Company Registration Number CE039113

Registered Charity Number 1212131

WE MAKE CULTURE
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the period to 31 March 2026

WE MAKE CULTURE
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)
PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2026.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Name	We Make Culture
Charity Registration Number	1212131
Registered Office	19 Villiers Street Sunderland SR1 1EJ

Trustees

The Trustees of the CIO during the period and to the date of signing of this report are as follows:

Michael Barrass	Appointed 13 February 2025
Suzanne Davies	Appointed 24 June 2026
Phillip Dunn	Appointed 25 November 2025
Kristian Foreman	Appointed 24 June 2026
Anne Marie Graham	Appointed 23 June 2026
Hannah Matterson (Chair)	Appointed 13 February 2025
Anne-Marie Nixon	Appointed 13 February 2025

Bankers	Co-operative Bank plc, P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP
Independent Examiner	Pete O'Hara FCA, Chartered Accountant, 26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE2 3AF

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Documents

The company was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 13 February 2025.

Following agreement with funders, responsibility for delivering all programme activities transferred from We Make Culture CIC (company number 11121852) to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in September 2025.

Eligibility for membership of the charity and membership of the Board of Trustees is governed by the Constitution. There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity other than those imposed by general charity law.

Governance

The charity currently has seven Trustees.

The Board of Trustees met six times during the year, overseeing the organisation's transition to charitable status and the continued development of its governance arrangements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Appointment and Induction of Trustees

During the year, the Board launched an open recruitment process to expand trustee expertise and began planning the introduction of sub-committees to strengthen financial oversight and organisational development.

All Trustees receive an induction and are required to declare and manage any conflicts of interest in accordance with the charity's governing document.

Key Management Personnel

Day-to-day management of the charity during 2025/26 was delegated to the Founder/Director, Laura Brewis.

Grant-making

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's need for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees aim to hold a level of free Unrestricted Reserves equivalent to three months' operating costs, which provides sufficient financial resources to meet the legal and contractual obligations and liabilities which would crystalise if the charity were unable to continue operating.

The Trustees have therefore set a target of £57,000 of free reserves.

The charity's total Unrestricted Reserves shown in the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026 are £74,864. £676 of these reserves were represented by Unrestricted Fixed Assets, leaving £74,188 available as Unrestricted Free Reserves.

This exceeds the target level of free Reserves but an extra contingency is considered by the Trustees to be beneficial in this early stage of establishing the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purpose

The object of the CIO, to be carried out for the public benefit in Sunderland and the surrounding area, is "*to advance education in music among children, young people and people who through their economic or social circumstances lack access to the arts and culture, by the provision of music-making workshops, performance opportunities, activities, events and access to creative and cultural resources, designed to develop their knowledge, understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of the art of music*."

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Aims and Objectives / Principal Activities

We Make Culture exists to advance education in music among children, young people and people who, through their economic or social circumstances, lack access to the arts and culture, by the provision of music-making workshops, performance opportunities, activities, events and access to creative and cultural resources, designed to develop their knowledge, understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of the art of music.

We Make Culture believes that music should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances. We focus on long-term relationships, supporting people to develop through music and working alongside communities, partners and the wider cultural sector to create lasting change.

Founded in 2017, We Make Culture is an organisation based in Sunderland, and delivers impactful music-making programmes in Sunderland and the wider North East, to support personal development and make social change. Our work is person-centred, long-term and shaped by participants.

We Make Culture was established as a Community Interest Company (CIC) in 2017 and successfully converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in February 2025.

Key Aims & Objectives

- Everyone makes culture - We believe that taking part in culture should not be a function of a person's social or economic circumstances. We believe that creative talent and potential are everywhere, but opportunity to participate and flourish is not. Our work strives to change this, by targeting our work in places with least opportunity and supporting them to thrive.

- Culture is collaborative - Both within projects and when working with other organisations, we believe culture is collaborative. Our activities bring people together – to achieve, to learn and to have fun – with co-creation and generosity at the heart of everything we do. We actively seek out partner organisations who share our values and believe we are stronger working together.

- Value in everyone's story - We support participants to express themselves authentically in ways which are meaningful and relevant to them. We believe, through self-expression, people can affect positive changes in their lives and in society.

- Long term, sustained commitment for systemic change - We commit to working long term with people, communities and organisations, believing that it takes time to develop and nurture meaningful relationships and trust. Our work is led by the needs of participants, and we believe in learning, reflecting and adapting our approach as we go.

Public Benefit

The Trustees understand their duty to ensure that We Make Culture is established and operated for public benefit and have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees believe that the charity meets both of the key public benefit principles.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Benefit (Cont.)

Principle 1 – There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits

We Make Culture creates opportunities for people to make music, develop skills, build confidence and relationships, and progress into new creative opportunities. Our work is particularly focused on people who face economic, social or structural barriers to accessing music and the arts.

We work through long-term, person-centred music-making and partnerships with trusted community organisations, charities and cultural partners. During the year, this enabled people aged 0–82 to write music, perform, develop creative skills and progress into new opportunities.

The benefits we seek through our work include:

- Greater access to high-quality music-making for people who face barriers to participation.
- Increased musical, creative and wider life skills.
- Greater confidence, connection and opportunities for self-expression.
- Clearer routes for young people to progress as musicians, creative leaders and music professionals.
- Stronger community and cultural connections through partnership, performance and exchange.

Principle 2 – Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

Each element of our work provides benefit to clearly identified sections of the public. Our programmes are free to access and are designed particularly to reach children, young people and families who face barriers to participating in music and the arts.

Accessible music-making and progression for young people:

Young Musicians Project
Young Musicians Project (YMP) is We Make Culture's flagship programme, supporting young people aged 13–19 to write original music, develop their musical skills and take their first steps into recording and live performance. Delivered weekly at Field Music Studio, the programme places particular emphasis on supporting young people from working-class backgrounds and encouraging girls, young women and gender-expansive young people to engage with an industry where they remain under-represented.

During this period, we delivered 67 weekly sessions, two holiday sessions, two YMP Socials and four Stripped Back Socials, creating regular opportunities for participants to perform their original music. Across our free Young Musicians Project activity, 134 hours of sessions created 602 engagements with young people aged 13–25.

Through YMP Records, six young musicians released their first music on streaming platforms, including one participant whose debut single received national airplay on BBC Radio 6 Music.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Benefit (Cont.)

Community Young Musicians Project
Community YMP is delivered in partnership with Back on the Map and Lambton Street Youth and Community Hub, bringing free weekly music-making to communities where young people face the greatest barriers to participation.

During this period, we delivered 44 weekly sessions across Hendon and Lambton Street.

Across the programme, 126 hours of free community music-making created 495 engagements with children and young people in areas of high deprivation. Five participants progressed into our core Young Musicians Project, while others took part in performances, holiday activities and opportunities across the wider organisation.

Support from The Rank Foundation enabled us to extend the programme beyond weekly sessions through Music Futures. Alongside 22 DJ Club sessions at Lambton Street, participants took part in backstage tours, workplace visits, gigs and workshops with creative professionals, broadening their understanding of careers in music and the wider creative industries.

Progression, leadership and creative careers:

Next Steps
As a member of the PRS Foundation Talent Development Network, We Make Culture delivers Next Steps for emerging musicians aged 18–25 across Sunderland and the wider North East.

During the year, seven artists received tailored development packages including mentoring, industry workshops and £1,000 bursaries to support recording, marketing and professional development. Participants also accessed networking opportunities, peer support and open industry workshops through the wider Talent Development Network.

Leadership and Creative Careers
Supported by an Arts Council England National Lottery project grant, our two-year Progression Programme creates opportunities for young people to develop as creative leaders and music professionals.

- YMP Collective was established as a weekly peer-led group for 18–25-year-olds, with three Peer Leaders employed to develop sessions. Across the period, 46 weekly sessions created 161 engagements. The group performed its first public gig, Live from the Living Room, at Arts Centre Washington.
- Nine young people were employed in paid Peer Leader roles across WMC programmes, providing leadership experience alongside mentoring and training in Safeguarding, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid.
- Future Music Leaders recruited five young women interested in careers across the wider music industry, who began a programme of mentoring, workshops and practical experience culminating in the delivery of their own live project.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Benefit (Cont.)

Gig Exchange
Working with Mixtape in Edinburgh and Warren Records in Hull, our Gig Exchange programme enabled young people to collaborate with musicians from other parts of the UK, write and perform original music together, and experience different grassroots music scenes.

Music-making with families and communities:

Thrive
Working in partnership with WWIN, We Make Culture delivers Thrive, a music-making programme for children, young people and mothers living in family refuges following experiences of domestic abuse. Since April 2025, the programme has been funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.

During the year, we delivered 52 hours of weekly music-making across WWIN's two family refuges, alongside holiday activities for families, creating 265 engagements with children, young people and mothers.

Funding from Sunderland City Council's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Mini Missions programme enabled us to create Hear My Voice, a creative advocacy project combining an original soundscape and animation inspired by the experiences of families affected by domestic abuse. The film was launched during No More Week and shared through social media and YouTube to raise awareness of the project and amplify participants' voices.

Kinship Music
Since 2020, We Make Culture has worked in partnership with More Than Grandparents, supporting children, young people and carers in kinship families through creative, intergenerational projects.

During the year, we delivered our annual Kinship Pantomime Project, bringing together 36 participants aged 3 to 82 to create an original pantomime from scratch. Together, families developed the story, wrote songs, created costumes and performed to an audience of 103 community members.

Reducing barriers and strengthening practice:

Learning and organisational development
Learning and reflection underpin all of We Make Culture's work. During the year we strengthened our evaluation framework, combining participant feedback, session reflections and project evaluation to inform programme development and organisational planning.

We completed organisational Poverty Proofing with Children North East through Sunderland Culture's Culture Start programme, reviewing how our policies, communications and delivery can reduce financial barriers to participation.

We invested in the development of our workforce through paid training, mentoring and leadership opportunities for freelance Music Leaders, Assistant Music Leaders and Peer Leaders. Alongside this, we continued to share learning with organisations including Sound Connections, Blue Cabin, Brighter Sound and The Warren.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Benefit (Cont.)

Across these activities, participants were also given opportunities to perform to audiences of approximately 800 people during the period. The Trustees consider these beneficiaries appropriate to the charity's objects and are satisfied that the activities described above demonstrate identifiable public benefit to the sections of the public We Make Culture exists to serve.

Risk Management

The Trustees maintain and regularly review an organisational risk register, which is considered at every Board meeting.

The principal strategic risk remains organisational capacity, particularly reliance on the Executive Director. During the year, this risk was mitigated through investment in additional staff capacity, including the recruitment of a Youth Engagement Officer, strengthening operational systems and governance, maintaining appropriate unrestricted reserves, and ensuring access to trusted freelance practitioners to provide additional capacity when required.

The Trustees will continue to monitor this risk closely as the organisation grows, alongside reviewing emerging strategic, financial and operational risks.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of Main Achievements in the Year

2025–26 was a significant year for We Make Culture. Alongside successfully transitioning from a Community Interest Company to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, we continued to grow the reach and depth of our work, creating free opportunities for children, young people and families to make music, develop their skills and progress into new opportunities.

Between September 2025 and March 2026, We Make Culture delivered activity across Sunderland and the wider North East for people aged 0–82. Our core programmes created more than 1,500 engagements, including 602 engagements through Young Musicians Project, 495 through our community music programmes, 265 through Thrive and 161 through YMP Collective.

A particular achievement this year was the continued development of a connected progression pathway for young musicians. Young people were able to move from community-based music-making into our core Young Musicians Project, recording and performance opportunities, artist development, paid leadership roles and creative careers activity. Five young people progressed from Community YMP into the core programme, while nine young people were employed in paid Peer Leader roles across WMC.

Our work increasingly extended beyond participation in weekly sessions. Six young musicians released original music through YMP Records, including a debut single receiving national airplay on BBC Radio 6 Music. Seven emerging North East artists received tailored development packages through our PRS Foundation Talent Development Network programme, including mentoring, industry development and £1,000 bursaries.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of Main Achievements in the Year (Cont.)

We also created more opportunities for young people to lead. YMP Collective established a peer-led space for 18–25-year-olds; Future Music Leaders supported five young women interested in wider music-industry careers; and our Peer Leader programme employed young people across WMC activities, alongside training and mentoring.

Our embedded partnerships continued to demonstrate the value of taking sustained music-making into places and communities where people already feel comfortable. Community YMP delivered free weekly activity in Hendon and Pallion, while Thrive created 265 engagements with children, young people and mothers living in family refuges. Our long-standing partnership with More Than Grandparents also brought together 36 members of kinship families aged 3–82 to create and perform an original pantomime.

Alongside direct delivery, we continued to strengthen the organisation and our practice. We grew to a team of five staff and worked with 34 freelance musicians and creative practitioners.

We completed organisational Poverty Proofing with Children North East and continued to invest in training, mentoring and development for Music Leaders, Assistant Music Leaders and Peer Leaders.

Company Development

2025–26 was We Make Culture's first year operating as a charity. Following registration as a CIO in February 2025, responsibility for programme delivery transferred from We Make Culture CIC to the charity in September 2025. This represented an important step in the organisation's development, providing a stronger structure for our long-term ambitions.

During the year we continued to strengthen our governance, financial resilience, organisational systems and approach to evaluation. We also expanded staff capacity and began developing structures to distribute responsibility more effectively as the organisation grows.

Workforce

Our work was delivered by a core team of five staff, working alongside 34 freelance musicians and creative practitioners.

Developing the music workforce is an important part of We Make Culture's approach. During the year we invested in paid training, mentoring and leadership opportunities for freelance Music Leaders, Assistant Music Leaders and Peer Leaders. Nine young people were employed as Peer Leaders, enabling young musicians to develop practical experience of leadership alongside training in safeguarding, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid.

Taken together, these achievements demonstrate a year in which We Make Culture not only maintained delivery through a major organisational transition, but also strengthened the connections between participation, progression, leadership and professional development. This provides a strong foundation for the charity's next phase of development.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of Main Achievements in the Year (Cont.)

Financial Review

The out-turn for the period is an unrestricted surplus of £74,864. The surplus will leave a balance on Unrestricted Funds at 31 March 2026 of £74,864.

The Trustees consider the financial performance of the charity to be satisfactory.

Funding

The Trustees are grateful to the following organisations whose core support made this work possible:

- Tyne and Wear Community Foundation
- Sir James Knott Trust

We are equally grateful to our project funders:

- Arts Council England
- Better Youth Spaces (Social Business Investment)
- D'Addario Foundation
- PRS Foundation
- Sunderland City Council
- The Joicey Foundation
- The National Foundation for Youth Music
- The Rank Foundation

PLANS FOR FUTURE YEARS

As We Make Culture enters its first full year as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), we will build on the strong foundations established during this period to increase our impact across Sunderland and beyond. Alongside developing our 2027–2030 strategy, we will focus on four strategic priorities:

1. Build a resilient organisation for long-term impact

Continue strengthening the organisation's financial resilience, governance and workforce while developing our 2027–2030 strategy, ensuring We Make Culture can respond to growing demand without compromising our values.

2. Embed music-making in more Sunderland communities

Expand Community Young Musicians Project and our embedded partnership model, working with trusted community organisations to ensure more children and young people can access free, high-quality music-making close to home.

3. Create one of the UK's strongest youth music progression pathways

Continue developing a connected progression offer spanning first access, artist development, leadership, creative careers and professional practice, ensuring young people can continue their musical journey as long as they choose.

4. Position Sunderland as a leader in youth music and grassroots music development

Build on our growing network of local and national partnerships to establish Sunderland as a centre for collaboration, exchange and innovation in youth music. We will expand our Gig Exchange programme, creating a national network of youth music organisations, while continuing to share learning and develop opportunities that connect young musicians across the UK.

WE MAKE CULTURE
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)
PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
TRUSTEES' REPORT

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for managing the business of the charity and may exercise all the powers of the charity unless restricted by the Charities Act or the constitution of the charity.

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for each financial period which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period.

In preparation of the financial statements the Trustees should follow best practice and:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them.

2. Make judgements and exercises that are reasonable and prudent.

3. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed by order of the Trustees

H. Matt

Hannah Matterson (Sep 28, 2026 13:13:51 GMT+1)

Hannah Matterson
Chair

25 September 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF WE MAKE CULTURE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

I hereby report to the Trustees/Members of We Make Culture CIO (Charity Registration Number 1212131) on the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2026 set out on pages 14 to 23.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under charity law and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 130 of the 2011 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods or principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)).

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



Pete O'Hara, FCA, Chartered Accountant
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF

25 September 2026

WE MAKE CULTURE
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £
Income				
Income from Donations & Legacies	3	56,618	-	56,618
Income from Charitable Activities	4	47,652	188,389	236,041
Total Income		**104,270**	**188,389**	**292,659**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	5	29,406	94,704	124,110
Total Expenditure		**29,406**	**94,704**	**124,110**
Net Income/(Expenditure)		**74,864**	**93,685**	**168,549**
Balance brought forward		-	-	-
Balance carried forward	**11**	**£74,864**	**£93,685**	**£168,549**

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of the financial statements.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the period and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

WE MAKE CULTURE
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	7	8,051
Current Assets		
Debtors	8	9,838
Cash At Bank & In Hand		155,379
		165,217
Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	9	(4,719)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		160,498
Total Net Assets	10	**£168,549**
Represented by:		
Unrestricted Reserves	11	74,864
Restricted Reserves	11	93,685
		£168,549

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 25 September 2026 and signed on their behalf:



Hannah Matterson (Sep 28, 2026 13:13:51 GMT+1)

Hannah Matterson
Chair

25 September 2026

WE MAKE CULTURE
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' ('FRS 102'), and with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value.

Advantage has been taken of the provisions in the SORP for Charities, applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a statement of cashflows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Taxation Status

We Make Culture is a Charity registered under the 1960 Charities Act and is accorded exemption from liability to taxation on its income under S505 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Other income is accounted for when receivable.

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost where there is a material adjustment.

Operating Leases

The charity classifies the lease of certain types of equipment as operating leases as the title to the equipment remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the year of the lease.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on any fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the assets over their remaining useful lives as follows:

- IT Equipment – 3 years straight line
- Music Equipment – 3 years straight line

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Pensions
We Make Culture contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. Further details can be found in Note 9. For the defined contribution scheme, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the Balance Sheet.

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty
The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

There are no significant judgements or estimation uncertainty included within the financial statements.

2. Legal Status

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and has no share capital.

3. Income from Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2026
	£	£	£
Donations – We Make Culture CIC	52,527	-	52,527
Donations - General	4,091	-	4,091
Gift Aid	-	-	-
	£56,618	**£-**	**£56,618**

4. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2026
	£	£	£
Grant Income			
Arts Council England – Progression Fund	-	42,271	42,271
Better Youth Spaces - Equipment	-	11,032	11,032
Cynthia Hoare Fund at the Community Foundation	7,000	-	7,000
D'Addario Foundation	746	-	746
James Knott Trust	5,160	-	5,160
Joicey Trust	1,000	-	1,000
National Foundation for Youth Music - – Catalyser 25/26	-	21,659	21,659
National Foundation for Youth Music - – Catalyser 26/27	-	49,500	49,500
National Lottery Community Fund	-	11,160	11,160
PRS Foundation Talent Development Network – Next Steps	-	12,900	12,900
Rank Foundation - Connecting Futures	-	26,566	26,566
Rank Foundation - Profit For Good	-	10,000	10,000
Rank Foundation - Reaching Potential	-	3,301	3,301
Sunderland City Council – Hendon Music Project	1,000	-	1,000
	14,906	**188,389**	**203,295**
Earned Income			
Fees & Commissions	30,691	-	30,691
Sales	1,415	-	1,415
Other Revenue	640	-	640
	32,746	**-**	**32,746**
	£47,652	**£188,389**	**£236,041**

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2026
	£	£	£
Direct Costs			
Bursaries	-	6,984	6,984
Commission Fees	4,000	-	4,000
Facilitator Fees	4,951	33,017	37,968
Other Project Costs	715	1,970	2,685
Salaries & On Costs	12,169	30,378	42,547
Studio & Room Hire	120	5,477	5,597
	21,955	**77,826**	**99,781**
Support Costs			
Advertising & Marketing	400	468	868
Consultancy Fees	140	2,475	2,615
Depreciation	1,585	3,677	5,262
ICT & Telephone Costs	303	842	1,145
Rent	-	1,250	1,250
Staff CPD/Training	1,392	5,159	6,551
Subscriptions & Memberships	64	189	253
Sundry Core Costs	817	-	817
Travel & Subsistence	1,520	1,088	2,608
	6,221	**15,148**	**21,369**
Governance Costs			
Accountancy & Payroll Fees	1,230	1,730	2,960
Legal & Professional	-	-	-
	1,230	**1,730**	**2,960**
	£29,406	**£94,704**	**£124,110**

6. Staff Costs & Trustees' Remuneration

	2026
	£
Gross Salary Costs	41,932
Employer's National Insurance	-
Employer's Pension Contributions – Defined Contribution Scheme	615
	£42,547

The charity employed 5 members of staff in the period.

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) paid to Key Management Personnel, defined as Director of the charity, was £16,714.

6. Staff Costs & Trustees' Remuneration (Cont.)

Pension benefits are provided through a Group Personal Pension Scheme, which is a defined contribution scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in a separately administered fund. In the period to 31 March 2026 We Make Culture made an employer's contribution of 2% of pensionable pay, provided that the employee makes a minimum contribution of 3%.

These amounts are paid over to the scheme on a monthly basis. No contributions were outstanding at 31 March 2026

No remuneration was paid to or waived by Trustees/Directors in the period and £Nil was reimbursed to Trustees in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity.

7. Tangible Fixed Assets

	IT/Music Equipment	Total
Cost	**£**	**£**
At 13 February 2025	-	-
Additions	13,313	13,313
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2026	13,313	13,313
Depreciation		
At 13 February 2025	-	-
Charge for period	5,262	5,262
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2026	5,262	5,262
Net Book Value		
At 31 March 2026	**£8,051**	**£8,051**
At 13 February 2025	£-	£-

8. Debtors

	2026
	£
Trade Debtors	2,048
Prepayments	400
Accrued Income	100
Grant Debtors	6,450
Other Debtors	840
	£9,838

All sums are due within 1 year.

9. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year

	2026
	£
Trade Creditors	580
Other Taxes & Social Security Costs	1,679
Accruals	2,460
	£4,719

10. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2026
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	676	7,375	8,051
Debtors	3,388	6,450	9,838
Cash at Bank and In Hand	75,519	79,860	155,379
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year	(4,719)	-	(4,719)
	£74,864	**£93,685**	**£168,549**

11. Analysis of Charitable Funds

	At 13 Feb 2025	Income in Year	Expended in Year	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	-	**104,270**	**(29,406)**	**74,864**
Restricted Funds				
Arts Council England – Progression Fund	-	42,271	(23,630)	18,641
Better Youth Spaces	-	11,032	(3,657)	7,375
National Foundation for Youth Music - – Catalyser 25/26	-	21,659	(21,659)	-
National Foundation for Youth Music - – Catalyser 26/27	-	49,500	(7,491)	42,009
National Lottery Community Fund	-	11,160	(9,636)	1,524
PRS Foundation – Next Steps	-	12,900	(10,152)	2,748
Rank Foundation - Connecting Futures	-	26,566	(7,130)	19,436
Rank Foundation - Profit For Good	-	10,000	(8,048)	1,952
Rank Foundation - Reaching Potential	-	3,301	(3,301)	-
Total Restricted Funds	**-**	**188,389**	**(94,704)**	**93,685**
	£-	**£292,659**	**£(124,110)**	**£168,549**

11. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)

Name of Restricted Fund	Description, Nature & Purpose of the Fund
Arts Council England – Progression Fund	Towards the cost of the YMP progression programme
Better Youth Spaces	Towards the cost of music and IT equipment
National Foundation for Youth Music - – Catalyser 25/26	Towards the cost of delivery of a youth music programme in 2025/26
National Foundation for Youth Music - – Catalyser 26/27	Towards the cost of delivery of a youth music programme in 2026/27
National Lottery Community Fund	Towards the cost of the Thrive project
PRS Foundation – Next Steps	Towards the cost of participation in the PRS Talent Development Network
Rank Foundation - Connecting Futures	Towards the cost of the Sunderland Connecting Futures programme
Rank Foundation - Profit For Good	Towards the cost of enhancing the skills of leaders in developing the charity's trading and social impact, by supporting participation in the Learning Programme and by putting that learning into practice through organisational development
Rank Foundation - Reaching Potential	Towards the cost of a Reaching Potential Bursary towards staff training

12. Related Party Transactions

No payments were made to Trustees in relation to expenses incurred in attending meetings.

In the period to 31 March 2026, the charity paid gross salary of £3,205 to David Brewis, husband of the Founder/Director, Laura Brewis.

There were no other transactions requiring disclosure.

13. Financial Commitments

No material future financial commitments have been made in the financial period.