



Trustee's Report and financial statements for the year ended
March 31, 2021 for Northern Shape (trading as Equal Arts).



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Report of the trustees

The trustees, who are also directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Here at Equal Arts we work to;

- Provide older people with creative opportunities to improve wellbeing and help reduce loneliness
- Champion creative ageing and its benefits to improve the quality of care provided to older people
- Create lasting change, developing community, age-friendly relationships and encouraging social inclusion
- Challenge negative attitudes towards ageing and dementia.

Vision: A healthy and creative society which values older people.

Mission: To build healthier communities by improving the lives of older people through creativity.



Report of trustees' (continued)

Hello from our chair, Anne Walton



This past year has tested everyone and I would like to begin my chair's report by congratulating all staff members, volunteers and artists on the way that together as a

team and as individuals they have continued providing support to older people in the community and in care homes using an array of creative activities and approaches.

The Equal Arts team have enabled the valuable contact to continue through new and innovative creative projects making sure that the aims and objectives of our organisation are met, thank you all for your hardwork, commitment and endeavour.

There have been changes in the organisation with a number of trustees moving on and I thank them for their contribution to Equal Arts which has been

invaluable. New trustees have been welcomed into the organisation bringing with them the skills and expertise which will enhance the robust governance of this exciting and dynamic organisation.

As a charity and a limited company, income generation and securing funds continues to be a major part of the work load and despite these most difficult times our financial position is stable putting us in a strong position to deliver ambitious programme with diverse ageing communities. We are very grateful to the charitable trusts and other funding organisations that have supported our work and we have also benefitted from the support and expertise from The Cranfield Trust and Pilotlight.

Finally, we're delighted to have been able to continue working with so many amazing creative older people whilst meeting some new people along the way which has been a true highlight throughout a challenging time.



Keeping connected through creativity

This year saw us and the people we support heavily impacted, like so many, by the pandemic. Those already at risk of loneliness were put at greater risk of isolation as communities and care settings locked down.

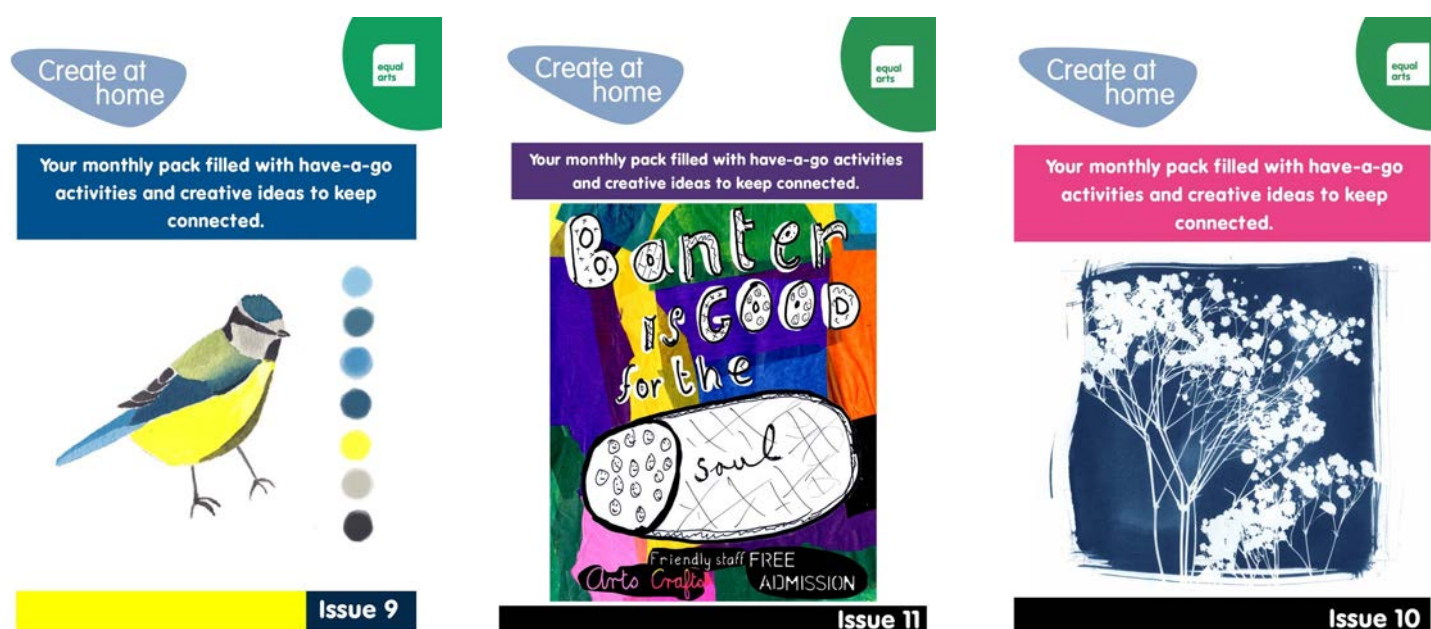
As a team we quickly adapted how projects were delivered, devising new ways to help keep people connected during the unfolding and varied restrictions of the pandemic.

While having an immediate impact on our services, Covid-19 also provided the opportunity to consider how best to reach people. With funding from Arts Council England, Tyne and Wear Community Foundation, County Durham Community Foundation and Northumbria Police we focused on outdoor and postal programmes together with increasing our online presence, supporting care venues to access weekly support online.

Create at Home packs

This year was the first time we produced a regular pack posted out to 200+ participants each month. Each issue of Create at Home featured artist-led creative activities that utilised materials people may have around the home. Packs featured seasonal ideas, information and artwork and contributions from those receiving the packs.

During Older People's Month, our Age Proud Newcastle pack - with contributions from multiple Age-Friendly Newcastle organisations and charities - was distributed to 2000 people. Create at Home became a product with local authorities paying for area-specific versions they could send older people with limited internet access.



Singing Hinnies

At a time when care homes were in lockdown and older people were told to stay at home, we made weekly visits providing garden gigs and doorstep deliveries with bags of shopping and a regular friendly-faced check in to see how people were.

As we began to move back to some semblance of normality, we continued to sing together online each week and provide garden gigs, ensuring we reached those who perhaps couldn't get out or didn't yet feel confident returning to group activities.

Online and face-to-face sessions were lively and based on a theme led by our team of musicians.

At key points during the year we staged seasonal events online, drawing in 50+ participants, with schools and care homes joining in together.

"The lockdown posed many new challenges with regards to engaging with people and trying to reduce their feelings of anxiety and isolation, but we have tried to innovate and worked with various groups and charities to overcome these barriers which has hopefully maintained good mental health and helped people to safely come together and enjoy activities such as the Singing Hinnies."

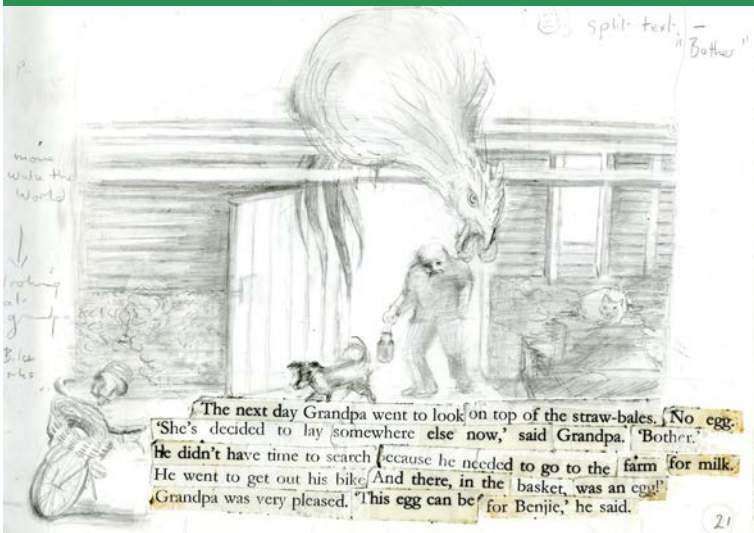
Councillor Kevin Nicholson, Darlington Borough Council's cabinet member for health and housing.

Watch the Singing Hinnies at one of their garden gigs [here](#).



Little White Hen

With pupils back in the classrooms after months away, we teamed up with the collections archive at National Centre for Children's Books, Seven Stories. Thanks to funding from LNER and Newcastle & Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group, we were able to bring the story of the Little White Hen to life for children and their grandparents in Gateshead unable to meet due to household bubble restrictions.



“Working with Equal Arts has enriched our curriculum offer by providing all children and staff with the opportunity to work with practising artists and a captivating storyteller.

“The artists have inspired our children and empowered our staff as they embraced new art and drama techniques linked to the story. Creativity was at the core of this project and was encouraged, nurtured and valued by all.

“In these strange times of Covid-19 the online provision has been exceptional. We are so lucky to have had the opportunity to take part in this fantastic collaboration.”

Kelly Bolland, EYFS Leader at Ryton Federation

Care Home Choir Voices Project

With funding from The Paul & Nick Harvey Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund and Tyne & Wear Community Foundation we were able to expand our music services for people living with dementia. The care home choir, made up of 75 residents and care staff, went online during the pandemic meeting virtually each week to sing and learn new harmonies.

The funding brings with it the opportunity to roll out the programme to venues in Newcastle and Sunderland ahead of planned performances of new songs with the Royal Northern Sinfonia in 2022.

"Since 2018 our care home choir in Gateshead has been supporting people with dementia to explore their imaginations and live in the moment, focusing on what they can achieve. This funding, and linking together with Royal Northern Sinfonia, will provide more people access to creative and meaningful opportunities to support communication and wellbeing." Kate Parkin, Equal Arts' Creative Age Lead



Supporting people to make new community links online.

As more workshops went online during 2020/21, we were able to grow our audience and support more people, both in care homes and living independently from across the UK as well as in places such as America and Israel.

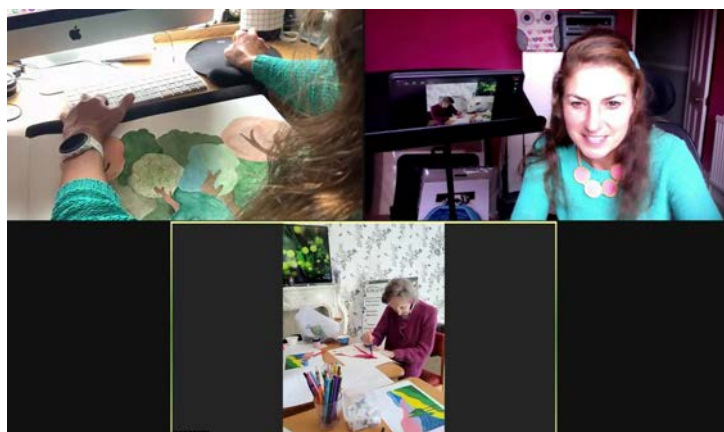
Prior to the pandemic in August 2019 then-Care Minister Caroline Dinenage urged every care home to install WiFi. The minister's call followed a survey of 2,803 homes in which a fifth of care works said their settings had no WiFi. Of those with WiFi 18% said access was only available in communal areas. As Covid-19 spread, it quickly became clear little progress had been made in this area with a gap in staff capacity and knowledge of how to use the equipment.



A key focus for the team has been how we can continue to support people when traditional methods were no longer possible. Societally it fast became clear families were keeping in touch digitally, but there wasn't the ease of online access in care settings. A capital grant from the Clothworkers Foundation allowed us to provide technical guidance to venues keen to access online workshops for residents but unsure how best to do so.



Equipment purchased included large-screen TVs, Facebook Portal and iPads with trouble-shooting support and training for care staff to develop their confidence in using the equipment.



Once care homes and groups were online they were able to access the varied workshops we had on offer from Singing Hinnies, creative workshops with artists and the care home choir.

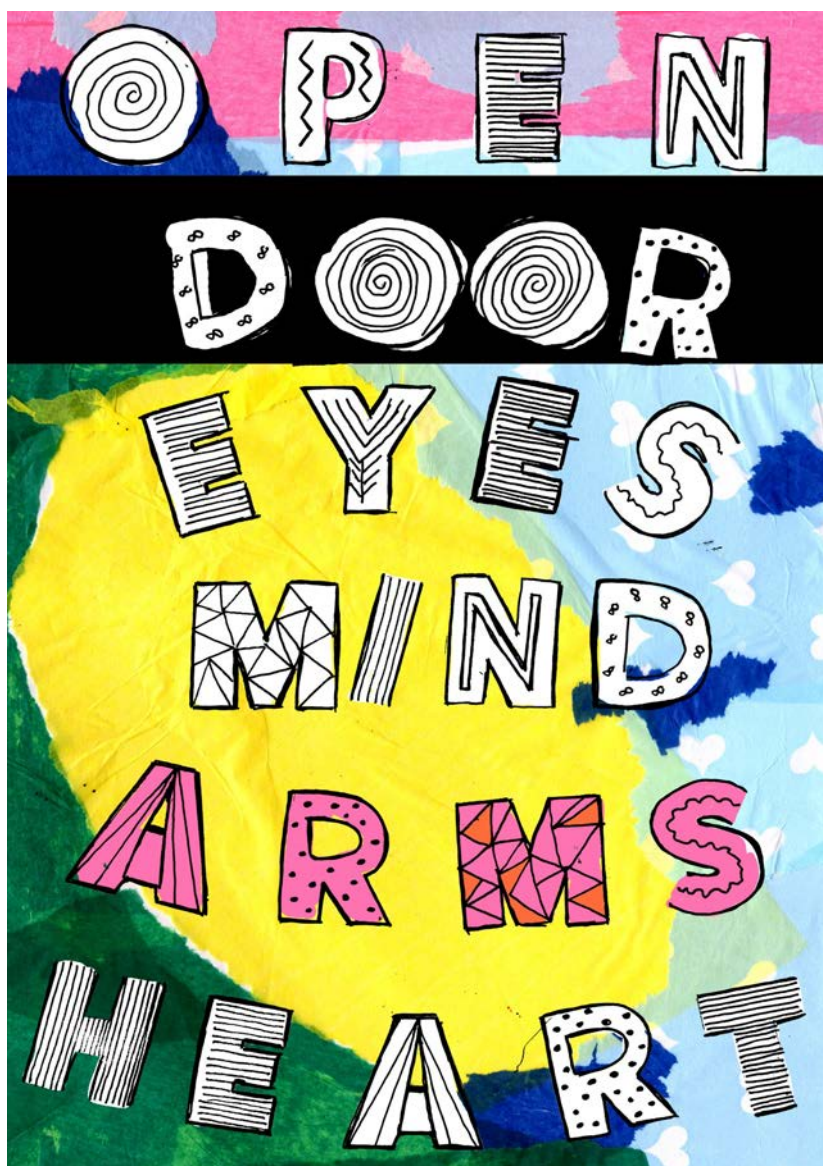


This new online approach has seen us create our first online-only group for people living in their own homes who wanted to make new connections through creative writing.

Led by performance poet Daisy Barrett-Nash, Writers at Play is a group of men and women aged 55+ from across the UK and USA who've forged new friendships through poetry every week online.

Another new area we explored was providing a number of 'taster' sessions online for anyone aged 55+. Each week people enjoyed dance, visual arts, ceramics, and illustration supported by professional artists from the UK, Italy and Israel.

Seeing the success of this digital approach, we ran a six-week online project with our established Carers' Cultural Adventures group with illustrator Bethan Laker. With postal packs and in online workshops, the group explored what it meant to return to public creative spaces. The end result saw their pieces exhibited outdoors at Shipley Gallery in Gateshead as they reopened their doors.



"Working together has been something to look forward to, an enjoyable moment when days, because of the restrictions, have tended to be a bit dull. Seeing familiar faces on the screen and having a go at new activities together has been heart-warming."
Claudine, a member of Equal Arts' online creative workshops



The established relationships built up through our HenPower Project prior to the pandemic put us in a strong position to be able to see first-hand the difficulties facing care homes and how best to meet the needs care staff were telling us about.

From support with technology, maximising outdoor spaces in creative ways, garden music gigs and connecting residents with schools and families we were able to adapt HenPower activities to continue supporting projects and people.



Highlights included a mental health and wellbeing partnership with Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and Darlington Borough Council. We brought outdoor arts sessions and singing and movement to patients at Lanchester Road Hospital's Roseberry Ward and residents from the council's Ted Fletcher Court.

At Parkfield House, part of Canford Care in London, residents kept connected with children from Glebe Primary School thanks to funding from The Armed Forces Covenant Fund, in their Stronger Together project. Together they creatively explored what community and togetherness means. Following the success of HenPower at Parkfield we welcomed a new venue to the initiative, with residents and staff at The Willows joining the flock.

Watch the latest film from the Stronger Together project [here](#).





Training for care staff, artists and cultural sector staff

Bereavement and Loss

Within the first quarter of 2020/21 and the first wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it was evident that care home staff were struggling to cope emotionally with the new and terrifying demands placed upon them.

As a response, and through support from Dr Kate Andrews and Dr Alan Howarth at Gateshead NHS and Arts Psychotherapist Diane Adderley, we delivered an online programme of group talking therapies and creative activities for care staff and artists.

These sessions were delivered across Gateshead, as part of the Gateshead Dementia Contract, and Sunderland Coalfields (Easington Lane and Hetton) in partnership with Big Local's 3 Together in South Sunderland.

Dementia and Imagination

Over the last year we held five online Dementia and Imagination training sessions attended by 65 individual creative practitioners, cultural venue staff and volunteers via Zoom.

Our face-to-face training, delivered by staff and experienced facilitators, was transformed into online training with the opportunity to attract a global reach; attracting artists from Orkney to Australia.

Equal Arts E-learning package

Over Spring 2021 we have designed and developed with artists content and learning outcomes for our first online learning module: Dementia and Imagination for care staff.

The module will be tested in 2021 with a view to being open to learners from January 2022.

Gateshead Dementia Contract

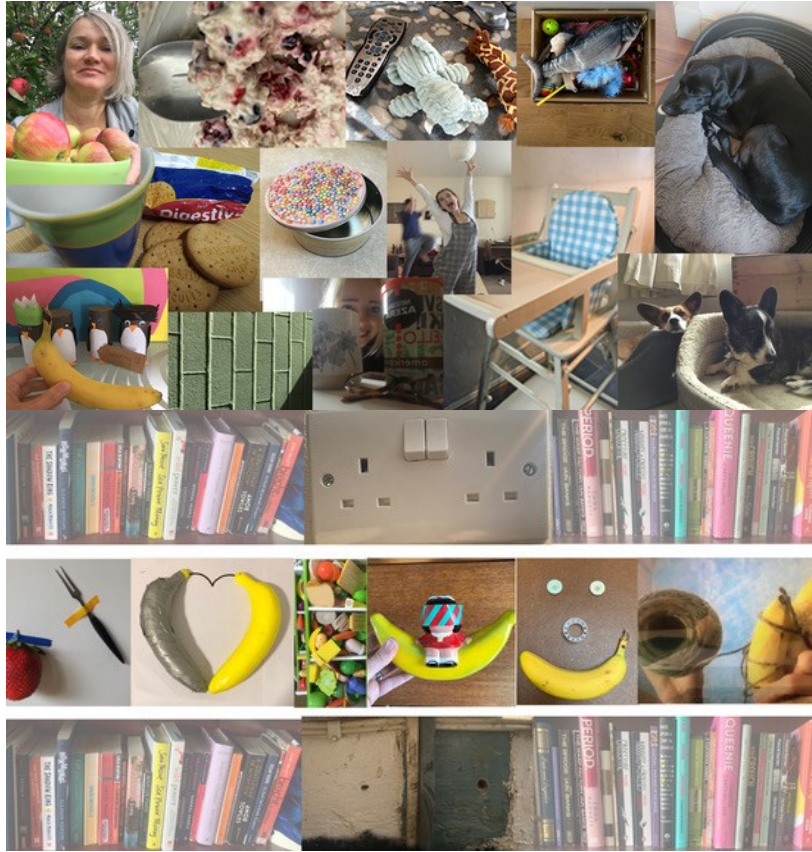
Despite the barriers, we delivered a revised Gateshead Dementia Contract working with the psychology team at Gateshead NHS and Learning and Skills North East. Due to and in response to the pandemic an alternative programme was provided to support the shift in both personal and work development requirements.

The programme included a Gateshead wide consultation with Care Home Managers. Bereavement and loss sessions open to all care home staff across the borough along with loss and anxiety support for artists working with staff and residents.

Despite the work being curtailed in late 2020 we were successful in securing a continuation of funding with Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group to develop and extend this work into 2022.

The training has received strong levels of positive feedback with most individuals enjoying the interaction in activities and the networking opportunities.

Positive word of mouth feedback and online advertising platforms enabled us to attract new business. In February 2021 we delivered a bespoke session for gallery educators, commissioned specifically by ENGAGE, the national association for gallery education.



"Thank you so much for the training it was a really energising way to get my head back into gear and a real motivator to get something sorted for the families we have supported over the past few years. It's really inspiring." *Dementia and Imagination training delegate*

Handing on our History

Our National Lottery Heritage funded project, Handing on our History, drew to a close this year with many of the interviews taking place via Zoom.

With more than 40 hours of audio captured between students and people aged 55+ a series of podcasts were created, documenting LGBTQIA+ activism here in the North East during the 70s, 80s and 90s.

Click on the photo to download and hear the podcasts.



Informing and influencing

Throughout the year we've been asked to present and share our work with partners across the arts, health and care sector. These included;

- Arts for Dementia Conferences: Prognosis – Social Prescribing Conference, August 2020
- North Tyneside Arts and Health, October 2020 and March 2021
- Culture Health and Wellbeing Alliance Winter Gatherings, November 2020
- Connecting through culture as we age: Digital Innovation for Healthy Ageing. Bristol University, March 2021
- Singapore Arts & Ageing International Forum - Engaging Seniors in a Digital Era
- Think Creative Webinar exploring the challenges and opportunities for 50+ employability.

Partnership Projects

- Luminate Scotland (Arts in Care project)
- Sunderland Culture, Sunderland Carers, Sunderland GP Alliance & Groundwork Trust- Funded by Thriving Communities Programme, and Arts Council England
- Care home providers
- Newcastle University, Dr Karen Ross (Gender and Media Studies) Me and My Menopause Project
- Newcastle University, Dr Spencer Hazel and Dr Adam Brandt and Dr Chris Leyland (Social Sciences) and UKRI Healthy Ageing Catalyst Project, IDEALL
- Tyne & Wear Museums including The Shipley Art Gallery
- National Centre for Children's Books, Seven Stories.

Summary of future plans

User-led sustainable partnerships: Our ability to continue programme delivery over the last 12 months has often been due to having strong relationships with individuals and organisations which have been established over the last 10 to 15 years. We want to work with new partners, developing sustainable relationships over a number of years improving the lives of older people and the communities in which they live.

A blended-approach reaches more people and supports newly acquired skills: We want to continue utilising the newly adopted skills and audiences gained over the last 12 months offering a blended approach of online delivery alongside the face-to-face delivery. This ensures our services are accessible to a new and different audience who can take part and benefit from the activities from where they live.

Five days a week creative ageing programme in Gateshead: This last 12 months have helped us to restructure some of our delivery and given rise to a five-days a week programme being offered across Gateshead. This includes different activities locations and venues, days and times to suit the interests and needs of individual living older people. It will also be helpful to Gateshead signposting NHS link workers and agencies knowing they can refer older people into creative ageing activities on any day of the week.

E-learning and dementia contracts: Our portfolio of training continues to expand offering a greater variety of training to cultural venues and care providers and individual creative practitioners building on our work with Newcastle & Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group and expanding our reach and accessibility with an e-learning offer.

Sunderland Social Prescribing Project: Working with Sunderland Culture and other partners we're looking forward to increasing our programme and developing sustainable relationships with organisations and independent living older people.

Podcasts as a new way to showcase participant content: Building on a newly acquired skill set, we want to develop a series of podcasts and see who we reach with a range of creative ageing activities and stories.



Report of trustees' (continued)

Financial review

Income of £343,245 (2020 - £423,313) has been generated during the year, £84,086 (2020 - £320,969) relates to restricted funds. An operating surplus of £80,783 (2020 - £34,395 deficit) is shown on the Statement of Financial Activities. Within the overall result was a deficit on restricted funds of £29,540 (2020 - surplus of £47,899).

Reserves Policy and Risk Management - reserves statement

The trustees monitor the progress of the organisation when they meet at their Management Committee Meetings five times a year. The Charity's funding schedule is reviewed and forecast funding compared to actual. This allows the trustees to keep track of projected funding each quarter and to foresee any shortfalls. The trustees are aware of the risk that obtaining core funding, although usually successful, may not be achieved at the beginning of each financial year. To safeguard against this, the trustees aim to have six months worth of running costs built up in free reserves to sustain stability. The trustees are working towards this aim and recommend a fundraising strategy to increase free reserves to this level. At 31 March 2021 free reserves were £86,391. The trustees have decided to designate part of unrestricted reserves for a redundancy reserve and a Creative Ageing Programme, further details can be found in note 17.

Risks

Area	Risk	Potential Impact	Mitigating steps	Impact	Likelihood	After action
External factors The continuing impact of Covid 19	Continued restrictions in care homes and upon independent living older people Changes in funding priorities	Restricted visiting making care home delivery difficult and continued reluctance amongst independent living older people to participate in cultural venues Reduced funding available	Adapt services Increase online opportunities Develop varied sources of income	High	Med	Med
Strategic Plan	5 Year plan to be agreed and implemented from April 22 could restrict responsive opportunities	Unable to deliver Business Plan Priorities	Business Plan requires review and support to enable timely and thorough implementation	High	Med	Med
Policies & Procedures	All policies and procedures updated	Clear Policies & Procedures with Staff Handbook and increased staff capacity	Annual Reviews	Med	Low	Low
Finance	Grant dependence & reduced earned income	Continued focus on fundraising alongside developing paying customer base	Explore income diversification including a Charitable Trading Company	High	Med	Med

Report of trustees' (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Charity Number 517352
Company Number 01992359 (England and Wales)
Registered Office Level 3, Newcastle City Library, 33 New Bridge Street West,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom, NE1 8AX.

Our advisors

Examiners

Haines Watts, 17 Queens Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1RN.

Legal Advisor: Patterson Wolf & Co.

Bankers

Barclay Bank Plc 215 High Street, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 1BX.

Trustees

Anne Walton (Chair)

Patricia Anne McDermott (Vice Chair)

Irena Peel (Treasurer)

Cllr Marilyn Charlton

Dr Karen Franks

Prof Glenda Cooke (retired 07.07.20)

Deborah Smith (retired 25.08.20)

John Connelly (from 8.12.20)

Syeda Begum (from 8.12.20)

John Beeley (from 8.12.20)

Staff

Douglas Hunter

Chief Executive Officer

Kate Parkin

Creative Age Programme Manager

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the staff members, freelance contractors, volunteers, care staff and funders who've supported and inspired Equal Arts with their ideas, enthusiasm and commitment during an unprecedented year.





SIR JAMES KNOTT TRUST



Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Northern Shape t/a Equal Arts is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity currently with a Board of 8 Trustees. Under the memorandum and articles of association with which the organisation is governed, the charity has the power to make any investment that the trustees see fit.

Appointment of trustees

New trustees are appointed by serving trustees. The trustees meet at least five times each year and the CEO with the Treasurer handle the day-to-day finances of the charity. The trustees who served during the year are set out on page 17. A third of the longest standing committee members need to stand down at the Annual General Meeting but can be re-elected by the existing trustees. All Company Members and Management Committee Members are circulated with papers prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training courses whenever they are arranged.

Induction and training of trustees

The trustees are encouraged to attend external training and are notified of relevant training by the charity.

Organisational structure

The organisation has a board of trustees comprising 8 members. A Chief Executive manages the day-to-day operations of the charity and line manages staff – the Creative Age Programme Manager and freelance staff.

Pay policy for senior staff

The pay of senior staff is reviewed by the board annually.

Relationships with related parties

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on November 23... 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Anne Walton (Chair)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northern Shape
For the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2020 which are set out on pages 21 to 33.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

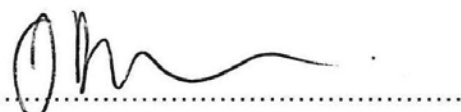
Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



**Donna Bulmer BA (Hons) ACA
For and on behalf of Haines Watts**

13 December 2021

Date

17 Queens Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

Northern Shape T/A Equal Arts

Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	4	153,356	54,873	82,086	290,315	344,534
Charitable activities	5	46,915	2,904	2,000	51,819	77,017
Investment income	6	1,111	-	-	1,111	1,762
		<u>201,382</u>	<u>57,777</u>	<u>84,086</u>	<u>343,245</u>	<u>423,313</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	1,811	-	-	1,811	63,319
Charitable activities	8	122,170	2,920	135,561	260,651	394,388
		<u>123,981</u>	<u>2,920</u>	<u>135,561</u>	<u>262,462</u>	<u>457,708</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		77,401	54,857	(51,475)	80,783	(34,394)
Transfers between funds	16	(49,634)	27,699	21,935	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>27,767</u>	<u>82,556</u>	<u>(29,540)</u>	<u>80,783</u>	<u>(34,394)</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		60,014	95,019	113,534	268,567	302,961
Total funds carried forward		<u>87,781</u>	<u>177,575</u>	<u>83,994</u>	<u>349,350</u>	<u>268,567</u>

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

Northern Shape T/A Equal Arts

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2021

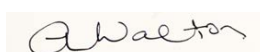
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	13	1,390	-	-	1,390	2,072
Current assets						
Debtors	14	22,144	-	-	22,144	2,000
Cash at bank and in hand		93,520	177,575	83,994	355,089	298,292
		117,054	177,575	83,994	377,233	300,292
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(29,273)	-	-	(29,273)	(33,797)
Net current assets		86,391	177,575	83,994	347,960	266,495
Total assets less current liabilities		87,781	177,575	83,994	349,350	268,567
Funds						
Unrestricted fund					87,781	60,014
Designated funds					177,575	95,019
Restricted funds					83,994	113,534
	16				349,350	268,567

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The financial statements were approved by the trustees onNov.23... 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs A Walton – (Chair) – Trustee



Ms P A McDermott – (Vice Chair) - Trustee

Company Registration No: 01992359

The notes below part of these financial statements

Northern Shape T/A Equal Arts

Cash Flow Statement

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	19	55,686	(22,623)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>55,686</u>	<u>(22,623)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		1,111	1,762
Payment to acquire tangible assets		-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>1,111</u>	<u>1,762</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>56,797</u>	<u>(20,861)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		298,292	319,153
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>355,089</u>	<u>298,292</u>

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

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

1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the impact of COVID-19 on the going concern of the trust, the trust has been awarded a number of one off COVID grants after the year end. The trustees have considered the levels of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

1.3 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions and is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income received to deliver services over a specific period covering more than one financial year is accounted for over the specific period; related expenditure is accounted when incurred.

Investment income relates to interest earned through holding assets on deposit.

**Notes to the financial statements (*Continued*)
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is possible that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. 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 attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	-	Straight line over 6 years
Computer equipment	-	Straight line over 3 years

1.7 Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loan receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with instant access from the date of opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.9 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.11 Taxation

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

2. Legal status

Northern Shape is a Company Limited by Guarantee in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charitable company. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information in the reference and administration pages of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements (*Continued*)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

3. Comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	4	34,450	-	310,084	344,534	289,305
Charitable activities	5	60,702	5,430	10,885	77,017	84,636
Investment income	6	1,762	-	-	1,762	1,560
		<u>96,914</u>	<u>5,430</u>	<u>320,969</u>	<u>423,313</u>	<u>375,501</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	63,319	-	-	63,319	51,332
Charitable activities	8	3,657	29,351	361,380	394,388	438,648
		<u>66,976</u>	<u>29,351</u>	<u>361,380</u>	<u>457,708</u>	<u>489,980</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		29,938	(23,921)	(40,411)	(34,394)	(114,479)
Transfers between funds	16	(50,768)	2,200	48,568	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(20,830)</u>	<u>(21,721)</u>	<u>8,157</u>	<u>(34,394)</u>	<u>(114,479)</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		80,844	116,740	105,377	302,961	417,440
Total funds carried forward		<u>60,014</u>	<u>95,019</u>	<u>113,534</u>	<u>268,567</u>	<u>302,961</u>

Northern Shape T/A Equal Arts

Notes to the financial statements (*Continued*) for the year ended 31 March 2021

4. Donations and legacies

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants receivable	267,869	313,412
Donations	22,446	31,122
	<u>290,315</u>	<u>344,534</u>

Grants receivable analysis:

	£
Community Foundation – Tyne and Wear & Northumberland	24,800
National Heritage Lottery Fund	19,500
National Lottery Community Fund	35,000
Arts Council England Fund	39,125
Nesta	14,000
COVID Response – NLCF	28,400
Independent Age	15,000
Headley Trust	20,000
Cumbria NHS	11,000
Virgin Money #iWill	5,000
Ernest Hecht Charitable Trust	4,000
Northumbria Police	4,110
Community Foundation – County Durham	4,844
Barbour Foundation	5,000
Sir James Knott Trust	5,000
Other	33,090
	<u>267,869</u>

5. Income from charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Earned income	51,819	77,017

6. Investment income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	1,111	1,762

7. Raising funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	-	44,561
Individual Giving fundraising officer	-	18,000
Fundraising costs	1,811	758
	<u>1,811</u>	<u>63,319</u>

Notes to the financial statements (Continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

8. Charitable activities costs

	Direct costs	Support costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	64,972	15,999	80,971	140,586
Staff travel and training	-	-	-	9,268
Direct project costs	107,482	-	107,482	180,795
Property costs	-	-	-	19,621
Office costs	20,917	-	20,917	14,650
Comms	36,203	-	36,203	20,483
Professional fees	4,705	-	4,705	1,600
Other costs	8,213	2,160	10,373	7,385
	<u>242,492</u>	<u>18,159</u>	<u>260,651</u>	<u>394,388</u>

9. Support costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	15,999	27,949
Governance costs (note 10)	2,160	2,160
	<u>18,159</u>	<u>30,109</u>

10. Governance costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent examiners' fee	2,160	2,160

11. Net incoming /(expenditure)

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent examiners' fee	2,160	2,160
Depreciation – owned assets	682	641

Notes to the financial statements (*Continued*)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

12. Staff costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	72,200	124,891
Social security costs	7,539	43,526
Pension costs	5,232	16,719
	<u>84,971</u>	<u>185,136</u>

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

2021	2020
2	6
<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>

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

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment in the year (2020 - £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2020 - nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional services or other services supplied to the charity (2020 - nil).

Notes to the financial statements (*Continued*)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	2,935	3,824	6,759
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	2,935	3,824	6,759
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	1,581	3,106	4,687
Charge for year	282	400	682
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	1,863	3,506	5,369
Net book value			
At 31 March 2020	318	1,072	1,390
At 31 March 2019	1,354	718	2,072

14. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	20,581	2,000
Other debtors	1,563	-
	22,144	2,000

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	-	14,205
Social security and other taxes	16,594	3,154
Accruals	12,678	16,438
	29,272	33,797

Notes to the financial statements (Continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

16. Analysis of funds

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	60,014	201,382	(123,981)	(49,634)	87,781
Designated funds					
Redundancy reserve	55,400	-	-	19,600	75,000
Creative Ageing Programme	39,619	57,777	(2,920)	8,099	102,575
	<u>95,019</u>	<u>57,777</u>	<u>(2,920)</u>	<u>27,699</u>	<u>177,575</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>155,033</u>	<u>259,159</u>	<u>(126,901)</u>	<u>(21,935)</u>	<u>265,356</u>
Restricted funds					
HenPower	68,861	16,000	(27,635)	-	57,226
NLHF	27,825	-	(16,200)	-	11,625
IWill – Virgin	16,848	5,000	(6,705)	-	15,143
Covid Funding	-	63,086	(85,021)	21,935	-
Total restricted funds	<u>113,534</u>	<u>84,086</u>	<u>(135,561)</u>	<u>21,935</u>	<u>83,994</u>
Total funds	<u>268,567</u>	<u>343,245</u>	<u>(262,462)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>349,350</u>

Designated funds

Redundancy reserve – the fund has been set up to cover contractual redundancy costs and estimated 6 months operational costs the charity would have to meet should it be required to wind up, this calculation is reviewed annually.

Restricted funds

HenPower - This projects works with older people, volunteers and care staff, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to become hen keepers in residential care settings. Alongside the hens, artists deliver creative programmes and involve school children, the community and volunteers.

COVID Funding – grants were secured in order to respond to covid conditions to sustain the organisation and adapt services accordingly in order to meet the needs of beneficiaries in different ways such as by post, telephone and online.

Notes to the financial statements (*Continued*)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

16. Analysis of funds (*Continued*)

IWill – This project works with Green Feet Friends to support young people in planting an outdoor space

HLF – This project focuses on LGBT Activism in the North East to support in capturing oral histories and working with young people to produce a touring exhibition to be displayed across the North East.

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	80,844	96,914	(66,976)	(50,768)	60,014
Designated funds					
Redundancy reserve	25,400	-	-	30,000	55,400
Creative Ageing Programme	91,340	5,430	(29,351)	(27,800)	39,619
	<u>116,740</u>	<u>5,430</u>	<u>(29,351)</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>95,019</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>197,584</u>	<u>102,344</u>	<u>(96,327)</u>	<u>(48,568)</u>	<u>155,033</u>
Restricted funds					
HenPower	67,815	164,701	(163,655)	-	68,861
Creative Friends	28,112	17,560	(66,441)	20,768	-
Creative Age	-	39,294	(67,094)	27,800	-
Capacity Building	-	30,790	(30,790)	-	-
NLHF	-	33,450	(5,625)	-	27,825
IWill – Virgin	-	29,560	(12,712)	-	16,848
MECC	5,460	5,614	(11,074)	-	-
Creative Dementia Project	3,990	-	(3,990)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>105,377</u>	<u>320,969</u>	<u>(361,381)</u>	<u>48,568</u>	<u>113,534</u>
Total funds	<u>302,961</u>	<u>423,313</u>	<u>(457,708)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>268,567</u>

Notes to the financial statements (Continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

17. Pension costs

The scheme is a defined contribution scheme and the pension charge represents the amount payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year. Pension contributions payable for the year ended 31 March 2021 amount £16,719 (2020 - £16,719).

18. Related party disclosures

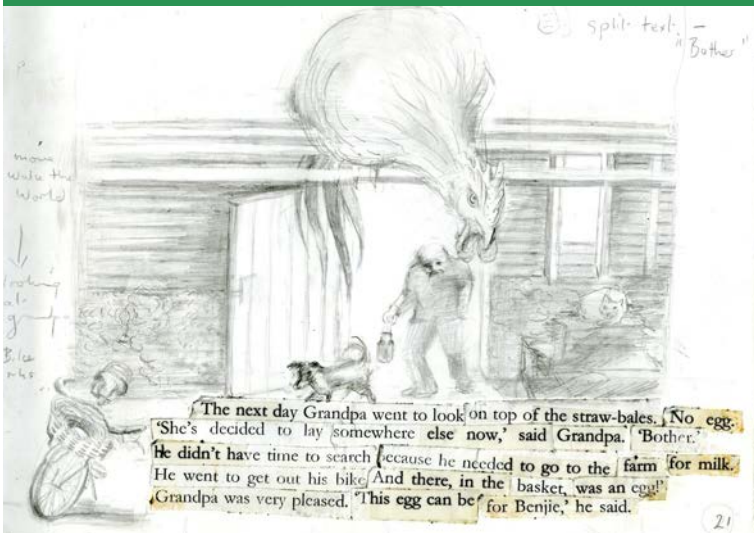
There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021 (2020 – None).

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	80,783	(34,394)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	682	642
Interest received	(1,111)	(1,762)
(Increase) in debtors	(20,144)	19,337
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(4,524)	(6,446)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>55,686</u>	<u>(22,623)</u>

Little White Hen

With pupils back in the classrooms after months away, we teamed up with the collections archive at National Centre for Children's Books, Seven Stories. Thanks to funding from LNER and Newcastle & Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group, we were able to bring the story of the Little White Hen to life for children and their grandparents in Gateshead unable to meet due to household bubble restrictions.



"Working with Equal Arts has enriched our curriculum offer by providing all children and staff with the opportunity to work with practising artists and a captivating storyteller.

"The artists have inspired our children and empowered our staff as they embraced new art and drama techniques linked to the story. Creativity was at the core of this project and was encouraged, nurtured and valued by all.

"In these strange times of Covid-19 the online provision has been exceptional. We are so lucky to have had the opportunity to take part in this fantastic collaboration."

Kelly Bolland, EYFS Leader at Ryton Federation

Care Home Choir Voices Project

With funding from The Paul & Nick Harvey Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund and Tyne & Wear Community Foundation we were able to expand our music services for people living with dementia. The care home choir, made up of 75 residents and care staff, went online during the pandemic meeting virtually each week to sing and learn new harmonies.

The funding brings with it the opportunity to roll out the programme to venues in Newcastle and Sunderland ahead of planned performances of new songs with the Royal Northern Sinfonia in 2022.

"Since 2018 our care home choir in Gateshead has been supporting people with dementia to explore their imaginations and live in the moment, focusing on what they can achieve. This funding, and linking together with Royal Northern Sinfonia, will provide more people access to creative and meaningful opportunities to support communication and wellbeing." Kate Parkin, Equal Arts' Creative Age Lead



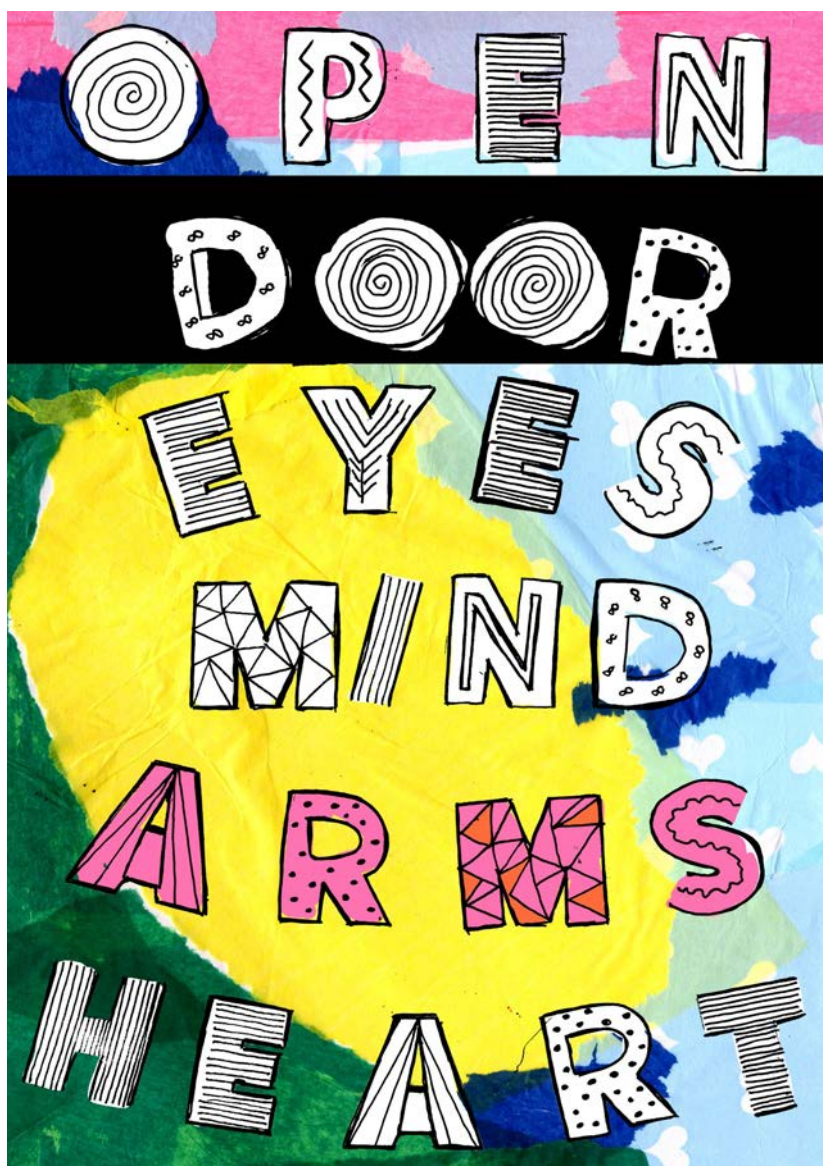


This new online approach has seen us create our first online-only group for people living in their own homes who wanted to make new connections through creative writing.

Led by performance poet Daisy Barrett-Nash, Writers at Play is a group of men and women aged 55+ from across the UK and USA who've forged new friendships through poetry every week online.

Another new area we explored was providing a number of 'taster' sessions online for anyone aged 55+. Each week people enjoyed dance, visual arts, ceramics, and illustration supported by professional artists from the UK, Italy and Israel.

Seeing the success of this digital approach, we ran a six-week online project with our established Carers' Cultural Adventures group with illustrator Bethan Laker. With postal packs and in online workshops, the group explored what it meant to return to public creative spaces. The end result saw their pieces exhibited outdoors at Shipley Gallery in Gateshead as they reopened their doors.



"Working together has been something to look forward to, an enjoyable moment when days, because of the restrictions, have tended to be a bit dull. Seeing familiar faces on the screen and having a go at new activities together has been heart-warming."
Claudine, a member of Equal Arts' online creative workshops



The established relationships built up through our HenPower Project prior to the pandemic put us in a strong position to be able to see first-hand the difficulties facing care homes and how best to meet the needs care staff were telling us about.

From support with technology, maximising outdoor spaces in creative ways, garden music gigs and connecting residents with schools and families we were able to adapt HenPower activities to continue supporting projects and people.



Highlights included a mental health and wellbeing partnership with Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and Darlington Borough Council. We brought outdoor arts sessions and singing and movement to patients at Lanchester Road Hospital's Roseberry Ward and residents from the council's Ted Fletcher Court.

At Parkfield House, part of Canford Care in London, residents kept connected with children from Glebe Primary School thanks to funding from The Armed Forces Covenant Fund, in their Stronger Together project. Together they creatively explored what community and togetherness means. Following the success of HenPower at Parkfield we welcomed a new venue to the initiative, with residents and staff at The Willows joining the flock.

Watch the latest film from the Stronger Together project [here](#).



Report of trustees' (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Charity Number 517352
Company Number 01992359 (England and Wales)
Registered Office Level 3, Newcastle City Library, 33 New Bridge Street West,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom, NE1 8AX.

Our advisors

Examiners

Haines Watts, 17 Queens Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1RN.

Legal Advisor: Patterson Wolf & Co.

Bankers

Barclay Bank Plc 215 High Street, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 1BX.

Trustees

Anne Walton (Chair)

Patricia Anne McDermott (Vice Chair)

Irena Peel (Treasurer)

Cllr Marilyn Charlton

Dr Karen Franks

Prof Glenda Cooke (retired 07.07.20)

Deborah Smith (retired 25.08.20)

John Connelly (from 8.12.20)

Syeda Begum (from 8.12.20)

John Beeley (from 8.12.20)

Staff

Douglas Hunter

Chief Executive Officer

Kate Parkin

Creative Age Programme Manager

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the staff members, freelance contractors, volunteers, care staff and funders who've supported and inspired Equal Arts with their ideas, enthusiasm and commitment during an unprecedented year.





SIR JAMES KNOTT TRUST

