

APPENDIX 1

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	12	2024	To	30	11	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Comics Youth [SCIO]
Other names charity is known by	Comics Youth Scotland
Registered charity number	SC051377
Charity's principal address	10 Landale Gardens
	Cupar, Fife
	Postcode KY15 4UE

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rhiannon Griffiths	Chair		05/08/2026
2	Hailey Austin	Treasurer		
3	Rebecca Horner	Secretary		
4	Damon Herd			
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20				

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Constitution Safeguarding Policy
Trustee recruitment and appointment	Trustees are recruited on the basis of skills, experience and commitment to the charity's purposes. Collectively, the board brings experience across youth work, arts and culture, education, safeguarding, charity leadership and governance. Trustees regularly review board composition to ensure the charity remains well governed and reflective of the communities it serves. The board recognises that there is further work to do in diversifying trustee representation and ensuring governance reflects the communities and young people the charity serves. The recruitment of additional trustees with diverse lived experiences, backgrounds and professional expertise has therefore been identified as a priority for the coming year. Trustees met quarterly throughout the reporting period and received regular updates on programme delivery, finance, safeguarding, staffing and organisational development. Trustees maintained oversight of the charity's strategic direction, financial management and governance responsibilities, while day-to-day operations were delegated to staff.
Safeguarding	As an organisation working directly with children and young people, safeguarding remains central to all activities. The charity maintains safeguarding, child protection, adult protection, safer recruitment, whistleblowing and data protection policies. Staff and volunteers working directly with young people hold appropriate PVG membership and receive safeguarding training. Trustees receive safeguarding updates throughout the year and monitor safeguarding practice as part of their governance responsibilities.
Risk Management	Trustees maintain oversight of organisational risks through regular board discussions and review of policies and procedures. Key risks monitored during the year included safeguarding, funding sustainability, staff wellbeing and capacity, information governance and health and safety. Trustees are satisfied that appropriate controls are in place to mitigate identified risks.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

In line with section 7(2) of the 2005 Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act, the organisation's purposes are: (a) To relieve the needs of marginalised young people aged 8 to 25 who are currently receiving or have received treatment in hospital by supporting the exploration of health and wellbeing through the creative lens of therapeutic comic book and zine-making thereby aiming to reduce isolation and increase confidence and self-esteem. (b) To advance the education of marginalised young people aged 8 to 25 through providing a structured learning programme, organisation of creative workshops, a forum for self-expressions and an environment to gain knowledge in publishing and the creative sector. (c) To educate the public on difficult subjects often experienced by young people through public information comics that give a young persons' perspective on subjects such as: transitioning from primary to secondary school, childhood bereavement or living in care homes.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Deliver creative sessions to marginalised young people in group and 1-2-1 settings.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

In 2024-25 we have completed delivery of our Turn the Page project, and attained key funding from the National Lottery's Young Start Fund and Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Fund, allowing us to develop our Building Stories project to be delivered across 2025-2028. That paired with our funding from Youth Link Scotland's Youth Arts Open Fund has meant that we have been able to expand our staff team to 3, with our wider programme being bolstered by a second year of funding from the Bank of Scotland's Energise Fund.

Within the reporting period we worked with 98 young people across 63 Building Stories group sessions plus 63 Turn the Page 1-2-1s, delivered across 7 venues. Building Stories is our new core project and consists of: Comics Clubs for 8-13s (delivered across 6 Dundee Libraries per year), Comics Corner for 14-17s, and Comics Encounters for 18-25s. These sessions are delivered weekly in blocks, and each new block takes us to different libraries and community spaces across the city. We are supporting young people across our entire age range to build community, confidence, and mental wellbeing, while also supporting them to develop valuable creative skills and encouraging their professional development. Our young people lead the way in the creation of our programme and we have an informal youth board steering the direction of our delivery, ensuring that we respond directly to their needs.

Participants have reported increased confidence, stronger peer connections and improved creative skills, while contributing to youth-led publications and helping shape future programme delivery. This year we have published 5 youth-led printed outputs collecting their work, and developed a series of trading cards across all age groups inspired by one of our Comics Club participants, launching in January 2026.

Financial review

Outreach and Partnerships

Across the year we have delivered 91.5 hours of outreach sessions with community partners, schools, and potential referrers, working with 387 young people across 17 venues.

We have delivered 5 key partner projects across the year:

- We rounded off our Turn the Page project with an Easter School delivered alongside The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, where young people developed a zine inspired by personal histories as well as objects in the museum.
- We worked with LGBT Youth Scotland to develop a zine with their Dundee youth group, celebrating their LGBTQIA+ identities.
- We partnered with ScrapAntics to deliver an October School where New Scots young people used recycled materials to develop 3D characters and stories.
- We worked with Young Carers across 4 Dundee high schools to develop a zine about what they are passionate about, and are due to work with a second group of Young Carers in 2025-26. Alongside our programme we work closely with Comics Youth CIC to develop shared working practices, and support each other on remote delivery.
- Our Comics Corner group have partnered with Feeling Strong's Art Night group to develop a zine titled This is Me, bringing together young people with different needs and building a wider sense of community. This is due to be published in January 2026.
- We also supported Hot Chocolate Trust's UNWRITTEN project with delivery of 2 comics creation sessions to their young people.

We have a strong referral network with local authorities, schools, CAMHS, and community partners such as Feeling Strong, LGBT Youth Scotland, The Corner, Anxiety in Motion, ScrapAntics, Hot Chocolate Trust, and Cake or Dice. We have also delivered taster sessions at Tayside Council on Alcohol (TCA), The Dundonald Centre, Dundee & Angus ADHD Support Group, The Roundhouse, and BeFriends, and have a continuous partnership with The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum for open creative sessions alongside working with targeted closed groups that access their spaces, such as Ukrainians Together and Boomerang.

Financial review

The significant increase in both income and expenditure reflects a planned period of organisational growth following the successful award of strategic grant funding, including support from Creative Scotland, Young Start and other charitable funders. During the year, Comics Youth SCIO expanded from an emerging organisation into an established delivery charity, increasing programme delivery, beneficiary reach and organisational capacity across Scotland. Expenditure increased as a result of planned investment in staffing, programme delivery, participant access and wellbeing support, workshop resources, governance, digital infrastructure and organisational systems necessary to deliver this growth safely, effectively and sustainably.

The Trustees recognise that income and expenditure will not always move in direct proportion between accounting periods. The charity receives a significant proportion of its income through restricted and multi-year grant funding. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), income is recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the funds and any applicable recognition criteria have been met, whilst expenditure is recognised as charitable activities are delivered.

Financial review (continued)

Consequently, the timing of grant receipts, restricted fund movements, deferred income and programme delivery can create year-on-year fluctuations between reported income and expenditure that do not necessarily reflect changes in the charity's underlying financial performance.

Throughout the year, the Trustees maintained robust oversight of the charity's financial position through regular review of management accounts, cash flow forecasts, restricted fund balances and principal financial risks. This ensured that expenditure remained aligned with approved budgets, that restricted funding was applied solely for its intended charitable purposes, and that sufficient liquidity was maintained to support programme delivery and future organisational growth.

The year-end surplus has strengthened the charity's overall financial position and increased unrestricted reserves, providing a stronger foundation from which to continue developing sustainable services and organisational capacity across Scotland. The Trustees remain committed to balancing investment in frontline charitable activities with the continued strengthening of unrestricted reserves and long-term financial sustainability through a diversified funding model comprising grant funding, commissioned services, philanthropic support and community fundraising.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees have adopted a policy of maintaining unrestricted free reserves equivalent to approximately three months' operating expenditure, providing an appropriate level of financial resilience to manage fluctuations in cash flow, respond to unforeseen expenditure and ensure continuity of charitable activities in the event of delays to grant income or other unexpected financial pressures.

Based on the charity's expenditure for the year ended 30 November 2025, this equates to £16,381.

Whilst unrestricted funds at 30 November 2025 amounted to £27,472, this includes unspent unrestricted grant funding. For the purposes of the reserves policy, the Trustees monitor free reserves excluding committed unrestricted grant balances. On this basis free reserves amounted to £15,024, which remains below the target level of £16,381. The Trustees consider this to represent a strong financial position for a growing charity and note that unrestricted reserves are approaching, but remain marginally below, the target level set out within the reserves policy.

Restricted reserves at 30 November 2025 were £47,098 (2023–24: £38,472).

In monitoring reserves, the Trustees distinguish between unrestricted funds available for general charitable purposes and restricted funds that are held for specific projects and programmes. Reserves are reviewed regularly alongside management accounts, cash flow forecasts, funding commitments and the charity's principal financial risks to ensure an appropriate balance between financial resilience and maximising investment in charitable activities.

The Trustees have agreed a medium-term strategy to strengthen unrestricted reserves to the target level. This will be achieved through continued diversification of unrestricted income, including increasing commissioned service delivery, expanding individual giving and fundraising activity, securing additional unrestricted and core funding, and maintaining prudent financial management across all areas of the charity's work. Where appropriate, the Trustees will seek to generate modest unrestricted operating surpluses that can be reinvested into reserves. As Comics Youth SCIO continues to mature, this approach will strengthen the charity's financial resilience whilst ensuring that the maximum possible resources continue to be directed towards delivering public benefit.

Details of any deficit

No deficit

Donated facilities and services (if any)

n/a

APPENDIX 2

Other optional information

Future Planning & Strategic Priorities

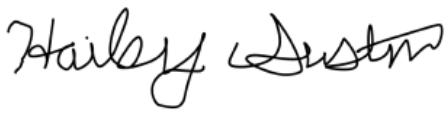
As we move into our next reporting year, our priorities are as follows:

- Continued delivery of Building Stories
- Development of youth leadership opportunities.
- New publications and creative outputs.
- Strengthening partnerships across Dundee and Scotland.
- Recruitment of new trustees.
- Continued organisational sustainability and growth.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) <i>OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures</i>		
Full name(s)	Dr Hailey Austin	Rebecca Horner
Position (e.g. Chair)	Treasurer	Secretary
Date	18-06-2026	18-06-2026

APPENDIX 3



Report to the trustees/members of Registered charity number On the accounts of the charity for the period	Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2						
	Comics Youth [SCIO]						
	SC051377						
	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	12	2024		30	11	2025

I report on the accounts of Comics Youth [SCIO] for the year ended 30 November 2025 as set out on pages 9 to 14.

This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with my terms of engagement. My work has been undertaken to enable me to report my opinion set out below and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trustees, as a body, for my work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and independent 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 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the 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 any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

have not been met, or

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

Suzanne Kerr, FCCA
TC-Group
Chapelshade House
78 – 84 Bell Street
Dundee
DD1 1RQ
Date: 28 July 2026

Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	12	2024		30	11	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	-	-			-	27
Legacies	-	-			-	
Grants	18,000	70,681			88,681	45,000
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts	2,698				2,698	12,710
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	20,698	70,681	-	-	91,379	57,737
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	20,698	70,681	-	-	91,379	57,737
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	-	-			-	-
Gross trading payments	-	-			-	-
Investment management costs	-	-			-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	12,158	51,999			64,157	7,246
Grants and donations	-	-			-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	-	-			-	
Preparation of annual accounts	-	-			-	
Legal costs	-	-			-	
Other	75	300			375	125
					-	
A3 Sub total	12,233	52,299	-	-	64,532	7,371
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets	2,919	60			2,979	556
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	2,919	60	-	-	2,979	556
Total payments	15,152	52,359	-	-	67,511	7,927
Net receipts / (payments)	5,546	18,322	-	-	23,868	49,810
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	5,546	18,322	-	-	23,868	49,810

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	21,926	28,776			50,702	892
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	5,546	18,322			23,868	49,810
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	27,472	47,098	-	-	74,570	50,702
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
	Total		-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets	Equipment		3,535	2,831	398
	Grants debtor		15,000	15,000	
	Total		18,535	17,831	398

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	PAYE / NI Liability		478	
	Pensions		58	
	Independent Examination Fee		720	
	Total		1,256	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
	Total		-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature*

Print Name

Date of
approval

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

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C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Creative Scotland	Creative Scotland	3	37,500
Young Start	National Lottery	1	33,181
Unrestricted - Energise Fund	Bank of Scotland Foundation	1	10,000
Unrestricted - Adlard Charitable Foundation	Adlard Charitable Foundation	1	8,000
		Total	88,681

C3a Trustee remuneration

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Authority under which paid

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

Authority under which paid	£
R Horner - Remuneration	5,607

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	
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C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£
R Horner expenses - Travel and postage	1	33

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
Trustee	Expenses	33	
Trustee	Remuneration	5,607	

C6 Other information

Trustee remuneration During the period, one trustee received remuneration totalling £5,607. The remuneration was paid to Rebecca Horner for services provided to the charity in a non-trustee capacity. The payment was authorised in accordance with the charity's constitution and in compliance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The trustees were satisfied that: - the arrangement was in the best interests of the charity, - the remuneration was reasonable for the services provided, and - the level of trustee remuneration remained compliant with regulatory requirements. No pension contributions or additional benefits were paid. Trustee expenses One trustee was reimbursed expenses totalling £33 in respect of travel and postage.

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Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted	Adlard Charitable Foundation	BOS Energise Fund Y1	BOS Energise Fund Y2	Youth Link Scotland	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts							
Donations						-	
Legacies						-	
Grants		8,000		10,000		18,000	
Receipts from fundraising activities						-	
Gross trading receipts	2,698					2,698	
buildings						-	
Rents from land & buildings						-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities						-	
Sub total	2,698	8,000	-	10,000	-	20,698	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales							
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets						-	
Proceeds from sale of investments						-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,698	8,000	-	10,000	-	20,698	-
Payments							
Expenses for fundraising activities						-	
Gross trading payments						-	
Investment management costs						-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	- 466	-	6,541	-	6,083	12,158	
Grants and donations						-	
Governance costs:						-	
Audit / independent examination						-	
Preparation of annual accounts						-	
Legal costs						-	
Other			75			75	
Sub total	- 466	-	6,616	-	6,083	12,233	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements							
Purchases of fixed assets	2,919					2,919	
Purchase of investments						-	
Sub total	2,919	-	-	-	-	2,919	-
Total payments	2,453	-	6,616	-	6,083	15,152	-
Net receipts / (payments)	245	8,000	(6,616)	10,000	(6,083)	5,546	-
Transfers to / (from) funds							
Surplus / (deficit) for year	245	8,000	(6,616)	10,000	(6,083)	5,546	-
Nature and purpose of funds							

COMICS YOUTH SCIO

SC051377

Additional analysis (3)

6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	Awards For All - Building Stories	Awards For All - Turn the Page	Creative Scotland	National Lottery - Young Start	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants	-	-	37,500	33,181	70,681	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	-	-	37,500	33,181	70,681	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	37,500	33,181	70,681	-
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	18	13,773	21,290	16,918	51,999	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other			300		300	
Sub total	18	13,773	21,590	16,918	52,299	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets		26	34		60	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	26	34	-	60	-
Total payments	18	13,799	21,624	16,918	52,359	-
Net receipts / (payments)	(18)	(13,799)	15,876	16,263	18,322	-
Transfers to / (from) funds						
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(18)	(13,799)	15,876	16,263	18,322	-

Nature and purpose of funds

•Creative Scotland
Staffing (Art Director x1 day a week, and x4 days towards our Creative Youth Workers), Administration and governance costs, Rent, Marketing and communications, Project Access Costs, Contingency, Capital costs (equipment)

•National Lottery Young Start
Staffing (Art Director x4 days a week), Workshop Materials, Training, Printing, Wellbeing

•YouthLink Open Fund
Staffing (x2 days towards Creative Youth Workers), Workshop Materials, Sundries, Printing, Contingency

•Awards For All - Turn the Page
Project Lead (20 hrs per week, paid freelance), Sessional Work, Printing, Admin/Digital costs, Stationery and Materials