

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

ArmstrongWatson[®]
Accountants, Business & Financial Advisers

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Ms A Armett representing Sellafield Ltd Mr I Fisher representing the University of Central Lancashire Mr A Sellar representing the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Professor M Waters (appointed 1 September 2023) Professor S Twiselton (appointed 1 September 2023)
Trustees	Mr K Lofthouse, Co-opted Trustee (resigned 27 January 2023) Mr S Asquith, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Sponsor-appointed Trustee Professor S Crean, UCLAN Sponsor-appointed Trustee Mrs M Pearse, Co-opted Trustee Mrs S Walker, Vice Chair and Sellafield Limited Sponsor-appointed Trustee Mrs A Cowperthwaite, Co-opted Trustee (appointed 17 October 2022) Professor C Jackson, UCLAN Sponsor-appointed Trustee Mr J Rice, Sellafield Limited Sponsor-appointed Trustee Professor S Twiselton, Co-opted Trustee (resigned 31 August 2023) Dr J Quaye OBE, Co-opted Trustee (appointed 1 September 2023) Mr D Davidson, Chair and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Sponsor-appointed Trustee (appointed 1 September 2023) Ms G Crooks, Co-opted Trustee (appointed 1 September 2023) Mr T Barlow, Co-opted Trustee (appointed 11 September 2023)
Company registered number	06627459
Company name	Changing Lives Learning Trust
Principal and registered office	Main Street Egremont Cumbria CA22 2DQ
Company Secretary	Miss C Stevenson (resigned 31 January 2023) Miss L Watson (appointed 1 February 2023, resigned 26 March 2023) Mrs G Tyler (appointed 27 March 2023)
Chief Executive Officer	Mr J Johnson OBE
Senior management team	Ms J Schafer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Mrs T Shackley, Chief Operating Officer Miss C Stevenson, Governance, Risk & Assurance Director (resigned 31 January 2023) Miss L Watson, Chief Finance Officer Mrs A Deeks, Principal of West Lakes Academy Miss S McCabe, Executive Headteacher of Arlecdon & Thornhill Primary Schools (resigned 31 August 2023) Ms J Wilson, Headteacher of Dearham Primary School Mrs T Peers, Headteacher of Flimby Primary School Mrs L Robson, Headteacher of Arlecdon Primary School (appointed 1 September 2023) Mrs L Martin, Headteacher of Thornhill Primary School (appointed 1 September 2023)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
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Independent auditors Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
James Watson House
Montgomery Way
Rosehill
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA1 2UU

Bankers NatWest
71 Lowther Street
Whitehaven
Cumbria
CA28 7AH

Solicitors Browne Jacobson
Mawbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BG

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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the Multi-Academy Trust for the year to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Multi-Academy Trust was established on 1 June 2018 following approval from the Secretary of State for Education; on this date the name of West Lakes Academy, Company Number 06627459, was changed to West Lakes Multi Academy Trust. The Sponsored Multi-Academy Trust was constituted from the previous West Lakes Academy Sponsored Single Academy Trust which was established in July 2009.

On 6 December 2022, the Trust changed its name to Changing Lives Learning Trust.

At 31 August 2023, the Trust operated four primary academies and one secondary academy in Cumberland. Its Academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1,778 and had a roll of 1,767 in the school census on January 2023.

On 1 November 2023, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and St Bees Village Primary School joined the Trust. Kirkby Thore School is expected to join the Trust on 1 January 2024. In addition, Alston Moor Federation and Settlebeck School are in due diligence and expected to join the Trust on 1 April 2024.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Multi-Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Multi-Academy Trust. The Trustees of Changing Lives Learning Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Changing Lives Learning Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

b. Members' liability

Each Member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a Member, or within one year after they cease to be a Member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

c. Trustees' indemnities

Indemnity insurance is provided for Trustees in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, the Companies Act 2006 s236. Any Trustee or former Trustee is indemnified against any liability incurred by him or her in that capacity, to the extent permitted by the Charities Act 2006.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Trust is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust Deed.

The Trustees of the Trust comprise:

1. Up to six Sponsor Trustees (the sponsors are the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Sellafield Ltd, and the University of Central Lancashire).
2. Up to three co-opted Trustees.

The Secretary of State may also appoint additional Trustees if she has concerns relating to standards of student achievement, leadership and management or health and safety.

The Board of Trustees identified the skills and experience it needed and addressed any gaps through recruitment and/or induction, training, and other development activities. The Governance Handbook is referred to in supporting this work and in identifying training materials to help Trustees engage fully with their role.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The Governance Professional is responsible for Trustee induction and training and has arranged an induction programme for new Trustees and ongoing training for Trustees. Each Trustee has received a copy of the current Governors' Guide to the Law, Governance Handbook and Academy Trust Handbook. Trustees undertake a self-evaluation of skills and expertise each year. This is used to inform specific training and development.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees of the Multi-Academy Trust meets at least six times a year to receive reports from its committees and manage its strategic objectives.

Following an external review by Browne Jacobson during 2020-21, on 1 April 2022 strategic recommendation groups were introduced into the governance structure (replacing local governing board committees), attended by governor representatives, and chaired by Trustees, which then fed into three board sub-committees.

This was refined further for the current financial year.

The Board currently has three committees:

- Audit and Risk Committee (Previously Safeguarding, Internal and External Audit, Intervention and Improvement Committee) which meets at least three times per year to: review audit reports (both from external auditors and internal audit reports from the Responsible Officer) consider the appointment of the external auditor, set and review the internal audit programme, review financial management and reporting arrangements, policies and procedures, risk management policy, strategy, processes and procedures and fraud matters including reporting to the ESFA where required.
- People, Estates and Finance Committee which meets at least six times per year to review: financial issues, budget monitoring reports, the three-year budget plan, health and safety reports, asset management, property management. The People, Estates and Finance Committee is responsible for the pay policy including salaries and gradings, increment reviews, the appraisal /performance management process, Chief Executive Officer's appraisal, human resources issues including staff grievances, complaints of harassment, staff grievances, discipline, dismissals, and appeals.
- Quality of Education Committee (previously the Curriculum, Learning and Outcomes Committee) which meets six times per year to review the in-year and summative performance of all academies in the Trust. It has a specific focus on raising standards of attainment and progress and ensuring successful engagement with the communities served. It monitors this through targets, value-added measures, student voice, self-evaluation, attendance among other key performance indicators.

The Local Governing Boards also have two committees that meet on an ad-hoc basis:

- The Discipline Committee, which meets to hear student exclusion appeals.
- Exclusion Panel, which meets to hear permanent exclusions or appeals.

On 1 September 2023, there was a further iteration of the governance structure, with Governance Days. Where there were previously several meetings across the academic year requiring considerable time of executive leaders, Governors, and Trustees, these have been condensed into one governance day per term. The Academy Boards are free to decide the day in a previously agreed week which is most suitable to meet with the committees and full board meeting all occurring on the same day. The meetings are held in person and allows Governors to be in school and utilise any free time within the day for their link visit and to see the operations of the school first hand. The first Academy Board Day will be held in the week commencing 20 November.

The Trust Day will take the same format, with the first scheduled for 5th December 2023.

The day-to-day leadership of The Trust is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer (Accounting Officer), who has appointed a Principal/Head Teacher and Leadership Group for each academy in the Multi-Academy Trust. They meet weekly, through the line management structure, to advise the Chief Executive Officer on their day-to-day responsibilities and to review budgets and budget forecasts to ensure that the Multi-Academy Trust operates within its funding limits.

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Structure, governance and management (continued)

More specifically the Principal/Head Teacher and a nominated Local Governor meet with the Chief Finance Officer to review the monthly budget monitoring report, addressing any unplanned variances, and planning for any changes.

Local Governing Boards method of recruitment, appointment, and election

Each academy within the Multi-Academy Trust has its own Local Governing Board. The specific structure, membership and Terms of Reference of each academy are directed by the Trustees.

The academy Local Governing Boards comprise:

- Up to six Sponsor Governors who are appointed by the sponsors and approved by Trustees (the Sponsors are Sellafield Ltd, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and University of Central Lancashire). Where there are insufficient nominations from the sponsor organisations, the Terms of Reference allow for vacancies to be filled by suitably qualified and skilled persons subject to Trust Board approval.
- Two Parent Governors who are elected by parents.
- Three co-opted Governors appointed by Trustees.
- One staff Governor elected by staff.

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The rules for determining the pay of key management personnel (for the purposes of this definition, this includes the Chief Executive Officer, Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals who sit on the Academy Leadership Groups) are set out in the School Teacher's Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). Academies and free schools can set their own pay and conditions, but often choose to follow the STPCD.

The Board of Trustees of Changing Lives Learning Trust has established a pay range for the Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Principals in accordance with the STPCD. On determining the appropriate pay range the Board of Trustees considered the permanent responsibilities of the role, any challenges that are specific to the role and all other relevant considerations. As directed by the STPCD the maximum Vice Principals' pay range has not exceeded the maximum of the Headteacher group for each individual academy and Principal/Headteacher.

The remuneration of the central executive team non-STPCD staff is reviewed on an annual basis following the completion of the appraisal cycle. The recommendation (where appropriate) for progression within the determined pay range is presented by The Chief Executive Officer to the People, Estates and Finance Committee.

The Trust Board commissioned an independent review of the salary structure for the role of the Chief Executive Officer in June 2020 and also reviewed the salary in accordance with the guidance "Setting Executive Pay". This role is viewed by The Trustees as critical to the long term success of The Trust for the benefit of all students. Trustees have taken this into full account when determining the pay scale for the Chief Executive Officer. In light of these considerations, the pay range for the Chief Executive Officer has exceeded the maximum of the Headteacher group 7. Whilst there is no direction in the STPCD regarding executive pay, the Academies Trust Handbook provides guidance and this has been followed by the Trustees. There was a further review of the Chief Executive Officer's salary in February 2021.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	4
Full-time equivalent employee number	4

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	4
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time **£000**

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	9,482
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	- %
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i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The sponsors of the Multi-Academy Trust are Sellafeld Ltd, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the University of Central Lancashire. They each provide Trustees to assist with governance of the Multi-Academy Trust.

A Governor has a company called "VAA Education Consultancy" and this connected organisation has been declared to the ESFA.

During the year there were two further related party transactions which were declared to the ESFA, one being a purchase made from a company owned by a local governor at Flimby Primary School and the second being a purchase made from a business owned by a staff member at Dearham Primary School.

Four gifts were declared in the academic year to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Finance Officer, Chief Operating Officer and NPQ lead.

During the financial year, 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023, the Multi-Academy Trust comprised of five Academies: Arlecdon Primary School, Dearham Primary School, Flimby Primary School, Thornhill Primary School and West Lakes Academy and the Teaching School Hub, One Cumbria.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Structure, governance and management (continued)

j. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The Trust carries out exit interviews for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the Trustees.

The Trust has published the gender pay gap report as required Under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017, and as an employer with over 250 employees. At the time of reporting, 31 March 2022, Changing Lives Learning Trust had 303 full-time equivalent employees of which 83.8% were female and 16.2% male.

The mean gender gap in hourly pay was -£4.76 (23.52%) and median gender pay gap in hourly rate was -£5.85 (31.74%), with the number of employees in each quartile comparative. The Trust has reviewed the snapshot data and created objectives to reduce the gender pay gap.

It should be noted, that 71.6% of our employees are support staff and 88.9% of these staff are female. The overall gender pay gap figure for the Trust therefore largely reflects the composition of our workforce, as opposed to pay inequalities. The full report can be viewed on the Trust's website: [onecumbria.education](https://www.onecumbria.education)

The public sector apprenticeship target report sets out how the Trust has met the government's target to employ 2.3% of its staff as new apprentice starts within the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Trust exceeded the target, achieving 9.68% of new apprentice starts as a proportion of employment starts within the period.

The Trust has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including (this list is not exhaustive):

- Appraisal policy
- Bribery policy
- Capability policy
- Charging and remissions policy
- Code of conduct policy
- Crisis management policy
- Equal opportunities policy
- Health and safety policy
- Leave of absence policy
- Lone working policy
- Sickness management policy
- Supervision policy
- Well Being policy

In accordance with the Trust's equal opportunities policy, the Trust has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention, and training.

Full details of these policies are available from the Trust's offices.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Structure, governance and management (continued)

k. Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Trust

Delivering the Trust's strategy requires strong mutually beneficial relationships with suppliers, customers, the wider community, and the Trust's regulatory agencies.

The Board of Trustees and executive team are responsible for maintaining collaborative relationships with the representatives of the Trust's regulatory agencies, the wider community, and colleagues in the education sector.

The CEO, DCEO, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Operating Officer are responsible for overseeing the Trusts procurement policy and ensuring value for money is demonstrated by selection of suppliers through a competitive tender process.

In addition, the Head teachers/Principals are responsible for engaging with students and parents, the local authority, and representatives from neighbouring schools. Each academy has established a student council to provide feedback from students on all matters of teaching, learning and welfare within our academies.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the Charitable Company is the operation of Changing Lives Learning Trust to provide education for students of different abilities between the ages of 2 and 19.

In accordance with the Articles of Association the Charitable Company has adopted a Funding Agreement approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Funding Agreement specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the Academies within the Multi-Academy Trust, the catchment areas from which students are drawn, and that the curriculums should comply with the substance of the national curriculum. The main objectives of the Multi-Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below.

The Multi-Academy Trust supports and challenges all our schools to:

- Sustain educational standards above local and national levels identifying strengths and areas for improvement across the family of schools.
- Raise student aspirations by setting challenging targets, providing the highest quality of teaching, working with parents, providing a broad base of engagement activities to enrich their experiences, drawing on our rich employer links and providing work on mindsets.
- Promote and nurture community cohesion. Providing students and parents with opportunities within their community to demonstrate their social, moral, spiritual, and cultural responsibilities together with the appreciation of the Fundamental British Values.
- Involve and work in collaboration with key stakeholders, partners, and the community to provide a 'one health' structure that draws together Health, Social Care, Voluntary, Faith, and Children's Centres.
- Governors focused on the right provision for each child at the right time.
- Ensure that key stakeholder groups are represented on Local Governing Boards.
- Ensure that members of the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) staff and all those who contribute to MAT activities are positive role models for students.
- Provide a programme of high quality continual professional development (CPD) and training for all members of staff to underpin and sustain improvements in the core functions of the MAT. The CPD framework is supported and delivered through our Teaching School Hub, One Cumbria.
- Draw further on our strengths of Governance, Leadership and Management in bringing about transformational change; replicating the structures already established across all our schools, bringing the same skill level to bear on school improvement.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

Changing Lives Learning Trust's main strategy is encompassed in its vision statement which is "to have legitimate grounds to claim that those we undertake to teach and train will have a preparation for life that is excelled by no other. This will be our distinction."

c. Public benefit

Changing Lives Learning Trust Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission (on their website at Charities and Public Benefit) in exercising their powers or duties. Our focus will always be on securing purposeful progress towards the distinction, having developed, and continually developing, our model for school improvement that is focused on creating collaborative pedagogical model to have a transformational effect on children's life chances within very quick timescales.

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

Post 16

The provisional results for student who completed A Level exams in summer 2023 were as follows:

The results for students who completed A Level exams in summer 2023 were as follows:

		West Lakes Academy	Cumbria	England
A Level	Points	36.67	Not available	38.87
	Average result	B-	Not available	B
Academic	Points	36.84	Not available	39.04
	Average result	B-	Not available	B
Applied	Points	35.1	Not available	31.98
	Average result	Dist	Not available	Dist-

GCSE

The results for pupils who completed key stage four exams in summer 2023 were as follows:

	West Lakes Academy	Cumbria	England
Progress 8	-0.36	-0.28	-0.03
Attainment 8 score	43.6	43.2	46.2
Grade 5 or above in English and Maths	35%	37%	45%
EBacc average point score	3.93	3.8	4.05
Entering EBacc	68%	35%	39%
Staying in education or entering employment	93%	Not available	94%

Key Stage Two SATS

	Maths	Reading	SPAG	Writing	Reading, writing and maths
Arlecdon Primary School	78%	67%	89%	56%	56%
Dearham Primary School	73%	73%	70%	62%	50%
Flimby Primary School	44%	63%	56%	38%	38%
Thornhill Primary School	78%	45%	67%	67%	45%
National	73%	73%	72%	71%	59%

The outcomes presented above represent the percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Achievements and performance (continued)

School Improvement Partners

Each school has appointed an independent school improvement partner who visits each term, undertaking deep dives into specific areas and providing feedback to the Headteacher with recommended actions which are then shared with the Central Executive Team, Governors, and Trust Board. The feedback and support provided is invaluable.

Sue Blair is the appointed school improvement partner for the primary schools and Richard Gill is the appointed school improvement partner for West Lakes Academy.

Teaching School Hub

Changing Lives Learning Trust's application for a Teaching School Hub ("One Cumbria") was successful and as announced by the DfE on the 10th February 2021 was one of 87 Hubs which replaced over 750 Teaching School Alliances. These Hubs are to provide high-quality professional development to teachers and leaders at all stages of their career and play a key role in helping to build up trainee teachers as they enter the workforce.

Teaching schools (TS), such as West Lakes Teaching School Alliance, have been a successful initiative, which the DfE has sponsored since 2011. The DfE created a policy to build on the successes of the programme, and reform the system to have fewer, better-funded organisations, with national coverage and a clear focused purpose on teacher development.

The Recruitment and Retention strategy (January 2019) committed to improving the national professional development offer to all schools and teachers. The Secretary of State has repeatedly made it clear that teacher and leader development is the most important form of school improvement.

TSH's clearly defined role in professional development will make it easier for schools and teachers to identify the range of teacher development available to them, as well as provide TSH with a targeted, manageable workload.

The aim was to bring together high-performing schools, to make it easier for the best schools to share resources and spread best practice across the country –helping ensure that teaching standards continue to rise in our schools.

Every school in the county will have greater access to expert teacher training and development. The teaching workforce will get best-practice and expert advice on how best to engage with pupils, lesson planning, and classroom management, as part of new teaching school hubs being rolled out across the country.

This academic year was the second year of operations for One Cumbria, which successfully recruited 293 early career teachers of which 152 were in the 2022-23 academic year and 231 individuals on the National Professional Qualifications taking the total participating in NPQ courses to 371, which significantly exceeded the targets initially set in the DfE delivery plan.

The Teaching School Hub sponsored an exchange visit to the English College in Prague in June 2023 for a Teacher at West Lakes Academy.

The Trust has created an App, Live Work Grow, which allows users to put in all their lifestyle requirements, work requirements, the distance they are prepared to travel to each of those requirements and the App calculates the optimal place for the user to live. It is already available on App stores in a user testing format and will continue to be developed in the coming year. The Trust Board donated £17k from the Endowment in 2019 to fund this initiative and a further £8k was incurred under the remit of One Cumbria as a key part of the strategy for recruiting people to the region. This will benefit the Trust directly by balancing the lifestyle and career needs of prospective colleagues.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Achievements and performance (continued)

One Cumbria was awarded Initial Teacher Training Accredited Provider Status for the reformed ITT qualification from 2024 and is the only provider across the two new unitary authorities of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness to be accredited. In 2023-24, the hub will be a delivery partner of Teach First for ITT provision across Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness.

One Cumbria Vision

By 2021, our clearly articulated all-through career framework will understand and provide for the individual development needs of everyone working in our schools, complemented by a strategic overview that builds simplicity in recruitment and capacity ahead of need.

By 2022, One Cumbria will be whole; through a collaborative model of systemic training, we will energise a professional dissatisfaction in our craft because no matter how good we are we will all remain utterly convinced we can be better. It will deliver consistent exceptional performance being an identifiable contributor to economic prowess.

By 2023, children in Cumbria will attend schools that are academically obsessed with delivering the pinnacle of teaching and learning, as though we invented it. It will not matter where they live, they will have the very best schools right there in their own community.

By 2024, under the expert guidance of academically brilliant adults Cumbria's children will be learning the powerful knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values they need to thrive and shape their world.

By 2025, the effortless recruitment of aspiring teachers, the training and retention of existing teachers and leaders in Cumbria will intuitively deliver a network of perpetual development and opportunity to those experts in their fields. One Cumbria will naturally retain talent until it is time to let it loose on the rest of the education system with all the skills and potency borne from an unrivalled training institute.

By 2030, One Cumbria will have legitimate grounds to claim that our educational experience enables those we undertake to train a preparation for life that is excelled by no other. This will be our distinction.

Primary Technical College

The Trust has been awarded the Registered Trademark for what is the first Primary Technical College in the UK. Its purpose is to reach primary school children and their teachers in Cumbria with "Great Egg Race"-style learning opportunities, for free.

Since July 2021, a small group has been developing and co-ordinating the launch of the "Proof of Concept" stage. The group comprises:

- Jonathan Johnson OBE – CEO Changing Lives Learning Trust
- Judith Schafer – DCEO Changing Lives Learning Trust
- Sarah Connon – Assistant Headteacher Ashton Community Science College and Science Learning Partnership (Lancashire and Cumbria) - <https://www.ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk/about-us/science-learning-partnership>
- Pete Woolaghan – REACT Foundation
- Fran Ward – C-STEM
- Owen McAteer – STEM UK

The Launch dates were:

- Website went live on 7th April 2022 – birthdate of Ole Kirk Christiansen – inventor of Lego (www.primarytechnical.college)
- Launch Day 1 (North) – 23rd June 2022 – Birthday of Alan Turing
- Launch Day 2 (South) – 28th September 2022 – Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin
- Launch Day 3 (West) – 21st and 22nd November 2022 – Einstein's first publication of the theory of relativity research

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Achievements and performance (continued)

School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA)

As part of our progress to adopting Queen Elizabeth Grammar School we were required to undertake a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) evaluation in November 2022.

The purpose of the visit was to review the Trust's financial position, budget setting and the capacity of the Trust for growth.

Recommendations, opportunities, and associated cost savings were provided to the Trust to consider ensuring the most financially efficient model was in place moving forward. All opportunities have been taken into consideration in the 2023-24 budget forecast.

Key Performance Indicators

The total number of students in the year ended 31 August 2023 was 1,767 (1,746 at 31 August 2022).

Jonathan Johnson OBE, Trust CEO, held the following responsibilities in the year:

- Member of the DfE's Teaching School Hub Council
- Member of the DfE's Headteacher Reference Group
- Regional Delivery Partner for DfE Trust and School Improvement Offer covering Cumbria, Lancashire, and North Yorkshire.
- School Improvement Partner

Other Highlights

- In 2023 we were successful in one bid to ESFA's Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) at Dearham Primary School in respect of the replacement of the roof totalling £376,668. The Trust contributed £41,968.
- Eight CIF projects which were awarded in the 2022 window were completed in the academic year at Arlecdon, Flimby and Thornhill Primary Schools and West Lakes Academy. The award of the projects was published in June 2022, the total funding awarded amounted to £1,611,357 and the Trust contribution amounted to £183,378.
- The Trust received additional capital grants from the DfE totalling £98,889 of which West Lakes Academy received £47,989 which was utilised as a contribution towards the installation of the balustrades. The remaining funds £73,044 were provided by the Endowment.
- Painting took place at Dearham and Flimby Primary Schools in the summer holidays.
- Dearham Primary School were successful in their bid for funding from the GDF fund and were awarded £10,000 which will enable the school to relocate the sensory room to the ground floor and have a dedicated space. This work will take place in the 2023-24 academic year.
- Flimby Primary School were successful in their bid for funding from the GDF fund and were awarded £52k over a two-year period in respect of the appointment of a family support worker.
- Air gap backups were installed in the autumn term so that the Trust is compliant with the RPA insurance requirements for cyber security. The total cost amounted to £13,935.
- Following the attempted phishing attack in December 2021, two factor authentication was introduced Trust wide at a cost of £1,800.
- The work on the wide area network was completed and work has begun to create a new Trust drive and structure.
- Network service contract outsourced in October 2022 at a cost of £176,917.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

Fund raising activities included:

- Dearham Primary School took part in various fundraising activities throughout the year raising:
 - o Children in Need sports day - £283
 - o PJ day for PE equipment - £197
 - o Young Voices Bingo night to help transport costs to Manchester - £485
 - o Team Evie Reading Challenge to raise funds for our nominated charity Team Evie which supplies essentials and care packages, mobile libraries and many other ways to support families with children who are seriously ill. The school raised £1,500.
- Flimby Primary School took part in various fundraising activities throughout the year raising:
 - o Children in Need - £131
 - o Team Evie Reading Challenge £422
 - o Children's Cancer Run - £3,415
 - o Hospice at home - £67
- The Trust donated hundreds of kilos to the North Lakes Foodbank and continues to make regular monthly donations to the Foodbank.
- Arlecdon Primary School raised funds to support the renovation of the school library with donations from Helix Roofing of £200 and Tesco Community Grant of £500.
- Arlecdon Primary School took part in various fundraisers and raised £1289.70 for Team Evie and Red Nose Day, and in addition raised £559.50 by taking part in a sponsored walk up Dent Fell to raise money for Children in Need.
- Thornhill Primary School raised £219.50 for Team Evie.
- West Lakes Academy organised a sponsored walk and various activities during the period 26 June to 14 July 2023 in memory of Mrs McConnell, English Teacher, raising £2,910 for Cancer Research UK.
- West Lakes Academy took part in the Genes for Jeans Day, raising £181.
- West Lakes Academy took part in the Wear it pink day, raising £178 for Breast Cancer Now.
- West Lakes Academy introduced a new rewards programme that sees achievement points earned by the students converted into money for a charity of their choice. £621 was donated to Macmillan.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, The Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that The Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

A budget plan has been prepared for the next three years which corroborates this and regular monitoring and reporting of performance will highlight any issues, allowing corrective action to be taken.

The major areas for concern are loss of funding due to budget cuts or falling student numbers (predicted student numbers are strong due to the popularity of the Multi-Academy Trust although local demographics are affecting primary school pupil numbers) and the Local Government Pensions Scheme deficit.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Promoting the success of the company

Under Section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act the Trustees must always act in a way to promote the success of the company. In doing so they have regard for:

- The likely consequences of any decision in the long term – an example is the lengths Trustees went to in determining the ongoing decisions to open or close in line with DfE expectations.
- The interests of the company's employees – an example is the continual refinement and update to HR policies to include generous pay protection (two years rather than one), generous fertility treatment arrangements along with gender reassignment, pay equality proposals, creation of a Trust-wide consultative group called Staff Trust Engagement and Mindfulness (STEAM).
- The need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers, and others – an example is the review of all our contracts and services together with competitive tender processes.
- The impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment – an example is our cycle to work scheme, global sustainable goals in our primary schools. In addition, during the academic year the investment objective for the Endowment investment was revised and the funds moved to a sustainable balanced portfolio.
- The desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct – our policies reference NOLAN Principles of Public Life and all our employees are bound by our policies and the expectations of high standards at all times as a reflection of the organisation and the sponsors.
- The need to act fairly between members of the company – an example is the additional information meetings we have for Members to keep them informed with the same information.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Streamlined energy & carbon reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

	Year 2022/23	Year 2021/22
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,070,673	2,138,317
Energy consumption break down (kWh):		
Gas	1,180,353	1,244,719
Electricity	883,877	890,303
Bioenergy	158,000	159,100
Transport fuel	6,443	3,295
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Gas consumption	215.49	227.21
Bioenergy consumption	1.70	1.68
Owned transport - mini-buses	0.00	0.00
Total Scope 1	217.18	228.89
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Purchased electricity	183.03	172.17
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	6.44	3.29
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	406.65	404.35
Intensity ratio Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.24	0.23

Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2023 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We have installed smart meters across all sites and increased video conferencing technology for staff meetings, to reduce the need for travel between sites.

Our travel and expenses policy pays HMRC rates however for journeys over 200 miles, the use of public transport is encouraged. The policy has an expectation that where possible we use public transport.

A heat decarbonisation plan has been completed for West Lakes Academy following the decarbonisation visit in the autumn term. A prioritisation exercise was carried out by the Department for Education to confirm which schools may receive funding to support the improvements suggested and unfortunately the academy was not eligible for funding to implement the recommendations. In 2022/23, the lighting in the academy continues to be upgraded to LED lights at a cost of £9k which is the second year of a three-year plan.

The 2022/23 CIF projects across the Trust will result in the energy usage reducing over the next two years with savings of:

- Arlecdon Primary School – expected savings of £4,844 per year
- Flimby Primary School – expected savings of £5,721 per year
- Thornhill Primary School – expected savings of £1,399 per year
- West Lakes Academy – expected savings of £7,134 per year

Financial review

Most of the Multi-Academy Trust's income is obtained from the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purchases. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned.

Expenditure in the year ended 31 August 2023 was £15,625,000 (2022: £13,884,000 restated). This was more than covered by recurrent grant funding and grants brought forward from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The deficit for the year was £300,000 revenue (£1,250,000 including depreciation and amortisation). 2022: £1,362,000 revenue deficit (£2,321,000 deficit including depreciation and amortisation).

The West Lakes Academy building was introduced in the year ended 31 August 2012 at a value of £24,426,000. Depreciation incurred on the building in the current year was £485,529. The total amortisation and depreciation charge amounted to £671,887.

The depreciation policy for buildings was reduced from 60 years to 50 years on 1 September 2022 to more closely follow FRS102, as a result the comparative accumulated depreciation was increased by £914,445.

The Multi-Academy Trust's reserves now stand at £28,592,000 (2022: £27,847,000 restated). Trustees are aware of the impact of government changes to the funding formula for academies and are pleased to have reserves which will smooth the impact of the changes on the learning experience of Changing Lives Learning Trust students.

The Multi-Academy Trust receives free of charge the services of an appropriately experienced individual to act as Responsible Officer from one of the sponsor organisations (The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority). They carried out a programme of internal audits, making recommendations for improvements to internal controls and reporting to Trustees. The deemed value of the work was £5,000.

There were voluntary contributions from our sponsor Sellafield Ltd. through their experts in Health and Safety who visited all our sites to assess and approve our plans.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

a. Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Multi-Academy Trust annually. The review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves. The amount of free reserves that can be held is not limited by the ESFA.

The Trust's target is to have free reserves of at least one month's operating costs, approximately £1,270,115 (2022: £1,081,000). The Trust's reserves on 31 August 2023 were £28,592,000 (2022: £27,847,000 restated). Of these reserves, £187,000 (2022: £497,000) are free reserves.

Following the move to the new building for West Lakes Academy in April 2012, a plan was constructed which identifies the long-term cyclical needs of renewal. The Trust's policy is to carry forward a prudent level of reserves designed to meet cyclical renewal costs and any other unforeseen contingencies, subject to the constraint that the level of resources does not exceed the level permitted by the ESFA.

The LGPS is currently in a deficit position which would result in a cash flow effect for the Trust in the form of increased employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The Trust revisits business plans and budgets annually to ascertain how pension costs might affect budgets in future years. On the basis that increased pension contributions would be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income, whilst the deficit might not be eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, or direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust as a result of recognising the deficit.

b. Investment policy

The Trust received £2 million in sponsorship from BNFL (now the NDA) in 2008. The Trust complies with the requirements of the Deed of Gift in relation to the sponsorship funding provided by Trust sponsors. The Trust aims, through the utilisation of a professional team of financial investment managers, to:

- Develop a portfolio that supports green energy and avoids investment in companies with a bias towards alcohol and tobacco;
- Create a diverse portfolio of investments to minimise financial risk;
- Generate a level of income of approximately £50,000 to £100,000 per annum; and
- As a minimum maintain the current value of the capital asset and where possible create some capital growth.

The Deed of Gift has been invested in a diverse portfolio of investments. The capital value of £2,316,576 on 1 September 2022 has decreased to £2,229,959 on 31 August 2023 with an income to the Trust of £84,330 and an endowment investment loss of £159,661.

Funds have been utilised in 2022-23 to fund the Flimby capital building project, resources for curriculum development, the Primary Technical College, balustrade installation at West Lakes Academy and Coronation gifts for the students.

Funds are committed for the Trust wide inset day in January 2024 and curriculum changes.

The Endowment Trustees met with HSBC on 15th May 2023 to discuss the annual risk appetite questionnaire and the portfolio of investment. The Trustees agreed with HSBC that the risk appetite remained moderate.

The main point of discussion was the portfolio of stocks: their type and global focus. The funds continue to be invested in the Sustainable Balanced portfolio, one that invests in stocks of organisations scoring highly in ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance Values), which matches the agreed risk profile.

The Endowment Trustees agreed in 2020-21 that rather than continually drawing off the interest the strategy would be to only draw down funds when a project warranted it. There was no change to the strategy in 2022-23. There is a fund held as a float in case of emergency need, amounting to £86k on 31st August 2023.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks to the Multi-Academy Trust are:

- Safety and security - Potential for a significant safety or security event, or a trend of increasing events, which results in harm to students and/or staff.
- Safeguarding - Potential for safeguarding failure by the Trust which damages the children and staff.
- Reputation - Potential for loss of public confidence in the MAT within host communities, making it difficult to attract- retain students and talented staff, maintain the support of wider stakeholders, and impacting the Trust's growth strategy. Potential impact on the reach of the TSH into Cumbrian schools which is a key foundational aspect of our vision around exceptional performance and teaching and attracting schools to join the MAT.
- Recruitment, retention, and development of key personnel - Potential for quality of education to deteriorate as a result of failure to attract, retain, develop, and motivate key personnel (teaching, support, management).
- Quality of education - Potential for the quality of education to decline through poor leadership, poor curriculum, poor teaching and learning, poor outcomes, behaviour for learning, poor recruitment levels.
- Financial viability - Potentially ceasing to be financially viable due to insufficient income to meet operating costs. Costs include salaries and all other commitments to maintain appropriate service and resourcing levels on a sustainable basis, whilst allowing for growth.
- Asset condition - Potential for significant asset failure resulting in health and safety risk, disruption to operations, unattractiveness to students and increased cost.
- Policy and regulation - Potential for significant changes (or uncertainty) in policy which threatens MAT growth or underpins the strategy. Could manifest as increasing influence from, or attractiveness of, other models.
- Diversity and scale of portfolio - Failure to achieve successful acquisition or partnerships with suitable schools, enabling a balanced and diverse portfolio, resulting in failure to underpin the demonstration of a universal teaching solution. Selection needs to consider type of school and size and viability to meet Trust vision.
- Digital and technology standards - Failure to meet the standards outlined in the DfE's guidelines for IT and digital equipment standard. This includes cybersecurity standards, technology standards and will include data protection.
- One Cumbria Teaching School Hub - Failure to achieve successful operation of TSH remit, particularly recruitment of ECTs, NPQs. Implementation of ITT provision from 2024 (and pilot in 2023). Operating a balanced budget in balance with a proactive strategic vision.

There is an operational risk associated with the emergence of numerous on-line learning platforms and the risk of a data breach. We have a dedicated DPO who thoroughly investigates each platform and completes a Data Protection Impact Assessment to be assured that we are safe when delivering and places restrictions on their use where the risk is too great.

d. Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Multi-Academy Trust is aware of the impact of potential cuts in future levels of government funding and continually reviews its costs to ensure long term viability.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Fundraising

The majority of Trust income which is relied on for supporting the Trust's educational objectives is in the form of the General Annual Grant. Additional funding has been received in relation to the Chief Executive Officer's roles as a National Leader of Education and a member of the Teaching School Hub Council.

This is supplemented by a range of fundraising activities to deliver enhanced education provision:

Fundraising from parents recognises the aspiration of parents to ensure the best education for their children balanced with the financial realities. The major area of parental support is the iPad scheme operated by The Trust which has been extremely successful in raising academic outcomes for all students. The Trust is clear that it does not want any student to not have access to iPads for financial reasons and therefore provides support for parents and students who have difficulties in funding an iPad. The parental donations towards the cost of the iPad programme are significant; the Trustees recognise the important value of these contributions, without which the scheme could not operate.

We welcome support from local organisations and benefitted from in-kind support from local organisations in the delivery of a number of curriculum activities as well as careers guidance and interviewing skills.

Fundraising activities are coordinated and monitored by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer; we do not use any external fundraisers. We do not pressure any members of the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonable, intrusive, or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate.

Complaints with regard to fundraising are managed by the Chief Finance Officer. There have been no complaints in the period.

Plans for future periods

The Multi-Academy Trust will continue to strive to improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels to ensure its students obtain employment or a place in higher education when they leave.

In the forthcoming year, West Lakes Academy will exceed its Planned Admission Number of 180 student intake in Year 7 and will work to increase its recruitment to post 16 education.

An Academy Development Plan for each Academy has been developed by the Principal/Headteacher and Academy Leadership Group. The plan sets out clear targets for student achievement and standards of teaching which has clear links to the 2023/2024 budget and this same principle is applied to the 2024/2025 planning cycle.

Changing Lives Learning Trust makes contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme to provide the benefits which will become payable to scheme members when they fall due. The Trust currently pays employer contributions at a rate of 16.9% plus a fixed sum for deficit recovery as advised by the scheme administrators. The fixed sum for the year ended 31 August 2024, including Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, is £183,100. The Trust will annually monitor performance of the scheme and follow the advice of the scheme administrators on contribution rates.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and St Bees Village Primary School joined the Trust on 1 November 2023 and Kirkby Thore School is expected to join the Trust on 1 January 2024. In addition, Alston Moor Federation and Settlebeck School are in due diligence and expected to join the Trust on 1 April 2024.

The Trust submitted an application to open our own Alternative Provision Free School. At the time of writing, we await the outcome of the application.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on and signed on its behalf by:


.....

Mr D Davidson
(Chair of Trustees)

Date *15th December 2023*

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Changing Lives Learning Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Changing Lives Learning Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of Trustees has formally met 8 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs M Pearse	9	9
Mrs S Walker	9	9
Professor S Crean	3	9
Mr S Asquith	8	9
Professor C Jackson	0	9
Mr K Lofthouse	3	5
Professor S Twiselton, Co-opted Trustee	3	9
Mrs A Cowperthwaite	3	7
Mr J Rice	5	9

As referenced in the previous section, The Board of Trustees has undertaken a range of self-review exercises since incorporation in 2008. Trustees now plan to hold an annual self-review of governance. The most recent review was with Browne Jacobson that resulted in a clear action plan of governance development. It recognised the strength of the governance and leadership of the trust.

Items included in the self-review include:

- Trustee and Governor's skills audit.
- Action plan which identifies areas of improvement and actions to be taken.

The People, Estates and Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Board of Trustees by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Board of Trustees responsibility to ensure sound management of the Trust's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring, and probity.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The responsibilities of the People, Estates and Finance Committee (formerly the Finance and General Purposes Committee) are:

- To make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the Board of Trustees on a regular basis.
- Major issues are referred to the full Board of Trustees for ratification.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr S Asquith	6	6
Mrs M Pearce	2	2
Mr J Rice	6	6
Mrs A Cowperthwaite	2	3
Mr J Johnson (delegated authority section 105 of the articles)	1	1

The Safeguarding, Internal and External Audit, Improvement and Intervention is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to support the Board of Trustees in monitoring the adequacy of governance, risk management and internal control systems.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs S Walker	4	4
Professor St John Crean	4	4
Mr K Lofthouse	3	3
Mrs J Schafer (delegated authority section 105 of the articles)	1	1

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received. He sends an annual letter to all staff, Governors, Trustees and Members which is cited by the ESFA as an example of best practice.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Multi Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

1. Consistently delivering good results at all key stages as detailed in the Achievements and Performance section on page 9 bearing in mind there were no external examinations or performance data in 2021. The most recent OFSTED reports are:
 - a. Arlecdon – joined in September 2019. They were last inspected in 2023 and rated good. Full details are available from the following link: <https://www.arlecdon.cumbria.sch.uk/ofsted-and-performance-data/>
 - b. Dearham – joined in September 2020. They were last inspected in 2012 and judged outstanding. Full details are available from the following link: <http://www.dearham.cumbria.sch.uk/useful-links-2/ofsted/>

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money (continued)

c. Flimby – joined in September 2020. They were last inspected in 2023 and judged Good. Full details are available from the following link: <https://www.flimby.cumbria.sch.uk/ofsted-and-performance-data/>

d. Thornhill School – They joined in September 2019. They were last inspected in 2019 and judged Good. Full details are available from the following link: <https://www.thornhill.cumbria.sch.uk/ofsted-and-performance-data/>

e. For West Lakes Academy (March 2017) - Outstanding across all areas of the inspection criteria. An ungraded inspection took place in April 2023 and there was no change to the overall judgement of outstanding. There was, however, a recommendation that the next inspection be a graded inspection. Full details are available from the following link: <https://www.westlakesacademy.org.uk/about-us/ofsted-report/> The Trust also tracks attendance of all students as per the data on page 9.

2. Robust governance and oversight of Multi-Academy Trust finances

The Trust benefits from the provision by Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of a suitably qualified Responsible Officer. The Responsible Officer works under the direction of the Trust Safeguarding, Internal and External Audit, Intervention and Improvement Committee and reviews key financial policies, systems, and procedures, including the use of tenders, fraud management and awareness and presents reports on compliance to the Trust Safeguarding, Internal and External Audit, Intervention, and Improvement Committee.

The People, Estates and Finance Committee receives termly budget monitoring reports and reports detailing compliance with the Trust's tender policy. The Trust Chief Finance Officer prepares monthly budget monitoring reports which are reviewed with the Accounting Officer and Chair of the People, Estates and Finance Committee.

The full Trust Board approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the Multi-Academy Trust remains a going concern.

The Members receive and approve the Annual Accounts and the External Auditors' Management Report at the Annual General Meeting.

3. Ensuring the operation of the Multi-Academy Trust demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources.

The Trust regularly benchmarks financial performance against other Academy Trusts to demonstrate that the Trust provides good value for money.

The Trust has an established estates strategy, asset management policy and asset management plan to ensure that sufficient resources are available to effectively manage the estate. These documents are reviewed on an annual basis and are updated for material changes in year.

4. Tender exercises are regularly undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to ensure that long term contracts (three to five years) remain competitive.

For purchases above £5,000 but below the tender limit of £15,000, three quotes are required.

The Trust challenges itself to ensure that it achieves the best price for its requirements across all goods and services. In 2022-23 a number of efficiency and procurement activities were undertaken including:

- Contracts which have come up for renewal have all been reviewed subject to value for money.
- Facilities contracts have been subject to best value review: extended maintenance of various equipment.
- Robustly challenging useful life of equipment e.g., computing equipment.
- Tender for the provision of iPads and computer replacement.
- Tender for the IT services contract for a three-year period utilising Government Frameworks.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money (continued)

The Trust continues to be a member of the Government's RPA scheme for insurance in order to make cost savings.

In 2023-24 we will continue to focus on all areas of goods and services. We undertook an energy survey in 2017-18 and intend reviewing utility usage to drive down the costs and to ensure that we are not wasteful in our energy consumption, for example we have implemented a rolling programme of replacement of lighting with LED lighting at West Lakes Academy.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Changing Lives Learning Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Trust received support from Sellafield Ltd in working with the central executive team developing a risk appetite statement for the Trust. The first session was held on the 7 June 2022 and a final session was held on 17 January 2023 to establish the Trust's risk appetite. The Trust has a "top-down risk register" in operation, which is reviewed termly, each area has a Trustee and central executive team member who are the owners and are responsible for the actions and monitoring of the KPI data linked to the risk.

The risk and control framework

The Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. It is due for review in the coming year but in particular, it currently includes: e procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the Finance and General Purposes Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees have appointed Mr D Davis (a Chartered Certified Accountant - ACCA), the Financial Director of one of the Trust's Sponsors Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, to perform a peer review.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

The Responsible Officer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems.

In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Review of crisis management and disaster recovery plans.
- Review of budget holder allocations to ensure they accurately reflect the spending for the department.
- Review of Trust performance against available benchmarks.
- Review of subscriptions and software licences to ensure value for money is demonstrated through the rationalisation of packages and available Trust-wide discounts.
- Review of procedures with regard to staff appointments.
- Review of the asset management policy and plan.
- Review of the expenditure on Condition Improvement Fund projects.
- Review of the endowment spend to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Endowment portfolio.
- Review of the recently introduced changes to risk strategy.

On a termly basis, the Responsible Officer reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Safeguarding, Internal and External Audit, Improvement and Intervention Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Responsible Officer reports to the Safeguarding, Internal and External Audit, Improvement, and Intervention Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trustee's financial responsibilities.

The Responsible Officer's function has been delivered in line with the ESFA requirements and no material control issues were identified as a result of the Responsible Officer's work.


Review of effectiveness

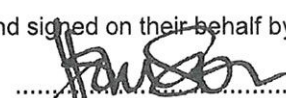
As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the Responsible Officer;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Multi Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditors;

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Safeguarding, Internal and External Audit, Improvement and Intervention (formerly the Audit and Risk Committee) and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Mr D Davidson
Chair of Trustees


.....
Mr J Johnson
Accounting Officer

Date: *15th December 2023*

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Changing Lives Learning Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA.


.....
Mr. Johnson
Accounting Officer

Date:

13th December 2023

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:


.....

Mr D Davidson
Chair of Trustees

Date: *15th December 2023*

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Changing Lives Learning Trust (the 'multi academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Multi Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Multi Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Multi Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the incorporated Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report including in the incorporated Strategic Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Multi Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the incorporated Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Multi Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Multi Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Multi Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, such as the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, DfE, ESFA & Ofsted Regulations and Companies Act 2006;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the Multi Academy Trust through discussions with Trustees and other management;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Multi Academy Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- considering our work in respect of regularity to identify irregular spend or lack of ESFA approval for novel or contentious transactions.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures as a risk assessment tool to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; and
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- tested the operating effectiveness of key controls over purchase cycles on a sample basis; and
- reviewed the application of accounting policies including the application of capitalisation of intangible assets.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Multi Academy Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Multi Academy Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Multi Academy Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Karen Rae FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Carlisle

Date: 19 December 2023

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 August 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Changing Lives Learning Trust during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Changing Lives Learning Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Changing Lives Learning Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Changing Lives Learning Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Changing Lives Learning Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Changing Lives Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 10 October 2022 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Multi Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- having a general awareness of regularity and propriety whilst conducting the statutory audit function;
- review of extra-contractual payments for staff to ensure they have been made in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook;
- review a sample of resources expended for individual transactions;
- reviewing any borrowing agreements, including leases, to ensure they have been made in accordance with the Academy Trust Handbook;
- reviewing the minutes of the meetings of the main committees during the year;
- reviewing of internal audit reports for evidence of non-compliance;
- reviewing expenditure to check that it was not ultra vires to the charitable objectives.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO CHANGING
LIVES LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Karen Rae FCCA
Armstrong Watson Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
Carlisle

Date: 19 December 2023

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Endowment funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	As restated Total funds 2022 £000
Note							
	Income and endowments from:						
	Donations and capital grants	-	-	2,172	-	2,172	339
3	Other trading activities	527	-	-	-	527	389
	Investments	-	-	-	84	84	145
7							
	Charitable activities:						
	Multi Academy Trust educational operations	-	11,156	-	-	11,156	10,583
	Teaching school	-	505	-	-	505	380
	Total income and endowments	527	11,661	2,172	84	14,444	11,836
	Expenditure on:						
	Academy trust educational operations	931	11,312	2,884	19	15,146	13,442
9	Teaching schools	-	479	-	-	479	442
	Total expenditure carried forward	931	11,791	2,884	19	15,625	13,884

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Endowment funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	As restated Total funds 2022 £000
Total expenditure brought forward	931	11,791	2,884	19	15,625	13,884
Net (expenditure)/income before net losses on investments	(404)	(130)	(712)	65	(1,181)	(2,048)
Net losses on investments	-	-	-	(68)	(68)	(273)
Net expenditure	(404)	(130)	(712)	(3)	(1,249)	(2,321)
Transfers between funds	234	-	(150)	(84)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains	(170)	(130)	(862)	(87)	(1,249)	(2,321)
Other recognised gains:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	-	1,995	-	-	1,995	7,237
Net movement in funds	(170)	1,865	(862)	(87)	746	4,916
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	2,141	(4,020)	27,409	2,317	27,847	22,931
Net movement in funds	(170)	1,865	(862)	(87)	746	4,916
Total funds carried forward	1,971	(2,155)	26,547	2,230	28,593	27,847

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. The notes on pages 40 to 72 form part of these financial statements.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 06627459

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

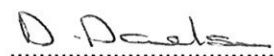
		2023	<i>As restated</i>
	Note	£000	2022 £000
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	15	6	6
Tangible assets	16	27,056	27,388
Investments	18	2,230	2,317
		<u>29,292</u>	<u>29,711</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	19	849	709
Cash at bank and in hand		467	1,105
		<u>1,316</u>	<u>1,814</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(1,601)	(1,250)
Net current liabilities / assets		<u>(285)</u>	<u>564</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>29,007</u>	<u>30,275</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	21	(43)	(52)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>28,964</u>	<u>30,223</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	29	(371)	(2,376)
Total net assets		<u><u>28,593</u></u>	<u><u>27,847</u></u>

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 06627459

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £000	As restated 2022 £000
Funds of the Multi Academy Trust			
Endowment funds	22	2,230	2,317
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	22	26,547	27,409
Restricted income funds	22	(1,784)	(1,644)
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	22	24,763	25,765
Pension reserve	22	(371)	(2,376)
Total restricted funds	22	24,392	23,389
Unrestricted income funds	22	1,971	2,141
Total funds		28,593	27,847

The financial statements on pages 35 to 72 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:



Mr D Davidson

Chair of Trustees

Date:

15th December 2023

The notes on pages 40 to 72 form part of these financial statements.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	24	(2,333)	(741)
Cash flows from investing activities	26	1,701	267
Cash flows from financing activities	25	(6)	(3)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(638)	(477)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,105	1,582
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	27, 28	<u><u>467</u></u>	<u><u>1,105</u></u>

The notes on pages 40 to 72 form part of these financial statements

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Multi Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Multi Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Multi Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Multi Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustees receive half termly updates from the People, Estates and Finance committee of the Trust's financial position taken from the monthly budget monitoring reports.

On an annual basis, the Safeguarding, Audit, Risk and Intervention Committee receive a report from the Executive Team detailing the outturn position, the three year forecast, cash flow and recoverability of debtors, growth plans and the on 'free' reserves to inform their assessment of going concern. This academic year also included the financial position of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School utilising the 2022-23 budget and information obtained through due diligence.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the Multi Academy Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

• **Grants**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the Balance Sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

• **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Multi Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions) where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

• **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

• **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the Multi Academy Trust has provided the goods or services.

• **Donated goods, facilities and services**

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in 'Stocks' and 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from Other Trading Activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from Other Trading Activities'.

• **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Multi Academy Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Multi Academy Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

• **Transfer of existing academies into the Multi Academy Trust**

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the Multi Academy Trust, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Multi Academy Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the Multi Academy Trust within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets acquired.

- **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Multi Academy Trust)**

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Multi Academy Trust's accounting policies.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the Multi Academy Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Multi Academy Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

- **Grants payable**

These are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Multi Academy Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.6 Taxation

The Multi Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Multi Multi Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Intangible assets

Intangible assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

Amortisation is provided on the following basis:

Computer software	- 33 % straight line
-------------------	----------------------

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

New school	- 2% (over 50 years straight line)
Sports hall, gym and climbing wall	- 4% (over 25 years straight line)
Conservatory	- 6.67% (over 15 years straight line)
Fixtures & fittings (including ICT equipment)	- 33.3% (straight line)
Motor vehicles	- 10% (straight line)

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Debtors

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

1.11 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.

1.12 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Multi Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.13 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Multi Academy Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1.14 Financial instruments

The Multi Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Multi Academy Trust and their measurement bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 19. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 20 and 21. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.15 Leased assets

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.16 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the Multi Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Multi Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Multi Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date.

The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.17 Agency arrangements

The Multi Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Multi Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 34.

1.18 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Multi Academy Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

The Endowment fund represents capital, held in perpetuity to create income for specific purposes.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Multi Academy Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have an increased risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 29, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2023 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Donations	-	-	-	158
Grants	-	2,172	2,172	181
Total 2023	-	2,172	2,172	339
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>339</i>	

4. General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Multi Academy Trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2023 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes.

The Multi Academy Trust has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2023.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	<i>Total funds 2022 £000</i>
Academy's educational operations			
DfE/ESFA grants			
General annual grant (GAG)	9,157	9,157	8,911
Other DfE/ESFA grants	402	402	279
Pupil premium	401	401	416
UIFSM	52	52	48
	<hr/> 10,012	<hr/> 10,012	<hr/> 9,654
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	372	372	364
Special educational grants	535	535	432
	<hr/> 907	<hr/> 907	<hr/> 796
Other income from the Multi Academy Trust's educational operations			
Other income	237	237	133
	<hr/> 237	<hr/> 237	<hr/> 133
Total Academy's educational operations	<hr/> 11,156	<hr/> 11,156	<hr/> 10,583
	<hr/> 11,156	<hr/> 11,156	<hr/> 10,583
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<hr/> <hr/> 10,583	<hr/> <hr/> 10,583	

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Other income	524	-	524	385
Hire of facilities	3	-	3	4
Total 2023	527	-	527	389
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>378</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>389</i>	

7. Investment income

	Endowment funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Investment income	84	84	145
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>145</i>	

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs	Premises	Other	Total	<i>Total</i>
	2023	2023	2023	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	<i>£000</i>
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	8,272	1,190	977	10,439	10,990
Allocated support costs	1,588	1,986	1,133	4,707	2,452
Teaching school	271	-	208	479	442
Total 2023	10,131	3,176	2,318	15,625	13,884
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>9,840</i>	<i>1,669</i>	<i>2,375</i>	<i>13,884</i>	

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds	<i>Total funds</i>
	2023	2023	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£000	£000	£000	<i>£000</i>
Academy's educational operations	10,439	4,707	15,146	13,443
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>10,990</i>	<i>2,453</i>	<i>13,443</i>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Academy's educational operations 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Staff costs	1,588	1,588	1,169
Technology costs	370	370	200
Premises costs	1,986	1,986	852
Legal costs	23	23	11
Other support costs	664	664	170
Governance costs	76	76	51
	<u>4,707</u>	<u>4,707</u>	<u>2,453</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>2,453</u>	<u>2,453</u>	

10. Net expenditure

Net expenditure for the year includes:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Operating lease rentals	158	101
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	879	755
Amortisation of intangible assets	8	7
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	19	17
- other services	1	3
	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

11. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	7,836	7,048
Social security costs	641	571
Pension costs	1,654	2,221
	<u>10,131</u>	<u>9,840</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Redundancy payments	-	9
Severance payments	32	46
	<u>32</u>	<u>55</u>

b. Severance payments

The Multi Academy Trust paid 1 severance payment in the year (2022 - 2), disclosed in the following bands:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
£0 - £25,000	-	1
£25,001 - £50,000	1	1

c. Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special staff severance payments totalling £31,910 (2022 - £46,274).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

11. Staff (continued)

d. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Multi Academy Trust during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Teachers	92	100
Administration and support	158	182
Management	15	17
	<hr/> 265 <hr/>	<hr/> 299 <hr/>

e. Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	3
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	-
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	2
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
In the band £150,001 - £160,000	-	1
In the band £160,001 - £170,001	1	-
	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>

f. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Multi Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Multi Academy Trust was £1,125,922 (2022 - £841,568).

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

12. Central services

The Multi Academy Trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Network Services

The Multi Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Each Academy pays 6% of their general annual grant for the central services listed above.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Arlecdon	16	16
Dearham	53	61
Flimby	41	42
Thornhill	23	23
West Lakes	376	392
Total	509	534

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

14. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Multi Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15. Intangible fixed assets

	Purchased computer software £000
Cost	
At 1 September 2022	41
Additions	8
Disposals	(25)
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	24
	<hr/>
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2022	35
Charge for the year	8
On disposals	(25)
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	18
	<hr/>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2023	6
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 August 2022	6
	<hr/> <hr/>

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Restated Long-term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2022	32,734	369	1,904	35,007
Additions	492	25	30	547
Disposals	-	-	(327)	(327)
At 31 August 2023	<u>33,226</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>1,607</u>	<u>35,227</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2022	5,681	315	1,624	7,620
Charge for the year	672	46	161	879
On disposals	-	-	(327)	(327)
At 31 August 2023	<u>6,353</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>1,458</u>	<u>8,172</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2023	<u>26,873</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>27,055</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>27,053</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>27,387</u>

The value of land that is included in the long-term leasehold property balance is £59,998 (2022 - £59,998).

17. Prior year restatement

Fixed assets have been restated due to a change in accounting policy. Land & buildings are now being depreciated straight line over a 50 year period rather than the historical 60 year period. The following figures have been restated:

	After restatement		Before restatement	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Net book value c/f	27,387	28,044	28,301	28,851
Restricted fixed asset reserve	27,409	28,095	28,323	28,902

The overall adjustment has decreased the value of fixed assets and the restricted fixed asset fund by £107k in 2022 and £807k in 2021.

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £000
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2022	2,317
Additions	40
Disposals	(15)
Revaluations	(112)
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2023	2,230
	<hr/>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2023	2,230
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2022	2,317
	<hr/>

The original capital investments was £2million. In addition to the balance held in investments, income earned in the year on the investment was £84,330 (2022 - 145,000).

The Trust has invested the Endowment funds in a mixed portfolio with the intention of a UK growth and income strategy. The funds are held in UK and overseas fixed interest accounts, UK and overseas equities, alternative investments and smaller amounts of cash.

19. Debtors

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	62	16
Other debtors	50	98
Prepayments and accrued income	737	595
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	849	709
	<hr/>	<hr/>

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Trade creditors	718	<i>210</i>
Other taxation and social security	166	<i>162</i>
Other creditors	177	<i>170</i>
Accruals and deferred income	540	<i>708</i>
	<u>1,601</u>	<i><u>1,250</u></i>

Included in deferred income is £36,463 (2022 - £33,106) relating to pupil premium and £36,619 relating to rates relief (2022 - £30,930).

21. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£000	<i>£000</i>
Other creditors	<u>43</u>	<i><u>52</u></i>

Included within other creditors is a CIF loan of £43,168. The funds were used for approved roofing repairs at two of the Trust's primary schools. The loan is to be repaid in monthly installments commencing September 2021 and ending in August 2031.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

22. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	2,141	527	(931)	234	-	1,971
Endowment funds						
Endowment Fund	2,317	84	(19)	(84)	(68)	2,230
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(1,825)	9,111	(9,130)	-	-	(1,844)
UIFSM	-	52	(52)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	401	(401)	-	-	-
16-18 Bursary	40	47	(47)	-	-	40
Rates relief	20	57	(57)	-	-	20
Ofther DfE/ESFA Grants	94	851	(945)	-	-	-
Other government funding	-	907	(907)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium LAC	11	12	(23)	-	-	-
WELL Funding	16	46	(62)	-	-	-
Other	-	177	(177)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,376)	-	10	-	1,995	(371)
	(4,020)	11,661	(11,791)	-	1,995	(2,155)

CHANGING LIVES LEARNING TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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22. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted fixed asset funds

DFE/ESFA Capital Grants	482	2,172	(2,017)	(223)	-	414
Capital expenditure from GAG	(3,294)	-	-	-	-	(3,294)
Private/Public sector capital sponsorship	30,136	-	(844)	73	-	29,365
Transfer of another academy	85	-	(23)	-	-	62
	<u>27,409</u>	<u>2,172</u>	<u>(2,884)</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,547</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>23,389</u>	<u>13,833</u>	<u>(14,675)</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>1,995</u>	<u>24,392</u>
Total funds	<u>27,847</u>	<u>14,444</u>	<u>(15,625)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,927</u>	<u>28,593</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust. The Trust is allowed to carry forward up to 12% of the current GAG. Of the carried forward amount, up to 2% of GAG can be used for general purposes at the discretion of the Trust, but any balance over 2% must be used for capital purposes.

The ESFA grants must be used for their individual specific purpose as follows: 16-19 Bursary - to support the most vulnerable students in post 16 education; Academies Pupil Premium - to support the education of pupils on Free School Meals.

Other DfE grants must also be used for their specific purposes as follows: Devolved Formula Capital - purchase capital equipment; SEN - support pupils with Special Educational Needs; Adult Education - support Adult Education provision; Pupil Premium for Looked After Children - to support the education of Looked After Children; National Leaders in Education - to support other schools; Strategic School Improvement Fund - to help other schools improve; Teaching School Alliance - to promote good teaching and the Teaching School Council - to represent Cumbria on the national forum.

Restricted fixed assets were funded by government grants sponsors. Restricted fixed assets also includes donated fixed assets on transfer of academies into the Trust.

Two transfers have been made in the year, one to transfer funds to the fixed asset reserves which represent the total Trust contributions to CIF projects and another as a withdrawal from the endowment fund for CIF expenditure.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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22. Statement of funds (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding year is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	As restated Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	1,791	536	(186)	-	-	2,141
Endowment funds						
Endowment Fund	2,605	145	(160)	-	(273)	2,317
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(910)	8,911	(9,786)	-	-	(1,785)
UIFSM	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	-	-	-	-	-
16-18 Bursary	156	1,605	(1,620)	-	-	141
Rates relief	-	392	(392)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	2	-	(2)	-	-	-
Other government funding	-	48	(48)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium LAC	-	18	(18)	-	-	-
WELL Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(8,808)	-	(805)	-	7,237	(2,376)
	(9,560)	10,974	(12,671)	-	7,237	(4,020)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	518	141	(177)	-	-	482
Capital expenditure from GAG	(3,293)	-	-	-	-	(3,293)

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22. Statement of funds (continued)

		<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £000</i>	<i>Income £000</i>	<i>As restated Expenditure £000</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £000</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2022 £000</i>
Private/Public sector capital sponsorship	30,762	40	(669)	-	-	30,133
Transfer of another academy	108	-	(21)	-	-	87
	<u>28,095</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>(867)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,409</u>
Total Restricted funds	18,535	11,155	(13,538)	-	7,237	23,389
Total funds	22,931	11,836	(13,884)	-	6,964	27,847

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22. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
West Lakes Academy	3,357	3,529
Arlecdon Primary School	21	72
Thornhill Primary School	166	98
Flimby Primary School	(54)	(46)
Dearham Primary School	(80)	38
Trust	(937)	(342)
One Cumbria	(36)	(62)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,437	3,287
Restricted fixed asset fund	26,547	27,409
Pension reserve	(371)	(2,376)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	28,613	28,320
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The following academies are carrying a net deficit on their portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit £000
Flimby Primary School	(54)
Dearham Primary School	(80)
	<hr/> <hr/>

The Multi Academy Trust is taking the following action to return the academies to surplus:

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22. Statement of funds (continued)

The schools falling into deficit in the academic year was mainly due to the decision to contribute 10.1% towards some of the CIF projects as we believed, with the expected join dates of the schools back in December 2022, that we would no longer be eligible for CIF this academic year. As the Trust progressed through the year, the timing changed and the joining dates were delayed due to the necessary due diligence and the sufficient time needed to complete the TUPE process. Cost control procedures are being put in place to bring the schools back into surplus.

Total cost analysis by academy

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
West Lakes Academy	3,732	2,688	769	280	7,469	7,501
Arlecdon Primary School	205	126	34	535	900	431
Thornhill Primary School	264	273	54	28	619	684
Flimby Primary School	411	255	64	797	1,527	1,090
Dearham Primary School	614	552	98	647	1,911	1,523
One Cumbria	255	9	16	199	479	442
Central services	427	320	48	1,039	1,834	1,345
Multi Academy Trust	5,908	4,223	1,083	3,525	14,739	13,016

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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23. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted funds 2023 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2023 £000	Endowment funds 2023 £000	Total funds 2023 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	27,055	-	27,055
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	6	-	6
Fixed asset investments	-	-	-	2,230	2,230
Current assets	1,971	(655)	-	-	1,316
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,087)	(514)	-	(1,601)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(43)	-	-	(43)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(371)	-	-	(371)
Total	1,971	(2,156)	26,547	2,230	28,592

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted funds 2022 £000	Restated Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £000	Endowment funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	27,387	-	27,387
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	6	-	6
Fixed asset investments	-	-	-	2,317	2,317
Current assets	1,800	-	15	-	1,815
Creditors due within one year	341	(1,591)	-	-	(1,250)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(52)	-	-	(52)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,376)	-	-	(2,376)
Prior year adjustment to fixed assets	-	-	915	-	915
Total	2,141	(4,019)	28,323	2,317	28,762

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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24. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,249)	(2,321)
Adjustments for:		
Amortisation	8	7
Depreciation	879	862
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(2,171)	(182)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(96)	661
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	86	144
Increase in debtors	(140)	(219)
Increase in creditors	350	307
Net cash used in operating activities	(2,333)	(741)

25. Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Repayments of borrowing	(6)	(3)
Net cash used in financing activities	(6)	(3)

26. Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Purchase of intangible assets	(8)	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(547)	(207)
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	3
Purchase of investments	(40)	-
Proceeds from the sale of investments	13	-
Capital grants from DfE Group	2,171	182
Endowment gain/(loss) included in net income/(expenditure) in SOFA	112	289
Net cash provided by investing activities	1,701	267

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	467	1,105
Total cash and cash equivalents	467	1,105

28. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2023 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,105	(638)	467
	1,105	(638)	467

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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29. Pension commitments

The Multi Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Mercer Limited. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2023.

Contributions amounting to £166,081 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £161,854) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary - these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI, assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £985,777 (2022 - £922,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Multi Academy Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Multi Academy Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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29. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £678,573 (2022 - £657,339), of which employer's contributions totalled £504,839 (2022 - £490,791) and employees' contributions totalled £ 173,735 (2022 - £166,548). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.5 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 1.16 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Multi Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Multi Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	4.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.3	4.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.8

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	2023	2022
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.4	22.6
Females	23.8	25.3
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.7	24.1
Females	25.6	27.1

Sensitivity analysis

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(201)	(249)
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	208	230
CPI rate +0.1%	205	255

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29. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

The Multi Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2023 £000	At 31 August 2022 £000
Equities	3,740	2,937
Bonds	1,250	1,242
Property	778	848
Cash and other liquid assets	217	271
Other	3,859	3,445
Total market value of assets	9,844	8,743

The actual return on scheme assets was £422,000 (2022 - £-618,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Current service cost	572	1,310
Interest cost	(86)	(144)
Administrative expenses	23	22
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	509	1,188

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At 1 September	11,119	17,480
Current service cost	572	1,310
Interest cost	476	297
Employee contributions	176	164
Actuarial gains	(1,906)	(8,009)
Benefits paid	(222)	(123)
At 31 August	10,215	11,119

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29. Pension commitments (continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Multi Academy Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
At 1 September	8,743	8,672
Expected return on assets	390	153
Actuarial gains/(losses)	89	(772)
Employer contributions	691	671
Employee contributions	176	164
Benefits paid	(222)	(123)
Administration expenses	(23)	(22)
At 31 August	9,844	8,743

30. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2023 the Multi Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Not later than 1 year	165	166
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	149	151
	314	317

31. Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

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32. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Multi Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Multi Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

VAA Educational Consultancy, an entity owned by a Governor, provided professional services to the Trust in respect of work with senior leaders in respect of Trust and School Improvement Offer conducted in the year ended 31 August 2023. £3,991 (2022 - £1,200) is included in the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of this transaction, and no amount is outstanding at the year end date. The transaction was disclosed to the ESFA in line with the Academy Trust Handbook requirements.

33. Post balance sheet events

After the reporting period, the Trust has entered into agreements with three new schools to join the Multi-Academy Trust: Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and St Bees Village Primary School on 1st November 2023, and Kirkby Thore School on 1st January 2024. These schools are expected to join the Trust in the next financial year. These events do not affect the financial position of the Trust as at 31 August 2023 and therefore no adjustments have been made to the financial statements.

The Trust are also in talks with two other schools, however as at the date of signing they are still in the consultation stage thus no approval has been obtained at this date.

34. Agency arrangements

The Multi Academy Trust distributes 16-19 Bursary Funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the Trust received £46,608 and disbursed £46,608 from the fund. An amount of £39,777 is included in the statement of undistributed funds carried forward at the year end date.

Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2022 are £29,322 received, £29,332 disbursed and £39,777 included in the Statement of Funds relating to undistributed funds carried forward at the year end date.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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35. Teaching school trading account

	2023 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2022 £000
Income				
Income	505		380	
Total income		505		380
Expenditure				
Direct expenditure				
Direct staff costs	271		342	
Other direct costs	208		100	
Total direct expenditure	479		442	
Total expenditure		479		442
Surplus/(deficit) from all sources		26		(62)
Teaching school balances at 1 September 2022		(62)		-
Teaching school balances at 31 August 2023		(36)		(62)