




LIVE!
Cheshire

2022 SOCIAL ACCOUNTS

Every Disabled Person Really Does Matter

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A photograph of two men smiling and hugging. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a grey hoodie. The man on the right is wearing glasses and a blue t-shirt. They are positioned on the right side of the page, with their heads and shoulders visible. The background of the photo is slightly blurred.

“ At Live! I can meet my friends and have fun with no pressure. ”



WELCOME

Hi and welcome to our fifth set of social accounts! April 2021 to March 2022 was a very exciting year at Live! We were able to open our doors and offer more activities and projects following the challenging closures and lockdowns presented by the pandemic.

It was great to see all our members new and old enjoying being back together at Live! Socialising with friends, making new ones and learning new skills. Again, this year we have had an increase in membership the word has spread about the great activities and projects we offer.

Last year our fourth set of Social Accounts were very well received and again proved to be a great way of promoting the charity and reporting on our social impact. In these accounts we aim to demonstrate what we have been up to over the last year and give an idea of where we plan to go in the future.

Debi Whittaker
Chief Officer



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WHO ARE LIVE!?

We are a vibrant charity that provides a varied programme of fully inclusive and accessible clubs and social activities for disabled children, young people, and adults.

Based at New Scene Youth Centre in Chester, people come from throughout Cheshire, Wirral and North Wales to take part, to make friends and have fun. Whilst doing so they develop their self-esteem and confidence, improve their physical well-being and develop social, vocational and independent living skills.

As a charity, our role is to ensure the safety and enjoyment of those taking part, challenge disadvantage and promote choice and inclusion.

“ Live! is the best place in the world! ”

Trustees

We are governed by a board of 7 Trustees who, as well as bringing personal experience of disability, provide a wealth of valuable skills and experience in the fields of youth and community work, special needs education, business and voluntary sector management and the law. This enables us to maintain high quality senior management and governance.

Staff team

We have a staff team of 17, comprising of:

- 1 x Full time Chief Officer
- 1 x Full time Outdoor Education Co-ordinator
- 2 x Full time Youth and Community Co-ordinators
- 1 x Full time Adult Offer Co-ordinator
- 1 x Part time Admin and Finance Officer
- 5 x Part time Youth Support Workers
- 3 x Part time Workers in Charge
- 1 x Part Time Social Action Co-ordinator
- 1 x Part time caretaker
- 1 x Part time cleaner

Volunteers

We have a highly active team of 12 regular volunteers that supports all of our activities and events throughout the year.



Take Part, Make Friends, Have Fun!

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OUR HISTORY

1993 - We were formed as a community group following a partnership between Barnado's and Cheshire County Council to try to tackle the shortage of recreational and learning activities for disabled children and young people living in the Chester area.

We began by running the Friday night LIVE! youth club at our current HQ, New Scene Centre, and after a few months, due to demand we launched Saturday morning LIVE!

1999 - LIVE! became an independent community group and increased our offer to include 50 days of fun.

2000 - Millennium Awards - launched Give it a Spin bike project.



2002 - We became a registered charity and launched Next Event. This provided a real impetus and, as our staff team grew, we increased the number and range of our services.

2006 - MIMO (Miss It Miss Out) began, and a wide range of other sporting and creative activities.

2008 - Formed Independence - our integrated dance company.

2011 - We were awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.



2020 - We signed an agreement with CWAC to take on a 25-year lease of New Scene. We developed a new approach to working in light of Covid 19 - with outreach and online activities becoming the norm with great success. As a community we worked together to overcome many challenges.

2021 - Developed new ways of working following Covid - social media/Zoom, new activity booking system etc. Covid gave us the opportunity to revamp and to become more streamlined and efficient.

2022 - 5 young people achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and went to The Palace to collect their awards.

2016 - We became a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation).

2017 - Launched Mini MIMO and Patchwork Nativity.

2018 - The first year of our 3 year National Lottery Community Funded project, we launched Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards and started Big Live! over 25's project.

2019 - We became the Mayor of Chester's Charity - we held our first Livefest family fun day and we started our new Youth Action Project.



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WHO WE WORK WITH

We are 'pan disability', meaning that we work with people who have a wide spectrum of disabilities. These take the form of mild to profound learning disabilities, wide ranging physical disabilities, autism, sensory impairments, and mental health problems. Many people have multiple disabilities.

Historically we have provided a varied programme of fully inclusive and accessible clubs and social activities for disabled children and young people aged between 9 and 25. However, due to demand, in 2018 we extended our provision to include younger children from the age of 5 and adults over the age 25, with no upper age limit.

Everyone is welcome at Live! and we exclude no one.

One in five of us will be affected by disability at some point in our lives.



At the age of 26, disabled people in the UK are four times more likely to be out of work or not in education compared to non-disabled people.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Mission

We aim to provide high quality learning and recreation activities, which are accessible and responsive to the needs of children, young people and adults with disabilities. We promote integration, celebrate people's differences and recognise and implement equal opportunities throughout the organisation.

How We Achieve This

Putting children, young people and adults with disabilities first by:

- Talking and listening to them
- Supporting their needs
- Communicating with them
- Recognising and providing facilities for their specific needs
- Providing high quality activities
- Positive roles in play activities
- Encouraging respect for other people and cultures
- Positive opportunities for all
- Proactively enforcing an anti-bullying policy
- Support for all their needs
- Linking with the community

Objectives:

1

To advance, promote and encourage education and learning opportunities for children, young people and adults with disabilities so as to increase their capabilities to make informed choices about their individual lifestyles within their own community.

2

To provide facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation for children, young people and adults with disabilities in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions in life.

OVERVIEW OF OUR SERVICE

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022,
we ran the following projects/services:

Stay and Play - our after school clubs for 5-9 and 9-16 year olds.

Inbetweeners - our independent living and social skills group for young adults aged 18 to 25.

Big Live - Adult social group for over 25s.

50 Days of Fun - our school holiday activity programme.

Patchwork Company - our performing arts project.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - adapted and fully accessible for disabled people.

Art with Ali - water colours, collages, murals and much more!

Give it a Go! - Arts and Crafts for disabled adults (18+).

Give it a Spin! - cycling sessions three days a week on our collection of adapted hand bikes, 3-wheel bikes, tandems and wheelchair accessible bicycles.

Youth Action Project - providing opportunities for disabled young people (aged 8-25) to get involved in a programme of community action such planning and organising new exciting fundraising activities, raising community disability awareness, or working with other charities.

Moving On With Live! - a programme that supports young people (16 to 25) at important transition points in their lives such as a move from school to college, from the parental home to independent living or from college to employment.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021/22

We gradually fully reopened post-pandemic and started to deliver our full range of services again.



We saw a 20% increase in members numbers during the year.



We increased the Moving On Project from 3 to 4 days a week due to popularity and demand.



23 young people completed our Bronze, Silver, and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme.



We decided to run our fitness sessions at the gym (rather than inhouse) to give members a more inclusive and community based activity.



We launched the Active Live project (promoting healthier lifestyles for disabled people of all ages).



Linking our work in 2021/22 to our Mission and Objectives:

Our mission is to provide high quality learning and recreation activities, which are accessible and responsive to the needs of children, young people, and adults with disabilities. We promote integration, celebrate peoples' differences, and recognise and implement equal opportunities throughout the organisation.

Our aim is to achieve this by putting children, young people and adults with disabilities first, providing high-quality activities and linking with the community.

Our work throughout 2021/22 supported our mission and objectives. All activities occurred and continued as a result of ongoing consultation with the people that we support. Our members shape services, come up with new exciting ideas for projects and lead on activities and decision-making.

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CASE STUDY 50 DAYS OF FUN

We are privileged to work with some amazing children, young people and adults at Live! Here are a just few of their stories:

Live! has run holiday provision since the summer of 1999. The 'Summer of Fun' was initially set up as a pilot programme but following its success, we went on to run a day or two over further school half term holidays.

The name, '50 Days of Fun', came literally from the total amount of days that schools were shut to their pupils (school holidays)

Today, Live! runs 4 days per week over each school half term. During the summer holidays we run for 5 weeks, 4 days per week and at Christmas we

try to offer a couple of days out... at least one as a trip to see a Panto!

Live! takes pride in itself by being able to offer a wide range of accessible and meaningful activities during the holidays to children and young people aged 5-19 years with disabilities. The project enables them to maintain friendships and relationships, gain respect and self-worth. They are allowed to be children and young people first, can leave their disabilities and problems on the outside and really enjoy themselves.

EG has been a member of Live! for around 6 years now. Her first summer scheme with us, she came with her own PA. The 1-1 support had been put in place via an agency which was arranged by mum. 1-1 support was needed as EG could display challenging and self-harming behaviours.

Despite the initial concerns, it did not take long for EG to settle in with us and

after a couple of holiday programmes we suggested to mum that EG attended the 50 Days of Fun on her own as we felt that EG had progressed enough to participate in activities without support and we felt confident enough to manage without her 1-1 there supporting EG.

This has carried on to present day and although EG's situation has dramatically changed, we continue to support her and her family as much as we can. This last year she came away with us to the Conway Centre on a residential which was a first. There was a lot of anxious chats with mum beforehand, but we made it through the weekend with lots of smiles and laughter.



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CASE STUDY DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



“ I no longer feel as depressed as I once did and that is thanks to Live! ”

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading Youth Achievement programme where young people aged 14 to 25 realise their full potential and prepare for adulthood by building confidence, improving their resilience, and becoming more independent.

The Gold Award is the final and most difficult level where young people must show they can plan, organise and deliver a number of different activities over a year culminating in a final trip away all with virtually no outside help.

J started the journey towards achieving his Gold Award just before Covid struck, resulting in constantly having to alter his planned activities to follow the changing restrictions of lockdown and finding different solutions to overcome the numerous delays imposed on his trips away. This was especially daunting for J who has been living with Autism all his life and the effects this can bring with heightened anxiety around changes to routines and not always understanding, or wanting, to accept what is happening.

Where the changes could have easily brought anxiety and withdrawal J instead focussed on what he could achieve and how he could help to make activities, though different to originally planned, still fun and enjoyable for everyone. In fact, J approached the many hurdles with determination and enthusiasm, embracing new ways of communicating with his group online and adapting his programme

around his daily routine at home.

For his final trip away J's group chose to explore the castles of North Wales and again he threw himself into making sure this trip, after its many changes and delays, was a success. From completing his own research at home about the different restrictions in Wales, to finding information from guidebooks about each castle, he made sure any new limitations or unexpected changes didn't stop them making the most of each adventure.

J's achievement in completing his Gold Award is especially remarkable not just for the many ways in which he demonstrated his growing independence but also for the manner in which he didn't let any of the changes impact on his enthusiasm but rather turned each one into an opportunity to explore something new.

CASE STUDY MOVING ON



When G started coming to Live! He was extremely anxious. He used to watch the activities from the window of his car.

Once he had overcome some of this anxiety, he started coming into the building, he was very reserved and struggled in a social setting. His anxiety was still a huge barrier for him, so staff gently encouraged him to join in the activities and to spend time with his peers.

G started attending our Moving On programme. During this time, his confidence grew massively.

G found conversations difficult, often responding with yes or no answers and wouldn't ask for things if he needed them. Now, G will fully commit to the

conversation, asking a question back, or asking new questions to continue the conversation. He will also come and find staff to ask for the things he needs or if he wants to talk about something.

During the baking sessions, our members are paired up to build their teamwork. This 1-1 social interaction has slowly nudged G out of his comfort zone to build on his social skills. G has been brilliant working in his pair. G has built up a great bond with his partner, we will often find them engaged in conversation, or spending their social time together on the Wii. Also, G has recently passed on his contact details so the pair can chat outside of the session.

G has recently started attending an extra day at Moving On and is building friendships with other members of the group too. He enjoys the basketball activities,

which gives him a chance to mix with a small group. With his newfound confidence, he can joke with his peers during the game and he works as part of the team to win the game!

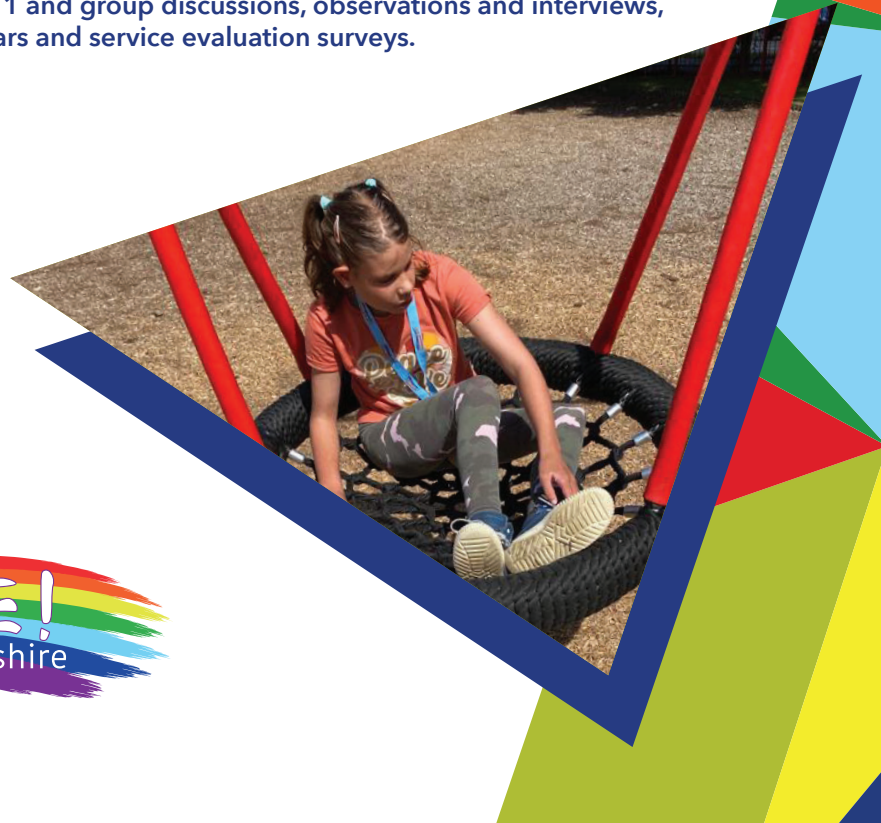
“ I can meet my friends and have fun with no pressure. ”

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

It is really important to us to ensure that we provide everyone that uses Live! with the correct services and that they are delivered to a consistently high standard. With this in mind we self-evaluate all of our services on an ongoing basis. This takes the form of 1 to 1 and group discussions, observations and interviews, questionnaires and feedback forms, outcome stars and service evaluation surveys.

1 Continuous Observation and Discussion

Our primary method of monitoring is via continuous observation and informal discussion with children, young people and adults. This type of monitoring works well with the people that we work with as they often struggle with more formal, survey or questionnaire based methods. This occurs on a daily basis and is an excellent way of ensuring that those taking part are enjoying the experience that it is safe, and they are developing as individuals.



2 Third Party Monitoring Activities

We deliver a range of Short Break activities for Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC). A requirement of our contract is to report on progress using the CWAC Performance Management Framework (PMF).

To inform the PMF we gather service user information monthly in relation to gender, age, ethnicity, geography (where people live), nature of disability, health issues, drugs misuse, anti social behaviour, and 'looked after' children. We also record and report on the amount of hours of 'face to face' activity, individual case studies, areas of good practice and individual achievements.

Internally we use the information to monitor beneficiary numbers and demographics, to assess need and to inform new projects. All information is fed into our monitoring framework. The monitoring activities provide us with information for reflection to help us to improve.



3 Outcome Stars

We use Outcomes Stars with our service users as a tool to measure projects. The tool consists of a number of outcomes scales arranged as a Star.

The service user and project staff complete the Star together during their initial session. Together they look at the different scales and agree which score best describes where the person is at the moment. This score is then plotted on the Star. The points can be joined to give an overview of where the person is at present - their own personal Star. The process is then repeated at a later date and the difference between the two readings shows the distance the person has travelled.

As well as showing the outcomes for individuals, the data is then collected across the whole project to provide a picture of the outcomes achieved by that project.

4 Consultation - Questionnaires/Surveys

Every year we carry out a survey to find out what people like doing at Live!, how often they attend and what new activities they would like to see.

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COMPLIANCES

We have the following Policies and Procedures - all of which are monitored and reviewed regularly



Operational Delivery

- Club sessions internal
- Club sessions as visits
- Residential procedures
- Minibus guidelines
- Moving and handling
- Intimate care policy

Administration

- Financial procedures

Staffing

- Equal opportunities
- Anti-harassment and bullying
- Anti-corruption and bribery
- Whistleblowing
- Disciplinary and capability procedures
- Grievance procedure
- Sickness absence policy
- Non-smoking policy
- Fair processing notice
- IT and communication systems policy
- Drug and alcohol policy
- Confidentiality procedure
- Induction procedures
- Positive handling policy
- Recruitment and selection

- Staff appraisal
- Code of conduct
- Training policy

Health and Safety

- COVID Risk Assessment
- Data Protection Policy in accordance with GDPR
- Safeguarding and child protection
- Vulnerable adult safeguarding
- Health and safety, inc fire procedures, risk assessment and lone working
- Risk assessment policy
- Environmental policy

Young People

- Live! members code of conduct
- Live! membership policy
- Parents handbook

Volunteers

- Volunteer policy, including volunteer agreement
- Reference request
- Drug and alcohol policy
- Code of conduct

Company and charity law:

We adhere to the regulations of the Charity Commission including the Statements of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting (SORP). Our financial accounts are independently examined, and our financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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 (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

We have the following insurance cover:

Public Liability - £10,000,000
Employers Liability - £10,000,000
Property Damage
Business Interruption
Money Insurance
Advertisers liability (including Hirers Liability)

We are members of:

Cheshire West and Chester
Parent Carer Forum
CVA Learning Disability Forum
The Youth Federation
Youth Strategy Board
Carer Confident (Employers for Carers benchmarking scheme)

“ I don't want the project to end, this has been the best thing I've done in ages, and I want to do more!!! ”

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ECONOMIC IMPACT IN 2021/22

Staff

We employed **17 staff** - 5 full time and 12 part time.

We paid **£292,477 in wages** (including Employers National Insurance and pension contributions).

All of our **staff live locally**.

Volunteers

We had **12 volunteers** in 2021/22 supporting a wide range of activity. Between them they contributed around **208 hours** every month - **2,496** during the year.

Using the living wage of £9.50 per hour as a guide this means that our volunteers gave time to the value of around **£23,712** during the year!





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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

We are acutely aware of the need to protect our environment.

We have continued to use **The Green Office Checklist** – a self-evaluation tool, which helps us to assess the environmental performance of our work. The Checklist gives us clear directions for improvement. The Checklist asks questions to indicate our level of “Green” performance. Various environmental topics are addressed, such as paper usage, energy efficiency, office supplies, general office activities, recycling, transport, Health and Safety and the process for implementation of all of our activities.

Our current key ‘Green’ activities:

- We photocopy double sided
- We make notepads from scrap paper
- We use email whenever possible – reducing paper usage
- We store documents electronically wherever possible – reducing paper usage
- We switch off lights and electrical equipment when not in use
- We maintain heating and plumbing appliances regularly to save energy and water
- We do not use disposable plastic cups, plates or cutlery
- We provide accessible cycle storage facilities for staff and volunteers
- We allow flexible working hours to allow people to use public transport

- We are a recycling point for unwanted books

In addition to the above we promote healthy eating and waste minimisation every day at Live!

Many of our activities involve food choice and preparation and we always take the opportunity to extol the virtues and benefits of a healthy diet!



Our most high profile environmental activity is our **Give it a Spin** project. We have a variety of adapted bikes available for people with all types of disability to try. Around **40 people** attend every week.

The project provides fun access to regular exercise which:

- Improves mental well being
- Promotes weight loss
- Builds muscle
- Cuts heart disease and cancer risk
- Improves sleep
- Improves spacial awareness
- Strengthens the immune system

CONCLUSION

We work to deliver a quality service that exceeds the expectations of disabled children, young people and adults, families and project partners and funders and we hope that these Social Accounts have provided a useful insight into our work.

As our 2021/2022 project year ends and our 2022/2023 year begins, we are now back on track with our face-to-face sessions. We have been able to offer a more streamlined service and new activities and projects.

The year ahead will no doubt bring different challenges as we move towards a brighter future and exciting new challenges.

If you would like to discuss any element of our work, please get in touch. We are always looking for the opportunity to support more people and to build new partnerships and we are keen to support other likeminded organisations in any way we can.

Debi Whittaker
Chief Officer

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022/23

We will:

- Streamline our services to better serve our members and to reduce costs.
- Re-introduce our range of social action projects.
- Increase our activities around adapted cycling, making new partners and expanding provision.
- Increase partnership working.
- Encourage more volunteers.
- Make alterations to the building to modernise and to make it more useable.



PARTNERS

Referring Partners and Agencies

- Local Authority (Cheshire West and Chester Council)
- Neuro Muscular Centre
- ChAPS
- Bren Project/Bren Bikes
- Buzz Youth Group
- Space
- Schools - We work with all local Special Schools (Dorin Park, Dee Banks, Oakland, Green Bank)
- Youth Federation
- Theatre in the quarter
- Art in the place
- Storyhouse
- CVA
- Cycle Projects
- Wheels for All
- Disability Positive

FUNDERS

We would not be able to deliver our services without the support of our funders, past and present – a massive ‘thank you’ to the following:

The National Lottery Community Fund
Cheshire West and Chester Council
29th May 1961 Charity
Albert Hunt Trust
Alchemy Foundation
Anne Duchess of Westminster’s Fund
Astor Foundation
B&Q Foundation
Barnard Kenneth Hufton Charity
Bennett Family Grantmaking Charity
Blakemore Foundation
Boshier-Hinton Foundation
Brian Wilson Charitable Trust
Brightlife
Broome Family Charitable Trust
Bryan Lancaster Trust
Casa Stella
Charles Sharland Trust
Cheshire Community Foundation
Chester Bluecoat Charity
Cotton Trust

CRH Charitable Trust
David Solomons Charitable Trust
Dorothy Pamela Smith CIO
Douglas Arter Foundation
Edward Gostling Foundation
Equilibrium Foundation
Evelyn May Trust
Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust
Fitton Trust
Geoff’s Ludford Charitable Trust
Grace Charitable Trust
Grey Court Trust
Holroyd Foundation
Irving Memorial Trust
J D M Charitable Trust
Lee Bakirgian Family Trust
Lynn Foundation
Marjory Boddy Charitable Trust
Michael Guest Charitable Foundation
Michael Watson Charitable Trust
Mrs. Yvonne Flux Charitable Trust

Pennycress Trust
Persula Foundation
R S Brownless Charitable Trust
Risley Medical, Research
and Charity Trust Fund
Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust
Sobell Foundation
Souter Charitable Trust
St James’s Place Foundation
Steve Morgan Foundation
Steven Bloch Image Of
Disability Charitable Trust
Sylvia Briarcliff
Truemark Trust
UK Youth
UKH Foundation
Ursula Keyes Trust
Westminster Foundation
Zochonis Charitable Trust

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Activities Year ended 31 March 2022.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	2021
Income and Endowments	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	135,792	71,968	207,760	430,361
Charitable activities	119,989	-	119,989	12,335
Other trading activities	14,136	-	14,136	7,307
Investment income	8	-	8	68
Total Income	269,925	71,968	341,893	450,071
Expenditure				
On raising funds:				
Costs of other trading activities	1,565	-	1,565	1,381
On charitable activities	335,041	47,248	382,289	367,901
Total Expenditure	336,606	47,248	383,854	369,282
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds	(66,681)	24,720	(41,961)	80,789
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	161,397	-	161,397	80,608
Total Funds Carried Forward	94,716	24,720	119,436	161,396

Statement of Financial
Position 31 March 2022.

	2022	2021
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	2,813	198
Current Assets		
Debtors	10,299	18,086
Cash at bank and in hand	116,708	154,908
	127,007	172,994
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	10,384	11,795
Net Current Assets	116,623	161,199
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	119,436	161,397
Net Assets	119,436	161,397
Funds Of The Charity		
Restricted Funds	24,720	-
Unrestricted Funds	94,716	161,396
Total Charity Funds	119,436	161,396



LIVE!

New Scene Centre
Lime Wood Close
Off Newton Lane
Chester
CH2 2HD

Telephone: 01244 320479

Email: enquiries@livecheshire.org.uk

www.livecheshire.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/live.cheshire.71

Twitter: @Live_Cheshire

Charity number: 1160972

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