Space2Create

Trustees' Annual Report

Reporting period: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025

Registered Charity Number: 1159664

Section A – Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name
Space2Create

Principal Address
Unit 31, The Factory, Castle Mills, Aynam Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7DE

Trustees
- **Chair:** Kevin Hankey
- **Trustee:** Mat Butler
- **Trustee:** Janet Walkden

Senior Staff
- **General Manager:** Elaine Cuthbertson
- **Deputy Manager (Volunteer):** Hayley Easton
- **Well Being Manager:** Julie Thomas

Section B – Structure, Governance and Management

Space2Create is a registered charity whose objects are to promote health, wellbeing and social inclusion through creative and therapeutic activities.

The charity is governed by its trustees, who are responsible for strategic direction, governance, financial oversight and ensuring that its activities further its charitable objectives.

The trustees regularly review governance arrangements, manage risks through appropriate policies and procedures and oversee compliance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

Staffing and Organisational Development

In June 2025, Space2Create underwent a staffing transition, with the General Manager and Admin Clerk roles forming part of the staffing structure. Temporary staff support helped the charity review its existing policies and develop a comprehensive suite of policies and procedures. These are reviewed annually and amended as necessary.

In September 2025, a new Wellbeing Manager was recruited, strengthening the charity's capacity to support service users and develop its wellbeing provision.

During late 2025, the General Manager and Wellbeing Manager began developing a new referral and induction procedure. This work continued into 2026, with the aim of creating a more consistent process for welcoming service users, gathering feedback and recording attendance, engagement and outcomes.

In April 2025, staff members and volunteers attended an intensive one-day First Aid training course, supporting the charity's commitment to safety and preparedness.

Safeguarding and Session Leadership

A review of the timetable identified sessions operating without a designated leader. The charity recognised the potential safeguarding and oversight concerns associated with these arrangements and reviewed its programme throughout 2025 and 2026.

The Tuesday and Wednesday knitting and crochet sessions were discontinued because they did not have a session lead. A volunteer was subsequently recruited to lead Close Knit, a Friday morning session. These changes reflect the charity's commitment to providing activities that are appropriately supported, safe and sustainable.

The trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and delivering the charity's activities.

Section C – Objectives and Activities

Space2Create provides a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for adults experiencing mental health challenges, isolation and other barriers to wellbeing. Through art, craft, creativity and social connection, the charity aims to improve confidence, reduce isolation and support recovery.

During 2025, the charity continued to deliver creative and wellbeing activities, exhibitions and community events. Its sessions provide opportunities for people to learn skills, share experiences, develop confidence and form supportive relationships.

The charity's approach recognises the value of meaningful creative activity in promoting wellbeing and social inclusion. Participants are encouraged to work at their own pace, explore their creativity and benefit from the companionship and mutual support of others.

Creative Groups and Specialist Activities

Space2Create continued and expanded its programme of creative and social activities, supported by staff, volunteers and practitioners with creative skills. Activities provide opportunities to explore different materials and techniques, develop practical skills and work collaboratively.

During the year, a local fibre artist led needle-felting sessions, introducing participants to a specialist craft in a supportive environment.

In April 2025, a knitting collaboration was completed, producing a collection of brightly coloured blankets, vests, hats and toys for babies in the Mother and Baby Unit at Hoima Regional Referral Hospital in Uganda. This project demonstrated how shared creative skills could contribute to a practical gift for babies and families receiving care overseas

The Men's Group, initially established with funding from Westmorland & Furness Council, continued after the initial funded period through the commitment of volunteer session leaders. The group began as an electronics tinkering hub and developed into Brothers in Arts, incorporating creative and musical projects. Participants collaborated on building electric guitars and effects pedals from scratch, with completed creations raffled to raise funds for Space2Create. The group demonstrated how practical skills, creativity and teamwork can support social connection and generate fundraising opportunities.

Kendal College Partnership

During 2025, Space2Create began working with Kendal College students through work placements. Students designed creative sessions and worked alongside the charity's session leaders to help deliver them, bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to the programme.

The placements offered students practical experience of planning and delivering activities while helping the charity introduce new ideas for service users. Planning also began for a collaborative exhibition showcasing creative work produced by Space2Create members with Kendal College students.

Community Outreach and Dementia-Friendly Activities

During the Christmas period in 2025, Space2Create visited a local care home to make Christmas wreaths with residents using natural materials. The activity was thoughtfully planned with consideration for residents living with dementia, using natural textures and familiar seasonal scents to encourage sensory engagement and evoke memories.

Residents specifically commented on how the smells and materials brought back memories, highlighting the emotional value of familiar sensory experiences. The session provided an opportunity for residents to express their creativity, share memories and enjoy meaningful social interaction.

This outreach activity demonstrated how Space2Create's creative approach can support wellbeing beyond its own premises, bringing the benefits of creativity, connection and reminiscence into the wider community.

Exhibitions and Community Events

Exhibitions are an important part of Space2Create's work, giving participants the opportunity to see their creativity celebrated and shared with the public. Displaying work can help build confidence and self-esteem, while also raising awareness of the charity and its activities.

- Ash Turton Retrospective – 25 July to 15 August: An exhibition celebrating local artistic work.
- Playful Nature Session – 20 August: A creative event encouraging engagement with nature.
- Green Door Art Trail – 26–28 September: An opportunity to connect with the local arts community and share creative work.
- The Ones That Stayed – until 25 September: A display offering visitors another opportunity to appreciate work from previous exhibitions.
- Pizza and Quiz Nights: Two community fundraising quiz nights were held during 2025, each raising over £400 for the charity and generating more than £800 in total.
- Still Here: Resilient & Enduring – 18 October to 19 November: An exhibition exploring themes of resilience and endurance through creative work.
- Autumn Table-Top Sale – 2 November: A community fundraising event.
- Ticketed Crafting Events – November: Paid creative workshops, including a quilting course, raised funds while offering participants opportunities to learn new skills.
- Christmas Craft Market – 15 November: A festive market featuring local crafters and work created by Space2Create members.
- Kendal Mountain Festival Exhibition – 21–23 November: An opportunity to showcase creative work to a wider audience.

Community Partnerships and Recognition

During 2025, Space2Create was nominated to receive Christmas gifts through Home Instead, creating an opportunity to build relationships with a local organisation supporting people affected by dementia. This relationship led to further opportunities for collaboration during 2026.

Income Generation, Donations and Accessibility

Throughout 2025, Space2Create worked to increase and diversify its income to help sustain its charitable activities. This included room hire, exhibitions, fundraising events and ticketed creative workshops.

The charity also continued to explain the importance of voluntary service-user donations towards the cost of materials, activities and running sessions. These contributions help support the service, but Space2Create remains committed to ensuring that its provision is not a chargeable service and that financial circumstances should never prevent someone from attending.

Balancing the need to generate sufficient income with the principle that nobody should be excluded because they cannot afford to contribute has been challenging. The charity continues to encourage donations while making clear that they are voluntary and not a condition of attendance. This reflects its commitment to accessibility, inclusion and the wellbeing of the people it supports.

Section D – Achievements and Performance

Space2Create continued to provide creative and social support for people in the local community throughout 2025. Its achievements included strengthening organisational capacity, developing partnerships and exploring sustainable ways to support its activities.

The recruitment of a Wellbeing Manager strengthened the charity's support provision. Work also began on a more structured referral and induction process, laying the foundations for improved onboarding, feedback and measurement of outcomes.

The review of session leadership was an important step in addressing safeguarding and oversight concerns. The charity amended its timetable where appropriate and recruited a volunteer leader for Close Knit, helping retain a knitting and crochet opportunity within a properly supported session.

The Men's Group demonstrated the value of targeted funding and volunteer commitment. Its development from an electronics group into Brothers in Arts enabled participants to build practical and creative skills, collaborate on ambitious projects and contribute to fundraising.

The new partnership with Kendal College brought fresh ideas into creative sessions and created opportunities for students to gain practical experience while supporting the charity's work.

Community engagement and fundraising remained important. Two Pizza and Quiz Nights raised more than £800 combined, while exhibitions, the Christmas Craft Market and ticketed crafting events helped showcase creative work, engage local supporters and generate income.

The charity also received the final payment of a generous three-year grant from the Frieda Scott Trust. This funding enabled Space2Create to continue its activities and support people in the local community. The conclusion of the grant period highlighted the importance of securing future funding.

Throughout the year, the charity continued to balance the need to generate income with its commitment to ensuring that inability to pay does not prevent access to its services.

Section E – Financial Review

Principal Sources of Funds

During 2025, Space2Create received the final payment of its three-year grant from the Frieda Scott Trust. The charity also worked to generate income through room hire, fundraising events, exhibitions, ticketed workshops, service-user donations and other community support.

The charity gratefully acknowledges donations received from local supporters and organisations during 2025:

- Kendal Ewes – £315.30
- Co-op – £1,849.72 (combined donations)
- Furness Boxing – £200.00
- Morecambe Bay Wills – £250.00

Total of donations listed: £2,615.02

Space2Create extends its sincere thanks to these donors for their generosity and for helping the charity continue its creative, wellbeing and community activities

The charity relies on grant funding, donations and community fundraising to sustain its activities. It continues to explore ways to diversify its income while keeping its creative and wellbeing sessions accessible to people who may be experiencing financial hardship.

Reserves Policy

At 31 December 2025, Space2Create did not have a formally adopted financial reserves policy.

The trustees recognise the importance of establishing an appropriate policy to guide decisions about the level of unrestricted reserves needed to support the charity's ongoing operations and manage unexpected financial pressures.

As a charity reliant on grant funding, donations and fundraising, Space2Create faces challenges in maintaining a predictable income stream. The trustees recognise the need to balance retaining sufficient funds to protect the charity's financial sustainability with ensuring that available resources are used to deliver its charitable objectives and support the people who rely on its services.

Developing a formal reserves policy is an area for further governance development. The trustees will need to consider the charity's essential running costs, the reliability of future income, potential financial risks and the appropriate level of reserves required to maintain services during periods of uncertainty.

Section F – Other Optional Information

Developments after the Reporting Period

In January 2026, the separate Volunteer Coordinator position was discontinued because the charity could not justify the cost of maintaining a dedicated paid role. Volunteer coordination was brought under the General Manager's responsibilities. During 2026, the charity successfully recruited and onboarded several volunteers.

The charity introduced volunteer-led photography sessions on Monday mornings and Sew Motion, a volunteer-led hand-sewing session on Wednesday mornings. These activities demonstrate how volunteer involvement can help broaden the programme while ensuring sessions have clear leadership.

In November Space2Create also took over responsibility for a foodshare delivery previously managed by a local food club, enabling it to offer low-cost food to service users and the general public. The initiative provides practical community support and an additional opportunity to generate income.

Planning continued for an exhibition of service-user artwork, and a further group of Kendal College students was expected to join the charity for work placements. Plans for a monthly painting party with resident artist Jane Amos also developed into a successful ongoing activity during 2026.

These developments reflect the charity's continuing efforts to maintain meaningful community support, strengthen safeguarding arrangements, build partnerships and identify sustainable ways to deliver its charitable activities.

Section G – Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: 

Full Name: Kevin Hankey

Position: Chair of Trustees

Date: 23/10/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Space2Create		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1159664
Set out on pages	1-4 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

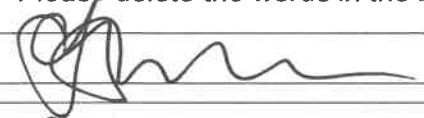
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	21/10/26
Name:	Mr Christopher Brown		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ICAEW		
Address:	Brown & Co (Kendal) Limited Libra House, Murley Moss Business Village Oxenholme Road Kendal, LA9 7RL		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	No disclosures

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Space2Create	1159664

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	12,000	-	-	12,000	66,131
Donations	10,560	-	-	10,560	9,289
Art & Craft Sales	231	-	-	231	3,755
Room Hire	2,875	-	-	2,875	1,110
Misc	2,318	-	-	2,318	813
Interest	84	-	-	84	89
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	28,068	-	-	28,068	81,188
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	28,068	-	-	28,068	81,188
A3 Payments					
Premises	5,390	-	-	5,390	15,940
Wages	31,781	-	-	31,781	52,018
Maintenance & office expenses	4,164	-	-	4,164	6,277
Art materials & equipment	4,121	-	-	4,121	4,348
Refreshments	534	-	-	534	1,190
Staff Training	730	-	-	730	-
Session Tutors	18,721	-	-	18,721	10,537
Legal & professional	2,257	-	-	2,257	3,132
Misc	72	-	-	72	6,054
		-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	67,770	-	-	67,770	99,496
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	67,770	-	-	67,770	99,496
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 39,702	-	-	- 39,702	- 18,307
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	64,629	-	-	64,629	82,917
Cash funds this year end	24,927	-	-	24,927	64,609

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	CAF Bank	24,710	-	-
	Petty Cash	32	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	24,742	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) Agreement Error OK OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Office, Furniture & Equipment	Unresrticted	9,277	2,320
Kitchen	Unresrticted	10,344	2,586
Computers	Unresrticted	1,088	454
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

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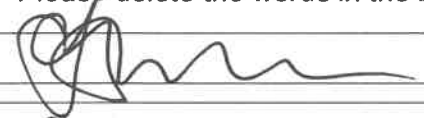
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B2 Other monetary assets

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	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

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		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

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		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval