



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	02	01	2018		01	01	2019

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name Empowered Communities

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1155772

Charity's principal address 5 Gleneagles, South Shields

South Tyneside

Postcode

NE33 3JD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Timothy Levenson			
2	Gavin Spencer			
3	Alessandra Armstrong			
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18				
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20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution dated 31 January 2014

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES OF THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY, AND HELP MEET, THEIR NEEDS AND TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN SOCIETY.
2. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO

ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO
INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY IN THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND.

In setting our objects and planning our activities, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

We have continued to deliver, the Community Spaces: Community Places Project.

The aim of this project is to include and empower local communities to transform underutilised and derelict land and buildings within their local community into spaces and places for public benefit, which tackle the seven key causes of multiple deprivation.

Further detail is provided below.

Community Spaces : Community Places Project

This Community Spaces: Community Places Project puts local people at the centre of positive change in their local community. It provides support and encouragement to local communities to work together to transform community spaces and buildings into uses which benefit the local community and tackle the 7 key causes of multiple deprivation. These are low income, lack of employment, poor health or disability, lack of education and skills, lack of access to housing and critical services, high incidents of antisocial behaviour, poor living and working environment.

We support communities through a vehicle that engages and includes local communities in deprived areas, where people are experiencing multiple disadvantage, and empowers local people to make positive change. This vehicle is the development of local underutilised community spaces and places that local communities care about, into facilities to benefit the community, improve the quality of life for those communities, and instil community cohesion and social inclusion across generations.

We go into the heart of communities, supporting and empowering individuals and groups from different backgrounds and interests to work together, to identify a vision for the transformation of a community space or place that meets their needs and tackles the major issues mentioned above. We work together with them to deliver it, providing professional support in governance, delivery, project management, property & funding.

The project helps to build stronger, sustainable and inclusive communities, by building capacity within and between communities, encouraging them to work together inclusively to deliver positive change. The project provides facilities that the local community know are needed in their area to help tackle some of the major causes of multiple deprivation, without imposing top down initiatives that are short term, and do not meet the specific needs of the local community.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Successes of the project include:

- Supporting a local community trust to develop proposals for the effective take over and management of a local community resource centre. This included delivering plans for effective governance. Supporting the community trust to develop plans for income generation to ensure the centre remains viable and delivers services that the local community benefit from, including an IT training suite providing skills training, a community gym, and community café promoting healthy lifestyles. Supporting the local community trust to develop proposals for the effective transformation of green spaces on local estates, for community benefit. This includes community allotments and outside play spaces. Engagement with key stakeholders including the local community, local authorities, local schools and local delivery partners in order to access volunteer support and free services for the transformation of the green spaces, and the management of the community resource centre. The community centre is now open, providing a valuable resource to the local community, and the centre is viable, due to income generation from activities at the centre.
- Supporting a local school to develop a vision and plans to transform underutilised school grounds into outside classrooms, encouraging healthy lifestyles and environmental awareness amongst local school children in one of the most deprived communities in the country, where 1 in 3 children are living in poverty. Engagement with local delivery partners to obtain free horticultural services and equipment to transform the outside spaces. Supporting the school to obtain Eco School status and to transform underutilised spaces into small allotments for the children to grow and then cook food, in order to promote healthy lifestyles. Engaging parents in cooking workshops using food grown from the allotments, to encourage healthy lifestyles across generations. Engaging with local training providers to access free training for children with autism and learning difficulties, centred around the transformation of the green spaces and healthy lifestyles. Engagement with local nature conservation groups to provide sessions at the school to teach the children about wildlife and habitat conservation using the green spaces as examples. The School now has its grounds transformed, providing many hours of outside education and healthy activities for children in one of the most deprived communities in South Tyneside.
- Supported a local residents association to engage with their local community, hold local community events, hold community walk about, and deliver a plan for their local community estate, which identifies priorities and an action plan for the

transformation of their estate, and for the effective inclusion of members of the community in activities on the estate. Supported the residents to engage with hard to reach groups sometimes socially excluded including elderly residents, previous young offenders who were looking to learn new skills and not to re-offend, and young children generally to ensure that the whole community benefitted from the proposals. Supported the resident's association to obtain grant funding for their proposals and engaged with key local delivery partners to obtain free support to transform the estate. Engaged with local statutory bodies and local councillors to ensure that the resident's proposals were supported and included in their current and future plans. Encouraged and empowered the local residents to go forward with the delivery of their action plans for the estate, and they delivered a number of proposals in the action plan, including transforming areas of the estate with hard to reach groups, and initiatives to reduce isolation and antisocial behaviour. Supported the development of a community funding pot, to enable small grants to be applied for charitable community projects. A number of initiatives have now been delivered in the action plan of the community, including transforming the local environment and a community hub resource centre has been established to provide a focal point for community engagement and activities to reduce social isolation and reduce antisocial behaviour, provide much needed encouragement and support to residents in the area to improve their lives and their community.

- Supported a local women's charity in one of the most deprived areas of the North East to develop proposals to take over a local community building to deliver activities that encouraged community cohesion, skills building, and healthy lifestyles amongst communities of differing ethnic backgrounds. Supported the charity and local community to deliver a number of local estate initiatives and community events, aimed at transforming local community outside spaces, bringing together local residents from differing ethnic backgrounds to deliver a shared community goal, encouraging healthy lifestyles, social inclusion and skills development. Engaged with local delivery partners including local schools, universities, healthy lifestyle promoters, local authorities, and housing managers to deliver activities days which further involved the local community, developed skills, delivered accredited training and encouraged community cohesion. A community café is now established, providing formal catering training for women, and much needed income for the charity to continue to support them.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The charity continues to deliver the Community Spaces and Places Project.

The Community Spaces: Community Places project has supported 5 community groups/not for profit organisations to transform their community spaces and places within their community, for the benefit of the local public. The project has provided over 250 hours of support including in governance, needs assessments, vision and strategy planning, stakeholder and partner engagement, community engagement, project management, funding advice and application support, property advice and management.

The project has engaged over 200 people of all ages and abilities in charitable activities to support their local community, including those from the most deprived communities in the North East. We have developed the capacity and skills of members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities, in such a way that they have been able to identify, and help meet their local needs, and transform community spaces and buildings to meet these needs, tackling some of the key causes of multiple deprivation together, participating more fully and inclusively in their local communities.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The reserves policy is for designated unrestricted funds held by the charity to be set at 6 months of the following years anticipated expenditure plus estimated redundancy and close down costs.

We do not yet have reserves at this level.

In the meantime, we have kept operating costs to a minimum, by using volunteers, with no paid staff, and kept other operating costs to a minimum.

Our operating costs are low, and we have no redundancy and close down costs.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F


Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Timothy Levenson</i>	
Full name(s)	Timothy Stephen Levenson	Gavin Spencer
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	14.1.2020	14.1.2020



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Empowered Communities

1155772

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

02.01.2018

To

01.01.2019


Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	-	-	-	-	181
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	-	-	-	181
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	181
A3 Payments					
Website	389	-	-	389	227
Fundraising website	216	-	-	216	216
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	605	-	-	605	443
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	605	-	-	605	443
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 605	-	-	- 605	- 262
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,037	266	-	1,303	-
Cash funds this year end	432	266	-	698	262

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Donations	432	266	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	432	266	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Nil	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Nil		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Nil		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Nil		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Gavin Spencer	14.1.20