



Stretford Children's Theatre

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1175334

2022 / 2023

Annual Report

Financial Year End 31.8.23

(Period covered 01.09.22-31.08.23)

Stretford Children's Theatre

Stretford Public Hall

Chester Road

Stretford

Manchester

M32 0LG

Email: stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com

X: [@SCT_Stretford](https://twitter.com/SCT_Stretford)

Website:

www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk

Instagram: [stretfordchildrenstheatre](https://www.instagram.com/stretfordchildrenstheatre)



Mission Statement:

To inspire, educate and enrich our community by providing high quality accessible performing arts sessions and through public productions.

Our Vision:

To build a valued community organisation that is well-known for its high quality, inclusive, participant-led performing arts offer; an environment where everyone feels valued and supported to unlock talent and reach their potential.

Our Values:

Our values, below, inform our work and guide our attitudes and behaviours:

We value:

We encourage:



Our Aims:

- To provide fun, creative opportunities
- To be participant led
- To increase confidence, resilience and independence for participants
- To develop social and emotional skills to support mental health and well-being
- To develop confidence and leadership skills in order to enhance employability
- To develop skills, knowledge and appreciation of the arts
- To promote an understanding of the significance of the arts in our shared cultural heritage
- To encourage participants' connection to their community: a sense of belonging
- To provide a safe and healthy environment for all
- To work together with residents, community users, local authorities, voluntary and other organisations to be a positive part of the community
- To be a robust and sustainable organisation



Our Charitable Objects:

To advance education for the public benefit among children and young people aged 4 and above and adults in all aspects of the performing arts by the provision of workshops and opportunities to participate in artistic performances.

Established in 1945 by Bertram H. Holland, Stretford Children's Theatre became an integral part of the community for over 35 years. However, it ceased operations in the early 1980s. In 2015, a dedicated group of local individuals successfully revived the theatre, choosing one of its original venues, Stretford Public Hall, as the backdrop for its resurgence.

Stretford Children's Theatre [SCT] is dedicated to offering accessible, high-quality drama experiences for individuals aged 4 and above, extending to adults within our community. Our drama sessions are delivered by professional theatre practitioners, specialists at working with our different age groups. We think we meet our aims at every session we deliver and hope that everyone feels the same. If you feel differently please speak to the any member of the Board or staff and highlight any concerns you may have.

As a foundation CIO, we are governed by our Constitution. If you wish for a copy of the Constitution which details more information about our group's governance and rules, please ask any of the Board Members who can give you a copy, it can also be found on our website.

We have had no serious or reportable accidents or incidents this year.

Our public liability insurance is held with Markel Insurance.

All our drama practitioners are DBS checked and follow our child protection policy and procedures. All our policies can be found on our website.

We conduct risk assessments for each group, and each place we visit to ensure everybody's safety.

We continuously review policies during the year, our financial controls are monitored and adjusted accordingly to ensure robust processes are adhered to and trustees remain accountable.

Our registered address is: Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, M32 0LG

Our active bank details are:

Natwest, Trafford Park, Third Avenue, Trafford Park, Manchester, M17 1NW

- General Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- General Account Number: 56057687 Sort Code: 010881
- Savings Account Name: Stretford Children's Theatre
- Savings Account Number: 56057695 Savings Sort Code: 010881

Our inactive bank details are:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME194JQ

CAFCASH Account: Account Number: 00031787 Sort Code: 405240

This account was closed during the financial year.

Thank you from us all for helping to make Stretford Children's Theatre work.



If you are able to support us any further, through donations, volunteering your time or offering specific skills that might be useful, please do get in touch via email at stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com or get in touch through our Facebook page (Stretford Children's Theatre), or speak to any of the Board Members, staff, volunteers, or leaders.



Group Structure 2022/2023

Our Charity Trustees / Board Members are:

Michelle Calame-Bell	- Chairperson
Kirsty Thomas	- Treasurer
Shelly Quinton-Hulme	- Secretary
Janice Rendel	- Trustee
Keith Broom	- Trustee
Jessica Loveday	- Trustee
Niall Brennan	- Trustee (joined 14 th January 2023)
Sophie Bowden	- Trustee
Michelle Darwin	- Trustee (resigned 3 rd August 2023)

No changes to the Board are known about at this time but strengthening our capabilities is on the agenda and this may mean increasing the number of Trustees to the Board. We will advertise for new trustees looking for skills we need that have been identified using a trustee skills audit and any appointments will be made by the current board members.

If you need to contact any of the Board Members please email:
stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com stating who you would like the email to go to.

Natwest Cheque Signatories are: Kirsty Thomas; Shelly Quinton-Hulme; Janice Rendel



A Year in Review

We would usually look to put on a performance from the start of September to be staged in December of that year. This year the landscape for our group was wholly different, and we weren't really expecting that! The world post Covid was a difficult place where any funding for arts projects was difficult to win as more funding was put to mental health projects and first response groups.

We learned pretty early on that funding for 'extra curricular' projects would be challenging and made the decision to ensure the group remained solvent. This unfortunately meant that the performances would be on hold until funding had been secured. The financial picture of the group illustrates our resilience during this year and our adaptability as a board to provide longevity to the charity. Despite the challenges faced, we think we did ok!

We have been supported by a variety of funders and unusually this year the funds have come from first time funders. The majority of the donations received were from a local charity who have wrapped up their operations. This money allowed us to continue our operations until the end of the financial year and was gratefully received by our charity.

Whilst we have had no big performances in the year, some of our groups held sessional performances for their parents and carers to share the work they had done over the year.

Our annual award ceremony was held on Thu 20th July 2023 where we celebrated the achievements of our attendees. Awards were given out by our patron Thomas Roberts who came to visit us and Ella Brady in our senior section was bestowed with the Bertram Holland Shield Trophy. Each section gave a main trophy to a worthy winner and then smaller ones to all.

We have opportunities for volunteering within our groups, as well as wider opportunities within the charity, and we love assisting our volunteers to be the best they can be and for what they help us to achieve.



STRETFORD CHILDREN'S THEATRE



CALL OUT FOR
VOLUNTEERS

Come and join us! We're looking for volunteers to support our friendly facilitators during our drama sessions.

Explore Career Options Share your Passion Learn from Professionals

When:
Thursdays (classes run from 4pm-9pm)
Term time only

Where:
Stretford Public Hall
Chester Road
Stretford, M32 0LG

Sign up at www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk

Volunteers, we need you!

We're on the search for volunteers to help our fabulous facilitators deliver our fun, energetic drama sessions.

Sessions run each Thursday during school term times

from 4-8pm hourly for our infant and junior classes

Seniors run from 6-7.30pm

Youth Theatre and Adult Community Theatre run from 7.30-9pm

If you're looking to learn new skills, work with your local community, and have a passion for drama then get in touch!

Contact us via our website or email us at stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com

We can't wait to hear from you. We will carry out all DBS checks.



Stretford Children's Theatre - 12 week Young Person Volunteer Programme

This programme will give a minimum of 22 hours volunteering over 12 weeks. There will be more opportunities for the young person to volunteer if they so wish such as coming to observe a board meeting, or carrying out a fundraising project for the group, and the programme can be extended to 6, 12 months or longer if so desired.

Our experienced Board members, Sessional Leaders, Sessional Manager and Fundraising Staff will support the young person whilst they are volunteering with us and ensure they are well looked after, safe, happy and learn as much as they can. You can find more information at our website: www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk

We are based at Stretford Public Hall in the heart of Stretford town centre and the building is fully accessible.

This would be a perfect placement for those doing the Duke of Edinburgh scheme or a young person wishing to enhance their CV for college or university or their first job. We ask that the young person is aged 14 years as a minimum.

Week		<u>More Detail</u>
1	Initial Meeting with Board Member – 1 hour	This meeting will be about what the young person hopes to achieve whilst volunteering with us, and how we can best support them, and introductions to the team and sessions themselves. Plus identifying any specific additional areas they are interested in, planning how they might gain experience in those areas with SCT.
2	Understanding our charity – 2 hours	Who we are; why we formed; our history; vision/values/aims; what we do; what a board does; our constitution; The Charity Commission & our responsibilities; policies and procedures; managing personnel/ volunteers; management systems (OSM, Go Cardless, iZettle); financial management; funding/ fundraising; health and safety; safeguarding; monitoring, evaluation; measuring impact.
3	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	These weekly volunteering sessions will be spent in either the infant or junior drama sessions assisting the Sessional Leaders and the attending children.
4	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	
5	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	The young person will never be left alone with the children and will not be responsible for anything other than their own behaviour. We would expect them to follow all our policies and procedures as discussed with them in weeks 1 and 2.
6	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	
7	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	These sessions are fun and consist of drama games and often involve producing pieces leading up to a performance – we hope the young person would get fully involved in these sessions.
8	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	
9	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	A board member is usually available weekly and as such progress reports will be gathered and any issues for the young person or Sessional Leader will be addressed as they arise.
10	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	
11	Sessional Volunteering – 2 hours	All Sessional Leaders are DBS checked, and SCT is fully insured and has strict H&S and safeguarding policies in place.
12	Close out meeting with Board Member – 1 hour	This meeting will be to evaluate how the sessions have gone from the volunteer's perspective, and provide feedback from the Sessional Leaders and the Board to the young person and complete some impact monitoring forms and case study information and complete any documentation required.

The sessional volunteering hours are either Thursdays from 4-6pm or Thursdays from 5.30-7.30pm.

We can accommodate 2 volunteers on each of the sessions at any one time. Other volunteering opportunities are also available that do not involve being in the sessions, such as communications & social media, fundraising, policies and procedures if that is of interest to any of the young people.

Please get in touch if you wish to discuss any of the opportunities with us: stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH THE SESSIONS

122 TOTAL SESSIONS

TOTAL BOARD MEETINGS **241**

8



OUR TEAM

PAID FACILITATORS

8

TRUSTEES

9

TRUSTEE HOURS

520

SESSION VOLUNTEERS

2

VOLUNTEER HOURS

144



INCOME TYPES RECEIVED



DONATIONS



INCOME



GRANTS



SUBSCRIPTIONS

EXPENDITURE TYPES



SESSION COSTS



HALL HIRE



GROUP EXPENDITURE

OUR SOCIALS

X FOLLOWERS

181

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

554



OUR SURVEY SAYS...



**98% WOULD RECOMMEND
SCT to their friends**

**DESCRIBE SCT IN 3
WORDS!**

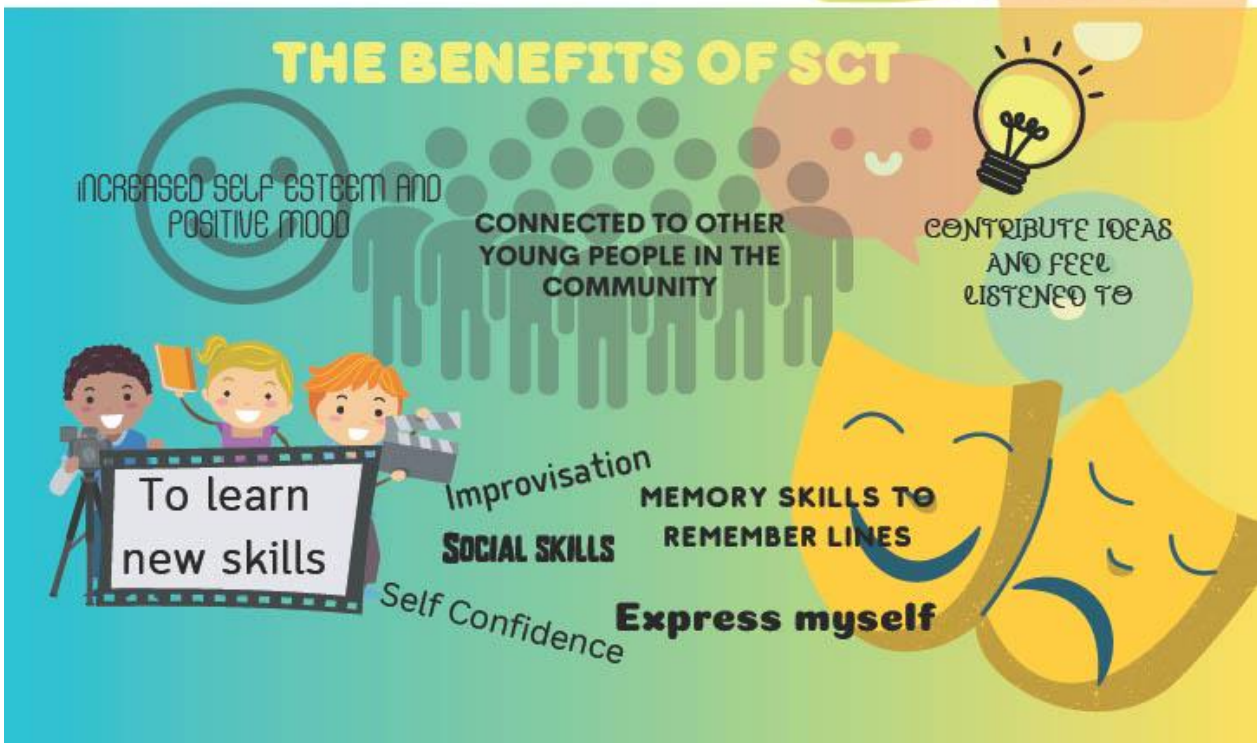
FUN **Creative**
FRIENDLY!

What makes SCT different?
inclusive local **Safe**
WELCOMING New skills
Performances

**98% of parents/carers
agree that SCT**

**IS GOOD VALUE
FOR MONEY** **is well
organised** **benefits
their young
person**

THE BENEFITS OF SCT



- INCREASED SELF ESTEEM AND POSITIVE MOOD
- CONNECTED TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY
- CONTRIBUTE IDEAS AND FEEL LISTENED TO
- To learn new skills
- Improvisation
- SOCIAL SKILLS**
- MEMORY SKILLS TO REMEMBER LINES
- Self Confidence
- Express myself**

Our Impact

NICOLA'S STORY

When Nicola joined Stretford Children's Theatre she was so shy and withdrawn that she would not say her name when it was called out on the register.

In just a couple of months, the games and imagination-led storytelling in the sessions allowed Nicola to 'come out of herself'.

Nicola's mum and school started to see a real improvement in her self-confidence.

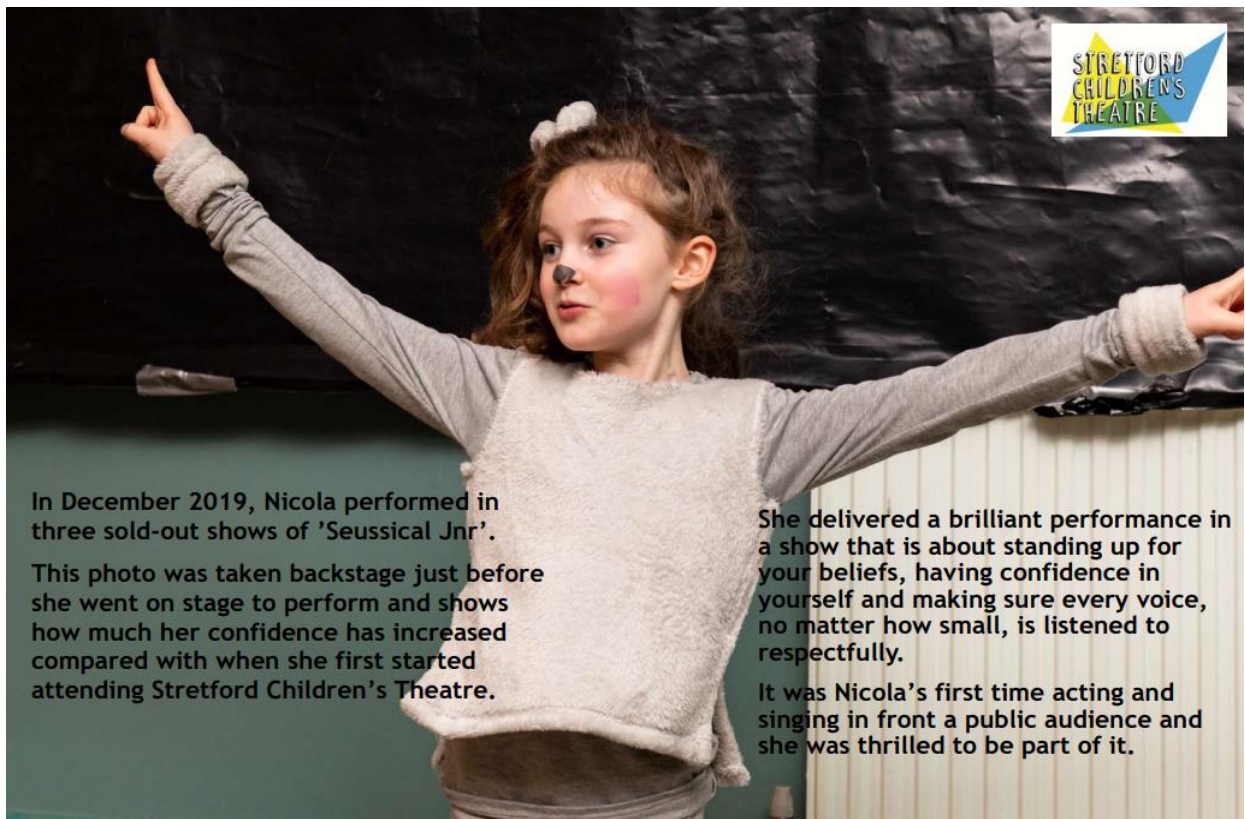
Her school embraced this change, recognising Nicola's love of storytelling and using this to help increase her self-belief.



Her mum has loved seeing the change in her daughter and credits much of her progress to our drama sessions.

"Drama club is the best activity Nicola does and is the highlight of her week"

"Now I have been in a school assembly, been in shows for parents and won a part in 'Seussical' our Christmas show!"



In December 2019, Nicola performed in three sold-out shows of 'Seussical Jr'.

This photo was taken backstage just before she went on stage to perform and shows how much her confidence has increased compared with when she first started attending Stretford Children's Theatre.

She delivered a brilliant performance in a show that is about standing up for your beliefs, having confidence in yourself and making sure every voice, no matter how small, is listened to respectfully.

It was Nicola's first time acting and singing in front a public audience and she was thrilled to be part of it.

DAISY'S STORY

Daisy likes to have fun and has a playful side to her, but she is also quite anxious and struggles with self-doubt.

Daisy's anxiety and self-doubt was paralyzing. In the past, she often gave up when she thought she could not do something.

Her parents and grandparents have noticed how much her confidence and self-belief have increased since attending our sessions, and this is also being reflected in her school work.

Now, her anxiety affects her work much less because her confidence and self-belief have improved so much.

FUN

In December 2019, Daisy performed in three sold-out shows of *Seussical Jr.* She played a key ensemble part in a show that is about standing up for your beliefs, having confidence in yourself and making sure every voice, no matter how small, is listened to and included. It was her first time acting and singing in front a public audience, and she will never forget the experience and the applause from those shows.

SAFE



JACK'S STORY

Jack is one of Stretford Children's Theatre's original members and his confidence and abilities have greatly improved since he joined.

He often speaks rapidly and sometimes 'fumbles' his words which lowered his self-confidence. Our supportive environment means Jack can slow his speech down and concentrate on his enunciation.

"I feel more confident and able to talk to people"

"I like to come here to see my friends, meet new people and help the younger kids out. We have fun. I never get bored!"

Jack's parents are proud of the changes they have seen during his time at Stretford Children's Theatre. Jack's father told us he loves attending because it's so inclusive and helps Jack to express himself. As Jack is at an all-boys school, it's important that he mixes with girls in a semi-social setting, which is exactly what Stretford Children's Theatre allows him to do.

Imagine

Creativity



In December 2019, Jack played the part of The Mayor in three sold-out public shows of Seussical Jnr.

The Mayor was an integral part of a show that's about standing up for your beliefs, having confidence in yourself and making sure every voice, no matter how small, is listened to and included.

"I'm so pleased to see how much difference it makes to my Jack as Mr Mayor - he's been so excited about doing this show."

Peter, Jack's father

ORLA'S STORY

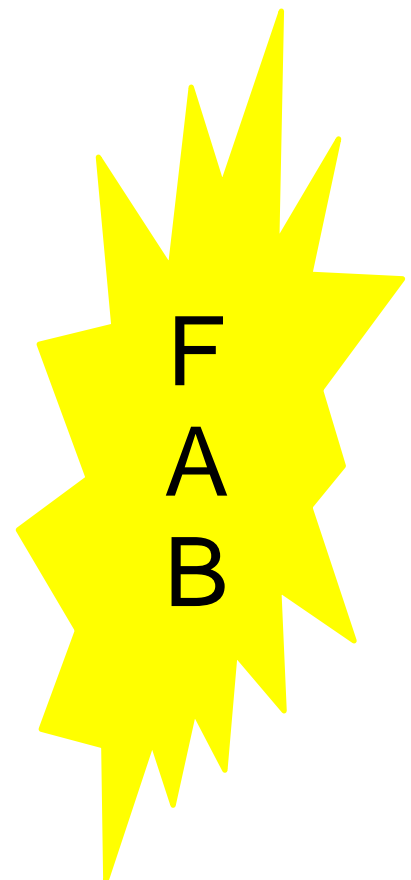
Orla is one of our original members and has dyspraxia. This means she has challenges around spatial awareness and learning skills. She also has some difficulties with social skills, which led to her being bullied at primary school.

Drama enabled Orla to cope with the profound negative effects of the bullying and gave her techniques to deal with it. Being in a group of like-minded people who don't judge or tease benefits her greatly.

The physical challenges Orla faces are never belittled by the group or facilitators, and she has found ways to work around them and ensure she is able to fully join in all the activities.

Both her parents report that there has been a great change in Orla's confidence and abilities. Her confidence has improved so much that she took part in our 'Misguided Misfits' film project, something she would never have been able to do previously.

In December 2019, Orla (left) performed in three sold-out shows of *Seussical Jr.* She worked hard and delivered a brilliant performance in a show about standing up for your beliefs, having confidence in yourself and making sure every voice, no matter how small, is listened to and included. It was her first time acting and singing in front of a public audience, which shows how much her confidence has improved.



STRETTFORD CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Age 4-16

S

Support
children's learning
and encouraging
creativity

C

Creating
confident
young people

T

Theatre
for All

Led by experienced
facilitators and practitioners
Committed to providing fun,
affordable and high quality
drama and theatre
experiences for
young people
All abilities welcome

STRETTFORD
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE




SCAN ME

For more information:

 @SCT_Stretford

 StretfordChildrensTheatre

 Stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk

 stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com

 Stretford Public Hall
Chester Road, Stretford, M32 0LG

Stretford Children's Theatre is a Registered Charity, no. 1175334

STRETFORD YOUTH THEATRE

Age 16-25



S

Supporting
young people's
learning, creativity
and experiences



Y

Young People
changing their
lives through
the Arts




T

Theatre
for change
Theatre
for All


Led by experienced facilitators and practitioners.
Committed to providing fun, affordable and
high quality drama and theatre experiences for
teens and young adults **All abilities welcome**

For more information:

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In April, Trafford Council granted funding to support the initiation of our weekly adult classes. These classes, led by Rosarie, a familiar face from our board of trustees, garnered positive feedback and have successfully continued without additional funding. The overwhelming popularity of the sessions has solidified their place as a permanent fixture.

Moving forward into the next financial year, the group plans to organize small performances, with funding provided by the charity. As part of a broader strategy aimed at engaging larger sections of the community, we will actively seek grant funding to expand and enhance this particular aspect of our charitable activities.

Below are some comments from the attendees

I love that it feels like a safe and supportive space.

I love this class
- I really like the ad lib games and acting.

I like all of the laughing and the fun. It's great. Rosarie is brilliant at leading the group.

I always go home with a smile on my face - I've made friends and look forward to the weekly sessions.

This is a perfect way to meet new people with similar interests, I'm looking forward to doing a performance.

LIFE IS FULL OF DRAMA

Join Adult Drama Classes with Stretford Community Theatre

When: Thursdays 7.30pm-9pm
Starting 20th April 2023

Where: Stretford Public Hall
Chester Road
Stretford, M32 0LG

Led by professional and experienced drama facilitators. Stretford Community Theatre is part of Stretford Children's Theatre

Sign up at www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk
Or email stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com to enquire



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Stretford Children's Theatre

1175334

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/09/2022	To	31/08/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	10,969	-	-	10,969	12,358
Grants	1,000	1,999	-	2,999	-
Donations	3,622	-	-	3,622	1,147
GiftAid	4,464	-	-	4,464	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	20,055	1,999	-	22,054	13,505
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	20,055	1,999	-	22,054	13,505
A3 Payments					
Session Leaders	19,691	1,440	-	21,131	12,610
Session Managers	3,134	-	-	3,134	1,806
Hall Hire	3,385	150	-	3,535	3,520
Performances	-	-	-	-	341
Insurance	336	-	-	336	334
Administrative Charges	903	-	-	903	2,407
Payment Charges	462	-	-	462	448
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	27,911	1,590	-	29,501	21,466
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	27,911	1,590	-	29,501	21,466
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 7,856	409	-	- 7,447	- 7,961
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,691	-	-	8,691	-
Cash funds this year end	835	409	-	1,244	- 7,961



Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	835	409	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	835	409	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Treasurer's Report

This fiscal year posed financial challenges for our organization due to changes in the grant application landscape, resulting in the loss of grants we had previously been fortunate to receive. Despite these challenges, there has been a remarkable overall income increase of £6,550 compared to the prior year, representing a substantial 63% growth. This significant boost is particularly noteworthy as it alleviates the burden on our financial obligations.

The primary contributor to this increase is a substantial sum of £4,464 from GiftAid. Notably, we made two claims during the financial year, spanning both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 periods. This decision was strategic, aimed at ensuring the continuity of our classes until the year's end.

In addition to the positive impact of GiftAid, our organization experienced a noteworthy surge in donations, witnessing a remarkable 215% increase from the previous year, amounting to £3,622. The bulk of these funds, generously donated by The Stretford Youth Theatre, have been received with gratitude. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all involved for their consideration and support. For anyone who would like to donate or find out more about donations please see below.

SCAN TO DONATE





In the past year, our organization faced challenges as the cost of living increased in our community, leading to a decline in monthly subscription values towards the year's end. Overall attendance dropped by 11%, largely anticipated due to the absence of performances. However, swift actions were taken, and we're pleased to report that our groups have now returned to full capacity.

Financially, we received support from Trafford Council, amounting to £1,999, earmarked for our adult group's induction as a new group. As of August 31, 2023, £408 from this grant remains to be spent in the current financial year. Additionally, we secured £1,000 in funding from Caddick for core costs such as hall hire, session leaders, and managers. These funds, received in late August, will be utilized in accordance with the agreed-upon terms during the current financial year.

Total expenditure saw a 37% increase, stemming from the irregularities in our activities in 2021/22 due to Covid regulations. Although our costs appear higher now, if our classes had been consistent back then, the expenses would have remained the same, barring an increase in sessions.

To enhance our capabilities, we expanded our session staff to include a session administrator. This support not only facilitates applications for additional grants but also ensures the upkeep of our website details.

In terms of our balance sheet, as of August 31, 2023, our bank holds £1,244 in total. This comprises £835 in unprotected funds (free reserves) and £409 in protected funds (remaining from the grant received from Trafford Council).

Our trustees are committed to a reserves policy, retaining funds to cover 12 weeks (one academic term). Despite challenges in the past financial year, we aim to restore reserves to the agreed-upon value in 2023/24. This plan involves increasing grant applications to cover core costs and allowing subscription revenue to replenish the deficit by the end of the financial year.

A disclosure notes that one trustee received £450 as a session leader, distinct from trustee duties. Despite our income falling below the £25,000 threshold for independent examination, we voluntarily subjected our accounts to an independent review. This choice reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, to give confidence to our stakeholders.



**Annual Report accepted at the Annual General Meeting
of Stretford Children's Theatre
on 18th January 2024**

Signed: *S. Quinton-Hulme*

Full Name: Shelly Quinton-Hulme MBE

Position: Secretary

Signed: *Kirsty Thomas*

Full Name: Kirsty Thomas

Position: Treasurer