Geese Theatre Company Limited

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements Year ended 31 March 2023

Charity number: 327563

Company Number: 2182104



Feltons
Chartered Accountants

Birmingham B1 3JR



Reference and Administrative Details

Chair	Kobina Hall	
Trustees	Clark Baim Selwyn Blyth Philippa Frith Kobina Hall lain Lownes Claire Owen Kam Sarai	
Company secretary	lain Lownes	
Key management personnel	Andrew Watson Louise Heywood Rosalind Adams Elizabeth Aspinall	CEO and Artistic Director Director of Programmes Director of Funding and Partnerships Director of Finance and Operations
Other employees	Ilhan Adam Elizabeth Brown Daisy Edwards Rebecca Oldfield Emma Smallman Benjamin Teare	Keshena Bowie Andrea Cifuentes-Poseck Oliver Gatten Daniel Pearce David Snook Georgia Wilkinson
Registered office		Woodbridge House 9 Woodbridge Road Birmingham B13 8EH
Charity number		327563
Company registration number		2182104
Independent auditor		Feltons 8 Sovereign Court 8 Graham Street Birmingham B1 3JR
Bankers		Lloyds Bank plc 32-34 Alcester Road South Kings Heath Birmingham B14 7PU

Report of the trustees Year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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 published in October 2019.

Chair's Report

In comparison to the challenging years we faced as an organisation during the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent issues experienced across both the arts and criminal justice sectors, 2022/23 felt like a surprisingly 'normal' 12 months, with a high level of demand from organisations and institutions looking to commission face-to-face work again. Although prisons were slow to return to pre-Covid regimes we still managed to deliver a range of excellent projects, including a series of groupwork interventions at HMP Featherstone, our regular resettlement work at HMP Whatton, our ongoing work with the Drug and Alcohol Team at HMP Rye Hill, and our partnership working with HMP Oakwood.

Training and conference work was dominated by a large commission by one public sector organisation who asked us to develop a new performance exploring coercion and control. This piece was piloted in April 2022 and then rolled out to their entire staff team thirty-six times over the course of the year, with further delivery extending into 2023/24.

Moreover, 2022/23 was dominated by international work, with the company being involved in two major overseas projects: collaborating with the University of Cape Town and Second Chance Theatre Company in South Africa; and delivering training for the New South Wales Corrections Department in Sydney, Australia. The former was funded by the British Council International Collaboration Fund and enabled the company to work closely with colleagues in Cape Town, exploring similarities and differences in delivering creative, rehabilitative projects in the two countries, given the very different systems and societal contexts in which the work is delivered. The latter involved two of the Geese team delivering a range of 3-day and 1-day training events to programme writers and developers, psychologists and prison officers in Sydney, helping the NSW Corrections Department to think more creatively about the development and delivery of their offending behaviour treatment programmes.

I am, as ever, grateful to my fellow Board of Trustees members for helping to guide the organisation as we moved out of the pandemic. However, greatest thanks must go to the incredibly dedicated

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

staff team who navigated a challenging period with expertise. The work of Geese goes from strength to strength and the company's reputation for creating imaginative projects working with some of the most vulnerable populations was only enhanced throughout the year.

Kobina Hall

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Our Purposes and Activities

Our vision is:

To create safe, crime-free communities and for the arts to be recognised as a powerful vehicle for individual and social change.

Our mission is:

To use theatre and drama to enable choice, personal responsibility and change amongst individuals who have offended, other vulnerable or marginalised groups and those who work with them.

Our values are:

Responsibility

We support and encourage the notion of personal responsibility.

Belief in Change

We uphold and promote a belief in the potential and possibility of individual change.

Rigour

Every aspect of our work is grounded in robust evidence and theory to ensure the highest quality.

Artistic Excellence

We strive to develop and deliver theatre and drama practice of the highest quality to people and places with the least engagement in the arts.

Innovation

We are continually developing new performances, projects and services for new audiences, offering alternative approaches to reducing offending.

Partnership

We aim to create an ethos of collaboration and partnership which values contributions from all members, employees, partners and participants in order that our work has the greatest impact.

Inclusion

We aim to treat all individuals with respect and to approach each other and those we work with in an inclusive and non-judgemental manner.

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

To achieve our vision of creating safe, crime-free communities by the provision of theatrical activities, we formulated objectives for our 2022/23 business plan within the following areas

- 1. Direct Work with Beneficiaries
- 2. Training Work
- 3. Profile Raising, Relationship Building, Sector Engagement and International Work

In shaping our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Organisations and Partners worked with in 2022/23

Addiction Recovery Arts Network	HMPPS
Bath Spa University	Ingeus Justice Services
Birmingham Children's Trust	Judicial College
Birmingham City University	Kent, Surrey and Sussex Probation
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City	Leicester City Council
University	
Bradshaw House Approved Premises	London Haymarket
Clean Break	New South Wales Corrective Services
Emotion Coaching UK	North West Probation
Forensic Psychology Practice Ltd	Nottinghamshire Offender Personality
	Disorder Pathway
Glebe House	Respect
HMP Drake Hall	Second Chance Theatre
HMP Featherstone	SIFA Fireside
HMP Gartree	Thames Valley Police
HMP Hewell	University of Birmingham
HMP Holme House	University of Cape Town
HMP New Hall	University of Lincoln
HMP Oakwood	University of Worcester
HMP Peterborough	Vinney Green Secure Unit
HMP Rye Hill	Warwickshire Virtual School
HMP Whatton	Wells Road Centre
HMP Woodhill	Woodlands

Work delivered 2022/23:

Geese Theatre Company works within the criminal justice system and social welfare settings and projects comprise work with core client groups (in secure settings, mental health settings, in the community or with young people) and training of staff, students and artists who work with such core client groups.

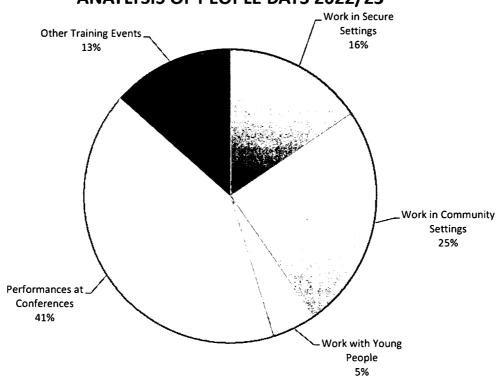
After a challenging couple of years we are delighted that 2022/23 saw our portfolio of work begin to look more like it did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with an increasing number of projects delivered in prisons and secure settings as well as a significant number of commissions for training. As detailed below, the total number of projects delivered increased from 62 last year to 146 this year, with participants / audience members increasing from 1674 last year to 4887 in 2022/23. Not only that, but as mentioned in the Chair's report, the company spread its wings working internationally this year, collaborating with other organisations who share our aims and ethos and providing training to professionals interested in developing their practice.

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

	Number of projects	People Days	Participants/Audience Members
Work in Secure Settings	20	143	200
Work in Community Settings	21	229	389
Work with Young People	4	45	31
Performances at Conferences	54	380.5	3530
Other Training Events	47	124	737
Totals	146	921.5	4887

All the work is delivered by a delivery team of permanent staff with an average of 11 years' experience working with Geese. The delivery team is supported by an experienced administrative team with a focus on finance, fundraising, business development and logistics.

ANAYLYSIS OF PEOPLE DAYS 2022/23



Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Direct Work with Beneficiaries

We worked with 322 adults and young people who are in prison, serving community sentences or otherwise marginalised, vulnerable or socially excluded. 298 audience members watched performances/presentations co-created with some of our adult participants.

Secure	Number of Projects	Days (inc. rehearsal)	People Days	Client/Audience Numbers
Creative Projects	1	8	24	9
Performances	1	1.5	6	34
Groupwork	17	49.5	109	152
Performances				
(Prison Cast)	1	1	4	5
Totals	20	60	143	200

Community	Number of Projects	Days (inc. rehearsal)	People Days	Client/Audience Numbers
Groupwork	8	33	83	42
Creative Projects	5	47	133	54
Performances				
(Community Cast)	8	4	13	293
Totals	21	84	229	389

Youth	Number of Projects	Days (inc. rehearsal)	People Days	Client Numbers	
Creative					
Projects	4	20	45	31	
Totals	4	20	45	31	

Examples of projects where we worked directly with beneficiaries:

Secure

We were fortunate to be one of several arts delivery partners commissioned as part of the Inspiring Futures project, a large-scale research initiative exploring the efficacy of the arts in criminal justice settings, managed by the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the EHRC, with research carried out by the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University. As part of Inspiring Futures we delivered four 8-day projects with men in HMP's Featherstone and Hewell, exploring their journeys into prison, during their sentences and onto release. Findings from the research will be published in 2023/24.

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Whilst HMP Featherstone and Hewell are both long-term hosts of our work we also managed to forge a number of new partnerships in secure settings, including with the therapeutic community at HMP Gartree. We were commissioned to create and deliver an interactive performance for the whole community (of residents and staff) followed by a series of workshops to explore the themes in more depth and were delighted with the response to the work:

"Geese presented a challenging, moving and deeply engaging piece of theatre that incorporated key themes from the therapeutic community. In this way, the piece acted as a mirror inviting audience members to see aspects of themselves and their lives in edgy but accessible ways. The masks brilliantly portrayed a range of defences we see while the role of Fool, enabled an engagement with these and the edges in our work. This gave licence to positive risk taking and playful engagement both in the performance and in the afternoon workshops."

Head of Psychotherapy & Democratic Therapeutic Community Clinical Lead & Therapy Manager, HMP Gartree

Community

April 2022 saw the launch of our new community partnership with Birmingham-based SIFA Fireside, an organisation that works to enable inclusion, engagement and equal access to services for those individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The three-year partnership, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, aims to use theatre, drama and creativity to improve outcomes for people who have experienced homelessness, help them explore and share their stories, build their confidence and give them a voice in their community. We delivered three projects this year and received this reflective feedback from a SIFA staff member who supports the project:

"All clients at the end of the program spoke extremely highly of the value of the workshops. Many clients showed high levels of emotions, showing a positive level of emotional investment, learning and value they had from the experience. The core group now tend to sit together, and they are also supportive of each other and other clients. They have higher tolerance of behavioral differences and challenges than other groups of clients and much of this is part of the empathy skills they developed during the theatre workshops."

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Training Work

We delivered training in the form of performances, groupwork, presentations, role-play or filmed scenes to thousands of staff working within the criminal justice system and wider social welfare sectors, students, and members of the public.

Conference Performances	Number of Projects	Days (inc. rehearsal)	People Days	Audience Numbers
For Staff	52	79	355.5	3423
For Students	2	5.5	25	107
Totals	54	84.5	380.5	3530

Staff Training	Number of Projects	Days (inc. rehearsal)	People Days	Client/Audience Numbers
Groupwork				
(for students)	6	5	8	97
Groupwork				· · · · ·
(for staff)	18	28	54	265
Groupwork				
(public)	2	2	2	26
Groupwork				
(for artists)	6	6	14	26
Presentations				-
(for staff)	4	4	7	171
Presentations				
(public)	4	4	4	17
Role-play (for				-
staff)	1	1	6	36
Filmed Scenes				
(for staff)	4	11	26	0
Totals	47	63	124	737

Examples of training work:

Conference Performances

One of our largest commissions in 2022/23 came from one criminal justice agency who worked closely with us to develop a performance exploring domestic abuse, coercion and controlling behaviours and the way in which their staff might manage cases involving those themes. This

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

performance was presented over thirty times throughout the year to a total audience of over 2100 people.

In addition to performances which are delivered multiple times we are often asked to collaborate closely with an organisation to explore some very specific themes to develop a performance which might only be presented once or twice. One such commission came from Leicestershire Supporting Families, a multi-agency working group, who wanted us to develop a piece which would allow professionals (police, school, early help etc) to consider the needs of children who have parents in prison. The performance we created, *Inside Out*, followed two families with a parent in prison and invited audiences with an opportunity to discuss how they can best support families like these.

"With the performance itself, I had input into what this might look like and read the script several times before the day but despite that, seeing it on stage was just so impactful! They absolutely nailed the brief; I know it brought me to tears (and I could see others the same) at several points and it delivered the messages we wanted to get across in a way that just wouldn't have been possible otherwise."

Other Staff Training

Groupwork for staff can take a variety of forms:

- using theatre, drama and active methods to enable small groups of professionals to explore challenges they might face in their work and to practise solutions and ways of working in a safe and supportive space;
- providing staff with training in specific theatre-based tools and techniques and a space in which to safely practise using the techniques.

In 2022/23 we were commissioned to deliver a number of the latter training events, mainly for probation programmes teams (staff who deliver a range of accredited groupwork programmes with people serving community sentences) and primarily providing them with training in the effective delivery of skills-practice role-play techniques and a safe space in which to practice those techniques.

"Over the years, I have heard colleagues comment on how exceptional and interesting training events are with Geese. In my opinion, Geese met those high expectations."

Participant from skills-practice role-play training event for North West Probation

Report of the trustees (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2023

International Projects

As highlighted in the Chair's Report, 2022/23 saw Geese Theatre Company engage in two exciting, and very different, international projects:

Unmasked:

From July 2022 to March 2023 Geese, University of Cape Town and members of The Second Chance Theatre Project engaged in a collaborative exploration of theatre and drama in criminal justice and social welfare settings. Throughout the exchange practitioners from Geese visited Cape Town and practitioners from Second Chance visited Birmingham, with a series of remote sessions in between.

During these visits and sessions, practitioners explored how different cultural and social contexts influence social justice arts practices in the UK and South Africa and how Geese methodology, in particular the use of masks, works in UK criminal justice and social welfare settings. This resulted in the adaption and creation of culturally diverse masks and scenarios.

"This collaboration with Second Chance has been rich in learning, on both a professional and a personal level for so many of our team. The opportunity to be immersed in a different country, and to experience the challenges of delivering prison-based theatre projects in a different social context has been eye-opening. We have learnt so much as an organisation from Second Chance — about resilience, about the value of 'lived experience', about systemic and institutionalised racism, and about the role and central importance of hope in all of this work no matter where in the world it is being delivered."

Andy Watson, CEO, Geese Theatre Company

Corrections Service, New South Wales, Australia

In March 2022, two Geese practitioners travelled to Sydney, Australia to deliver a 3-week programme for Corrective Services New South Wales (CSNSW). CSNSW runs the state's correctional centres, supervises people who have committed offences in the community, and delivers programmes to reduce re-offending, support re-integration, and build safer communities.

During the three weeks, the company performed *Stay* (our piece exploring the realities of domestic abuse), delivered several 3-day and 1-day training events and spoke at an Arts and Criminal Justice Symposium. 350 CSNSW staff had the opportunity to participate in these events and we received some excellent feedback:

"This was the BEST training I have ever attended. The trainers were sensational, and the training offered incredible insight into how we can effectively introduce, practise and implement creativity in the work we do. I am very excited to take the added learning opportunity and bring it to the field. Thank you so much to everyone involved for bringing Geese to our shores, our department and hopefully future practice."

Participant, 3-day training course

Report of the trustees (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2023

Financial Review

As outlined in the Chair's report, Geese Theatre Company had a successful year, with delivery at close to pre-pandemic levels. We ended the year with a surplus of £9,589. We were fortunate to benefit from continued support from the Arts Council England and several trusts and foundations, which, combined with new grants and significant growth in earned income on the previous year, means Geese's financial position was sound going into 2023/24.

Total income for 2022/23 of £539,818 was up £173,804 or 47% on the previous year (2022: £366,014). This was due to increases in both earned income and income from grants and donations. The former increased by £109,884 or 71% to £265,049 (2022: £155,165). The growth was primarily the result of an increase in conference performances (54 compared to 21 in the previous year), the majority of which were part of a large commission detailed earlier in this report. Invoiceable groupwork in secure settings also increased as COVID-19 restrictions in prisons eased. Income from grants and donations of £253,116 (detailed on the following page) was up £62,904 or 33% on the previous year (2022: £190,212). While no Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) or Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) funding was available in 2022/23, postponed projects funded by Arts Council England and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation were able to start and the company received funding for a number of new projects, as well as repeat or continuing funding from other grant makers.

Expenditure increased to £530,229, up £107,225 or 25% on the previous year (2022: £423,004). Expenditure increased across all budget lines except depreciation costs, reflecting increased delivery in 2022/23 compared with 2021/22 and the cost of living crisis. Motor and travel costs, sundry expenses and project costs increased most significantly. Staff costs also increased from 2021/22, when staff worked reduced hours for the majority of the year, as all but one staff member (who opted to continue working fewer hours) worked 100% of their pre-pandemic hours. The company also recruited two new practitioners (replacing only one outgoing practitioner) and for a new Administrator role.

The company has a clean balance sheet and closes the year with a cash balance of £345,308. At the time of writing (September 2023) Geese has confirmed more than 60% of budgeted invoiceable income and has a healthy pipeline of potential commissions. The cashflow and budget show that Geese continues to be financially viable past March 2024.

Principal funding sources

This was a busy year, with a number of new and postponed projects beginning delivery, including our National Lottery funded partnership project with SIFA Fireside, exploring the impact of drama interventions in a recovery journey from homelessness.

2022/23 was an extension year of NPO funding, supporting us for a further year post-pandemic, and we are pleased to confirm we have been accepted again for the 2023-26 National Portfolio. This was

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

also the first year of another three years of funding from BBC Children in Need, for our filmmaking projects for young people in secure settings or with experience of care.

We received funding from The British Council International Collaboration Grants to develop our partnership with Second Chance Theatre in Cape Town, South Africa. Second Chance Theatre is a combination of people with lived experience of criminal justice and students from the University of Cape Town, working in prisons and in the community.

We were also delighted to be able to deliver more innovative projects with Staging Recovery, who performed as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival. Supported by The Backstage Trust and Birmingham City Council Creative Cities, the ensemble took part in an ambitious project, bringing stories of 'Home' to audiences in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and on the streets of Birmingham during the Commonwealth Games.

With thanks to all our funders, old and new, for continuing to support us as we move past the impact of the pandemic.

Schedule of Grants and Donations - April 2022 to March 2023

Arts Council England Restricted Employability project grant 37,897 BBC Children in Need Restricted Grant for filmmaking 16,665	
RBC Children in Need Restricted Grant for filmmaking 16 665	
projects with young people	
Backstage Trust Restricted Staging Recovery Ensemble 27,216 project funding	
British Council Restricted International Collaboration 31,882 Grant	
The Bromley Trust Unrestricted One year grant 10,000	
Birmingham City Restricted Creative City grants 23,218	
Council	
Grimmitt Trust Restricted Grant for <i>Staging Recovery</i> 3,000 women's project	
National Lottery Restricted Grant for partner project 24,488	
Community Fund with SIFA Fireside	
Paul Hamlyn Restricted National Criminal Justic Arts 35,515	
Foundation Alliance Inspiring Futures	
project grant	
S&D Lloyd Charity Unrestricted Grant 500	
Other Unrestricted Donations 1,762	
TOTAL 253,115	

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Investment powers and policy

The executive has the power to invest the moneys of the company not immediately required for its purpose in or upon such investments, securities or properties as may be thought fit. (Based on Object 4.15 of Memorandum and Articles of Association.) However, there are no immediate plans to invest funds in anything other than the company's business bank account.

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned requirements. The trustees regularly review the level of reserves to ensure that the company could continue to function during a period of emergency. Currently, the Board aims to maintain reserves of a minimum of two months of expenditure and has a review mechanism in place should the reserves look to breach this.

Unrestricted reserves were £226,687 at 31st March 2023 and represent just over 4 months of planned expenditure for 2023/24. The budget for 2023/24 shows a surplus of just under £6k and a growth in reserves.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Geese Theatre Company is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7th September 1987 and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. There are currently 31 members, each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up. Membership is open to any person who meets the criteria outlined in Article 6 of the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and, under the Company's Articles, are known as members of the Executive Committee.

As set out in the Articles of Association, the Executive Committee is elected by members of the company.

One third of the trustees retires each year by rotation. At the AGM in October 2023 Selwyn Blyth and Kobina Hall will retire, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The executive seeks to retain relevant skills, such as financial, legal and artistic, as well as to represent client group interests on the committee.

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Trustee induction and training

New trustees are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, and the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and are informed of the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and the recent financial performance of the charity.

Potential new trustees are interviewed by a committee member and invited to attend two Executive Committee meetings as an observer prior to election.

An induction pack is supplied to potential new members. This covers:

- Legal responsibilities
- The role of a trustee
- A personal history and declaration form
- The Memorandum and Articles of Association

Organisation

The board of trustees, which can have up to 15 members, administers the charity. The board normally meets four times a year and there are sub-committees which meet when deemed necessary.

Decisions relating to the strategic direction and policy of the charity are made by the Executive Committee, in close consultation with the CEO/Artistic Director. At the date of this report, the committee has seven members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

The Chief Executive and Artistic Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, marketing and personnel.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of our trustees receives remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a client or supplier must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. Related party transactions in the current year are described in note 17 to the accounts.

Pay policy for senior staff

The board of directors, who are the trust's trustees, and the senior management team together comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and operating the trust on a day-to-day basis. No director received remuneration in the year and details of directors' expenses

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

are disclosed in note 7 to the accounts. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and is normally increased to reflect inflation or a change in responsibilities.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management policy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces;
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to mitigate or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Any risks that are defined as high or unacceptable have an owner assigned and contingency plans formulated. This then becomes a standing agenda item at every Executive Committee meeting to ensure the action is monitored.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Report of the trustees (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;
 and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By order of the board of trustees:

...... Kobina Hall (Chair)

3 October 2023

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Geese Theatre Company Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Geese Theatre Company Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Geese Theatre Company Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies
 regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from
 the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Geese Theatre Company Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee) (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities statement (set out on pages 17 and 18), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We reviewed the company's control and risk management procedures and planned our work based on our assessment of those controls and procedures;
- This review included an assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to errors, fraud and management override of controls for all material areas in the financial statements;
- We made enquiries of management and the company's lawyers regarding any actual or potential litigation and/or claims;
- Financial statements disclosures were reviewed and checked for compliance with applicable laws;
- Detailed testing was conducted on balances and transactions including unusual items and those of individual significance to the financial statements;
- Data analytics were used in order to identify unusual or significant trends;
- Communications with management and those charged with governance regarding relevant matters was undertaken throughout the audit and on completion.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Geese Theatre Company Limited (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilites. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Heltow

David W Farnsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor 8 Sovereign Court 8 Graham Street Birmingham B1 3JR

3 October 2023

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income					
Grants and donations Income from charitable activities:	2	53,233	199,883	253,116	190,212
Fund raising Income from trading activities:		265,049	-	265,049	155,165
Rental income, room hire and sundry income		21,000	-	21,000	20,600
Investment income	3	653	-	653	37
Total income		339,935	199,883	539,818	366,014
Expenditure					
Costs of raising funds : Publicity and marketing		5,114	-	5,114	5,047
Charitable activities: Operational and support costs	4	325,232	199,883	525,115	417,957
Total expenditure		330,346	199,883	530,229	423,004
Net income / (expenditure) before transfers		9,589	-	9,589	(56,990)
Gross transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		9,589	•	9,589	(56,990)
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward		217,098	-	217,098	274,088
Total funds carried forward	13	226,687	-	226,687	217,098

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

Company Number: 2182104

Charity number: 327563

		2023	3	2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		3,493		4,062
Current assets					
Debtors	10	55,523		84,326	
Cash at bank and in hand		345,308		323,592	
	-	400,831		407,918	
Creditors: amounts falling					
due within one year	11 -	177,637		194,882	
Net current assets			223,194		213,036
Net assets		=	226,687		217,098
Funds of the charity :					
Restricted funds					
General fund	13		-		•
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	13	223,194		213,036	
Capital fund	13	3,493		4,062	
	-		226,687		217,098

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

226,687

217,098

The notes on pages 26 to 34 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 3 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by :

Trustee

Total funds

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Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash flow from operating activities	16	23,280	(3,513)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(2,217)	-
Interest received		653	37
Net cash flow from investing activities		(1,564)	37
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		21,716	(3,476)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2022		323,592	327,068
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2023		345,308	323,592

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

Geese Theatre Company Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are provision of relationship support.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated

b) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for a period of 12 months from the date of authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

• Grants receivable

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Geese Theatre Company Limited

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

c) Income recognition (continued)

• Donated services and gifts in kind

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

Gifts in kind

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

• 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.

Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

• Costs of generating funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

These are costs incurred in activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

e) 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 trust's work or for specific artistic projects being undertaken by the trust.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 5.

g) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Equipment

- 25% per annum on a straight line basis

Fixtures and fittings

- 25% per annum on a straight line basis

Motor vehicles

- 25% per annum on a straight line basis

h) Debtors

Operational and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

j) Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

k) Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

I) Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

2. Grants and donations

3.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Grants .	51,471	199,883	251,354	188,012
Donations	1,762	•	1,762	2,200
	53,233	199,883	253,116	190,212
. Investment income			÷	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£

653

653

653

37

37

4. Expenditure on charitable activities

Deposit account interest

	Work in Secure Settings £	Work in Community Settings £	Work with Young People £	Training Work £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Operational and support costs						
Staff costs	51,000	81,671	16,048	179,925	328,644	280,904
Project costs	521	834	164	1,838	3,357	2,169
Motor and travel	6,306	10,098	1,983	22,246	40,633	13,865
Premises costs	6,286	10,067	1,978	22,178	40,509	35,235
Training	653	1,046	205	2,304	4,208	3,353
Venue hire	710	1,137	223	2,505	4,575	3,746
Sundry expenses	354	567	111	1,248	2,280	1,128
Depreciation	432	692	137	1,525	2,786	3,659
Support costs (note 5)	14,384	23,035	4,527	50,747	92,693	68,738
Governance costs (note 5)	843	1,349	265	2,973	5,430	5,160
-	81,489	130,496	25,641	287,489	525,115	417,957

Total expenditure on charitable activities was £525,115 (2022- £417,957) of which £325,232 (2022 - £282,313) was unrestricted and £199,883 (2022 - £135,644) was restricted.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

5. Analysis of support and governance costs

	Basis of allocation	General support £	Governance function £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Administrative staff	Staff time	38,790		38,790	39,842
General office costs	Usage	3,737	· -	3,737	2,898
Audit fees	Governance	-	1,980	1,980	1,760
Accountancy services	Governance	-	3,450	3,450	3,400
Other support costs	Usage	50,166	-	50,166	25,998
		92,693	5,430	98,123	73,898

6. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

Net income / (expenditure) is stated after charging :

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,786	3,659
Operating lease rentals		
Premises .	19,800	19,800
Auditor's remuneration		
Audit fees	1,980	1,760
Accountancy services	3,450	3,400
Other services	-	1,128

7. Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2022 - £nil).

One trustee was reimbursed expenses during the year totalling £130 (2022 - £20).

The Trust considers its key management personnel comprise the CEO/Artistic Director, Director of Programmes, Director of Funding and Partnerships and Director of Finance and Operations. The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel was £147,410 (2022 - £125,586).

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

8. Analysis of staff costs and numbers

Staff	costs	:
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	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages and salaries	332,562	291,445
Social security costs	24,918	20,602
Defined contribution pension schemes	9,954	8,699
	367,434	320,746

No employees received total employee benefits of more than £60,000.

Staff numbers :

The average monthly number of employees and full time equivalents during the year was as follows:

	2023 Number	2023 FTE	2022 Number	2022 FTE
Management	4	3.6	4	3.3
Direct charitable activities	6	5.4	6	5.1
Administrative	2	1.7	2	1.4
	12	10.7	12	9.8

9. Tangible fixed assets

taliginie likeu assets	Equipment £	Fixtures & fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost	-	_	_	-
At 1 April 2022	19,486	58,312	23,290	101,088
Additions	, -	2,217		2,217
At 31 March 2023	19,486	60,529	23,290	103,305
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	19,248	54,488	23,290	97,026
Charge for the year	150	2,636	-	2,786
At 31 March 2023	19,398	57,124	23,290	99,812
Net book values				
At 31 March 2023	88	3,405	-	3,493
At 31 March 2022	238	3,824		4,062

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

10 Debtors

10. Debtors		
	Total	Total
	2023	2022
	£ .	£
Debtors from operations	48,145	78,426
Prepayments and accrued income	7,378	5,900
	55,523	84,326
11 Candidana annount follow due within announce	•	
11. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	Total	Total
	2023	2022
	£	£
Creditors from operations	11,809	9,855
Accruals and deferred income	165,828	182,561
Other creditors	-	2,466
•	177,637	194,882
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	175,929	81,561
Resources deferred in the year	131,243	101,707
Amounts released from previous years	(148,322)	(7,339)
Deferred income at 31 March 2023	158,850	175,929

At the balance sheet date the charity was holding funds received in advance for grants where the qualifying expenditure is expected to be incurred in a future year.

12. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2023 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases: Land and buildings Total Total 2023 2022 £ £ Within one year 19,800 19,800 Within two to five years inclusive 79,200 79,200 In over five years 54,450 74,250 153,450 173,250

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

13. Analysis of funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Restricted funds			,		
General fund	-	199,883	(199,883)	-	-
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	213,036	339,935	(330,346)	569	223,194
Capital fund	4,062			(569)	3,493
	217,098	339,935	(330,346)	 	226,687
Total funds Name of fund	217,098 Description, na	539,818 ture and purpos	(530,229)		226,687
Restricted general fund	Money given to the charity where the donor requires that a grant or donation be spent for a specific project or asset.				
Unrestricted general fund	The free reserves of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.				
Capital fund	Free reserves which have been spent on acquiring fixed assets. An annual transfer is made relating to the depreciation thereon and other movements on fixed assets.				

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:

	Restricted General £	Unrestricted		Total
		General	Capital £	funds
		£		£
Tangible fixed assets		-	3,493	3,493
Current assets	-	400,831	-	400,831
Current liabilities	<u> </u>	(177,637)		(177,637)
Total net assets	<u> </u>	223,194	3,493	226,687

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

15. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments at 31 March 2023 (2022 - £nil).

16. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Total	Total 2022 £
	2023	
	£	
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	9,589	(56,990)
Depreciation	2,786	3,659
Interest receivable	(653)	(37)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	28,803	(44,220)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(17,245)	94,075
Net cash flow from operating activities	23,280	(3,513)

17. Related party transactions

The following related party transactions took place during the period :

	2023 £	2022 £
Birmingham Psychodrama Limited		
Charitable company in which Clark Baim is a director		
Services recharged to related party during the year	1,000	600
Changepoint Limited		
Charitable company in which Clark Baim is a director		
Services recharged by related party during the year	-	1,800