

Skylight Circus in Education T/A Skylight Circus Arts

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

Registered Charity 1001570

Company Limited by Guarantee 2567143

Skylight Circus in Education

Reference and administrative information for the year ended 31st March 2022

Charity name Skylight Circus in Education

also known as Skylight Circus Arts and Skylight

Company number 2567143

Charity number 1001570

Registered office and operational address: St Chads Fold, Sparrow Hill, Rochdale OL16 1QT

Trustees

Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

J. Riley, Chair

E. Short, Secretary

J. Hurn, Treasurer

N. White

J. Macpherson

M. Lee

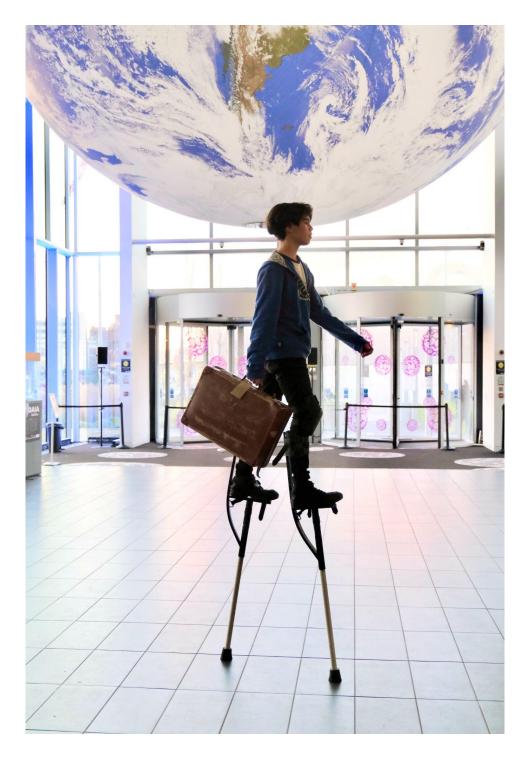
M. Ramsdale

Advisor Legal: D Yazdi

Key management: David Allen, CEO. Martine Bradford, Creative Director.

Bank: Co-operative Bank plc, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4E

Independent Examiner: Emma Willder, Beyond Profit Ltd. appointed in 2021



'Circus Globe' participant performs under 'Gaia' installation, Dec 2021

"A blessing to Rochdale and its communities. The last few years have been the most difficult and Skylight's work is valued and needed more than ever within the Borough"

Mohammed 'Shiri' Sheraz

Army of Kindness

YEAR IN FOCUS: 2021 - 2022

- The year began as we emerged from government regulated Lockdown. Skylight Circus Arts were quickly up and running with face-to-face sessions at our circus studio in Rochdale, Greater Manchester.
- The Executive Team and Staff began an Artistic Development Plan and Brand Development process.
- Outreach (fee paid work) grew steadily over the summer months in Rochdale, Greater Manchester and beyond - as people, communities and organisations emerged from Lockdown more readily. Although large-scale public events were affected.
- Skylight played a role in supporting our local communities through working with organisations like Public Health and ARCON Housing Association.
- Henry Smith Charity's 'Community Match Challenge' enabled us to support participants, particularly those at risk of isolation, during the challenges of Lockdown with online sessions for elders. We were able to bring people face to face as restrictions were lifted.
- Skylight was featured in Rochdale Public Health's report 'How Our Creativity Got Us Through Lockdown.'
- We cemented our place in Rochdale Borough with increased involvement in local support and activity networks such as our local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) support organisation's Children, Young People & Families Network, LGBT Network and Social Prescribing Pilot Project Steering Committee.
- The Department of Employment's Kickstart Scheme enabled us to give employment opportunities to two young unemployed people from Rochdale Borough.
- We took a trip with staff, freelance workers and participants to see a delivery partner, Extraordinary Bodies, perform 'Human' at The Lowry Theatre.
- Skylight completed some of the projects deferred due to Lockdown such as the 'Three Intriguing Fossils' project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) which enabled us to open up our building to people from Rochdale and Greater Manchester.

- Skylight were invited to animate Little Amal's visit to Rochdale ahead of the Manchester finale of 'The Walk'- the giant puppet's 5,000 mile journey designed to highlight the plight of refugees and asylum seekers.
- We developed connections with new partners such as Depaul, a UK wide charity supporting young people facing issues around homelessness. Our project involved unaccompanied minors.
- We worked with Rochdale Borough Council's Early Help and Schools Team to develop 'Circus Globe' with young international new arrivals culminating in a performance at the Gaia installation.
- Skylight strengthened its board with the recruitment of one new trustee with experience of arts in the theatre sector.
- The building lease extension, agreed in the previous financial period, was executed and Skylight's home was secured on favourable terms for a further 15 years.
- COVID related support grants such as RESTART and Creative Industries Grant played a key role in supporting Skylight.
- Skylight secured further commissions to provide delivery projects for Rochdale Borough Council's Short Breaks, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the National Association of Social Prescribing (NASP), sponsored Rochdale Social Prescribing Pilot Project.
- We continued to be funded by charitable sources and grantmakers such as Henry Smith Charity, Children In Need as well local health and wellbeing charity, Link4Life (now YourTrust).

FOREWORD

Just as Skylight played a key role in supporting participants, staff, freelance workers and volunteers in our communities during the Lockdown, we played a key role as we all emerged from pandemic imposed restrictions.

From a standing-start, we went from operating activities online to opening the building for classes and projects to the public within two weeks of restrictions being lifted-albeit with the first regard for everybody's safety.

We quickly responded to the opportunity to take circus out to new participants and audiences again. We had a bumper summer of outreach work in schools, community groups and at festivals and events. Workshops and performances were delivered by our staff and regular participants.

We also started to look further ahead, planning and executing more ambitious projects with an array of partners. Some with health and wellbeing objectives and some with creative outcomes.

Looking back, the Skylight Team has achieved so much in this stutter-start year with an incredible number of outputs and an incredible array of beneficiaries. The feedback-some of which peppers this report- has been heartwarming. We look forward to more of the same with more beneficiaries in more communities and locations, with more partners in the next year.

David Allen

CEO

Skylight Circus Arts

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

PURPOSES, AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND SKYLIGHT ACTIVITIES

Purposes and aims in Skylight's original governing document:

'To promote, maintain, improve and advance education for the public benefit by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills. To relieve the needs of disabled persons by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills to such persons' (1990)

Charity Commission Activities Overview 2020

Life-changing social circus projects to improve health and well-being. Collaborations: professionals and members to create productions. Specialisms: circus with disability, diversity, mental health, challenging young people. Address challenges in communities with multiple deprivation.

Purposes 2020 Summary. 'Benefiting individuals and communities through circus arts training, performance and workshops. Skylight's base in central Rochdale is in an area of multiple deprivation and activities extend across the region. This report outlines how our purposes were achieved over this very different year of Covid-19.

Aims, objectives and activities are reviewed by the trustees each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period to March 2022. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on its stated purposes.



Skylight stilt walkers entertain the crowds with Little Amal, November 2021

SKYLIGHT ACTIVITIES APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022

A year of emergence and reconnection. We continued virtual and live delivery asCOVID restrictions were eased and lifted in July. There was an overall growth in participation but numbers were lower than pre pandemic. Paused projects were rescheduled and delivered this year. Classes returned and we had a resurgence of bookings. Feedback from partners identified worrying statistics in child development, particularly in language and social engagement.

Local connections were formed to address the urgent needs of children, young people and vulnerable adults, negatively affected by the isolation of the pandemic. Henry Smith Community Match Challenge funding was secured for one year to address local needs.

HIGHLIGHTS IN FY 21/22

- 'Community Health Champions' doorstep circus engagement for Public Health consultation project.
- Little Amal's visit to Rochdale event animation with circus performance and free 'Have-a Go' workshop.
- Circus Globe for asylum refugee young people circus tasters and launch of new group.
- Re-established 'Rope' classes for adults with physical disabilities and 'Sky High' Short Breaks sessions for young people with disabilities and additional needs.
- Performances at Rochdale Feel Good Festival pop up event 'Picnic In The Park,' Falinge Park, Rochdale.
- Performance and 'Have-A-Go' workshop at Greater Manchester Combined Authority's 'Cap and Dove' project at Rochdale Feel Good Festival pop up event in Rochdale Town Centre.
- Theraplay-inspired circus activity for cared for young people and new adoptive families in care, delivered in partnership with Beyond Psychology.



Skylight team member and participant wowing the audience at Skylight's Youth Circus Christmas Show, December 2021

PERFORMANCES

Skylight's ambition to increase the quality and quantity of performance was again affected by restrictions. In addition, 'Circus Routes' performance and creative employment pathways funding bid, was unfortunately rejected by Arts Council England (ACE). In spite of the above, our groups performed the following highlights:

-Feelgood Festival Pop Up performances and 'Have-A-Go' workshops. Scaled down events took place in Falinge Park and Rochdale Town Centre. We worked in partnership with Rochdale Borough Council, Link4Life (now YourTrust) and Vintage Worx. Performances were outdoors with covid safety measures in place.

- Circus Globe group of young asylum seekers/refugees, performed beneath the Gaia installation in Number 1 Riverside, Rochdale Borough Council's' public access building. Performance was enhanced with a soundtrack of their thoughts on the environment spoken in English and their native tongues. This was accompanied by a music composition from a freelance worker.
- The Christmas Shows by regular classes/projects were divided into two separate shows to create space and keep inline with government guidelines. These took place at our circus studio with invited guests of performers' and participants' family and friends.



Midi-Youth Aerial Class participant performing for friends and family at Skylight, December 2021

"This was so emotional for me to watch, they're back! She went in so nervous that she was going to mess up and she walked out filled with all of the confidence she lost over lockdown. Skylight Circus Arts are amazing and I'm so grateful for everything they do. The kids were awesome!"

Parent

Skylight Christmas Show Performer

SOCIAL CIRCUS PROJECTS

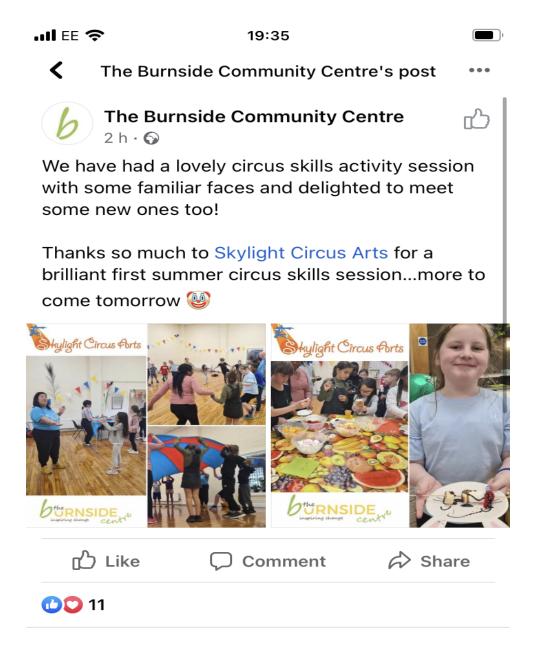
Skylight is inclusive. Projects this year covered people with a variety of needs and disadvantages:

- Registered with physical disabilities and learning disabilities.
- Attending special schools and Pupil Referral Units.
- Young people from asylum seeker, refugee Roma families.
- Elders at risk of isolation and with disabilities.
- Vulnerable yYoung people experiencing and vulnerable: trauma and poor mental health.
- Adults/children with additional needs.

Circus Wow returned to Kirkholt Estate following an 18 month delay. A hugely successful project for disadvantaged children. This brought new connections in the local community.

Sky High for children and young people with disabilities/additional needs returned! Rochdale Borough Council Short Breaks asked us to deliver sessions as part of the universal Short Breaks offer.

Circus Globe for refugee/asylum young people was launched. Taster sessions took place at Falinge High School. We partnered with Rochdale Borough Council Early Health and Schools Team to deliver trauma informed sessions for a group of young people from a variety of countries.



Feedback from a Skylight social circus outreach session

Middleton Holidays at Home Funding from Rochdale Borough Council Township Fund for young people 6 -12 years in socially disadvantaged areas. Skylight provided circus activities and healthy food in partnership with Burnside Community Centre, Middleton.

Fossil Walks took place after being paused in the past year. The three walks were part of our NHLF 'Three intriguing fossils and the landscapes they came from' project which fed into our ACE funded show 'Mammoth'. 60 people took part in the walks with accompanying maps created by our members.

Social Prescribing has started to grow in the Borough. We delivered workshops at events at Kirkholt, Kingsway and Kashmir Youth Project and Petrus Incredible Edibles Rochdale (PIER). This was in conjunction with the National Association of Social Prescribing (NASP) sponsored Rochdale Social Prescribing Pilot Project managed by Petrus Housing Association.

Darnhill Festival A mini festival pop up led by Cartwheel Arts. A scaled down event due to social distancing. We performed outdoors and delivered a have-a-go workshop to compliment a beautiful art exhibition in the library window.

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Skylight partners strengthen the delivery of our work for example ongoing training by clinical psychologists, Beyond Psychology, informing trainers' knowledge of children & young people trauma, attachment and neurodiversity; to inclusive circus companies advising on teaching staff and participants. We are proud to share the changes and achievements of children, our ways of working and our successes amongst our social and youth circus community partners.

Extraordinary Bodies continued their partnership work with Skylight. The 'What am I worth' project was delivered with a hybrid approach, resulting in our performance film being shown at The Lowry alongside Extraordinary Bodies' performance of 'Human'. Participants took a trip to see the production and themselves on the big screen. Martine Bradford, Creative Director, also continued the 'Unexpected Leader' programme. She gained specialist training from Extraordinary Bodies in developing inclusive creative projects for neurodiverse and disability engagement and developing co-evaluation processes.

NHS Community Health Champions We worked in partnership to provide creative arts interventions in areas of low vaccine uptake. Their aim was to create 'something out of the ordinary' in order to gather feedback, connect and help people to make informed decisions about their health. We worked in Langley, taking circus to doorsteps and streets.

Networks Skylight attends several cycles of meetings, for example Rochdale Borough Culture Network, Children and Young People's Forum, LGBT/ Rochdale in Rainbows Steering Committee and the Social Prescribing Steering Committee.

Partnerships Skylight is committed to working in partnership on projects. Other organisations publicise our projects and refer people to us . For example, #Thrive, Mind, Rochdale Children and Adults Social Services, Rochdale Connections Trust,

Services for Children with Disabilities, Barnardos, Parent and Carer Voice, CAMHS, Rochdale Youth Service, Your Trust, Short Break providers Network, Voluntary Arts Sector organisations, health professionals (Occupation Health, Children's Nurses etc) Social Prescribing, Petrus Housing Association and Blue Pits Housing Action.

The Elderly Silver Circus for over 60's, ran throughout covid restrictions. The group were supported with pastoral care, attended live sessions and took part in Extraordinary Bodies 'What am I worth?' performance project. They visited the Lowry where their performance was included in the film.

Elders Sessions were also delivered at Deeplish Community Centre. We've previously worked with Deeplish Elders, some of whom are living with dementia. This vulnerable group needed live sessions again and gave us a big welcome back.



Silver Circus 'Can Droppies' troupe rehearsing for a show, July 2021

"It was great to see us all on stage at the Lowry!"

Silver Circus participant

BBC Children in Need funded SPRING 3. A 3 year project using circus to make a difference in the lives of young people with disabilities and additional needs. Participants were drawn from local schools including in partnership with Special Education Schools. Activities were delivered with the following partners:

Springside School

Brownhill Learning Community

Broadfield Primary School

CCG Projects (Side-by-Side)

Family sessions for young people aged 11-16 4-19 with physical, emotional wellbeing and social needs resumed. Some are in cCare or living in poverty. Some are affected by trauma, neurodiversity Autism, ADHD, or behavioural disorders and mental health issues. They are often socially isolated through bullying, anxiety, poor communication skills or financial circumstances. Rochdale Connections Trust and other organisations refer young people. Side-by-Side attracted many more young people than expected this year.

Targeted Youth Circus Sessions:

Young carers mixture of live and zoom workshops.

Summer School at Skylight - 8 to 18 yrs

Rochdale Additional Needs Service Visually-Impaired Team worked with young people who are visually impaired both primary and secondary.

Targeted Parent and Child sessions within schools were paused due to the impact of COVID.



Participants at Skylight at an during outreach 'Have-a-Go' session

"The staff are so friendly & made us all feel at ease no one felt left out I genuinely enjoyed every minute of it"

Participant. Deeplish Community Centre

Outreach Work (Fee Paid)

Outreach took across Rochdale Borough plus Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. A surge of bookings occurred as restrictions were lifted. Sessions covered workshops and performance in the community, youth and education and small outdoor events. A few highlights include:

- The Lowry Salford Parks 'Have-a-Go' workshop sessions for young people.
- Touchstones Gallery & Museum Summer School circus sessions for young people.
- Oldham Youth Service, Sholver & Moorside Community Centre Circus taster sessions for young people.
- Fireground, Museum of Greater Manchester Fire Service- Family fun day 'Have-a-Go' workshop sessions.
- Hopwood Hall College Fresher taster sessions for young people in higher education.
- Rochdale Connections Trust- Workshops for young people needing support.
- The Piece Hall, Halifax 'Have-a-Go' workshop for Christmas event and Santa's grotto visitors.
- St. Elphin's Park, Warrington 'Have-a-Go' workshop sessions for young people.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OBJECTIVES

At the end of the previous reporting period the Trustees set out the following areas for development:

- Programme development: quality projects and performance to meet need in Greater Manchester.

This was hampered by the impact of the pandemic reducing the number of participants focussed on performance related projects and many of our dedicated performance group, Spotlight, moving out of the Borough for education.

Performance opportunities were also limited by available funding, See 'Funding and Financial Sustainability' note below.

- Funding and Financial sustainability

Skylight developed a funding plan with aims to attract grantmakers with larger funds which closely aligned with our strategic and creative objectives; to consolidate existing revenues streams from paid for work such as community and education work by working with service providers rather than just ad hoc service users; to develop partnerships with like-minded organisations to secure more commissions as project delivery partners and to try to develop individual giving.

We made the decision to apply for an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) award in the following financial period (FY 22/23).

- Brand Development and Marketing

We began a brand development project with a professional designer with experience in circus and entertainment to re-invigorate appeal among the public, partners and funders. The project involved consultation with trustees, staff, freelance workers, volunteers and participants. The project was completed and a new brand identity readied for launch in the following financial period.

- Employment

It was noted that to ensure a viable staff and workforce, Skylight needs to create development pathways and career opportunities to ensure access to talent in the future.

We employed two young people with no previous professional experience of circus or working with communities. This was thanks to the government's Kickstart Scheme. The trainees were provided with a mix of vocational off-site training,in-house training and mentoring.

We made efforts to augment our existing pool of freelance delivery workers and were successful in finding three new people with varying levels of experience.

- Building development

We aimed to create a multi-purpose extension for meetings, office space, and training.

Due to staff expansion and the desire to improve the flexibility of facilities at our circus studio, a building extension would enable us to accommodate multiple projects and support visiting practitioners.. Funding was applied for this work to take place in the following financial period (FY 22/23) but was unsuccessful.

- Environmental sustainability

Skylight's environmental policy was ratified. This includes policies on avoiding single use plastic through to minimising travel eg attend meetings where online options are available.

With the advent of the Clean Air Zone in Greater Manchester our stated aim was to purchase an electric or hybrid vehicle to facilitate outreach (fee paid) work while minimising our impact on the environment. However, this is currently on hold due to the delay to the Clean Air Zone and the expected change in policy and support for organisations in meeting its requirements.

Skylight staff attended several environmental impact workshops including a Rochdale Borough Council's Climate Emergency Team-led session. The knowledge gained in these sessions has helped inform our policies and behaviours.

- Spotlight Troupe

We were unable to re-establish Spotlight, Skylight's elite performance troupe for young people interested in careers in the sector. This was due to availability of funding and staff capacity. We included Spotlight in our Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) Activity Plan and we remain committed to re-establishing the group funds depending.

- Visiting Trainers

Skylight reaffirmed our commitment to working with sector leading talent for staff and freelance worker's CPD and to inspire participants. We worked with renowned artists such as Steve Royle and Martin Mor. The ACE Project Grant bid submitted includes involvement with director and performer Grania Pickard, parade makers Handmade Parade and the world-renowned Gandini Juggling. (See 'Fundraising Performance.')



Skylight Team Member and Midi Youth Circus participants at 'Picnic In The Park,' August 2021

FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE

Inline with the state objectives in our funding plan:

We ran a campaign to encourage digital donations via our website and fundraising partner around 'National Giving Day' in November. However, this was ultimately unsuccessful.

We sought to attract larger funding from Arts Council England but were unsuccessful with the 'Circus Routes' project. A subsequent smaller, re-developed bid for the

following financial period (FY 22/23) was made. The funding was awarded shortly after the start of the next financial period. (See note below.)

We were awarded a contribution to core costs thanks to COVID-related Business Grants. We were able to use some of this for our charitable aims and purposes. £35,667

Despite a very competitive environment in FY 21/22 we bid for (and ultimately secured funds) for the following financial period (FY 22/23) as follows:

- Henry Smith Charity 'Strengthening Communities' Continuation funding for a further 3 years for a total of £134,500
- Arts Council England 'Skyspark' Project Grant £29,975
- We were commissioned by Rochdale Short Breaks team to deliver projects to the value of £12,600
- We were commissioned by Rochdale Early Years Team to develop a 'train the trainer' pilot project for primary school teachers in the Borough to the value of

£5,443.

(Though we are in receipt of the funds this will be deferred until the following financial period (FY 22/23) due to school schedule issues created by COVID absences.)

- Outreach (paid for work) generated income	£18,195
- Commissions (paid for work) generated income	£13,698
- Classes generated income	£6,800

EMPLOYMENT

The charity currently employs 9 staff. Two of these are full time. 5 staff members are on a fixed hours part-time basis. 2 members are employed on a variable hours part-time basis.

5 staff have delivery responsibilities connected directly to Skylight's charitable activities and purposes. 4 staff have operational responsibilities which support Skylight's charitable activities and purposes.

Staff Breakdown:

- Full Time Staff (x 2)

Creative Director

Funding and Development Manager

- Part Time Staff (x7)

CEO

Project Coordinator/Circus Tutor

Circus Tutor Trainees (x3)

Bookkeeper

Cleaner

- Freelance Team (x9)

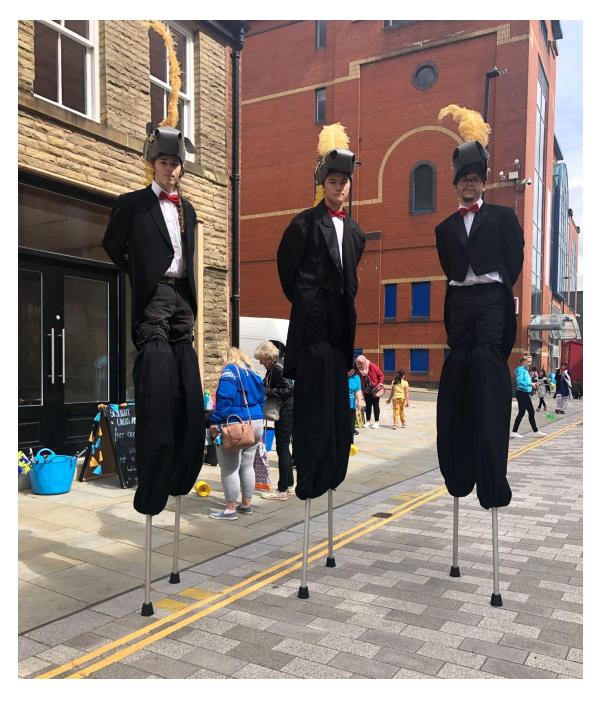
Artists ranging from aerial to music & choreography. We also contract additional specialists.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Staff were able to access the following training during FY 21/22:

МВ	First Aid Training, re qualified	Jan 22
	Unexpected Leaders Programme	Throughout Year
	Mentoring - See earlier note 'Extraordinary Bodies'	
MC	Refresher First Aid Top Up	Jan 22
НМ	Kickstart Employability & UK Year Of Service	Throughout Year
	Employability and Vocational Qualification	
GMc	Kickstart Employability & UK Year Of Service	Throughout Year
	Employability and Vocational Qualification	
DA	Digital Marketing & Social Media Seminar	Apr 21
	Apprenticeships Training	Feb 22
DP	Media Production Training	Throughout Year

A safeguarding training day for trustees, staff, volunteers and regular freelance workers was organised for early in the next financial period.



'Horses' standby at 'Cap & Dove' Rochdale Feel Good pop up, August 2021

OUTPUTS & BENEFICIARIES

The number of outputs and beneficiaries increased dramatically compared with the previous financial period. However, in line with other arts and culture organisations our reach did not return to pre pandemic levels.

It should be noted, restrictions were not fully lifted until July. This impacted both our outputs in the early part of the year and saw large scale public events such as The Rochdale Feel Good Festival- which we would normally appear at- cancelled.

Total Sessions Delivered 502

Individual participants 4,710

Total global majority participants 963

Number of Interventions

Classes 1,659

Projects 1,855

Outreach 3,493

Total Interventions 7,007

Audiences 3,470

Project participants with Special Educational Needs 294

GOING FORWARD

Skylight is in a strong financial position and a strong position to benefit from the organisational developments we have seen in this financial period.

There is significant investment expected in arts and culture in Rochdale through investment via ACE Creative People and Places, Cultural Development Fund and Priority Place. It is hoped Skylight, with its key role in the Borough, can benefit directly and indirectly from this funding.

In the following financial period (FY 22/23) Skylight's Trustees and staff have identified the following areas for progress:

- -Apply for significant core funding support to the next phase of ACE National Portfolio Organisation programme commencing FY 24/25.
- -Rollout Skylight's new brand identity across all marketing channels and materials.
- -Improve Skylight's building facilities by re-developing the kitchen for meeting and hot desking space.
- -Execute Skylight's expanded Artistic Development Plan.
- -Consolidate existing partnerships and capitalise on new partnerships and networks to ensure strong revenues and outputs through project commissions and outreach work.
- -Maintain project focus on Rochdale Borough to take advantage of the aforementioned investment and partnerships and continue to develop our model.
- -Develop the School's 'Train The Trainer' programme commissioned by Rochdale Borough Council's Early Years Team as a blueprint for further commissions from Local Authority education service providers.
- -Continued employment of sector-leading artists to inspire staff and participants.
- -Develop more career pathways for young people and recruit an experienced Arts Administrator. This post will improve Skylight's operations and free up Delivery Team members to deliver more outputs.

Confirmed in the short term:

Children In Need Project funding for a further two years.

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Project funding for Side by Side sessions for a further year.

Confirmed shortly after the commencement of the new financial period (FY 23/24):

ACE Project Grant The 'Skyspark' project bid was approved. This will involve working with world renowned practitioners to create a multi-generational co-created performance with staff, freelancers and participants. The show will feature at Rochdale Folk Festival and we'll create our own free event in Falinge Park in the summer.

Henry Smith Charity 'Strengthening Communities' Skylight applied for a continuation of this core funding programme at a significantly higher level. This was confirmed as successful in July.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Despite some disappointments with key funding bids, the availability of healthy designated reserves from the previous financial period ensured Skylight was able to operate effectively and meet increased overhead due to the employment of new staff.

The availability of COVID-related business support grants, strong revenues from commissioned (paid for) work from partners and healthy outreach (paid for) work menat not all these designated funds were needed to meet the gap between revenue and expenditure.

Additionally, Skylight was able to undertake key development projects such as re-brand in and expenditure on outsourced professional HR services.

RESERVES POLICY

A fund is set aside to cover staff redundancies, with a minimum of two to three months running costs.

The company has no liabilities other than to St Chad's Educational Trust, to restore the building to its original condition if we leave. Money is held in a separate trust for this purpose.

At the year-end (Apr 2022) total reserves were £103,040 of which £3,243 were restricted funds.

The General fund was £99,797 (unrestricted funds). From the General fund several amounts are set aside for liabilities or designated expenditure:

- Three months running costs, redundancy and lease liability	£52,250
- Creative development for match bidding and creative excellence	£10,000
- Building refurbishment	£14,500
- Staff salary support if core funding bids are unsuccessful	£15,000
Free unrestricted reserves on 1 April 2022 were	£8,047

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Skylight was registered as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in December 1990.

The company has a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and it is governed under its articles of Association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March

2019 was 7 (in 2016: it was 7). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 10 to the accounts.

Trustees who are related parties this year: The Chair, J C Riley, is married to Noreen White.

Prospective trustees receive induction materials and are voted onto the board. No other person or external body is entitled to appoint trustees. The Trustee recruitment campaign began recently.

Vacancies exist for treasurer, legal adviser, artists, input from young people, local diversity groups.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Trustees monitor financial and other risks at quarterly meetings so they can take prompt action when needed.

Meetings took place in a hybrid format with attendance in person and online via Zoom depending on availability. Attendance from all trustees was strong.

Trustees monitor risks in the subgroups set up at times to address specific needs in addition to full trustee meetings.

Usually, these are:

Employment Sub Group, Finance Sub group and Creative Sub group. Only the Finance Sub group met this year.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Skylight Circus in Education for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 14 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

J. Riley

Chair of Board of Trustee

Chiles

A BIG THANK YOU TO

All who have volunteered and helped us over the year, including our hard-working staff and the Trustees who contributed far more than their roles demanded.

We appreciate the dedication of the freelance workers who make it possible for Skylight to spread the circus joy far and wide.

Our landlord

St Chad's Educational Trust

Our funders & commissioners

Children In Need Henry Smith Charity

Integrated Partnership (previously CCG) Rochdale Short Breaks

Your Trust (previously Link4life)

Our partners (and sometimes commissioners)

Action Together ARCON Housing Association

BBC Children In Need Beyond Psychology

Depaul Charity Extraordinary Bodies

The Lowry Rochdale Borough Council

Rochdale Development Agency Walk the Plank

Our fellow Rochdale Borough Culture Network members

Cartwheel Arts English Folk Expo

Rochdale Library Service M6

Touchstones Gallery & Museum

Our friends and supporters

Claire Minett Danni Hall

Darren Grice Jamie Moran

Janet Emsley John McLoughlin

And, last but not least

All our participants and audiences















Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Skylight Circus in Education for the year ended 31 March 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 40 - 55.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Emma Willder, FCMA, CGMA, CG(Affiliated)

Beyond Profit Ltd G104 Bolton Arena Arena Approach Horwich Bolton BL6 6LB

Date: 16 December 2022

Skylight Circus in Education

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	38,963	-	38,963	19,952	-	19,952
Charitable activities	4	74,267	34,341	108,608	31,681	115,049	146,730
Total income		113,230	34,341	147,571	51,633	115,049	166,682
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds Charitable activities	5	480 132,473	80,328	480 212,801	25,681 	109,094	- 134,775
Total expenditure		132,953	80,328	213,281	25,681	109,094	134,775
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	7	(19,723)	(45,987)	(65,710)	25,953	5,956	31,907
Transfer between funds		1,405	(1,405)	-	174	(174)	-
Net movement in funds for the year	r	(18,318)	(47,392)	(65,710)	26,127	5,782	31,907
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward		118,115	50,635	168,750	91,988	44,853	136,841
Total funds carried forward	16	99,797	3,243	103,040	118,115	50,635	168,748

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

Skylight Circus in Education Company number 2567143

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	20)22	202	21
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets Tangible assets	12				
Total fixed assets			-		-
Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	13 15	5,650 103,529		4,093 173,691	
Total current assets		109,179		177,784	
Liabilities Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	14	(6,139)		(9,035)	
Net current assets			103,040		168,749
Total assets less current liabilities	1		103,040		168,749
Net assets			103,040		168,749
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds Unrestricted income funds	16 17		3,243 99,797		50,635 118,115
Total charity funds			103,040		168,749

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime (of the Companies Act 2006).

The notes on pages 14 to 27 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 14th December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

J. Riley (Chair)

Skylight Circus in Education

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Skylight Circus in Education meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is a treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

f Fund accounting

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

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

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 7.

i Operating leases

Operating leases are leases in which the title to the assets, and the risks and rewards of ownership, remain with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Leasehold improvement10% straight line methodCircus equipment25% straight line methodOffice equipment20% straight line methodComputer Equipment33% straight line methodMotor Vehicles25% straight line method

k Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

I Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

n Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 9. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Rochdale MBC Donations	38,336 627	19,669 283
Total	38,963	19,952

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{All}}$ income from donations and legacies is unrestricted.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Grants and contracts			
Action Together	-	5,500	5,500
BBC Children In Need	-	14,966	14,966
Henry Smith Charity	-	13,625	13,625
Kirkholt Millions		250	250
Link 4 Life	20,000	-	20,000
The Work Company	11,657	-	11,657
Growth Company	1,011		1,011
	32,668	34,341	67,009
Fees and Other Income	27.044		27.044
Circus Skills Workshops Circus Skills Classes	27,044	-	27,044
Other	6,800 7,755	-	6,800
Ottlei	7,755	-	7,755
•	41,599	-	41,599
Total	74,267	34,341	108,608

Income from charitable activities (Cont.)

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Grants and contracts			
Arts Council	-	21,491	21,491
BBC Children In Need	-	6,620	6,620
CCG	-	16,063	16,063
D'Oly Carte	-	3,000	3,000
Henry Smith Charity	-	66,875	66,875
Skelton Charity	-	1,000	1,000
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	22,009	-	22,009
	22,009	115,049	137,058
Fees and Other Income			
Circus Skills Workshops	8,326	-	8,326
Circus Skills Classes	523	-	523
Other	823	-	823
	9,672	-	9,672
Total	31,681	115,049	146,730

5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

			Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
			Z.	£
Staff costs			105,847	69,613
Freelancers			28,965	12,351
Costs of Arts, Activities & Workshops	3		7,312	6,375
Premises			24,628	10,761
Vehicle Costs			326	511
Insurance			5,164	4,113
Office Costs			2,666	7,007
Professional Fees			1,881	-
Volunteer costs			36	-
Governance costs (see note 6)			2,690	2,198
Support costs (see note 6)			33,286	21,845
			212,801	134,774
			2022	2021
			£	£
Restricted expenditure			80,328	109,094
Unrestricted expenditure			132,473	25,681
			212,801	134,774
Analysis of governance and supp	ort costs			
	Basis of	Support	Governance	Total 2022
	apportionment	£	£	£
Staff costs	Time spent	26,462	_	26,462
Premises	Floor area	6,157	-	6,157
Office costs	Floor area	667	-	667
Accountancy services	Governance	-	2,690	2,690
		33,286	2,690	35,976
		55,200		

7 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

8

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation Operating lease rentals:	-	-
Property		7,500
Accountancy Repaired bureau food	1 556	518
Accountancy & payroll bureau fees Accounts preparation	1,556 537	1,140
Independent examination	597	540
Staff costs		
Staff costs during the year were as follows:		
Stall costs during the year were as follows.	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	123,135	81,762
Social security costs	5,680	3,570
Pensions	2,469	1,684
Other staff costs	1,025	
	132,309	87,016
Allocated as follows:	_	
Charitable activities	105,847	69,613
Support costs	26,462	17,403
	132,309	87,016

No employees has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7 (2021: 4.8).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Creative Director and the Business and Development Manager and the new CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £84,990(2021: £54,184).

9 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

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

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Jim Riley (trustee) received reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of Skylight Circus totalling £1,165 (2021:£7,512) relating to purchases of equipment, office costs and repairs and maintenance.

The Trustee do not have Trustee Indemnity Insurance

10 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Rochdale MBC Coronavirus job retention scheme Kick Starter	38,336 - 12,667	19,669 22,009 -
	51,003	41,678

There were no unfulfilled conditions and contingencies attaching to the grants.

11 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

12 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Leasehold improvements £	Circus equipment £	Office equipment £	Total £
At 1 April 2021 Additions Disposals	7,997 - -	38,739 - -	18,317 - -	65,053 - -
At 31 March 2022	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Depreciation		_		
At 1 April 2021 Charge for the year Disposals	7,997 - -	38,739 - -	18,317 - -	65,053 - -
At 31 March 2022	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Net book value				
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	-	-	-	-

13 Debtors

13	Debtors	2022 £	2021 £
	Trade debtors Prepayments and accrued income	3,100 2,550	2,496 1,597
		5,650	4,093
14	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
		2022 £	2021 £
	Trade creditors Other creditors and accruals Taxation and social security costs	1,148 2,914 2,077	3,140 2,948 2,947
		6,139	9,035
15	Cash at bank and in hand		
		2022 £	2021 £
	Cash at bank and on hand	103,529	173,691
		103,529	173,691

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April	To	From any distance		Balance at 31 March
	2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Action Together	-	5,500	(4,339)	-	1,161
Arts Council	412	-	-	(412)	-
CCG	17,585	-	(16,886)	-	699
Children in Need	3,648	14,966	(18,594)	(20)	-
D'oly Carte	622	-	-	(622)	-
Henry Smith	25,618	13,625	(37,860)	-	1,383
Ironmongers Charity	54	-	-	(54)	-
Kirkholt Millions	2,496	250	(2,649)	(97)	(1)
Skelton Charity	200	-	-	(200)	-
	50,635	34,341	(80,328)	(1,405)	3,243
Previous reporting period	Balance at				Balance at
	1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	2021 £
	£	£	£	£	£
Arts Council	3,837	21,491	(24,916)	-	412
CCG	16,064	16,063	(14,542)	-	17,585
Children in Need	3,648	6,620	(6,620)	-	3,648
D'oly Carte	-	3,000	(2,378)	-	622
Foyle Foundation	4,000	-	(4,000)	-	-
Henry Smith	6,500	66,875	(47,757)	-	25,618
Heritage Lottery	4,672	-	(4,635)	(37)	-
Ironmongers Charity	1,004	-	(950)	-	54
Kirkholt Millions	4,991	-	(2,496)	-	2,496
Rochdale Boroughwide Housi	137	-	-	(137)	-
Skelton Charity	-	1,000	(800)		200
	44,853	115,049	(109,094)	(174)	50,635

Analysis of movements in restricted funds (Cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Action Together	
a) Volunteer Celebration Fund	For the purpose of small gifts in recognition of the support volunteers provide the organisation.
b) Innovation Programme	For the purpose of consultation with young people experiencing racial inequalities.
Arts Council	
a) Lottery Grant 'Extinct' 2019-20	'Mammoth' production & film with young people examining climate change
b) Emergency Response Fund	COVID relief funding
CCG	'Side by Side" circus sessions for vulnerable children
Children in Need	
	Circus for young people with disadvantages, disabilities and special educational needs schools
b) Booster Grant	COVID provision, equipment and activities
D'oly Carte	Silver Circus sessions for elders
Henry Smith	
a) Strengthening Communities 2018-21	Specified running costs, circus activities for disadvantaged
b) Community Challenge	COVID response activities, equipment and running costs
Ironmongers Charity	'Time to Shine' project with PRU and special school
Kirkholt Milloins	'Circus Wow 2', holiday activities for disadvantaged young people
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	'Circus Wow 1' project for disadvantaged young people in Kirkholt.
Skelton Charity	COVID response; equipment for remote delivery and home packs for elders and those with disabilities

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2022 £
General fund	118,115	113,230	(132,953)	1,405	99,797
	118,115	113,230	(132,953)	1,405	99,797
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2021 £
General fund	91,988	51,633	(25,681)	174	118,115

Name of Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	99,797	-	3,243	103,040
Total	99,797		3,243	103,040
Previous reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	118,115	_	50,635	168,750
Total	118,115	-	50,635	168,750