

Cat's Cradle Education and Organising SCIO

Scotland · Charity number SC052364

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2023-02-28
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address 29 Wester Drylaw Park
Edinburgh
EH4 2TR

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of citizenship or community development', 'the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science'

What the charity does: Our charity delivers community education and helps other groups with organisational learning and teacher training. We specialise in Freirean pedagogy and apply this in a range of settings, particularly focused on education for migrants.

Beneficiaries: 'Other defined groups', 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: 4.1 To advance education by providing structured learning programmes for the public concerning the history, philosophies and theologies of community-organised movements. 4.2 To advance community development by bringing together marginalised and isolated groups who work in the same geographical areas to participate in cultural and artistic production, investigate and analyse their neighbourhoods, determine their shared needs and how to meet them, and develop community events, thus contributing to the broader social and artistic life of across parts of Scotland and raising the profile of groups at the fringes. To use innovative and creative methods to help form a sense of community, for example by utilising data, as well as cultural and artistic production, to help identify and articulate their, often shared, needs and ways of addressing those needs in order to enrich the lives of those affected, and the community more broadly. By adopting innovative methods, while retaining the effective strategies of groups who have gone before us, we hope to engage a wider audience and thus draw on (and appeal to) a wider range of people to participate in our projects. 4.3 To advance heritage and culture and arts by providing affordable and accessible workshops and workspaces that help people from under-represented communities to self-publish writing, art and music.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Dundee City
- **Geographical spread:** One or a few bases or facilities serving people who come from a broad area

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees	
2026-02-28		£0	£0	-	0
2025-02-28	£49,144	£38,334		-	0
2024-02-28	£93,540	£57,856		-	0

Cat's Cradle Education and Organising SCIO

Scotland - Charity number SC052364

Accounts

**Annual Trustees Report,
28th February 2024
- 28th February 2025**

Presented and approved at the
Annual General Meeting on
the 3rd July 2025.

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Cat's Cradle Education and Organising (SCIO)
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC052364
Charity's principal address	[REDACTED]

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
4	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
5	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
6	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 28 February 2023. The charity was previously a Ltd Company but changed its legal form to a SCIO. The assets of the Ltd Company were transferred to the SCIO on 28 February 2023. It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are the members of the charity.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

There are a minimum of three charity trustees at any time. The board may at any time appoint any person to be a charity trustee - by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting. Trustees meet yearly for an Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The advancement of education
The advancement of citizenship or community development
The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The charity provides structured learning programmes for the public concerning the history, philosophies and theologies of community-organised movements. It mostly does this in collaboration with other community groups. We also provide training for charities and community organisations on how to include arts, crafts, and Freirean pedagogy in existing community development and learning programmes.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period (March 2024 - February 2025)

Romano Lav Youth Education

For several years we've been involved in Romano Lav's youth education programme, in charge of delivering the sessions about workplace rights, and forms of collective empowerment in the face of illegal working conditions. These sessions also work with the participants to help them figure out collectively how they want to help each other with racism in the workplace and in the Govanhill community more broadly. We have learned a lot from the young people engaged in this programme, who are committed to helping each other, and who work through the exercises that we give them with patience and commitment.

The catalyst programme is an excellent programme to work with, because it operates according to one of Cat's Cradle's key values: Each one, Teach one. The young people involved in the programme take what they learn from the content and form of the workshops, modify it according to how and what they want to teach, and then go on to run programmes for their peers and for older people in their communities. We had the privilege of working with some of these student teachers in one-to-one sessions, and are delighted to see the progress of Romano Lav over the years. This summer we will begin work on sessions for their autumn programme.

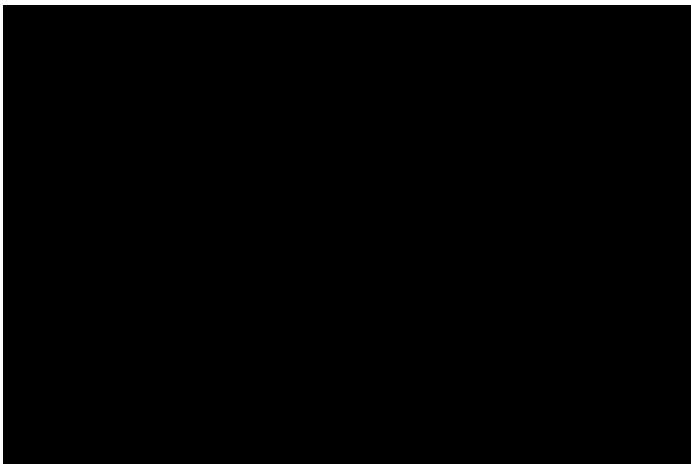




Pedagogy Workshop, Glasgow

We worked with Romano Lav to deliver a workshop on Freirean pedagogy, which was attended by education workers from the Poverty Alliance, Living Rent Glasgow, Romano Lav, as well as young people involved in Romano Lav's 'Catalyst' programme. We worked on techniques from Boal and Freire, and taught the participants how to facilitate collective cultural production, techniques for discussion, and incorporating theatre into discussions about poverty, work, and housing.

“What really worked about the workshop was everyone learned and problem solved together - both young people and the older co-facilitators. It was such a positive and inspiring experience! Thank you to all that took part, and especially to [REDACTED] for delivering such a great and important session.”



World School Dundee

The World School Dundee was a year of intensive working-class self-education in Dundee and Edinburgh, beginning at the end of April 2024 with a joint-session run as part of Dundee's festival of trades unionism - Speak Out. We ran workshops covering peoples' movements for change in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Grenada, Kenya, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, India, Egypt, Kurdistan and Nigeria. We worked in community centres and libraries across the city, developing a keen student base, from secondary school students to retirees. This student base quickly became a teacher-base as well, and at this stage in the project we have 5-6 volunteers who work with Cat's Cradle to develop and deliver workshops in their communities.

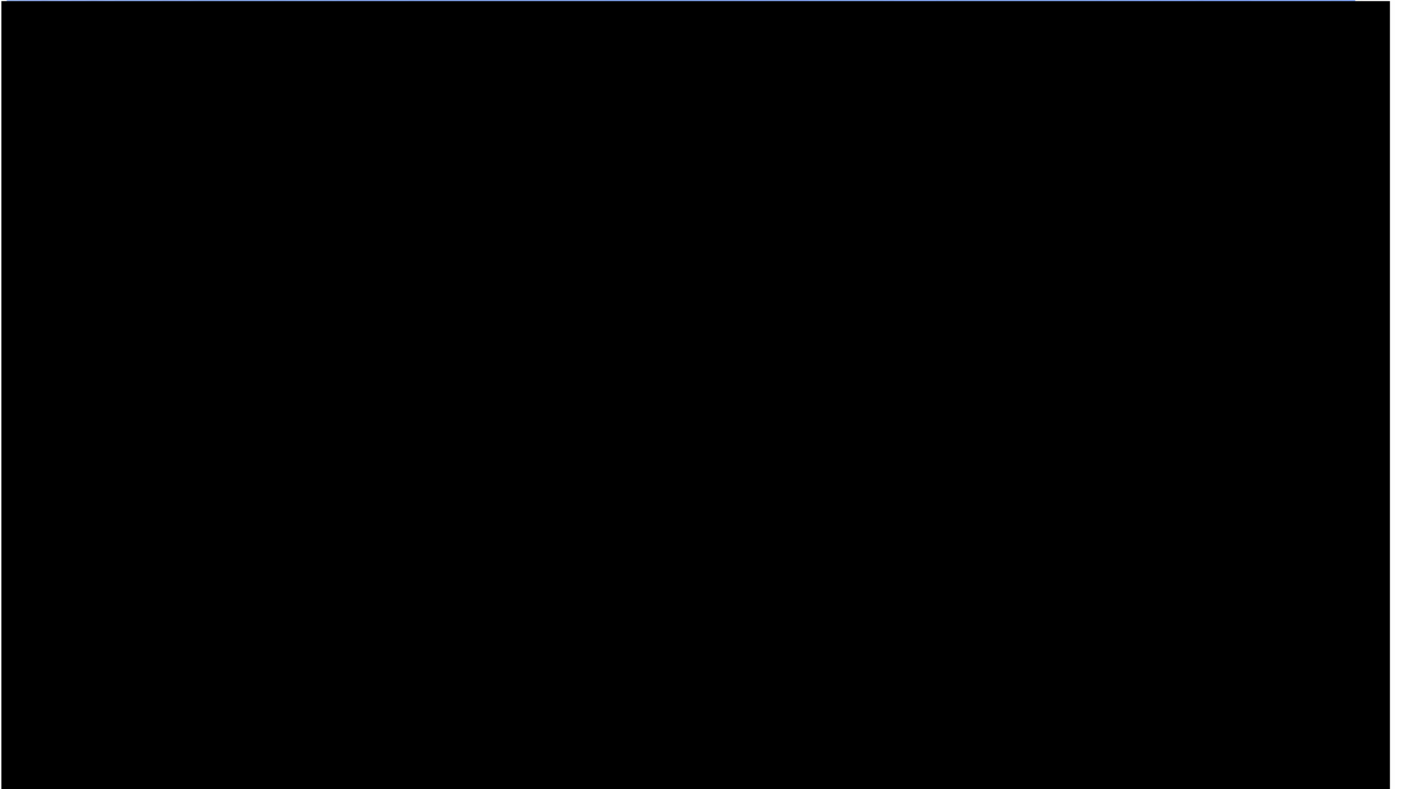
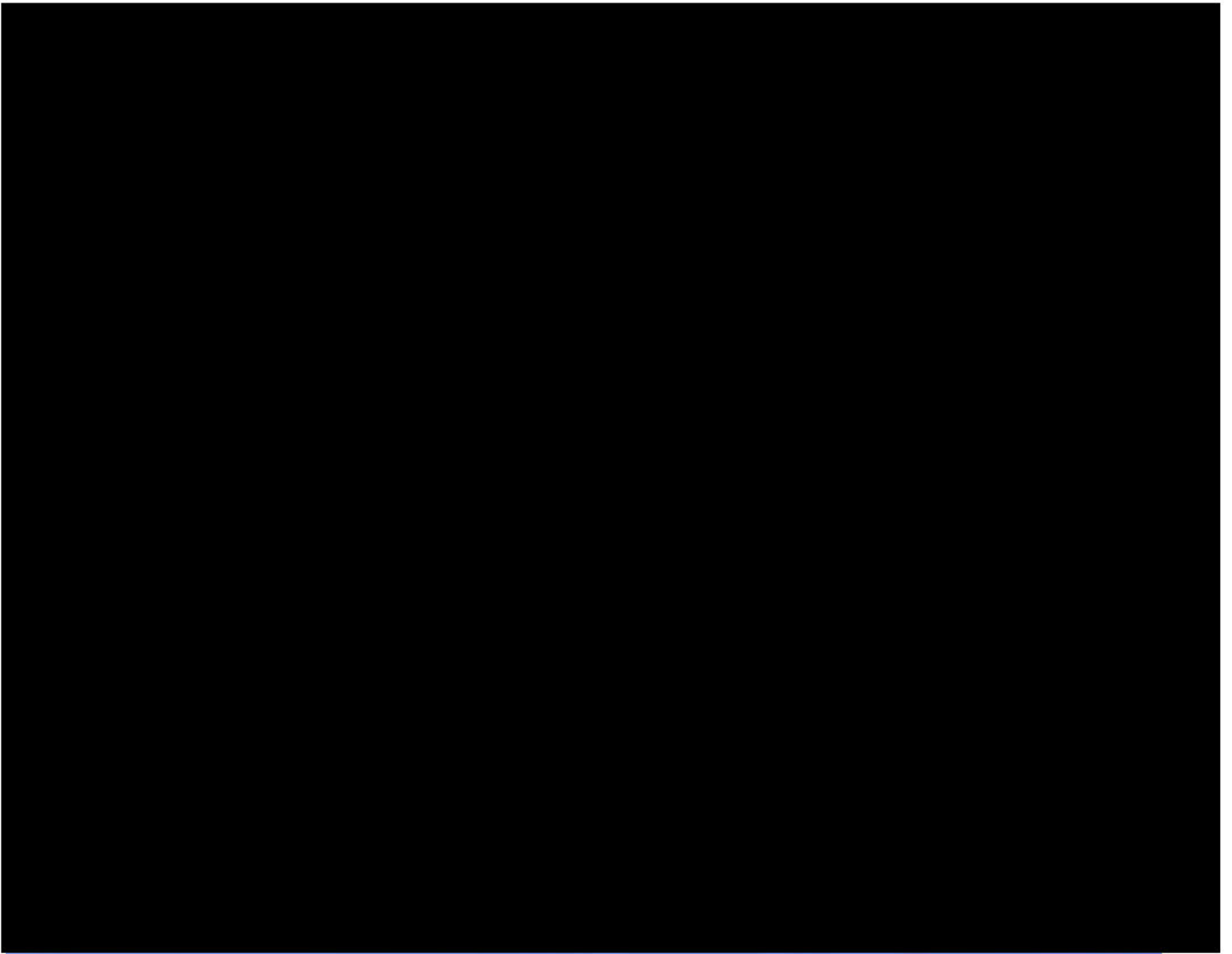
We have included photographs of the project below. The photos convey the interest, intensity, joy, and exchange of ideas between folk from many backgrounds; the amount that was produced in terms of art and writing; the range of methods and mediums of learning; and the way our project provided a place where people could explore the history of community strength in the countries where they once lived and had rarely had the chance to share and think about.

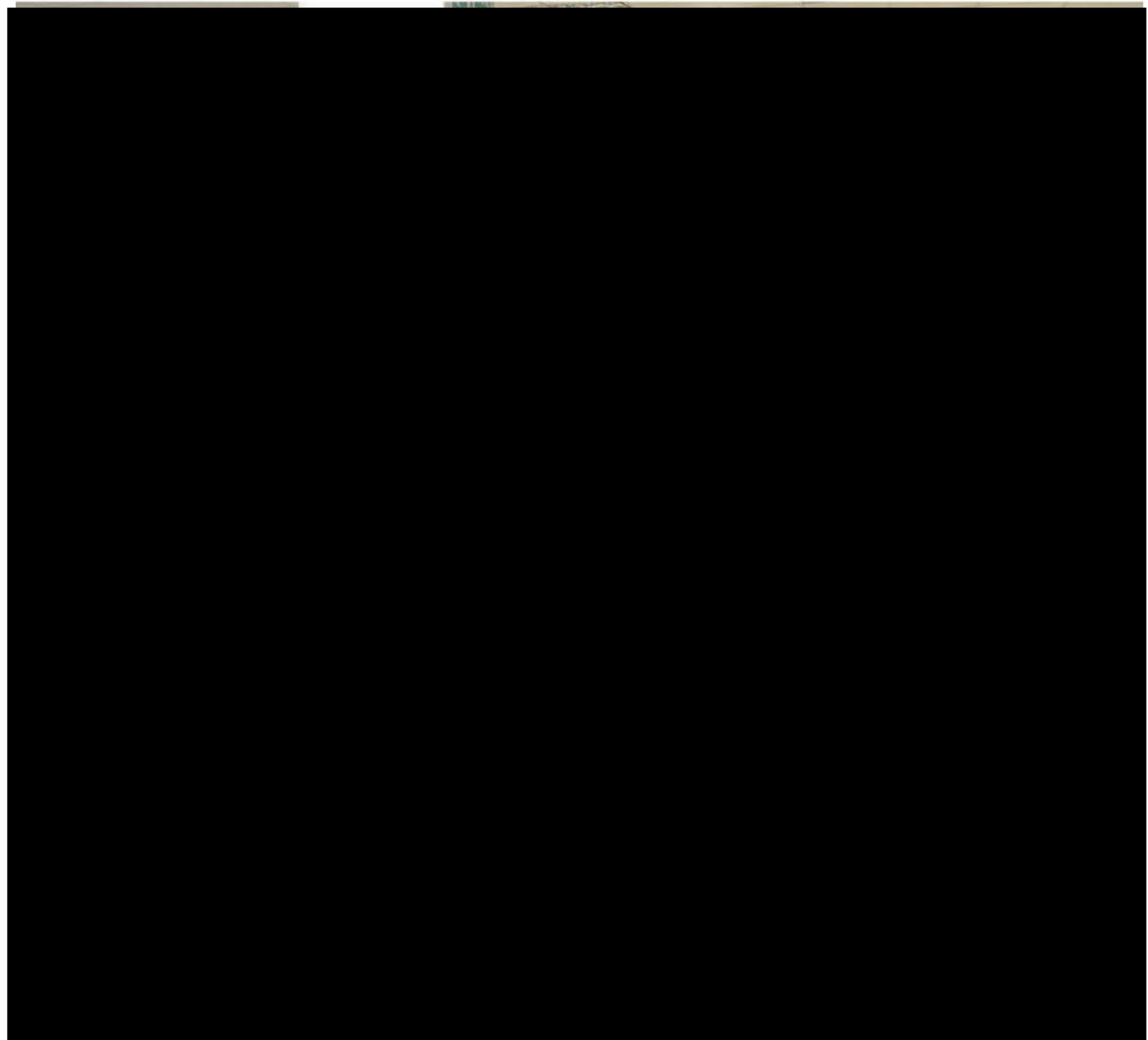
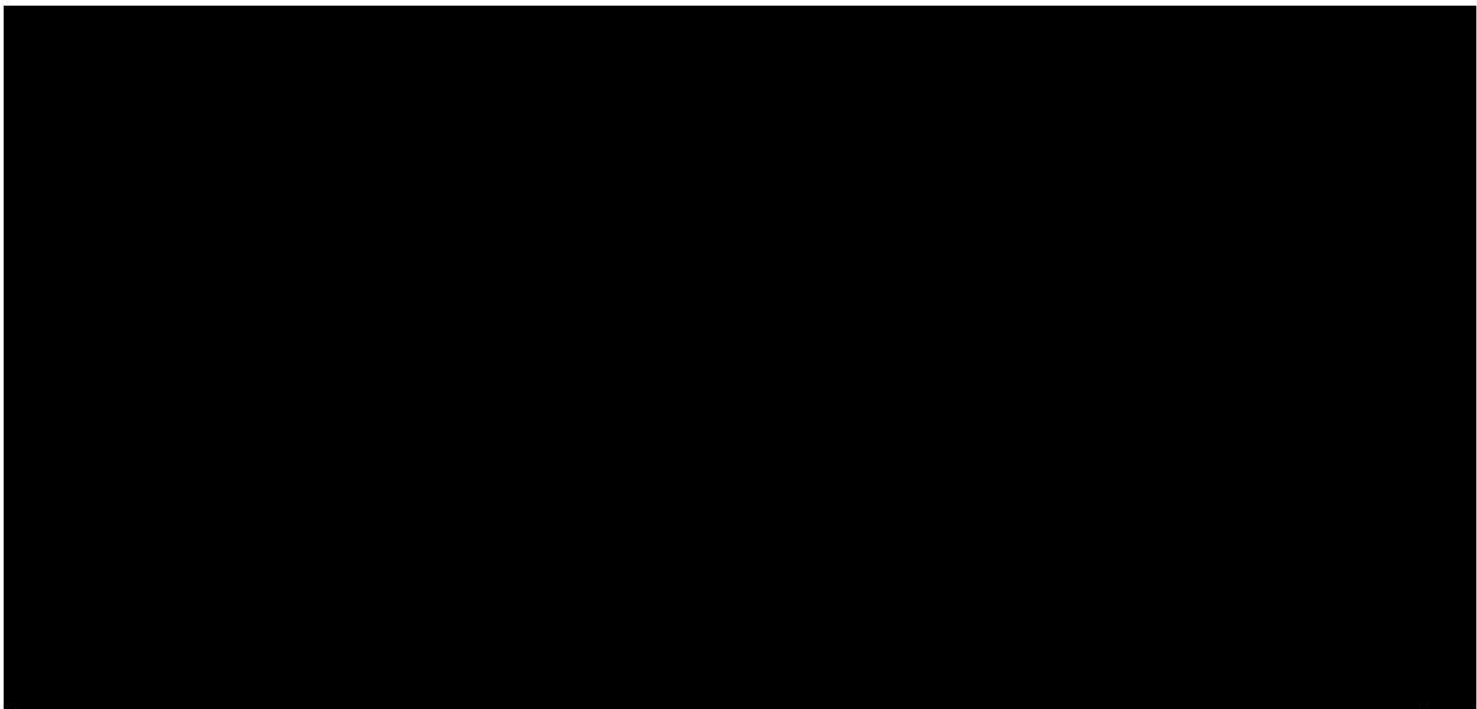
During the project, six people were trained in pedagogy and adult education, learning Freirean and Boalian techniques. Two people who had begun as participants, and had not been active in community education before, ended up being on the organising committee of the project. One was recently, due to her work with the project, asked to speak at Dundee and Angus College for a series of events on Black History Month, and was able to prepare a presentation on pan-Africanism based on the materials we had encountered in the workshops.

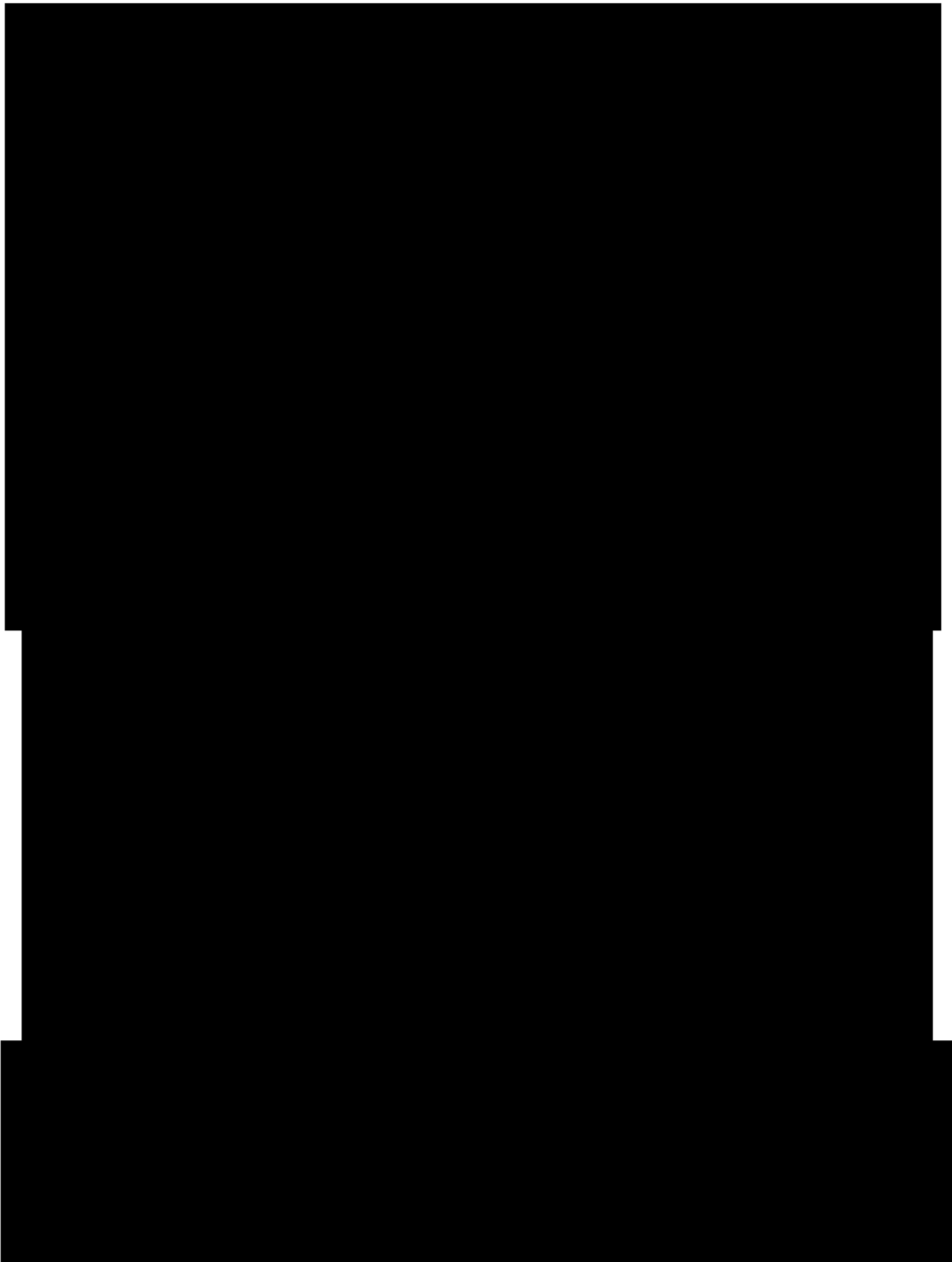
We felt that the project went extremely well. The biggest factor in the achievement was the level of work that all the organisers put into the project. Events that try to bring people in who are not currently involved in community work require a huge amount of promotion, and extensive community links, some of which we had at the beginning of the project, and some of which developed during the course of it.

When this work is done, you end up with a network of people who will go above and beyond to help develop the education projects further - for example, the takeaway-owner who made the food for many of our events was enthusiastic about the education programme, and encouraged other shopkeepers to donate food to us for the workshops. He also told his kids about it and borrowed pan-African children's books (he hopes to set up a pan-African children's library in the takeaway). This project demonstrated the enthusiasm for community education that exists in Scotland, and we hope to continue it in one form or another as long as that enthusiasm continues.

When communities are organising together, they need to draw from the cultures and histories of community organising carried by each member of the community. The world school programme aimed to demonstrate a range of techniques which can, in all sorts of organising contexts, enrich a campaign or group with the narratives, directions and strategies of its collective ancestors. Our task now is to introduce these techniques to more organisations and community groups who can put them to use.







Dundee and Angus College Black History Month

As we mentioned above, our community education project gave our student the skills to teach others. We ran a series of presentations at the Dundee and Arbroath campuses of Dundee and Angus College, for their RESPECT week. This demonstrates that students on our community education courses can not only transform their experience of pedagogy from that of a student into that of a teacher, but also that the historical and current narratives of struggle against racism that we were exploring in the workshops could be internalised, reworked, and told again as a new, powerful narrative. D&A College said “Our Policy Studies and Social Science students had an enlightening presentation on Black History Month, broadening their understanding of significant historical narratives.” We will continue to look for more opportunities like this for the students on our World School programme to teach others.

New Organising Conference

For the past three years, we’ve been on the steering group of the ‘New Organising Conference’, which brings together trade unions, third sector organisations, and community campaigns, for a deep discussion of how to empower communities through organising and education. We are involved to some degree in most aspects of running the conference, including commissioning sessions from people who are at the forefront of work building strong communities so that they can teach others about the techniques they are using.

This year, the New Organising Conference has a particular focus on organising with migrants and asylum seekers, and we have been working with a number of charities and community groups to develop their presentations and workshops for the conference. We are looking forward to the 2025 conference in Liverpool in September, where we’ll deliver sessions on pedagogy and community organising, and help structure the learning of the whole conference.



Workers' Observatory

In the first year of the charity, we worked with a group of committed and creative delivery workers in Dunfermline, and with groups of shopping centre workers in Edinburgh, to develop organising techniques that could be used to develop empowerment among dispersed and migrant communities. These techniques have now been developed and deployed with significant success by the *Workers' Observatory*, who have hit the ground running with worker investigations and pedagogical organising sessions. Their innovative techniques have allowed the Observatory to draw on significant academic funding, which has allowed them to employ a full-time organiser. We have been involved in an advisory role in their work as it proceeds, meeting with their organiser and with the broader team of researchers and workers involved in the project.

Projects like this have the potential to change the landscape of a city, and we will continue to work on this project as we keep learning about the conditions required to make strong communities among dispersed workers. As with many of our other projects, our task at this stage is to work out how to be part of the proliferation of this organising methodology, in a way that allows its development and transfiguration according to the different conditions in which it is deployed.

Mary Barnes Workshop

Mental health is a significant interest and concern for many of the workers and communities we organise with. Many of the exercises and pedagogical techniques we use to build strong communities engage with the emotional lives of the participants, which we believe is an essential component of cultural and community development. In order to strengthen our understanding and abilities in the field of psychological work, we partnered with a Dunfermline charity, Falling Up, to run a series of sessions around neurodiversity and mental health, focusing on

the work of artist and mental health campaigner [REDACTED] Through this work we encountered people with a huge range of experience, and taught a range of techniques in collective art production.



Other Work

We've listed the major projects above, but we'd be remiss not to mention a couple of other promising initiatives we've been involved in. The Speak Oot festival in Dundee, which we mentioned above, has prompted Dundee Trades Council to organise a Dundee forum for various organisations and community groups to come together. We've been involved in this series of meetings, and believe it's a promising step forward for greater co-learning for different groups in Dundee. Another project during the financial year was the delivery of a workshop and set of teaching materials for Koreo, a learning consultancy dedicated to imagining and building a just and regenerative world, and one of the UK's leading learning & development partners for organisations with a social purpose. We continue to seek partnerships of this kind.

Training the Trainers, and Method Proliferation

We continue to work with a small, dedicate group of volunteers, across Scotland and internationally. This group is committed to developing pedagogical technique, and making it accessible for educators and organisers. We meet regularly to participate in knowledge exchange, and to write exercises together. Our next task is to make these exercises and techniques much more broadly accessible, primarily through our website.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity seeks to keep at least 6 months salary in reserve to allow for the payment of wages to at least two main contractors.

Details of any deficit

n/a

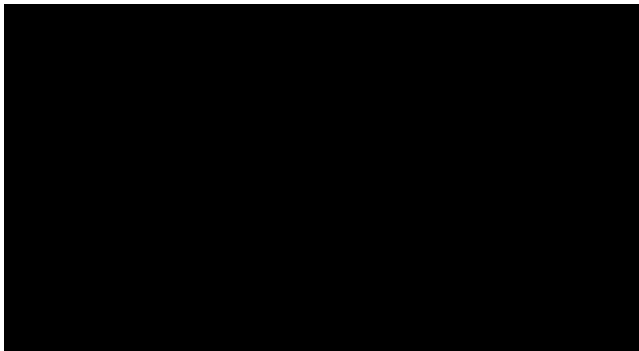
Donated facilities and services (if any)

n/a

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Position (e.g. Chair) Chair

Date 3rd July 2025

APPENDIX 3



Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2

Report to the trustees/members of
Registered charity number
On the accounts of the charity for the period

Charity name
Cat's Cradle Education and Organising SCIO

SC052364

Period start date			Period end date		
Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
1 st	March	2024	to	28 th	February 2025

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name:

25.11.25

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
**any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose**

Cat's Cradle Education and Organising SCIO

SC052364



Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	03	2024		28	02	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	24				24	6,929
Legacies					-	-
Grants		48,685			48,685	79,350
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	-
Gross trading receipts					-	-
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	-
Rents from land & buildings					-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	435				435	7,261
					-	-
A1 Sub total	459	48,685	-	-	49,144	93,540
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	459	48,685	-	-	49,144	93,540
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	-
Gross trading payments					-	39,364
Investment management costs					-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities		38,044			38,044	18,492
Grants and donations					-	-
Governance costs:					-	-
Audit / independent examination		136			136	-
Preparation of annual accounts		120			120	-
Legal costs					-	-
Other		34			34	-
					-	-
A3 Sub total	-	38,334	-	-	38,334	57,856
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	38,334	-	-	38,334	57,856
Net receipts / (payments)	459	10,351	-	-	10,810	35,685
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	459	10,351	-	-	10,810	35,685

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year		35,685			35,685	-
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	459	10,351			10,810	35,685
						-	-
						-	-
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	459	46,036	-	-	46,495	35,685
(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		-	-	-	-	-	0

B2 Investments	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
Total			-	-

B3 Other assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available)	Current value (if available)	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Total			-	-	-

B4 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
Total			-	-

B5 Contingent liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate)	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
Total			-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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	Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
C2 Grants	Network for Social Change	Institution	2	48,685
Total				48,685

C3a Trustee remuneration	If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	X
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	Authority under which paid	£
C3b Trustee remuneration - details		

C4a Trustee expenses	If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	X
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	Number of trustees	£
C4b Trustee expenses - details		

	Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons				

C6 Other information	
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Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 28 February 2025

Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 28/02/2025
Grants		48,685	48,685
Workshop Payments	435		435
Donations	24.40		24.40
Totals	459.40	48,685	49,144.40

Payments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 28/02/2025
Cost of Charitable activities		38333.93	38333.93

Total Payments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 28/02/2025
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	459.40	10,351.07	10,810.47

Statement of Balances – As of 28th February 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 28/02/2025
Opening cash at bank and in hand		35,684.75	35,684.75
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		10,810.47	10,810.47
Closing cash at bank and in hand	459.40	46,035.82	46,495.22

Bank and Cash Balances

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 28/02/2025
Bank deposit account	459.40	35,225.35	35,684.75

Notes to the accounts - for the year ended 28th February 2025

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

3. Related party transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees for their role as trustees or any connected persons during the year

4. Donations received

£24.10 in donations were received

5. Grants received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 28/02/2025
Network for Social Change		48,685	48,685

6. Cost of Charitable activities

Note

Wages here are primarily paid to two contractors and smaller amounts to several others, Dr Tait, receiving 24,989.86 for a 12-month period, and the secondary contractor, Dr. Sharkey, receiving 3685.30 for a 4.5 month period.

The total for wages including invoices for work that was partially done before the accounting period and those for work partially done during but accounted for after the accounting period is **30290.57**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 28/02/2025
Wages		30170.57	30170.57
expenses paid to contractors		426.17	426.17
Education materials and training		452.42	452.42
Hiring, advertising, and Catering costs		1919.17	1919.17
Postage, Stationery and printing for workshops		1319.40	1319.40
Travel		2387.79	2387.79
Digital Services		1368.29	1368.29
Total		1368.29	

7. Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year ended 28/02/2025
Preparation of Annual Accounts		120	120
Independent Examination of Accounts		136.12	136.12
Companies House		34	34

8. Transfers between funds

There were no transfers between funds

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Date: 27th November 2025