

Charity Registration No. NIC 105711

Company Registration No. NI027446 (Northern Ireland)

**THE BYTES PROJECT**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

# THE BYTES PROJECT

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**THE BYTES PROJECT  
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**CHARITABLE REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Directors</b>	Ben Carter (Chair) Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair) Ed Axon Ciaran Connolly Neil Cooke Andrew Hamilton Stephen Murray (Treasurer) Jill Aicken	(Appointed 1 September 2023)
<b>Company secretary</b>	Stephen Dallas	
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Stephen Dallas	
<b>Charity number</b>	NIC 105711	
<b>Company number</b>	NI027446	
<b>Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland</b>	NIC105711	
<b>Registered office and principal office</b>	300-302 Antrim Road Newtownabbey Northern Ireland BT36 5EG	
<b>Independent Auditor</b>	Johnston Kennedy DFK Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors 10 Pilots View Heron Road Belfast BT3 9LE	
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland Belfast City Branch 4 - 8 High Street Belfast BT1 2BA	

# THE BYTES PROJECT

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

#### Directors

The following directors have held office since 1 April 2023 (unless stated).

Ben Carter (Chair)	
Andrea McLoughlin (Vice-chair)	
Ed Axon	
Aimee Clint	(Resigned 16 May 2023)
Ciaran Connolly	
Neil Cooke	
Andrew Hamilton	
Stephen Murray (Treasurer)	
Ross Thompson	(Resigned 23 January 2024)
Jill Aicken	(Appointed 1 September 2023)

#### Directors' interests

None of the directors of the company held a beneficial interest in the assets of the company. There were no emoluments paid to directors during the current year. Directors did not claim any expenses during the current year in their capacity as Directors.

#### Chief Executive Officer

Since April 2021 the Chief Executive Officer, known as the Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary, has been Stephen Dallas.

#### Structure, governance and management

The Bytes Project is a youth work charity that has been working with the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland. We were established in April 1993, when a small group of people designed an innovative concept for Belfast, based on experience in an inner-city project in the USA. The original aim was to build on the entertainment and amusement attraction of computers with marginalised young adults with a focus on 16–25-year-olds.

The Bytes Project is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 28 April 1993, and registered with the Charity Commission Northern Ireland on 21 September 2016. It is governed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Bytes Project's governance is exercised by the Trustees, who are individuals whose extensive experience at senior executive and management levels in commerce, industry, civil service, academic and community service is made available to Bytes voluntarily. New Directors are appointed following an assessment process. Following appointment, new Directors receive induction briefings on the strategic plan and financial activities of the company.

#### Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. A risk register is now included as a standing agenda at Board meetings. This financial year, the board reviewed five policies.

# THE BYTES PROJECT

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### Public Benefit Statement

The charity's beneficiaries are young people.

The public benefits of the charity include increased knowledge, skills and qualifications and improved employability for young people, increased knowledge, skills, work-related experience, improved employability, increased self-esteem and confidence for the workplace, and increased access to further education, training and employment.

These direct benefits are demonstrated through:

- The number of young people who attend our youth hub provision.
- The number of young people completing programmes with youth workers and achieving accredited qualifications and their feedback on their learning.
- The number of young people who complete creative technology projects and their feedback on their learning.
- The number of young people who progress into education, training and employment using personal development plans and feedback on their learning.

### Principal Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are the following:

- To advance education by providing basic training in information technology, video and audio production, electrical and mechanical design and manufacture and related activities to persons aged 14-25 who have little or no formal education qualifications (hereafter referred to as trainees) and in particular:
- To enable children and young people to develop a sense of achievement and self-esteem and to encourage and support them towards employment and educational opportunities;
- To provide basic training in digital technology and work to reduce the digital divide in NI;
- Provide regional support to other charities delivering youth services for the benefit of children and young people by providing regional support. The support will focus on curriculum, workforce development, governance and representation.

Our vision and mission are:

- **Vision / Purpose:** Young people transform their world for good.
- **Mission:** Each year we will ensure that over 3,000 young people access digital technology in communities of promise.

Our new strategy from 2021-24 has named four pillars to drive our work:

- Youth Voice
- Youth Empathy
- Youth Digital
- Youth Places

This report is based on these themes.

In April 2023, we refined them to:

- Youth Empowerment
- Youth Employment and Digital
- Youth Empathy

These themes shape this report.

### Youth Empowerment

During this financial year, Bytes made significant strides in the growth of Local Youth Hubs.

Northwest: After celebrating our second year at our Strand Road Youth Hub, we developed a range of new services to enable this hub to offer youth services across the Foyleside DEA, the Sperrins, and Carrtogether. This development enabled an increased level of activity and relationship-building with several new partners.

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# THE BYTES PROJECT

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**Antrim and Newtownabbey:** After moving into our new Youth Hub in Glengormley, we were able to extend our support to open a new Youth Hub in Ballyclare and enhance our support with our partners Rathenraw Youth Centre. The team delivers open-access services and detached work to engage young people and direct them into a wide range of Bytes programmes.

**North Antrim:** Our Ballymoney Hub has entered its second year of service, extending our reach in the town and across Villages. This area has been very productive in building partnerships with other organisations with whom Bytes has yet to have previous contact. In April 2023, in collaboration with West Bann Community Association, we opened a new Youth Hub in Churchlands.

**Mid & East Antrim:** We have continued our partnership with Kells & Connor Community Improvement Association (KCCIA), supplying open-access youth services in Kells. We have also deepened our partnerships, and our main objective this coming year is to open a new provision in Dunlug.

Expanding our services has been a source of pride for our staff and Directors. At the end of March 2024, we estimate that we reach over one thousand young people weekly through our Youth Hubs.

We have also sought to develop our regional support role with the EA to support local groups. We have grown our membership by 200% in this financial year. This will enable us to support youth places in areas where we have no presence but can help others achieve high-quality services for young people.

Last year, we wanted to continue developing a digital platform to empower the voices of children and young people. In collaboration with key regional partners, we wanted to evolve the digital platform to capture the needs of young people through agreed themes and questions with structured questions, incorporating scales and one qualitative response, and develop a function for organisations to leave detailed feedback. In September 2023, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation supported a bid from Bytes, YMCA Ireland, Boys and Girls Clubs and Youth Initiative to undertake a fundamental review of our digital platform, including a rebrand to Voices for Impact. We have been working to develop the site focusing on using the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are planning to relaunch the site in late 2024.

### **Youth Empathy**

This year, we delivered eight good relations programmes across our Youth Hubs. These were significant projects spanning three to eight months, engaging over 250 young people and working with six community-based organisations. Young people established new relationships, explored good relationships, learned together, and became involved in social activities.

This year, we also supported Hillcroft Special Schools in using our Glengormley Youth Hub to help their Year 12 students develop their independent living skills.

### **Youth Employment and Digital**

We were part of a successful consortium bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for an employment support programme called Youth Start. The key statistics from April 2023 to March 2024 include:

- 82 young people engaged with support services.
- 78 supported in job searching.
- 71 engaged in life skills programmes.
- 52 gained new qualifications.
- 68 returned to education.
- 29 participated in work experience programmes.
- 33 found employment, with 22 sustaining it for six months.

Feedback from participants:

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## THE BYTES PROJECT

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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"Gemma helped me get into barbering. It was too late to register for the course and I nearly gave up before I even started. But Gemma didn't let me quit—she was right there with me, every step of the way. She even came with me to talk to the course director to plead my case, explaining why I should be allowed to join despite the late start. And when my anxiety tried to get the better of me, Gemma walked with me to my first few classes. Her support made all the difference; it gave me the courage to pursue the career I really want."

"When Bytes helped me land a new job at E&I engineering, I was buzzing, but I hit a snag with getting out there and not having steel toecap boots. The staff at Bytes sorted me out with taxis and even got me a pair of boots so I could start the job. This got me sorted for the first few weeks until I found a workmate who passed by my place and could give me a lift. Without this help, I wouldn't have made it onto the shop floor on the first day. It was a real lifesaver."

#### Digital

Our digital team has been driving innovation and efficiency within our organisation. Over the past year, we have undertaken several key initiatives to enhance our digital infrastructure and improve service delivery. Our digital and IT activities have significantly strengthened our capabilities, positioning us for continued success and growth.

During this period, we agreed to work towards ISO27001 Data Management, with the first steps being Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus certifications, to enhance our cybersecurity. Additionally, we have undertaken a significant project to digitise our asset register, ensuring that all our equipment and resources are accurately tracked and managed.

We have also delivered a range of digital projects:

**Gaming:** The development of our gaming programme for youth clubs has been a collaborative effort, starting with creating a gaming curriculum and securing funding from The Education Authority. This allowed us to equip local youth clubs with state-of-the-art gaming devices and provide training sessions for youth workers. The program has enhanced social skills, increased engagement, and transferred critical thinking skills to other areas of life. Participants took on leadership roles, fostering a sense of responsibility and confidence. The program also strengthened community bonds within the clubs and increased parental involvement.

**Online Youth Work:** The development of our online youth work programme for youth clubs has successfully enhanced digital engagement by addressing accessibility, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness while overcoming challenges like the digital divide and online safety. Training for 24 youth workers from 13 groups led to 81 pilot sessions, with positive feedback on the framework and curriculum. The finalised Online Youth Work Framework and Curriculum, developed in March 2024, effectively built leadership, decision-making, and digital literacy skills, resulting in increased confidence and community involvement among participants. This initiative has standardised online delivery for the youth sector, supporting young people's holistic development in a digital world.

**PA Foundation:** The digital upskilling programme, funded by The PA Foundation, is designed to provide young people with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's digital world. Participants have learned about various digital tools and technologies through workshops, hands-on training, and mentorship. The programme aims to bridge the digital divide and create opportunities for young people to excel in their careers.

**Santander:** In 2023, we secured three years of funding from the Santander Foundation to support our digital upskilling and leadership initiatives. One of the key achievements of the programme this year has been 53 young participants' successful completion of the Level 1 OCN in Online Transactions. The programme's emphasis on digital financial literacy ensured that participants understood online transactions, digital banking, and financial management tools comprehensively.

# THE BYTES PROJECT

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### Future Developments in Digital

We are working on three activities for 2024-25:

**LMS:** Our organisation recently implemented the LearnDash LMS system, a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing digital literacy, streamlining training processes, and improving overall efficiency. The LMS provides a digital platform for delivering training and educational content, ensuring consistency and accessibility for all users. Implementing the LMS has brought numerous benefits, including higher learner engagement and retention rates.

**CRM:** Our organisation has been ideating a bespoke Salesforce CRM system in collaboration with Enclude. The system aims to improve data capture and recording and reduce administrative workload to enhance frontline services for children and young people. We are currently awaiting funding support to develop our plan.

**Voices for Impact:** We will move from our old platform, Positive Sparks, and return to the original concept of Voices for Impact. We will seek additional funding and embed lessons from this process.

### Achievements and performance

We worked with over ten funders this year and engaged over 1,000 young people. Some examples:

- UK Government: We support almost 100 young people in accessing employment or training.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council – we provided services engaging over 500 young people.
- Good Relations Programmes – Through various funders, we have engaged over 350 young people in these projects.
- EA projects – through direct delivery or partnership, we delivered 11 EA specifications. This required the weekly engagement of over 300 young people.

### Organisational Development

We supported 20 people (including 7) staff to complete an OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. We also completed two staff development days exploring:

1. HR and Finance
2. Critical Reflection

### Financial review

The results are set out on pages 12 to 23. The Bytes Project returned net expenditure for the year of £17,248 (2023: £126,042 income) which comprised a net unrestricted surplus of £10,989 and net restricted deficit of £28,237.

At the year end unrestricted reserves amounted to £658,218 of which £40,557 was designated towards fixed assets leaving free reserves of £617,661. Restricted funds at the year end amounted to £97,693 of which £44,745 was designated towards fixed assets.

### Reserves policy

The unrestricted funds are essential to supply sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity if current levels of income are not maintained. The charity's reserve policy is to hold cover in line with the recommendations of the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland. For 2024-25 the Directors aim to retain at least 6 months operating costs in reserve which would be just over £655k. Our free reserves at year end amounted to £617,660.

### Political and Charitable Donations

During the year the company made no political or charitable contributions.

### Reference and Administrative Details

The organisations' details are as disclosed on the administrative details page.

# THE BYTES PROJECT

## DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### Statement of directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bytes Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 judgements and 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors

We, the Directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements, as set out above, each confirm so far as we are aware, that:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

### Auditors

The auditor's services will be re-tendered in line with our financial procedures.

### Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

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

On behalf of the board

**Ben Carter**

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**Ben Carter (Chair)**

**Dated: 17 December 2024**

# THE BYTES PROJECT

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bytes Project (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 2024 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

## THE BYTES PROJECT

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

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#### **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 prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- 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.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; 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.

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

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

# THE BYTES PROJECT

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT

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#### **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:

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable 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;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary 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 organisation for fraud. 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 frameworks that the charitable 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 Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and 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 charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing 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 provisions of terms of funding, relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management 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 HMRC; 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, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

## **THE BYTES PROJECT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BYTES PROJECT**

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This report is made solely to the charity 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 charity 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 charity and the charity members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**James Gage**

.....

**James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of:**

**Johnston Kennedy DFK**

**Statutory Auditor**

**Chartered Accountants**

**Registered Auditors**

**10 Pilots View**

**Heron Road**

**Belfast**

**BT3 9LE**

**Dated: 17 December 2024**

## THE BYTES PROJECT

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>	<b>Notes</b>				
Charitable activities	4	105,843	1,188,039	1,293,882	1,133,285
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>					
Charitable activities	5	100,523	1,210,607	1,311,130	1,007,243
<b>Total expenditure</b>		100,523	1,210,607	1,311,130	1,007,243
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)</b>		5,320	(22,568)	(17,248)	126,042
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	14&15	5,669	(5,669)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		10,989	(28,237)	(17,248)	126,042
Total funds brought forward		647,229	125,930	773,159	647,117
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		658,218	97,693	755,911	773,159

#### **Continuing operations**

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

#### **Statement of comprehensive income**

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

#### **Comparatives**

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in notes 2 and 3.

#### **Historical cost**

The results as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities and the net outgoing resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT**  
**(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	9		85,302		72,429
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	10	238,419		537,504	
Cash at bank and in hand		699,647		334,655	
		<u>938,066</u>		<u>872,159</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	<u>(250,930)</u>		<u>(146,568)</u>	
Net current assets			687,136		725,591
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>772,438</u>		<u>798,020</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	12		(16,527)		(24,861)
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>755,911</u>		<u>773,159</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Restricted income funds	14		97,693		125,930
Unrestricted income funds	15		658,218		647,229
<b>Total funds</b>	16		<u>755,911</u>		<u>773,159</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Ben Carter  
 .....

**Ben Carter**  
**Director**

Andrea McLoughlin  
 .....

**Andrea McLoughlin**  
**Director**

Company Registration No. NI027446

Charity No. NIC 105711

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

## THE BYTES PROJECT

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	24		425,074		310,454
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(51,748)		(40,163)	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(51,748)		(40,163)
<b>Financing activities</b>					
(Repayments) / advances from bank loans		(8,334)		(8,819)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			(8,334)		(8,819)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			364,992		261,472
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			334,655		73,183
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>699,647</u>		<u>334,655</u>

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of these financial statements

**THE BYTES PROJECT  
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**1 Accounting policies**

**Charity information**

The Bytes Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal office is 300-302 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EG, Northern Ireland. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the directors' report on page 3 of these financial statements.

**1.1 Accounting convention**

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (second edition - October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

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 significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

**1.2 Income and expenditure**

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

**1.3 Support costs**

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

**1.4 Fund Accounting**

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

**THE BYTES PROJECT  
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**1 Accounting policies (Continued)**

**1.5 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer equipment	33% straight line

**1.6 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.

**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.

Operating 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. Operating 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.

**1.7 Taxation**

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

**1.8 Pensions**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE BYTES PROJECT  
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**1 Accounting policies (Continued)**

**1.9** Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

**2 Statement of Financial Activities:Unrestricted funds**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income from:</b>		
Charitable activities	105,843	79,188
<b>Total income</b>	<u>105,843</u>	<u>79,188</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Charitable activities	100,523	63,464
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>100,523</u>	<u>63,464</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)</b>	5,320	15,724
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<u>5,669</u>	<u>127,889</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	10,989	143,613
Total funds brought forward	<u>647,229</u>	<u>503,616</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>658,218</u></u>	<u><u>647,229</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT  
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**3 Statement of Financial Activities: Restricted Funds**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income from:</b>		
Charitable activities	1,188,039	1,054,097
<b>Total income</b>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>1,054,097</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Charitable activities	1,210,607	943,779
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>1,210,607</u>	<u>943,779</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)</b>	(22,568)	110,318
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<u>(5,669)</u>	<u>(127,889)</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(28,237)	(17,571)
Total funds brought forward	<u>125,930</u>	<u>143,501</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>97,693</u></u>	<u><u>125,930</u></u>

**4 Charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>fund</b>	<b>fund</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Big Lottery Fund	-	-	-	4,714
Education Authority	-	561,741	561,741	157,981
SEUPB - PEACE	-	-	-	2,792
ANBC	-	60,845	60,845	80,291
PCSP	-	-	-	51,760
T:BUC / CGRF	-	219,461	219,461	254,201
ESF - Launch Pad	-	-	-	275,307
Voices 4 Impact	-	5,745	5,745	22,524
YP - Tech Projects	-	-	-	149,136
Miscellaneous Restricted	-	-	-	47,613
Rank Foundation	-	28,795	28,795	-
PA Foundation	-	27,500	27,500	-
Youth Start	-	200,821	200,821	-
Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	10,302	10,302	-
Fees for services delivered	92,713	-	92,713	77,318
Community funding support	-	-	-	-
Santander Grant	13,130	72,829	85,959	9,648
	<u>105,843</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>1,293,882</u>	<u>1,133,285</u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT  
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**5 Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Activity costs	57,023	972,636	1,029,659	783,581
Support costs	43,500	237,971	281,471	223,662
	<u>100,523</u>	<u>1,210,607</u>	<u>1,311,130</u>	<u>1,007,243</u>

**6 Net income/(expenditure)**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	38,875	36,329
Auditor's remuneration (including accountancy services)	6,152	5,724
	<u>45,027</u>	<u>42,053</u>

**7 Employees**

**Number of employees**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
	40	38
	<u>40</u>	<u>38</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

**8 Directors' remuneration**

No director received any remuneration or were reimbursed expenditure from the charity during the current or previous year.

**THE BYTES PROJECT  
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

<b>9</b>	<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>			
		<b>Fixtures and fittings</b>	<b>Computer equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<b>Cost</b>			
	At 1 April 2023	103,822	284,272	388,094
	Additions	26,867	24,881	51,748
		<u>130,689</u>	<u>309,153</u>	<u>439,842</u>
	At 31 March 2024			
	<b>Depreciation</b>			
	At 1 April 2023	72,846	242,819	315,665
	Depreciation charged in the year	13,409	25,466	38,875
		<u>86,255</u>	<u>268,285</u>	<u>354,540</u>
	At 31 March 2024			
	<b>Net book value</b>			
	At 31 March 2024	<u>44,434</u>	<u>40,868</u>	<u>85,302</u>
	At 31 March 2023	<u>30,976</u>	<u>41,453</u>	<u>72,429</u>
		<u><u>30,976</u></u>	<u><u>41,453</u></u>	<u><u>72,429</u></u>
<b>10</b>	<b>Debtors</b>			
			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Activity debtors		123,939	256,393
	Prepayments and accrued income		114,480	281,111
			<u>238,419</u>	<u>537,504</u>
			<u><u>238,419</u></u>	<u><u>537,504</u></u>
<b>11</b>	<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>Notes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Bank loans	13	8,333	8,333
	Other taxation and social security		404	8,622
	Activity creditors		70,404	43,943
	Other creditors		4,230	630
	Accruals and deferred income		167,559	85,040
			<u>250,930</u>	<u>146,568</u>
			<u><u>250,930</u></u>	<u><u>146,568</u></u>
<b>12</b>	<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>			
			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>Notes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Bank loans	13	16,527	24,861
			<u>16,527</u>	<u>24,861</u>
			<u><u>16,527</u></u>	<u><u>24,861</u></u>

**THE BYTES PROJECT  
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**13 Loans and overdrafts**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank loans	24,860	33,194
Payable within one year	8,333	8,333
Payable after one year	16,527	24,861

**14 Restricted income funds**

	<b>Balance at 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Big Lottery	87	-	-	-	87
Detached	555	-	-	-	555
Education Authority	39,984	561,741	(569,582)	(8,427)	23,716
ANBC - Life Skills	-	60,845	(57,569)	(3,276)	-
Rank Foundation	-	28,795	(28,794)	-	1
PA Foundation	-	27,500	(26,386)	-	1,114
Youth Start	-	200,821	(199,972)	-	849
Dormant Accounts - CRM	-	10,302	(10,302)	-	-
Street 1	5,029	-	-	-	5,029
ESF - Launch Pad	-	-	(180)	180	-
PCSP Projects	20,639	-	(333)	-	20,306
T:BUC / CGRF	1,059	219,461	(225,972)	5,854	402
Voices 4 Impact	10,669	5,745	(13,114)	-	3,300
YP - Tech Projects	5,329	-	(3,307)	-	2,022
Santander	2,652	72,829	(66,350)	-	9,131
Covid Recovery Fund	564	-	(564)	-	-
Other Small Funds	39,363	-	(8,184)	-	31,179
	<u>125,930</u>	<u>1,188,039</u>	<u>(1,210,607)</u>	<u>(5,669)</u>	<u>97,693</u>

**15 Unrestricted funds**

	<b>At 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General funds	647,229	105,843	(100,523)	5,669	658,218

**THE BYTES PROJECT  
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**16 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds	44,745	52,948	97,693
Unrestricted Income Funds	40,557	617,661	658,218
	<u>85,302</u>	<u>670,609</u>	<u>755,911</u>

**17 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:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Between two and five years	18,496	18,496

**18 Capital commitments**

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2023.

**19 Non-audit service provision**

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

**20 Related party transactions**

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

**21 Company status**

The company is as company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

**22 Control**

The directors control the company. The directors are appointed by and are accountable to the members.

**23 Financial commitments**

The company had no financial commitments as at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2023.

**THE BYTES PROJECT**  
**(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

<b>24</b>	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		£	£
	Net movement in funds	(17,248)	126,042
	Adjustments for:		
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	38,875	36,329
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease in debtors	299,085	282,990
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	104,362	(134,907)
	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>425,074</u>	<u>310,454</u>
<b>25</b>	<b>Analysis of changes in net funds</b>		
		<b>At 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>
		£	<b>At 31 March 2024</b>
			£
	Cash at bank and in hand	334,655	364,992
	Loans falling due within one year	(8,333)	-
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(24,861)	8,334
		<u>301,461</u>	<u>373,326</u>
		<u><u>301,461</u></u>	<u><u>373,326</u></u>
			<u><u>699,647</u></u>
			<u><u>674,787</u></u>

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