

Trustees' annual report (including Directors' report) for the period

From: 31st March 2022 to 31st March 2023

Charity name: Essex Children's University Trust (encompassing Essex Children's University and

Suffolk Children's University)

Charity registration number: 1168871

Company number: N/A

Objectives and activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The advancement of education: To provide for the education, care and recreation of children aged 5 to 14 making facilities and services available to them, especially out of school hours and in school holidays; to improve social mobility; raise attainment and aspiration, providing life chances through the provision of such education. The prevention of relief of poverty through the improvement of life chances and choices through the provision of such facilities, support and services. To advance the education and attainment of children involved and support them to develop skill-sets and greater awareness of education and careers opportunities.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	 What underpins our work. Essex Children's University is part of a national network which promotes engagement in structured learning outside normal school hours. By the time a child turns 18, they will have spent just 9% of their waking lives in a classroom. Our charity works with schools, children, families and community learning providers to make the most of the other 91% Our own national and local research shows that what goes on outside the classroom has a very real impact on educational attainment, mental health, developing positive employment aspirations and confident, creative and resilient citizens. Our research also shows that children who do not have access to these

opportunities fall behind, lack confidence and resilience and fail to develop career aspirations.

Essex Children's University is, deliberately, open to all children aged 5-14 in order to avoid the stigmatisation of certain communities by targeted programmes, however we do target those children who are currently furthest from a love of learning and would benefit from it most.

Essex and Suffolk are diverse counties which see urban communities blend with rural and coastal communities, areas of deprivation next to areas of wealth. Childhood experiences, or a lack of them, heavily shape future life chances and choices. Its diverse population means that many children in Essex and Suffolk are less likely to have a home/community based learning environment and often have lower aspirations.

Our reach

In our reporting year we worked with 71 schools and in the region of 4,500 children.

Covid restrictions were still in place and affected our approach to working, though on a lower level than in previous years. Towards the end of this reporting period Covid restrictions were lifted and thoughts turned to a more "business as usual" approach in working with our partnership schools.

In this Reporting period we:

- Welcomed new Trustees to the Board, bringing new skills and experience.
- Appointed a new Chancellor to the Ipswich Campus of Suffolk Children's University.
- Began our 2nd year of the Education Endowment Foundation Research Study.
- Supported the successful delivery of the Spoken Word Power Project in partnership with Essex Book Festival and Eastside www.eastside.org.uk
- Fully funded and accessible to 6 schools in Tendring District.

		 Continued into a 2nd year our AXA XL funded project in Ipswich.
		 Created and delivered Science in a Box activities for 1,500 children, 400 Art and Craft in a Box activities and 3,000 Multi- Academy Trust specific Passport to Learning booklets.
		 Were funded to support the Annual Science Festival at Anglia Ruskin University which created a STEM Faculty, culminating in a Children's University Graduation at Anglia Ruskin University, supported by the Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society.
		 We created wellbeing packs for St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan MAT.
		 Our Children's University Manager submitted her resignation, with a commitment to support the delivery of our programme and associated projects to the end of the 2022/2023 academic year.
		 Our Trustee Board began the process of succession planning.
		 1,000 children from schools across Essex and Suffolk took part in Children's University Graduation Celebrations.
		 The first cohort of our EEF Research Study, participated in a Children's University Graduation.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In planning our activities for the year, we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings and have worked to ensure a broad, affordable and accessible range of learning experiences has been made available.

ou may choose to include further statements where relevant about.		
	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Essex Children's University Trust is not a grant making organisation.

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	We have a very small number of volunteers. Our CU Chancellors are representative of the local community and our Board of Trustees reflects the expertise required to manage the many aspects of work of a charity and the governance it required. Donated facilities and services have been provided for Children's University by Suffolk One, University of Suffolk, Anglia Ruskin University, University of Essex, Lawrence Godfrey Photography.
Other		

Achievements and performance

		National evidence base of our impact
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Education Endowment Foundation As a result of Children's University being named as a "Promising Project" by the Education Endowment Fund (EEF) in 2018, Essex and Suffolk CU are taking part in a larger follow up study along with 8 other CUs. At the end of our first year of delivery several Children's University intervention schools hosted Children's University Graduation events for their learners.
		Rewarding and celebrating success through CU Graduations Although COVID restrictions had, in part,
		been lifted, we were not able to host our larger graduation ceremonies again this year. Our CU Manager enabled the delivery of CU Graduations for individual schools, ensuring we met our aims of rewarding and celebrating success.
		Promoting the Arts in the community Arts Award/Cultural partnerships

We moved into our 8th year as the Young Essex partner for the Essex Book Festival. This has enabled us to raise the profile of events in our local communities across the County, increase participation and also create bespoke learning opportunities for all to access.
Involvement with Essex Book Festival, Spoken Word Power and Manifesto for Essex Youth Climate Summit provided funding to support our work and raised our profile across new networks.

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives	Para 1.41	We currently raise approximately 66% of our running costs through annual membership subscriptions from schools and a small number of individual families.
set		During this year we have continued to operate successfully with one paid CU manager (0.8 FTE) and a small number of volunteers. With the resignation of our CU Manager, the Trustees are exploring a new membership and staffing model to ensure sustainability.
		We continue to actively seek to develop long term partnerships with organisations who share similar aims for their beneficiaries.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	Not applicable.
Other		

Financial review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	An independent examination of our accounts has been undertaken. Trustees regularly review the cash-flow of the charity.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees have agreed a prudent level of reserves which have been agreed to ensure that, in the event of the charity attracting insufficient operating costs year on year, sufficient funding is retained to ensure all commitment, including staff redundancy and contractual payments, can be met.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£14,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Not applicable.

You may choose to include furti	lei statements v	
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Our principal source of funds for this reporting year has been school memberships. We have also been successful in winning funding from the following: • AXA XL • St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan MAT • Education Endowment Foundation Research Study • Spoken Word Power, partnership with Essex Book Festival.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	No investment policy or social investment policy exists.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Risk Register The Trustees have a Risk Register in place which is reviewed at every Trustees meeting. Risks are identified, rated in order to determine priorities for action, existing control measures reviewed and additional control measures or actions identified.
		The key risks have been identified as Financial Performance and Personnel Risks.

	the reporting period, very steady level of members and provide steady level of members are in regular welfare and provide steady level of members are in regular welfare and provide steady level and provide steady with the resignation of University Manager, very commitments made at the steady level of members and provide steady level of the steady level of members are steady level of members and	pressures on school emic year and across we have maintained a ership. University is managed er. se that this places member in post. The ar contact to ensure upport. s in place. of the Children's who will meet the cross the remaining of e Trustees will support create a route for
Other		

Structure, governance and management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc	Para 1.25	CIO Foundation Constitution
How is the charity constituted? for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO	Para 1.25	CIO Foundation Constitution
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The number of appointed Trustees has increased with the addition of specialisms in financial management and strategic development.

Para 1 51	Those of our Trustees new to the role of a charity trustee, were offered the opportunity attend training.
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Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees		All potential Trustees are invited to submit an application for the role and meetings held ahead of the appointment to ensure the appointment will achieve the objectives of both parties.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	We operate against a CIO Foundation Constitution. We have a Board of Trustees with responsibility for governance and management structures. Trustees are offered the opportunity to undertake training to support them in their role. Day to day management decisions are made by the Children's University Manager, with reference to the Board of Trustees on matters of strategy and development. Policies and procedures exist and are reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees. Staff performance, development and pay reviews are managed by the Chair of Trustees with feedback to the Trustee Board. The Charity is affiliated with Children's University Trust (national organisation). This does not impact the development and management of the charity.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	None
Other		

Reference and administrative details

Charity name	Essex Children's University Trust
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	1168871
Charity's principal address	Brightspace Centre
	160 Hadleigh Road
	Ipswich
	Suffolk
	IP2 0HH

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)
David Matthews	Chair of Trustees	Appointed June 2022	
Lynne Upton	Chair of Trustees	1 st September 2016 to date. Reappointment confirmed in 2019)	

Professor David Humber	Trustee	Reappointed June 2022	
Angela Bull	Trustee	Appointed June 2022	
Julie Powell	Trustee	8 th May 2018 (reappointment confirmed May 2021)	
Toni Kittle	Trustee	Appointed June 2022	

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Not applicable	Not applicable	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Not applicable
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Not applicable
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Not applicable

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information)

	ype of idviser	name	Address
_	lame of ch	nief executive or nan	mes of senior staff members (optional information)
	Debbie Ben	nett – CU Manager	
	-	rom disclosure sclosure of key perso	nnel details
ther	optiona	ıl information	

Declarations

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report (including directors' report) above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees/directors

Signature(s)

Full name(s) David Matthews

Chair of Trustees

Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date 15th January 2024

Charity Registration number 1168871

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Total 2023 £
Incoming resources Charitable activities	2	49,716
Total income		49,716
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	3	61,983
Total expenditure		61,983
Net Income/(Expense)		(12,267)
Total funds brought forward at 1st April 2022		64,015
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2023		51,748

The notes on page 3 - 5 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

Name:

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	
Current assets Cash at bank and in hand Debtors Total current assets	5	51,407 1,276 52,684		
Current libailities Creditors	6	935		
Net current assets			51,748	
Net assets			51,748	
Funds: Unrestricted funds Total Funds		•	51,748 51,748	
The Trustees declare that they ha	ve approved the ac	counts.		
Signed:		Date		

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of the preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement on Recommended Practise 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 2019)- (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Cash flow statement

The directors have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the company is small.

Incoming resources

All material incoming resources have been included on a receivable basis. Donations and gifts are included in the statement of financial activities. All grants are recognised as income within the period covered by these accounts.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Income from Charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
	£	£	£
Membership	27,125	_	27,125
Services	17,150	-	17,150
Projects	2,495	-	2,495
Other	2,946	-	2,946
	49,716		49,716
3. Expenditure on charitable activity	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
	£	£	£
CU Graduations/Events	927	-	927
Marketing & Promotion	2,875	-	2,875
MAT Project	3,329	-	3,329
Miscellaneous Expense	606	-	606
National CU Membership	6,351	-	6,351
Office Costs	2,514	-	2,514
Passport to learning	2,281	-	2,281
Postage and Delivery	42	-	42
Printing	220	-	220
Professional Fees	830	-	830
Purchases	22	-	22
Staff Pay	41,429	-	41,429
Tavel	51	-	51
Trustee expenses	339	-	339
Website	168		168
	61,983		61,983
4. Staff			
4. Stail			2023
			Number
Average staff employed during the year		,	1
Average stail employed during the year		,	
No staff were paid over £60,000 during the year.			
5. Debtors			2023
			£
Debtors		:	1,276
6. Creditors			2023
			£
Accruals		•	935
		•	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7. Related parties & trustee expenses

There were no related party transactions during the year.

A total of £339 was reimbursed to trustees during the year for expenses incurred whilst carrying out voluntary roles for the charity.

8. Restricted funds

All income and expenditure is unrestricted with no restricted funds held by the charity.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

I report on the accounts of Essex Children's University Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

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 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act) but that an independent examination is needed.

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 Commissioners (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 the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of 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 the 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.

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.

Shelley-Marie Rudling FMAAT AATQB for and on behalf of:

Community360

Winsley's House, High Street, Colchester, Essex

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31 January 2024

Charity Registration number 1168871

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