CREATE ARTS.ORG.UK

CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

31 MARCH 2026

mitchell charlesworth

Accountants • Business Advisors

CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Company Number	4728145
Charity Registration Number	1099733
Chairman	Tony Cates
Chief Executive (CEO)	Nicky Goulder MBE
Company Secretary	Vanessa Sharp
Treasurer	Paul Thimont (until 04/12/25)
Registered Office	3rd Floor 14 Austin Friars London EC2N 2HE
Email **Telephone (London / Manchester)** **Website**	info@createarts.org.uk 020 7374 8485 / 0161 521 0033 createarts.org.uk
Facebook **Instagram / X**	facebook.com/createarts.org.uk @createcharity
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP
Auditors	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 3rd Floor, 44 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP

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CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED

Directors' Report

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Trustees confirm that the report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document, and the provisions of "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Objectives and Activities

Charitable objects

1) to advance and promote the education of the public in the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the arts.

2) to promote the use of the arts, particularly the creative arts, as a way of:

    a) relieving the needs of the poor, sick, disabled, elderly and young people who are in need of care and attention;
    b) rehabilitation of offenders;
    c) relieving the needs of the unemployed.

Vision

A society in which everyone has access to the educational, social and life-enriching benefits of the creative arts.

Mission

To use the creative arts to connect, empower, inspire and upskill society's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people, raising aspirations, building self-esteem, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing.

Core beliefs

- That People Need to Create.
- That everyone – regardless of circumstances, behaviour, age, gender, race or disability – deserves the chance to fulfil their potential.
- That high-quality creative arts activities connect, empower, inspire and upskill, raising aspirations, building self-esteem, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing.
- That everyone has a role to play in making society fairer, more caring, more inclusive and more sustainable.

Values

Create is a values-driven charity. Our values underpin the way we work with our participants, partners, people and community. They guide the decisions we make and the way we work.

- **Creativity** ~ encouraging a creative approach to every area of our performance
- **Excellence** ~ seeking to attain the highest standards in all activities
- **Valuing the individual** ~ recognising and nurturing each individual's unique talents
- **Passion** ~ being passionate in our motivations and performance
- **Flexibility** ~ listening and responding creatively to all stakeholders' needs
- **Integrity** ~ embedding integrity in all we do

Aims

- To tackle inequality by giving society's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people free access to the benefits of the creative arts.
- To engage participants in tailored projects led by exceptional professional artists in areas where provision is poor and engagement is low.

- To listen to, advocate for and give a voice to participants.
- To connect, empower, inspire and upskill participants, developing creativity, raising self-esteem, enriching lives, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing.
- To promote the value of creative arts engagement in achieving social outcomes.
- To provide high quality, fairly paid work and CPD to a diverse pool of professional artists.
- To help create a society that is fairer, more caring, more inclusive and more sustainable.

Create is the UK's leading charity empowering lives, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing through the creative arts

People Need to Create. Create's work has never been more important. Creativity impacts wellbeing, emotional and mental health. It builds skills, brings joy and reduces isolation. It allows us to think differently, to express ourselves and to be heard. It enables us to learn about ourselves and others in new ways. It inspires, empowers and raises aspirations. And, according to industry leaders including the World Economic Forum, it is the second most important job skill.

Create is a charity that champions local priorities by collaborating with our partners to tailor every project to each individual's needs. We believe that everyone – regardless of circumstances, behaviour, age, gender, race or disability – deserves the chance to fulfil their potential. Most projects are collaborations with community partners, which have specialist knowledge of local priorities and the participants that they exist to serve.

Create's focus is on engaging the most marginalised participants in inspiring, sustainable arts programmes – delivered in familiar settings where they feel comfortable and safe – in areas where provision is poor and engagement in the arts is low. We prioritise our work with eight participant groups: young psychiatric hospital patients; disabled children and adults; young and adult carers; children in care and care leavers; schoolchildren (and their teachers) in areas of deprivation; vulnerable older people including those with dementia; young and adult prisoners (and their families); and marginalised children and adults (eg homeless people, survivors of modern slavery, young refugees and asylum seekers).

Since Create was founded on 07/07/03, the charity has run 17,167 creative arts workshops that have delivered 421,875 contact hours as part of sustained, life-changing programmes with 50,430 participants.

Some of our programmes are developed and delivered in partnership with the business community, helping to meet their Responsible Business priorities. Every programme is rigorously evaluated because we're passionate about providing inspiring and empowering creative experiences that have a lasting impact. Additionally, in 2025/26 we commissioned consultancy Partnership First to undertake an evaluation of Create's Social Value. This included the statistical data collected across the year; a survey of key stakeholders; and in-depth focus groups.

We know from experience that drama can build an isolated young carer's self-esteem, that storytelling can strengthen the bond between a young offender and the loved ones waiting for him at home, and that music can provide an important means of self-expression for a young person experiencing anxiety or depression.

One spark of creative energy opens up a world of positive opportunities. Create lights that spark.

Public Benefit

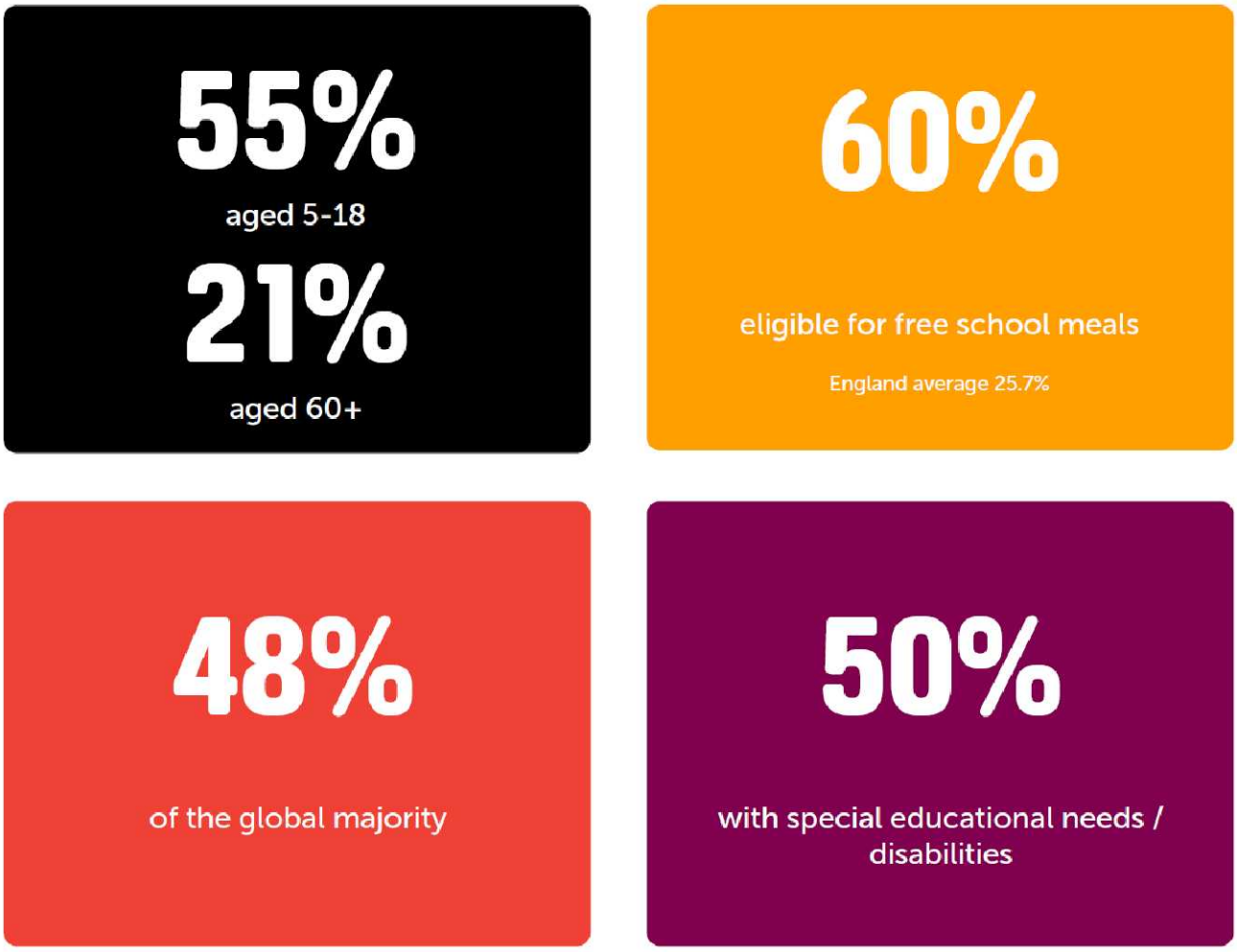
In setting Create's objectives and planning its activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. As noted throughout this report, the charity's work is directed towards the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in society and outcomes for the public benefit are recorded here in detail.

Project participants

To fulfil Create's commitment to working with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and adults, each potential community partner is carefully researched to assess the extent to which it enables the charity to meet this objective. Where applicable, Create uses poverty indices and government statistics on areas of deprivation, together with under-provided priority places – such as those identified by Arts Council England and BBC Children in Need – to establish the geographical areas of greatest need.

When choosing schools, it also considers the percentage of children who are eligible for pupil premium / are entitled to free school meals (key poverty indicators), use English as an additional language or have special educational needs. The level of vulnerability of the participants is always a key consideration, as is the extent to which the community partner already benefits from provision by other external agencies. Create's preference is to work with organisations that are under-served.

In 2025/26, 2,509 participants directly benefited from Create's projects. These included: young psychiatric hospital patients; young carers, young adult carers and adult carers; children and adults with mental ill-health; disabled children and adults; young asylum seekers and refugees; survivors of modern slavery; prisoners; inner-city schoolchildren; isolated older people, including those living with dementia; and children in care / care leavers. Create worked with participants (where data provided):



Volunteers

120 volunteers, including those provided by corporate partners, donated 1,023 hours of their time to Create: using their skills and enthusiasm to support participants in Create workshops; and providing expert guidance as Trustees or Advisory, Communications, Creative or Finance & General Purposes Council members.

Achievements and Performance

In a challenging year for the arts sector and charities more broadly, public awareness of the wide-ranging benefits of creativity is on the rise. Social prescribing is increasingly embedded in the NHS, which explicitly recommends creative and cultural activities for people with mental health issues, chronic pain, and other conditions. Creative health is now widely discussed in Parliament and policy circles.

This awareness continued to grow at the start of 2026, with the publication of Professor Daisy Fancourt's book *Art Cure*. Drawing on the last decade of UCL research into the arts, Fancourt makes an

overwhelming case for the arts as the "fifth pillar of health" alongside diet, sleep, exercise, and nature. The impact of creative arts participation is measurable, producing quantifiable improvements across physical and mental health outcomes.

Create played an important role in this debate through its own online series of "Create Conversations" roundtables. Throughout the year, Create brought together experts from academia, charities, business and the creative sector to discuss the intersection of creativity and wellbeing, AI, and leadership.

Create Week (1-7 July 2025) brought the topic of creativity and wellbeing to an even wider audience. Create worked with a group of partner organisations to encourage people to participate in creative activities for seven days, designed by our professional artists and made available for free via our website. The campaign reached 2.6 million people, doubling its impact compared to 2024.

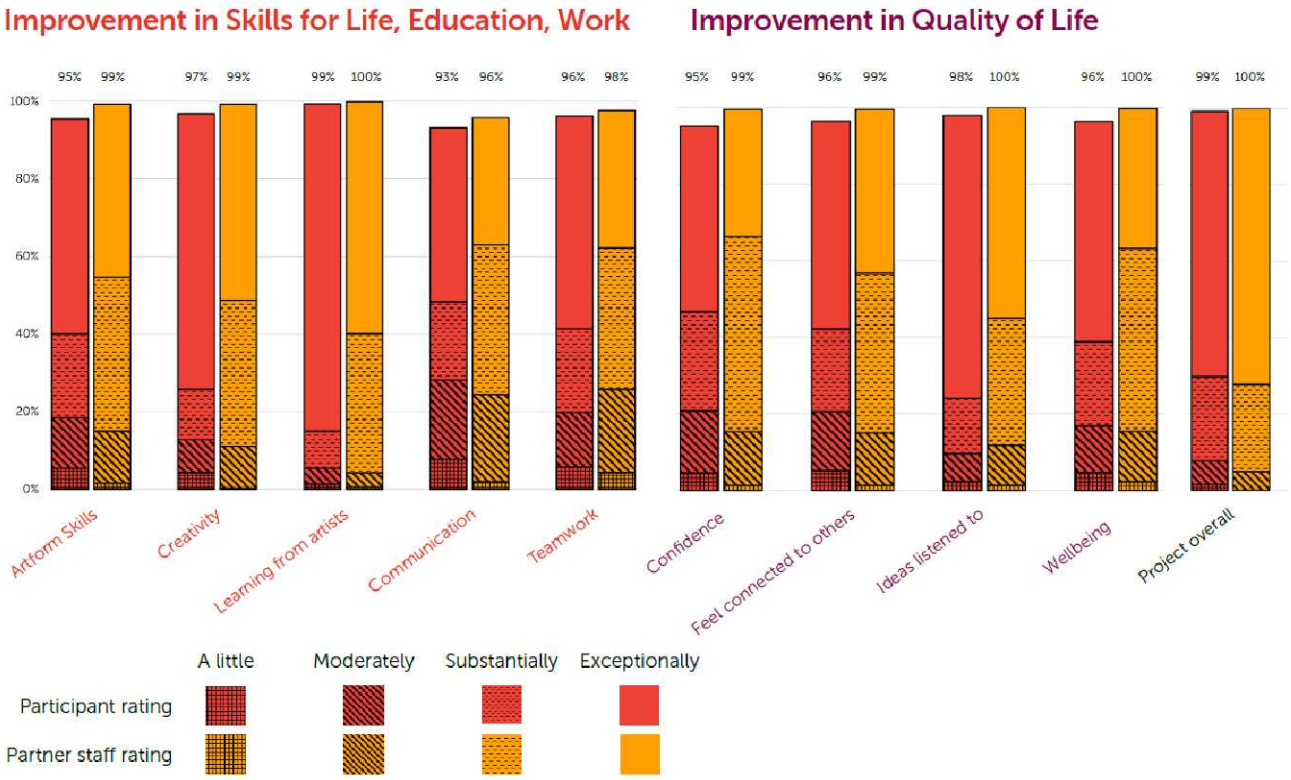
In line with its ambitious plans to double the reach and impact of its work by 2028, the main focus of Create's mission remains the delivery of free high-quality creative arts programmes across the country. We are continuing to expand our reach to make highly impactful projects accessible to increasing numbers of society's most isolated and marginalised children and adults, enabling them to build skills, connection and wellbeing. In early 2026, Create reached a significant milestone when it worked with its 50,000th participant since the charity was founded.

Since launching Create in 2003, the charity has delivered 421,875 hours of contact with 50,430 participants. During 2025/26, 80 professional Create artists ran 22 programmes (an umbrella body of work) within which 97 projects (a series of workshops with one or more community partners) were designed. These delivered 1,358 workshops (up 3.3% on the previous year) / 24,973 contact hours with 2,509 participants; and were rated "successful overall" by 99% of participants and 100% of community partner staff. Create has continued to extend its national reach, with the North West hub in Manchester, established in 2021, playing a central role in the charity's expansion.



The charity is committed at all levels to rigorous, honest evaluation. Each project is individually designed to meet partners' unique needs; clear, relevant intended outputs and outcomes are agreed; and programmes are evaluated against these. Planning and debrief meetings start and conclude each project and Create has a 100% feedback policy, with feedback being collected wherever possible from all participants, community partner staff, volunteers and Create artists. Projects are monitored through verbal feedback circles and consultation, observation of workshops and written response through questionnaires. Qualitative and quantitative feedback is used by Create to produce an evaluation report that assesses the extent to which the intended outputs and outcomes have been met. This is the primary means by which formal feedback from each programme is disseminated. Reports are sent to community partners, artists and funders, and used by Create in the planning of all future projects.

As part of the evaluation process, community partner staff and participants are asked to rate the success of their Create project in enabling the participants to develop a range of key skills and enhanced wellbeing, and to appraise the success/enjoyment of their project overall. The results across all projects during the year, shown in the graph below, demonstrate that participants' skill development/wellbeing enhancement was rated successful by between 93% and 99% of participants and 96% and 100% of community partner staff.



Create provided its artists and project team with free learning, skill-building and networking opportunities at ran two free full-day Ignite sessions in May and November. The first was centred on trauma-informed project delivery; the second on delivering Create's *our:stories* programme with SEND participants. This featured presentations by literacy and inclusion specialist Dr Helen Hendry from Open University, and teacher and literacy lead James Rowley from Haymerle School.

Attendees commented:

"I loved the structure and the creative activities to process the beautiful knowledge we got today." / "It was so nice to have a space to learn, discuss, reflect and process ideas." / "I have now got new tools to add to my belt." / "I feel empowered to plan a project that is bespoke to each child." / "It was lovely, they created a very safe and comfortable space and the content was very informative and easy to digest." / "I've come away with lots of activities and techniques to incorporate into workshops."

Create ran the 10th year of Nurturing Talent, a programme over 12 months designed to upskill emerging artists who wish to combine their professional artistic practice with creative workshop delivery in community settings. This gave six emerging artists the opportunity to work as supporting artists on a range of projects, attend professional development training days and work collaboratively to design and deliver their own workshop in a community setting. Each artist received a bursary and collectively supported 205 workshops with 503 participants across the year.

Nurturing Talent artists commented:

"I feel like I'm much more able to connect to different participants on their level now." / "I think my language has become more purposeful and appropriate for each group." / These [skills] will help me develop workshops embedded in accessibility." / "Seeing how far I've come in my confidence and delivery of workshops has really shown today. I was able to put my nerves aside, assert my confidence and [make] genuine connections with the participants." / "Today has proven to me that I am capable to lead."

Create's income was secured via the development and strengthening of relationships with trusts and foundations; companies; individuals; community fundraising; in memoriam gifts; and events. The charity is deeply appreciative for every relationship, partnership and gift, which enable it to continue its work.

Trusts, foundations, and public funding

Anonymous
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
Aesop Foundation
The Behrens Foundation
The Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation
Bruce Wake Charitable Trust
CA Redfern Charitable Foundation
Charles S French Charitable Trust
The Chartered Accountants' Livery Charity
Chesterhill Charitable Trust
The Chetwode Foundation
The Christopher and Henry Oldfield Trust
City Bridge Foundation
Comic Relief
Coutts Charitable Foundation
David and Ruth Lewis Family Charitable Trust
Deborah Loeb Brice Donor Advised Fund at CAF
The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust
The February Foundation
The Finborough Foundation
Fowler Smith and Jones Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
The Headley Trust
Hyde Park Place Estate Charity
John Horniman's Children's Trust
John Lyon's Charity
The John Thaw Foundation
The Leigh Trust
The Linbury Trust
London Freemasons Charity
Merchant Taylors' Foundation
Michael and Shirley Hunt Charitable Trust
The Michael Marsh Charitable Trust
The National Lottery Community Fund
Network for Social Change Charitable Trust
Newcomen Collett Foundation
Prudence Trust
Q Charitable Trust
The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation
Sarah Jane Leigh Charitable Trust
The Simon Rivett-Carnac Trust
Society of the Holy Child Jesus CIO
Southwark Council Neighbourhoods Fund
St James's Place Charitable Foundation
St Paul's Schools Foundation (via The Mercers' Company)
Wates Foundation
Westminster Almshouses Foundation
William A Cadbury Charitable Trust
The Worshipful Company of Coopers
The Worshipful Company of World Traders

Individuals

Project Funders
Big Give Arts for Impact campaign donors
In memory of Charlotte Benton
Johnston Nijman Foundation

Individual Supporters
Patrick Goold
Jonathan Quin
In memory of John Hedley Haggett
In memory of Victoria Holroyd
In memory of Graham Jewson
In memory of Louise Metcalf
In memory of Elayne Scalan
In memory of Dawn Stevens
In memory of Frances Webster

Companies

Corporate Partners
Ashurst
Barnett Waddingham
British Land
Grosvenor Property UK
Octopus Energy Generation
Reed Smith
smart UK
White Stuff

Corporate Donors
Foilco - Multiplicity
Fresh: Art Fair
Heron Financial
PsLondon
Thirteen Creative
Unethical
Williams and Hill

Create Live! For Business

KPMG
White Stuff

Community Fundraisers

Christina Greenhalgh & Jeremy Rayment
Besnik Mehmeti
Paul Thimont
"A Canvas in Sound" Charity Concert
Centurion Management
Purple Patch Management
Rogue Art Exhibition
Six Arts Charity concert

The *Create the Difference* individual and business membership schemes provide highly valued unrestricted financial support to underpin the charity's work, enabling it to plan with confidence. Create thanks the following members (and all who are non-Founding Change Makers/Community members or wish to remain anonymous), who together donated over £66k during the year:

Business Members: **Pioneer:** Brown-Forman **Innovator:** London Graphic Centre **Collaborator:** Dawn Creative

Individual Members: **Champion:** Tony Cates; Alistair DK Johnston CMG; Tim & Claire Jones **Catalyst:** Anne Baldock; Eddie Donaldson OBE **Curator:** Gareth Davies; Philip Emery; Sean Hanson; Adam McNeeney; Susan Paul; Mark Sismey-Durrant; Chris and Vanessa Turpin **Connector:** Wendy Dempsey; Vanessa Sharp; Colin Sheaf; Martin Waldon **Change Maker (Founder Members):** Nicky Goulder MBE; Marit Meyer-Bell **Community (Founder Members):** John Broadis; Carol Topolski; Michael Topolski

A vital part of Create's work is its partnerships with the business community, which enable companies to meet their Responsible Business objectives while helping Create to achieve its mission. Alongside financial, support, our corporate partners provided 87 volunteers, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to workshops, acting as positive role models for the participants, developing new skills and experiences to take back to their workplace, and enhancing their wellbeing. Their feedback demonstrates the impact:

- 100% improved their knowledge and understanding of the social issues facing participants.
- 99% increased their confidence in working with people from different backgrounds
- 100% improved their wellbeing.
- 100% increased their job satisfaction, and their commitment to and pride in their employer.
- 100% felt well informed, briefed and supported by Create during their volunteering.
- 100% of participants said they enjoyed meeting and working with volunteers.

Pro bono support included: a social media management system by Metricool; and meeting/event space by Barnett Waddingham, Quilter, Reed Smith and Simply Business.

In February 2026, Create commissioned consultancy Partnership First to undertake its third independent evaluation of the charity's Social Value for the participants, organisations and communities with which it works, and the professional artists who deliver this work. In determining the charity's Social Value, Partnership First used a broad evidence base, including: focus groups; a Social Value Survey completed by 69% of recipients (69 community partners, 41 artists and six corporate partners who access volunteering); and extensive post-project data collected by Create across the year from participants and Community Partner staff. The report found:

91%

of survey respondents said that Create's work had an exceptional or substantial impact on Quality of Life

92%

said that Create's work had an exceptional or substantial impact on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

83%

said that Create's work had an exceptional or substantial impact on Skills for Life, Education & Work

91%

said that Create's work had an exceptional or substantial impact on Community Cohesion & Renewal

The report concluded that:

"Social value is not an added benefit of Create's work, but a core and intentional outcome of its delivery model. Create consistently delivers meaningful, coherent and lasting social value through high quality creative practice and strong partnership working.

"By removing barriers while maintaining artistic excellence, Create enables people who are often excluded from creative opportunities to participate fully, confidently and with dignity. In doing so, Create contributes to more resilient organisations, thriving individuals and more compassionate communities."



Key Groups / Example Projects

During the year, Create developed and delivered 97 projects, examples of which are included below.

Led by Create's professional artists, Create's projects connected, empowered, inspired and upskilled participants, raising aspirations and enhancing wellbeing. They also ...

Children in care / care leavers	... improved self-expression, self-belief and relationship-building

"I'm grateful for this opportunity. This is my first time doing something like this, and I wish that there were more opportunities for other people in care, because we don't get to do this stuff."" Participant

103 children in care / care leavers in London and Greater Manchester took part in animation, ceramics, music, photography and visual art projects through Create's *change:matters* and *our:voices* programmes.

Disabled (SEND) adults	... improved social skills, provided means of self-expression and enhanced self-confidence

"Being creative, you can learn new things. You can explore!" Participant

Our *community:matters* project with Brent Mencap enabled 24 adults with a learning disability to explore dance, music, sculpture, textiles and writing.

Disabled (SEND) children	... broke down barriers of prejudice and explored environmental concerns

"Create has got to know the pupils' individual needs and ways of communicating. Different entry points were considered for every pupil. The children were so engaged, and I could see that they really enjoyed the workshops!" Teacher

creative:connection brought together 182 disabled and non-disabled children in Essex, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Salford and Watford. *changing:minds* worked with 119 SEND schoolchildren and young adults in London. Our *environment:matters* programme delivered climate themed projects with 121 children at four special schools in Bedford, Liverpool and Sale. *our:stories* impacted 179 disabled pupils cross eight special schools in London.

Adult carers	… provided a social outlet through which to take a break from caring and build trusting relationships, reducing isolation

"For these two hours a week, I've been able to escape my duties and just focus on what I'm doing, think about my work and what I want to create. It's been really therapeutic. I can't even put into words how helpful [this project] is. I'm so grateful that this is available." Participant

Our *creative:release* and *creative:voices* projects delivered both in venue and remotely via Create Live! reduced the isolation of 384 adult carers in Edinburgh, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Sefton, Surrey, and Wigan and Leigh.

Young carers	… enabled young carers to take a break, build resilience, connect with peers, and learn about money in the home

"[Creativity] is a way to express yourself, which is really good for your mental and physical health." Participant

We delivered 381 workshops across our *art:space, change:matters, community:matters* and *inspired:arts* projects, giving 575 young carers across the UK access to a wide range of different artforms. Our programme included an online showcase on Young Carers Action Day (11 March 2026), putting young carers' talents and voices at the heart of the event.

Prisoners	… gave prisoners space to express themselves, and create stories to connect them with their children

"[The storybook] helps with communication. It gives my children something to hold on to, something personal that I've given them." Participant

We reached 120 male and female prisoners across three prisons through *Free Inside, Inside Stories* and *My Parent's in Prison*, enabling them to create jewellery and visual art, make music and write illustrated stories for their children.

Older people	… reduced isolation, fostered imagination and increased self-worth

"I want to reassure anyone who thinks they can't do it: allow yourself to [do it] and you will feel encouraged and safe." Participant

Our *art:links, creative:engagement* and *creative:links* projects improved the quality of life of isolated older people, many living with dementia. These projects enabled 272 participants across London and Greater Manchester to express themselves creatively.

Young psychiatric hospital patients	… provided a creative outlet to young people living with mental illnesses

"You can focus on an art project and really lose yourself in it. And I think that being able to lose yourself is a wonderful thing." Participant

Our *creative:tandem* programme empowered 73 young people who had been admitted to mental health units due to serious conditions, including psychotic, depressive, anxiety and eating disorders, self-harm or suicidal thinking. Our professional artists brought art, ceramics, sculpture and textiles workshops into four hospital units in London and Manchester.

Young refugees and migrants	… encouraged self-expression and built a sense of community

"The benefits of this creative experience are so good. We could see changes in our young people in just three days. The project improved confidence and all the children were able to form creative and supportive partnerships." Staff, Salusbury World

We worked with 27 young refugee and migrant children in Brent through our *community:matters* partnership with Salusbury World.

Survivors of modern slavery	... used creativity as a powerful form of self-expression

"My pieces were like a therapy session. I can honestly say [this project] changed my life. I would be a very different person without it." Participant

Art is Freedom is Hestia's annual art exhibition, featuring work created by survivors of modern slavery, delivered in collaboration with Ashurst Perkins Coie. Create delivered painting workshops with 16 survivors of modern slavery as part of Hestia's Art is Freedom campaign, where survivors learnt and refined their skills, before submitting their best pieces for the exhibition.

During the year, Create increased its profile through high-quality communications that helped to raise the profile of the importance of the creative arts, and to position the charity as a leader in its field and the CEO as an expert voice.

On 26/06/25, Founding Chief Executive Nicky Goulder officially received an MBE from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at an Investiture Ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Nicky was awarded her MBE in the King's New Year Honours List 2025 in recognition of "services to Disadvantaged People and to Charity" including her tireless work to expand access to the creative arts for the most vulnerable people in our society.

Create Conversations webinars invited experts to explore topics related to the role of creativity in society, raising Create's profile as a thought-leader whilst expanding its audience and network of professional contacts. The webinar during Creativity and Wellbeing Week in 05/25 explored what makes creative health projects truly effective. The panel on creativity and AI in 09/25 discussed how best to navigate the ethical challenges around AI. The webinar on creativity and leadership in 11/25 looked at why creativity should matter to leaders.

During Create Week, 1-7 July 2025, thousands of people across the UK and beyond joined Create's annual celebration of the creative arts. The campaign reached 2.6 million people online, generated positive content, social media buzz, and media coverage.

In 08/25, Create launched a marketing Partnership with smart UK, which promoted participants' work in a unique and high-profile way and helped to raise awareness of the charity to new audiences. During four projects in London and Manchester, Create participants created artwork on the theme 'Open Your Mind' for a promotional campaign for automotive brand smart UK's smart car. The project reached an online audience of 1.5 million on Instagram and 2.2 million on TikTok and received significant coverage in local and industry media internationally. In 03/25, the campaign was shortlisted for the Business Charity Awards "Marketing Partnership of the Year", recognising the powerful impact of bringing business and creativity together for social good.



Create's partnership with White Stuff made a hugely positive impact on the charity's communications throughout the year. Alongside White Stuff's highly valued ongoing financial support for the charity, substantial reach online and in stores across the country boosted Create's visibility for Create Week, its Christmas fundraising campaign, and the Big Give "Arts for Impact" campaign, which was crucial to their success. During Create Week 2025, White Stuff teamed up with Create and carers from Harrow to create a striking, hand-crafted window display for one of its stores. The unique collaboration gave the carers the opportunity to explore their creativity and showcase their artwork to a wide audience.

In 01/26, Create became Country & Town House magazine's official charity partner for 2026. Its support includes advertising in each edition of the magazine, ongoing editorial support across print, online, social media, and a partnership with Chelsea Arts Festival in 09/26.

Thanks to a major new grant aimed at helping to strengthen long-term impact, efficiency and sustainability, Create began a significant IT infrastructure programme during the year. This embedded Salesforce across the fundraising, marketing and communications teams, and expanded the finance team to reflect the charity's significant growth in recent years.



Plans for 2026/27

Create will enter year six of its ambitious seven-year strategic plan with the aim of doubling the reach and impact of its work by its 25th anniversary in 2028. Its participants will remain the driving force behind its work and the charity will continue to meet its commitment to developing sustained, life-changing programmes by returning to many of the carer services, day centres, prisons, schools, adolescent psychiatric hospital units and other community settings with which it collaborated during 2025/26.

Create has a series of important initiatives planned. These will extend its work geographically and with new partners, which will be brought on board throughout the year. They include further expansion of its work from the NW hub, successfully established in Manchester during 2021, reaching participants in areas of high deprivation across Greater Manchester, Merseyside and beyond.

Having secured a four-year Literacy Special Initiative grant from St Paul's Schools Foundation (via The Mercers' Company) to fund *our:stories* between 2025/26 and 2028/29, this major new literacy programme with special needs primary schools in London will continue to take a creative approach to increasing children's reading and writing for pleasure. It will provide an interactive, fun learning experience for children aged 5-11, where they can experiment with different ways of engaging with words and ideas, and create their own narratives through writing, music, dance, drama or art. Eight schools will take part during the year, helping to place the children at the heart of National Year of Reading 2026.

The climate crisis is arguably the most significant global challenge over the next decade and beyond. Create has taken its environmental responsibility seriously for 23 years, both operationally and via its projects. Having completed the City of London's "Climate for SMEs: 4 Steps to Action" training programme during 2024 Create has developed a Net Zero Action Plan, progress towards which will be tracked by the Green Committee. Create will also deliver its environmental programme – *environment:matters* – enabling children to explore the climate crisis through the creative arts.

Create will continue to offer community partners a blended approach of Create Live! (via Zoom) and in-venue projects, enabling them to choose the most appropriate way for their participants to access workshops. For those participants who are unable to leave home due to their caring responsibilities, frailty, mental illness, sickness or geographical remoteness, being able to join workshops remotely helps

to keep them connected, empowered, inspired and upskilled, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing.

Create will continue to increase its profile through high-quality communications and events that help to raise the profile of the importance of the creative arts, and to position the charity as a leader in its field and the CEO as an expert voice.

It will develop further two important initiatives: **Create Week** from 1-7 July 2026, a week-long event to promote and celebrate creativity and its importance for the wellbeing of individuals, organisations and society as a whole; and **Create Conversations** a series of online panel discussions on the role of creativity in society, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of making the creative arts available to everyone. Conversations during the year will include "creativity without barriers" during Creativity and Wellbeing Week in 05/26.

As the charity partner for Chelsea Arts Festival in 09/26, Create's CEO will introduce an "in conversation" between two authors in the creative and wellbeing space; and a group of young carers from Lambeth and Wandsworth will give three open-air performances of new music that they have created especially for the festival.

Artist development will remain a priority for Create, with free CPD offered via the "Ignite" programme, which will provide an opportunity for its professional artists and project team to network, develop new skills and share best practice. Key events taking place in May and November 2026 will focus on "working with vulnerable adults" and "authentic networking / active listening". Six artists have been accepted onto the *Nurturing Talent* programme, which upskills emerging artists, enabling them to acquire experience and to benefit from high-quality mentoring, training and practical workshop assistance.

Thanks to a major three-year grant secured in 2025, aimed at helping to strengthen long-term impact, efficiency and sustainability, Create will be progressing with its significant IT infrastructure programme during the year. This will include embedding Salesforce across the organisation and moving to a cloud-based finance system.

Create will continue to diversify its funding streams. The CEO has been accepted onto the London Growth & Resilience Programme, an 18-month initiative delivered by School for Social Entrepreneurs supported by City Bridge Foundation. This includes two grants, practical learning, mentoring and buyer connections, all geared towards growing earned income and strengthening financial resilience.



Reserves policy

The aim of Create's reserves policy is to ensure that its ongoing and future activities are reasonably protected from unexpected variances in income and expenditure. The Trustees regularly review the levels of unrestricted reserves and perform a full review annually. This considers the financial risks associated with different income streams, expenditure categories and balance sheet items together with Create's ability to meet these from realisable funds. Create monitors a range of measures related to its income and expenditure profile, risks faced and cash flow in developing an unrestricted reserves target. On this basis, the Trustees aim to maintain free unrestricted reserves of 4-6 months of projected operational costs. Unrestricted reserves at 31/03/26 were £1,149,228, of which £183,576 is held in designated funds as a fixed asset fund; and to support a range of projects and special initiatives. The balance of £965,652 represents six months of budgeted expenditure for 2026/27.

This crucial level of reserve – given the continued uncertainty resulting from the volatility of the current economic situation – together with restricted reserves at 31/03/26 of £412k (funding received in advance that has been given for a specific purpose and is tied to specified projects or activity taking place in future financial years), provide the charity with a strong balance sheet and cash position. The Directors therefore consider the funding of the activities of the charity to be secure for the following 12 months and beyond.

Structure, governance and management

Company Status
The company is incorporated by guarantee and has no share capital. Each of the members has guaranteed to meet debts of £1 in the event of a winding up. The company was incorporated on 09/04/03 and is governed by a memorandum and articles of association. The company is also a registered charity.

Appointment and induction of Directors
Create's Board of Directors has a wealth of experience that covers the arts, business, community and education sectors. New Directors are appointed to the Board by the current Directors, who are also members of the company, with reference to skills, diversity and Create's values. The CEO inducts new Directors through a process of briefings. They are provided with key information relating to the charity's governance and operations, and undertake a DBS check and safeguarding training. The Directors meet at least quarterly and attend projects and events. The Communications, Creative and Finance & General Purposes Councils are each chaired by a member of the Board.

Key management personnel
Day to day operations are managed by the CEO, Nicky Goulder and her team of 26 staff. Six of these are on the Senior Leadership Team with her: Director of Communications; Head of Development (Grants/Major Gifts); Director of Finance & Operations; Director of Programmes; Head of Corporate Development; Lead Senior Project Manager.

New staff have a six-monthly appraisal; all staff have an annual appraisal against SMART objectives set. The Staff Handbook provides information on internal policies and procedures. Annually, the Chairman agrees any staff salary increases, which consider cost of living rises and any increase in responsibilities. As appropriate, staff salaries are benchmarked against the sector.

Fundraising
Create has a fundraising team of four who work closely with the CEO. Funding bids are carefully researched, developed and submitted to trusts/foundations and public sector bodies, matching their funding criteria with Create's work. Corporate partnerships are developed with businesses, carefully matching their Responsible Business objectives with Create's charitable objectives. Increasingly, Create is approached and works with organisations to co-create partnerships with mutual benefit. Create works on a personalised basis with individuals who have expressed interest in its work, via personal donations or community fundraising.

Create has received no complaints about this or any other approach to fundraising.

Risk management
The Directors consider the key risks to which the charity is exposed. In addition, a detailed risk register is maintained by the Director of Finance & Operations and reviewed annually by the Directors to assess the detailed risks and the systems in place to mitigate them. Examples of the key risks faced by Create and their mitigation are provided below:

- **Loss of the CEO**
  In a charity of this size and history the CEO's continuing commitment and resilience underpins its capacity to deliver its business plan.

  Mitigation: A Senior Leadership Team covers the core areas of communications, finance, fundraising, operations and projects, and provides support to the CEO as well as continuity in times of absence. As the charity continues to grow that resource is monitored.

- **Reputational damage**
  The charity's reputation is paramount and it works hard to maintain and enhance it.

  Mitigation: High quality programmes are delivered by exceptional artists and meticulously evaluated; a rigorous Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults policy is in place; risk assessments are carried out with community partners for every project.

- **Lack of funding**
  Funding is critical to the continued operations of the charity and in a continuously evolving environment, particularly the current economic climate, it needs to be alert to changing funding demands and policies.

  Mitigation: The CEO has a proven fundraising track record; fundraising is overseen by a Development team of four; longer-term funding is being developed; and opportunities for generating earned income are being actively explored. Create has a proven ability to meet fundraising targets.

- **Poor staff wellbeing**
  Staff wellbeing is crucial in a small, ambitious charity that delivers an extensive programme each year with disadvantaged and vulnerable participants.

  Mitigation: Staff wellbeing is central to the charity's people strategy and an increased priority since hybrid working has led to a more dispersed team. Initiatives have included wellbeing training; creative activities; project offloads; additional leave; and team socials.



Directors

The following served as Directors during the year:

John Broadis
Tony Cates
Holly Khan (Monica Robinson)
Marit Meyer-Bell
Vanessa Sharp
Paul Thimont (until 04/12/25)
Carol Topolski
Simone Wright

The Directors are also the Trustees for the purpose of charity law.

CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED

Directors' Report

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Create (Arts) Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 in the Charities SORP;
- 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, and
- 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 maintaining proper accounting records which 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.

Statement of Disclosure to Auditor

In so far as each of the Directors is aware:

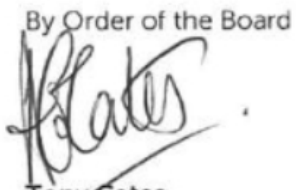
- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- the Directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, appointment of auditors to the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting of Members.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

By Order of the Board



Tony Cates
Chairman
30/09/26

CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Create (Arts) Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 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.

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 *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 directors' 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 charity'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the directors' 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; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the directors 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 directors 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 directors are responsible for assessing the charity'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 directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 auditor's 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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the company's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Directors of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the company for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following area:

The timing of the recognition of revenue. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and local taxation legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the timing of the recognition of revenue as the key audit matter related to the potential risk of fraud.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Directors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company'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 charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth

Alison Buckley (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth .....

Accountants
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP

CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	708,836	657,438	1,366,274	569,622	737,132	1,306,754
Charitable activities	**4**	-	102,566	102,566	33,638	167,916	201,554
Other trading activities	**5**	16,123	8,593	24,716	17,538	4,060	21,598
Investments	**6**	39,014	-	39,014	44,382	-	44,382
Total income		763,973	768,597	1,532,570	665,180	909,108	1,574,288
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	**7**	195,021	-	195,021	155,770	-	155,770
Charitable activities	**8**	415,230	868,719	1,283,949	273,679	908,699	1,182,378
Total expenditure		610,251	868,719	1,478,970	429,449	908,699	1,338,148
Net income/(expenditure)		153,722	(100,122)	53,600	235,731	409	236,140
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	28,678	(28,678)	-
Net movement in funds	**10**	153,722	(100,122)	53,600	264,409	(28,269)	236,140
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2025		995,506	512,184	1,507,690	731,097	540,453	1,271,550
Fund balances at 31 March 2026		1,149,228	412,062	1,561,290	995,506	512,184	1,507,690

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		12,053		25,158
Current assets					
Stocks	**14**	50,000		50,000	
Debtors	**15**	72,339		99,006	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,549,029		1,522,636	
		1,671,368		1,671,642	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**16**	(102,131)		(169,110)	
Net current assets			1,569,237		1,502,532
Total assets less current liabilities			1,581,290		1,527,690
Provision for other liabilities	**17**		(20,000)		(20,000)
Net assets			1,561,290		1,507,690
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**19**		412,062		512,184
Unrestricted funds - general	**20**		965,652		839,182
Unrestricted funds - Designated fund	**20**		183,576		156,324
			1,561,290		1,507,690

The financial statements were approved by the directors on 30 September 2026

Tony Cates
Chairman

Company registration number 4728145 (England and Wales)

CREATE (ARTS) LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**25**		(12,621)		215,519
Investing activities					
Investment income received		39,014		44,382	
Net cash generated from investing activities			39,014		44,382
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			26,393		259,901
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,522,636		1,262,735
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,549,029		1,522,636

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Create (Arts) Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is 3rd Floor, 14 Austin Friars, London, EC2N 2HE.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds can only be used for the particular purpose within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are applied for a specific restricted purpose. In the majority of cases, restricted funds are those which have been received in the year but are required to be applied to projects which are not going to commence until the following year. If those projects do not proceed then in some cases those funds will have to be returned.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the directors for an essential spend or future purpose.

1.4 Recognition of income

Incoming resources from charitable activities have been analysed according to type of funding received as the charity has one main activity, which is the development and delivery of projects.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Fees, sponsorship and event income
Fees, sponsorship and event income are stated net of discounts and VAT and are recognised on a receivable basis.

Grants, donations and sponsorship
Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when the formal offer has been made in writing, unless the grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds.

Much of the funding for Create's charitable work derives from grants, donations and sponsorship, whether from the public sector, companies, trusts and foundations, or individuals. Such support is often directed towards a particular event or project. Such receipts are accounted for as restricted funds and expenditure is matched against the income as incurred.

Investment income is recognised when receivable.

Legacies
Legacies are recognised on a receivable basis once the conditions for the receipt have been satisfied and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.5 Expenditure
Liabilities and related expenditure are recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity, The cost of overall direction and administration of the charity is included within the support costs as part of the cost of charitable activities. All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Staff costs have been allocated to the expenditure headings on the basis of an estimate of the amount of time spent by staff members in each area.

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 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. 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.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities, events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objective, as well as any associated support costs.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets
Individual assets costing £1,500 or more are capitalised at cost.

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Leasehold improvements	20%
Fixtures and fittings	20%

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

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.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

1.12 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has a legal or constructive present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting end date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value. When a provision is measured at present value, the unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in net income/(expenditure) in the period in which it arises.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Pensions

Create (Arts) Limited has set up an auto enrolment compliant pension scheme into which the employees are enrolled. The pension cost in the financial statements represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Donations and legacies	321,170	19,857	341,027	266,999	-	266,999
Grants	387,666	637,581	1,025,247	302,623	737,132	1,039,755
	708,836	657,438	1,366,274	569,622	737,132	1,306,754

Grants and major donors included in the above figures are listed on page 7 of this annual report.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Sponsorships	-	102,566	102,566	33,638	167,916	201,554

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Community fundraising	16,123	-	16,123	17,538	-	17,538
Create Live! For Business	-	8,593	8,593	-	4,060	4,060
Other trading activities	16,123	8,593	24,716	17,538	4,060	21,598

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Interest receivable	39,014	44,382

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
	£	£
Employee costs	150,068	117,850
Support costs	44,953	37,920
	195,021	155,770

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Expenditure on charitable activities 2026	Expenditure on charitable activities 2025
	£	£
Direct costs		
Employee costs	687,591	651,683
Direct costs of projects	341,625	315,818
	1,029,216	967,501
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	254,733	214,877
	1,283,949	1,182,378
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	415,230	273,679
Restricted funds	868,719	908,699
	1,283,949	1,182,378

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2026	2025
	£	£
Employee costs	94,240	85,504
Depreciation	13,105	13,105
Other staff related costs	6,159	4,636
Insurance	4,834	4,887
Rent/service charge	84,624	70,063
Other premises expenses	35,640	25,593
Communications/branding	6,869	11,032
IT software	26,132	8,981
Payroll costs	960	920
Irrecoverable VAT	17,675	18,787
Auditors remuneration	8,710	8,500
Sundries	738	789
	299,686	252,797
Analysed between:		
Expenditure on raising funds	44,953	37,920
Expenditure on charitable activities	254,733	214,877
	299,686	252,797

10 Net movement in funds

	2026	2025
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable to the charity's auditor:		
- for the audit of the charity's financial statements	7,160	7,000
- for other financial services	1,550	1,500
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	13,105	13,105

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
Project management	12	12
Communications	3	2
Development	4	4
Management	3	3
Finance and Operations	4	1
Total	26	22

Employment costs	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	815,124	762,890
Social security costs	93,394	72,005
Other pension costs	23,381	20,142
	931,899	855,037

On a full-time equivalent bases, employees numbers increased from 21 (31 March 2025) to 23.2 (31 March 2026).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	-

None of the directors received remuneration during the year (2025: none). No expenses incurred by the directors were reimbursed. Expenses waived by the directors are immaterial.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2025	20,000	44,473	64,473
At 31 March 2026	20,000	44,473	64,473
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2025	12,630	26,685	39,315
Depreciation charged in the year	4,210	8,895	13,105
At 31 March 2026	16,840	35,580	52,420
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2026	3,160	8,893	12,053
At 31 March 2025	7,370	17,788	25,158

14 Stocks

	2026	2025
	£	£
Artwork donated for resale	50,000	50,000

15 Debtors

	2026	2025
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	4,238	25,229
Prepayments and accrued income	48,630	54,306
	52,868	79,535

	2026	2025
Amounts falling due after more than one year:	£	£
Other debtors	19,471	19,471
Total debtors	72,339	99,006

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	29,201	29,336
Trade creditors	51,263	38,809
Accruals and deferred income	21,667	100,965
	102,131	169,110

17 Provisions for liabilities

	2026	2025
	£	£
Office dilapidation provision	20,000	20,000

Movements on provisions:

	£
At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026	20,000

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2026	2025
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	23,381	20,142

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Marginalised children & adults	81,074	128,107	(114,737)	-	94,444
Vulnerable older people	22,418	96,045	(107,955)	-	10,508
Young & adult carers	277,403	231,231	(424,393)	-	84,241
Young patients	22,390	2,500	(24,890)	-	-
Disabled children & adults	62,000	26,777	(81,332)	-	7,445
Young and adult prisoners	21,889	67,194	(31,805)	-	57,278
Create Live! For Business	-	8,593	(8,593)	-	-
Evaluation	25,010	-	-	-	25,010
Infrastructure Fund	-	208,150	(75,014)	-	133,136
	512,184	768,597	(868,719)	-	412,062

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Marginalised children & adults	49,306	83,434	(47,374)	(4,292)	81,074
Vulnerable older people	52,982	94,548	(106,339)	(18,773)	22,418
Nurturing Talent	928	-	(2,500)	1,572	-
Young & adult carers	314,599	420,073	(458,950)	1,681	277,403
Young patients	6,861	68,445	(52,915)	(1)	22,390
Disabled children & adults	81,411	112,122	(127,620)	(3,913)	62,000
Young & adult prisoners	18,672	101,416	(93,247)	(4,952)	21,889
Hub	15,694	-	(15,694)	-	-
Create Live! For Business	-	4,060	(4,060)	-	-
Evaluation	-	25,010	-	-	25,010
	540,453	909,108	908,699	(28,678)	512,184

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds, which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

Designated funds

	At 1 April 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
IT	41,710	-	(16,351)	-	25,359
Fixed asset fund	25,158	-	(13,105)	-	12,053
Charles Lloyd-Jones Legacy Fund	4,725	-	(1,575)	-	3,150
creative:connection	4,731	-	(4,731)	-	-
North West Hub	80,000	108,044	(76,488)	-	111,556
creative:voices	-	12,855	-	-	12,855
CPD	-	6,375	-	-	6,375
Development Director	-	12,228	-	-	12,228
	156,324	139,502	(112,250)	-	183,576
General funds	839,182	624,471	(498,001)	-	965,652
	995,506	763,973	(610,251)	-	1,149,228

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
CRM/IT	41,710	-	-	-	41,710
Fixed asset fund	38,263	-	(13,105)	-	25,158
Charles Lloyd-Jones Legacy Fund	6,300	-	(1,575)	-	4,725
creative:connection	20,539	-	(15,808)	-	4,731
Project Equipment	11,000	-	(11,000)	-	-
North West Hub	-	80,000	-	-	80,000
	117,812	80,000	(41,488)	-	156,324
General funds	613,285	585,180	(387,961)	28,678	839,182
	731,097	665,180	429,449	28,678	995,506

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Restricted funds 2026	Total 2026
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2026:			
Tangible assets	12,053	-	12,053
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,157,175	412,062	1,569,237
Provisions	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	1,149,228	412,062	1,561,290

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	25,158	-	25,158
Current assets/(liabilities)	990,348	512,184	1,502,532
Provisions	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	995,506	512,184	1,507,690

22 Statement of funds

Designated Funds:

IT - Designated fund to support the implementation of a new CRM system / IT.

Fixed Asset Fund - The designated fixed asset category represents tangible fixed assets that are used to carry out the charity's activities and are therefore not readily available for spending.

Charles Lloyd-Jones Legacy Fund - Designated fund to support *Nurturing Talent*.

North West Hub - Designated fund to support expansion of work delivered from the NW hub.

CPD - Designated fund to support staff's continuous personal development.

Development Director - Designated fund to support fundraising function.

General Funds

The General Unrestricted Funds represent accumulated income from the Charity's activities that are available for the general purposes of the charity.

Restricted Funds

Marginalised children & adults - This fund relates to the charity's work with marginalised children and adults.

Vulnerable older people - This fund relates to the charity's work with vulnerable older people.

Young & adult carers - This fund relates to the charity's work with young and adult carers.

Young patients - This fund relates to the charity's work with young patients.

Disabled children & adults - This fund relates to the charity's work with disabled children and adults.

Young & adult prisoners - This fund relates to the charity's work with young and adult prisoners.

Create Live! For Business - This fund relates to the charity's creative workshops with corporate partners.

Evaluation - This fund relates to charity's rigorous evaluation and impact assessment.

Infrastructure Fund - The fund enables us to upgrade our CRM system and strengthens our Finance and Operations team.

23 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Within one year	70,416	76,294
Between two and five years	334,476	334,476
	404,892	410,770

24 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made payments of £1,259 to Carol Topolski (2025: £Nil) and £Nil to Holly Khan (2025: £1,200) in relation to the services they provided on projects as writer and musician respectively. Neither were paid in their role as trustees.

In aggregate, the trustees donations totalled £16,388 (2025: £15,520).

The key management personnel of Create in charge of planning, directing and controlling the charity and running it on a day to day basis comprise the Board of Trustees, Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team. The total remuneration payable to key management personnel (7 persons) during the year was £304,622 (2025: (6 persons): £294,028).

25 Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations

	2026	**2025**
	£	**£**
Surplus for the year	53,600	236,140
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(39,014)	(44,382)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	13,105	13,105
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	26,667	636
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(66,979)	10,020
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(12,621)	215,519

26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.