Charity number: SC032729

Company number: SC227931

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of charity Community Links (South Lanarkshire)

Charity registration number SC032729

Company registration number SC227931

Principal address 1A Clydeview Shopping Centre

Blantyre G72 0QD

The Trustees and Directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

J Dunn J Reid E Horrell A Shanks R McKean C Thompson

Bankers Royal Bank of Scotland

Princes Square EAST KILBRIDE G74 1LJ

Independent examiner James Lochery

Kilbryde and Co EK Business Centre 14 Stroud Road East Kilbride G75 0YA

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023. 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 applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Our report will provide an overview of how we delivered positive outcomes for the communities, groups, and partners agencies we have worked with.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our Roots

Established in 2002, Community Links is an independent Lanarkshire-based Community Anchor organisation, has a proven track record and passion for working with, encouraging, and supporting communities to co-produce sustainable and meaningful involvement, participation, and community-owned change.

Community Links engages and empowers residents within South Lanarkshire to be positive contributors to local decision-making within their communities; to take part in learning and development opportunities - benefiting them, the wider community and building community spirit.

Our activities

With twenty-one years' experience, we continue to carry out community development, consultation and engagement, activities for adults, young people and children in the local community - as well as services in marketing, environment, community safety, food poverty, IT equipment provision and employment support. We have particular emphasis on areas that fall into the 15% priority data zones as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020. These involve:

Engaging with communities and involve them in decision-making processes hence re-enforcing the importance of local democracy;

Increasing community capacity and involvement utilising Asset Based Community Development, Participatory Budgeting and Co-production;

Facilitating community consultations and events, by promoting the Community Planning Partnership objectives to the communities by using innovative methods of communication; supporting the creation of local group networks;

Encouraging volunteering opportunities by recruiting, training and supporting local volunteers to deliver services and opportunities for the benefit of their local community;

SELECT (Supporting Employment and Learning by Empowering Communities in Technology) by increasing digital access and providing guidance and support; providing IT equipment; enhancing ICT skills; supporting education/training and job opportunities;

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Providing information / communication to ensure individuals and communities are aware of services and opportunities, using appropriate methods;

Developing true and representative community engagement to help shape service delivery in the communities to improve people's quality of life;

Improving our commitment to the environment and social responsibility in our communities and workplace by implementing our environmental policy.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles adopted by Community Links in 2002 are those which continue to underpin the organisation with the addition of our Organisational Values which were established in early 2013.

Independence - we will work to ensure that we behave and are seen as, an independent organisation, apolitical, and always working in the best interests of our communities.

Facilitation and involvement -we will work to involve our communities and volunteers in wider activities.

Listening and understanding - we will communicate clearly and regularly talk to our communities and partner agencies.

Responsiveness - we will be responsive to the changing policy context and to the needs of our communities.

Learning - we will constantly learn about the needs of the area from our successes and failures and from networking with others.

Partnerships and linkages - we will work with others to develop and deliver our services and build on making connections with local service providers and the communities.

Sustainability - we will work to ensure that the impact of our support makes a difference to the communities and Community Engagement Team/partner agencies, and that the projects can be sustainable.

Openness and transparency - we will readily make available information about our services in clear and accessible formats and will ensure that our activities are transparent and enable us to be accountable for our services.

Professionalism - we regard a professional approach as essential and will support our volunteers and staff to have the skills and behaviours appropriate to providing quality services.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Our Values

We are a value-based organisation, and this is reflected in how we deliver our services and interact with the communities we serve. These are:

Inclusion

'Recognising and valuing difference'

We appreciate that communities are made up of individuals from different backgrounds – understanding experiences and viewpoints.

Commitment

'Dedication to effective community leadership'

We strive to provide a platform for which a community can determine how their lives are shaped.

Respect

'Valuing and recognising every individual'

Taking away from community level and focusing on individuals. Understanding that not everyone fits into a group - a community is made up of individuals.

Innovation

'Creative and inspired community engagement'

We always like to be at the forefront of cutting-edge and innovative engagement methods.

Vibrance

'Channelling community spirit and passion'

Mirroring and steering the enthusiasm and energy of local volunteers.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our experience over twenty-one years has demonstrated that communities are responsive to working with an independent organisation that they know are impartial to agencies that deliver services in their area to ensure that their opinions and comments are routed to the appropriate service provider. Community Links strives to ensure that partner agencies acknowledge public opinion. It also encourages communities to actively participate with such partners to continually improve their and their families' quality of life.

As an anchor community-led organisation, we continue to develop our asset-based community development activities, with safety, kindness and a warm welcome being the ultimate consideration for those who participate. The Local Area Networks for Blantyre, Hamilton and Larkhall (established in 2020) continue to share ideas and solutions to challenges in addition to participating in the more formal 'Unity in the Community' third sector interface project. We continue to monitor and evaluate our services with our communities agreement — seeking well-being, physical and mental health initiatives whilst remaining realistic that this is time dependent on building connectedness and confidence for people to be involved in their communities.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (Continued)

Through our Asset Based Community Development Work and Participatory Budgeting activities, both Neighbourhood Plans for the areas of Hillhouse, Udston & Burnbank and Strutherhill & Birkenshaw - Our Place Our Plan (OPOP) have continued to progress over the past year, driven forward by enthusiastic volunteers through specific community and working groups. These meetings have been a hybrid version, but slowly returning to in person. We successfully met all outcomes detailed in South Lanarkshire Council's Grant Agreement.

The main beneficiaries of services being children and families/young adults in or at risk of falling into poverty. Our work continued with bespoke consultation activities, market research studies and SELECT (Supporting Employment and Learning, Empowering Communities in Technology) Hubs. Our social media channels are a key tool in communication, where we update followers regularly on local activities, health, and opportunities for learning and employment.

Donations of IT devices from partner organisations, including South Lanarkshire's Youth Learning Services, allowed redistribution to clients and organisations throughout South Lanarkshire, helping to contribute to digital capacity, circular economy, and climate control.

Hamilton Health and Social Care Forum continue to develop and increase their membership attendance, with Community Links delivering a Service Level Agreement on behalf of NHS Lanarkshire and the Forum. We also supported East Kilbride Health & Social Care Forum to develop their Service Level Agreement with NHS and encourage local participation.

Income generation continues with our Community Consultation and Engagement activities: NHS Positive Smoke Free Role Model Project; NHS Quit Your Way; and Hamilton Citizen's Advice Bureau.

We appreciate our continued involvement in developing collaborative partnerships, the Third Sector Chief Officer's Group in particular, ensuring third sector views are reflected across Community Planning Partners to strengthen the Public and Third Sector relationships. Our networks continue across the regeneration areas with partners: South Lanarkshire's Community Engagement Team and other South Lanarkshire Council resources; NHS Lanarkshire; VASLan and other third sector partners.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) networks and activities both locally and nationally continues strategically contributing to Scotland's wider PB movement and understanding through a number of formal networks and events, whilst using knowledge gained to effectively promote and deliver PB activities within local areas for the benefit of communities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

Community Links' principal funding sources for the year under review were South Lanarkshire Council's Community Engagement Team; National Lottery- Awards for All; and SOLWEC. Self-generated income for service and consultation provision equated to almost 25% of total income.

Future Developments

It is our belief that our collaborative and co-operative approaches as an Anchor organisation will allow us the capacity to support the challenges ahead. Community Development and the SELECT project in the first instance, for the capacity to work alongside communities, is seen as vital towards facilitating community engagement in the planning process. We aim for a longer-term sustainable core income whilst continuing to deliver on existing work, responding to local priorities. Consideration of environmental issues in terms of climate change continues in all our activities, and will be given priority to recruit Climate Change Champions in our communities.

We will continue to attract income from Grants, and national bodies to deliver on national policy outcomes. Additional promotional activities will be reviewed and considered to enhance future income generation opportunities.

Health and wellbeing for all members of the team continues to be at the forefront of all our considerations. A private Health Insurance contract is in place for all members of the team. A hybrid way of working remains operative, with inperson return to community hubs.

Reserves policy

Owing to the nature of the operation, funds would generally be retained within, and maintained for individual projects, however the income for each project has been self-generated, the Reserves are held centrally, and have been provided to cover future operational costs.

The free reserves, i.e. those not tied up in fixed assets nor relating to restricted funds, as at 31st March 2023, amounted to £142,560. These reserves are in line with the policy of maintaining a minimum of six months' running costs including potential statutory redundancy payments.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charitable company is controlled by its governing document, it's Articles of Association, and constitutes a company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The principal activity of the charitable company in the year under review was that of organisational and administrative support to the communities in South Lanarkshire to include promotion of community participation utilising: the Asset Based Community Development Approach; Delivery of SELECT Project; undertaking local consultation and the provision of appropriate services for income generation to support the sustainability of the organisation. Most of the work carried out focuses on the data zones which fall into the lowest 5 - 15% as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2020).

Organisational Structure

The organisational structure is made up of 6 Directors who are volunteer community representatives. This ensures that board decisions are community driven. During the year to 31st March 2023, the charitable company employed 7 staff made up as follows:

- 1 Chief Executive
- 2 Officers (IT Support and Business Support).
- 1 Officer remained on secondment until December 2022.
- 3 Project Workers
- 1 Sessional Worker

Community Links is an accredited real Living Wage employer who voluntarily signed up to ensure their employees and any subcontracted staff can earn a wage which is enough to live on.

Wider Network

Community Links' core funding is from South Lanarkshire Council's Community Engagement Team. The continued support received from our funders and partners is very much appreciated.

Community Links are members of SCVO (The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) and VASLan (Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire), both organisations provide support, training, networking and opportunities for Community Links to contribute to the Scottish voluntary sector at local and national level.

Related parties

The Board of Directors comprise of volunteer Community Representatives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charitable company is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Community Links constantly review their policies and procedures; practices Impact Assessment policies; is a member of Information of Commissioners Office (ICO).

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

No trustees were appointed during our reporting financial year.

Induction and training of Trustees

Training is made available for the Directors on a group or individual basis. Where training is identified, records are maintained within the office electronic systems.

Morag Linian 12 July 2023
Morag Pinion

Secretary

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2023

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position and the related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charitable company's trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charitable company's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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

12 July 2023

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

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.

James Locher

Kilbryde Accounting and Taxation Services Ltd

EK Business Centre 14 Stroud Road

East Kilbride

G75 0YA

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Income:					
Donations and Grants	2	59,427	181,011	240,438	315,728
Investments	3	510		510	87
		59,937	181,011	240,948	315,815
Expenditure: Charitable activities	4	(82,637) (82,637)	(181,011) (181,011)	(263,648) (263,648)	(311,532) (311,532)
Net Income/Expenditure:		(22,700)	-	(22,700)	4,283
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		165,260	-	165,260	160,977
Total funds carried forward	12	142,560	_	142,560	165,260

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) Statement of Financial Position For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets		_	
Tangible Assets	9	_	
Current assets			
Debtors	10	28,473	55,961
Cash at bank and in hand		188,541	241,342
		217,014	297,303
		217,014	237,303
Creditors: amounts falling due within	11	(74,454)	(132,043)
one year			
Net current assets		142,560	165,260
Total assets less current liabilities		142,560	165,260
Net assets		142,560	165,260
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12		_
Unrestricted funds	12	142,560	165,260
Total Francia		142,560	165 260
Total Funds		142,500	165,260

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its Financial Statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of Financial Statements. These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The Financial Statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

July 2023
John

Trustee

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributable to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. The charity is not registered for VAT and therefore all expenditure is shown gross.

Tangible Fixed Assets

The charity operates a policy of capitalising tangible fixed assets that have an original cost exceeding £5,000. Any assets with a value lower than £5,000, are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

Depreciation has been provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Office Equipment 25% straight line.

Fund Accounting

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

Restricted Funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. Income from donations and grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	T.
Income generation	59,427	ve	59,427	48,934
Grants received		181,011	181,011	266,794
	59,427	181,011	240,438	315,728

3. Investment Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Bank interest receivable	510	<u>87</u>

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	68,909	166,486	235,395	265,325
Support Costs	13,728	14,525	28,253	46,207
	82,637	181,011	263,648	311,532

5. Analysis of support costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Travel and Incidental	2,804	2,163
Director Expenses	93	-
Office Expenses	17,660	32,185
Premise Costs	3,543	3,983
Bank Charges	83	82
Governance Costs	4,070	7,794
	28,253	46,207
6. Net income for the year		
Stated after charging:	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of owned assets	-	-
Accountancy fees	2,561	1,426
Staff pension contributions	12,265	12,379
7. Staff costs and emoluments		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	178,232	201,037
National Insurance Costs	15,596	16,221
Pension costs	12,265	12,379
	206,093	229,637

8. Comparative for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Income and endowments from:			
Grants	48,934	266,794	315,728
Investments	87		87
Total	49,021	266,794	315,815
Expenditure on:			
Charitable Activities	(44,738)	(266,794)	(311,532)
Net income/expenditure	4,283	-	4,283
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	160,977	-	160,977
Total funds carried forward	165,260	_	165,260
9. Tangible fixed assets		Plant and	d Machinery £
Cost or valuation			
as at 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023			17,562
Depreciation as at 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023			17,562
Net book values at 31 March 2023			
at 31 March 2022			

10. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Trade debtors	5,136	38,344
Prepayments and accrued income	•	9,508
Other debtors	23,337	8,109
	28,473	55,961
11. Creditors		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Trade creditors	-	2,645
Other creditors	4,829	6,867
Accruals and deferred income	69,625	122,532
	74,454	132,044

Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year includes an adjustment for Deferred Income, relating to sums received before the year end, restricted to activities to take place in subsequent years, as follows:

NHS Lanarkshire	£20,000
NHS Lanarkshire	£30,000
SOLWEC	£8,829
Awards for All (National Lottery)	£9,011

12. Movement in funds

Unrestricted Funds	Balance as at 01.04.22 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31,03,23 £
General	165,260	59,937	(82,637)	142,560
	165,260	59,937	(82,637)	142,560
Unrestricted Funds - previous year	Balance as at 01.04.21 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.22 £
General	160,977	49,021	(44,738)	165,260
	160,977	49,021	(44,738)	165,260
Restricted Funds	Balance as at 01.04.22 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.23 £
SLC Community Engagement Team Awards for All (National Lottery) SOLWEC NHS Lanarkshire (HHSCF) SCVO SLC Community Choices Community Health and Wellbeing	-	110,896 491 239 9,180 501 11,400 48,304	(110,896) (491) (239) (9,180) (501) (11,400) (48,304)	- - - - -
	-	181,011	(181,011)	-

12. Movement in funds (continued)

Restricted Funds - previous year	Balance as at 01.04.21 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance as at 31.03.22 £
SLC Community Engagement Team	-	110,897	(110,897)	-
Adapt and Thrive	-	74,249	(74,249)	
Community Base Adult Learning		8,750	(8,750)	
NHS Lanarkshire (HHSCF)	-	6,375	(6,375)	-
National Lottery - Recovery Fund 2	-	29,761	(29,761)	-
SCVO	-	14,999	(14,999)	
SLC Community Choices	-	1,763	(1,763)	-
SLC Covid Support Fund		20,000	(20,000)	
		266,794	(266,794)	_

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets/(liabilities)	Net assets £
Unrestricted Restricted	-	142,560	142,560
	-	-	,
		142,560	142,560

Analysis of net assets between funds - previous year

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets/(liabilities) £	Net assets £
Unrestricted Restricted		165,260 - 165,260	165,260 165,260

Community Links (South Lanarkshire) Detailed Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
INCOME	£	£
Grants and income generation		
Income Generation	59,427	48,934
Grants	181,011	266,794
	240,438	315,728
Investment		
Bank interest receivable	510	87
Total Incoming Resources	240,948	315,815
EXPENDITURE		
Costs of generating voluntary income	235,395	265,325
Charitable Activities		
Travel and Incidental	2,804	2,163
Director Expenses	93	-
Office Expenses	17,661	32,185
Premise Costs	3,543	3,983
Bank Charges	83	82
Governance Costs	4,069	7,794
Total Outgoing Resources	263,648	311,532
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(22,700)	4,283