Trustees' Annual Report

Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band
For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name:	Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band
Charity Type:	CIO - ASSOCIATION
Registered:	27 Mar 2025
Charity Registration Number:	1234567
Principal Address:	c/o 22 Cardinal Gardens, Darlington Co. Durham, DL3 8SD
Trustees	Martin Smith (Chair) Gordon Briggs (Treasurer) Rose Connor (Secretary) Joanne Lane Samantha Sharp Robert Smith Kenneth Tait
Principal Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc

Structure, Governance and Management

Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its Constitution. The charity is managed by a board of volunteer trustees elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

The trustees meet at least four times each year to oversee governance, finance, safeguarding, risk management and strategic planning. Day-to-day musical activities are delegated to the Musical Director and committee members, who report regularly to the trustees.

New trustees receive an induction covering the charity's governing document, financial responsibilities, safeguarding procedures and Charity Commission guidance.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects are:

To advance the education of the public in the appreciation and performance of brass band music.

To provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in brass banding.

To promote community engagement through musical performances.

To encourage young musicians through training and tuition.

During the year the trustees ensured that the charity's activities continued to provide public benefit in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance.

Achievements and Performance

During the year, the band:

- Performed over 25 public concerts and community events.
- Delivered twice-weekly rehearsals throughout the year.
- Performed free concerts in local parks and care homes.
- Performed at events geared towards children.
- Raised funds for local community causes through joint concerts.

Attendance at rehearsals remained strong, with membership consistently above 25 playing members.

The trustees are pleased that the charity continues to fulfil its educational objectives while maintaining a high standard of musical performance.

Financial Review

The charity remains financially stable.

During the year:

Total income:	£10,767
Total expenditure:	£ 7,450
Net surplus:	£ 3,317

Income was received from:

- Concert engagements
- Membership subscriptions
- Donations

Expenditure included:

- Musical Director fees
- Music purchases
- Instrument purchase and maintenance
- Uniform purchases
- Insurance
- Practice room hire
- General administration

The trustees have maintained unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately 12 months' operating costs – taking into account the current practice facilities are charged well below market value and would increase substantially if the band were to move. This level is considered appropriate to protect the charity against unexpected reductions in income and to provide for essential instrument repairs or replacement.

Investment Policy
As the charity's cash reserves are modest, funds are held in low-risk bank deposit accounts. The trustees review banking arrangements annually.

Reserves Policy
The trustees aim to maintain unrestricted reserves between £12,000 and £18,000 to ensure continuity of operations, cover unforeseen expenditure and support future projects.

At the year end unrestricted reserves stood at £14,064, which is within the target range.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties
The trustees regularly review the charity's principal risks, including:

- Declining membership.
- Loss of key volunteers.
- Rising operating costs.
- Safeguarding responsibilities.
- Damage or loss of instruments.

Appropriate mitigation measures include active recruitment, succession planning, insurance cover, financial monitoring and regular review of safeguarding policies.

Plans for the Future
During 2026 the trustees intend to:

- Develop partnerships with local schools.
- Improve practice facilities
- Improve the band's digital presence and audience engagement.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration
Approved by the Board of Trustees on 16 August 2026 and signed on its behalf by:





Martin Smith
Chair of Trustees

Robert Smith
Trustee

Public Benefit Statement
The trustees have complied with their duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The charity benefits the public by:

- Providing accessible musical education.
- Supporting musicians of all ages and abilities.
- Delivering free and affordable community performances.
- Encouraging participation in the arts.
- Promoting social inclusion through shared musical activity.