

Scottish charity number SC043027



Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024



Contents of the Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	page
Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024	3 - 9
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Receipts and Payments Accounts	11
Statement of Balances	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 15



Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

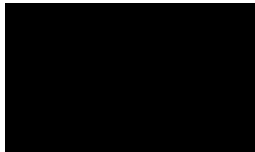
The Trustees present the annual report and accounts for get2gether for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: get2gether

Charity Registration Number: SC043027

Principal address:

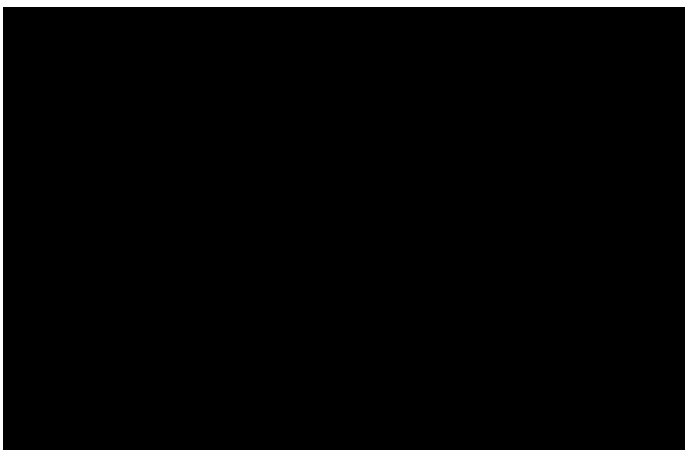


Website: <https://get2gether.org.uk>

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
P.O. Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Constitution Governance and Management

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) established on 22 March 2012 and registered under charity number SC043027. The responsibility for the strategic and operational management of the Charity rests with the Trustees who form the Board of Trustees who meet six times per year plus additional ad hoc planning or strategy days.





Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Recruiting and appointing new Trustees at get2gether is done through advertising the role through goodmoves and our professional networks. New trustees are invited to join the board following careful consideration of their skills and willingness to align with get2gether's aims and ethos.

The constitution requires a minimum of four and a maximum of nine trustees. It is a requirement that all trustees retire from office at the AGM but may be reappointed or re-elected. No Trustee may serve as an employee of the organisation.

The AGM is open to all members and interested parties; the chair gives an overview of the activities of the previous year and the treasurer gives an annual financial overview. High attendance from the membership demonstrates a highly engaged membership that is keen to develop the organisation.

Objectives and activities

get2gether was set up in 2013 to combat loneliness and social isolation amongst the service users of the four founding organisations, Garvald Edinburgh, Thistle Foundation, Freespace and Elcap. Although lives had improved immeasurably since the closure of long-stay institutions, adults with disabilities desperately needed friends and opportunities to develop relationships. get2gether sought to address this issue through a series of social events in ordinary places.

Today, get2gether has a growing membership of over 1,100 adults with disabilities primarily from Edinburgh and the Lothians. We are a member-led organisation, and our membership is free and open to all adults with a disability (18+).

get2gether's aims are to:

- **Reduce loneliness and social isolation among adults with disabilities;**
- **Increase the emotional awareness and resilience of adults with disabilities; and**
- **Increase self-determination of adults with disabilities.**

To achieve our aims, we:

1. Plan and arrange a regular, monthly programme of social events, courses and workshops and publicise these to members;
2. Create opportunities for members to meet up regularly and develop a circle of friendships and relationships;
3. Support the development of the get2gether Steering Group that decides and plans activities according to members' interests and requests;
4. Support our Ambassadors and create job opportunities for members; and
5. Develop ways to support our members to work towards a more independent, resilient, emotionally secure and self-determined life.



Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Achievements and performance

This year we celebrated get2gether's 10th anniversary. For the past decade, our work has been designed to support adults with disabilities in accessing ordinary adult life, meeting new people, making friends and developing friendships and relationships.

Key highlights of our achievements this year.

- 1. Delivering a Hybrid Programme of Activities** (please see *Nurturing Connections* and *Empowering Through Education* below) - Get2gether continued to provide an engaging programme of in-person and online events, catering to the diverse needs of our members. The hybrid approach has allowed us to reach more get2gether members and enhance participation in our activities.
- 2. Engagement and support** - Our dedicated staff team continued offering personalised support in person and through online group activities, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment among our members. In this period we worked closely with **378 members**.
As a membership organisation, we continued to prioritise member involvement through the members' **Steering Group**. We facilitated hybrid meetings, ensuring an accessible and equitable platform for organisational decision-making. In 2023/24 members continued shaping our operational plan.
- 3. Membership growth** - By the end of March 2024, we had **1,135** registered members. In this period, we received **141 new membership requests**, indicating the continued demand and interest for get2gether's activities.
- 4. Employment Opportunities** - In line with our operational model, get2gether **employed 5 adults with lived experience** of disabilities as Ambassadors, DJs, and Peer Mentors. These individuals played pivotal roles in expanding opportunities for social participation, skill development, and personal growth for all get2gether members.

Nurturing Connections - Strengthening community bonds through Events and Community Magazine

During the year our team delivered **a total of 206 social events** and marked a cumulative total of 2,861 unique attendances. We had **an average of 14 members attending each event**. These events were the combination of:

- **78 x in-person events** hosted by our Ambassadors and members (volunteers), drawing an average of 8 attendees per event;
- **105 x online events**, with an average attendance of 9 members attending each event;
- **10 x hybrid events**, blending virtual and in-person opportunities for participation, with an impressive average attendance of 24 individuals per event;
- **12 x Big Nights Out**, drawing an average of 85 members attending each of our flagship Club Nights and Karaoke Discos; and



Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

- **1x Edinburgh Fringe Festival event** to see comedian Rosie Jones performing at the Pleasance. 33 members, including 11 wheelchair/mobility aid users overcame the challenges of a historic venue to enjoy a hilarious show, followed by a lively chat with Rosie in the busy courtyard bar.

get2gether events provide a safe space and meaningful opportunities where members can connect, explore, and truly thrive. Our events aren't just about fun activities, for many they are lifelines, offering vital connections beyond their usual social circles. Through get2gether events, adults with disabilities gain confidence and a sense of belonging, many report leading vibrant social lives as a result of connections they have made at get2gether.

We continued delivering **12 Monthly Community Magazines** to all 1,135 get2gether members, either by post or email. Community Magazines feature event and course details while promoting articles on building healthy relationships. Members tell us they eagerly anticipate its arrival, some citing it as their favourite part of the month.

Empowering Through Education - Courses and Skillshares for Personal Growth

We delivered **4 courses** aimed at **Building Healthy Relationships (BHR)**:

- **1x 'Live Your Life'** Course, with 7 members completing the course;
- **2x 'Let's Talk About Sex'** Courses, with 15 members completing the courses; and
- **1x Friendship** Course (Pilot), with 9 members completing the course.

The BHR project involves promoting and nurturing positive relationships among our members and aims to increase members' emotional resilience and self-determination. The courses are co-delivered by get2gether's **Peer Mentors**, who are all adults with lived experience of a disability.

We continued to address **the cost of living crisis** by making Big Nights Out "pay what you can" voluntary entry donation and included a range of free or affordable social events through our monthly programme. Our team also facilitated monthly community skillshares that fostered peer-to-peer learning and addressed topics such as 'Shopping on a budget', 'Saving on energy costs' and 'Managing your finances'.



Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Reflecting on 10 years of growth, impact and our future direction

In November 2023, we facilitated the hybrid 'Steering Group Away Day', attended by 45 members, alongside staff and board representatives. Participants were asked to share their thoughts on various questions beforehand. Their feedback highlighted that get2gether plays a crucial role in helping members:

- feel safe (93%);
- develop skills and confidence (83%); and
- make new friends (77%).

At the event, we specifically sought input on where get2gether should focus its efforts moving forward. The key themes that emerged included:

- maintaining connections within a broader community;
- supporting members' wellbeing;
- ensuring sustained member engagement;
- providing learning opportunities such as courses and workshops; and
- embracing a hybrid approach.

This feedback underscores our commitment to listening to get2gether members and continuing to facilitate social opportunities centred around love and friendship.

get2gether's impact continues to resonate far beyond our immediate community of beneficiaries. We remain committed to sharing our innovative approach with an even broader network of stakeholders, and are proud of our members' involvement in the following projects.

1. Having worked with the **Scottish Government Learning Disabilities Team** last year, to inform the new Learning Disabilities, Autism, and Neurodivergence Bill, we felt it was important that members' were able to collectively respond to the draft Bill.

get2gether Ambassadors focused on four areas where they could combine their lived experiences of learning disabilities and autism with their professional expertise - Health & Wellbeing; Relationships; Employment and Mental Health. Their observations and ideas were discussed by members during Steering Group meetings to agree on a final response. This process ensured concerns and aspirations of those with lived experiences were reflected in the response submitted.



Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

2. Our **collaboration with Napier University** has reached new heights. After a published article¹ with Napier University, the prestigious British Journal of Learning Disabilities told us that our work stands out as one of their most widely read papers in the journal. Furthermore, this paper has been cited by Harvard University.

This recognition highlights the significance of our partnership with Napier University. In 2023/24 our members have been collaborating with Dr Spassianni on two key projects:

- a. **The medicine project** is nearing completion, with our team finalising the paper for submission to the Journal of Applied Research In Intellectual Disabilities. The research team, which includes one of get2gether's Ambassadors, is focusing on the management of chronic physical and mental health conditions in individuals with intellectual disabilities, aligning with the journal's special call.
 - b. **The human rights project** - we are currently in the process of gathering stories for a book. Through these stories, we want to highlight the challenges adults with learning disabilities may encounter in accessing their rights, as well as the positive impact that organisations like get2gether can have in supporting them.
3. get2gether members are learning about **climate change** with **Dynamic Earth**. The 'Mission & Mindset' project includes co-designing learning sessions that promote an increased awareness of environmental issues among our community members by promoting accessible language to discuss climate change and climate anxiety. Engaging adults with disabilities in these discussions enriches the climate change dialogue, ensuring a broad range of perspectives contribute to our collective understanding of climate change. As a result of this project, our members are actively exploring ways to make personal pledges aimed at reducing individual impacts on the environment. Through their engagement with 'Mission & Mindset' at Dynamic Earth, they are taking concrete actions that contribute to a more sustainable future. Personal responsibility underscores the importance of individual efforts in mitigating climate change and we hope it inspires others to join in collective action.

¹ The article showcases the impactful work our team has undertaken during the pandemic, serving as a testament to the intellectual contributions of get2gether and the efficacy of our adult-to-adult approach. Reference:

[REDACTED] (2022). 'Now that I am connected this isn't social isolation, this is engaging with people': Staying connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. British Journal of Learning Disabilities, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bld.12478>



Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Financial Review

Principal sources of funding

Get2gether is primarily funded by grants and donations. We are extremely grateful to all the trusts and foundations who have funded our work this year, the difference we have made has only been possible with their support.

Results for the Year

In total, £146,736 was raised for get2gether to continue its vital work. A focus on submitting funding applications through the year yielded a small increase from 15 to 18 in the number of trusts and foundations supporting our work, however, a decrease in the success rate of applications and the size of grants saw grant income fall from £183,146 to £133,033.

Phoenix Youth Club

Having examined options, The Board of Trustees will be facilitating the sale of the building donated by Phoenix Youth Club for the benefit of members and long term security of the organisation. While this sale is in progress, the building provides no source of income for get2gether and remains an illiquid asset until the sale is completed.

Donated facilities and services

We are grateful for the generous donations of supporters' time and services, including Thistle Foundation for their payroll services, Inspiring Scotland Specialist Volunteer Network for advice and information, [REDACTED] for hosting our website, [REDACTED] from Change Therapy for hosting mindfulness workshops and walks, Dynamic Earth for welcoming our members, The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for the use of their Botanic Cottage, Bridgend Farmhouse and Space@Broomhouse for their hospitality and Magician [REDACTED] for entertaining members at our 10 year celebration.

Reserves

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds of three months operating costs. The general funds at 31 March 2024 amounted to £88,543 which meets this level. Restricted funds amounted to £13,720.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Chair.

Chair

Date

2/7/24

Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended), and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended)

have not been met, or

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

Director
Cornerstone Accounting

Date: 3 July 2024

11 Erngath Road
Bo'ness
EH51 9DP

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £
Receipts	<i>Notes</i>						
Grants	2	60,500	72,533	133,033	84,750	98,396	183,146
Event income		4,228	-	4,228	5,002	-	5,002
Fundraising Income		469	-	469			
Donations	3	3,923	-	3,923	15,316	-	15,316
Fees earned		3,260	-	3,260	1,862	-	1,862
Other income		1,823	-	1,823	763	-	763
Total Receipts		74,203	72,533	146,736	107,693	98,396	206,089
Payments							
<i>Cost of Fundraising</i>							
Consulting fee		788	-	788	1,463	-	1,463
Staff costs		19,457	-	19,457	14,740	-	14,740
<i>Cost of Charitable Activities</i>							
Staff costs		43,891	85,697	129,588	16,625	93,337	109,962
Community Magazine		11,605	4,100	15,705	5,525	9,555	15,080
Room Hire		6,500	-	6,500	5,000	1,000	6,000
Direct Charitable Activities	4	4,304	1,113	5,417	4,085	626	4,711
Professional Fees	5	2,755	-	2,755	875	-	875
IT equipment, software, website		1,064	-	1,064	821	8,100	8,921
Mobile phones		895	-	895	906	-	906
Recruitment		460	-	460	-	-	-
Insurance (excl Phoenix)		323	-	323	59	-	59
Office costs		221	70	291	798	128	926
Training and Subscriptions		-	229	229	715	-	715
Bank fees		30	-	30	22	-	22
Phoenix Building	6	886	-	886	7,602	-	7,602
Miscellaneous		-	-	-	606	-	606
Total Payments		93,179	91,209	184,388	59,842	112,746	172,588
(Deficit)/surplus before transfers		(18,976)	(18,676)	(37,652)	47,851	(14,350)	33,501
Transfers		-	-	-	(46,746)	46,746	-
(Deficit)/surplus after transfers		(18,976)	(18,676)	(37,652)	1,105	32,396	33,501
Total Funds brought forward		107,519	32,396	139,915	106,414	-	106,414
Total Funds carried forward		88,543	13,720	102,263	107,519	32,396	139,915

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these financial statements

Statement of Balances

As at 31 March 2024

	2024			2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Opening balance	Deficit for the year	Closing balance	Opening balance	Surplus for the year	Closing balance
Current account	139,676	(37,563)	102,113	106,100	33,576	139,676
Petty cash	239	(89)	150	314	(75)	239
Total assets	139,915	(37,652)	102,263	106,414	33,501	139,915

Represented by

General & designated Funds	7	88,543	107,519
Restricted Funds	8	13,720	32,396
		102,263	139,915

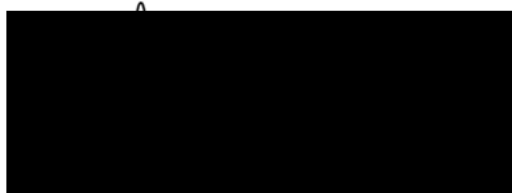
Statement of Assets

Building (Phoenix) (Professional valuation at March 2023)	250,000	250,000
Outstanding Invoice due	500	800
Outstanding grant income due	1,050	-
	251,550	250,800

Statement of Liabilities

Independent Examiner's fee	600	770
Pensions due	504	451
Phone charge due	6	22
Salaries due	-	11,693
Fundraising services due	-	788
Room Hire due	-	500
HR services due	-	265
Recruitment due	-	230
	1,110	14,719

The Financial statements on pages 11 to 15 were approved by the Trustees on 28/06/2024 and signed on their behalf by the undernoted:



Chair of the Board of Trustees

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2 Grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £
National Lottery	-	32,200	32,200	-	50,000	50,000
Scot Gov Inspiring Inclusion Learning Disabilities portfolio	27,000	-	27,000	33,750	-	33,750
Robertson Trust	15,000	-	15,000	23,000	-	23,000
RS MacDonald	-	12,500	12,500	-	12,000	12,000
Anonymous Trust	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Agnes Hunter Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Scot Gov Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund	-	8,133	8,133	-	7,896	7,896
The Cordis Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-	7,500	7,500
Crerar Trust	-	2,200	2,200	-	-	-
Nancie Massey Charitable Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Hugh Fraser Foundation	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Binks Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Russell Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Cruden Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Edinburgh Lothian Trust Fund	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Localgiving	-	500	500	-	-	-
The Inchrye Trust	500	-	500	-	-	-
Garfield Weston	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
The Stafford Trust	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
RTR Foundation	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Total	60,500	72,533	133,033	84,750	98,396	183,146

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £
3 Donations						
Individuals & groups	2,283	-	2,283	420	-	420
Company match giving	1,640	-	1,640	932	-	932
Transfer from Phoenix Youth Club	-	-	-	13,964	-	13,964
Total	3,923	-	3,923	15,316	-	15,316

4 Direct Charitable Activities						
DJ Fee/Speaker fee	1,500	300	1,800	300	450	750
Theatre tickets	871	-	871	955	-	955
Venue costs	200	600	800	1,373	-	1,373
Catering	670	-	670	148	-	148
Event photographer	450	40	490	375	-	375
Event Entertainment	283	-	283	-	-	-
Event staffing costs	215	-	215	97	176	273
Security	-	173	173	837	-	837
Event consumables	67	-	67	-	-	-
Courses costs	48	-	48	-	-	-
Total	4,304	1,113	5,417	4,085	626	4,711

5 Professional Fees						
HR Fees	1,705	-	1,705	-	-	-
Independent Examiner Fees	700	-	700	-	-	-
Accountancy Fee	350	-	350	-	-	-
Communications Services	-	-	-	500	-	500
Coaching & Mentorship	-	-	-	375	-	375
Total	2,755	-	2,755	875	-	875

6 Phoenix Building payments						
Legal Fees	530	-	530	5,400	-	5,400
Insurance	356	-	356	786	-	786
City of Edinburgh Council	-	-	-	920	-	920
Electricity and Gas	-	-	-	496	-	496
Total	886	-	886	7,602	-	7,602

7 Unrestricted Funds					
	Balance at 01/04/2023 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/03/2024 £
General funds	101,157	74,203	92,293	-	83,067
Designated funds	6,362	-	886	-	5,476
Total unrestricted funds	107,519	74,203	93,179	-	88,543

Explanation of Designated Funds:

The assets of Phoenix Youth Club, including their building and cash, were donated to get2gether following their closure in 2023. The cash balance was designated by the Board to be used for costs associated with the Building until the sale was concluded.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2024

8 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
National Lottery	12,500	32,200	44,700	-	-
Nancie Massey	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
10 year Anniversary party	-	500	500	-	-
Building Healthy Relationships	7,500	10,000	12,500	-	5,000
Wellbeing Wednesdays	7,896	8,133	7,896	-	8,133
Ambassador Salaries	3,000	13,500	15,650	-	850
Community Magazine	-	4,000	4,000	-	-
Crerar Trust	-	2,200	2,013	-	187
Edinburgh Council Community Grants Fund	-	-	450	-	(450)
RTR Foundation	1,500	-	1,500	-	-
Total restricted funds	32,396	72,533	91,209	-	13,720

Explanation of restricted Funds:

National Lottery	Funding restricted to cover Staff Salaries
Nancie Massey	Funding restricted to Coordinator Salaries
10 year Anniversary party	Funding restricted to costs associated with the 10 year anniversary celebration with members Courses, workshops and information to develop a strong base from which members can build meaningful relationships
Building Healthy Relationships	Events to support the mental health needs of members
Wellbeing Wednesdays	Funding restricted to paying Ambassador salaries
Ambassador Salaries	The cost incurred through designing, printing and posting the monthly community magazine to members, part-funded by Cordis Trust and The Edinburgh & Lothian Trust Fund
Community Magazine	Funding restricted to Big Night Out events in 2024
Crerar Trust	Funding restricted to costs associated with events in Portobello and Craigmillar. Receipt of the funding
Edinburgh Council Community Gra	was delayed until 22/04/2024 and some expenditure took place in advance, to secure event venues.
RTR Foundation	To support the cost of delivering our events programme at minimal cost to members in 2023

9 Transactions with Trustees and related parties

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses during the year (2023: nil).

A donation of £500 was received from Bank of Scotland foundation under their Colleague Matched Giving Scheme for volunteering and fundraising undertaken by [REDACTED], Chair of get2gether's Board of Trustees.

We work with Edinburgh Napier University where one of our Trustees, Natasha Spassiani, is employed. A total of £2,810 was received for: members of staff with lived experience taking part in the 'Knowledge to Action Research Group' for People with Intellectual Disabilities; the 'My Rights, My Community Project'; and participation in 'The Medicine Project' (2023: £825).