

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## INTRODUCTION

In my 2019 report, I wrote about just how vitally important it was that LYC, as a charity devoted to supporting under-served young people, maximised every opportunity to deliver on that commitment.

Reflecting now on that statement, it strikes me even more forcefully just what an invaluable role LYC must play for its remarkable young people. As the pandemic decimated the outputs and delivery schedules of many organisations, it highlighted acutely the significance of the outstanding efforts of the LYC team to step up to the challenge. Whilst some organisations were forced to cease activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic, LYC – from Board to staff to beneficiaries – opted to make things happen. Quite simply, the needs, hopes and expectations of our young people remained our priority.

As a Board, we could not be prouder of what has been achieved in the most testing of times. As will be apparent from the CEO's report, the scale of COVID-safe delivery has been a testimony to the energy, imagination, innovation, and sheer indefatigability of the LYC team. When our young people were most in need of support – for their health and well-being - activities, challenges, equipment, and personal help, we were there for them. It is, indeed, hard to overestimate just what an achievement this has been on the part of Guy and Sam who made this all possible at a time when they, like so many of us, faced individual challenges during the pandemic.

Naturally, we supported both as best we could and in this, we were helped by taking steps to strengthen our governance by recruiting new Board members with specialist experience in areas we identified as lacking. We were exceptionally fortunate to attract 3 new trustees, Jamie Wooldridge, Donna Coleman, and Phil Longbottom, who complemented the existing members with their respective expertise in marketing, working with vulnerable young people and outdoor activities. As a recent audit of trustee skills revealed, we now have a Board with an impressive range of capabilities and professional expertise.

This progress, along with new and improved financial reporting practices established by the Board in 2020, will be important to LYC as we plan for the exciting developments during the next 12 months to 2 years. Along with our CEO, we are preparing a new, cohesive, and bold 3-year plan that is based on our learning over the past two years to meet the needs and aspirations of our young people. We are confident that this will also help us generate significant new income streams to diversify our financial resources with the potential of 'exporting' the proven LYC model to other localities in Lancashire, an ambition that was, inevitably, thwarted by the strangest year we have all just experienced.

George Harris  
Chair of Trustees



# OUR PURPOSE, VALUES AND APPROACH

## PURPOSE

TO NURTURE, SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE YOUNG PEOPLE SO THEY MAY ACHIEVE PERSONAL SUCCESS

## VALUES

### UNIQUE

Recognising individual uniqueness and cultural identity whilst celebrating our collective, common humanity. Providing each young person with bespoke support to enable them to identify their place in the world and make positive and meaningful change in their lives.

### ACHIEVING

Empowering young people to identify their personal goals, develop their confidence and achieve their full potential.

### COLLABORATIVE

Embedding collaborative practices into the work of Lancashire Youth Challenge; to ensure high quality delivery of our purpose with young people, communities, and stakeholders.

### EQUITABLE

Equal and equitable provision defined to meet the needs of the young people we serve.

## APPROACH

Lancashire Youth Challenge believes in a strength and asset-based approach to our work with young people and we encourage the celebration of achievement, youth empowerment, collaborative working and youth led practices.

Many of the young people accessing our provision are vulnerable due to personal, socio economic and mental health related issues. Our focus as a charity is to enable young people to overcome their personal obstacles, build resilience and to be celebrated and recognised for their achievements.

To this end, when discussing or promoting our work, we adopt asset-based language and focus on the achievements and successes, rather than the vulnerability or challenging lived experiences of the young people we serve.

# OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

## THREE YEAR PROGRAMME

Launched in 2019, 'Our Place in the World' is an innovative three-year programme designed to enable young people to investigate and define their place in society via participation in high quality personal wellbeing projects, cultural and creative arts-based activities, community impact projects, bespoke 1-1 personal development sessions, educational events and our annual outdoor challenge programme.

As a targeted youth provision, young people are referred to the programme via local health, education, and youth & community partners. Young people and parents/guardians can also self-refer.

Our annual programme is delivered in partnership with industry experts and provides a voice to young people who feel disenfranchised and underrepresented, enabling them to make positive changes in their own lives and the wider community.



*Our Place in the World Schematic*

## THEORY OF CHANGE

### OUTPUTS

Personal Fitness sessions

Mindfulness and Mental wellbeing activities

Community Impact projects

Educational participatory workshops

Cultural & Creative education projects

Outdoor challenges and expeditions

Group Work and 1-1 work

Peer Mentoring

Global education projects

### MECHANISMS OF CHANGE

Young people are equipped with the skills to manage their physical and mental wellbeing

Young people feel safe and supported

Young people feel listened to and respected

Young people feel they are positively contributing to their community

Young people feel confident to express themselves

Young people develop confidence to try new things

Young people feel a sense of purpose, achievement, and contribution to society

### INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Increased respect for themselves and others

Increase empathy and compassion

A greater commitment to equality and diversity

Increased motivation

Increased aspirations and clear plan to achieve personal ambitions

Improved social interaction skills

Improved communication skills

Increased independence

A greater sense of personal responsibility and maturity

### LONG TERM OUTCOMES

Young people will have a greater understanding of their place in the world and how they can enable and facilitate positive, meaningful change in their lives and the wider community.

Long term improvements to physical and mental health and wellbeing

Positive long-term relationships with peers and others

A developed sense of self efficacy

Educational attainment

Enhanced life skills

Young people identify their goals to achieve their full potential during 1-1 personal development and coaching workshops.



## COVID-19

As with a significant number of youth & community organisations, COVID-19 posed an existential threat to Lancashire Youth Challenge and an extraordinary trustee meeting was arranged in mid-March to discuss how best we should respond to the pandemic and the first national lockdown.

We recognised that now more than ever our young people require consistent, supportive engagement to ensure they could proactively manage their physical and mental wellbeing, continue their education and have opportunities to meet their peers, learn new skills and have fun.

The CEO and Trustees made the decision not to furlough staff and instead to move our participatory programme online and step up our 1-1 coaching and mentoring sessions, from bi-monthly to weekly. It was apparent that not all of our young people had access to digital devices or data and so, we secured investment from Tesco Bags for Help and through support from our partners at Lancaster University we were able to provide ten young people with laptops, digital tablets and free WIFI.

Just prior to the national lockdown was announced on Monday 23rd March, we commissioned Handstand Productions to assist us in producing a series of digital challenges and learning resources for young people to access whilst stuck indoors.

Working in partnership with our friends and partners at the Tara Centre, Rev. Jitei White kindly agreed to present five tutorials, providing advice and instruction on meditation and mindful practices aimed at helping young people to reduce anxiety and fear during this period of uncertainty.

For more info click [here](#).

We were conscious that as the leisure centres, gyms and public spaces were being forced to close, young people would have no access to physical fitness training, so we promoted a new physical challenge specifically for life in lockdown. The National Three Peaks Staircase Challenge encouraged our young people to climb the UK's highest peaks (Mount Snowdon, Scafell Pike, and Ben Nevis) without needing to leave their house.

Watch this short film for more information [here](#).

Throughout lockdown, Sam, our Youth Support Worker continued to provide 1-1 personal development meetings via online conferencing platforms and hosted weekly educational and creative workshops, delivered in partnership with professional creative learning practitioners, artists, and educators. They proved to be particularly beneficial with young people learning a variety of new skills including British Sign Language, creative writing, visual arts, song writing & music production.

## PERSONAL, PHYSICAL & MENTAL WELLBEING

Positive and meaningful change begins with the individual, and a healthy body and mind is essential if we are to achieve our aspirations and ambitions in life. Therefore, we have continued to work with our partners at Bayfit Performance PT to deliver weekly core fitness and physical wellbeing workshops, designed to encourage our young people to stay fit, develop personal discipline and team work skills, and find positive ways to release tension and frustrations.



When lockdown 2.0 was announced in early November, we worked with Callum, a PT instructor at BayFit to produce a 'work out' video, which you can access [here](#).



## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PEER COACHING & MENTORING**

To enhance our 1-1 personal development programme and provide opportunities for peer learning we commissioned Pamela Ball, a Management Consultant and Life Coach to design and facilitate a bespoke 'Peer Mentoring & Coaching' training programme. The training explored the role and function of a Peer Mentor and equipped young people with the communication skills and tools required to become successful mentors.

So far, five young people have completed the training and can now support their teammates at events, workshops, annual challenges and during 1-1 personal development meetings.

Pamela has produced a bespoke training manual which Sam and Guy can use to facilitate 'in house' training sessions in the future, thereby ensuring the sustainability of this new strand of activity.





## COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT: WOODLAND CHALLENGE

To empower and inspire our young people to make positive and meaningful change in their community, we worked in partnership with Lune Valley Community Beekeepers to manage and restore a 1.5 acre woodland on the footprint of Nazareth House, a local residential care home.

The woodland had been neglected for many years and was no longer accessible to the residents, as there was no definable path, and the terrain was covered in debris and fallen trees

Starting in January, our team of 15 hardworking young people donated their Saturday afternoons to complete the Woodland Challenge. They cleared the ground, felled dead trees, planted 1000 bulbs, built hedgehog homes, bird boxes and bug houses. They also chipped over 4 tonnes of dead wood and built a new path through the centre of the woodland, restoring it into an accessible, landscaped outdoor space for the residents of Nazareth house to enjoy.

The young people were conscious that the care home residents would be feeling lonely and isolated during lockdown so, they decided to facilitate a pen pal project with the residents and care staff. Over the last few months, they have exchanged letters, photographs, shared stories and learned about each other's lives and histories.



## CULTURAL & CREATIVE EDUCATION PROJECTS

We had secured investment from Arts Council England to deliver a weeklong Bronze Arts Award Challenge Festival during the Easter holidays, in partnership with our colleagues at More Music, unfortunately this has been postponed until February 2021 due to COVID-19.

We recognised that 'life in lockdown' posed an opportunity for our young people to produce their own creative responses to their place in the world. Therefore, we commissioned several artists to produce digital tutorials, providing advice and guidance on how to create songs, pieces of spoken work, poetry, rap and beats.

Follow the link to access the tutorials [here](#).

We also facilitated online creative writing workshops with the Yemeni poet, Amina Atiq and a beatboxing and rap workshop with Daniel Debuyange (Blu Saint) and Chris Maylor (MC Renegade).

Working in partnership with Culture COOP and local arts organisations, we co-produced a 'Creative Challenge Pack' of creative learning activities and resources for young people to use while in lockdown. Over 100 packs were disseminated to families across the district via Lancaster City Council, CAMHS and local youth & community organisations.

Download a digital version of the pack [here](#).



**Creative  
challenge  
pack.**



# HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

## OPITW CULTURAL & CREATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

In July, we launched the 'Our Place in the World Cultural and Creative Education' programme, in partnership with Lancaster University and Curious Minds. This exciting 2 year strategic programme will engage hundreds of local, working class young people in high quality creative learning events/workshops. It will provide continuous professional development opportunities for artists, educators, and youth workers, and open manifold opportunities for shared learning and collaborative practice amongst creative learnings practitioners, educational institutions and youth and community practitioners

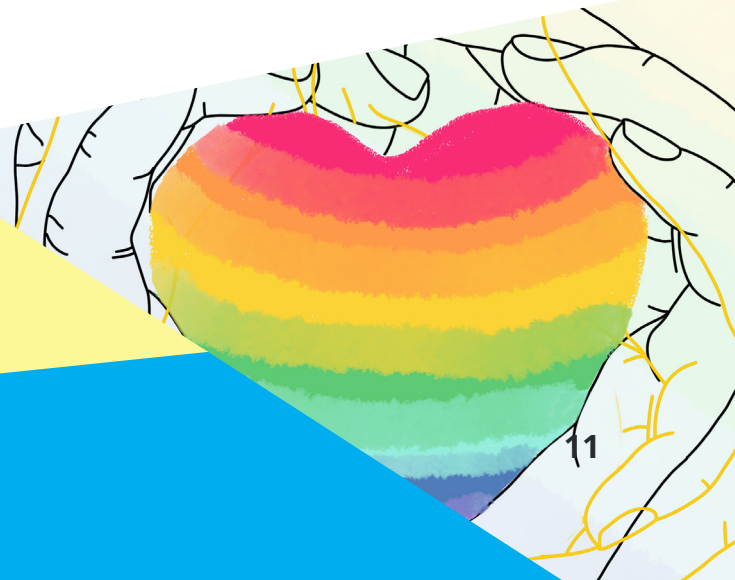
Our first bit of business was to launch the OPITW Creative Learning Commission programme, targeted at engaging working-class young people across the Lancaster District in high quality cultural and creative learning projects. The commissions included:

**'Our Place in the World, Now'** - An interactive spoken word, film and music project led by Charlotte Barber.

**'Double Life'** - A music video created by young people from Lancaster district in partnership with professional West End dancers, singers, and actors, raising awareness of LGBTQ issues and celebrating diversity, produced by Leo&Hyde.

**'Voices - Sparking conversation in Art'** - A multi venue arts exhibition of work created by three emerging Black artists, to promote cultural diversity within the arts and to raise awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement, produced by GRAFT.

**'Change in a Box'** - An arts and social activism project, empowering young people to make creative commentary on their place in the world and participate in individual or group activism initiatives which encourage and enable positive social change, produced by Theatre in the Rough.



# ANNUAL CHALLENGE PROGRAMME

Between the 16th and 21st of August two cohorts of seven young people accessed three days of outdoor challenges in and around Coniston. Initially planned as a six-day overnight residential, we had to dramatically re-design the challenge in response to COVID-19.

Delivered in partnership with Big Adventure, the young people took part in activities including ghyll scrambling, rock climbing, caving, wild swimming, canoeing, paddle-boarding, and hiking the Old Man of Coniston.

The young people challenged themselves to try new activities and test their fortitude against the elements. The challenges allowed them to not only get outdoors and away from technology (and lockdown), but also confront and overcome some of their fears and anxieties.



## TRAINING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

We encourage and support our team to focus on their own professional development by accessing relevant and high-quality training opportunities. Earlier this year Guy began his Level 7 CMI Strategic Management and Leadership qualification, and Sam has applied to join the acclaimed Aspiring Leaders Programme, facilitated by the Brathay Trust and University of Cumbria.

Both Sam and Guy attended a variety of online training workshops including: Psychological First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Bereavement Care and First Aid in the workplace.

## VOLUNTEERS

It would be impossible for Lancashire Youth Challenge to facilitate our annual programme without the support and dedication of our phenomenal volunteers.

As a small charity the support we receive from volunteers is of paramount importance. It allows us to offer an in-depth, well rounded, and overall high-quality experience for the young people we support here in North Lancashire.

We would like to thank the following volunteers for their hard work and unwavering support:

George Harris, Julie Brown, Sam Harding, Yak Patel, Phil Longbottom, Jamie Wooldridge, Rae Holden, Donna Coleman, Jo Prescott, Arthur Garvin, Ken Calland, Sera Jenkins, Simon Culkin, Layton Whitehead, Josh Lightbown, Katelyn Green, Katie Barry.

We recently received the following testament from Layton Whitehead who in his youth was a participant of LYC and has since become a volunteer:

*"My experience with LYC has been life-changing. Before LYC I was very conflicted about what to do with my life and was getting myself into a lot of trouble. During my time with the team, I learned the importance of motivation and self-confidence and how to be motivated to being a better person. I looked up to the youth workers at LYC and in doing so changed my perspective massively. I honestly believe that my time with LYC made a huge impact on how my life has turned out and the kind of person I grew up to be. The fact I can help out LYC in volunteering and Youth Work is a true blessing to me and proof that LYC can make a real positive impact in young people's lives."*

In October, we received the fantastic news that Lancashire Youth Challenge had been nominated for the prestigious 'Queen's Award for Voluntary Service' in recognition of the amazing hard work of our volunteers.

# COMMUNICATIONS

We have continued to work with Louise Bryning, freelance journalist, to communicate our work in the local and regional press. This year we have had five articles printed in the Lancaster Guardian and Visitor and attended several interviews with BBC Radio Lancashire and Beyond Radio.

In July, we began to commission Anthony Briggs as a Social Media Communicator to support and facilitate our online output including our website and social media platforms. Over the last few months Anthony has re-developed our YouTube channel into a business page and added new thumbnails and imagery, refined our website to support user navigation, driven more people to our website from Twitter and Facebook, re-built our logo, developed original digital content and actively promoted our fundraising campaigns to increase reach.



## STATISTICS

### ENGAGEMENT

46

Young people engaged in weekly participatory programmes

125+

Young people engaged in the Our Place in the World Cultural & Creative Education Programme

479

Participatory sessions delivered

1,129

Participation opportunities offered

## COMMUNICATIONS

3,085

Individual browsing sessions on our website

6,746

Total number of views on our website

287

Total number of new followers (Facebook and Twitter)

2,762

Peak organic post reach (Facebook)



## **PLANS FOR 2021**

### **PRESTON REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

It has been a strategic aim of Lancashire Youth Challenge to develop a meaningful presence in Preston and in 2021 we will be delivering a pilot engagement project with resettled refugees and asylum seekers. The project will explore ideas of place, identity, migration, movement, and resettlement. This will be delivered in partnership with Lancashire County Council and Lancaster University.

### **FIND YOUR PURPOSE, REALISE YOUR AMBITION - CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

Local families have been placed under significant financial pressure due to the Pandemic and many of our older cohort of young people are eager to secure employment in order to support their families, as parents, guardians and carers have either lost their jobs or face the real threat of redundancy.

The employment market is highly competitive, especially at this time, and we recognise that young people need support and guidance to navigate the job market and to develop the skills, attributes and behaviours needed to successfully secure employment.

Therefore, in 2021 we will deliver a pilot 'Career and Work Preparation' programme, delivered in partnership with the Lancaster based charity, the Adullam Programme.

### **INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE 2021**

During the 2021 summer holidays we are planning to undertake a very exciting International challenge. If COVID restrictions allow, our team will travel to Ireland to complete the mammoth task of canoeing the length of the River Shannon!!

### **ARTS AWARD FESTIVAL**

Our Bronze Arts Award festival, originally planned for Easter 2020 is now planned to take place during the 2021 February half term holidays and will be delivered in partnership with More Music and culturally diverse artists from across the North West.



# THANKS

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the freelancers, creative practitioners, youth workers and partners who supported the delivery of our 2020 programme:

We would also like to say a huge thanks to our funders who make our work possible:

The National Lottery Community Fund  
Francis C Scott Charitable Trust  
The Areti Charitable Foundation  
Arts Council England  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
The Foyle Foundation  
The Banks Lyon Memorial Trust  
The COOP Local Community Fund  
Home Office COVID-19 Support for vulnerable children's charities  
Lancashire COVID-19 Community Support Fund  
Tesco Bags of Help  
Lancaster University  
Curious Minds



The Banks Lyon Memorial Trust



Lancashire Youth Challenge, Cornerstone Building, Sulyard Street, Lancaster, LA1 1PX  
Registered Charity: 1163469



**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Accounts For The Year Ended**

**31 March 2020**

**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

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**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Officers and advisers**

**Management Committee**

Guy Christiansen - Chairman (resigned 1st April 2019)  
Rachael Holden -Trustee  
Yakub Patel - Secretary  
George Harris - Chairman (appointed 1st April 2019)  
Julie Brown - Treasurer  
Samantha Emma Harding - Trustee  
Donna Coleman (appointed 6th December 2019)  
Phil Longbottom (appointed 6th December 2019)  
James Henry Wooldridge (appointed 6th December 2019)

**Accountants**

GMR Accountants Ltd  
1st Floor  
8 - 12 London Street  
Southport  
Merseyside  
PR9 0UE

**Registered Charity**

Charity Number 1163469

Lancashire Youth Challenge

Accountant's Report

**Accountant's Report to the Management Committee:-**

You have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 and have acknowledged your responsibility for them, particularly for the appropriateness of the accounting basis and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

We have not carried out an audit and have relied on the records, information and explanations you have given us to enable us to prepare these financial statements.

GMR Accountants Ltd

1st Floor  
8-12 London Street  
Southport  
Merseyside  
PR9 0UE

Dated : 4th December 2020

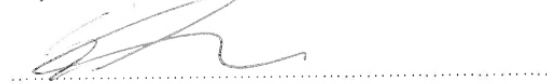
Lancashire Youth Challenge

Approval of Financial Information

We hereby approve the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 and acknowledge our responsibility for them, particularly for the appropriateness of the accounting basis and for providing all information and explanations necessary to the accountants for their compilation.

**The Management Committee:**

Guy Christiansen - Chairman (resigned 1st April 2019)



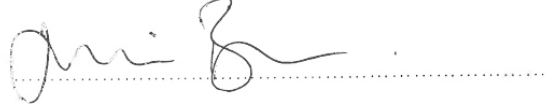
Yakub Patel - Secretary



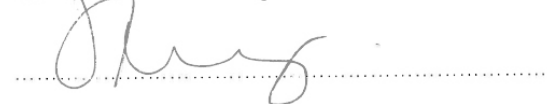
George Harris - Chairman (appointed 1st April 2019)



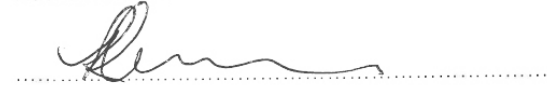
Julie Brown - Treasurer



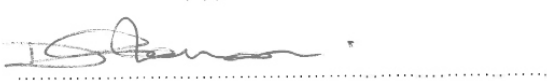
Samantha Emma Harding - Trustee



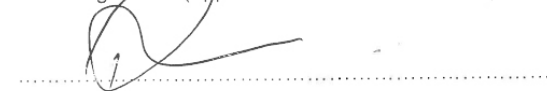
Rachael Holden - Trustee




Donna Coleman (appointed 6th December 2019)



Phil Longbottom (appointed 6th December 2019)



James Henry Wooldridge (appointed 6th December 2019)



Dated 06.11.2020 Page 3

Lancashire Youth Challenge

Profit & Loss Account

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds		Total Funds		Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds		Total Funds	
	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>												
Donations			383		383				602		602	
Fundraising			203		203			37,132			37,132	
Grant	72,923		228		73,152							
		72,923		815	73,738			37,132		602		37,734
<b>Expenses</b>												
Wages	37,722							13,728				13,728
Employers Pension Contribution	816							345				345
Rent	1,745							1,080				1,080
Membership	85							85				85
Project Costs - Creative Programme	4,623		14					4,751	73			4,824
Project Costs - Physical Programme	12,619		285					16,440	263			16,703
Project Costs - Meals & Healthy Eating Project								3,215				3,215
Project Costs - Other	262											
Staff Training	1,175											
Insurance	521							504				504
Marketing & Advertising	1,835		18					414	26			440
Telecommunications and IT	554		171					254				254
Volunteer, Staff and Trustee Expenses	1,278		210					295	433			728
Travel and Project Travel Costs	1,218		70					687	438			1,125
Office expenses & Printing	629											
Consultancy	1,166							4,509				4,509
Payroll Bureau	225							258				258
Accountancy Charges	1,440							1,440				1,440
Depreciation	431							223				223
Bank Charges	65							35				35
		(68,408)		(768)	(69,176)			(48,264)		(1,232)		(49,496)
<b>Net Surplus</b>												
	£	4,516	£	47	4,562	£	(11,132)	£	(631)	£	(11,762)	

Lancashire Youth Challenge

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets		527		893
<b>Current assets</b>				
National Westminster Account	45,559		13,342	
CAF Bank Account	1,083		965	
Cash Account	-		602	
OTSS			147	
		<u>46,642</u>		<u>15,056</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Deferred income	(33,572)		(7,840)	
Accruals	(900)		(900)	
PAYE	(926)			
		<u>(35,398)</u>		<u>(8,740)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		11,244		6,316
<b>Net assets</b>		£ <u><u>11,771</u></u>		£ <u><u>7,209</u></u>
<b>Financed by:</b>				
<b>Capital accounts</b>				
Balance as at 1 April 2019		7,209		18,971
Surplus for year		4,562		(11,762)
		£ <u><u>11,771</u></u>		£ <u><u>7,209</u></u>



Lancashire Youth Challenge

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2020

Tangible Fixed Assets Unrestricted

	Office Equipment	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 April 2019	1,287	1,287
Additions during the year	65	65
At 31 March 2020	<u>1,352</u>	<u>1,352</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April 2019	394	394
Charge for the year 33%SL	431	223
At 31 March 2020	<u>825</u>	<u>617</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		-
At 31 March 2020	<u>527</u>	<u>735</u>
At 1 April 2019	<u>893</u>	<u>893</u>