



(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number 1161284

Trustee Report and Financial Statements
Year ending 31 March 2020

New Note Projects
P.O. Box 5420
Brighton
BN50 8HS

The Trustees of New Note Projects present their Annual Report for the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

1. Governance and Structure:

New Note Projects (NNP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our constitution is a 'Foundation' model whose only voting members are its charity trustees.

New Note Projects was constituted on 14th April 2015, when the Charity Commission produced a unique charitable number: 1161284

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when considering the activities to be undertaken. These are detailed in this report.

New Note Projects was overseen by three trustees during the period 1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020

Chairperson – Bridget Taylor
Trustee - Dan Blomfield
Trustee – Marcus O'Dair

The day to day operations were overseen by Founder and Chief Executive Molly Mathieson.

2: New Note Projects aims and objectives.

NNP uses music to help people strengthen their recoveries from addiction. It was set up to combat drug and alcohol-related problems within Brighton and Hove in a unique and creative way. Brighton and Hove ranks the fourth highest of 152 local authorities for the proportion of adults drinking at increasing or higher risk levels. (*Brighton and Hove City Council 2019*)

The cuts to drug and alcohol services have been well documented in the press. Across the country, vulnerable people with addiction issues are being increasingly marginalised. More people die of drug misuse every year than all knife crime and road traffic incidents combined. About one in three drug deaths by overdose that occur in Europe happen here in the UK. (*Figures from EMCDDA, 'European Drug Report 2019', 2019*)

With high demand for services that have been drastically cut, people are becoming increasingly dependent on support from community-run groups such as New Note Projects. New Note Orchestra was featured in a government report, published by the Centre for Social Justice in August 2019, as an exemplary model in supporting people within the community. The report also highlights the dramatic sector-wide cuts: "Since 2014 approximately 30 residential rehabilitation centres across the UK have been forced to sell assets to survive the cuts, severely reduce their capacity or in many cases simply close their doors".

New Note Projects has two music-based initiatives.

- New Note Orchestra (*See section 3*)
- New Note Strummers (*See section 4*)

Both programmes reach people who have experienced addiction issues. Many of the people accessing our services have also experienced rough sleeping, poor mental health social isolation, deprivation and prison.

PUTTING OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES INTO PRACTICE

3. Operations summary: New Note Orchestra

New Note Orchestra was launched in 2015 as the first of its kind in the world. Its aims are:

To produce new and original music of high artistic value

To help people in recovery from drugs and alcohol addiction to stay sober by meeting regularly to compose and play music

To reduce the stigma around alcoholism and addiction in our communities by putting on public performances.

During 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, New Note Orchestra achieved the following;

- 39 people accessed NNO over this period.
NNO's retention rate for this period was 83%. (**Retention Rate:** Percentage of people who attended in the previous year that are still attending in the current year)
- Over 650 members of the public attended performances by NNO.
- The orchestra met 51 weeks of the year, keeping in regular contact with the members.
- NNO created a 60 minute performance titled *Kind Rebellion*. The performance was a combination of newly composed music, film and poetry. Each performance was followed by a panel discussion led by Jonathan Birch, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Principal Investigator at the London School of Economics. Panellists included Prof Robin Banerjee, Head of Psychology at University of Sussex, Dr Oliver Scott-Curry from Oxford University, and Dr Dan Campbell-Meiklejohn, a neuroscientist who researched how kindness affects the brain. We also invited kindness campaigners including Jaime Thurston, author of *Kindness: The Little Thing that Matters Most*, and Bernadette Russell, author of *The Little Book of Kindness*. Alongside the panellists, various orchestra members were invited to take part in the panel discussions.
- NNO performed *Kind Rebellion* at four public concerts. The *Kind Rebellion* tour was cut short due to the lockdown restrictions in March 2020.
- NNO performed at three new venues across the South East.
- NNO appeared in six newspaper articles.
- NNO was included in the Centre For Social Justice's report Road To Recovery (page 73, chapter 8) as an exemplary model of supporting people in the community.

"The performance of Kind Rebellion at the Attenborough Centre on World Kindness Day was a remarkable one, and I think every single person attending that event was moved by the power and honesty of the music, film, and stories of the orchestra. I was truly honoured to take part in the panel discussion, and learned a lot from the insights of everyone else on the panel, as well as from the contributions of the wonderful orchestra members, of course. And in the weeks since that performance, many people have continued to talk about it, and about its impact upon them" (Prof Robin Banerjee, Psychology Department, University of Sussex)

Impact

During 2019 the board recognised that rigorous measurement tools needed to be implemented. This resulted in impact measurement research and professional training to create a bespoke questionnaire. There were four distinct measurable areas:

- **Health and Well being**
- **Artistic Development**
- **Community Development**
- **Identity.**

The members of NNO were asked to complete the questionnaire in November 2019 and the executive summary of the results below demonstrate that NNO is having a remarkable impact.

- 100% said that NNO had been important to their recovery. 95% said NNO had been 'significant' or 'dramatic' in supporting their recovery. NNO is the most important aspect of people's recovery across most indicators, apart from 'maintaining abstinence' where NNO is of equal importance to statutory recovery services and lifestyle choices such as diet, exercise, mindfulness etc.
- 30% of respondents have been part of New Note Orchestra for four years.
- 84% of members attending in 2019 also attended in 2018
- 70% of respondents have experienced homelessness
- 80% of respondents currently identify as having a mental health issue
- 88% said that their musical ability had 'significantly' or 'dramatically' improved since joining NNO
- 95% thought the quality of the music NNO produces is 'excellent'
- 80% said that being in the orchestra had 'significantly' or 'dramatically' reduced their loneliness
- 95% said that NNO had 'significantly' or 'dramatically' improved the quality of their lives
- 95% said that since joining the orchestra they now 'significantly' or 'dramatically' view their lives more positively.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) conducts an annual Personal Well-being survey which allows us to compare responses for New Note members with the UK average¹. The average score for New Note members is 7.5, almost exactly in line with the 2019 national average of 7.6. This is a positive outcome for a group with adverse life experiences.

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/measuringnationalwellbeing/april2018tomarch2019>

4a: Operations Summary - New Note Strummers

In January 2017, the New Note Strummers was launched. New Note Strummers is a weekly guitar group for people who are in recovery from addiction. This group attracts clients who are particularly vulnerable, including those in the early stages of recovery, street homeless and those who have significant mental health issues. Many of the members have been socially excluded for long periods of time including prison. With a National Lottery grant, Founder Molly Mathieson launched a pilot between Jan-April 2017. The pilot was successful, Strummers became a regular weekly group for people in recovery from addiction. The National Lottery has continued to financially support the New Note Strummers.

During 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 the New Note Strummers achieved the following:

- 42 people accessed The New Note Strummers during this period.
- Attendance rate was 65%. *
- The Strummers performed four public concerts.
- They appeared in two newspaper articles.

***Attendance Rate**

Average attendance of individuals from the point that they first attended. Individuals who didn't attend for more than four weeks at the end of the year (or last 30 days for current year) are excluded.

4b: Guitars Save Lives

Guitars Save Lives was launched in September 2018 to mark the end of recovery month. Due to the success of this first live show, we held another *Guitars Save Lives* in September 2019.

It was a two hour performance combining music and conversation at Komedia, a well-known venue in Brighton.

The New Note Strummers performed seven songs as a group. We raffled off a brand new Fender signed by Madness and Paul Weller. Special guests included Franksy, stage manager to the stars, and 'Chrissy Boy' John Foreman, guitarist with Madness.

5 New Developments:

The board developed a three year strategic plan over a number of meetings throughout 2019. The Artistic Director Conall Gleeson and Founder/ Chief Exec Molly Mathieson were also in attendance.

Through these meetings, the following was agreed:

- In the current financial climate, New Note Projects would not be expanding their operations.
- In order to reach more people in recovery, New Note Orchestra would perform outside of Brighton and Hove.
- New Note Orchestra would perform in areas that have high levels of drug and alcohol dependency or low arts engagement.
- New Note Projects would be devising a 'tool kit' for those inspired to set up music-based groups to help people with addiction issues and poor mental health. The tool

kit would be made available on the New Note website for anyone who wanted to start a musical based group to support people across various communities.

6. Review of financial position.

The New Note Projects accounts are independently examined by registered accountant Chris Tyler FCA, DChA, FCIE.

Total income: £92,549

Expenditure

Staffing costs: £54,086

Operating Costs: £12,257

Investments : £9,516

Website rebuild £4,560

Musical instruments £4,956

Reserves Policy:

Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds to source the core operating capacity of the charity for three months. This means the charity can meet ongoing liabilities, sufficient to ensure that all delivery commitments can be met and to protect the long-term future of the operations.

Assets:

The charity has assets in the form of musical instruments. Our total assets at 31st March 2020 were £1050.

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £	2019 Total Funds £
RECEIPTS				
<u>Grants:</u>				
Sussex Community Foundation	-	-	-	2,570
Police Fund	200	-	200	-
Garfield Weston	-	-	-	5,000
Oak Foundation	-	19,500	19,500	-
Brighton University	-	-	-	2,000
Foyle Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	-
Woodward Trust	-	-	-	500
Leigh Trust	-	-	-	2,500
Martin Geddes Trust	-	-	-	2,000
Brighton and Hove City Council	-	3,000	3,000	-
Gurney Charitable Trust	-	-	-	1,000
Henry Smith	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Arts Council England	-	39,807	39,807	14,498
Big Lottery	-	9,778	9,778	9,928
London School of Economics	-	2,495	2,495	-
Martin Geddes	-	2,000	2,000	-
 <u>Other Income:</u>				
General Donations				
Ticket Sales	2,999	-	2,999	3,958
Sponsorship	2,770	-	2,770	1,321
Nesta	-	-	-	768
Refund	-	-	-	452
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>5,969</u>	<u>86,580</u>	<u>92,549</u>	<u>51,495</u>
PAYMENTS				
Staffing Costs	-	54,086	54,086	40,988
Operating Costs	-	12,257	12,257	11,100
Investments	-	9,516	9,516	3,526
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>-</u>	<u>75,859</u>	<u>75,859</u>	<u>55,614</u>
RECEIPTS LESS PAYMENTS	<u>5,969</u>	<u>10,721</u>	<u>16,690</u>	<u>-4,119</u>
 BANK BALANCES B/FWD				
	<u>2,963</u>	<u>7,570</u>	<u>10,533</u>	<u>14,652</u>
BANK BALANCES C/FWD	<u>8,932</u>	<u>18,291</u>	<u>27,223</u>	<u>10,533</u>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2020**

	2020 £	2019 £
CASH FUNDS		
Deposit Account	-	-
Current Account	27,223	10,533
Petty Cash	-	-
	<u>27,223</u>	<u>10,533</u>
RESERVES		
Unrestricted Reserves	8,932	2,963
Restricted Reserves	18,291	7,570
	<u>27,223</u>	<u>10,533</u>
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES		
Sussex Community Foundation	-	2,570
Arts Council	9,291	-
Oak Foundation	5,000	-
London School of Economics	2,000	-
Martin Geddes	2,000	-
Garfield Weston	-	5,000
	<u>18,291</u>	<u>7,570</u>

OTHER MONETARY ASSETS – DEBTORS

The charity had no amounts owed to it at 31 March 2020 nor 2019.

MONETARY LIABILITIES

The charity had the following amounts owed by the charity:

	2020 £	2019 £
Accruals – Independent Examination	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>

The Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees on :

Approved by:

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF NEW NOTE PROJECTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (“the Trust”) for the year ended 31 March 2020.

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (“the Act”).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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Date.....