

Levels

Annual Report

2020



Welcome to Level's Annual Report for 2020

As we reflect on this last year, to say 2020 has been challenging would be an understatement. With the arrival of the coronavirus in the spring, all our priorities shifted to an intense focus on responding to this emergency. As our communities faced unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis, I found hope and inspiration in the outpouring of support from neighbours helping neighbours through these troubling times.

Local communities are at the heart of everything we do and delivering successful support depends on how well we understand the needs of our communities. We are fortunate to be able to call on the knowledge and expertise of our Board members and supporters and despite the challenges we have seen some highlights of the work we have done in response to COVID-19, plus progress we have made on some of the priorities outlined in our Strategic Plan.

We continue to be active in Hull's Voluntary and Community Sector Liaison group and the Older People Partnership- Hull and East Riding. The lived realities of the people and communities with whom we speak reaffirm for the need to amplify our voice – speaking about the impact of local policies and practices on some of the most vulnerable groups in society.

We do not know exactly what the future will hold for 2021 but there are signs of hope with vaccines being rolled out. One thing I do know is that the way we work and communicate will be forever changed by this experience and technology is the key to supporting this seismic shift. Levels continues to adjust its priorities to do all we can to support our communities, to help the health of the volunteers and they support, and to manage our finances as part of the common good.

The positive from the pandemic is that it has forced us to look at different ways of communicating by embracing technology. We must reflect on what we have learned and done differently, what worked and what didn't and why, and what it means for the future new 'normal'.

As we prepare for what comes next, we are committed to advancing equality and celebrating diversity and building a more equitable future for our communities by using our voice, influence, programs, and initiatives to help end disparities. Our goal is not to go back to the way things were before, but to work together with partnership organisations to build a new normal where everyone has an equal opportunity to live, work, and thrive.

Despite these challenging times, your generosity and care continues to inspire hope for what we can accomplish together. Together with our partners we invested more during the last year to strengthen our communities by supporting a diverse range of causes, including education, safety net services, workforce programs, the arts, and more. That is something to celebrate!

These are just a few of the highlights featured in our 2020 Annual Report. Thanks to our partnerships, we can continue to serve our community's needs today, while building a better tomorrow for all who call our city their home.

Next year, I look forward to revisiting Level's Strategic Plan and reviving strategies put on hold because of the pandemic. Let's make this a positive task. I feel confident we have a cohesive team ready to take on future challenges.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for all their work during the year, who have all taken on active roles in the charity. As always, my thanks also to our many partners, businesses, and communities who continue to work hard to make Levels a success.

Sincerely,

Petra van der Zande

Chair person

Highlights of 2020



April

In April we signed up to Charity Excellence Framework and joined the Global COVID 19 Charity Preparedness Group. A group to discuss and share contingency plans for charities in relation to Covid19. We discuss best practice and talk about mitigating the effects on charity income, operations or beneficiaries. Advice and knowledge sharing about a specific situation a charity faces or sharing tips and best practice are what this forum is all about.

June

Levels took part in Global Pride who created a live stream of 24 hours of content from Pride organisations all over the world, including Pride in Hull, representing LGBTQI+ people in our communities.



August

Levels is working with Groundworks and the local community to create a 'Shed Project' in Hull Churches Housing Association's old workshop.

It will be a community space for people to connect, converse, create and pass on skills and knowledge to others. It will help reduce loneliness and isolation, but most importantly, offers fun and productivity. .

We have some staff who are members of the working group to make this project happen, but we are seeking interested tenants who would also like to join the group to help set up the workshop and social areas.



September

As for many charities, our plans for summer fundraising events had to be put on hold, but Levels did manage to organise some on-line quiz nights.

We also became a recognised charity with Smile.Amazon. and a campaign launch event is being planned for 2021.

October

This year we once again teamed up with the Older People Partnership Group to launch the virtual Older People's week, the first-of-its-kind to offer a range of on-line events and activities to combat social isolation and focus on mental health and wellbeing amongst the older generation.

We held several online IT education and community engagement events.



November

In November we received the Neighbourhood Network Award in recognition of our commitment and dedication to the Network. There was also an added bonus of art and craft bundles for our supported tenants so they could participate in our intergenerational art projects aimed at connecting our communities.

Placing a value on Community Development

Assessment and evaluation of our projects and activities is a key priority for us. In real monetary terms, the services we deliver seems insignificant, however when assessing and measuring how we improve the lives of the people we support, we show tremendous impact. The ability of Levels, as a very small charity in its infancy, to create the added value stems from offering support that is embedded in our communities, through volunteering and sharing knowledge and expertise.

As a charity working for the benefit of Hull Churches Housing Association's tenants and their environs, Levels has adopted use of the HACT Social Value Calculator. The calculator provides a basic assessment of the actual value delivered through our activities in terms of social impact. As a result, we are able to provide a ratio of how many pounds we generate in social value, for the amount of money invested. Our Social Return on Investment Ratio for 2020 is £69.03 for every £1 invested.

Activity	Overall budget	Overall social impact	Analysis of benefit	
			Budget : social impact	Net benefit
TOTALS:	£ 5,500	£ 379,689	1 : 69.03	£ 374,189
Cooking up a Community - online	£ 2,500	£ 84,721	1 : 33.89	£ 82,221
online events	£ 500	£ 53,505	1 : 107.01	£ 53,005
Older people partnership - online	£ 750	£ 108,281	1 : 144.37	£ 107,531
art and craft community project	£ 500	£ 3,184	1 : 6.37	£ 2,684
Hull 2020 Champions Partnership -	£ 1,250	£ 129,997	1 : 104	£ 128,747

HACT Social Value Calculator – results overview 2019

- Compared to 2019, we have seen a decline in Social Return on Investment of 5.29 for every £1 invested. However under the challenging circumstances and due to the fact that many of our services, activities and resources have to be provided in line with the Covid19 restrictions, we feel we can still be very proud of our achievement. This is mainly due to the commitment and loyalty of our many partnership organisations, including Hull Churches Housing Association, who provide employer supported volunteering to for their employees to coordinate and facilitate our Community Development activities and events.
- For the purpose of calculating investment, the average hourly rate for volunteering is set at £19.82/hour in line with UK Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. For the purpose of calculating the SROI the above overview (fig.1) reflects 277 volunteer hours. These hours are provided/ exchanged through a 'timebank' principle, where time, knowledge and experience is exchanged freely between partnership organisations.
- For the purpose of transparency of accounting, 'timebank' credits are not expressed in monetary value in Levels' balance sheet and accounts below.

‘Levels’ Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
	Day 17th	Month June	Year 2019		Day 17th	Month May

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Levels

Other names charity is known by

NA

Registered charity number (if any)

1170752

Charity's principal address

Studio 701

17 Princess Street

Hull

Postcode

HU2 8BJ

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	Petra van de Zande	Chair		
2	Linda Johnson	Secretary		
3	Richard Davies	Treasurer		
4	Lincoln Marfoy			
5				
6				
7				
8				

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods	Elected by members of management committee

Section C Objectives and activities

The development of the capacities and skills of the inhabitants of the economically and socially disadvantaged communities of the City of Kingston upon Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire with a high percentage of social housing ("the Area of Benefit") and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are tenants of Hull Churches Housing Association ("Tenants of HCHA") in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs, and to participate more fully in society; and

2. To promote social inclusion by preventing people living in the Area of Benefit and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are Tenants of HCHA from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people living in the Area of Benefit and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are Tenants of HCHA who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society in such ways as the Trustees of the CIO shall think fit; and

For the purpose of this clause 3(2) "socially excluded" means being excluded from the society, or part of society, as a result of being a member of an economically and socially deprived community.

3. The relief of unemployment amongst individuals living in the Area of Benefit and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are Tenants of HCHA in such ways as the Trustees of the CIO shall think fit including, but not limited to the provision of education, training, re-training, volunteering and work experience opportunities and assistance to find employment; and
4. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals living in the Area of Benefit and in particular, but not exclusively individuals who are Tenants of HCHA who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Summary of the main activities undertaken in 2019

2020 has been a challenging year for any charity. We adapted rapidly and focuses mainly on providing our offer of events and activities online.

Local communities are at the heart of everything we do and delivering a successful service depends on how well we understand the needs of our tenants. It became clear very early on that we needed the resources and expertise of our partnership organisations in terms of providing technology and digital support. We were also fortunate to be able to call on the knowledge and expertise of our Board members for this.

We continue to be active in Hull's Voluntary and Community Sector Liaison group, the Older People Partnership- Hull and East Riding and CCG's Hull 2020 Champions group.

The lived realities of the people and communities with whom we speak reaffirm for the need to amplify our voice – speaking about the impact of local policies and practices on some of the most vulnerable groups in society.

The continuing uncertainty around Covid19, restrictions and 'the new normal' has its impact on Hull's people, politics and economy. These uncertainties mean that we have to dig deep, so we can continue being an anchor for those living in extreme poverty, for the displaced and vulnerable.

As we look ahead to next year, I hope we can continue to contribute positively to Hull Churches Housing Association's Business Plan. Whether it's planning, providing support and training, fundraising or volunteering, Levels is well placed enhancing, developing and benefiting our communities.

Our ambition for 2021 is to extend our fundraising activities. We have made strong foundations but there are still challenges ahead. Our plans to focus on providing training in writing bid and grant funding applications for Hull Churches Housing Association's support workers and housing management staff have had to be put on hold, but are most certainly not off the agenda.

Our second biggest focus is a collaborative project with Groundworks Hull, who will soon be utilising Hull Churches Housing Association's workshop. Groundwork's and Levels' charitable objects mirror each other perfectly for a joint 'Shed project' aimed at combatting social isolation amongst men, providing employment skills and volunteering opportunities to youth and aiming towards creating an 'arts and crafts' social enterprise.

Assessment and evaluation of our projects and activities is a key priority for us.

In real monetary terms, the services we deliver seems insignificant, however when assessing and measuring how we improve the lives of the people we support, we show tremendous impact.

The ability of Levels, as a very small charity in its infancy to create the added value stems from offering support that is embedded in our communities, through volunteering and sharing knowledge and expertise.

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Supporting Organisations and Grant Support for this period

Hull City Council Hull CCG
OPP-HER
Siemens Hull
Neighbourhood Network Hull
Groundwork Hull
Hull Clinical Commissioning Group – Hull2020 Champions
Asda

Our thanks and appreciation to tenants, customers and staff of Hull Churches Housing Association, the Supporting and Membership Organisations' staff and volunteers from Older People Partnership Group and Groundwork Hull, who have given their time freely in support of the Charity's objectives and events throughout the past year.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- In February we received the Hull2020 Champions' award in recognition of our commitment and dedication to the partnership. There was also an Individual award for one of our Support Workers.
- In April we celebrated with the Hull2020 Champions as they welcomed their 100th member to the partnership. For Levels it meant 10 minutes of fame as we were invited to talk about the work with do with 'Burnsy' (David Burns) on radio Humberside.
- In July one of our support workers attended the Cancer Champion programme. Having conversations around cancer aren't always the nicest or easiest. The Cancer Champion Programme aims to get the conversation about cancer into our communities.
- Increased support for our 'Community Investment projects'
- As part of Older people's week in October, we worked with Hull's Older People's Partnership to put together and support a programme of fun activities, entertainment and information events

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We follow the recommendation in the Charity Commission guidance RS3 which states our Reserves Policy must quantify and explain the purpose of any designated funds, along with the likely timing of that expenditure. Additionally, that the amount of any funds held as designated funds is appropriate to the purpose or use for which the funds have been designated.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NA

Further financial review details

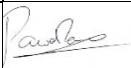
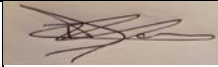
See attached Statement of Financial Position.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Full Name	Signature	Position
Petra van der Zande		Chair
Richard Davies		Treasurer

Date 29th January 2020

there are no Indirect Staff or IT & Communication costs (domain names) in this year due to a delay in transferring the allocations to Hull Churches Housing association, so this will show and increased rate in the 2020/21 accounts.

Balance at a glance

LEVELS							Ending Balance: £3,788.81					
											Total transactions:	16
Lloyds Account Number: 77855168				Sort Code: 30-65-22							Cleared transactions:	16
											Uncleared transactions:	0
Date	Ref	Details	Fund	Category	Money In	Money Out	Balance	Cleared?				
			Unrestricted	Balance Brought Forward	£3,883.47		£3,883.47					
02.04.19	276897177	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£6.70	£3,876.77	Yes				
03.05.19	279318179	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£6.70	£3,870.07	Yes				
03.06.19	281296662	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£7.50	£3,862.57	Yes				
28.06.19	500002	Family Holiday Association	Family Holiday	Grant Income	£1,000.00		£4,862.57	Yes				
02.07.19	283512685	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£7.50	£4,855.07	Yes				
23.07.19	000005	Family Holiday Association - Money Withdrawn	Family Holiday	Cash		£1,000.00	£3,855.07	Yes				
02.08.19	285775017	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£8.75	£3,846.32	Yes				
04.09.19	288026264	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£15.70	£3,830.62	Yes				
01.10.19	290656779	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£7.50	£3,823.12	Yes				
11.10.19	500003	Family Holiday Association - Change Deposited	Family Holiday	Cash	£11.48		£3,834.60	Yes				
04.11.19	292788009	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£7.50	£3,827.10	Yes				
03.12.19	295381621	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£8.29	£3,818.81	Yes				
31.12.19	298260777	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£7.50	£3,811.31	Yes				
03.02.20	300452484	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£7.50	£3,803.81	Yes				
03.03.20	302878616	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£7.50	£3,796.31	Yes				
31.03.20	306006700	Service Charges	Unrestricted	Bank Charges		£7.50	£3,788.81	Yes				

LEVELS

Total Receipts & Payments for the year ending 31/03/2020

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Previous Year
Receipt				
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00
Grant Income	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	70.00
Payments				
Bank Charges	(106.14)	0.00	(106.14)	(81.29)
Charitable Expenditure	0.00	(988.52)	(988.52)	0.00
Indirect Staff Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	(801.18)
IT & Communications	0.00	0.00	0.00	(33.60)
Marketing & Recruitment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rates & Rent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Salaries & N.I.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stationery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundry Items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Travel & Subsistence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(106.14)	(988.52)	(1,094.66)	(916.07)
Net receipts / (payments)	(106.14)	11.48	(94.66)	(846.07)
Balance Brought Forward	3,973.47	0.00	3,973.47	4,819.54
Balance Carried Forward	3,867.33	11.48	3,878.81	3,973.47
Made up of:				
Bank	3788.81			
Cash	90			
	3878.81			
Check:	0.00			

Accounts Prepared by:Tia Scutt.....

Date: 27.0.2021...

Accounts Approved by:Richard Davies

Date: 27.01.2021.