

DIFFERENCE CIO ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2019

Registered Charity Number 1170789

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Chair's Report

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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) (effective 1 January 2015)

Objectives and Activities

Difference is a unifying disability rights organisation that aims to represent disabled people in the North East of England and works to bring about significant and lasting social change. We are the first disability rights organisation dedicated solely to campaigning for disability equality covering the North East since the 1990s saw the closure of Disability Action North East. To achieve our objectives of increasing equality and tackling discrimination, we will:

- 1. Raise awareness of disability discrimination and influence public opinion and policy.
- 2. Represent and speak out about the needs and concerns of disabled people.
- 3. Use research as a tool to raise issues and influence change.
- 4. Mobilise disabled people to collectively advocate.

Difference grounds its ideas within the social and affirmation models of disability. It identifies disability as the personal experience of physical and social barriers, which exclude people with impairments from full participation in ordinary community life. The affirmation model takes a non-tragic view of disability and impairment that encompasses positive social identities. It identifies impairment as a characteristic of human difference to be expected and respected on its own terms.

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For the year ended 31 December 2019

2019 Review

2019 was a year of two halves for Difference: the first half of spent preparing for the arrival of our first development manager; and the second half with the person in post. With funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and Community Foundation County Durham, we were able to recruit our first member of staff. The recruitment process was a learning curve for us, with none of us having done something like this before. We drafted in the help of Voluntary Organisations Network North East who provided an excellent HR service, helping us with the adverts, the recruitment, the administration and the all-around process. We interviewed three strong disabled candidates and appointed Kate Mason. In July, she started three months of induction, supported by the development director, followed by three months of initial development work. At the end of the year, we had to take stock as not as much things were happening as we wanted and in January, we had a formal review. Result was by mutual consent the development manager left at the end of her probationary period. Unfortunately, things did not work out as we planned. However, as one door opens and everything happens for a reason, lots of amazing things have happened as a result of the new development manager. Which you will hear about in next year's annual report.

Plans for Future Periods

We are looking forward to building our membership, starting our first campaigns and working towards our launch next year. We prepare this report five months into the pandemic and as such, our world has significantly changed.

Our organisation is now more important than ever and we are working with other organisations as well as our members and learning from the lockdown, shielding, social distancing and associated issues. We will talk about this work in the 2020 annual report, however, it is worth noting that we have developed and grown as an organisation to respond to COVID-19. The new development manager started at the beginning of the lockdown and has grown this work via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, email and telephone.

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For the year ended 31 December 2019

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name Difference CIO

Registered Charity Number 1170789

Operational address 33 Forest Avenue

Newcastle NE12 9AH

Trustees Caroline Macdonald (chair)

David Barker (treasurer)
Gillian Lathan (secretary)

Nicky Erevik Valerie Hunter

Colin Cameron Resigned 1st January 2019 Wendy Ellis Resigned 1st January 2019

Independent Examiner Nigel Douglass

Connected Voice Charity Business Services

Higham House Higham, Place

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE18AF

Bankers Cooperative bank

Structure, Governance and Management

How the charity is constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Foundation Model - whereby the only voting members are the charity Trustees. We have adopted the Charity Commissions Model Constitution to ensure we comply with the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and the General Regulations. This helps us to ensure we:

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For the year ended 31 December 2019

- · Reflect recommended best practice; and
- Are legally compliant

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed for their individual knowledge, experience and skills that are considered essential to ensure the charity's effective administration and its continued sustainability, growth and development. Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees in a properly convened meeting. Trustees are also screened using a needs and skillsets assessment. This approach enables us to:

- Ensure we have the right skills mix on the Board to meet the administrative needs of the charity
- Ensure we do have a range of Trustees from diverse professional backgrounds to build knowledge and skills
- Mitigate any potential risks or threats to the charity, as far as possible; and
- Reduce, as far as is possible, the potential for any conflicts of interest with each Trustee and their existing professional occupations.

There is one connection we wish to declare between a trustee, Gillian Lathan, and their partner, Richard Carter, who is undertaking paid work for the charity. Richard Carter of Peacock Carter, a software development company, is engaged with Difference for the purposes of building their digital engagement platform. We went through a stringent selection process to choose the provider and interviewed four different companies, including the favourite two on two occasions. We chose the best organisation for the job, which was Peacock Carter.

Statement on Public Benefit

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that these activities, summarised above, provide benefit both to those who directly receive services, and the wider community in the North East of England. The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Financial Review

Reserves policy

Difference CIO has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets held by the charity should be between three and six months of annual expenditure. At 31 December 2019 the free reserves currently £nil (2018: -£12) fell short of this target level, the trustees are aware of this and will be building up reserves with planned operating surpluses.

Principal funding sources

Our principal funding sources currently consist of charitable trusts and foundations.

Risk Management

The Trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks including the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects and for ensuring the consistent quality of the delivery of all operational aspects of the charitable company. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The charity trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of incoming resources and application of resources. In preparing financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2019

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards 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 charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Thanks

This year our thanks goes to all of our trustees for voluntarily giving their time; Baroness Tanni Grey Thompson for continuing to be our patron; and Community Foundation County Durham.

Approved by the Trustees on:	24.6.20	and signed on their behalf by:
Caroline MacDonald	Chalo.	
Chair		

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 31 December 2019

I report on the financial statements of Difference CIO for the year ended 31 December 2019, which are set out on pages 8 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

However, not all future events or conditions can be predicted. The COVID-19 viral pandemic is one of the most significant economic events for the UK with unprecedented levels of uncertainty of outcomes. It is therefore difficult to evaluate all of the potential implications on the charitable company's trade, customers, suppliers and wider economy. The trustees' view on the impact of COVID-19 is disclosed in the accounting policies note.

I 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.

Nigel Douglass Connected Voice Charity Business Services Higham House Higham Place Newcastle upon Tyne

NE1 8AF Date: 27.8.20 - James

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Income from: Charitable activities	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Grants and contracts	6	-	21,404	21,404	9,540
Other trading activities	7	600	-	600	-
Total inco	me	600	21,404	22,004	9,540
Expenditure on: Charitable activities Operation of the charity	8	588	17,053	17,641	12,092
Total expendit	ure	588	17,053	17,641	12,092
Net income/(expenditure) and movement of fur		12	4,351	4,363	(2,552)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		(12)	-	(12)	2,540
Total funds carried forw	ard		4,351	4,351	(12)

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form an integral part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2019

	Notes	£	Total 2019 <u>£</u>	£	Total 2018 <u>£</u>
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		952		-
Total fixed assets			952		-
Current assets					
Debtors	16	312		-	
Cash at bank and in hand	17	4,977		408	
Total current assets		5,289	_	408	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,890)	_	(420)	
Net current assets			3,399		(12)
Total assets less current liabilities			4,351		(12)
Total net assets or liabilities			4,351		(12)
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted income funds			-		(12)
Restricted income funds			4,351		
Total funds			4,351		(12)

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form an integral part of these accounts.

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24.6.20

and are signed on its behalf by:

Caroline MacDonald

Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

1 Accounting Policies

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

2 Basis of accounting

2.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts 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) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Difference CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The charity reported total unrestricted funds at the year end of £0 has recently received funds of £5,000 and is currently seeking funds to employ a development worker.

The trustees are of the view that the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and that on this basis the charity is a going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed and considered relevant information, including the annual budget and future cash flows in making their assessment. In particular, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trustees have revised their forecasts to take into account the impact on the business of possible scenarios brought on by the impact of COVID-19, alongside the measures that they can take to mitigate the impact. Based on these assessments, given the measures that could be undertaken to mitigate the current adverse conditions, and the current resources available, the Trustees have concluded that they can continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has put many strains on all businesses. It should be noted that the charity is still able to meet its obligations to fulfilling its contracts with funders, who have been flexible about the timescale for delivery.

3 Income

3.1 Recognition of income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the resources, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is more likely than not that the resources will be received and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

3.2 Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by FRS102 SORP or FRS102.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

3.3 Grants and donations

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.

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

3.4 Donated goods and services

Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Donated services and facilities are included in the SoFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided that the value of the gift can be measured reliably. Donated services and facilities that are consumed immediately are recognised as income with the equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the SoFA.

3.5 Volunteer help

The value of volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

3.6 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.

3.7 Fund accounting

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

4 Expenditure and liabilities

4.1 Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised when it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

4.2 Charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of work and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

4.3 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance cost and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

4.4 Irrecoverable VAT

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

4.5 Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

4.6 Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

5 Assets

5.1 Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis, the charity does not currently have any tangible fixed assets:

Office and computer equipment

Straight line over four years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Ana	alysis of income Charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
	Income from grants				
	Big Lottery Community Foundation County Durham NE Business Innovation The National Lottery	- - - - -	5,000 - 16,404 - 21,404	5,000 - 16,404 21,404	7,500 - 2,040 - 9,540
7	Other trading activities				
	Other income	600	-	600	-
		600		600	

Income was £22,004 (2018: £9,540) of which £600 was unrestricted or designated (2018: £0) and £21,404 was restricted (2018: £9,540)

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities				
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 <u>£</u>
8 Charitable activities			_	
<u>Direct costs</u>				
Staff salaries	588	9,099	9,687	-
Subcontract project staff salaries	-	4,500	4,500	6,300
Staff travel	-	327	327	-
Staff other costs	-	540	540	-
Training	-	-	-	-
Launch event	-	1,350	1,350	-
Room hire	-	72	72	24
Support costs				-
Website development	-	-	_	5,184
Stationery	-	-	-	164
Insurance	-	223	223	-
Office equipment	-	-	-	-
Telephone	-	280	280	-
Professional fees	-	119	119	-
Depreciation	-	123	123	-
Expenditure carried forward	588	16,633	17,221	11,672

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 <u>£</u>	Total 2018 <u>£</u>
8 Charitable activities continued				
Expenditure brought forward	588	16,633	17,221	11,672
Governance costs				
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on				
the accounts	-	420	420	420
	588	17,053	17,641	12,092

Expenditure on charitable activities was £17,641 (2018: £12,092) of which £588 was unrestricted or designated (2018: £92) and £17,053 was restricted (2018: £12,000)

9 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2019 £	2018 £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	420	420
Other accountancy services paid to the examiner	119	-
	539	420

There were no other fees paid to the examiner (2018: £nil)

10 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

	2019 £	£
Salaries and wages	8,654	-
Social security costs	600	-
Pension costs (defined contribution pension plan)	433	-
	9,687	

2010

2040

No employee received remuneration above £60,000 (2018: nil)

The key management personnel of the charity, comprise the trustees and the charity development consultant. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £4,500.

11 Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 0.5 employed staff (2018: 0) and 1 subcontracted staff (2018: 1) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year were as follows:

	2019	2018
The parts of the charity in which the employee's work	Number	Number
Charitable activities	1.5	1.0
	1.5	1.0

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

12 Transactions with trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred in the year.

Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.

13 Defined contribution pension scheme

The charitable company contributes to individual private staff pension schemes. The employer's pension costs represent contributions payable by the charity.

14 Corporation Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives.

15 Tangible fixed assets	Office and computer equipment	Total
Tungible fixed assets	£	£
Cost	 -	
Balance brought forward	-	-
Additions	1,075	1,075
Disposals	_	
Balance carried forward	1,075	1,075
Depreciation		
Basis	SL	
Rate	25%	
Balance brought forward	-	_
Depreciation charge for year	123	123
Disposals	-	-
Balance carried forward	123	123
Net book value		
Brought forward		
Carried forward	952	952

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

16 Debtors and prepayments (receivable within 1 year)		
	2019	2018
	£	£
Prepayments	312	-
	312	
17 Cash at bank and in hand		
	2019	2018
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	4,977	408
	4,977	408
18 Creditors and accruals (payable within 1 year)		
	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade creditors Accruals	1,470	-
Independent examination of accounts	420	420
	1,890	420

20 Events after the end of the reporting period

No events (not requiring adjustment to the accounts) have occurred after the end of the reporting period but before the accounts are authorised which relate to conditions that arose after the end of the reporting period.

21 Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

Year ending 31st December 2019

Unrestricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
General unrestricted fund	(12)	600	(588)	-	-
Totals	(12)	600	(588)		

Year ending 31st December 2018

Unrestricted funds	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers ເ	Fund balances carried forward
Onrestricted funds					
General unrestricted fund	80	-	(92)	-	(12)
Tota	80 80		(92)		(12)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

21 Analysis of charitable funds continued

Purpose of unrestricted funds

General unrestricted fund

The 'free reserves' of the charity

Analysis of movement in restricted funds

Year ending 31st December 2019

Restricted funds	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
The National Lottery	-	16,404	(16,609)	-	(205)
Community Foundation County Durham	-	5,000	(444)	-	4,556
Totals		21,404	(17,053)		4,351

Year ending 31st December 2018

Restricted funds	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
Big Lottery Fund	(600)	7,500	(6,900)	-	_
Community Foundation	60	-	(60)	-	-
Community Foundation County Durham	3,000	-	(3,000)	-	-
NE Business Innovation	-	2,040	(2,040)	-	-
Totals	2,460	9,540	(12,000)		

Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income resources used for a specific purpose within the charity as identified by the donor.

The National Lottery Protect and promote the rights of disabled people in the North East of the

country.

Big Lottery Fund Organisational development (worker time)
Community Foundation County Contribution to website development
Community Foundation County

Durham

NE Business Innovation Provides a forty percent contribution to website development

22 Capital commitments

As at 31 December 2019, the charity had no capital commitments (2018 -£nil)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

23 Guarantee

There have been no guarantees given by the charity at 31 December 2019.

24 Debt

There is no debt outstanding which is owed by the charity and which is secured by an excess charge on any of the assets of the charity at 31 December 2019.

25 Governing document

The organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Foundation registered on 16 December 2016 as a body corporate under part 11 of the Charities Act 2011.

26 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	2019
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets Cash at bank and in hand Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	952 4,977 (1,578)	952 4,977
Other her current assets/(nabilities)		4,351	4,351
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	2018
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	408	-	408
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(420)		(420)
	(12)		(12)