Bandwagon

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bandwagon



ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5th April 2026

Registered Charity Number 1206217

Bandwagon… delivering innovative music projects to improve the quality of life for the disabled, vulnerable and marginalised people of Cornwall. Advancing health, wellbeing and providing a future of hope, happiness, friendships and life skills.



We aim to create personal development pathways to improve opportunities for self-support and achievement.

Welcome...





Our second year has delivered a wealth of positive results and outcomes for BANDWAGON and it's clients which we intend to build upon. We have gained so much valuable experience through our work in the first two years, which has enabled us to develop and evolve organically as a charity, giving us stability and security for the future.

We continue to expand our offering to provide a more focussed and effective menu of music sessions to a wider audience. We have had particular success with our 'Club Sandwich' events which have a solid focus on social interaction within specific communities. The simple recipe of a social event with a music theme is a winning formula, bringing large numbers of isolated and vulnerable people together to sing, dance, chat and have fun.

Supporting our sessions are a large number of music facilitators and volunteers. We are lucky that Cornwall possesses some of the most talented and creative music professionals and the most enthusiastic volunteers who have helped us enormously.

Whilst we have seen some tremendously positive results, we continue to face extremely challenging times. As the World faces increasing turmoil and uncertainty, the cost of living crisis has resulted in more and more charities competing for ever decreasing funding opportunities.

Whatever the challenges and difficulties we will face going forward, be assured that we will do everything in our power to continue our work to the best of our ability and to the very highest standards for the benefit of those most in need in Cornwall.

Caroline Goulding
General Manager

Introduction

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended April 2026.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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 2015).

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors

Charity Name	BANDWAGON	
Constitutional form	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (foundation model)	
Registered Charity No.	1206217	
Operational address	17 Pras Stedhyan Stithians Cornwall TR3 7FL	
Trustees	Claire Roberts Keely Ricketts Anna Dermitzaki Marcus Otero Roberts	Chair Secretary
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN	

How the charity is constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Foundation Model - whereby the only voting members are the charity Trustees. We have adopted the Charity Commissions Model Constitution to ensure we comply with the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and the General Regulations. This helps us to ensure we:

- Reflect recommended best practice; and
- Are legally compliant

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed for their individual knowledge, experience and skills that are considered essential to ensure the charity's effective administration and its continued sustainability, growth and development. Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees in a properly convened meeting. There are no 'connected persons'. There are no person's carrying out business in partnership with the charity trustees.

Trustees are also screened using a needs and skill sets assessment. This approach enables us to:

a) Ensure we have the right skills mix on the Board to meet the administrative needs of the charity.
b) Ensure we do have a range of Trustees from diverse professional backgrounds to build knowledge and skills.
c) Mitigate any potential risks or threats to the charity, as far as possible; and
d) Reduce, as far as is possible, the potential for any conflicts of interest with each Trustee and their existing professional occupations.

Additional Governance information

The first Trustees have created a Trustee Agreement which also states our Quality Standards and our Code of Conduct. This ensures that all Trustees are aware of our expectations of them. There are a number of quality standards that we felt are applicable to BANDWAGON as an organisation as well as to its Trustees and Staff. These are:

- Good Trustee Guide
- The Charity Governance Code
- The Nolan Principles of Public Life
- Codes of conduct for Trustees (based on the Nolan Principles)
- Trustees and Management Committee – National Occupational Standards

All of the above have been taken into consideration in:

- Structuring the Governance model
- Stating the responsibilities of Trustees
- Setting out a 'Statement of Intent' pertaining to Governance and setting priorities for the Board
- Stating our behavioural expectations of Trustees, staff volunteers and partners;
- Establishing a framework to enable Trustees to perform their duties competently, confidently and professionally;
- Telling Trustees what they need to know to do their job well.

Objectives and Activities

The primary charitable objects as defined by our constitution are:

FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO RELIEVE THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED BY REASON OF ILL-HEALTH OR DISABILITY (AND AS A RESULT MAY SUFFER FROM FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND ISOLATION) IN CORNWALL BY THE PROVISION OF MUSIC-BASED ACTIVITIES.

Year 2 objectives

- Develop and broaden our funding strategies to ensure charity security
- Widen the charity's reach to cover a broader geographical area within Cornwall
- Deliver music services to a broader audience within current and targeted geographical areas
- Recruit additional music facilitators and volunteers to enable increased delivery
- Increase awareness for the charity and our work

Our main focus for the second year has been on stability, both in terms of our services and financially. Our key objectives from year one have altered due to the very severe cost of living crisis which has hit charities hard. Unfortunately, like a lot of small charities, we have had to divert a lot of time and energy into generating income. The process of fundraising has become a very long and drawn out process in a lot of cases – one such taking 10 months from initial application to final payment. We have experienced an unprecedented number of rejections due to funders being over subscribed. This is very frustrating for us as we don't even get the opportunity to state the case for our cause.

This has had a major impact on our ability to expand our work geographically. We have managed to widen our reach to some extent, but not as much as we had hoped last year. To overcome this, we have accelerated our 'Club Sandwich' event programme which is a highly portable offering and is extremely cost effective to deliver. To compliment this approach we have also implemented a series of more simplistic and streamlined music sessions which have enabled audiences to engage with us more easily and in some cases more effectively.

We have continued to develop our team of music facilitators and volunteers – the backbone of Bandwagon. Given the increased financial pressures brought about by fewer funding opportunities, we have been very fortunate to have received a large increase in help from volunteers. Not only has this allowed us to reduce our delivery costs but also continue to manage all areas of administration at no cost. In addition we have been able to maintain our publicity and social media campaign through volunteers, which has helped us tremendously. We realise that this cannot continue indefinitely and are working to secure sufficient funding next year to invest in our future through working with experienced professionals on a more permanent basis.

We have developed a focused social media strategy to raise Bandwagon's profile, strengthen our message and increase engagement with our target audiences and communities across Cornwall.

Main Activities

Sound Safaris

Developed from our original Sound Safari model, Sound Safaris are now a series of multi sensory music sessions, featuring a wide range of delivery techniques. These range from vocal improvisation and meditative instruments through to traditional instrumentation and advanced accessible electronic technology. These sessions are often people's first taste of playing music and therefore by making it a fun and memorable experience, we remove their fears and inhibitions, opening them up to exploring their creativity. Every session is an adventure, taking participants on an exciting musical journey, discovering the many amazing ways they can use their voices, instruments and equipment to make sounds and music. Participants gain a tremendous sense of achievement from this process and the positive effects will benefit other areas of their lives, long into the future.

Song Sandwich

This is an activity over one or two sessions designed to give participants the opportunity to write, perform and film their own song. Clients are split into groups, each group taking it in turns to choose the music style, write the lyrics and create the visual backgrounds for the music video. In the second session participants are recorded singing and performing. This brings out hidden talents whilst working with others and after editing they all get to see the finished video.

Club Sandwich

Designed to give clients a sociable fun packed clubbing style event where everyone can enjoy multiple activities such as dancing, singing, Djing and filming, using technology for a fully immersive experience in a safe environment.

Community Projects

Bandwagon has often had commissions for one off events, where individual clients who have particular skills have been asked to perform and showcase their work. For example, we have had guitarists or singers who have collaborated with other charities to create videos shown at a cinema or as part of a museum exhibition.

Drop-in Sessions

We hire different venues across Cornwall to allow accessibility to more people, these sessions are open to everyone. Held in community spaces in villages or towns, participants have a chance to try out a wide range of traditional and technology based musical equipment.

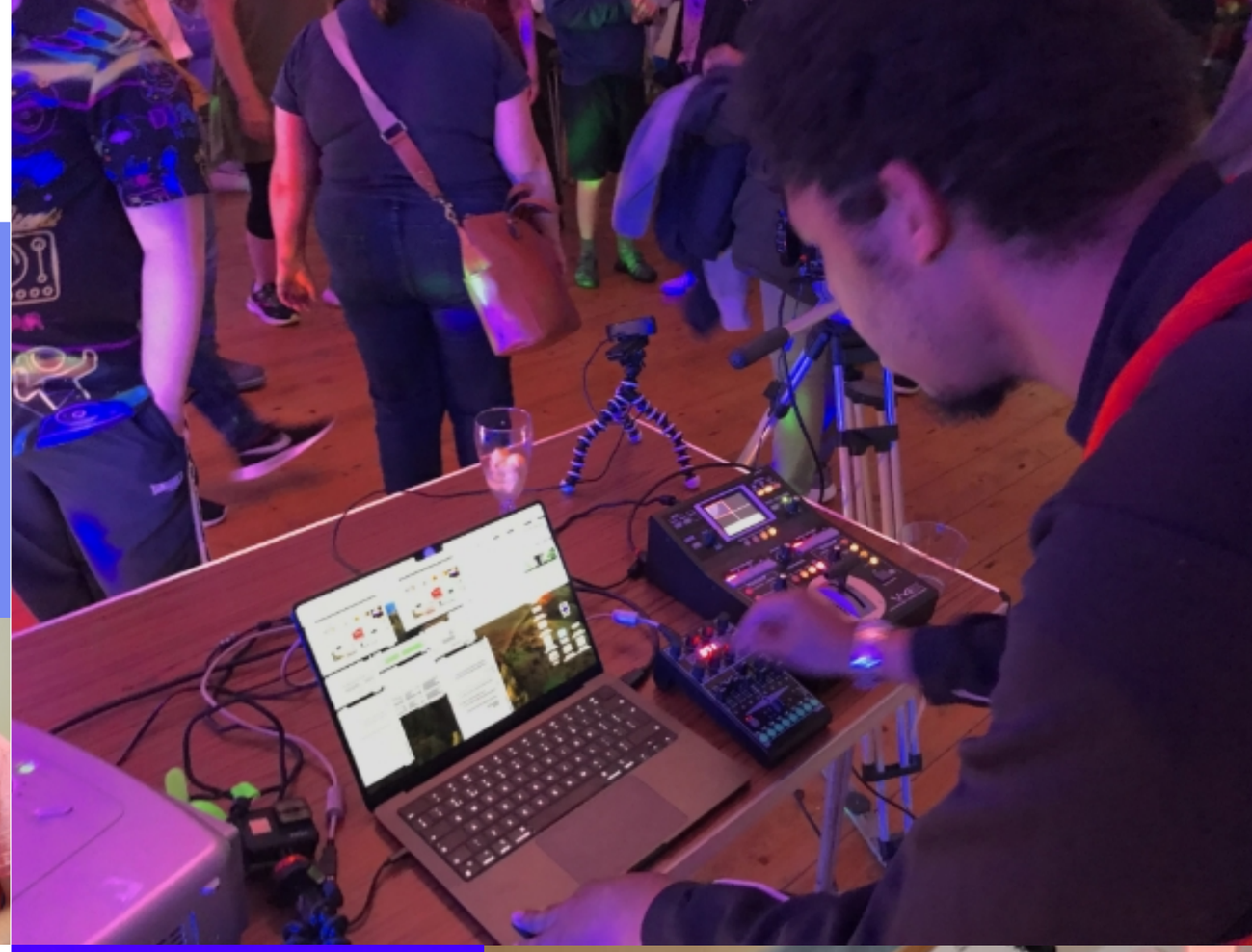
Personal Development

We work in conjunction with a new initiative called VUG CLUB to focus on individual needs, working towards positive outcomes in terms of music skills and developing confidence, self esteem and self expression. VUG CLUB works with individuals to develop their musical skills in groups and on a one-to-one basis, encouraging them to explore their creativity and helping them write, produce and perform their own material.

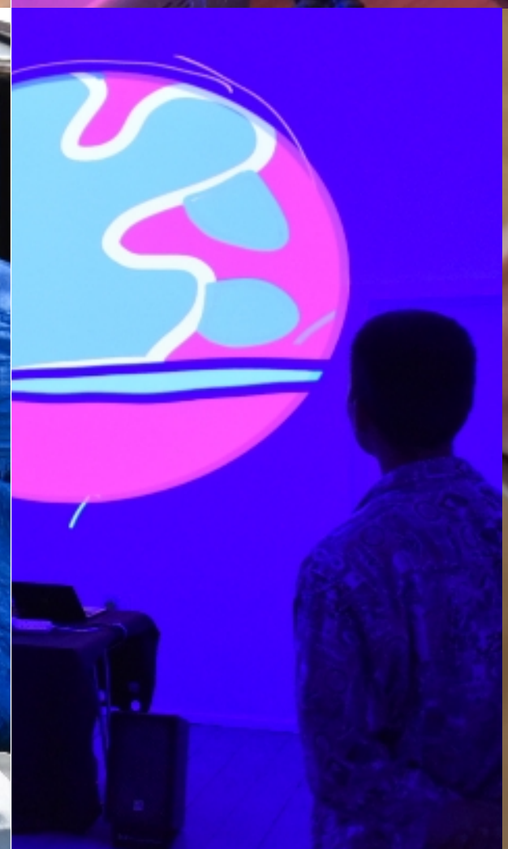
Sound Safaris

Sound Safaris are an opportunity for participants to remove fears and inhibitions and explore their inner creativity. Every session is a musical adventure utilising every aspect of sound and vision to ensure we maximise the therapeutic powers of music.







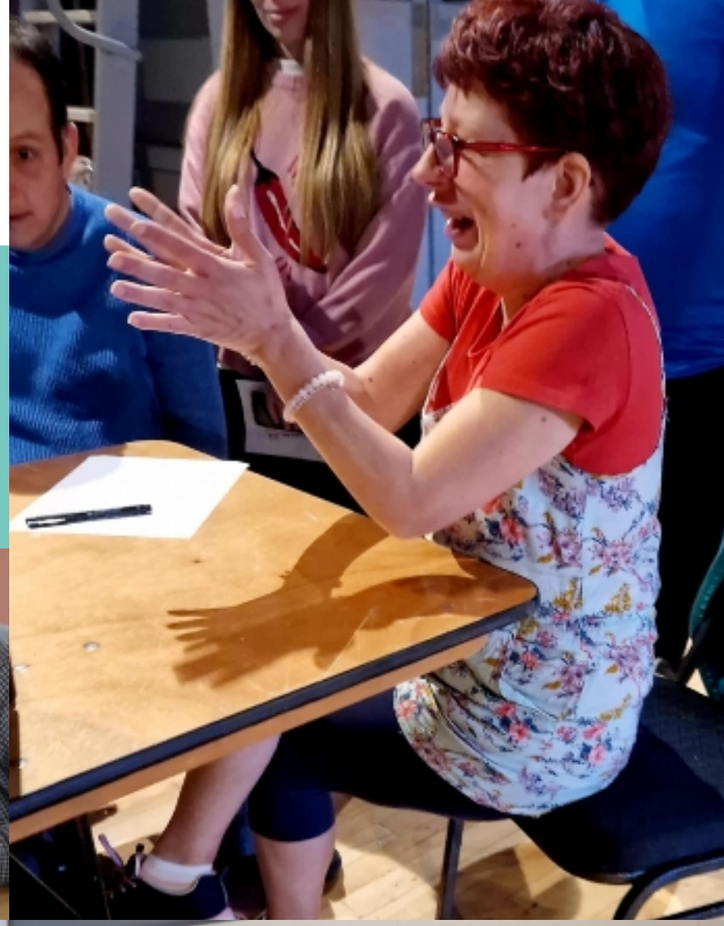




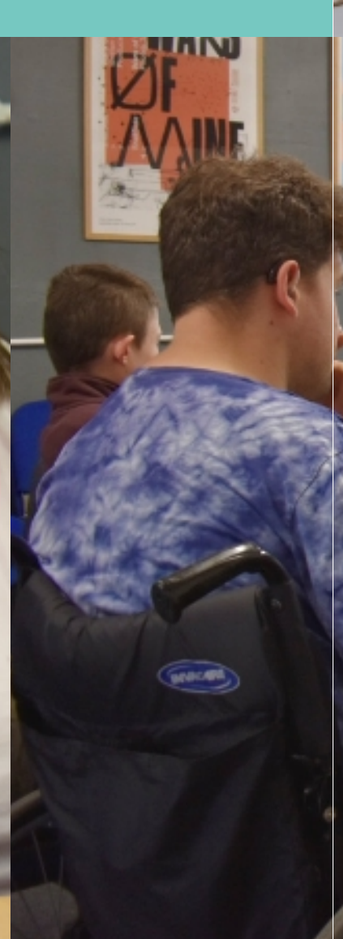
Song Sandwich

Song Sandwich projects provide a unique opportunity for groups of people to work together, share ideas and produce an original song and dynamic music video. The sheer joy from participants in these sessions is wonderful to see and their sense of pride in creating, performing and filming songs has a lasting affect on everyone.











Club Sandwich

Bringing people together to run their own social event in an exciting immersive club setting with DJing, video making, dancing and singing and lots of fun – the key to promoting interaction and friendships.











Statement on Public Benefit

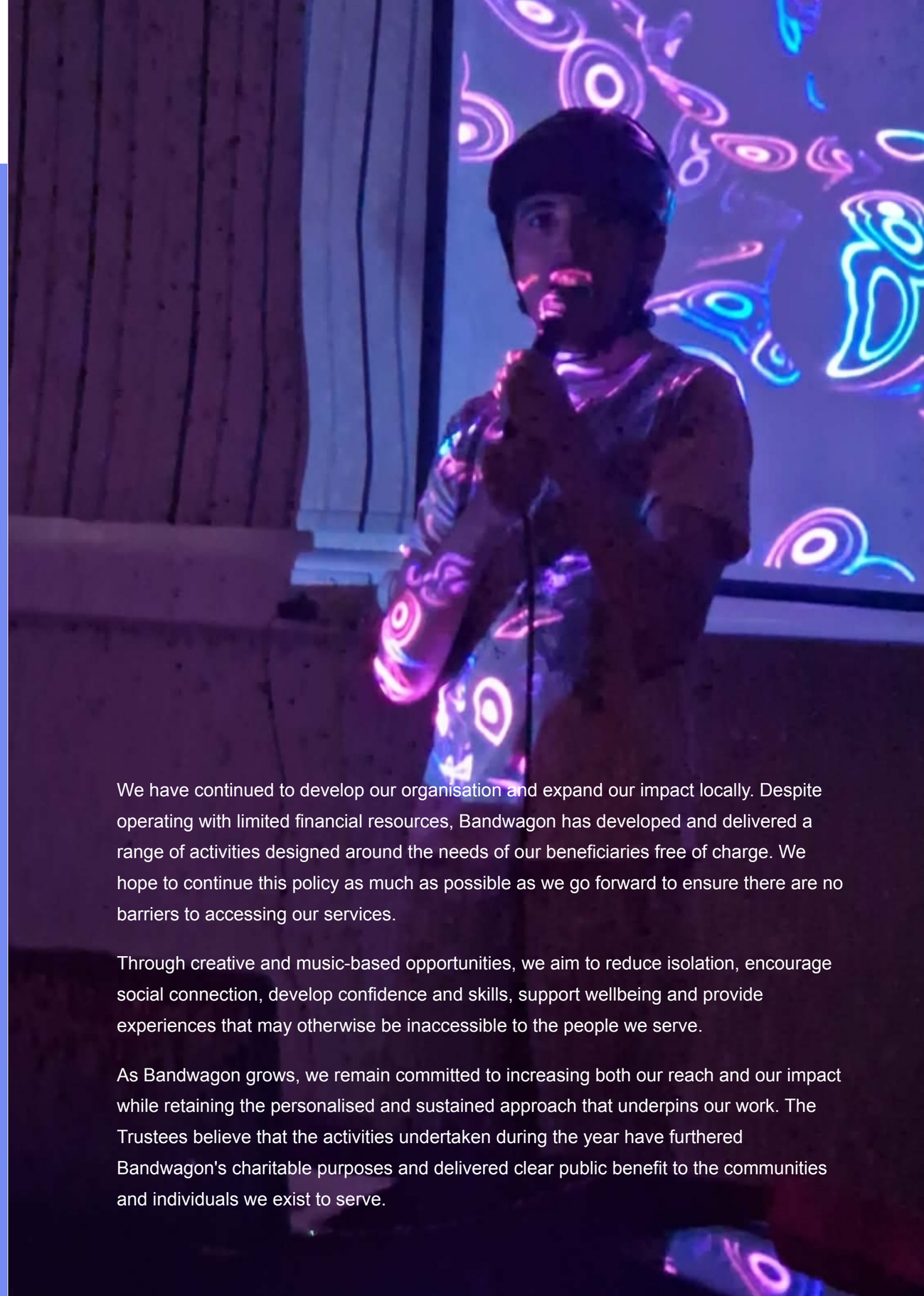
We are extremely grateful for the support and funding Bandwagon has received during the year, particularly against the continuing pressures of the cost-of-living crisis and the increasingly challenging funding environment faced by the charitable sector. This support has enabled Bandwagon to continue developing its work and to provide much-needed support, opportunity and relief to disadvantaged and vulnerable people across Cornwall.

Our charitable objects are at the heart of everything we do. They guide the development of our projects, the allocation of our limited resources, and the way in which we engage with the people we support. In planning and delivering our activities, we seek to ensure that our work provides clear public benefit and achieves meaningful outcomes for our beneficiaries.

Bandwagon has embarked upon an ambitious mission. As a relatively young charity with limited financial and operational resources, we recognise that developing our services and extending our reach will take time. Nevertheless, we are committed to increasing the amount of support we can provide and to reaching more people who experience disadvantage, isolation and barriers, offering more opportunity across Cornwall.

Central to our philosophy is a belief that the success of our work should not be measured by numbers alone. Our priority is to make a meaningful, positive and lasting difference to the lives of the people we support. Many of our beneficiaries face complex circumstances which cannot be addressed through brief or one-off interventions. We therefore place considerable importance on building trust, maintaining regular engagement and providing consistent support over time. This approach allows relationships to develop and gives individuals the opportunity to build confidence, develop skills, improve their wellbeing and achieve sustainable positive outcomes.

Cornwall presents a distinctive combination of social, economic and geographical challenges. Rural isolation, limited transport, areas of significant deprivation and the dispersed nature of communities can create substantial barriers for people who already experience disadvantage. These challenges require services to be flexible, responsive and focused on the individual. For this reason, the depth and quality of our engagement is as important to us as the overall number of people reached.



We have continued to develop our organisation and expand our impact locally. Despite operating with limited financial resources, Bandwagon has developed and delivered a range of activities designed around the needs of our beneficiaries free of charge. We hope to continue this policy as much as possible as we go forward to ensure there are no barriers to accessing our services.

Through creative and music-based opportunities, we aim to reduce isolation, encourage social connection, develop confidence and skills, support wellbeing and provide experiences that may otherwise be inaccessible to the people we serve.

As Bandwagon grows, we remain committed to increasing both our reach and our impact while retaining the personalised and sustained approach that underpins our work. The Trustees believe that the activities undertaken during the year have furthered Bandwagon's charitable purposes and delivered clear public benefit to the communities and individuals we exist to serve.

Outcomes and Achievements

The outcomes we achieve are best demonstrated by the experiences of the people we support. The feedback we receive shows the difference Bandwagon is making and helps us understand what is working well, where we can improve and how we can guide the next steps in each person's musical journey, personal development and achievements.

We have witnessed the extraordinary power of music to engage, inspire and connect people. For many of our participants, taking part is about much more than learning to play an instrument. Music provides opportunities to communicate, build confidence, develop skills, connect with others and achieve things they may previously have thought were beyond their reach.

We have seen people who are non-verbal find new ways to express themselves, including singing and performing in front of an audience. People with physical disabilities have been supported to play musical instruments and perform, while people experiencing mental ill-health, dementia and isolation have engaged positively in group activities, sometimes for the first time in many years.

Success means something different for every individual. It might be performing publicly, attending a group regularly, communicating with others, learning a new skill or simply having something positive to look forward to each week. These individual achievements are at the heart of the impact we seek to make.

Listening to the people we support is fundamental to our approach. Their feedback helps us adapt our activities to their needs and aspirations and provides important evidence that our work is achieving meaningful and lasting outcomes.

Boosting self esteem
Improved mood and emotional regulation



Volunteers

We have managed to increase the number of volunteer roles during 2025/2026. Their invaluable work has enabled us to keep to strict financial parameters and contributed in helping us to achieve so much. Collectively they contributed almost 1500 volunteer hours calculated via their individual time sheets. Their time and commitment to the charity has an equivalent financial value of £12,900.00. The Trustees wish to thank our volunteers for generously giving their time, dedication and skills. We cannot do this without you.

Reserves Policy

Bandwagon has maintained a small level of free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets) currently £500 aimed at meeting the working capital requirements of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Grants and Commissioning

During 2025/2026 Bandwagon has secured funding from a wide range of sources, large and small. These range from national organisations and regional trusts through to individual donations. This aligns well with our ongoing funding strategy.

Fundraising Strategy

Our aim is to continue broadening our fundraising activities to ensure the charity is financially robust and less reliant on larger grant providers. We have also adapted our strategy to account for the additional financial pressures affecting funding providers.

Approved by the Trustees on 13/08/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Claire Roberts (Chair) 13/08/2026



Statement of Financial Activities

For the year to 5th April 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income from			
Donations and legacies	2,000	-	2,000
Grants	4,756	11,994	16,750
Total income	6,756	11,994	18,750
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities and operational costs	2,581	3,422	6,003
Staff costs	-	4,608	4,608
Total expenditure	2,581	8,030	10,611
Net Income/ (Expenditure) for the year	4,175	3,964	8,139
Fund balance brought forward at 6.04.2025	2,130	9,661	11,791
Transfer between funds	-	-	-
Balance carried forward at 05.04.2025	6,305	13,625	19,930

Statement of assets and liabilities at 5th April 2025

	£	£
	2026	**2025**
Current assets		
Cash at bank	19,930	11,791
Total current assets	19,930	11,791
Creditors – amounts falling due within one ye	-	
Net assets	19.930	11,791
Funds of the Charity		
Restricted	13,625	9,661
Unrestricted	6,305	2,130
Total Funds	19,930	11,791