

Annual Report 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Leeds Weekend Care Association

Registered Charity Number - 1077162

Company Limited by Guarantee Number - 3827833

Suite 4, Gledhow Mount Mansion, 32 Roxholme Grove, Leeds LS7 4JJ

🕾 0113 2165133

07506 722 495





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Our Mission



To make a positive difference to the lives of disabled children and

teenagers in Leeds

Our Purpose is:

- To deliver safe, fun, exciting, inclusive activities, and environments
- To encourage friendship, independence, exploration and understanding
- To provide a much-needed break for parents and caregivers
- To recruit, retain and train enthusiastic, energetic, and experienced staff
- To advocate for those whose voice is often ignored or not heard.
- To build a community that welcomes and celebrates difference.

Our Guiding Principles are:

- To improve the lives of families with disabled children and young people.
- To recognise and understand the needs of parents and carers and to work closely with them in shaping and delivering our services.
- To encourage a positive approach to children and young people with disabilities on our projects and in the wider community.
- To promote the recognition of young people with disabilities as important and integral members of society.
- To provide equality of provision and access to service users regardless of disability, gender, ethnic origin, skin colour, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
- To provide a positive, developmental environment for all our staff.

Our Values are:

- Fun We believe that having fun and making friends is fundamental to a person's happiness. Fun is a release. It provides freedom, enjoyment, fulfilment and connection.
- **High Quality** We provide safe, creative, exciting, collaborative spaces/experiences for our children, staff and volunteers. We always strive to be, and do, better.
- **Inclusive** We support, value and respect each other. Shared values and goals help everyone reach their full potential.
- A Can-Do Attitude We focus on what our children, staff and volunteers can do. By recognising and celebrating achievements, big and small, we empower individuals and our community.
- **Honesty** We take responsibility for our successes and failures. We are open to what is possible, not afraid to fail, and we learn quickly.



Chair's Report to AGM



After almost a decade this will be my last Chair's Report for LWCA. Not that I'm leaving the organisation - LWCA gets under your skin and my commitment to being involved is as strong as ever. I will, therefore, continue to serve on the Management Board as a trustee.

Why stay? That's simple.

It's because I firmly believe that the service we deliver matters and that playing a part in ensuring its continuation is important. Tailored services that provide social interaction and opportunities, outside of school and college, for youngsters with disabilities are

limited and those that exist are in great demand, with many being over-subscribed. Waiting lists to attend many specialist SEND services in Leeds are long and, as such, there can be extended delays before families are able to access any provision. As such, I believe it essential that LWCA continues to exist. Of course, we do not do it alone. Organisations such as Mencap, ASAS, and Scope have, for years, been with us, at the coal face, sharing good practice, ideas, and support.

Continuation is, therefore, the theme of my introduction to this annual report.

It's true...

- We have not been able to build back to pre-pandemic levels
- We are not back to full day provision
- And we are still struggling to recruit and retain enough good staff to expand the services provided by LWCA.

But...

- We have succeeded in delivering 5,543 hours of fun, friendship and exploration for children and teenagers with additional needs in Leeds this year. And that is an achievement we are proud of.
- We still have an experienced team of dedicated staff at the schemes, and in the office, who provide all year round, week in-week out activities that are always good quality, stimulating and inclusive. Impressively the team never deliver the same session twice. We like to mix things up and 'try stuff' at LWCA, even if some of the time it doesn't always go *exactly to plan*. When you run a service like ours you know that nothing is failure, it's just learning.
- We are also a well-managed service, credit to the inimitable team of Liz, Lisa, Liz and Chantelle in this context. They never flag in their commitment to delivering a service, which our parent/ carer survey attests - and as the kids themselves tell us - is well-suited to their needs and appreciated.
- We have a settled Trustee Board that represents a broad spectrum of society. The Board take the governance of LWCA seriously and bring fresh ideas, thinking

and guidance to how we run the schemes and, importantly, on how we take care of our service users and staff.

- We also continue to have the ongoing financial support of Leeds City Council, without which we would struggle to cover our considerable costs. We thank them for their support and stewardship. Good, safe, specialist services for people with disabilities do not come cheap, nor should they.
- Allied to that, we have excellent control of our budget. LWCA's financial discipline has been even more essential in the current economic climate. But we are charity that will spend on what is needed and that, in large part, is on our staff and their training, as well as on the specialist resources and equipment that our service users need.

But most of all we have our service users and their families and carers to thank for the momentum that drives us on. LWCA exists for, and thrives on, the energy of the children and young people who spent time at Weekenders / Teen Scene and on the Out and About Project. They make us laugh, challenge our thinking, surprise us and, at every session, demonstrate that inclusion is not just a word - it's an action, that takes, time, money, experience, enthusiasm, and hard work to deliver.

My sincere hope is that LWCA is still delivering such opportunities in and around Leeds for many years to come.

Thank you.

Caroline

Caroline Bond: Chair of Trustees



Executive Management Committee

Management Committee Members during the year 1st April 2022 - 31 March 2023 Eleven meetings per year plus our AGM in July are held via virtual meetings or at our office of the Leeds Weekend Care Association.

Caroline Bond	Chair
David Bossingham	Treasurer
Georgina Nijjar	Secretary
Richard Hewson	Trustee
Ellie Brown	Trustee
Marianne Hewitt	Trustee
Adam Barclay	Trustee

Office Staff

Liz Sunderland	Service Manager		
Lisa Sheader	Office Manager		
Liz Colbeck	Office Assistant		

Scheme Staff

Chantelle Pearce	Senior Play Leader
Gill Howden	Deputy Play Leader (Left January 2023)
Lorraine Dempsey	Deputy Play Leader
Caroline Grayson	Deputy Play Leader (Started new role 28.1.2023)
Caragh McHugh	Deputy Play Leader (Started new role 28.1.2023)



SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT TO AGM



Our Projects

Weekenders Club is a Saturday play scheme for children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years old, living in Leeds, who have inclusive needs. Our eligibility criteria includes children from a broad spectrum of additional needs, including those with complex care needs for which our experienced staff team undergo specific medical training. Social workers or lead professionals make referrals to our service on a

young person's behalf, although we also accept referrals directly from families.

Each child/young person attends one session each month. Morning sessions run from 9.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m.; afternoon sessions run from 1.30 p.m. until 4.30 p.m. We operate from Vine Education Centre, Becketts Park, Leeds 6. This is an ideal venue where we are able to accommodate children and young people with physical difficulties as the site has an inclusive environment including ramps, hoists, a personal care suite and wheelchair-accessible spaces, both indoors and outdoors.

Activities include large play equipment such as a bouncy castle, trikes, go carts and lots of sports equipment. It is important that our children spend energy indoors and outdoors during the time they are with us, as well as have the opportunity to play on equipment they may not have access to at home. We like them to go home tired and happy! Additionally we have lots of games, arts, crafts, construction toys, baking, musical and sensory activities on offer. Each week we introduce a theme to build activities around. For example we have had sport, St George's Day, Superheroes, , Eid, Transport, Pride, Football, Flowers, Box Construction, to name just a few. The staff team share their ideas, so we seem to have a never-ending pool of inspiration for games, making things and baking themes.

Teen Scene Teen Scene runs under the umbrella of Weekenders Club but has a group all of its own. The age range is 14-17 and is a great way to meet up with friends and embark on group activities with a little more independence. Often we have young people who move on from Teen Scene and 'graduate' to the Out and About Project when they feel they have grown out of a play scheme environment and are ready for more age appropriate activities in the community with their peers.

The Out and About Project is for teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18, to go out together with our staff. Youngsters are facilitated to take part in activities which teenagers typically enjoy. We have around one event each week so aim for 52 outings in the year, although this year we had 57 and have planned 64 outings for 2023-24; simply because the project is popular, and we have more young people joining.

Reflection

On reflection of the year, I would firstly like to say how proud I am of everyone who is involved in our charity. We are fortunate to have a loyal and enthusiastic team including our administrators, trustees and the staff and volunteers who work with the children and young people who attend our Weekenders Club Play Scheme, Teen Scene and the Out and About Project. The young people and their families have had to adapt to our ½ day sessions at

Weekenders Club and the changes we made during the pandemic. Our plan was to return to full day sessions at Weekenders Club, but staffing shortages have meant that we are still operating 3-hour sessions. A huge thank you is due to the families and their children for being patient during these challenging times. We have lost some staff over the year – staff who were key not only in responsibilities and roles but also in experience with our cohort of children and young people. Daljit, Judith, Bella, Gill, and Faye were all staff members who had been with us for several years and worked across all projects. Whether they have moved on to retirement, left the country or simply need to forge ahead with their careers and main employment, we wish them well and miss them.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an essential part of our charity's work. Without an employee for the role, we depend on Sam Lambert and her Appeals Letters. These have reaped huge rewards and Sam has been working for us on a freelance basis for several years.

This year we had a few fundraising attempts of our own; Easter Raffle, Summer Celebration Event, and a Smarties Tube event – giving away tubes of Smarties and asking for the tubes to be returned – with coins in! A really simple idea and so many of our families got on board with this. You will see from the Donations and Fundraising section that these efforts were hugely successful. Thank you to all those who took part.

Thanks are due to Ellie and Emma at The Brand Nursery for sorting out the new fundraising pack. We also have a new donations platform which is managed by Supported Giving. The QR code is on our website and Facebook page.

I would also like to give a shout out to one of our children's mum's (Kelly Brook) who made heaps of cute gonks out of socks! She sold them and gave us the proceeds. So many generous people have had coffee mornings, run marathons, worn tacky jumpers at Christmas, asked for donations instead of gifts for birthdays and had various weird and wonderful ideas which they have put into action to raise funds for us.

Summer Celebration Event

I'm not sure who's idea it was but we started planning in early April and held a Summer Celebration Event at Vine Education Centre in July 2022. We were fortunate to get donations from Wades Charity and The Xerox (UK) Trust to enable us to have loads of activities. Lots of ideas didn't come off, but as we had a very full 'think tank' what did happen was brilliant! We had support on the day from employees of Brewin Dolphin (our partnership company) – thank goodness for them as it was very busy. All our registered children and their families were invited. In addition, we invited families from our waiting list and families who have used our services in the past. We extended the invitation to other third sector providers of care for disabled children and young people in Leeds which included, Leeds Autism Services, Rainbow House, and Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme, believing it important to work towards a 'joined up service' in Leeds. Putting on an event like this, gives a great opportunity for volunteers and staff of other providers to work together for the same goals.

Understanding that the summer holidays are an expensive time for parents and carers, we wanted to have a day where there was lots on offer which was free **and** affordable. This way, there would be low financial stress and we would be encouraging families to stay all day – and not run out of money. We also wanted the activities and the environment to be geared around disability, ensuring that we had lots of space and a relaxed atmosphere.

Over the last couple of years, our own service has had many enforced changes due to the pandemic. Those changes included, shorter opening times, 1:1 supervision of clients, less children in the building, social distancing, frequent testing and of course lots of missed sessions because of the threat of spreading the virus. The impact has been huge on our children and their families. The event on 28th July was a celebration of people coming together; a chance for families to spend time together, meet other families with disabled children and have some freedom to use our building and all the resources we have available.

Our Entertainment ...

<u>Rapide Entertainment</u>. Gavin was our clown and did balloon modelling, magic, juggling, taught circus skills (juggling, plate spinning, micro bike riding) and was a big hit with children and adults.

<u>Boom Chikka Boom</u>. Messy rave disco providers for children. They brought music, bubbles, glitter, shaving foam, pretend snow, parachutes, and cheerleader pompoms. They encouraged even the shyest of our visitors to join in with their dancing.

<u>DAZL – Dance Action Zone Leeds</u>. Provided a dance session for all to join in with. They do all sorts of dance styles; hip hop, creative, street, cheer and more. Their inclusive approach was popular on the day, and they brought the party atmosphere to our playground.

<u>Leeds Animal Club</u> brought rabbits, bearded dragons, snakes, spiders, guinea pigs, and some slimy invertebrates which they let our visitors handle. They were knowledgeable about the animals they brought, and this proved to be educational as well as a popular petting corner.

<u>Project 52</u> Fiona and David set up their sensory den in the Oasis room and made a bleak and bare tiny space into a warm and inviting haven which is just what our autistic children thrive on. One parent told us that it was the most relaxed he'd been all week! We have used Project 52 in the past to train our staff in communication and intensive interaction as well as providing inspiration for play activities, specifically for children with autism and complex sensory needs.

We had bouncy castles, beat the goalie, hook a duck, bean buckets & basketball all with prizes. We had a climbing wall, 16 stallholders (sweets, crafts, toys) a pre-loved stall and a tombola. We had a busy café too and made sure everything was cheap and cheerful, so we had lots of repeat customers.

Assorted Other Good Stuff

We've had an overhaul of the website and embarked on a new and improved database which is making all those in admin a little happier.

We were lucky to have an introduction to Ben Hewitt from Marianne Hewitt (Trustee) Ben produced a short film for us at Weekenders which can be viewed on our website and hopefully will encourage some potential additions to the staff team.

Our Management Committee Meetings are held every other month now (they used to be monthly). These are mainly held virtually via Teams, although we do try to meet up face-to-face a couple of times during the year.

We conducted an end of year survey with families and their children. Suffice it to say that the feedback was very positive. Unsurprisingly, 97% of families reported they would like

more short breaks respite. 94% reported that they viewed the cost of the service as 'just right', and 77% reported that Weekenders Club improved the quality of their family's life. It is only 3 hours a month and just these few highlighted results tell us that we are a much needed service and must strive towards expansion in the future. The full findings of the survey can be viewed as an appendix to this report which is split across all three projects; Weekenders Club, Teen Scene and the Out and About Project. It is imperative that we regularly check that we are hitting the spot and providing what families both want and need as well as be open to adapting our services.

Finally

I would like to express my grateful thanks to those who perform their own vital role in contributing to the success of our charity....

Thank you to our colleagues in Leeds City Council who have given us a contract/grant each year since L.W.C.A.'s inception over 20 years ago.

Our intrepid volunteers are to be applauded. They come to us with an open mind, a big heart, and a willingness to learn.

Thanks are also due to:

Our trustees for their commitment and dedication. In particular I would like to thank Caroline Bond who has chaired the board of trustees for almost a decade. She stood down from her position in December 2022, briefly paused her involvement and re-joined as a trustee in June 2023. Richard Hewson takes her place as the Chairperson of L.W.C.A. after a year on the board as a trustee.

Our Office Assistant, Liz Colbeck, whose role has considerably deviated from what was originally set out for her. She has become a huge support to the 'office ladies' with a solid *systems* sense and a constant drive towards efficiency.

Our Senior Play Leader at Weekenders Club who doubles up as the Out and About Project's Group Leader – Chantelle Pearce. She has been with us for 17 years now and her wealth of experience is valuable to us all.

Our Office Manager, Lisa Sheader – we all benefit from her expertise and her overt enthusiasm for supporting everyone at L.W.C.A. and her excellent communication with other agencies in Leeds.

The fabulous staff team who win my admiration every Saturday. I simply love watching them work with the children. The time I spend at the scheme is my pleasure point in every week.

Final thanks are to the parents, carers, and their children – it is <u>your</u> project and a privilege to work for you.

exsunderland

Liz Sunderland Service Manager



DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING 2022-2023

We are grateful for the support of our children's families, friends of Leeds Weekend Care Association, our partnership company – Brewin Dolphin, Trustees, and our staff and volunteers (and their families, friends, and neighbours) as well as the following who have given generously to support the work we do. Thanks, are also due to Sam Lambert whose expertise and connectivity has put us in touch with grant giving trusts and foundations. Thank you also to The Brand Nursery for supporting us with 'freebies' – leaflets, stickers for Smarties tubes, design work, advertising, and publicity. Often, our last-minute ideas give them a tight deadline and they never flinch!

Donor	Description	Amount
Amazon Smile	Cash back on Amazon purchases	£61.25
LWCA's Easter Raffle		£627.00
Facebook		£195.00
Friends & Families		£3,962.20
Partnership Company	Brewin Dolphin	£1,403.50
PayPal	Don't Send Me a Card	£4.35
LWCA's Smarties Challenge		£516.21
LWCA's Summer Celebration	Takings on the day and stallholder fees	£776.90
Event		
Supported Giving	Donations Platform (linked to website)	£412.07
Trusts	The Annette Duvollet Trust	£12,000.00
Trusts	Masonic Charitable Trust	£5,000.00
Trusts	The Metis Trust	£1,000.00
Trusts	The Hilary Awdry Charitable Trust	£500.00
Trusts	The Hadley Trust	£1,000.00
Trusts	Happy Days Children's Charity	£620.00
Trusts	The David Family Foundation	£1,000.00
Trusts	A M Fenton Trust	£3,000.00
Trusts	The Helen Hamlyn Trust	£1,500.00
Trusts	W. L. Pratt Charitable Trust	£2,000.00
Trusts	Alex Timpson Trust	£500.00
Virgin Money	Virgin Money Cashback	£46.25
TOTAL	·	£36,124.73



"Here we have captured some of our memorable moments from Weekender's Club during 2022-2023."





Testimonials

"The project allows our teen to feel independent from his family in a safe way. It allows us to spend time with our other children without the input of our teen with additional needs. He looks forward to every outing!"

Alfie's perspective - "I enjoy meeting other kids like me, especially the climbing wall & Ninja Warriors ©"

Alfie Jackson – Out & About Project

"The Out & About Project has made a huge difference to my daughter and family. She has made a close friend who she sees at all the events, and it has helped her gain independence and confidence. The staff are incredible, and all the activities are perfect for her. As a parent I now get to go to the gym and have time alone with my other child."

Annabella Ashton – Out & About Project

"Annie loves her sessions at Leeds Weekend Care Association. She always smiles when we pull up in the car park. The staff are so friendly and welcoming. There is always a real variety of activities on offer. Annie loves to play outside and for her the swing is a real bonus! The staff encourage her to engage in other activities that she would not normally choose which is helping her to develop more skills. Annie is well cared for, and I appreciate the time and effort the staff put in to make the sessions as fun as possible for her. They understand my daughters needs and challenges. Annie leaves the session with her smile intact, and I know she has had the best time playing and learning at Weekenders. Thank you!"

Annie Parker – Weekenders Club

"Antoni has attended Weekender Club for over 2 years. What a fantastic place and team. He always has a great time with lots of different activities, both indoor and outdoor. It is a place where he can meet new friends. Thank you for all your hard work."

Antoni Antosik – Weekenders Club

"When Billy first started at Weekenders Club, he struggled to cope with the noisy environment and new people. There were a lot of tears, but we knew he was well looked after and the staff very quickly learnt what he liked and what he could tolerate, despite being mostly non-verbal. Nowadays Billy asks for Weekenders every single weekend and is always excited to go. After this last session he told me "I love Weekenders. At Weekenders I had a big cuddle with a friend, and it was the best cuddle ever!!" The development of his confidence, happiness, and the creation of some true friendships is testament to the wonderful job they do there.

Billy Harkis- Weekenders Club





INFORMATION

Client Statistics – Weekenders & Teen Scene

1st April 2022– 31st March 2023

Total number of clients at Weekenders Club as at 31st March 2023: 111

Number of new clients who joined the scheme during this year: 38

Number of clients who left the scheme during this year: **18 plus 4 transitioned to Out & About**

The following chart shows a comparison for number of clients with the previous 4 years:



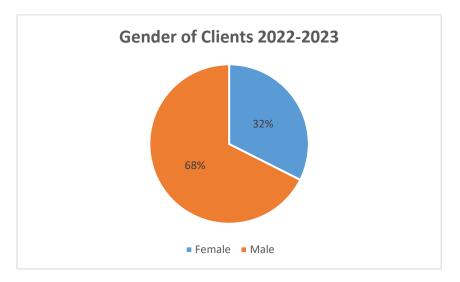


Between 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 Weekenders provided <u>3912</u> hours of short breaks in total.

Waiting List

As of the 31^{st} March 2023 there were <u>26</u> clients on our waiting list and the demand has increased significantly. We aim to get back to maximum capacity of clients in 2023-2024 to reduce our waiting list.

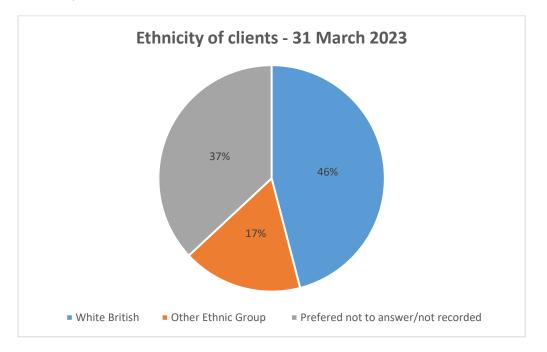
Client Stats



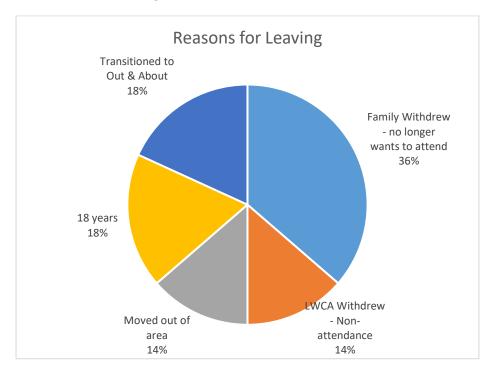


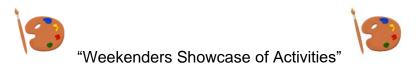
Our client age range at the end of March 2023

Ethnicity of clients at the end of March 2023



Reasons for Leaving 2022-2023





Here are some of the wonderful pieces of artwork made at the scheme!





We usually organise around four events per month for the teens who attend the Out and About Project. This is anything from bowling, swimming, cinema, eating out, snooker, theatre, theme park visits (in the school holidays), trampolining; basically, anything teens would like to do!

Client Statistics

1st April 2022– 31st March 2023

Number of clients attending Out & About as at 31st March 2023: 37 clients

Number of new clients who joined the scheme during this year: **19 plus 4 transitioned from Teen Scene**

Number of clients who left the scheme during this year: 16

Service delivery hours - 1631 hours

Here are all 57 trips which the Out & About Project's enjoyed during April-March 2022-2023!

EVENT	No. OF EVENTS IN THE YEAR
Bridgewater Arms & Bowling	6
Circus Zyair	1
Clip 'n' Climb	1
City Varieties Dick Whittington Rock 'n' Roll Panto	1
Flamingo Land	1
Frankie & Benny's & Bowling	5
Gravity (Trampolining)	4
KFC & Bowling	1
Laser Zone	4
Live Music & Dance Workshop (The Vinery)	1
Mencap - Youth Club Night	15
Ninja Warriors & KFC	3
Northern Snooker Centre	4
Puttstars Golf	4
Roundhay Park	1
Stockeld Park Christmas Adventure	1
The Forbidden Corner	1
The Grand Theatre School of Rock	1
Playhouse - Charlie & The Chocolate Factory	1
Yorkshire Wildlife Park	1





"Here we have captured some of our memorable moments at the Out & About Project during 2022-2023."



















Financial Information

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	<u>U</u>	Inrestricted	<u>Total</u>	Total	
	Note	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Contributions & donations		37,625	-	37,625	55,299
Client fees		20,383	-	20,383	19,533
Charitable activities	1	157,581	-	157,581	157,581
Bank interest & sundry income		747		747	4
TOTAL INCOME		216,336	-	216,336	232,417
EXPENDITURE	2				
Raising funds		19,728	-	19,728	22,721
Charitable activities		118,577	-	118,577	107,301
Other		51,630		51,630	51,186
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		189,935	-	189,935	181,208
		26,401	-	26,401	51,209
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2	022	253,865	19,996	273,861	222,652
Fund transfer		19,996	(<u>19,996</u>)	<u> </u>	
Balance carried forward at 31 March	n 2023	300,262		300,262	273,861
The statement of financial activities	includes	all gains an	d losses in the	year. All incom	e and
expenditure derive from continuing a	ctivities.				

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

		2		2022	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	3		500		1,192
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments		705		815	
Short term bank deposits		42,098		41,351	
Cash at bank and in hand		260,205	303,008	233,383	275,549
			000 500		070 744
			303,508		276,741
Creditors: Amounts falling due					
within one year			3,246		2,880
Net assets			300,262		273,861
Unrestricted funds			300,262		253,865
Restricted funds					19,996
Total funds			300,262		273,861

Notes to the Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

See next page.

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Leeds Social Services		157,581	-	157,581	157,581
Total		157,581	<u> </u>	157,581	157,581
Note 2. Expenditure					
	<u>Raising</u>	<u>Charitable</u>	Support	<u>Total</u>	Total
	Funds	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs & volunteer expenses	16,332	88,023	35,521	139,876	129,862
Rent & rates	1,079	12,531	4,314	17,924	15,780
Training	-	1,305	-	1,305	3,069
Scheme costs, events & travel	-	16,718	-	16,718	14,921
Audit & accountancy	-	-	1,440	1,440	1,440
Depreciation	138	-	554	692	2,515
Office costs	2,179	<u> </u>	9,801	11,980	13,621
	19,728	118,577	51,630	189,935	181,208
Note 3. Tangible fixed assets					
			Office	Toys &	Total
			Equipment I	Resources	
			£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2022			8,052	8,443	16,495
Additions in year			-	-	
Disposals in year				-	
At 31 March 2023			8,052	8,443	16,495
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022			6,860	8,443	15,303
Charge for year			692	-	692
Eliminated on disposal			<u> </u>		
At 31 March 2023			7,552	8,443	15,995
Net book value at 31 March 202	3		500		500