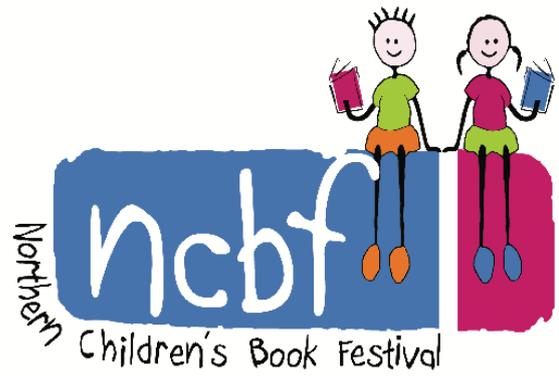


Trustees' Annual Report

From March 2019 to March 2020

Charity name: Northern Children's Book Festival

Charity registration number: 1013065



Trustees (as of March 2020)

Stephen Walters (Chair)
Eric Ferguson
Fiona Hill
Christine Myhill
Julia Robinson
Rachel Warkcup
Dawn Williams

Registered address
c/o Newcastle City Library
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8AX

Constitution

Trustees confirm that there have been no amendments to previously adopted and submitted NCBF constitution.

Financial position

NCBF started March 2019 with £2,657 cash in the bank and ended March 2020 with £5,348. There are no unpaid invoices to NCBF, although there is a small amount (£60) that is owed to the organisation.

The purposes of NCBF:

To advance the education of children and young people, and adults concerned with the educational welfare in the sphere of children's literature, (B) to promote, encourage and develop the enjoyment of books, stories, reading, writing, listening, talking and other literature related skills and activities (C). To further the above within the North East region of England and thereafter called the area of benefit working through established local authority departmental networks.

Northern Children's Book Festival (NCBF) is a registered charity (number 1013065), we run a schools-based book festival in the middle two weeks of November. Annually, NCBF reach over 15,000 children working with in excess of 100 schools across the North East of England. We are proud to reach some of the most disadvantaged children and offer them the opportunity to be inspired by professional writers. Hundreds of authors, illustrators and poets have visited the North East to be part of the festival. Writers run interactive sessions, bringing their stories to life and supporting creativity and literacy.

Established in 1983, we are a unique organisation and are the only book festival of its kind; based in the North East and specifically targeted at children and young people. We cover Berwick to Middlesbrough and work with a network of librarians to reach schools and communities.

We keep our costs low by pooling the collective resources of library staff across the North East and working with publishers to contribute to the additional costs for a visiting author. We pay authors, illustrators and poets for their time and employ a part time freelance coordinator to manage the festival. We are involved in various literacy networks such as the Literacy Forum, which also helps us to avoid duplicating work by other providers. NCBF takes books where they are most needed. Due to the way we work with libraries and grassroots staff, we are able to reach those who are not targeted during a traditional children's author book tour.

Trustees consulted the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and agreed that in line with NCBF purposes, the charity continues to do work for the public benefit.

Achievements:

NCBF was able to employ a part-time freelance coordinator who worked closely with local authority library staff and publishers to deliver the festival.

This report covers the activity of NCBF from March 2019 to March 2020. The 2019 festival occurred between 11th and 22nd November (not including the weekend). NCBF brought 29 authors to the North East region, and delivered sessions inspiring in-person events to school children from Early Years to secondary school.

“The sessions were very entertaining and funny, and had pupils and teachers roaring with laughter.” (School, Durham)

“All children were enthused and excited. The dressing up was fun and really allowed the children to become involved. The sketching session was great and the children produced some excellent sketches (the teachers didn't do too bad either!)” (School, South Tyneside)

“It is always important for our pupils to understand the real-life application of the lessons they are taught in school and bringing an author into the academy helps to educate and inspire pupils to realise their potential in terms of literacy in, and beyond, the classroom. Hopefully, in a few years, we will see some of our pupils' names appear on the spines of the books we love to read!” (Gateshead, School).

The festival is partly supported by publishers who contribute to the travel and accommodation costs. The festival is supported by the twelve North East local authorities.

Seven Stories, the National children's book museum, managed the book sales. Through the agreement NCBF receive 15% of the sales, in 2019 this amount was £3,108.60.

Financial Review:

Please see attached Excel spreadsheet for annual accounts, signed by NCBF appointed chartered accountant. In summary, NCBF covers its costs and makes a small profit where possible through administration charges and via a 15% from book sales. The coordinator is a freelance position and is given a fixed fee to support the delivery of the festival. The trustees have reviewed the accounts and are confident that the charity is suitably financially stable to continue its work.

