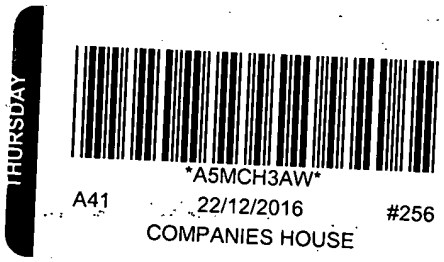
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03995521 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1084229

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 for

The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company



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The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company

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The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2016. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our Purposes
The objects for which the Company is established are to advance education for the public benefit by the promotion of the arts, in particular but not exclusively the art of drama.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Company's objectives for the year, including the guidance 'Public Benefit: Running a Charity (PB2)'

Main Activities
The Lawnmowers is a producing theatre-arts company. Operating in Gateshead and the surrounding regions, The Lawnmowers is a unique company and registered charity run by and for people with learning difficulties.

The Lawnmowers original actors, who formed in 1986, were a community group who later set up and developed the Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company as a vehicle through which to channel their activities. The Company was registered in May 2000, with operations commencing in January 2001.

Mission and Aims
The Company uses the arts to work towards a future, just and equal society. Members of the Company place themselves alongside the daily struggles faced by people with learning difficulties. Lawnmowers, through its core members artists, all of whom have learning difficulties, intends to research, explore and develop new ways of creating and using drama and theatre within their own culture. The Company supports an environment where people with learning difficulties use drama, theatre and the arts to develop their ideas and plan and take control of their futures.

Summary
Lawnmowers is a Gateshead-based charitable company which provides rich and varied cultural training for people with learning difficulties. Our programmes address social/ educational issues, accessibility, sustainability, participation, enjoyment and building futures. Since incorporation in 2001 Lawnmowers has worked directly with up to 33 learning disabled core members daily, brought our message of integration to over 118,883 beneficiaries, audiences and external participants and worked in partnership or given assistance to over 120 organisations/related bodies.

Our track record to date includes 14 full shows, hundreds of issue based performances and workshops, training sessions in drama games, Forum and Legislative Theatre, creating films, appearing on television, working with legislators and policy makers, comedy and music. Most shows provide accessible information.

The Company has expanded and added projects and new volunteer opportunities for people with learning difficulties to its portfolio. We have hosted many international groups at our premises and have toured our work regionally and nationally. Internationally we have toured our work to Poland, Brazil, Canada, Spain, Southern Ireland, Brazil, France and Chile.

We have recently been re-awarded status and funding as National Protfolio Organisation by Arts Council England which has described its NPO's as taking a civic leadership role in the community. We became one of only five organisations in Great Britain to win an international collaboration award from the London Olympic Committee under its Unlimited Programme. We are the only learning disabled project to be selected to work with the international Points of Contact and the youth Cultural Warriors Programmes.

Current Programme: Join Our Revolution

The Lawnmowers Revolution: *The Lawnmowers Revolution Programme* is an ambitious and exciting long-term project to creatively support and achieve mainstream social inclusion for people with learning difficulties. The programme is run in phases and each stage is carefully tailored following extensive consultation and evaluation of previous phases to offer an exciting portfolio of new and existing arts based activities, tour our work, work with new partners including international friends, devise a framework to determine the artistic quality of work and implement a programme to diversify income streams for the future so the Company can move away from total reliance on grant and foundation income. The Company has grown significantly as a direct result of this work through increased core membership, new artistic programmes, regular drop-in work and an extensive outreach programme. We have added youth projects and older people's projects to its portfolio to future plans following extensive research and live trials.

Join Our Revolution: Key Activities

Core Training Workshops in

- Commedia
- Outreach
- Singing
- Daytime Dance
- Personalisation
- Percussion
- Running a Nightclub
- Youth Theatre
- Health and Safety
- Theatre for Change
- DJ/VJ training
- Cultural Heritage Project
- Vul' Adults Policy

Evening Clubs, Summer Schools and Residential

- Organise evening open drop-in clubs in dance, drama & production;
- Organise and run summer schools and planning residencies;
- Organise and run a dedicated weekend youth theatre for young people with learning disabilities;
- Organise and run a dedicated evening youth hip hop club for young people with learning disabilities.

Personalisation Services

- Provide personal budget services across 4 art-forms.

Touring, Festival Participation & Krocodile Klub Nightclubs

- Organise and provide adult nightclubs for adults with learning difficulties;
- Organise tour and perform learning disabled theatre;
- Deliver performances by people with learning difficulties at regional festivals.

Information

- Produce DVD's;
- Produce marketing plans and accessible information;
- Run participatory evaluations;
- Develop an improved digital profile.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Meetings and Interviews

- Run weekly group Round Table meetings (accessible methods; strategic direction and future planning);
- Plan and run Shadow Board & organise participatory AGM's;
- Provide one-to-one appraisals for core members;
- Provide support for conference participation;
- Provide interviews for carers and carers events.

Development

- Provide mentoring opportunities;
- Provide workshops and performances to mainstream and SEN schools;
- Develop digital technologies: Company promotion, audience engagement, company social networking, funding opportunities;
- Develop accessible evaluation;
- CPD and Succession: Explore succession planning and development of young practitioners and provide a staff development programme;
- Governance: Set up a shadow board membership scheme and develop our Board;
- Work collaboratively with existing networks and new organisations.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Activity Summary: What We Offer/How We Offer It

Activities under the Join Our Revolution programme can be broadly accommodated under three headings:

1. Core Training;
2. External Events;
3. Company Development.

Core members influence and take part in all three headings above. They:

1. Co-produce and take part in their own personal development training which is a rigorous year-long programme of training;
2. Take their work out externally when delivering the Company's events;
3. Through our Round Table meetings, core members have full input to the Company's development and future direction. Individual core member outcomes are monitored, measure and evaluated across the spectrum.

Historically, the Company has concentrated on training a core number of volunteers with learning difficulties and service users who then deliver activities to a very wide and varied audience, hitting thousands of beneficiaries each year. Under the Revolution programme, we intend to develop this work and create new networks but we also want to give more individuals with learning difficulties the chance to come through our doors and take part in our activities and be a firmer part of Lawnmowers. Our plans therefore included comprehensive targets to increase numbers through:

1. New Core Member Programmes;
2. Drop-in activities;
3. Personal budget services;
4. Increased core membership.

Working Collaboratively

Our collaborations help spur our thinking with connections happening across the region that wouldn't have previously occurred. By nature, our collaborations bring different voices, teams, specialties and opinions together to develop and inform our work thereby helping us to achieve our social and developmental outcomes, open up opportunity and spread good practice.

In terms of increasing audiences and reach and working with networks (existing and new), we are working collaboratively regionally, nationally and internationally to help us achieve our aims. Organisations we work with include Gateshead'' Economic Development team, centres & bases, The Sage Gateshead, regional carers associations & social services departments, the BBC, Gateshead Council, local councillors, Local Authorities:
Gateshead, Northumberland, Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham (Developing Personalisation Programme);
Northern Stage, Live Theatre, the Universities of Northumbria and Cumbria, Centre for Excellence & Teacher Training (C.E.T.T.), Gateshead College, festival organisers, Cedars, Dryden and Hilltop Schools for young people with learning disabilities, Percy Hedley and Northern Counties College, Chillingham Road and Horden Grange Primary Schools, Inclusion North, Tyne and Wear Museums, Francois Matarasso, Frances Rifkin, Ali Campbell, AV Works, Digital Voice, MBA Associates, British Council, Shape London, MENCAP< Mind the Gap, Heart n Soul, Theatre Mimi, Rhumba Palace, afro Reggae, Opaxoro, Orquestra Sertau, British Council, LOCOG, Arts Council England, Shape London, Universities of Sunderland, Newcastle and Northumbria, Peoples Palace Projects, Gem Arts. Equal Arts (Catalyst Collaboration, See summary under Development below and many more. We have also added new performance venues to this list to help increase reach and raise our profile and aim to strengthen our political links with regional MP's and unions.

Our Core Member Groups

Our learning disabled groups

1. Theatre For Change – legislative theatre, performance and workshops that unpick policy and legislation relevant to our target groups;
2. School for Fools – exploration of human emotions including humour, laughing with or being laughed at, physical theatre, mime, mask, clown, Commedia Del'Arte;
3. Beat This! – Members who are passionate about music but who struggled to communicate verbally have been recruited into our percussion group. Using rhythms as a powerful and alternative form of expression and communication;
4. Krocodile Krew – music and technical training and the delivery of learning disabled-led nightclubs in the community;
5. Find Your Voice – Singing, performing and writing music;
6. Culture Crew/Songs for Change – developing song, unpicking policy and complimenting Lawnmowers theatre performances;
7. Love Drama – Drop in activities to increase reach and involvement in Lawnmowers;
8. Outreach Team – dedicated to increasing engagement and reach through performance, workshops, promotion and marketing;
9. Lawnmowers Youth Theatre – a dedicated weekend youth theatre so that young people with learning difficulties can experience drama and performance;
10. Lawnmowers Hip Hop Evening Youth Project – A new pilot project looking at hip hop and the culture of hip hop for young people with learning difficulties;

Our core members receive regular weekly training to aid personal development and help deliver their work to the community. The Company also offers additional opportunities to become involved through regular drop-in activities via our Love Drama Programme.

Monitoring Figures & Performance

The Lawnmowers is a complex Company which cross-cuts many fields. Unpicked the Company broadly represents the following:

1. We have a clearly defined and democratically agreed mission and purpose;
2. We work with core learning disabled company members to devise and deliver accessible innovative training;
3. Those members deliver activities to the wider learning disabled communities and organisations;
4. We develop the Company to withstand the rigors of the political framework within which we operate;
5. We network with other organisations and policy makers, the benefits of which are two-way.

Below, we have produced a sample of the monitoring figures we collect under the programme which pinpoint internal activity and external reach. We report some of our achievements under the programme and discuss our sustainability and development progress.

Monitoring Performance: Core Member Training

Core Training: Individual Training Sessions per annum

	Team Numbers	Training Sessions Per Annum Per Person, Y1-3
	15/16	15/16
Theatre For Change	10	46
Schools for Fools	7	46
Beat This!	9	46
Outreach Team	9	46
Krew Training	11	46
CPD Sessions (i.e. h&S)	Mixed	28
Clerical Volunteer	2	46
Find Your Voice	11	46
Culture Crew	9	46
Dance (Daytime)	5	46
Board Meetings	n/a	3
Board Sub Group	n/a	6
AGM	n/a	1
Mon Eve Core Facilitators	6	46
Tues Eve Core Facilitators	11	46
Weds Eve Core Facilitators	5	46
Round Table Meetings	12	46
IB PA Supported	1	138
IB Other	17	n/a
Core Vol & IB Service Hours	33	27170
Other Volunteers: Hours	3	1610

Monitoring Performance: Engagement and Reach

External Performance: Reach

	Number of Events per annum	Attendance Numbers per annum	Placements Made Available per annum
External Events*	**15/16**	**15/16**	**15/16**
Krocodile Klub Nightclubs	10	1380	
Performance**	62	7453	
Evening & Drop in Classes	169	2994	
*Outdoor Festival Participate****	4		
Student P'ments /External Vol	10		
Workshops*****	28	840	
Youth Theatre: Weekend	45	9 per club	420
Summer School	7	14 per session	96
Film Launch/Screenings	1	83	
Exhibitions	1	83	
Film Training	3	31	
Transition/Signposting Event	1	200	

Programme Performance and Highlights

Increase in Membership

During the Revolution programme we wanted to offer artistic opportunities to a larger number of performers with learning difficulties. Evaluating the work during the 15/16 year we can report that, through new projects and pilot projects we now have over 100 learning disabled people accessing weekly training and activities in the arts – a 66% increase from our starting point and an average of 145 learning disabled people accessing our monthly nightclubs – a 50% increase. Before the programme we were 13 members with learning difficulties, averaging 7347 hrs p.a. at the time of writing we now average 32,597 hrs of delivery p.a. Our members provide a far wider outreach significantly developed the use of film and social media to reach new digital audiences and have worked with, collaborated and created fresh partnerships with a number of cultural organisations and independent artists from across the region. With an increased artistic programme we now have many highly skilled artists, performers and leaders delivering training and skills to our learning disabled performers.

Opportunity to experience and participate

Lawnmowers has increased its artists with learning difficulties this year. As well as theatre, outreach, percussion, Krocodile Krew, day time dance an evening drama and dance club programmes opening up to further membership, we have added youth theatre as a main core project and added and evening youth hip-hop to our portfolio. Evaluation, research and wide consultation has also developed during this programme and added some new outcomes to our future work which will include older and younger people with learning difficulties in our main core programme.

We have added the opportunity for groups to perform more formally at our Krocodile Klub nightclubs and have enjoyed performances from the Bad Taste Cru, Beat This, Youth Theatre, Daytime Dance this year.

Artists have taken part in film training this year, including our Youth Theatre members. We have opened up the company to more members of the public with a mainstream exhibition of our work at the Baltic in July 2015, a film launch of our new DVD the Storey So Far and have recorded a number of short films for digital distribution. We have undertaken a number of percussion busking sessions in the region and had tremendous success with the local crowds.

Our youth theatre members got to perform in Eldon Square as part of the Juice festival which was a storming success. We attended and were very popular at a transition and signposting event for Gateshead LA following the announcement of the imminent closures of much of the borough day centre provision and are already receiving phone calls for people interested in joining the organisation.

We have offered a number of volunteer placements to school, SEN school, university and masters students.

Talent Development

Lawnmowers offers a number of bespoke artist programmes specifically for artists with learning difficulties. This year we have had a number of new members who have joined existing groups and have employed methods that have included peer mentoring and training from our more established artists with learning difficulties. These methods have stretched new members in their development with regard to the artist training but have also stretched existing artists who have learned to become trainers and mentors. The new and existing members have bonded and performed together in both workshop and performance settings. They have undertaken outreach work in the community, performance work in outside settings and have delivered performances on the premises for invited audiences.

We have benefitted from the skills of some of the finest artists to help with training. Artists such as Brendan Murphy, Pady O'Conor, Mariam Rezaei, Jess Johnson and Conor O'Kane have supported our arts programmes with artist development and programme planning further enhanced with the skills of Claire Hills and Sally Keys.

Artists are being developed through the glass orchestra, the development of digital technology at our Krocodile Klubs, drumming and percussion, theatre, physical theatre through the mediums of clown and mask, singing and compositions and our new hip-hop break dance projects.

Future plans include continued bespoke training across our art forms, joining regional artists with learning difficulties together through a new network group, making plans to merge the activities of four of our programmes to enhance the artistic output, more training for employed artists and increased outreach work.

Evaluation

The Revolution Programme allows us to address artists worries to develop new and existing services and provide a stable, thriving base for people with learning difficulties. Our evaluations provide valuable quantitative and qualitative evidence showing that the work has been successful but, most importantly, the impact on individuals personally, professionally and in terms of increased social and cultural connectivity. This can be demonstrated by the many case studies we have gathered from core members, carers and stakeholder who all acknowledge the positive impact Lawnmowers has had in increasing their skills and confidence and the difference this has made to their lives and the difference their contributions have made within the wider community through their outreach work.

We take our information from a number of sources. We evaluate our programmes and performances using accessible methods such as through our reflection and evaluation sessions with our LD artists. We have undertaken independent evaluations of artists development and commissioned independent carer, key worker and stakeholder interviews. We have had our work independently assessed through Arts Council Quality Assessments.

Evaluation is an ongoing and crucial process at Lawnmowers. We utilise the results in our reports, business plans, programme plans, artist development plans, accessible documents, to inform the Board and for digital purposes.

Audiences and Reach

Our artistic programmes are aimed at artists and audiences with learning difficulties. Our programmes have a wider impact through participation, performance work, forums and workshops at conferences, through training on university and higher education programmes and through opening up or practice to community, university, practitioner, phd and master's student placements. We take part in national research programmes and are on steering groups/take a consultancy role in MAGDAG meetings, on Boards and on Local Authority cultural strategy plans.

We have attended transition and signposting events to open up our membership, have held meetings with Gem Arts to begin negotiations in how to engage artists with learning difficulties from BME groups and have increased our digital offer.

We have undertaken a feasibility study into women's health issues for people with learning difficulties and are seeking funding to continue this research to include creative aging across the gender spectrum for people with learning difficulties.

At the time of writing we have undertaken touring and performances at mainstream theatres (next year's report) for more mainstream audiences and have begun to bring together a network of learning disabled artist groups from the region to explore our role in society.

We have produced two CD's for sale, three films and a number of film shorts, all of which can be accessed through our website, through You Tube and through sales. One of our films was launched at the Baltic where we also held a very arty exhibition documenting some of the salient moments of the Lawnmowers last 30 years.

People have been able to experience our work through our festival participation such as youth participation at Juice and art form participation/experience through The Late Shows. We are one of the most popular venues in the borough for Late Shows and were packed out this year.

The Least Engaged

People with learning difficulties in Gateshead and the North East often experience multiple exclusion through living in areas of high social need and the stigma of living with difficulties. They are excluded from aspects of life that others take for granted.

Lawnmowers was set up to ensure that the least engaged took part in cultural activities, attended cultural events and used the arts as a platform for social change. Each and every one of our artists with learning difficulties has their own very difficult story to tell. Some have experienced extreme abuse physical and sexual, some have experienced violence, some are suicide risks, some have complex needs, but all have experienced a life where they felt socially isolated. This evidence is not unique to our core beneficiaries. All of our core membership is least engaged and because of Lawnmowers bespoke and innovative artist training they have reported dramatic improvement in their circumstances. The artistic work they receive training to produce has changed their lives. They go to theatres, meet up in town, see a film, record music together and have a firm social network.

Depth and Quality of Experience

Depth and quality of experience is a complex issue for artists with learning difficulties. It is imperative you have the correct support and artists in place to deliver quality of product. In Lawnmowers case, it is just as imperative that programmes and plans are learning disabled-led. That two-way reciprocal relationship is a learning experience for practitioner, artist and audiences.

As an example, the glass orchestra is a beautiful symphony of sound for the audience. A wonderful experience that takes them to a place of dreams, however, the depth is experienced not only from the audience who forgets, then remembers, then forgets again that the performers have learning difficulties but also from the artist who has had to overcome communication and verbal issues to crack timing and partner working. This experience and knowledge is learned by the practitioners and together they overcome barriers.

The same could be said for our School for Fools Commedia team who work sometimes behind a mask and who are judged by their physical performance skills and their ability to produce a story that is communicated by their bodies and their movements. The work is a very learning experience for audience, actor and practitioner.

Audience Development

During this project, we intended to increase our outreach through additional community performances, our training projects with the medical department of the University of Northumbria and through continued participation at festivals and conferences and have achieved a very high level of participation so far which we intend to develop in future plans.

Digital Audiences

We will increase our digital offer through a comprehensive marketing plan and will continue to develop our digital audience through Facebook and YouTube. We have produced 2 CD's this year from Beat This! And a solo CD. We have produced 3 films and have advertised them through our website, and made them available on YouTube. We have created film shorts and will link them to our website and we have planned a mainstream theatre tour (next year's report).

We livestream our events on Facebook, including our performances and our Krocodile Klubs. We take opinion and evaluation comments at our festivals.

Digital Distribution

Our development this year includes our:

1. Website (see below, still under construction);
2. CD: BT! And solo artist CD;
3. Films x 3;
4. Facebook development;
5. Catalyst bid to further develop our work on digital audiences through digital giving;
6. Our digital giving trial using the "Do the Lawnmower" campaign;
7. YouTube film promotion;
8. Live stream: KK and events;
9. New film shorts (not yet released).

Digital: Arts Council England – Catalyst Funding: Collaboration, Creating a Digital Profile

Lawnmowers secured funding from ACE Catalyst Fund to improve our digital appeal to help diversify income streams and aid future sustainability.

The company recently undertook an independent review of its whole operations (2013) which *included* a review of its current digital programmes, strategy and digital fundraising capabilities. The Catalyst grant has allowed the company to move on the review in terms of its digital design, appeal, branding, profile and digital funding recommendations very quickly. We will be undertaking further work with our website design and profile during 2016/17. At the time of writing we have also been lucky enough to secure a small amount of funding from round 2 of Catalyst to help us develop the work we undertook above and concentrate on diversifying our income and the viability of a community fundraising function.

Children and young people quality principles
Lawnmowers has worked extensively in SEN schools delivering drama clubs after school. As a direct result of this work we talked with teachers, principals and carers/keyworkers who all complained that there is insufficient provision for young people with learning difficulties and/or complex needs both after school and at weekends. We applied for funding to try to work towards resolving this problem and were very lucky to receive it from a private funder.

Weekend Youth Theatre
Lawnmowers now provides a bespoke weekend youth theatre which alternates each week between drama and dance. The youth theatre was initially funded (by the same funder) as a pilot project and was so successful, that we wrote it into our main plans. We now have a regular group of young people with learning difficulties, some with complex needs and some who are also deaf, who attend each weekend. We have a signer and have written the programmes within the spirit of the Quality Principles. Our participants have used some very innovative methods to produce some very high quality performances. They have taken part in events, performed at Eldon Square as part of Juice, travelled together to mainstream theatres and venues, taken part in the Strong Voices project and performed at The Sage Gateshead, go on social visits together, perform on the premises for invited audiences, take part in accessible evaluations, film training and evaluation through film and reporting.

Evening Hip Hop Youth Group
During this year, we have received funding from the same funder to begin a youth Hip-Hop dance class on Thursday evening. The class is run by Conor O'Kane from the Bad Taste Cru and is packed to the rafters. We will report further on this in our next report.

1. Striving for excellence and innovation
2. Being authentic
3. Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
4. Ensuring a positive and inclusive experience
5. Actively involving children and young people
6. Enabling personal progression
7. Developing belonging and ownership

Resilience

Research
For Lawnmowers members to continue to develop as cultural leaders understanding and participating in current cultural trends, debates and thinking is important. We do not duplicate participatory provision and we are the only learning disabled-led theatre-arts company in Gateshead.

Our particular approach, with people with learning difficulties learning disabled people central to the co-production and design, is very effective as evidenced by our case studies and ratified by independent research. This recently included a study by the University of Northumbria (UNN) and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills which concluded that Lawnmowers participatory methods created an accessible learning environment for learning disabled people with positive educational results. A further study with UNN and Thornbeck SEN College concluded that our arts-based methods can be adapted to fully include people with profound autism. A collaborative study between Lawnmowers, UNN and The Society of Adult Education and Disability in Germany used our methods to highlight the experience of learning disabled people undertaking annual health checks. An academic publication called Community and Participation analysed our practices and concluded that Lawnmowers uses innovative methods to effect social change and empower learning disabled people.

Lawnmowers artists have worked with the University of Northumbria using workshop, performance and forum techniques to train nurses and practitioners in issues faced by learning disabled people in the community. As a direct result of the success of this work, the University has included it as a main item in its whole curriculum for all medical trainees taking part in their courses. Utilising arts based methods and performance in this manner has led to a greater understanding by professionals and relevant organisations of issues faced by learning disabled people. The project helps ensure learning disabled issues are included on mainstream cultural agendas and makes accessible information available.

Future Sustainability
Lawnmowers has undertaken an independent comprehensive strategic review of the Company and drafted a fundraising strategy to ensure its long term sustainability. This has explored diversification and considered new income streams.

We will focus on developing the following income streams during phase 3 to reduce our ongoing reliance on grant income:

1. Personal Budgets: (developing an increased PB programme);
2. Sale of Intellectual Capital: (develop sales and marketing strategy);
3. Community Fundraising;
4. Outreach Fees: (offer a range of learning disabled-led training programmes to a targeted market);
5. Grants: (continue to apply for funding from trusts, Arts Council, etc. and seek new funding from sources such as European funding and Health funding);
6. Training and consultancy: (research opportunities for practitioner training and master classes with a range of fees depending on the client);
7. Shared resources through partner shipping.

Developing Personalisation

Our personalisation programme is gathering pace. It is our intention to develop the work further during the 18-22 period. We currently absorb members with personal budgets into our core groups and offer intensive training and performance opportunities. There are a number of potential service users who want to purchase a service from us but receive a less intensive training. At present, we cater for the core member category and will explore developing the programme to offer clubs and enterprise training in our future planning. To date, regional percentage variances of personal budgets in our organisation are as follows:

Locality	Percentage Budget Attending LM
Durham	7
Northumberland	5
Sunderland	27
Gateshead	44
Newcastle	15
North Tyneside	2
Total	100%

Following the comprehensive independent review and a great deal of research into viability and process, the company has devised a target driven plan to aid future sustainability through the diversification of income streams.

We are revising our model so that the organisation can aspire to:

- Reduce, significantly Lawnmowers' reliance on grant income;
- Develop a number of additional income streams;
- Significantly improve the organisation's reserve, year on year.

With new skills, expertise and investment in existing staff training and group member training we will be able to adopt a more coordinated approach to sourcing new income such as from community fundraising, donation giving, business sponsorship, digital markets, intellectual property sales and further development of personal budgets. The funds will also enable us to build the infrastructure to manage these streams through data management and web programmes as well as developing communications and promotional resources.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

This year the company has seen a fall in income of £59,022 compared to last year, but has minimised expenditure by £10,365. The fall in income was because of funding streams ending. The company currently has ongoing funding streams and is currently applying for new funds.

Principle Funding Sources

Aside from the relatively small amount of income generated from some of the company's cultural performances and DVD sales, the principle funding sources for the charity are by way of grant income from private charitable trusts and personal budget service users. The company is looking at generating income from the acquisition of contracts for the provision of services but this research is ongoing. In the meantime, the company will continue to source funding from charitable trusts and personal budgets.

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount of earned income in reserves each year, the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are no funds available for long term investment. The charity usually earns a reasonable amount of annual interest, generated from its short-term funds but this has not been the case this year because of the current financial climate. The company has a small amount of unrestricted reserves invested in an interest savings account.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Lawnmowers to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the company and we aim to maintain a level that equates to approximately 3-6 months' running costs. We are currently growing this fund so that it will provide sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs. The company's unrestricted reserve fund is currently being increased by any earned income the organisation may generate in each financial year. At the beginning of every financial year, the company's earned income is projected in line with that which was generated during the preceding year with a small amount added for projected increased activity and inflation. At 1 April 2015, the unrestricted earned income reserves stood at £89,997. Earned income during the period 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016 reached £16,814.12, taking the total for earned income for the year end 31 March 2016 to £106,811. During the 2015/16 period, £6,597 was allocated to charitable activities and support costs leaving the fund standing at £100,214 at 31 March 2016. £33,000 of this fund is ring-fenced towards our 16/17 programme. Investment income in the form of interest earned since incorporation is held in a different fund. The amount of investment income accrued since incorporation is £18,805.94, all of which has been utilized during the Revolution programme.

At 31 March 2016, the company held unrestricted reserves of £179,561 (2015: £181,646) and restricted reserves of £60,757 (2015: £68,319) giving total funds of £240,318 (2015: £249,965), with £170,064 ring-fenced towards the future programme.

FUTURE PLANS

Lawnmowers has some very exciting future plans for the 16-22 period.

A Whole of Life Approach
Through piloting potential new projects during the past 3 years, we have evolved significantly to include a new whole of life approach to our work going forward and can report that we have introduced new artistic participation opportunities for younger and older people with learning difficulties into our new business plan. We will continue to deliver exciting artistic training across a number of existing art-forms and will include accessible business administration, weekend youth theatre, evening youth Hip Hop club, a carers group, an exploration into creative aging for people with learning difficulties and researching women's health, in our new programme. We also have some exciting plans to develop further work with SEN schools and the universities and develop new partnerships and collaborations.

CEO Transition and Continued Professional Development
During 15/16 and into 16/17, the Company has undertaken an 18 month long period of accessible consultation, interviews, reflection and planning with Board, staff and core member artists to help the company cope with the retirement of founding member and Artistic Director Geraldine Ling MBE. The exercises and plans have been extremely successful and, at the time of writing the company has recently appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Samantha Jones. The process of recruitment has been very successful and we are delighted with the results and the energy, enthusiasm and skill-set of the newly recruited CEO who was appointed 5 September 2016. It was a tough interview process. We are thrilled to welcome Samantha to the role. Samantha's career spans over twenty years as an arts practitioner, theatre director and senior manager. She has led on inclusive arts practice delivery, programme strategy and income generation. In her previous role, as Head of Programme at Helix Arts, key areas of focus were creative programming, business development and partnerships, artistic quality, evaluation, audience development, and fundraising.

Samantha has very quickly introduced a new infrastructure into the Company which is currently being embedded into our practice to improve internal communications and support structures. She has undertaken one-to-one interviews with each of the staff, sessional artists and Board members and sat in sessions with each of our delivery groups. Samantha has set up meetings with key stakeholders and networks and is currently working on streamlining the programme, organising our current obligations and setting them against key objectives and performance indicators. She is a very inclusive worker and has quickly ensured that staff and core members are brought into her processes for development and feel safe and supported. She is working closely with the Board and the SMT on developing and maintaining the current investment and finance strategy and programme obligations while also thinking about the 2018-2022 period with regard to planning, brand, artistic product and finance and investment strategy. Processes for future planning include introducing a Theory of Change framework to Lawnmowers work. She is introducing the ICA strategic Planning method to help us plan for the future which is a process that assists a group of up to 30 to focus its vision and define and develop a manageable number of key strategies for reaching that vision. The company is confident that, with the new appointment and the skill sets it will retain, that it will withstand the next 30 years.

Other

Policies and Procedures, HR and Contracts Terms Updates
The Company's senior managers have worked with an HR consultant to undertake a big bit of work to update our HR function. The consultant also working with managers to undertake our regular review and, where necessary update Policies and Procedures for Board consideration.

Additional Training
Each year our Core Members also attend CPD training: first aid training, disability awareness training, music training, arts awards training, sound and technology training and film and media training, web site training and have received training from nationally acclaimed directors.

Core Members Join the Board
We continue to work with a core member group to represent needs at Board level. This work is ongoing throughout the programme.

Round Table Meetings
Each week we hold a Round Table meeting with Core Members to discuss all company business. We prepare agendas and take minutes. Chair and timekeeper is rotated. We discus company business, set diary dates, book in holiday and appointments, discuss activity and update monitoring, evaluation and Board issues. Decisions such as whether we can fulfil commitments, progression routes, evaluation plans and project plans are all considered. The meetings have recently focussed on the strategic direction of the company to aid our new business planning process mentioned above.

Lawnmowers Summer School
Lawnmowers held a very successful summer school during 15/16. The events offered to outside participants during the month of August 2014 were singing and vocal workshops, youth theatre, dance workshops, and percussion and

drumming workshops. The events were fully booked with many people crossing our doors to take part in the workshops.

Mystery Visits
The company has developed a disability-awareness model that has been tested by Tyne Wear Museums and the University of Northumbria to place our learning disabled core members within the organisations as Mystery Visitors and then report and evaluate the treatment of disabled people by the relevant organisations. The results inform the relevant organisations and help form their plans to improve their services generally for disabled people.

Lawnmowers has also worked in mainstream schools developing and delivering disability awareness workshops and programmes. This work is very important to Lawnmowers and helps put core member work and issues into mainstream agendas.

General
The Company has worked very hard this year in management, administration and development, completing two big intricate statistical surveys plus the reports of our activities, massive amounts of financial information and targets, figures, collation and evaluation. We have set budgets, drafted cash flows and fundraised, become an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation for a second time, written a full business plan in conjunction with Arts Council England 20-year strategy and goals, projected targets, completed a full three year diversity plan with targets, a full three year audience development plan with targets, a three-year environmental policy and action plan, managed our Board Meetings and AGM, written a Lottery bid, successfully fundraised from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for strategic development and generally worked very hard to be here in a time of huge cuts. At the time of writing we are drafting our new plan for the 17/18-21/22 period and are very excited about our future! We hope you have enjoyed reading our report.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document
The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Co. is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and incorporated on 17 May 2000. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defines the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Board of Trustees
The founding trustees of the charity were appointed by election by the Lawnmowers according to experience. The other trustees were appointed by a majority vote of the trustees present at a normal trustees meeting. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the members of the Board of Directors for the time being, or if their number is not multiple of three then the number nearest to one third, shall retire from office. The members of the Board of Directors to retire shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election or appointment. A retiring member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting unless a resolution for the re-election of such a Director shall have been put to the meeting and lost.

Organisational Structure
The Lawnmowers has a Board of up to 10 members which is responsible for the longer-term planning and direction of the company. The Board, which was made up of 7 members during the 14/15 accounting year, meets between four and six times each year with the volunteer members and staff and holds separate sub-group meetings as required. The Board members, who have a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity, are trustees for the purposes of charity law and are directors for the purposes of company law.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of services rested with the Artistic Director during the 15/16 financial year. The Artistic Director was responsible for ensuring that the charity delivered the services specified and that key performance indicators were met for the year as well as supervision and development of the staff team.

Trustees Induction and Training
Most trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity having been encouraged to visit the premises and view work and activities that the projects deliver prior to lodging an expression of interest in available posts.

New trustees are invited to attend Board meetings in advance of appointment to find out about the role of a Trustee.

Following recruitment, new trustees receive a "New Trustee Pack" incorporating the following:
- Company Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- Policies and Procedures Documents;
- Latest Accounts;
- Current and future financial position;
- Company Business Plan;
- Trustee Code of Conduct
- Trustee role, duties and powers.

Trustee Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to set out the relevant standards expected of Trustees of the Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company in order to maintain the highest standards of integrity and stewardship; to ensure that the Lawnmowers Company is effective, open and accountable and to ensure good working relationships. The Code of Conduct is not a list of Trustee's legal duties, although many of the elements of the Code are based on legal principles. The conduct and practices recommended in this Code go beyond what the law requires in some respects, but are consistent with the law.

Equal Opportunities

Trustees, staff and volunteers, must affirm their commitment to The Lawnmower's Equal Opportunities Policy when joining the company.

Trustee Induction

The officers and members of the Trustees Board receive clear written information about roles, powers and responsibilities upon recruitment and sit through a company induction. Induction is the responsibility of the existing Board Members and is the process the company has for introducing a new employee, board member or volunteer member to the work and environment. Ongoing trustee training is also the responsibility of the existing board.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:
- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the company face;
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the company should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the company. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of debtor and creditor balances to ensure sufficient working capital by the company.

Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks from fire, health and safety and management. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies in place, and regular awareness training for staff in operational areas.

Staff

At the time of writing, the Charity has appointed Samantha Jones as its Chief Executive Officer. Samantha, who is responsible for the Company's management, was appointed 5 September 2016 following the retirement in June 2016 of our founding member and Artistic Director, Geraldine Ling, and will work with the Board to develop the Company's future vision, aims and objectives and set out strategic direction.

Management and Administration 15/16

During the 15-16 year, there were three members of staff who were responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the company and who helped with creative development:

1. Geraldine Ling – Artistic Director (Retired 30 June 2016);
2. Samantha Jones – Chief Executive Officer (Appointed 5 September 2016);
3. Dawn Redhead – Company Operations Manager;
4. Wendy Patterson – Projects Administrator.

Other employees during the 15/16 year were:

1. Claire Hills-Wilson – Coordination Manager;
2. Laura Baxendale – Coordination;
3. Robin Dunn – Personal Assistant to David Champion;
4. Sally Keys – Office Support and Practitioner;
5. Kester Bostock – Support Worker;
6. Laura Patterson – General Support;
7. Stephanie Durkin – Sessional Practitioners.

Core Members with Learning Disabilities, Independent Artists and Volunteers

The company consists of 33 core members with learning difficulties who deliver our creative and dramatic activities to other people with learning difficulties in the community and organisations and bodies with an interest in people with learning disabilities.

As well as our dedicated team of staff and core member volunteers, we also benefit from the skills of some of the North East's finest sessional and support workers, specialising in fields such as dance, music, costume creation, diet and fitness, voice coaching, film work, set and costume design, DJ training and technical training. Nationally, we have benefited from the skills of some of the finest theatre directors.

The Company's regular sessional artists for the year were:
1. Pady O'Connor - Theatre Meemee;
2. Brendan Murphy - Rhumba Palace;
3. Jessica Johnson - Singing;
4. Mariam Rezaei - Krocodile Klub Coord/DJ;
5. Conor O'kane - Hip Hop;
6. Paul Allen - Dance & Hip Hop.

Volunteer Placements at Lawnmowers
During year 2015/16, we were able to offer a number of volunteer placements to people keen to learn about our programme delivery methods. They were:
1. A Harris - Community Volunteer, Singing;
2. S Burn - Durham University, Masters Student;
3. P Thompson - Community Volunteer, Drama;
4. L Christiansan - Work Placement;
5. A Clark - University of Northumbria;
6. L Armitage - SEN School Placement;
7. A Monaghan - University of Northumbria;
8. J White - School Placement;
9. Laura Griffith - University of Northumbria.

The company co-operates with a wide variety of networks and organisations working within the arts and charitable sectors.

Exemptions and disclosure
None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connections that are identified as or that could be, a conflict of the charity's interest, must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Key management remuneration
The trustees consider the Artistic Director and the Company Operations Manager comprising of the key management personnel of the company in charge of directing, controlling and operating the company. Remuneration rates are set by the trustees.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Company number
03995521 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1084229

Registered office
Swinburne House
Swinburne Street
Gateshead
Tyne and Wear
NE8 1AX

Trustees

Ms K Zeserson	Chair	
Mr I Armstrong	Vice Chair	
Ms J Freeman		- resigned 30.11.16
Dr T Cook		
Ms K Griffiths		- resigned 3.12.15
Miss J Young		
Mr S Gilroy		
Mrs K A Lloyd		- appointed 13.4.16
Dr M C Thomas		- appointed 14.9.16

Independent examiner
RHK Business Advisers LLP
Chartered Accountants
and Business Advisers
Coburg House
1 Coburg Street
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE8 1NS

Solicitors
Ben Hoare Bell LLP
195 Shields Road
Byker
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 1DP

Banker
Lloyds Bank plc
Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 1SL

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES
The trustees (who are also the directors of The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20 December 2016 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Miss J Young - Trustee

Independent Examiner' Report to the Trustees of The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 set out on pages sixteen to twenty five.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view ' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015)

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter Storey FCCA
the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
RHK Business Advisers LLP
Chartered Accountants
and Business Advisers
Coburg House
1 Coburg Street
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE8 1NS

Date: 20 December 2016

The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total funds £	2015 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	-	173,263	173,263	231,571
Charitable activities					
Personalisation agenda		101,493	-	101,493	102,776
Other trading activities	3	16,815	-	16,815	16,246
Investment income	4	14	-	14	14
Total		118,322	173,263	291,585	350,607
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		10,011	-	10,011	10,011
Charitable activities					
The Revolution Programme		7,983	176,410	184,393	219,487
Krocodile Krew Project		1,950	4,415	6,365	6,365
Personalisation agenda		100,463	-	100,463	75,734
Total		120,407	180,825	301,232	311,597
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(2,085)	(7,562)	(9,647)	39,010
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		181,646	68,319	249,965	210,955
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		179,561	60,757	240,318	249,965

The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company

(Registered Company number : 03995521)
Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2016

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total funds £	2015 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	104	2,571	2,675	3,345
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		220	-	220	220
Debtors	10	33,752	-	33,752	49,068
Cash at bank and in hand		195,174	57,896	253,070	238,613
		229,146	57,896	287,042	287,901
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(49,399)	-	(49,399)	(41,281)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		179,747	57,896	237,643	246,620
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		179,851	60,467	240,318	249,965
NET ASSETS		179,851	60,467	240,318	249,965
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				179,851	181,646
Restricted funds				60,467	68,319
TOTAL FUNDS				240,318	249,965

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2016.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) *preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company* as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 December 2016 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Miss J Young -Trustee

.....
Dr T Cook -Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015)', the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
Exemption has been taken from preparing a cash flow statement in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from grants, including capital grants, is included within income when communication has been received in writing of both the amount and the period to which they relate. In the event that the grant was received in advance of the period to which it relates, the grant is therefore deferred and included in within creditors. When the grants are for a particular restricted purpose, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when 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.

Expenditure and irrecoverable vat
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Expenditure on raising funds includes salary costs attributed to the time taken on raising future funding for the charitable company.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of providing services to the visually impaired to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Allocation of support and governance costs
Support costs have been differentiated between governance and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charitable company and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to independent examination and legal fees.

Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have all been apportioned on a staff time basis.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery etc	- 20% on reducing balance, 15% on cost and in accordance with length of lease

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

Stocks
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 8. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within charitable activity costs and allocated to the funds on a staff time basis.

The money purchase plan is managed by Scottish Life and the plan invests the contributions made by the employee and employer in an investment fund to build up over the term of the plan a pension fund which is then converted into a pension upon the employee's normal retirement age when eligible for a state pension. The total expense ratio of the plan is then deducted from the investment fund annually.

The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. There were no contributions outstanding at the year end.

Operating leases
The charitable company classifies the lease of the premises as an operating lease as the title to the premises remains with the lessor. Rentals charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Financial instruments
The charitable company only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

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.

Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2016	2015
	£	£
Grants	173,263	231,571

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2016	2015
	£	£
Arts Council England NPO Funding	60,998	61,720
The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities (Restricted)	48,607	91,105
Awards for All	9,960	-
Northern Rock Foundation	-	18,301
Community Foundation	2,768	-
Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000	7,000
Arts Council England: Catalyst	-	18,845
Locality	-	10,000
NGI Strong Voices and Juice	-	2,650
UNN/BIS Dept: Brain Show Tour & Evaluation	-	20,900
Ashington Workshops	-	1,050
Sundry grants	930	-
Trusthouse	5,000	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	30,000	-
	173,263	231,571

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2016	2015
	£	£
Earned income	16,815	16,246

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2016	2015
	£	£
Deposit account interest	14	14

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
The Revolution Programme	21,858	37,029	58,887
Personalisation agenda	10,064	16,086	26,150
	31,922	55,115	854,037

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2016	2015
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	670	863
Deficit on disposal of fixed asset	-	81
Independent examination fees	2,310	2,700

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2016 nor for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Trustees' expenses

	2016	2015
	£	£
Trustees' expenses	179	130

Trustees expenses are analysed as follows:

	2016	2015
	£	£
Total amount of trustees travelling expenses reimbursed to trustees or paid directly to third parties	179	130
Total number of trustees reimbursed for expenses or who had expenses paid by the charity	7	7

8. STAFF COSTS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Wages and salaries	158,039	143,723
Social security costs	10,630	10,476
Other pension costs	4,030	4,994
	172,699	159,193

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2016	2015
Management, administration & fundraising	1	1
Charitable activities	9	8
	10	9

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The charitable company does not operate any pension scheme for its employees but does administer contributions to a money purchase pension scheme for 4 (2015 - 4) employees. The charity makes £4,030 (2015 - £4,994) of contributions to this scheme.

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Improvements to property	Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Totals
	£	£	£	£
COST				
At 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016	103,506	7,001	24,239	134,746
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2015	103,506	7,001	20,894	131,401
Charge for year	-	-	670	670
At 31 March 2016	103,506	7,001	21,564	132,071
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2016	-	-	2,675	2,675
At 31 March 2015	-	-	3,345	3,345

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016	2015
	£	£
Trade debtors	31,959	47,292
Other debtors	1,793	1,776
	33,752	49,068

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016	2015
	£	£
Other creditors	49,399	41,281

12. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The following operating lease payments are committed to be paid within one year:

	2016	2015
	£	£
Expiring:		
Between one and five years	11,000	11,000
	11,000	11,000

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.15	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.16
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Personalisation agenda	82,265	(10,931)	-	71,334
General funds	9,384	(1,371)	290	8,303
Unrestricted earned income reserve	89,997	10,217	-	100,214
	181,646	(2,085)	290	179,851
Restricted funds				
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	11,456	-	11,456
Community Foundation Women's Fund	23	-	(23)	-
Northern Rock Foundation	6,664	(6,664)	-	-
TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade	101	(20)	-	81
CSDI	83	(17)	-	66
Restricted capital fund	3,030	(606)	-	2,424
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	27,653	(19,319)	-	8,334
Arts Council England	1,664	-	-	1,664
British Council: Unlimited Programme	267	-	(267)	-
Ballinger Charitable Trust	4,040	10,823	-	14,863
Arts Counci England: Catalyst	9,157	-	-	9,157
UNN Brain Show	14,593	(12,425)	-	2,168
NGI Strong Voices and Juice	394	-	-	394
Ashington Workshops	650	(650)	-	-
Awards for All	-	9,360	-	9,360
Catherine Cookson	-	500	-	500
	68,319	(7,562)	(290)	60,467
TOTAL FUNDS	249,965	(9,647)	-	240,318

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Personalisation agenda	101,493	(112,424)	(10,931)
General funds	15	(1,386)	(1,371)
Unrestricted earned income reserve	16,814	(6,597)	10,217
	118,322	(120,407)	(2,085)
Restricted funds			
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	30,000	(18,544)	11,456
Community Foundation Women's Fund	2,768	(2,768)	-
Northern Rock Foundation	-	(6,664)	(6,664)
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	48,607	(67,926)	(19,319)
Arts Council England	60,998	(60,998)	-
Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000	(4,177)	10,823
UNN Brain Show	-	(12,425)	(12,425)
Ashington Workshops	-	(650)	(650)
Bristol University Workshop	430	(430)	-
Trusthouse	5,000	(5,000)	-
Awards for All	9,960	(600)	9,360
Catherine Cookson	500	-	500
TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade	-	(20)	(20)
CSDI	-	(17)	(17)
Restricted capital fund	-	(606)	(606)
	173,263	(180,825)	(7,562)
TOTAL FUNDS	291,585	(301,232)	(9,647)

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Personalisation Agenda
Fees for the purchase of our services by individuals with learning difficulties.

General Funds
General funds represents the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for particular purposes.

Unrestricted earned income reserve
Unrestricted funds generated from activities to generate funds, which are not designated for particular purposes.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
Contribution towards Senior Management Salaries and Finance Administrator to develop the strategic direction of the Company.

Community Foundation - Womens Fund
Training workshops and digital training for women with learning disabilities.

Northern Rock Foundation
A fund towards the general running costs of the Revolution Programme.

TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade
This fund is to help set up and run apprenticeship schemes for people with learning difficulties.

CDSI
Funds were received to explore procurement in the voluntary sector.

Restricted capital fund
Have been received towards the property improvements and computer equipment, where they are being amortised over their expected useful life.

Big Lottery Reaching Communities
Funding exclusively towards the Revolution Programme.

Arts Council England
NPO funding to help develop company and arts programmes.

Ballinger Charitable Trust
A small grant to set up a pilot scheme for the Lawnmowers new weekend youth theatre.

Arts Council England: Catalyst
A consortium grant. Lawnmowers will develop digital profile and explore and create a digital fundraising mechanism and an audience development website.

UNN Brain Show
A fund to work with the University of Northumbria and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to tour the Lawnmowers Brain Show and accompanying workshop to regional Adult Training Centre's and to research and evaluate participatory methods in relation to brain science.

NGI Strong Voices and Juice
Workshops with young people with learning difficulties in schools and at the Lawnmowers premises.

Ashington Workshops
Workshops at the Miners Institute in Ashington.

Bristol University Workshop
Expenses reimbursement

Trusthouse
Contribution towards the exploration of the purchase of Swinburne House to act as a cultural hub in Gateshead.

Awards for All
Six month exploration looking at the feasibility for a larger/longer term user-led project to focus on health and well-being for women with learning difficulties based in Gateshead.

Catherine Cookson
Contribution towards Lawnmowers 2016 Festival30.

Transfers between funds
A transfer between funds arose to reflect the use of the Charity's resources.

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2016.

15. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is under the control of the trustees.

16. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no issued share capital. The liability of the members is limited.

17. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

The total remuneration of key management included in wages including gross salaries, employers national insurance and other benefits was £79,360 (2015: £73,216).