302	10,302	-
Fees for services delivered	92,713	-	92,713	77,318
Community funding support	-	-	-	-
Santander Grant	13,130	72,829	85,959	9,648
	<u>105,843</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>1,293,882</u>	<u>1,133,285</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Activity costs	57,023	972,636	1,029,659	783,581
Support costs	43,500	237,971	281,471	223,662
	<u>100,523</u>	<u>1,210,607</u>	<u>1,311,130</u>	<u>1,007,243</u>

6 Net income/(expenditure)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	38,875	36,329
Auditor's remuneration (including accountancy services)	6,152	5,724
	<u>45,027</u>	<u>42,053</u>

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
	40	38
	<u>40</u>	<u>38</u>

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

8 Directors' remuneration

No director received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenditure from the charity during the current or previous year.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9	Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
	Cost			
	At 1 April 2023	103,822	284,272	388,094
	Additions	26,867	24,881	51,748
	At 31 March 2024	<u>130,689</u>	<u>309,153</u>	<u>439,842</u>
	Depreciation			
	At 1 April 2023	72,846	242,819	315,665
	Depreciation charged in the year	13,409	25,466	38,875
	At 31 March 2024	<u>86,255</u>	<u>268,285</u>	<u>354,540</u>
	Net book value			
	At 31 March 2024	<u>44,434</u>	<u>40,868</u>	<u>85,302</u>
	At 31 March 2023	<u>30,976</u>	<u>41,453</u>	<u>72,429</u>
		<u><u>30,976</u></u>	<u><u>41,453</u></u>	<u><u>72,429</u></u>
	10 Debtors		2024	2023
	Amounts falling due within one year:		£	£
	Activity debtors		123,939	256,393
	Prepayments and accrued income		114,480	281,111
			<u>238,419</u>	<u>537,504</u>
			<u><u>238,419</u></u>	<u><u>537,504</u></u>
	11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2024	2023
		Notes	£	£
	Bank loans	13	8,333	8,333
	Other taxation and social security		404	8,622
	Activity creditors		70,404	43,943
	Other creditors		4,230	630
	Accruals and deferred income		167,559	85,040
			<u>250,930</u>	<u>146,568</u>
			<u><u>250,930</u></u>	<u><u>146,568</u></u>
	12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2024	2023
		Notes	£	£
	Bank loans	13	16,527	24,861
			<u>16,527</u>	<u>24,861</u>
			<u><u>16,527</u></u>	<u><u>24,861</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Loans and overdrafts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans	24,860	33,194
Payable within one year	8,333	8,333
Payable after one year	16,527	24,861

14 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery	87	-	-	-	87
Detached	555	-	-	-	555
Education Authority	39,984	561,741	(569,582)	(8,427)	23,716
ANBC - Life Skills	-	60,845	(57,569)	(3,276)	-
Rank Foundation	-	28,795	(28,794)	-	1
PA Foundation	-	27,500	(26,386)	-	1,114
Youth Start	-	200,821	(199,972)	-	849
Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	10,302	(10,302)	-	-
Street 1	5,029	-	-	-	5,029
ESF - Launch Pad	-	-	(180)	180	-
PCSP Projects	20,639	-	(333)	-	20,306
T:BUC / CGRF	1,059	219,461	(225,972)	5,854	402
Voices 4 Impact	10,669	5,745	(13,114)	-	3,300
YP - Tech Projects	5,329	-	(3,307)	-	2,022
Santander	2,652	72,829	(66,350)	-	9,131
Covid Recovery Fund	564	-	(564)	-	-
Other Small Funds	39,363	-	(8,184)	-	31,179
	<u>125,930</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>(1,210,607)</u>	<u>(5,669)</u>	<u>97,693</u>

15 Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	647,229	105,843	(100,523)	5,669	658,218

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds	44,745	52,948	97,693
Unrestricted Income Funds	40,557	617,661	658,218
	<u>85,302</u>	<u>670,609</u>	<u>755,911</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Between two and five years	18,496	18,496

18 Capital commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2023.

19 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

21 Company status

The company is as company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

22 Control

The directors control the company. The directors are appointed by and are accountable to the members.

23 Financial commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2023.

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

24	Cash generated from operations	2024	2023
		£	£
	Net movement in funds	(17,248)	126,042
	Adjustments for:		
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	38,875	36,329
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease in debtors	299,085	282,990
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	104,362	(134,907)
	Cash generated from operations	<u>425,074</u>	<u>310,454</u>
25	Analysis of changes in net funds		
		At 1 April 2023	Cash flows At 31 March 2024
		£	£
	Cash at bank and in hand	334,655	364,992
	Loans falling due within one year	(8,333)	-
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(24,861)	8,334
		<u>301,461</u>	<u>373,326</u>
		<u><u>301,461</u></u>	<u><u>373,326</u></u>
		<u><u>699,647</u></u>	<u><u>674,787</u></u>

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Bytes Project

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105711

Annual report

Charity Registration No. NIC 105711

Company Registration No. NI027446 (Northern Ireland)

THE BYTES PROJECT
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

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**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

CHARITABLE REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors	Ben Carter (Chair) Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair) Ed Axon Ciaran Connolly Neil Cooke Andrew Hamilton Stephen Murray (Treasurer) Jill Aicken	(Appointed 1 September 2023)
Company secretary	Stephen Dallas	
Chief executive officer	Stephen Dallas	
Charity number	NIC 105711	
Company number	NI027446	
Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland	NIC105711	
Registered office and principal office	300-302 Antrim Road Newtownabbey Northern Ireland BT36 5EG	
Independent Auditor	Johnston Kennedy DFK Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 10 Pilots View Heron Road Belfast BT3 9LE	
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Belfast City Branch 4 - 8 High Street Belfast BT1 2BA	

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2023 (unless stated).

Ben Carter (Chair)	
Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)	
Ed Axon	
Aimee Clint	(Resigned 16 May 2023)
Ciaran Connolly	
Neil Cooke	
Andrew Hamilton	
Stephen Murray (Treasurer)	
Ross Thompson	(Resigned 23 January 2024)
Jill Aicken	(Appointed 1 September 2023)

Directors' interests

None of the directors of the company held a beneficial interest in the assets of the company. There were no emoluments paid to directors during the current year. Directors did not claim any expenses during the current year in their capacity as Directors.

Chief Executive Officer

Since April 2021 the Chief Executive Officer, known as the Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, has been Stephen Dallas.

Structure, governance and management

The Bytes Project is a youth work charity that has been working with the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland. We were established in April 1993, when a small group of people designed an innovative concept for Belfast, based on experience in an inner-city project in the USA. The original aim was to build on the entertainment and amusement attraction of computers with marginalised young adults with a focus on 16–25-year-olds.

The Bytes Project is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 April 1993, and registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on 21 September 2016. It is governed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Bytes Project's governance is exercised by the Trustees, who are individuals whose extensive experience at senior executive and management levels in commerce, industry, civil service, academic and community service is made available to Bytes voluntarily. New Directors are appointed following an assessment process. Following appointment, new Directors receive induction briefings on the strategic plan and financial activities of the company.

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. A risk register is now included as a standing agenda at Board meetings. This financial year, the board reviewed five policies.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Public Benefit Statement

The charity's beneficiaries are young people.

The public benefits of the charity include increased knowledge, skills and qualifications and improved employability for young people, increased knowledge, skills, work-related experience, improved employability, increased self-esteem and confidence for the workplace, and increased access to further education, training and employment.

These direct benefits are demonstrated through:

- The number of young people who attend our youth hub provision.
- The number of young people completing programmes with youth workers and achieving accredited qualifications and their feedback on their learning.
- The number of young people who complete creative technology projects and their feedback on their learning.
- The number of young people who progress into education, training and employment using personal development plans and feedback on their learning.

Principal Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are the following:

- To advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 14-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular:
- To enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities;
- To provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI;
- Provide regional support to other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation.

Our vision and mission are:

- **Vision / Purpose:** Young people transform their world for good.
- **Mission:** Each year we will ensure that over 3,000 young people access digital technology in communities of promise.

Our new strategy from 2021-24 has named four pillars to drive our work:

- Youth Voice
- Youth Empathy
- Youth Digital
- Youth Places

This report is based on these themes.

In April 2023, we refined them to:

- Youth Empowerment
- Youth Employment and Digital
- Youth Empathy

These themes shape this report.

Youth Empowerment

During this financial year, Bytes made significant strides in the growth of Local Youth Hubs.

Northwest: After celebrating our second year at our Strand Road Youth Hub, we developed a range of new services to enable this hub to offer youth services across the Foyleside DEA, the Sperrins, and Carrtogether. This development enabled an increased level of activity and relationship-building with several new partners.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Antrim and Newtownabbey: After moving into our new Youth Hub in Glengormley, we were able to extend our support to open a new Youth Hub in Ballyclare and enhance our support with our partners Rathenraw Youth Centre. The team delivers open-access services and detached work to engage young people and direct them into a wide range of Bytes programmes.

North Antrim: Our Ballymoney Hub has entered its second year of service, extending our reach in the town and across Villages. This area has been very productive in building partnerships with other organisations with whom Bytes has yet to have previous contact. In April 2023, in collaboration with West Bann Community Association, we opened a new Youth Hub in Churchlands.

Mid & East Antrim: We have continued our partnership with Kells & Connor Community Improvement Association (KCCIA), supplying open-access youth services in Kells. We have also deepened our partnerships, and our main objective this coming year is to open a new provision in Dunlug.

Expanding our services has been a source of pride for our staff and Directors. At the end of March 2024, we estimate that we reach over one thousand young people weekly through our Youth Hubs.

We have also sought to develop our regional support role with the EA to support local groups. We have grown our membership by 200% in this financial year. This will enable us to support youth places in areas where we have no presence but can help others achieve high-quality services for young people.

Last year, we wanted to continue developing a digital platform to empower the voices of children and young people. In collaboration with key regional partners, we wanted to evolve the digital platform to capture the needs of young people through agreed themes and questions with structured questions, incorporating scales and one qualitative response, and develop a function for organisations to leave detailed feedback. In September 2023, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation supported a bid from Bytes, YMCA Ireland, Boys and Girls Clubs and Youth Initiative to undertake a fundamental review of our digital platform, including a rebrand to Voices for Impact. We have been working to develop the site focusing on using the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are planning to relaunch the site in late 2024.

Youth Empathy

This year, we delivered eight good relations programmes across our Youth Hubs. These were significant projects spanning three to eight months, engaging over 250 young people and working with six community-based organisations. Young people established new relationships, explored good relationships, learned together, and became involved in social activities.

This year, we also supported Hillcroft Special Schools in using our Glengormley Youth Hub to help their Year 12 students develop their independent living skills.

Youth Employment and Digital

We were part of a successful consortium bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for an employment support programme called Youth Start. The key statistics from April 2023 to March 2024 include:

- 82 young people engaged with support services.
- 78 supported in job searching.
- 71 engaged in life skills programmes.
- 52 gained new qualifications.
- 68 returned to education.
- 29 participated in work experience programmes.
- 33 found employment, with 22 sustaining it for six months.

Feedback from participants:

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

"Gemma helped me get into barbering. It was too late to register for the course and I nearly gave up before I even started. But Gemma didn't let me quit—she was right there with me, every step of the way. She even came with me to talk to the course director to plead my case, explaining why I should be allowed to join despite the late start. And when my anxiety tried to get the better of me, Gemma walked with me to my first few classes. Her support made all the difference; it gave me the courage to pursue the career I really want."

"When Bytes helped me land a new job at E&I engineering, I was buzzing, but I hit a snag with getting out there and not having steel toecap boots. The staff at Bytes sorted me out with taxis and even got me a pair of boots so I could start the job. This got me sorted for the first few weeks until I found a workmate who passed by my place and could give me a lift. Without this help, I wouldn't have made it onto the shop floor on the first day. It was a real lifesaver."

Digital

Our digital team has been driving innovation and efficiency within our organisation. Over the past year, we have undertaken several key initiatives to enhance our digital infrastructure and improve service delivery. Our digital and IT activities have significantly strengthened our capabilities, positioning us for continued success and growth.

During this period, we agreed to work towards ISO27001 Data Management, with the first steps being Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus certifications, to enhance our cybersecurity. Additionally, we have undertaken a significant project to digitise our asset register, ensuring that all our equipment and resources are accurately tracked and managed.

We have also delivered a range of digital projects:

Gaming: The development of our gaming programme for youth clubs has been a collaborative effort, starting with creating a gaming curriculum and securing funding from The Education Authority. This allowed us to equip local youth clubs with state-of-the-art gaming devices and provide training sessions for youth workers. The program has enhanced social skills, increased engagement, and transferred critical thinking skills to other areas of life. Participants took on leadership roles, fostering a sense of responsibility and confidence. The program also strengthened community bonds within the clubs and increased parental involvement.

Online Youth Work: The development of our online youth work programme for youth clubs has successfully enhanced digital engagement by addressing accessibility, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness while overcoming challenges like the digital divide and online safety. Training for 24 youth workers from 13 groups led to 81 pilot sessions, with positive feedback on the framework and curriculum. The finalised Online Youth Work Framework and Curriculum, developed in March 2024, effectively built leadership, decision-making, and digital literacy skills, resulting in increased confidence and community involvement among participants. This initiative has standardised online delivery for the youth sector, supporting young people's holistic development in a digital world.

PA Foundation: The digital upskilling programme, funded by The PA Foundation, is designed to provide young people with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's digital world. Participants have learned about various digital tools and technologies through workshops, hands-on training, and mentorship. The programme aims to bridge the digital divide and create opportunities for young people to excel in their careers.

Santander: In 2023, we secured three years of funding from the Santander Foundation to support our digital upskilling and leadership initiatives. One of the key achievements of the programme this year has been 53 young participants' successful completion of the Level 1 OCN in Online Transactions. The programme's emphasis on digital financial literacy ensured that participants understood online transactions, digital banking, and financial management tools comprehensively.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Future Developments in Digital

We are working on three activities for 2024-25:

LMS: Our organisation recently implemented the LearnDash LMS system, a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing digital literacy, streamlining training processes, and improving overall efficiency. The LMS provides a digital platform for delivering training and educational content, ensuring consistency and accessibility for all users. Implementing the LMS has brought numerous benefits, including higher learner engagement and retention rates.

CRM: Our organisation has been ideating a bespoke Salesforce CRM system in collaboration with Enclude. The system aims to improve data capture and recording and reduce administrative workload to enhance frontline services for children and young people. We are currently awaiting funding support to develop our plan.

Voices for Impact: We will move from our old platform, Positive Sparks, and return to the original concept of Voices for Impact. We will seek additional funding and embed lessons from this process.

Achievements and performance

We worked with over ten funders this year and engaged over 1,000 young people. Some examples:

- UK Government: We support almost 100 young people in accessing employment or training.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council – we provided services engaging over 500 young people.
- Good Relations Programmes – Through various funders, we have engaged over 350 young people in these projects.
- EA projects – through direct delivery or partnership, we delivered 11 EA specifications. This required the weekly engagement of over 300 young people.

Organisational Development

We supported 20 people (including 7) staff to complete an OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. We also completed two staff development days exploring:

1. HR and Finance
2. Critical Reflection

Financial review

The results are set out on pages 12 to 23. The Bytes Project returned net expenditure for the year of £17,248 (2023: £126,042 income) which comprised a net unrestricted surplus of £10,989 and net restricted deficit of £28,237.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to £658,218 of which £40,557 was designated towards fixed assets leaving free reserves of £617,661. Restricted funds at the year end amounted to £97,693 of which £44,745 was designated towards fixed assets.

Reserves policy

The unrestricted funds are essential to supply sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity if current levels of income are not maintained. The charity's reserve policy is to hold cover in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. For 2024-25 the Directors aim to retain at least 6 months operating costs in reserve which would be just over £655k. Our free reserves at year end amounted to £617,660.

Political and Charitable Donations

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

Reference and Administrative Details

The organisations' details are as disclosed on the administrative details page.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bytes Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditor's services will be re-tendered in line with our financial procedures.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board

Ben Carter

.....

Ben Carter (Chair)

Dated: 17 December 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bytes Project (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Gage

.....

James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of:

Johnston Kennedy DFK

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

10 Pilots View

Heron Road

Belfast

BT3 9LE

Dated: 17 December 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Income from:</u>	Notes				
Charitable activities	4	105,843	1,188,039	1,293,882	1,133,285
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	5	100,523	1,210,607	1,311,130	1,007,243
Total expenditure		100,523	1,210,607	1,311,130	1,007,243
Net incoming/(outgoing)		5,320	(22,568)	(17,248)	126,042
Transfers between funds	14&15	5,669	(5,669)	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,989	(28,237)	(17,248)	126,042
Total funds brought forward		647,229	125,930	773,159	647,117
Total funds carried forward		658,218	97,693	755,911	773,159

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in notes 2 and 3.

Historical cost

The results as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities and the net outgoing resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		85,302		72,429
Current assets					
Debtors	10	238,419		537,504	
Cash at bank and in hand		699,647		334,655	
		<u>938,066</u>		<u>872,159</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(250,930)</u>		<u>(146,568)</u>	
Net current assets			687,136		725,591
Total assets less current liabilities			772,438		798,020
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(16,527)		(24,861)
Net assets			<u>755,911</u>		<u>773,159</u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	14		97,693		125,930
Unrestricted income funds	15		658,218		647,229
Total funds	16		<u>755,911</u>		<u>773,159</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Carter

Ben Carter
Director

Andrea McLoughlin

Andrea McLoughlin
Director

Company Registration No. NI027446

Charity No. NIC 105711

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	24		425,074		310,454
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(51,748)		(40,163)	
Net cash used in investing activities			<u>(51,748)</u>		<u>(40,163)</u>
Financing activities					
(Repayments) / advances from bank loans		(8,334)		(8,819)	
Net cash used in financing activities			<u>(8,334)</u>		<u>(8,819)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			364,992		261,472
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			334,655		73,183
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u><u>699,647</u></u>		<u><u>334,655</u></u>

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Bytes Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal office is 300-302 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EG, Northern Ireland. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the directors' report on page 3 of these financial statements.

1.1 Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.3 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.4 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

1.6 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.8 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

2 Statement of Financial Activities:Unrestricted funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	105,843	79,188
Total income	<u>105,843</u>	<u>79,188</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	100,523	63,464
Total expenditure	<u>100,523</u>	<u>63,464</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing)	5,320	15,724
Transfers between funds	<u>5,669</u>	<u>127,889</u>
Net movement in funds	10,989	143,613
Total funds brought forward	<u>647,229</u>	<u>503,616</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>658,218</u></u>	<u><u>647,229</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Statement of Financial Activities: Restricted Funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	1,188,039	1,054,097
Total income	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>1,054,097</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	1,210,607	943,779
Total expenditure	<u>1,210,607</u>	<u>943,779</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing)	(22,568)	110,318
Transfers between funds	<u>(5,669)</u>	<u>(127,889)</u>
Net movement in funds	(28,237)	(17,571)
Total funds brought forward	<u>125,930</u>	<u>143,501</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>97,693</u></u>	<u><u>125,930</u></u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	fund	fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	-	-	-	4,714
Education Authority	-	561,741	561,741	157,981
SEUPB - PEACE	-	-	-	2,792
ANBC	-	60,845	60,845	80,291
PCSP	-	-	-	51,760
T:BUC / CGRF	-	219,461	219,461	254,201
ESF - Launch Pad	-	-	-	275,307
Voices 4 Impact	-	5,745	5,745	22,524
YP - Tech Projects	-	-	-	149,136
Miscellaneous Restricted	-	-	-	47,613
Rank Foundation	-	28,795	28,795	-
PA Foundation	-	27,500	27,500	-
Youth Start	-	200,821	200,821	-
Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	10,302	10,302	-
Fees for services delivered	92,713	-	92,713	77,318
Community funding support	-	-	-	-
Santander Grant	13,130	72,829	85,959	9,648
	<u>105,843</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>1,293,882</u>	<u>1,133,285</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Activity costs	57,023	972,636	1,029,659	783,581
Support costs	43,500	237,971	281,471	223,662
	<u>100,523</u>	<u>1,210,607</u>	<u>1,311,130</u>	<u>1,007,243</u>

6 Net income/(expenditure)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	38,875	36,329
Auditor's remuneration (including accountancy services)	6,152	5,724
	<u>45,027</u>	<u>42,053</u>

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2024	2023
Number	Number
40	38
<u>40</u>	<u>38</u>

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

8 Directors' remuneration

No director received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenditure from the charity during the current or previous year.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9	Tangible fixed assets			
		Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Total
		£	£	£
	Cost			
	At 1 April 2023	103,822	284,272	388,094
	Additions	26,867	24,881	51,748
		<u>130,689</u>	<u>309,153</u>	<u>439,842</u>
	At 31 March 2024			
	Depreciation			
	At 1 April 2023	72,846	242,819	315,665
	Depreciation charged in the year	13,409	25,466	38,875
		<u>86,255</u>	<u>268,285</u>	<u>354,540</u>
	At 31 March 2024			
	Net book value			
	At 31 March 2024	<u>44,434</u>	<u>40,868</u>	<u>85,302</u>
	At 31 March 2023	<u>30,976</u>	<u>41,453</u>	<u>72,429</u>
		<u><u>30,976</u></u>	<u><u>41,453</u></u>	<u><u>72,429</u></u>
10	Debtors		2024	2023
	Amounts falling due within one year:		£	£
	Activity debtors		123,939	256,393
	Prepayments and accrued income		114,480	281,111
			<u>238,419</u>	<u>537,504</u>
			<u><u>238,419</u></u>	<u><u>537,504</u></u>
11	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2024	2023
		Notes	£	£
	Bank loans	13	8,333	8,333
	Other taxation and social security		404	8,622
	Activity creditors		70,404	43,943
	Other creditors		4,230	630
	Accruals and deferred income		167,559	85,040
			<u>250,930</u>	<u>146,568</u>
			<u><u>250,930</u></u>	<u><u>146,568</u></u>
12	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2024	2023
		Notes	£	£
	Bank loans	13	16,527	24,861
			<u>16,527</u>	<u>24,861</u>
			<u><u>16,527</u></u>	<u><u>24,861</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Loans and overdrafts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans	24,860	33,194
Payable within one year	8,333	8,333
Payable after one year	16,527	24,861

14 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery	87	-	-	-	87
Detached	555	-	-	-	555
Education Authority	39,984	561,741	(569,582)	(8,427)	23,716
ANBC - Life Skills	-	60,845	(57,569)	(3,276)	-
Rank Foundation	-	28,795	(28,794)	-	1
PA Foundation	-	27,500	(26,386)	-	1,114
Youth Start	-	200,821	(199,972)	-	849
Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	10,302	(10,302)	-	-
Street 1	5,029	-	-	-	5,029
ESF - Launch Pad	-	-	(180)	180	-
PCSP Projects	20,639	-	(333)	-	20,306
T:BUC / CGRF	1,059	219,461	(225,972)	5,854	402
Voices 4 Impact	10,669	5,745	(13,114)	-	3,300
YP - Tech Projects	5,329	-	(3,307)	-	2,022
Santander	2,652	72,829	(66,350)	-	9,131
Covid Recovery Fund	564	-	(564)	-	-
Other Small Funds	39,363	-	(8,184)	-	31,179
	<u>125,930</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>(1,210,607)</u>	<u>(5,669)</u>	<u>97,693</u>

15 Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	647,229	105,843	(100,523)	5,669	658,218

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds	44,745	52,948	97,693
Unrestricted Income Funds	40,557	617,661	658,218
	<u>85,302</u>	<u>670,609</u>	<u>755,911</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Between two and five years	18,496	18,496

18 Capital commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2023.

19 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

21 Company status

The company is as company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

22 Control

The directors control the company. The directors are appointed by and are accountable to the members.

23 Financial commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2023.

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

24	Cash generated from operations	2024	2023
		£	£
	Net movement in funds	(17,248)	126,042
	Adjustments for:		
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	38,875	36,329
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease in debtors	299,085	282,990
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	104,362	(134,907)
	Cash generated from operations	<u>425,074</u>	<u>310,454</u>
25	Analysis of changes in net funds		
		At 1 April 2023	Cash flows At 31 March 2024
		£	£
	Cash at bank and in hand	334,655	364,992
	Loans falling due within one year	(8,333)	-
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(24,861)	8,334
		<u>301,461</u>	<u>373,326</u>
		<u><u>301,461</u></u>	<u><u>373,326</u></u>
		<u>699,647</u>	<u>674,787</u>
		<u><u>699,647</u></u>	<u><u>674,787</u></u>

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Bytes Project

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105711

Annual return

Charity Registration No. NIC 105711

Company Registration No. NI027446 (Northern Ireland)

THE BYTES PROJECT
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

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**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

CHARITABLE REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors	Ben Carter (Chair) Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair) Ed Axon Ciaran Connolly Neil Cooke Andrew Hamilton Stephen Murray (Treasurer) Jill Aicken	(Appointed 1 September 2023)
Company secretary	Stephen Dallas	
Chief executive officer	Stephen Dallas	
Charity number	NIC 105711	
Company number	NI027446	
Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland	NIC105711	
Registered office and principal office	300-302 Antrim Road Newtownabbey Northern Ireland BT36 5EG	
Independent Auditor	Johnston Kennedy DFK Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 10 Pilots View Heron Road Belfast BT3 9LE	
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Belfast City Branch 4 - 8 High Street Belfast BT1 2BA	

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2023 (unless stated).

Ben Carter (Chair)	
Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)	
Ed Axon	
Aimee Clint	(Resigned 16 May 2023)
Ciaran Connolly	
Neil Cooke	
Andrew Hamilton	
Stephen Murray (Treasurer)	
Ross Thompson	(Resigned 23 January 2024)
Jill Aicken	(Appointed 1 September 2023)

Directors' interests

None of the directors of the company held a beneficial interest in the assets of the company. There were no emoluments paid to directors during the current year. Directors did not claim any expenses during the current year in their capacity as Directors.

Chief Executive Officer

Since April 2021 the Chief Executive Officer, known as the Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, has been Stephen Dallas.

Structure, governance and management

The Bytes Project is a youth work charity that has been working with the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland. We were established in April 1993, when a small group of people designed an innovative concept for Belfast, based on experience in an inner-city project in the USA. The original aim was to build on the entertainment and amusement attraction of computers with marginalised young adults with a focus on 16–25-year-olds.

The Bytes Project is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 April 1993, and registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on 21 September 2016. It is governed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Bytes Project's governance is exercised by the Trustees, who are individuals whose extensive experience at senior executive and management levels in commerce, industry, civil service, academic and community service is made available to Bytes voluntarily. New Directors are appointed following an assessment process. Following appointment, new Directors receive induction briefings on the strategic plan and financial activities of the company.

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. A risk register is now included as a standing agenda at Board meetings. This financial year, the board reviewed five policies.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Public Benefit Statement

The charity's beneficiaries are young people.

The public benefits of the charity include increased knowledge, skills and qualifications and improved employability for young people, increased knowledge, skills, work-related experience, improved employability, increased self-esteem and confidence for the workplace, and increased access to further education, training and employment.

These direct benefits are demonstrated through:

- The number of young people who attend our youth hub provision.
- The number of young people completing programmes with youth workers and achieving accredited qualifications and their feedback on their learning.
- The number of young people who complete creative technology projects and their feedback on their learning.
- The number of young people who progress into education, training and employment using personal development plans and feedback on their learning.

Principal Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are the following:

- To advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 14-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular:
- To enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities;
- To provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI;
- Provide regional support to other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation.

Our vision and mission are:

- **Vision / Purpose:** Young people transform their world for good.
- **Mission:** Each year we will ensure that over 3,000 young people access digital technology in communities of promise.

Our new strategy from 2021-24 has named four pillars to drive our work:

- Youth Voice
- Youth Empathy
- Youth Digital
- Youth Places

This report is based on these themes.

In April 2023, we refined them to:

- Youth Empowerment
- Youth Employment and Digital
- Youth Empathy

These themes shape this report.

Youth Empowerment

During this financial year, Bytes made significant strides in the growth of Local Youth Hubs.

Northwest: After celebrating our second year at our Strand Road Youth Hub, we developed a range of new services to enable this hub to offer youth services across the Foyleside DEA, the Sperrins, and Carrtogether. This development enabled an increased level of activity and relationship-building with several new partners.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Antrim and Newtownabbey: After moving into our new Youth Hub in Glengormley, we were able to extend our support to open a new Youth Hub in Ballyclare and enhance our support with our partners Rathenraw Youth Centre. The team delivers open-access services and detached work to engage young people and direct them into a wide range of Bytes programmes.

North Antrim: Our Ballymoney Hub has entered its second year of service, extending our reach in the town and across Villages. This area has been very productive in building partnerships with other organisations with whom Bytes has yet to have previous contact. In April 2023, in collaboration with West Bann Community Association, we opened a new Youth Hub in Churchlands.

Mid & East Antrim: We have continued our partnership with Kells & Connor Community Improvement Association (KCCIA), supplying open-access youth services in Kells. We have also deepened our partnerships, and our main objective this coming year is to open a new provision in Dunlug.

Expanding our services has been a source of pride for our staff and Directors. At the end of March 2024, we estimate that we reach over one thousand young people weekly through our Youth Hubs.

We have also sought to develop our regional support role with the EA to support local groups. We have grown our membership by 200% in this financial year. This will enable us to support youth places in areas where we have no presence but can help others achieve high-quality services for young people.

Last year, we wanted to continue developing a digital platform to empower the voices of children and young people. In collaboration with key regional partners, we wanted to evolve the digital platform to capture the needs of young people through agreed themes and questions with structured questions, incorporating scales and one qualitative response, and develop a function for organisations to leave detailed feedback. In September 2023, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation supported a bid from Bytes, YMCA Ireland, Boys and Girls Clubs and Youth Initiative to undertake a fundamental review of our digital platform, including a rebrand to Voices for Impact. We have been working to develop the site focusing on using the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are planning to relaunch the site in late 2024.

Youth Empathy

This year, we delivered eight good relations programmes across our Youth Hubs. These were significant projects spanning three to eight months, engaging over 250 young people and working with six community-based organisations. Young people established new relationships, explored good relationships, learned together, and became involved in social activities.

This year, we also supported Hillcroft Special Schools in using our Glengormley Youth Hub to help their Year 12 students develop their independent living skills.

Youth Employment and Digital

We were part of a successful consortium bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for an employment support programme called Youth Start. The key statistics from April 2023 to March 2024 include:

- 82 young people engaged with support services.
- 78 supported in job searching.
- 71 engaged in life skills programmes.
- 52 gained new qualifications.
- 68 returned to education.
- 29 participated in work experience programmes.
- 33 found employment, with 22 sustaining it for six months.

Feedback from participants:

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

"Gemma helped me get into barbering. It was too late to register for the course and I nearly gave up before I even started. But Gemma didn't let me quit—she was right there with me, every step of the way. She even came with me to talk to the course director to plead my case, explaining why I should be allowed to join despite the late start. And when my anxiety tried to get the better of me, Gemma walked with me to my first few classes. Her support made all the difference; it gave me the courage to pursue the career I really want."

"When Bytes helped me land a new job at E&I engineering, I was buzzing, but I hit a snag with getting out there and not having steel toecap boots. The staff at Bytes sorted me out with taxis and even got me a pair of boots so I could start the job. This got me sorted for the first few weeks until I found a workmate who passed by my place and could give me a lift. Without this help, I wouldn't have made it onto the shop floor on the first day. It was a real lifesaver."

Digital

Our digital team has been driving innovation and efficiency within our organisation. Over the past year, we have undertaken several key initiatives to enhance our digital infrastructure and improve service delivery. Our digital and IT activities have significantly strengthened our capabilities, positioning us for continued success and growth.

During this period, we agreed to work towards ISO27001 Data Management, with the first steps being Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus certifications, to enhance our cybersecurity. Additionally, we have undertaken a significant project to digitise our asset register, ensuring that all our equipment and resources are accurately tracked and managed.

We have also delivered a range of digital projects:

Gaming: The development of our gaming programme for youth clubs has been a collaborative effort, starting with creating a gaming curriculum and securing funding from The Education Authority. This allowed us to equip local youth clubs with state-of-the-art gaming devices and provide training sessions for youth workers. The program has enhanced social skills, increased engagement, and transferred critical thinking skills to other areas of life. Participants took on leadership roles, fostering a sense of responsibility and confidence. The program also strengthened community bonds within the clubs and increased parental involvement.

Online Youth Work: The development of our online youth work programme for youth clubs has successfully enhanced digital engagement by addressing accessibility, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness while overcoming challenges like the digital divide and online safety. Training for 24 youth workers from 13 groups led to 81 pilot sessions, with positive feedback on the framework and curriculum. The finalised Online Youth Work Framework and Curriculum, developed in March 2024, effectively built leadership, decision-making, and digital literacy skills, resulting in increased confidence and community involvement among participants. This initiative has standardised online delivery for the youth sector, supporting young people's holistic development in a digital world.

PA Foundation: The digital upskilling programme, funded by The PA Foundation, is designed to provide young people with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's digital world. Participants have learned about various digital tools and technologies through workshops, hands-on training, and mentorship. The programme aims to bridge the digital divide and create opportunities for young people to excel in their careers.

Santander: In 2023, we secured three years of funding from the Santander Foundation to support our digital upskilling and leadership initiatives. One of the key achievements of the programme this year has been 53 young participants' successful completion of the Level 1 OCN in Online Transactions. The programme's emphasis on digital financial literacy ensured that participants understood online transactions, digital banking, and financial management tools comprehensively.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Future Developments in Digital

We are working on three activities for 2024-25:

LMS: Our organisation recently implemented the LearnDash LMS system, a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing digital literacy, streamlining training processes, and improving overall efficiency. The LMS provides a digital platform for delivering training and educational content, ensuring consistency and accessibility for all users. Implementing the LMS has brought numerous benefits, including higher learner engagement and retention rates.

CRM: Our organisation has been ideating a bespoke Salesforce CRM system in collaboration with Enclude. The system aims to improve data capture and recording and reduce administrative workload to enhance frontline services for children and young people. We are currently awaiting funding support to develop our plan.

Voices for Impact: We will move from our old platform, Positive Sparks, and return to the original concept of Voices for Impact. We will seek additional funding and embed lessons from this process.

Achievements and performance

We worked with over ten funders this year and engaged over 1,000 young people. Some examples:

- UK Government: We support almost 100 young people in accessing employment or training.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council – we provided services engaging over 500 young people.
- Good Relations Programmes – Through various funders, we have engaged over 350 young people in these projects.
- EA projects – through direct delivery or partnership, we delivered 11 EA specifications. This required the weekly engagement of over 300 young people.

Organisational Development

We supported 20 people (including 7) staff to complete an OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. We also completed two staff development days exploring:

1. HR and Finance
2. Critical Reflection

Financial review

The results are set out on pages 12 to 23. The Bytes Project returned net expenditure for the year of £17,248 (2023: £126,042 income) which comprised a net unrestricted surplus of £10,989 and net restricted deficit of £28,237.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to £658,218 of which £40,557 was designated towards fixed assets leaving free reserves of £617,661. Restricted funds at the year end amounted to £97,693 of which £44,745 was designated towards fixed assets.

Reserves policy

The unrestricted funds are essential to supply sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity if current levels of income are not maintained. The charity's reserve policy is to hold cover in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. For 2024-25 the Directors aim to retain at least 6 months operating costs in reserve which would be just over £655k. Our free reserves at year end amounted to £617,660.

Political and Charitable Donations

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

Reference and Administrative Details

The organisations' details are as disclosed on the administrative details page.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bytes Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditor's services will be re-tendered in line with our financial procedures.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board

Ben Carter

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Ben Carter (Chair)

Dated: 17 December 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bytes Project (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Gage

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James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of:

Johnston Kennedy DFK

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

10 Pilots View

Heron Road

Belfast

BT3 9LE

Dated: 17 December 2024

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Income from:</u>	Notes				
Charitable activities	4	105,843	1,188,039	1,293,882	1,133,285
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	5	100,523	1,210,607	1,311,130	1,007,243
Total expenditure		100,523	1,210,607	1,311,130	1,007,243
Net incoming/(outgoing)		5,320	(22,568)	(17,248)	126,042
Transfers between funds	14&15	5,669	(5,669)	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,989	(28,237)	(17,248)	126,042
Total funds brought forward		647,229	125,930	773,159	647,117
Total funds carried forward		658,218	97,693	755,911	773,159

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in notes 2 and 3.

Historical cost

The results as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities and the net outgoing resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		85,302		72,429
Current assets					
Debtors	10	238,419		537,504	
Cash at bank and in hand		699,647		334,655	
			938,066		872,159
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(250,930)		(146,568)	
Net current assets			687,136		725,591
Total assets less current liabilities			772,438		798,020
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(16,527)		(24,861)
Net assets			755,911		773,159
Funds					
Restricted income funds	14		97,693		125,930
Unrestricted income funds	15		658,218		647,229
Total funds	16		755,911		773,159

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Carter

Ben Carter
Director

Andrea McLoughlin

Andrea McLoughlin
Director

Company Registration No. NI027446

Charity No. NIC 105711

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	24		425,074		310,454
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(51,748)		(40,163)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(51,748)		(40,163)
Financing activities					
(Repayments) / advances from bank loans		(8,334)		(8,819)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(8,334)		(8,819)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			364,992		261,472
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			334,655		73,183
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>699,647</u>		<u>334,655</u>

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Bytes Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal office is 300-302 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EG, Northern Ireland. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the directors' report on page 3 of these financial statements.

1.1 Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.3 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.4 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

1.6 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.8 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

2 Statement of Financial Activities:Unrestricted funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	105,843	79,188
Total income	<u>105,843</u>	<u>79,188</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	100,523	63,464
Total expenditure	<u>100,523</u>	<u>63,464</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing)	5,320	15,724
Transfers between funds	<u>5,669</u>	<u>127,889</u>
Net movement in funds	10,989	143,613
Total funds brought forward	<u>647,229</u>	<u>503,616</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>658,218</u></u>	<u><u>647,229</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Statement of Financial Activities: Restricted Funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	1,188,039	1,054,097
Total income	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>1,054,097</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	1,210,607	943,779
Total expenditure	<u>1,210,607</u>	<u>943,779</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing)	(22,568)	110,318
Transfers between funds	<u>(5,669)</u>	<u>(127,889)</u>
Net movement in funds	(28,237)	(17,571)
Total funds brought forward	<u>125,930</u>	<u>143,501</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>97,693</u></u>	<u><u>125,930</u></u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	fund	fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	-	-	-	4,714
Education Authority	-	561,741	561,741	157,981
SEUPB - PEACE	-	-	-	2,792
ANBC	-	60,845	60,845	80,291
PCSP	-	-	-	51,760
T:BUC / CGRF	-	219,461	219,461	254,201
ESF - Launch Pad	-	-	-	275,307
Voices 4 Impact	-	5,745	5,745	22,524
YP - Tech Projects	-	-	-	149,136
Miscellaneous Restricted	-	-	-	47,613
Rank Foundation	-	28,795	28,795	-
PA Foundation	-	27,500	27,500	-
Youth Start	-	200,821	200,821	-
Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	10,302	10,302	-
Fees for services delivered	92,713	-	92,713	77,318
Community funding support	-	-	-	-
Santander Grant	13,130	72,829	85,959	9,648
	<u>105,843</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>1,293,882</u>	<u>1,133,285</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Activity costs	57,023	972,636	1,029,659	783,581
Support costs	43,500	237,971	281,471	223,662
	<u>100,523</u>	<u>1,210,607</u>	<u>1,311,130</u>	<u>1,007,243</u>

6 Net income/(expenditure)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	38,875	36,329
Auditor's remuneration (including accountancy services)	6,152	5,724
	<u>45,027</u>	<u>42,053</u>

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
	40	38
	<u>40</u>	<u>38</u>

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

8 Directors' remuneration

No director received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenditure from the charity during the current or previous year.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9	Tangible fixed assets			
		Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Total
		£	£	£
	Cost			
	At 1 April 2023	103,822	284,272	388,094
	Additions	26,867	24,881	51,748
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	At 31 March 2024	130,689	309,153	439,842
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Depreciation			
	At 1 April 2023	72,846	242,819	315,665
	Depreciation charged in the year	13,409	25,466	38,875
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	At 31 March 2024	86,255	268,285	354,540
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Net book value			
	At 31 March 2024	44,434	40,868	85,302
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	At 31 March 2023	30,976	41,453	72,429
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
10	Debtors			
			2024	2023
	Amounts falling due within one year:		£	£
	Activity debtors		123,939	256,393
	Prepayments and accrued income		114,480	281,111
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
			238,419	537,504
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
11	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
			2024	2023
		Notes	£	£
	Bank loans	13	8,333	8,333
	Other taxation and social security		404	8,622
	Activity creditors		70,404	43,943
	Other creditors		4,230	630
	Accruals and deferred income		167,559	85,040
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
			250,930	146,568
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
12	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
			2024	2023
		Notes	£	£
	Bank loans	13	16,527	24,861
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Loans and overdrafts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans	24,860	33,194
Payable within one year	8,333	8,333
Payable after one year	16,527	24,861

14 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery	87	-	-	-	87
Detached	555	-	-	-	555
Education Authority	39,984	561,741	(569,582)	(8,427)	23,716
ANBC - Life Skills	-	60,845	(57,569)	(3,276)	-
Rank Foundation	-	28,795	(28,794)	-	1
PA Foundation	-	27,500	(26,386)	-	1,114
Youth Start	-	200,821	(199,972)	-	849
Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	10,302	(10,302)	-	-
Street 1	5,029	-	-	-	5,029
ESF - Launch Pad	-	-	(180)	180	-
PCSP Projects	20,639	-	(333)	-	20,306
T:BUC / CGRF	1,059	219,461	(225,972)	5,854	402
Voices 4 Impact	10,669	5,745	(13,114)	-	3,300
YP - Tech Projects	5,329	-	(3,307)	-	2,022
Santander	2,652	72,829	(66,350)	-	9,131
Covid Recovery Fund	564	-	(564)	-	-
Other Small Funds	39,363	-	(8,184)	-	31,179
	<u>125,930</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>(1,210,607)</u>	<u>(5,669)</u>	<u>97,693</u>

15 Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	647,229	105,843	(100,523)	5,669	658,218
	<u>647,229</u>	<u>105,843</u>	<u>(100,523)</u>	<u>5,669</u>	<u>658,218</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds	44,745	52,948	97,693
Unrestricted Income Funds	40,557	617,661	658,218
	<u>85,302</u>	<u>670,609</u>	<u>755,911</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Between two and five years	18,496	18,496

18 Capital commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2023.

19 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

21 Company status

The company is as company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

22 Control

The directors control the company. The directors are appointed by and are accountable to the members.

23 Financial commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2023.

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

24	Cash generated from operations		2024	2023
			£	£
	Net movement in funds		(17,248)	126,042
	Adjustments for:			
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets		38,875	36,329
	Movements in working capital:			
	Decrease in debtors		299,085	282,990
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors		104,362	(134,907)
	Cash generated from operations		425,074	310,454
25	Analysis of changes in net funds			
		At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
		£	£	£
	Cash at bank and in hand	334,655	364,992	699,647
	Loans falling due within one year	(8,333)	-	(8,333)
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(24,861)	8,334	(16,527)
		<u>301,461</u>	<u>373,326</u>	<u>674,787</u>

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The Bytes Project

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105711

Accounts

Charity Registration No. NIC 105711

Company Registration No. NI027446 (Northern Ireland)

THE BYTES PROJECT
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

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**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

CHARITABLE REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors Ben Carter (Chair)
Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)
Ed Axon
Ciaran Connolly
Neil Cooke
Andrew Hamilton
Stephen Murray (Treasurer)
Ross Thompson

Company secretary Stephen Dallas

Chief executive officer Stephen Dallas

Charity number NIC 105711

Company number NI027446

**Registered with The Charity Commission
for Northern Ireland** NIC105711

Registered office and principal office 300-302 Antrim Road
Newtownabbey
Northern Ireland
BT36 5EG

Independent Auditor Johnston Kennedy DFK
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
10 Pilots View
Heron Road
Belfast
BT3 9LE

Bankers Bank of Ireland
Belfast City Branch
4 - 8 High Street
Belfast
BT1 2BA

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report including the strategic report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2022 (unless stated).

Ben Carter (Chair)

Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)

Ed Axon

Aimee Clint (Resigned 16 May 2023)

Ciaran Connolly

Neil Cooke

Andrew Hamilton

Colin McCabrey (Resigned 16 March 2023)

Stephen Murray (Treasurer)

Ross Thompson

Directors' interests

None of the directors of the company held a beneficial interest in the assets of the company. There were no emoluments paid to directors during the current year. Directors did not claim any expenses during the current year in their capacity as Directors.

Chief Executive Officer

Since April 2021 the Chief Executive Officer, known as the Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, has been Stephen Dallas.

Structure, governance and management

The Bytes Project is a youth work charity that has been working with the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland. We were established in April 1993, when a small group of people designed an innovative concept for Belfast, based on experience in an inner-city project in the USA. The original aim was to build on the entertainment and amusement attraction of computers with marginalised young adults with a focus on 16–25-year-olds.

The Bytes Project is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 April 1993, and registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on 21 September 2016. It is governed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Bytes Project's governance is exercised by the Trustees, who are individuals whose extensive experience at senior executive and management levels in commerce, industry, civil service, academic and community service is made available to Bytes voluntarily. New Directors are appointed following an assessment process. Following appointment, new Directors receive induction briefings on the strategic plan and financial activities of the company.

Day-to-day management of the project is headed by the CEO, assisted by the Programme Leads, Project Managers and administration team, with a limited amount of contracted out assistance also utilized. Issuing from this central coordinated unit there is a line management structure that links and evaluates personnel and work progress at local levels in various Bytes projects and activities. The CEO reports directly to the Chair and Trustees.

Administration and accounting oversight operate through monthly reports on income and expenditure with Snr Manager for Finance, Admin and Compliance and Project Managers. These include not only the immediate and cumulative past figures, but also budgetary forecasts. This information is approved by the DCEO and CEO.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. During this financial year our Financial Protocols and Safeguarding Policy have again been reviewed. A risk register is now included as a standing agenda at Board meetings.

Public Benefit Statement

The charity's beneficiaries are socially disadvantaged young people.

The public benefits of the charity include increased knowledge, skills and qualifications and improved employability for socially disadvantaged young people, increased knowledge, skills and work-related experience and improved employability and increased self-esteem and confidence for the workplace and increased access to further education, training and employment.

These direct benefits are demonstrated through:

- The number of young people who face social disadvantage completing courses and achieving accredited qualifications and by the measurement of progress against employability outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.
- The number of young people who face social disadvantage completing creative technology projects and by the measurement of progress against intended project outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.
- The number of young people who face social disadvantage progressing into education, training and employment using personal development plans and by the measurement of progress against intended personal and social development outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.

Principal Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are specifically restricted to the following: to advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 16-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular:

- To enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities;
- To provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI;
- Work collaboratively with other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation.

Our vision and mission are:

- **Vision / Purpose:** Young people transform their world for good.
- **Mission:** Each year we will ensure that over 3000 young people access digital technology in communities of promise.

Our new strategy from 2021-24 has named four pillars to drive our work:

- Youth Voice
- Youth Empathy
- Youth Digital
- Youth Places

This report is based on these themes.

During this period, we started to reframe these pillars and refined them to:

- Youth Empowerment
- Youth Employment and Digital
- Youth Empathy

Our new operational plan for April 2023 onwards will follow these three pillars.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Youth Voice

In May 2023, a leading NI think tank published a report called Reconciliation and Deprivation. A recommendation in this research was that young people need to be directly asked about key questions for their future, challenging that only political leaders speak for communities and young people.

Since 2020 Bytes has developed the Positive Sparks platform to engage the voice of young people from rural communities about the issues that they want to solve. A key focus of Positive Sparks was always to enable children and young people to access decision-makers with data and enable them to effectively participate in democratic processes. We knew we could do that across the local services we provide through Bytes and our member organisations. However, this year, we recognised that the data we generate is focused on free-flowing text. This has made analysis difficult. Therefore, during this year, we undertook two experiments:

Experiment One: Consistent Approach to Assessing Local Needs

From June to September 2022, we supported 9-member organisations and our youth hubs to complete a needs assessment using digital forms. We used a standard survey for groups and used the data to produce several reports. Once we had the data, it was shared with young people in each of the areas for their review and feedback in the form of quotes. This was compiled into a final report for each area so they could engage key stakeholders and influence decisions in their local area.

This process was more effective in enabling local groups to engage young people and provide them with a report they can use to effectively plan their programmes and influence external stakeholders. In addition, as we had a consistent approach, we were able to aggregate the data at a regional level. In total this process engaged over 1,200 young people and approximately 50 young people reviewed the data and provided feedback on the data. This was a more effective way to engage the voice of young people and reinforced the need for us to evolve Positive Sparks to reduce free-flowing text.

Experiment Two: Positive Sparks – Using a Theme

Between June and November 2022, we talked to young people and our team about their experiences with the Cost of Living. This is because we understood the impact it was having on young people through our engagements in local communities. However, we knew that using Positive Sparks in the current form would be too difficult to decode and rapidly present. Therefore, on the Positive Sparks site, we developed a survey which we shared across social media and our networks of young people. The survey was live between the 6th and 23rd of December 2022. In total 1,739 young people aged 11-25 responded to the survey. It asked young people:

- Are you worse off financially than at the start of summer 2022?
- If you are the bill payer in your household how worried are you about being able to pay?
- If you are not the bill payer how worried are you about your parents/guardians/partner paying your upcoming bills?

- Which rises in costs are you experiencing?
- Which of the following have you had to reduce spending on?
- Have you or your family used a Food Bank this year?
- Would you consider taking on extra work or another job to help cope with rising costs?

A final version of the report is at: <https://www.bytes.org/research/>

Each of the points below summarises how we plan to develop our Positive Sparks model in the future:

- Alter the Positive Sparks approach to use structured questions that use scales and one qualitative response. We also want to develop a function for organisations to leave granular detail that emerges from the small groups reviewing the data for their area.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Evolve Positive Sparks site to capture the needs of young people under agreed themes and questions which are available to everyone on an open-access digital platform. This will be in partnership with key regional partners.
- Position Positive Sparks to become the platform of choice for local voluntary organisations when they aim to assess needs in their local areas. All data will be freely available.
- Train youth workers to use the digital platform to engage young people in reviewing the data and getting more qualitative information.

Youth Empathy

Bytes partnered with Kells and Connor Community Improvement Association to deliver a TBUC project bringing together youth from surrounding communities to discover more about their different identities and cultures. Young people spent time establishing new relationships, exploring good relations learning together and carrying out social action activities. Young people value the opportunity and freedom to try sports from other cultures without pressure.

In partnership with the YMCA, Currynerin Community Centre and Tullyalley Community Centre we delivered a TBUC programme exploring good relations through self-identity and community identity workshops, including community mapping exercises. This culminated in an overnight residential at Todd's Leap for team-building activities. Young people participated in a social action where they delivered care packages to the local old people's homes just in time for Christmas. Overall, the project was a success and most of the participants have continued to interact at the YMCA in Drumahoe through other projects.

The TBUC program involving Lincoln Community and Rutledge group saw two diverse groups come together. They started by working within their community, learning about community mapping and statistics and then sharing their maps with the other group. When the groups came together, they had team-building events at Creggan Country Park. They also took part in sessions looking at healthy relationships and gambling awareness. They had exciting experiences when Giga Training came in and showed different skills such as music producing and DJing. They also got soccer coaches coming out and doing skills nights with the young people.

Together the two groups came and organised a Halloween Party for all the young people of the area. They promoted it alongside Action Mental Health. The young people went to job fairs and participated in an Art program that showed their work in the Derry Train Station. They worked on their cooking skills and cooked for the different members of the groups when attending the NW Hub Drop-In. We had a celebration event which brought everyone together for bowling and dinner. The groups have continued to meet up regularly in the Bytes NW Hub for the drop-in centre.

Across the Sperrins, we brought together 47 young people from our 2 main communities to participate in eight months of team building & activities. These young people wouldn't normally have an opportunity to mix socially or have formal education with people from outside of their community.

Through activities, the young people were allowed to explore their own identity & the identities of others. Participants looked, not only at our two main traditions but at other traditions. By challenging attitudes & beliefs & learning about diverse traditions, we affected attitudinal change throughout the group.

The team building and outdoor activities were positive. Youth Workers noticed how well the group had gelled and how friendship groups were beginning to develop. These young people would not have had this chance without our programme.

As part of our strategic focus on empathy relates to how we treat all people. We have explored some new areas of work:

- DE Special Education: we supported several groups to engage with DE to highlight the role youth work organisations play in the support of young people with an SEN.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Hillcroft Special School: we had several engagements with the team at Hillcroft to explore how young people working towards independent living could use our hub at Glengormley.

Youth Digital

This year Bytes accelerated our work in this area with a range of innovative and creative projects:

Connect with Tech

The Northern Regional College released a tender for the delivery of a Digital Skills programme called Connect with Tech, funded by the Department of the Economy. The purpose of the contract was to appoint a contractor to deliver a Digital Programme called 'Connect with Tech'. This was framed as a new pilot Digital Skills Programme to be delivered in community-based facilities that young people can access as opposed to college campuses/properties.

Bytes created a digital skills intervention programme in partnership with Giga Training. Giga is a leading digital skills social enterprise with specialisms in VR, sound engineering, video editing and digital design. Giga has an outstanding track record of developing digital skills with young people. Bytes and Giga Training designed a Digital Skills and Youth Work Curriculum. We have a unique insight into how we want to deliver our digital skills programmes to incorporate personal and social development. The programme delivery was designed to move at the pace of the learner, in the three tiers – initial, intermediate, and advanced.

In total Bytes and Giga engaged 160 young people across each. We delivered 16 programmes, above the target of 10. This was due to accepting lower numbers of some programmes due to the needs of young people. Bytes led the distribution of 160 tablets and a sound bar to all successful completers of the programme.

UK Community Renewal Fund – Youth Start

During our Youth Start project, we engaged with 30 young people from 2 groups in the Glengormley area. The first group were made up of young people from Glengormley High School. Seventeen young people were referred to the group for a range of reasons. These young people were leaving school with an uncertain destination. We started the programme with some team-building activities to help build relationships with the young people, this helped as some of the young people didn't know each other and for a lot of the group, it was their first time experiencing group work in a youth work setting.

Throughout the programme we did a range of different activities with the young people. As part of the programme, we had weekly mentoring sessions which most of the group attended regularly. We also covered topics such as digital skills, keeping safe online, cyberbullying, creative videos, and essential digital skills. Our partners Giga delivered sessions on DJing, music production, virtual reality, and leadership. After completing several different digital aspects of the course, we completed sessions on employability such as CV building, job searches, workplace visits and a career plan. The programme was a great success and through feedback from the young people they all found it enjoyable and beneficial. This programme also helped improve their attendance and improve their attitudes towards schoolwork and their ability to achieve.

The second group we worked with on the Youth Start project were recruited through our on-street work. The group consisted of 13 young people who had been highlighted for taking part in ASB. This group wanted to be part of a project that provided them shelter in the evenings. We used this opportunity to educate the group on the risks of ASB and drug/alcohol abuse and they completed a level 2 OCN in Drug Awareness. The group also availed of the services provided by Giga. The young people thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and learnt more about technology and digital skills. The group also took part in sessions surrounding their future and employability, taking part in job searching, CV writing and interview skills.

In total Bytes recruited 30 young people on the Youth Start project. All participants engaged in job searches and 25 participated in life skills support and training. Ten young people progressed into employment.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ESF

We were successful in our application to be part of the Call 3 European Social Fund programme for young people not in education, employment or training. In total, we supported 122 young people to enrol in our programme across NI. Our programme focuses on supporting young people to transform their circumstances. We did this by partnering participants with a youth worker who supported each participant to co-design a 12-week programme with tailored training (including our extensive suite of OCN Level 1 qualifications) and employment opportunities. Bytes developed a STEM curriculum which focuses on digital skills, particularly in creative media. Our results were:

- 21 participants accessed employment
- 39 participants registered for further education and/or training.

Here is an anonymous case study to animate this important work:

R is 22 years old and has social anxiety disorder; they are unable to attend formal education due to this disorder. R is very shy and doesn't like change. They struggle to meet new people and often distance themselves from interactions with people they are not familiar with. R has been referred to CAHMS and has been involved with other agencies but has not made much progress with them.

During the 12 weeks with Bytes R has made significant progress in their self-belief and confidence. They have tried many new things, met lots of new people and are confident in their interactions with these new people. R can still struggle initially but it is taking less and less time for them to adjust to new situations and people. R now has the confidence to speak up and share their opinion across a wide range of topics.

Bytes has helped R apply for part-time jobs and a college course. They are looking forward to starting at the College in September. R has also been successful in obtaining part-time work at a local restaurant. The progress R has made in the past few months has been life-changing for them. R has become more outgoing, and confident and their levels of anxiety have reduced to the point where they feel that they can engage in activities and interactions that they would normally avoid. R is going from strength to strength, and I have high hopes and belief that they will succeed in achieving their goals in life.

Youth Places

After 30 years of having a presence in Belfast, we chose to leave the city and pursue the development of Youth Hubs across NI. Over several months we talked about our future direction with young people, staff and our Board. This reflection enabled us to consider the roots of Bytes; we used to be built into the fabric of communities across Belfast. We decided to rekindle that approach, but instead of focusing on Belfast, we turned to other areas with limited or inadequate youth services.

In August 2022 we moved into our new offices in Glengormley. We are in the centre of the town in a building spread over 2 floors. One floor has a large youth hub and will be used to help us move towards opening regular provision. The other floor has space for our staff team. We are looking forward to developing a new future for Bytes at this excellent location.

Other Hubs:

North West – We celebrated one year back at our Strand Road Youth Hub supporting young people across the City. The team have delivered extensive programmes. We have engaged extensively with a wide range of partners including other youth organisations. We have kept excellent partnerships with a range of schools. The team are now preparing for the launch of the Youth Start in the Northwest and engaging partners to enable us to support young people to progress into training and employment.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Antrim and Newtownabbey - The team has been working hard across the region this year. They successfully delivered projects in North Belfast and the Antrim and Newtownabbey council areas including projects in the Glengormley area at our new Hub! We have delivered a project tackling ASB for a second year for the EA in Antrim Town. As part of this project, we deliver 100 evenings of detached sessions per year, engaging young people involved in risk-taking behaviour. We also support Antrim and Newtownabbey to deliver a range of personal and social development programmes across the Borough.

North Antrim: Our Ballymoney Hub has been very successful as a base to extend our reach in the town and across Villages in the area. This area has been very productive in terms of building partnerships with other organisations with whom Bytes has had no previous contact.

Mid & East Antrim - We have continued our partnership with Kells & Connor Community Improvement Association (KCCIA), supplying generic non-targetted provision in Kells. Our membership has grown to over 150 members, with an average of 60 attending regularly.

We have also sought to establish a role for Bytes as a regional support organisation with the EA for local groups. To achieve this groups need to register Bytes as a support organisation on the annual EA registration form. We will explore this area in the coming financial year.

This will enable us to support youth places in areas where we have no presence but can support others to achieve high-quality services for young people.

Achievements and performance

This year we worked with over 10 funders and engaged over 1000 young people. Some examples:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council – we provided a range of services engaging over 500 young people.
- FE College – supported Northern Regional College to engage over 260 young people.
- Good Relations Programmes – through a range of funders we engaged over 250 young people in these projects.
- EA projects – through direct delivery or partnership we delivered 5 EA specifications across NI. This required the weekly engagement of over 200 young people.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Organisational Development

We supported four staff to complete an OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. We also completed 3 staff development days exploring:

- Self-Evaluation – Safeguarding and leadership
- Climate Action Day
- Digital Skills

We also upgraded staff ICT equipment, including mobile devices. We now have over 60 tablets to support young people in developing their digital skills.

As part of the new Bytes strategy ten primary measures have been agreed upon for the organisation:

- Increased engagement with young people through all our activities
- Young people report improved skills
- Young people report higher levels of empathy for others
- Young people increase engagement with www.postivesparks.org
- Young people engaging with Bytes for more than 6 months report they are directing the activities in which they are involved.
- Increase in place-based services
- Increase in Bytes partnership with other voluntary providers delivering youth work
- Research published each year
- Staff satisfaction
- Yearly increase in non-grant funding income.

We are working to establish a CRM for the organization to record our progress against these outcomes.

Research

In March 2023 we published research on the impact of the Costs of Living on young people. We had over 1,700 respondents. We found evidence that young people are experiencing a reduction in disposable income for basic items like toiletries and transport, they are worried about paying bills, and 70% of respondents said their families are using food banks. We are convinced that the current financial climate will erode the mental health of some young people. We need to continue and enhance our services.

The results are set out in detail on pages 16 to 27. The Bytes Project returned net income for the year of £126,042 (2022 : £138,223) which comprised a net unrestricted surplus of £143,613 and net restricted deficit of £17,571.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to £647,229 of which £27,187 was designated towards fixed assets leaving free reserves of £620,042. Restricted funds at the year end amounted to £125,930 of which £45,243 was designated towards fixed assets.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reserves policy

The unrestricted funds are essential to supply sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity if current levels of income are not maintained. The charity's reserve policy is to hold cover in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. For 2023-24 the Directors aim to retain at least 6 months operating costs in reserve which would be just over £500k. Our free reserves at year end amounted to £620,042.

Plans for Future Periods

The plan for the next financial year has been agreed with main funding coming from European Social Fund, Further Education Colleges, The Executive Office and RANK. We also have minor partners link Paul Hamlyn and Education Authority.

The Bytes team have continued to investigate the potential for new funding from Peace Plus and Levelling Up.

These sources of funding will help us to achieve our operational plan for April 2023 onwards as detailed above.

Political and Charitable Donations

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

Reference and Administrative Details

The organisations' details are as disclosed on the administrative details page.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bytes Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Auditors

The auditor's services will be re-tendered this year in line with our financial procedures.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board

Ben Carter

.....

Ben Carter (Chair)

Dated: 21 November 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bytes Project (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED) UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED)

UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED) UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Gage

.....

James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of:

Johnston Kennedy DFK

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

10 Pilots View

Heron Road

Belfast

BT3 9LE

Dated: 21 November 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:	Notes				
Charitable activities	4	79,188	1,054,097	1,133,285	1,392,717
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	63,464	943,779	1,007,243	1,254,494
Total expenditure		63,464	943,779	1,007,243	1,254,494
Net incoming		15,724	110,318	126,042	138,223
Transfers between funds	14&15	127,889	(127,889)	-	-
Net movement in funds		143,613	(17,571)	126,042	138,223
Total funds brought forward		503,616	143,501	647,117	508,894
Total funds carried forward		647,229	125,930	773,159	647,117

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in notes 2 and 3.

Historical cost

The results as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities and the net incoming resources for the year have been presented on a historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		72,429		68,595
Current assets					
Debtors	10	537,504		820,494	
Cash at bank and in hand		334,655		73,183	
		<u>872,159</u>		<u>893,677</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(146,568)</u>		<u>(281,475)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>725,591</u>		<u>612,202</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>798,020</u>		<u>680,797</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		<u>(24,861)</u>		<u>(33,680)</u>
Net assets			<u><u>773,159</u></u>		<u><u>647,117</u></u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	14		125,930		143,501
Unrestricted income funds	15		647,229		503,616
Total funds	16		<u><u>773,159</u></u>		<u><u>647,117</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Carter
.....

Ben Carter
Director

Stephen Murray
.....

Stephen Murray
Director

Company Registration No. NI027446

Charity No. NIC 105711

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	24		310,454		(136,614)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(40,163)		(58,908)	
Net cash used in investing activities			<u>(40,163)</u>		<u>(58,908)</u>
Financing activities					
(Repayments) / advances from bank loans		(8,819)		(7,987)	
Net cash used in financing activities			<u>(8,819)</u>		<u>(7,987)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			261,472		(203,509)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			<u>73,183</u>		<u>276,692</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u><u>334,655</u></u>		<u><u>73,183</u></u>

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Bytes Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal office is 300-302 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EG, Northern Ireland. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the directors' report on page 3 of these financial statements.

1.1 Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.3 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.4 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

1.6 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.8 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

2 Statement of Financial Activities: Unrestricted funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	79,188	39,734
Total income	<u>79,188</u>	<u>39,734</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	63,464	121,421
Total expenditure	<u>63,464</u>	<u>121,421</u>
Net incoming	15,724	(81,687)
Transfers between funds	<u>127,889</u>	<u>200,052</u>
Net movement in funds	143,613	118,365
Total funds brought forward	<u>503,616</u>	<u>385,251</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>647,229</u></u>	<u><u>503,616</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Statement of Financial Activities: Restricted Funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	1,054,097	1,352,983
Total income	<u>1,054,097</u>	<u>1,352,983</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	943,779	1,133,073
Total expenditure	<u>943,779</u>	<u>1,133,073</u>
Net incoming	110,318	219,910
Transfers between funds	(127,889)	(200,052)
Net movement in funds	<u>(17,571)</u>	<u>19,858</u>
Total funds brought forward	143,501	123,643
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>125,930</u></u>	<u><u>143,501</u></u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	fund	fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	-	4,714	4,714	47,414
Education Authority	-	157,981	157,981	206,973
SEUPB - PEACE	-	2,792	2,792	675,323
ANBC - Life Skills	-	80,291	80,291	-
PCSP	-	51,760	51,760	78,400
T:BUC / CGRF	-	254,201	254,201	190,469
ESF - Launch Pad	-	275,307	275,307	-
Voices 4 Impact	-	22,524	22,524	30,000
YP - Tech Projects	-	149,136	149,136	84,075
Miscellaneous Restricted	-	47,613	47,613	30,273
Covid Recovery Fund	-	-	-	10,056
Fees for services delivered	77,318	-	77,318	36,216
Community funding support	-	-	-	1,000
JRS Grant	-	-	-	2,518
Santander Grant	1,870	7,778	9,648	-
	<u>79,188</u>	<u>1,054,097</u>	<u>1,133,285</u>	<u>1,392,717</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Activity costs	28,407	755,174	783,581	972,731
Support costs	35,057	188,605	223,662	281,763
	<u>63,464</u>	<u>943,779</u>	<u>1,007,243</u>	<u>1,254,494</u>

6 Net income/(expenditure)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	36,329	23,725
Auditor's remuneration	5,724	5,992
	<u>42,053</u>	<u>29,717</u>

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
	38	49
	<u>38</u>	<u>49</u>

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

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Directors' remuneration

No director received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenditure from the charity during the current or previous year.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9	Tangible fixed assets			
		Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Total
		£	£	£
	Cost			
	At 1 April 2022	108,062	672,646	780,708
	Additions	35,328	4,835	40,163
	Disposals	(39,568)	(393,209)	(432,777)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	At 31 March 2023	103,822	284,272	388,094
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Depreciation			
	At 1 April 2022	99,085	613,028	712,113
	Depreciation charged in the year	13,329	23,000	36,329
	Eliminated in respect of disposals	(39,568)	(393,209)	(432,777)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	At 31 March 2023	72,846	242,819	315,665
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Net book value			
	At 31 March 2023	30,976	41,453	72,429
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	At 31 March 2022	8,977	59,618	68,595
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
10	Debtors		2023	2022
			£	£
	Amounts falling due within one year:			
	Activity debtors		256,393	358,724
	Prepayments and accrued income		281,111	461,770
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			537,504	820,494
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
11	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
		Notes	£	£
	Bank loans	13	8,333	8,333
	Other taxation and social security		8,622	38,311
	Activity creditors		43,943	46,478
	Other creditors		630	7,675
	Accruals and deferred income		85,040	180,678
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			146,568	281,475
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	13	24,861	33,680

13 Loans and overdrafts

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	33,194	42,013
Payable within one year	8,333	8,333
Payable after one year	24,861	33,680

14 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery - Exodus	3,035	-	(3,035)	-	-
Big Lottery	-	4,714	(4,627)	-	87
Detached	555	-	-	-	555
Education Authority	59,389	157,981	(177,386)	-	39,984
ANBC - Life Skills	-	80,291	(64,007)	(16,284)	-
SEUPB - PEACE	673	2,792	(15,656)	12,191	-
Street 1	5,029	-	-	-	5,029
ESF - Launch Pad	264	275,307	(224,631)	(50,940)	-
PCSP Projects	8,154	51,760	(39,275)	-	20,639
T:BUC / CGRF	2,711	254,200	(255,852)	-	1,059
Voices 4 Impact	13,107	22,524	(24,962)	-	10,669
YP - Tech Projects	14,441	149,136	(86,847)	(71,401)	5,329
Santander	-	7,778	(5,126)	-	2,652
Other Small Funds	34,964	47,614	(41,760)	(1,455)	39,363
	<u>143,501</u>	<u>1,054,097</u>	<u>(943,779)</u>	<u>(127,889)</u>	<u>125,930</u>

15 Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	<u>503,616</u>	<u>79,188</u>	<u>(63,464)</u>	<u>127,889</u>	<u>647,229</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds	45,243	80,687	125,930
Unrestricted Income Funds	27,186	620,043	647,229
	<u>72,429</u>	<u>700,730</u>	<u>773,159</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Between two and five years	<u>18,496</u>	<u>15,531</u>

18 Capital commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2022.

19 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

21 Company status

The company is as company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

22 Control

The directors control the company. The directors are appointed by and are accountable to the members.

23 Financial commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2022.

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

24	Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
		£	£
	Net movement in funds	126,042	138,223
	Adjustments for:		
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	36,329	23,725
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	282,990	(493,030)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(134,907)	194,468
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	<u>310,454</u>	<u>(136,614)</u>
25	Analysis of changes in net funds		
		At 1 April 2022	Cash flows
		£	At 31 March 2023
			£
	Cash at bank and in hand	73,183	261,472
	Loans falling due within one year	(8,333)	-
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(33,680)	8,819
		<u>31,170</u>	<u>270,291</u>
		<u><u>31,170</u></u>	<u><u>270,291</u></u>
			<u><u>301,461</u></u>

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Bytes Project

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105711

Annual report

Charity Registration No. NIC 105711

Company Registration No. NI027446 (Northern Ireland)

THE BYTES PROJECT
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

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**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

CHARITABLE REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors Ben Carter (Chair)
Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)
Ed Axon
Ciaran Connolly
Neil Cooke
Andrew Hamilton
Stephen Murray (Treasurer)
Ross Thompson

Company secretary Stephen Dallas

Chief executive officer Stephen Dallas

Charity number NIC 105711

Company number NI027446

**Registered with The Charity Commission
for Northern Ireland** NIC105711

Registered office and principal office 300-302 Antrim Road
Newtownabbey
Northern Ireland
BT36 5EG

Independent Auditor Johnston Kennedy DFK
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
10 Pilots View
Heron Road
Belfast
BT3 9LE

Bankers Bank of Ireland
Belfast City Branch
4 - 8 High Street
Belfast
BT1 2BA

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report including the strategic report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2022 (unless stated).

Ben Carter (Chair)

Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)

Ed Axon

Aimee Clint (Resigned 16 May 2023)

Ciaran Connolly

Neil Cooke

Andrew Hamilton

Colin McCabrey (Resigned 16 March 2023)

Stephen Murray (Treasurer)

Ross Thompson

Directors' interests

None of the directors of the company held a beneficial interest in the assets of the company. There were no emoluments paid to directors during the current year. Directors did not claim any expenses during the current year in their capacity as Directors.

Chief Executive Officer

Since April 2021 the Chief Executive Officer, known as the Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, has been Stephen Dallas.

Structure, governance and management

The Bytes Project is a youth work charity that has been working with the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland. We were established in April 1993, when a small group of people designed an innovative concept for Belfast, based on experience in an inner-city project in the USA. The original aim was to build on the entertainment and amusement attraction of computers with marginalised young adults with a focus on 16–25-year-olds.

The Bytes Project is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 April 1993, and registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on 21 September 2016. It is governed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Bytes Project's governance is exercised by the Trustees, who are individuals whose extensive experience at senior executive and management levels in commerce, industry, civil service, academic and community service is made available to Bytes voluntarily. New Directors are appointed following an assessment process. Following appointment, new Directors receive induction briefings on the strategic plan and financial activities of the company.

Day-to-day management of the project is headed by the CEO, assisted by the Programme Leads, Project Managers and administration team, with a limited amount of contracted out assistance also utilized. Issuing from this central coordinated unit there is a line management structure that links and evaluates personnel and work progress at local levels in various Bytes projects and activities. The CEO reports directly to the Chair and Trustees.

Administration and accounting oversight operate through monthly reports on income and expenditure with Snr Manager for Finance, Admin and Compliance and Project Managers. These include not only the immediate and cumulative past figures, but also budgetary forecasts. This information is approved by the DCEO and CEO.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. During this financial year our Financial Protocols and Safeguarding Policy have again been reviewed. A risk register is now included as a standing agenda at Board meetings.

Public Benefit Statement

The charity's beneficiaries are socially disadvantaged young people.

The public benefits of the charity include increased knowledge, skills and qualifications and improved employability for socially disadvantaged young people, increased knowledge, skills and work-related experience and improved employability and increased self-esteem and confidence for the workplace and increased access to further education, training and employment.

These direct benefits are demonstrated through:

- The number of young people who face social disadvantage completing courses and achieving accredited qualifications and by the measurement of progress against employability outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.
- The number of young people who face social disadvantage completing creative technology projects and by the measurement of progress against intended project outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.
- The number of young people who face social disadvantage progressing into education, training and employment using personal development plans and by the measurement of progress against intended personal and social development outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.

Principal Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are specifically restricted to the following: to advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 16-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular:

- To enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities;
- To provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI;
- Work collaboratively with other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation.

Our vision and mission are:

- **Vision / Purpose:** Young people transform their world for good.
- **Mission:** Each year we will ensure that over 3000 young people access digital technology in communities of promise.

Our new strategy from 2021-24 has named four pillars to drive our work:

- Youth Voice
- Youth Empathy
- Youth Digital
- Youth Places

This report is based on these themes.

During this period, we started to reframe these pillars and refined them to:

- Youth Empowerment
- Youth Employment and Digital
- Youth Empathy

Our new operational plan for April 2023 onwards will follow these three pillars.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Youth Voice

In May 2023, a leading NI think tank published a report called Reconciliation and Deprivation. A recommendation in this research was that young people need to be directly asked about key questions for their future, challenging that only political leaders speak for communities and young people.

Since 2020 Bytes has developed the Positive Sparks platform to engage the voice of young people from rural communities about the issues that they want to solve. A key focus of Positive Sparks was always to enable children and young people to access decision-makers with data and enable them to effectively participate in democratic processes. We knew we could do that across the local services we provide through Bytes and our member organisations. However, this year, we recognised that the data we generate is focused on free-flowing text. This has made analysis difficult. Therefore, during this year, we undertook two experiments:

Experiment One: Consistent Approach to Assessing Local Needs

From June to September 2022, we supported 9-member organisations and our youth hubs to complete a needs assessment using digital forms. We used a standard survey for groups and used the data to produce several reports. Once we had the data, it was shared with young people in each of the areas for their review and feedback in the form of quotes. This was compiled into a final report for each area so they could engage key stakeholders and influence decisions in their local area.

This process was more effective in enabling local groups to engage young people and provide them with a report they can use to effectively plan their programmes and influence external stakeholders. In addition, as we had a consistent approach, we were able to aggregate the data at a regional level. In total this process engaged over 1,200 young people and approximately 50 young people reviewed the data and provided feedback on the data. This was a more effective way to engage the voice of young people and reinforced the need for us to evolve Positive Sparks to reduce free-flowing text.

Experiment Two: Positive Sparks – Using a Theme

Between June and November 2022, we talked to young people and our team about their experiences with the Cost of Living. This is because we understood the impact it was having on young people through our engagements in local communities. However, we knew that using Positive Sparks in the current form would be too difficult to decode and rapidly present. Therefore, on the Positive Sparks site, we developed a survey which we shared across social media and our networks of young people. The survey was live between the 6th and 23rd of December 2022. In total 1,739 young people aged 11-25 responded to the survey. It asked young people:

- Are you worse off financially than at the start of summer 2022?
- If you are the bill payer in your household how worried are you about being able to pay?
- If you are not the bill payer how worried are you about your parents/guardians/partner paying your upcoming bills?

- Which rises in costs are you experiencing?
- Which of the following have you had to reduce spending on?
- Have you or your family used a Food Bank this year?
- Would you consider taking on extra work or another job to help cope with rising costs?

A final version of the report is at: <https://www.bytes.org/research/>

Each of the points below summarises how we plan to develop our Positive Sparks model in the future:

- Alter the Positive Sparks approach to use structured questions that use scales and one qualitative response. We also want to develop a function for organisations to leave granular detail that emerges from the small groups reviewing the data for their area.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Evolve Positive Sparks site to capture the needs of young people under agreed themes and questions which are available to everyone on an open-access digital platform. This will be in partnership with key regional partners.
- Position Positive Sparks to become the platform of choice for local voluntary organisations when they aim to assess needs in their local areas. All data will be freely available.
- Train youth workers to use the digital platform to engage young people in reviewing the data and getting more qualitative information.

Youth Empathy

Bytes partnered with Kells and Connor Community Improvement Association to deliver a TBUC project bringing together youth from surrounding communities to discover more about their different identities and cultures. Young people spent time establishing new relationships, exploring good relations learning together and carrying out social action activities. Young people value the opportunity and freedom to try sports from other cultures without pressure.

In partnership with the YMCA, Curryrierin Community Centre and Tullyalley Community Centre we delivered a TBUC programme exploring good relations through self-identity and community identity workshops, including community mapping exercises. This culminated in an overnight residential at Todd's Leap for team-building activities. Young people participated in a social action where they delivered care packages to the local old people's homes just in time for Christmas. Overall, the project was a success and most of the participants have continued to interact at the YMCA in Drumahoe through other projects.

The TBUC program involving Lincoln Community and Rutledge group saw two diverse groups come together. They started by working within their community, learning about community mapping and statistics and then sharing their maps with the other group. When the groups came together, they had team-building events at Creggan Country Park. They also took part in sessions looking at healthy relationships and gambling awareness. They had exciting experiences when Giga Training came in and showed different skills such as music producing and DJing. They also got soccer coaches coming out and doing skills nights with the young people.

Together the two groups came and organised a Halloween Party for all the young people of the area. They promoted it alongside Action Mental Health. The young people went to job fairs and participated in an Art program that showed their work in the Derry Train Station. They worked on their cooking skills and cooked for the different members of the groups when attending the NW Hub Drop-In. We had a celebration event which brought everyone together for bowling and dinner. The groups have continued to meet up regularly in the Bytes NW Hub for the drop-in centre.

Across the Sperrins, we brought together 47 young people from our 2 main communities to participate in eight months of team building & activities. These young people wouldn't normally have an opportunity to mix socially or have formal education with people from outside of their community.

Through activities, the young people were allowed to explore their own identity & the identities of others. Participants looked, not only at our two main traditions but at other traditions. By challenging attitudes & beliefs & learning about diverse traditions, we affected attitudinal change throughout the group.

The team building and outdoor activities were positive. Youth Workers noticed how well the group had gelled and how friendship groups were beginning to develop. These young people would not have had this chance without our programme.

As part of our strategic focus on empathy relates to how we treat all people. We have explored some new areas of work:

- DE Special Education: we supported several groups to engage with DE to highlight the role youth work organisations play in the support of young people with an SEN.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Hillcroft Special School: we had several engagements with the team at Hillcroft to explore how young people working towards independent living could use our hub at Glengormley.

Youth Digital

This year Bytes accelerated our work in this area with a range of innovative and creative projects:

Connect with Tech

The Northern Regional College released a tender for the delivery of a Digital Skills programme called Connect with Tech, funded by the Department of the Economy. The purpose of the contract was to appoint a contractor to deliver a Digital Programme called 'Connect with Tech'. This was framed as a new pilot Digital Skills Programme to be delivered in community-based facilities that young people can access as opposed to college campuses/properties.

Bytes created a digital skills intervention programme in partnership with Giga Training. Giga is a leading digital skills social enterprise with specialisms in VR, sound engineering, video editing and digital design. Giga has an outstanding track record of developing digital skills with young people. Bytes and Giga Training designed a Digital Skills and Youth Work Curriculum. We have a unique insight into how we want to deliver our digital skills programmes to incorporate personal and social development. The programme delivery was designed to move at the pace of the learner, in the three tiers – initial, intermediate, and advanced.

In total Bytes and Giga engaged 160 young people across each. We delivered 16 programmes, above the target of 10. This was due to accepting lower numbers of some programmes due to the needs of young people. Bytes led the distribution of 160 tablets and a sound bar to all successful completers of the programme.

UK Community Renewal Fund – Youth Start

During our Youth Start project, we engaged with 30 young people from 2 groups in the Glengormley area. The first group were made up of young people from Glengormley High School. Seventeen young people were referred to the group for a range of reasons. These young people were leaving school with an uncertain destination. We started the programme with some team-building activities to help build relationships with the young people, this helped as some of the young people didn't know each other and for a lot of the group, it was their first time experiencing group work in a youth work setting.

Throughout the programme we did a range of different activities with the young people. As part of the programme, we had weekly mentoring sessions which most of the group attended regularly. We also covered topics such as digital skills, keeping safe online, cyberbullying, creative videos, and essential digital skills. Our partners Giga delivered sessions on DJing, music production, virtual reality, and leadership. After completing several different digital aspects of the course, we completed sessions on employability such as CV building, job searches, workplace visits and a career plan. The programme was a great success and through feedback from the young people they all found it enjoyable and beneficial. This programme also helped improve their attendance and improve their attitudes towards schoolwork and their ability to achieve.

The second group we worked with on the Youth Start project were recruited through our on-street work. The group consisted of 13 young people who had been highlighted for taking part in ASB. This group wanted to be part of a project that provided them shelter in the evenings. We used this opportunity to educate the group on the risks of ASB and drug/alcohol abuse and they completed a level 2 OCN in Drug Awareness. The group also availed of the services provided by Giga. The young people thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and learnt more about technology and digital skills. The group also took part in sessions surrounding their future and employability, taking part in job searching, CV writing and interview skills.

In total Bytes recruited 30 young people on the Youth Start project. All participants engaged in job searches and 25 participated in life skills support and training. Ten young people progressed into employment.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ESF

We were successful in our application to be part of the Call 3 European Social Fund programme for young people not in education, employment or training. In total, we supported 122 young people to enrol in our programme across NI. Our programme focuses on supporting young people to transform their circumstances. We did this by partnering participants with a youth worker who supported each participant to co-design a 12-week programme with tailored training (including our extensive suite of OCN Level 1 qualifications) and employment opportunities. Bytes developed a STEM curriculum which focuses on digital skills, particularly in creative media. Our results were:

- 21 participants accessed employment
- 39 participants registered for further education and/or training.

Here is an anonymous case study to animate this important work:

R is 22 years old and has social anxiety disorder; they are unable to attend formal education due to this disorder. R is very shy and doesn't like change. They struggle to meet new people and often distance themselves from interactions with people they are not familiar with. R has been referred to CAHMS and has been involved with other agencies but has not made much progress with them.

During the 12 weeks with Bytes R has made significant progress in their self-belief and confidence. They have tried many new things, met lots of new people and are confident in their interactions with these new people. R can still struggle initially but it is taking less and less time for them to adjust to new situations and people. R now has the confidence to speak up and share their opinion across a wide range of topics.

Bytes has helped R apply for part-time jobs and a college course. They are looking forward to starting at the College in September. R has also been successful in obtaining part-time work at a local restaurant. The progress R has made in the past few months has been life-changing for them. R has become more outgoing, and confident and their levels of anxiety have reduced to the point where they feel that they can engage in activities and interactions that they would normally avoid. R is going from strength to strength, and I have high hopes and belief that they will succeed in achieving their goals in life.

Youth Places

After 30 years of having a presence in Belfast, we chose to leave the city and pursue the development of Youth Hubs across NI. Over several months we talked about our future direction with young people, staff and our Board. This reflection enabled us to consider the roots of Bytes; we used to be built into the fabric of communities across Belfast. We decided to rekindle that approach, but instead of focusing on Belfast, we turned to other areas with limited or inadequate youth services.

In August 2022 we moved into our new offices in Glengormley. We are in the centre of the town in a building spread over 2 floors. One floor has a large youth hub and will be used to help us move towards opening regular provision. The other floor has space for our staff team. We are looking forward to developing a new future for Bytes at this excellent location.

Other Hubs:

North West – We celebrated one year back at our Strand Road Youth Hub supporting young people across the City. The team have delivered extensive programmes. We have engaged extensively with a wide range of partners including other youth organisations. We have kept excellent partnerships with a range of schools. The team are now preparing for the launch of the Youth Start in the Northwest and engaging partners to enable us to support young people to progress into training and employment.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Antrim and Newtownabbey - The team has been working hard across the region this year. They successfully delivered projects in North Belfast and the Antrim and Newtownabbey council areas including projects in the Glengormley area at our new Hub! We have delivered a project tackling ASB for a second year for the EA in Antrim Town. As part of this project, we deliver 100 evenings of detached sessions per year, engaging young people involved in risk-taking behaviour. We also support Antrim and Newtownabbey to deliver a range of personal and social development programmes across the Borough.

North Antrim: Our Ballymoney Hub has been very successful as a base to extend our reach in the town and across Villages in the area. This area has been very productive in terms of building partnerships with other organisations with whom Bytes has had no previous contact.

Mid & East Antrim - We have continued our partnership with Kells & Connor Community Improvement Association (KCCIA), supplying generic non-targetted provision in Kells. Our membership has grown to over 150 members, with an average of 60 attending regularly.

We have also sought to establish a role for Bytes as a regional support organisation with the EA for local groups. To achieve this groups need to register Bytes as a support organisation on the annual EA registration form. We will explore this area in the coming financial year.

This will enable us to support youth places in areas where we have no presence but can support others to achieve high-quality services for young people.

Achievements and performance

This year we worked with over 10 funders and engaged over 1000 young people. Some examples:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council – we provided a range of services engaging over 500 young people.
- FE College – supported Northern Regional College to engage over 260 young people.
- Good Relations Programmes – through a range of funders we engaged over 250 young people in these projects.
- EA projects – through direct delivery or partnership we delivered 5 EA specifications across NI. This required the weekly engagement of over 200 young people.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Organisational Development

We supported four staff to complete an OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. We also completed 3 staff development days exploring:

- Self-Evaluation – Safeguarding and leadership
- Climate Action Day
- Digital Skills

We also upgraded staff ICT equipment, including mobile devices. We now have over 60 tablets to support young people in developing their digital skills.

As part of the new Bytes strategy ten primary measures have been agreed upon for the organisation:

- Increased engagement with young people through all our activities
- Young people report improved skills
- Young people report higher levels of empathy for others
- Young people increase engagement with www.postivesparks.org
- Young people engaging with Bytes for more than 6 months report they are directing the activities in which they are involved.
- Increase in place-based services
- Increase in Bytes partnership with other voluntary providers delivering youth work
- Research published each year
- Staff satisfaction
- Yearly increase in non-grant funding income.

We are working to establish a CRM for the organization to record our progress against these outcomes.

Research

In March 2023 we published research on the impact of the Costs of Living on young people. We had over 1,700 respondents. We found evidence that young people are experiencing a reduction in disposable income for basic items like toiletries and transport, they are worried about paying bills, and 70% of respondents said their families are using food banks. We are convinced that the current financial climate will erode the mental health of some young people. We need to continue and enhance our services.

The results are set out in detail on pages 16 to 27. The Bytes Project returned net income for the year of £126,042 (2022 : £138,223) which comprised a net unrestricted surplus of £143,613 and net restricted deficit of £17,571.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to £647,229 of which £27,187 was designated towards fixed assets leaving free reserves of £620,042. Restricted funds at the year end amounted to £125,930 of which £45,243 was designated towards fixed assets.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reserves policy

The unrestricted funds are essential to supply sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity if current levels of income are not maintained. The charity's reserve policy is to hold cover in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. For 2023-24 the Directors aim to retain at least 6 months operating costs in reserve which would be just over £500k. Our free reserves at year end amounted to £620,042.

Plans for Future Periods

The plan for the next financial year has been agreed with main funding coming from European Social Fund, Further Education Colleges, The Executive Office and RANK. We also have minor partners link Paul Hamlyn and Education Authority.

The Bytes team have continued to investigate the potential for new funding from Peace Plus and Levelling Up.

These sources of funding will help us to achieve our operational plan for April 2023 onwards as detailed above.

Political and Charitable Donations

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

Reference and Administrative Details

The organisations' details are as disclosed on the administrative details page.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bytes Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Auditors

The auditor's services will be re-tendered this year in line with our financial procedures.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board

Ben Carter

.....

Ben Carter (Chair)

Dated: 21 November 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bytes Project (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED) UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED)

UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED) UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Gage

.....

James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of:

Johnston Kennedy DFK

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

10 Pilots View

Heron Road

Belfast

BT3 9LE

Dated: 21 November 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income from:</u>	Notes				
Charitable activities	4	79,188	1,054,097	1,133,285	1,392,717
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	5	63,464	943,779	1,007,243	1,254,494
Total expenditure		63,464	943,779	1,007,243	1,254,494
Net incoming		15,724	110,318	126,042	138,223
Transfers between funds	14&15	127,889	(127,889)	-	-
Net movement in funds		143,613	(17,571)	126,042	138,223
Total funds brought forward		503,616	143,501	647,117	508,894
Total funds carried forward		647,229	125,930	773,159	647,117

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in notes 2 and 3.

Historical cost

The results as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities and the net incoming resources for the year have been presented on a historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		72,429		68,595
Current assets					
Debtors	10	537,504		820,494	
Cash at bank and in hand		334,655		73,183	
		<u>872,159</u>		<u>893,677</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(146,568)</u>		<u>(281,475)</u>	
Net current assets			725,591		612,202
Total assets less current liabilities			798,020		680,797
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(24,861)		(33,680)
Net assets			<u>773,159</u>		<u>647,117</u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	14		125,930		143,501
Unrestricted income funds	15		647,229		503,616
Total funds	16		<u>773,159</u>		<u>647,117</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Carter
.....

Ben Carter
Director

Stephen Murray
.....

Stephen Murray
Director

Company Registration No. NI027446

Charity No. NIC 105711

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	24		310,454		(136,614)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(40,163)		(58,908)	
Net cash used in investing activities			<u>(40,163)</u>		<u>(58,908)</u>
Financing activities					
(Repayments) / advances from bank loans		(8,819)		(7,987)	
Net cash used in financing activities			<u>(8,819)</u>		<u>(7,987)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			261,472		(203,509)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			<u>73,183</u>		<u>276,692</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u><u>334,655</u></u>		<u><u>73,183</u></u>

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Bytes Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal office is 300-302 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EG, Northern Ireland. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the directors' report on page 3 of these financial statements.

1.1 Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.3 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.4 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

1.6 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.8 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

2 Statement of Financial Activities:Unrestricted funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	79,188	39,734
Total income	<u>79,188</u>	<u>39,734</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	63,464	121,421
Total expenditure	<u>63,464</u>	<u>121,421</u>
Net incoming	15,724	(81,687)
Transfers between funds	<u>127,889</u>	<u>200,052</u>
Net movement in funds	143,613	118,365
Total funds brought forward	<u>503,616</u>	<u>385,251</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>647,229</u></u>	<u><u>503,616</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Statement of Financial Activities: Restricted Funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	1,054,097	1,352,983
Total income	<u>1,054,097</u>	<u>1,352,983</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	943,779	1,133,073
Total expenditure	<u>943,779</u>	<u>1,133,073</u>
Net incoming	110,318	219,910
Transfers between funds	(127,889)	(200,052)
Net movement in funds	<u>(17,571)</u>	<u>19,858</u>
Total funds brought forward	143,501	123,643
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>125,930</u></u>	<u><u>143,501</u></u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	fund	fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	-	4,714	4,714	47,414
Education Authority	-	157,981	157,981	206,973
SEUPB - PEACE	-	2,792	2,792	675,323
ANBC - Life Skills	-	80,291	80,291	-
PCSP	-	51,760	51,760	78,400
T:BUC / CGRF	-	254,201	254,201	190,469
ESF - Launch Pad	-	275,307	275,307	-
Voices 4 Impact	-	22,524	22,524	30,000
YP - Tech Projects	-	149,136	149,136	84,075
Miscellaneous Restricted	-	47,613	47,613	30,273
Covid Recovery Fund	-	-	-	10,056
Fees for services delivered	77,318	-	77,318	36,216
Community funding support	-	-	-	1,000
JRS Grant	-	-	-	2,518
Santander Grant	1,870	7,778	9,648	-
	<u>79,188</u>	<u>1,054,097</u>	<u>1,133,285</u>	<u>1,392,717</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Activity costs	28,407	755,174	783,581	972,731
Support costs	35,057	188,605	223,662	281,763
	<u>63,464</u>	<u>943,779</u>	<u>1,007,243</u>	<u>1,254,494</u>

6 Net income/(expenditure)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	36,329	23,725
Auditor's remuneration	5,724	5,992
	<u>42,053</u>	<u>29,717</u>

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
	38	49
	<u>38</u>	<u>49</u>

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

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Directors' remuneration

No director received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenditure from the charity during the current or previous year.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Tangible fixed assets		Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Total
		£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2022		108,062	672,646	780,708
Additions		35,328	4,835	40,163
Disposals		(39,568)	(393,209)	(432,777)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023		103,822	284,272	388,094
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022		99,085	613,028	712,113
Depreciation charged in the year		13,329	23,000	36,329
Eliminated in respect of disposals		(39,568)	(393,209)	(432,777)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023		72,846	242,819	315,665
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2023		30,976	41,453	72,429
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2022		8,977	59,618	68,595
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
10 Debtors			2023	2022
			£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Activity debtors			256,393	358,724
Prepayments and accrued income			281,111	461,770
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			537,504	820,494
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			2023	2022
			£	£
	Notes			
Bank loans	13		8,333	8,333
Other taxation and social security			8,622	38,311
Activity creditors			43,943	46,478
Other creditors			630	7,675
Accruals and deferred income			85,040	180,678
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			146,568	281,475
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	13	24,861	33,680

13 Loans and overdrafts

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	33,194	42,013
Payable within one year	8,333	8,333
Payable after one year	24,861	33,680

14 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery - Exodus	3,035	-	(3,035)	-	-
Big Lottery	-	4,714	(4,627)	-	87
Detached	555	-	-	-	555
Education Authority	59,389	157,981	(177,386)	-	39,984
ANBC - Life Skills	-	80,291	(64,007)	(16,284)	-
SEUPB - PEACE	673	2,792	(15,656)	12,191	-
Street 1	5,029	-	-	-	5,029
ESF - Launch Pad	264	275,307	(224,631)	(50,940)	-
PCSP Projects	8,154	51,760	(39,275)	-	20,639
T:BUC / CGRF	2,711	254,200	(255,852)	-	1,059
Voices 4 Impact	13,107	22,524	(24,962)	-	10,669
YP - Tech Projects	14,441	149,136	(86,847)	(71,401)	5,329
Santander	-	7,778	(5,126)	-	2,652
Other Small Funds	34,964	47,614	(41,760)	(1,455)	39,363
	143,501	1,054,097	(943,779)	(127,889)	125,930

15 Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	503,616	79,188	(63,464)	127,889	647,229

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds	45,243	80,687	125,930
Unrestricted Income Funds	27,186	620,043	647,229
	<u>72,429</u>	<u>700,730</u>	<u>773,159</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Between two and five years	<u>18,496</u>	<u>15,531</u>

18 Capital commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2022.

19 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

21 Company status

The company is as company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

22 Control

The directors control the company. The directors are appointed by and are accountable to the members.

23 Financial commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2022.

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

24	Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
		£	£
	Net movement in funds	126,042	138,223
	Adjustments for:		
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	36,329	23,725
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	282,990	(493,030)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(134,907)	194,468
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	<u>310,454</u>	<u>(136,614)</u>
25	Analysis of changes in net funds		
		At 1 April 2022	Cash flows
		£	At 31 March 2023
			£
	Cash at bank and in hand	73,183	261,472
	Loans falling due within one year	(8,333)	-
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(33,680)	8,819
		<u>31,170</u>	<u>270,291</u>
		<u><u>31,170</u></u>	<u><u>270,291</u></u>
			<u><u>301,461</u></u>

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Bytes Project

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105711

Annual return

Charity Registration No. NIC 105711

Company Registration No. NI027446 (Northern Ireland)

THE BYTES PROJECT
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

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**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

CHARITABLE REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors Ben Carter (Chair)
Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)
Ed Axon
Ciaran Connolly
Neil Cooke
Andrew Hamilton
Stephen Murray (Treasurer)
Ross Thompson

Company secretary Stephen Dallas

Chief executive officer Stephen Dallas

Charity number NIC 105711

Company number NI027446

**Registered with The Charity Commission
for Northern Ireland** NIC105711

Registered office and principal office 300-302 Antrim Road
Newtownabbey
Northern Ireland
BT36 5EG

Independent Auditor Johnston Kennedy DFK
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
10 Pilots View
Heron Road
Belfast
BT3 9LE

Bankers Bank of Ireland
Belfast City Branch
4 - 8 High Street
Belfast
BT1 2BA

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report including the strategic report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2022 (unless stated).

Ben Carter (Chair)

Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)

Ed Axon

Aimee Clint (Resigned 16 May 2023)

Ciaran Connolly

Neil Cooke

Andrew Hamilton

Colin McCabrey (Resigned 16 March 2023)

Stephen Murray (Treasurer)

Ross Thompson

Directors' interests

None of the directors of the company held a beneficial interest in the assets of the company. There were no emoluments paid to directors during the current year. Directors did not claim any expenses during the current year in their capacity as Directors.

Chief Executive Officer

Since April 2021 the Chief Executive Officer, known as the Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, has been Stephen Dallas.

Structure, governance and management

The Bytes Project is a youth work charity that has been working with the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland. We were established in April 1993, when a small group of people designed an innovative concept for Belfast, based on experience in an inner-city project in the USA. The original aim was to build on the entertainment and amusement attraction of computers with marginalised young adults with a focus on 16–25-year-olds.

The Bytes Project is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 April 1993, and registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on 21 September 2016. It is governed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Bytes Project's governance is exercised by the Trustees, who are individuals whose extensive experience at senior executive and management levels in commerce, industry, civil service, academic and community service is made available to Bytes voluntarily. New Directors are appointed following an assessment process. Following appointment, new Directors receive induction briefings on the strategic plan and financial activities of the company.

Day-to-day management of the project is headed by the CEO, assisted by the Programme Leads, Project Managers and administration team, with a limited amount of contracted out assistance also utilized. Issuing from this central coordinated unit there is a line management structure that links and evaluates personnel and work progress at local levels in various Bytes projects and activities. The CEO reports directly to the Chair and Trustees.

Administration and accounting oversight operate through monthly reports on income and expenditure with Snr Manager for Finance, Admin and Compliance and Project Managers. These include not only the immediate and cumulative past figures, but also budgetary forecasts. This information is approved by the DCEO and CEO.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. During this financial year our Financial Protocols and Safeguarding Policy have again been reviewed. A risk register is now included as a standing agenda at Board meetings.

Public Benefit Statement

The charity's beneficiaries are socially disadvantaged young people.

The public benefits of the charity include increased knowledge, skills and qualifications and improved employability for socially disadvantaged young people, increased knowledge, skills and work-related experience and improved employability and increased self-esteem and confidence for the workplace and increased access to further education, training and employment.

These direct benefits are demonstrated through:

- The number of young people who face social disadvantage completing courses and achieving accredited qualifications and by the measurement of progress against employability outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.
- The number of young people who face social disadvantage completing creative technology projects and by the measurement of progress against intended project outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.
- The number of young people who face social disadvantage progressing into education, training and employment using personal development plans and by the measurement of progress against intended personal and social development outcomes through both internal and external evaluations.

Principal Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are specifically restricted to the following: to advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 16-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular:

- To enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities;
- To provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI;
- Work collaboratively with other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation.

Our vision and mission are:

- **Vision / Purpose:** Young people transform their world for good.
- **Mission:** Each year we will ensure that over 3000 young people access digital technology in communities of promise.

Our new strategy from 2021-24 has named four pillars to drive our work:

- Youth Voice
- Youth Empathy
- Youth Digital
- Youth Places

This report is based on these themes.

During this period, we started to reframe these pillars and refined them to:

- Youth Empowerment
- Youth Employment and Digital
- Youth Empathy

Our new operational plan for April 2023 onwards will follow these three pillars.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Youth Voice

In May 2023, a leading NI think tank published a report called Reconciliation and Deprivation. A recommendation in this research was that young people need to be directly asked about key questions for their future, challenging that only political leaders speak for communities and young people.

Since 2020 Bytes has developed the Positive Sparks platform to engage the voice of young people from rural communities about the issues that they want to solve. A key focus of Positive Sparks was always to enable children and young people to access decision-makers with data and enable them to effectively participate in democratic processes. We knew we could do that across the local services we provide through Bytes and our member organisations. However, this year, we recognised that the data we generate is focused on free-flowing text. This has made analysis difficult. Therefore, during this year, we undertook two experiments:

Experiment One: Consistent Approach to Assessing Local Needs

From June to September 2022, we supported 9-member organisations and our youth hubs to complete a needs assessment using digital forms. We used a standard survey for groups and used the data to produce several reports. Once we had the data, it was shared with young people in each of the areas for their review and feedback in the form of quotes. This was compiled into a final report for each area so they could engage key stakeholders and influence decisions in their local area.

This process was more effective in enabling local groups to engage young people and provide them with a report they can use to effectively plan their programmes and influence external stakeholders. In addition, as we had a consistent approach, we were able to aggregate the data at a regional level. In total this process engaged over 1,200 young people and approximately 50 young people reviewed the data and provided feedback on the data. This was a more effective way to engage the voice of young people and reinforced the need for us to evolve Positive Sparks to reduce free-flowing text.

Experiment Two: Positive Sparks – Using a Theme

Between June and November 2022, we talked to young people and our team about their experiences with the Cost of Living. This is because we understood the impact it was having on young people through our engagements in local communities. However, we knew that using Positive Sparks in the current form would be too difficult to decode and rapidly present. Therefore, on the Positive Sparks site, we developed a survey which we shared across social media and our networks of young people. The survey was live between the 6th and 23rd of December 2022. In total 1,739 young people aged 11-25 responded to the survey. It asked young people:

- Are you worse off financially than at the start of summer 2022?
- If you are the bill payer in your household how worried are you about being able to pay?
- If you are not the bill payer how worried are you about your parents/guardians/partner paying your upcoming bills?

- Which rises in costs are you experiencing?
- Which of the following have you had to reduce spending on?
- Have you or your family used a Food Bank this year?
- Would you consider taking on extra work or another job to help cope with rising costs?

A final version of the report is at: <https://www.bytes.org/research/>

Each of the points below summarises how we plan to develop our Positive Sparks model in the future:

- Alter the Positive Sparks approach to use structured questions that use scales and one qualitative response. We also want to develop a function for organisations to leave granular detail that emerges from the small groups reviewing the data for their area.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Evolve Positive Sparks site to capture the needs of young people under agreed themes and questions which are available to everyone on an open-access digital platform. This will be in partnership with key regional partners.
- Position Positive Sparks to become the platform of choice for local voluntary organisations when they aim to assess needs in their local areas. All data will be freely available.
- Train youth workers to use the digital platform to engage young people in reviewing the data and getting more qualitative information.

Youth Empathy

Bytes partnered with Kells and Connor Community Improvement Association to deliver a TBUC project bringing together youth from surrounding communities to discover more about their different identities and cultures. Young people spent time establishing new relationships, exploring good relations learning together and carrying out social action activities. Young people value the opportunity and freedom to try sports from other cultures without pressure.

In partnership with the YMCA, Currynerin Community Centre and Tullyalley Community Centre we delivered a TBUC programme exploring good relations through self-identity and community identity workshops, including community mapping exercises. This culminated in an overnight residential at Todd's Leap for team-building activities. Young people participated in a social action where they delivered care packages to the local old people's homes just in time for Christmas. Overall, the project was a success and most of the participants have continued to interact at the YMCA in Drumahoe through other projects.

The TBUC program involving Lincoln Community and Rutledge group saw two diverse groups come together. They started by working within their community, learning about community mapping and statistics and then sharing their maps with the other group. When the groups came together, they had team-building events at Creggan Country Park. They also took part in sessions looking at healthy relationships and gambling awareness. They had exciting experiences when Giga Training came in and showed different skills such as music producing and DJing. They also got soccer coaches coming out and doing skills nights with the young people.

Together the two groups came and organised a Halloween Party for all the young people of the area. They promoted it alongside Action Mental Health. The young people went to job fairs and participated in an Art program that showed their work in the Derry Train Station. They worked on their cooking skills and cooked for the different members of the groups when attending the NW Hub Drop-In. We had a celebration event which brought everyone together for bowling and dinner. The groups have continued to meet up regularly in the Bytes NW Hub for the drop-in centre.

Across the Sperrins, we brought together 47 young people from our 2 main communities to participate in eight months of team building & activities. These young people wouldn't normally have an opportunity to mix socially or have formal education with people from outside of their community.

Through activities, the young people were allowed to explore their own identity & the identities of others. Participants looked, not only at our two main traditions but at other traditions. By challenging attitudes & beliefs & learning about diverse traditions, we affected attitudinal change throughout the group.

The team building and outdoor activities were positive. Youth Workers noticed how well the group had gelled and how friendship groups were beginning to develop. These young people would not have had this chance without our programme.

As part of our strategic focus on empathy relates to how we treat all people. We have explored some new areas of work:

- DE Special Education: we supported several groups to engage with DE to highlight the role youth work organisations play in the support of young people with an SEN.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Hillcroft Special School: we had several engagements with the team at Hillcroft to explore how young people working towards independent living could use our hub at Glengormley.

Youth Digital

This year Bytes accelerated our work in this area with a range of innovative and creative projects:

Connect with Tech

The Northern Regional College released a tender for the delivery of a Digital Skills programme called Connect with Tech, funded by the Department of the Economy. The purpose of the contract was to appoint a contractor to deliver a Digital Programme called 'Connect with Tech'. This was framed as a new pilot Digital Skills Programme to be delivered in community-based facilities that young people can access as opposed to college campuses/properties.

Bytes created a digital skills intervention programme in partnership with Giga Training. Giga is a leading digital skills social enterprise with specialisms in VR, sound engineering, video editing and digital design. Giga has an outstanding track record of developing digital skills with young people. Bytes and Giga Training designed a Digital Skills and Youth Work Curriculum. We have a unique insight into how we want to deliver our digital skills programmes to incorporate personal and social development. The programme delivery was designed to move at the pace of the learner, in the three tiers – initial, intermediate, and advanced.

In total Bytes and Giga engaged 160 young people across each. We delivered 16 programmes, above the target of 10. This was due to accepting lower numbers of some programmes due to the needs of young people. Bytes led the distribution of 160 tablets and a sound bar to all successful completers of the programme.

UK Community Renewal Fund – Youth Start

During our Youth Start project, we engaged with 30 young people from 2 groups in the Glengormley area. The first group were made up of young people from Glengormley High School. Seventeen young people were referred to the group for a range of reasons. These young people were leaving school with an uncertain destination. We started the programme with some team-building activities to help build relationships with the young people, this helped as some of the young people didn't know each other and for a lot of the group, it was their first time experiencing group work in a youth work setting.

Throughout the programme we did a range of different activities with the young people. As part of the programme, we had weekly mentoring sessions which most of the group attended regularly. We also covered topics such as digital skills, keeping safe online, cyberbullying, creative videos, and essential digital skills. Our partners Giga delivered sessions on DJing, music production, virtual reality, and leadership. After completing several different digital aspects of the course, we completed sessions on employability such as CV building, job searches, workplace visits and a career plan. The programme was a great success and through feedback from the young people they all found it enjoyable and beneficial. This programme also helped improve their attendance and improve their attitudes towards schoolwork and their ability to achieve.

The second group we worked with on the Youth Start project were recruited through our on-street work. The group consisted of 13 young people who had been highlighted for taking part in ASB. This group wanted to be part of a project that provided them shelter in the evenings. We used this opportunity to educate the group on the risks of ASB and drug/alcohol abuse and they completed a level 2 OCN in Drug Awareness. The group also availed of the services provided by Giga. The young people thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and learnt more about technology and digital skills. The group also took part in sessions surrounding their future and employability, taking part in job searching, CV writing and interview skills.

In total Bytes recruited 30 young people on the Youth Start project. All participants engaged in job searches and 25 participated in life skills support and training. Ten young people progressed into employment.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ESF

We were successful in our application to be part of the Call 3 European Social Fund programme for young people not in education, employment or training. In total, we supported 122 young people to enrol in our programme across NI. Our programme focuses on supporting young people to transform their circumstances. We did this by partnering participants with a youth worker who supported each participant to co-design a 12-week programme with tailored training (including our extensive suite of OCN Level 1 qualifications) and employment opportunities. Bytes developed a STEM curriculum which focuses on digital skills, particularly in creative media. Our results were:

- 21 participants accessed employment
- 39 participants registered for further education and/or training.

Here is an anonymous case study to animate this important work:

R is 22 years old and has social anxiety disorder; they are unable to attend formal education due to this disorder. R is very shy and doesn't like change. They struggle to meet new people and often distance themselves from interactions with people they are not familiar with. R has been referred to CAHMS and has been involved with other agencies but has not made much progress with them.

During the 12 weeks with Bytes R has made significant progress in their self-belief and confidence. They have tried many new things, met lots of new people and are confident in their interactions with these new people. R can still struggle initially but it is taking less and less time for them to adjust to new situations and people. R now has the confidence to speak up and share their opinion across a wide range of topics.

Bytes has helped R apply for part-time jobs and a college course. They are looking forward to starting at the College in September. R has also been successful in obtaining part-time work at a local restaurant. The progress R has made in the past few months has been life-changing for them. R has become more outgoing, and confident and their levels of anxiety have reduced to the point where they feel that they can engage in activities and interactions that they would normally avoid. R is going from strength to strength, and I have high hopes and belief that they will succeed in achieving their goals in life.

Youth Places

After 30 years of having a presence in Belfast, we chose to leave the city and pursue the development of Youth Hubs across NI. Over several months we talked about our future direction with young people, staff and our Board. This reflection enabled us to consider the roots of Bytes; we used to be built into the fabric of communities across Belfast. We decided to rekindle that approach, but instead of focusing on Belfast, we turned to other areas with limited or inadequate youth services.

In August 2022 we moved into our new offices in Glengormley. We are in the centre of the town in a building spread over 2 floors. One floor has a large youth hub and will be used to help us move towards opening regular provision. The other floor has space for our staff team. We are looking forward to developing a new future for Bytes at this excellent location.

Other Hubs:

North West – We celebrated one year back at our Strand Road Youth Hub supporting young people across the City. The team have delivered extensive programmes. We have engaged extensively with a wide range of partners including other youth organisations. We have kept excellent partnerships with a range of schools. The team are now preparing for the launch of the Youth Start in the Northwest and engaging partners to enable us to support young people to progress into training and employment.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Antrim and Newtownabbey - The team has been working hard across the region this year. They successfully delivered projects in North Belfast and the Antrim and Newtownabbey council areas including projects in the Glengormley area at our new Hub! We have delivered a project tackling ASB for a second year for the EA in Antrim Town. As part of this project, we deliver 100 evenings of detached sessions per year, engaging young people involved in risk-taking behaviour. We also support Antrim and Newtownabbey to deliver a range of personal and social development programmes across the Borough.

North Antrim: Our Ballymoney Hub has been very successful as a base to extend our reach in the town and across Villages in the area. This area has been very productive in terms of building partnerships with other organisations with whom Bytes has had no previous contact.

Mid & East Antrim - We have continued our partnership with Kells & Connor Community Improvement Association (KCCIA), supplying generic non-targetted provision in Kells. Our membership has grown to over 150 members, with an average of 60 attending regularly.

We have also sought to establish a role for Bytes as a regional support organisation with the EA for local groups. To achieve this groups need to register Bytes as a support organisation on the annual EA registration form. We will explore this area in the coming financial year.

This will enable us to support youth places in areas where we have no presence but can support others to achieve high-quality services for young people.

Achievements and performance

This year we worked with over 10 funders and engaged over 1000 young people. Some examples:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council – we provided a range of services engaging over 500 young people.
- FE College – supported Northern Regional College to engage over 260 young people.
- Good Relations Programmes – through a range of funders we engaged over 250 young people in these projects.
- EA projects – through direct delivery or partnership we delivered 5 EA specifications across NI. This required the weekly engagement of over 200 young people.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Organisational Development

We supported four staff to complete an OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. We also completed 3 staff development days exploring:

- Self-Evaluation – Safeguarding and leadership
- Climate Action Day
- Digital Skills

We also upgraded staff ICT equipment, including mobile devices. We now have over 60 tablets to support young people in developing their digital skills.

As part of the new Bytes strategy ten primary measures have been agreed upon for the organisation:

- Increased engagement with young people through all our activities
- Young people report improved skills
- Young people report higher levels of empathy for others
- Young people increase engagement with www.postivesparks.org
- Young people engaging with Bytes for more than 6 months report they are directing the activities in which they are involved.
- Increase in place-based services
- Increase in Bytes partnership with other voluntary providers delivering youth work
- Research published each year
- Staff satisfaction
- Yearly increase in non-grant funding income.

We are working to establish a CRM for the organization to record our progress against these outcomes.

Research

In March 2023 we published research on the impact of the Costs of Living on young people. We had over 1,700 respondents. We found evidence that young people are experiencing a reduction in disposable income for basic items like toiletries and transport, they are worried about paying bills, and 70% of respondents said their families are using food banks. We are convinced that the current financial climate will erode the mental health of some young people. We need to continue and enhance our services.

The results are set out in detail on pages 16 to 27. The Bytes Project returned net income for the year of £126,042 (2022 : £138,223) which comprised a net unrestricted surplus of £143,613 and net restricted deficit of £17,571.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to £647,229 of which £27,187 was designated towards fixed assets leaving free reserves of £620,042. Restricted funds at the year end amounted to £125,930 of which £45,243 was designated towards fixed assets.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reserves policy

The unrestricted funds are essential to supply sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity if current levels of income are not maintained. The charity's reserve policy is to hold cover in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. For 2023-24 the Directors aim to retain at least 6 months operating costs in reserve which would be just over £500k. Our free reserves at year end amounted to £620,042.

Plans for Future Periods

The plan for the next financial year has been agreed with main funding coming from European Social Fund, Further Education Colleges, The Executive Office and RANK. We also have minor partners link Paul Hamlyn and Education Authority.

The Bytes team have continued to investigate the potential for new funding from Peace Plus and Levelling Up.

These sources of funding will help us to achieve our operational plan for April 2023 onwards as detailed above.

Political and Charitable Donations

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

Reference and Administrative Details

The organisations' details are as disclosed on the administrative details page.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bytes Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

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

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

THE BYTES PROJECT

DIRECTORS' REPORT (INCLUDING THE STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Auditors

The auditor's services will be re-tendered this year in line with our financial procedures.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board

Ben Carter

.....

Ben Carter (Chair)

Dated: 21 November 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bytes Project (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED) UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED)

UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

THE BYTES PROJECT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BYTES PROJECT (CONTINUED) UNDER SECTION 449 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

James Gage

.....

James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of:

Johnston Kennedy DFK

Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

10 Pilots View

Heron Road

Belfast

BT3 9LE

Dated: 21 November 2023

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income from:</u>					
Charitable activities	4	79,188	1,054,097	1,133,285	1,392,717
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	5	63,464	943,779	1,007,243	1,254,494
Total expenditure		63,464	943,779	1,007,243	1,254,494
Net incoming		15,724	110,318	126,042	138,223
Transfers between funds	14&15	127,889	(127,889)	-	-
Net movement in funds		143,613	(17,571)	126,042	138,223
Total funds brought forward		503,616	143,501	647,117	508,894
Total funds carried forward		647,229	125,930	773,159	647,117

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in notes 2 and 3.

Historical cost

The results as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities and the net incoming resources for the year have been presented on a historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		72,429		68,595
Current assets					
Debtors	10	537,504		820,494	
Cash at bank and in hand		334,655		73,183	
		<u>872,159</u>		<u>893,677</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(146,568)</u>		<u>(281,475)</u>	
Net current assets			725,591		612,202
Total assets less current liabilities			798,020		680,797
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(24,861)		(33,680)
Net assets			<u>773,159</u>		<u>647,117</u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	14		125,930		143,501
Unrestricted income funds	15		647,229		503,616
Total funds	16		<u>773,159</u>		<u>647,117</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Carter
.....

Ben Carter
Director

Stephen Murray
.....

Stephen Murray
Director

Company Registration No. NI027446

Charity No. NIC 105711

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

THE BYTES PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	24		310,454		(136,614)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(40,163)		(58,908)	
Net cash used in investing activities			<u>(40,163)</u>		<u>(58,908)</u>
Financing activities					
(Repayments) / advances from bank loans		(8,819)		(7,987)	
Net cash used in financing activities			<u>(8,819)</u>		<u>(7,987)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			261,472		(203,509)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			<u>73,183</u>		<u>276,692</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u><u>334,655</u></u>		<u><u>73,183</u></u>

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Bytes Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal office is 300-302 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EG, Northern Ireland. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the directors' report on page 3 of these financial statements.

1.1 Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition - October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.3 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.4 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

1.6 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.8 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

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

2 Statement of Financial Activities:Unrestricted funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	79,188	39,734
Total income	<u>79,188</u>	<u>39,734</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	63,464	121,421
Total expenditure	<u>63,464</u>	<u>121,421</u>
Net incoming	15,724	(81,687)
Transfers between funds	<u>127,889</u>	<u>200,052</u>
Net movement in funds	143,613	118,365
Total funds brought forward	<u>503,616</u>	<u>385,251</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>647,229</u></u>	<u><u>503,616</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Statement of Financial Activities: Restricted Funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from:		
Charitable activities	1,054,097	1,352,983
Total income	<u>1,054,097</u>	<u>1,352,983</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	943,779	1,133,073
Total expenditure	<u>943,779</u>	<u>1,133,073</u>
Net incoming	110,318	219,910
Transfers between funds	(127,889)	(200,052)
Net movement in funds	<u>(17,571)</u>	<u>19,858</u>
Total funds brought forward	143,501	123,643
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>125,930</u></u>	<u><u>143,501</u></u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	fund	fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	-	4,714	4,714	47,414
Education Authority	-	157,981	157,981	206,973
SEUPB - PEACE	-	2,792	2,792	675,323
ANBC - Life Skills	-	80,291	80,291	-
PCSP	-	51,760	51,760	78,400
T:BUC / CGRF	-	254,201	254,201	190,469
ESF - Launch Pad	-	275,307	275,307	-
Voices 4 Impact	-	22,524	22,524	30,000
YP - Tech Projects	-	149,136	149,136	84,075
Miscellaneous Restricted	-	47,613	47,613	30,273
Covid Recovery Fund	-	-	-	10,056
Fees for services delivered	77,318	-	77,318	36,216
Community funding support	-	-	-	1,000
JRS Grant	-	-	-	2,518
Santander Grant	1,870	7,778	9,648	-
	<u>79,188</u>	<u>1,054,097</u>	<u>1,133,285</u>	<u>1,392,717</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Activity costs	28,407	755,174	783,581	972,731
Support costs	35,057	188,605	223,662	281,763
	<u>63,464</u>	<u>943,779</u>	<u>1,007,243</u>	<u>1,254,494</u>

6 Net income/(expenditure)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	36,329	23,725
Auditor's remuneration	5,724	5,992
	<u>42,053</u>	<u>29,717</u>

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
	38	49
	<u>38</u>	<u>49</u>

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

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Directors' remuneration

No director received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenditure from the charity during the current or previous year.

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Tangible fixed assets		Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Total
		£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	108,062	672,646	780,708	
Additions	35,328	4,835	40,163	
Disposals	(39,568)	(393,209)	(432,777)	
	<u>103,822</u>	<u>284,272</u>	<u>388,094</u>	
At 31 March 2023				
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	99,085	613,028	712,113	
Depreciation charged in the year	13,329	23,000	36,329	
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(39,568)	(393,209)	(432,777)	
	<u>72,846</u>	<u>242,819</u>	<u>315,665</u>	
At 31 March 2023				
Net book value				
At 31 March 2023	<u>30,976</u>	<u>41,453</u>	<u>72,429</u>	
At 31 March 2022	<u>8,977</u>	<u>59,618</u>	<u>68,595</u>	
10 Debtors		2023	2022	
Amounts falling due within one year:		£	£	
Activity debtors		256,393	358,724	
Prepayments and accrued income		281,111	461,770	
		<u>537,504</u>	<u>820,494</u>	
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022	
	Notes	£	£	
Bank loans	13	8,333	8,333	
Other taxation and social security		8,622	38,311	
Activity creditors		43,943	46,478	
Other creditors		630	7,675	
Accruals and deferred income		85,040	180,678	
		<u>146,568</u>	<u>281,475</u>	

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	13	24,861	33,680

13 Loans and overdrafts

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	33,194	42,013
Payable within one year	8,333	8,333
Payable after one year	24,861	33,680

14 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery - Exodus	3,035	-	(3,035)	-	-
Big Lottery	-	4,714	(4,627)	-	87
Detached	555	-	-	-	555
Education Authority	59,389	157,981	(177,386)	-	39,984
ANBC - Life Skills	-	80,291	(64,007)	(16,284)	-
SEUPB - PEACE	673	2,792	(15,656)	12,191	-
Street 1	5,029	-	-	-	5,029
ESF - Launch Pad	264	275,307	(224,631)	(50,940)	-
PCSP Projects	8,154	51,760	(39,275)	-	20,639
T:BUC / CGRF	2,711	254,200	(255,852)	-	1,059
Voices 4 Impact	13,107	22,524	(24,962)	-	10,669
YP - Tech Projects	14,441	149,136	(86,847)	(71,401)	5,329
Santander	-	7,778	(5,126)	-	2,652
Other Small Funds	34,964	47,614	(41,760)	(1,455)	39,363
	143,501	1,054,097	(943,779)	(127,889)	125,930

15 Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted income funds	503,616	79,188	(63,464)	127,889	647,229

**THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds	45,243	80,687	125,930
Unrestricted Income Funds	27,186	620,043	647,229
	<u>72,429</u>	<u>700,730</u>	<u>773,159</u>

17 Operating lease commitments

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Between two and five years	<u>18,496</u>	<u>15,531</u>

18 Capital commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2022.

19 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

21 Company status

The company is as company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

22 Control

The directors control the company. The directors are appointed by and are accountable to the members.

23 Financial commitments

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2022.

THE BYTES PROJECT
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

24	Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
		£	£
	Net movement in funds	126,042	138,223
	Adjustments for:		
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	36,329	23,725
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	282,990	(493,030)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(134,907)	194,468
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	<u>310,454</u>	<u>(136,614)</u>
25	Analysis of changes in net funds		
		At 1 April 2022	Cash flows
		£	At 31 March 2023
			£
	Cash at bank and in hand	73,183	261,472
	Loans falling due within one year	(8,333)	-
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(33,680)	8,819
		<u>31,170</u>	<u>270,291</u>
		<u><u>31,170</u></u>	<u><u>270,291</u></u>
			<u><u>301,461</u></u>

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