



Stretford Children's Theatre

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1175334

2019 / 2020

Annual Report

Financial Year End 31.8.20

(Period covered 01.09.19-31.08.20)

Stretford Children's Theatre

Stretford Public Hall

Chester Road

Stretford

Manchester

M32 0LG

Email: stretfordchildrenstheatre@gmail.com

Website: www.stretfordchildrenstheatre.org.uk

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

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:

Values

Creativity
Diversity
Equality
Inclusivity
Respect
Honesty
Aspiration
Ambition
Collaboration
Fun

Behaviours and attitudes

Personal Responsibility
Listening
Achievement
Confidence
Inspiring
Nurturing
Friendship
Support
Positivity

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



Stretford Children's Theatre was originally founded in 1945 by Bertram H. Holland and was embedded in the community for more than 35 years. It ceased to exist in the early 1980's but was re-formed in 2015 by a small group of local people, and takes place at one of its original venues, Stretford Public Hall.

We are a small registered charity, with a volunteer Board, and our drama sessions are delivered by professional theatre practitioners, specialists at working with our different age groups.

Stretford Children's Theatre, is committed to providing affordable quality drama experiences for local children and young people, aged 4 upwards.

We ran during term time on Thursdays at Stretford Public Hall at the following times:

Infant School aged children from 4-5pm & 5-6pm

Junior School aged children from 6.00-7.30pm

Senior School aged children from 6.30-8.00pm

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 and highlight any concerns, you may have.

Our sections have done some great things this year which means everyone is working towards fulfilling the aim of making a positive contribution to society to the public benefit of all.

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, or it can be found on our website.

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

Our Bank details are:

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

CAFCASH Account: Account Number: 00031787 Sort Code: 405240

Also,

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

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

Our public liability insurance is held with Markel Insurance and our certificate for this can be found on our website.

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.

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, volunteers, or leaders.



Group Structure 2019/2020

Our Board Members are:

Shelly Quinton-Hulme	- Chairperson
Kirsty Thomas	- Treasurer
Laura Riley	- Secretary [Resigned 25.04.20]
Kathleen Repper-Day	- Secretary [29.4.20]
Ali Dunican	- Trustee
Janice Rendel	- Trustee
Annika Edge	- Trustee
Keith Broom	- Trustee
Andrew Appleby	- Trustee
Jessica Loveday	- Trustee [from 29.04.20]
Alison Rocca	- Trustee [from 29.04.20]
Emma Towler	- Trustee [from 29.04.20]
Adrian Hall	- Trustee [from 29.04.20 – resigned 14.07.20]
Michelle Calame – Bell	- Trustee [from 12.08.20]

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.

CAF Online Signatories are: Kirsty Thomas; Shelly Quinton-Hulme; Ali Dunican; Janice Rendel and Laura Riley

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

Annual Report 2019 – 2020

We held our first auditions at the start of the year, and our young members began rehearsing for our seasonal production of 'Seussical Jr.'.



Rehearsals meant the children/young people learned new skills: script reading, learning lines and songs, blocking and movement, working with props, learning new dances, mime and stage management.

We worked with local volunteers to create and source fabulous costumes and colourful props and sets, including a backdrop with UV paint for an eye-catching glow-in-the-dark scene; and a parent did hair and make-up for the young performers.

All groups participated, and we presented 3 public performances of this musical extravaganza, which had a cast of over 40 local children and young people aged 7-16, who played everyone's favourite Dr. Seuss characters: Horton the Elephant, The Grinch, The Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2 and many more...

Seussical Jr. is a feel-good that story dares us to think big and reminds us of the power of loyalty, family and acceptance. We selected it to provide inspiration for all the members and for children and young people in the audience who choose their own path:

"You have brains in your head, You have feet in your shoes, You can steer yourself,

Any direction you choose" from Oh, the Places You'll Go

We promoted the production through our usual social channels and website, plus those of our partners; we created leaflets and posters, a banner outside the public hall and some members did a short promotional performance outside Stretford Mall.

Our aim was to make it as close to a what professional production would be like, so that the young people could really excel and increase expectations of themselves.

We created a professional setting, hiring in a tiered seating unit for increased capacity and to improve sightlines, and we engaged a company who provided lights and PA system including lapel mics for the children in key roles.

Doing more than one performance meant the children/young people had several opportunities to share their accomplishments, and we saw them become increasingly confident.

The whole production helped them understand a new collective responsibility as well as taking individual responsibility for coming on and off stage, costume changes etc.

The performances completely sold out to friends and family and wider audiences in Stretford; and the production was very well received.



Audience comments:

'It was amazing! The children were fantastic, and it was so enjoyable. I'm so pleased to see how much difference it makes to my [child] as Mr Mayor – he's been so excited about doing this show. A massive plus to all at SCT - a wonderful organisation with caring people. Many thanks!'

'Thank you to everyone involved. You have really helped with [child's] confidence!'

'I have seen 11 professional shows this year but this one was absolutely the most colourful, enthusiastic and loaded with talent and promise'. Former SCT member from 1960's

'It's great to see this group active again, giving young people the opportunity to take part in theatre, learn skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives and make new friends. It's where I started, and I've never forgotten the experience!' Former SCT member from 1960's

'Really enjoying SCT's performance of Seussical Jr The Musical this evening. Congratulations to all the young performers, stage crew and volunteers.' Kate Green, MP



'Well done to everyone for all their hard work on this production. The children were so enthusiastic and talented.' *The Mayor of Trafford*

'It was wonderful to see The Hall used in such a spectacular way. It was amazing to have such great talent in our building.' *Stretford Public Hall*

Expenditure for the production was covered through grants we had raised, and we also generated income through ticket sales, and the sale of programmes and refreshments, plus local business sponsorship in programmes.

During our AGM in January 2020, one of our Patrons, and former member of Stretford Children's Theatre, presented the members with participation medals, and a new award: **The Bertram Holland Award**, which was won by Rania Benda.



In Dec 2019 due to low numbers we decided to cease running Stretford Youth Choir. Our plan is to incorporate singing sessions into our SCT sessions in 2020/21.

We also refined our systems and ways of working, including our membership database, how we work in the venue, as well as further policy development and implementing new communications initiatives to increase membership.

We extended our Board with 5 new Trustees joining across the year, bringing additional skills and experience to support the work of the charity.

We carried out our annual survey and the children and parents were asked to describe their experiences of SCT. Here's what they said:



Stretford Children's Theatre 2019 Annual survey

We asked our participants and their parents/carers how they felt about Stretford Children's Theatre - here is what they said

100% would recommend

Stretford Children's Theatre to family and friends



Describe SCT in 3 words

Fun (13)
Happy (4)
Good (4)
Exciting (4)
Inclusive (4)
Amazing (4)



Why did you join SCT?

- Benefits of group activities
- love for drama & singing
- Fun & creativity
- Inclusivity, relaxed & safe
- Professional training



Benefits – 100% agreed that, SCT

- > Increased confidence & social skills
- > Made them feel connected with young people in local community
- > Made them feel safe & positive
- > Is fun



100% value

Stretford Children's Theatre and want to see it continue



100% parents agree SCT is

- > good value for money
- > well organised
- > communicates effectively



New skills

- > Social (team building, patience)
- > increased confidence & concentration
- > hard skills (acting, singing, voice projection)





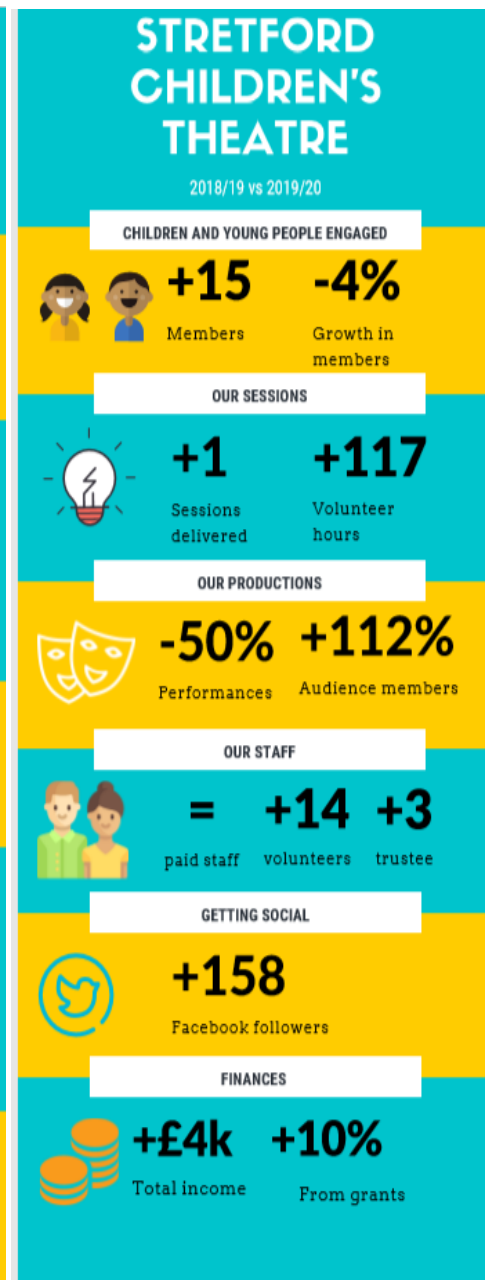
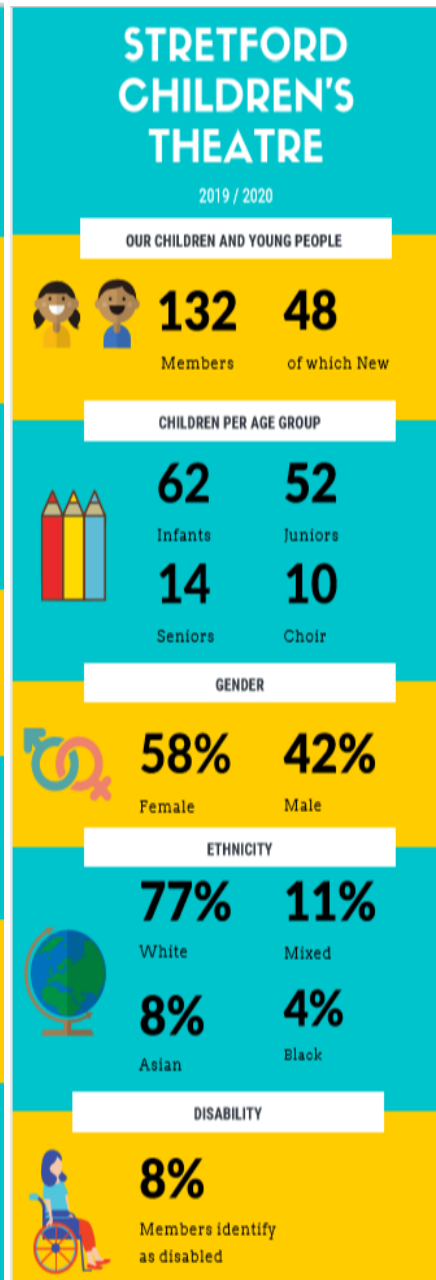
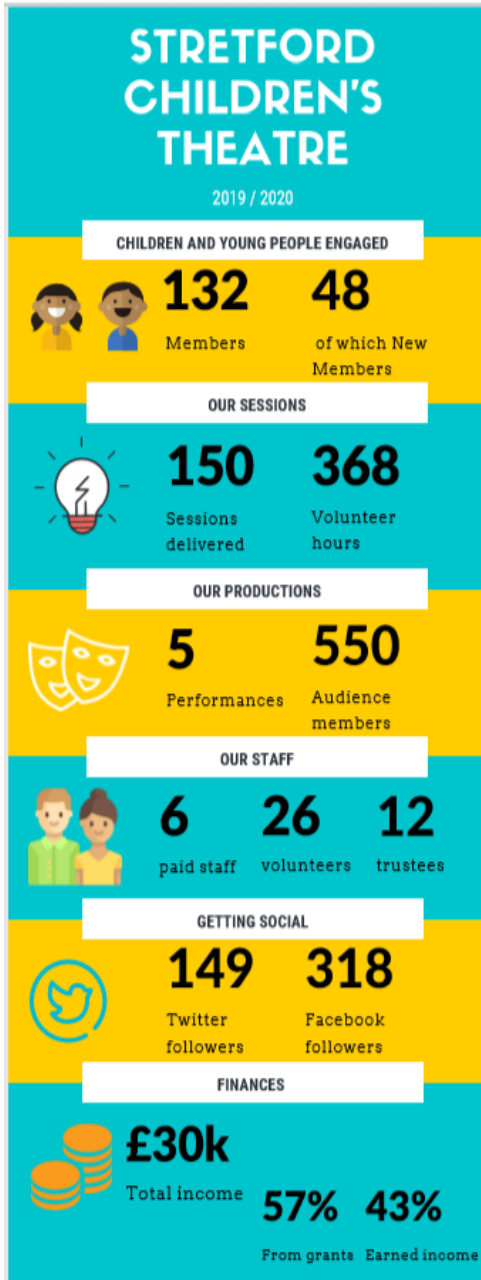
We ceased activities in March 2020 due to Covid-19, and in response to national lockdown. At that point, as a result of increased visibility due to **Seussical Jr.** and increased communications, we had 115 members. In June, we closely followed guidelines and began planning sessions from September 2020 onwards.

Whilst we weren't directly delivering our services between April and July 2020, we stayed in touch with members and their parents/carers through regular newsletters, signposting our members to online theatre/musical productions, storytelling, arts and crafts and other related resources.

This was also an intense period of fundraising to try to gather the resources for increased costs and planning for ways to deliver our sessions safely for members and staff. Our fundraising efforts were successful and have since begun 2020/21 working in a bespoke way with a combination of face to face, Zoom and independent learning sessions for the juniors and seniors' groups; and face to face and You Tube sessions for the infant's groups. We currently have 119 members, and there continues to be a demand for our services.

Our focus for 2020/21 will be to continue to provide our services in a safe and secure way for members and our staff, ensuring their personal safety and well-being through the sessions. We will use this period to seek multi-year funding to continue to slowly grow the charity, to improve our services, to look to the future whilst responding to present priorities.

Our Year in Numbers





Treasurers Report and Annual Accounts - 2019/2020

This year has been a real tale of two halves. We started the financial year in September 2019 without any idea we'd end the year quite the way we did and in the shape we have, it has provided us with plenty of learning opportunities both operationally and financially which will strengthen our financial position and provide us with continued stability.

September to December

The year started well for us as we continued planning a winter show having secured funding during 2019. During December Stretford Children's Theatre put on its first show in over 30 years which is something we'd hoped to continue as a new community tradition. The show was funded by grants applied for and won during 2019 (details below).

Skelton Bounty	£1,000.00
Zochonis	£2,038.00
Trafford Inclusive Neighbourhood grant	£2,000.00
247 Car Finance	£750.00
Trafford Housing Trust	£2,000.00
Ticket income	£2,150.00
Refreshment sales	£300.00
Programme Income	£750.00
Donations & Raffle	£200.00
TOTAL INCOME	£11,188.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£11,004.00

January – March

The year continued well with the introduction of another group which increased our attendees. During this period we made the difficult decision to close Stretford Youth Choir due to limited numbers of attendees that we couldn't sustain financially, we had been trying to grow the choir but the local uptake was not there, we do look forward to incorporating singing into our theatre sessions in the future.

We'd made plans to create an adult group looking at costs, leaders and funding and were looking to introduce this after the Easter break. Financially the group had never looked so good! Costs and incomes were monitored and we could afford to continue until the end of the financial year as long as the status quo remained.

April - August

During the lockdown period when we were unable to operate we were working behind the scenes to ensure we were able to reopen as soon as we were able in a safe and welcoming environment.



The support of those who continued to pay for sessions over lockdown cannot be overstated, without your support the group would have been unable to continue. We were able to retain our talented group of leaders and our manager which is pivotal to providing stability and consistency to the children accessing the sessions. Thank you.

The trustees understood the threat to the future of the group and acted quickly to begin to understand how best to proceed given the scant procedures and ever-changing recommendations that needed adherence. A special mention to Ali and Shelly who, during lockdown, worked tirelessly and determinedly at grant applications despite the majority being declined resulting in us being unable to move as quickly as we'd liked to the Zoom format.

Financial challenges for the year ahead

- ✳ Grant applications for funding – we've seen an increase in 'first responder' charities. The group is still built to lose money and we rely on winning the grant funding to continue.
- ✳ The cost of being covid secure could see our classes run further into financial deficit. Financial vigilance will mitigate this risk as long as the funding is forthcoming.

Our Funders

Stretford Children's Theatre is built to run into deficit to keep the sessions affordable and accessible to as many of our community as possible. This means we are reliant on winning grant funding from various sources. This year our funders have paid towards the continued running costs of the group and also to the winter show, Seussical. The funders below paid during the financial year 2019/20.

- ✳ **Trafford Housing Trust** donated £2000 towards our Winter Show Seussical - this is now fully closed out.
- ✳ **Car 247** donated £750 towards our Winter Show Seussical - this is now fully closed out.
- ✳ **D'Oyly Carte** donated £4800 towards the technical adaptations to our weekly program - this hasn't been fully closed out as at 31/10/2020.
- ✳ **The United Way** donated £5000 towards the technical adaptations and the delivery of our program - this has been fully closed out.
- ✳ **The Co-Op Community Fund** raised £2833.19 which contributed towards our running costs in 2019-20.
- ✳ **Groundwork UK** donated £500 towards running costs of the group – this hasn't been fully closed out as at 31/10/2020.

Reserves

These are calculated as follows;

Amounts of unprotected cash available divided by the sum of monthly running costs – which gives us the number of months we are able to operate should no further income be forthcoming.



<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Projected cost Per Annum</u>
Sessional Leaders	£ 14,625.00
Sessional Managers	£ 1,950.00
Hall Hire	£ 2,960.00
Web Hosting	£ 158.00
Bank Charges	£ 60.00
OSM + VAT	£ 504.00
Insurance	£ 315.00
TAA/Fundraising	£ 60.00
Storage	£ 600.00
Online Youth Manager	£ 95.00
Online costs	£ 150.00
Zoom	£ 287.76
Covid Safety	£ 450.00
Total	£ 22,214.76

Based on the figures above (budgeted costs for 20/21) our weekly running costs are £427.20. Our reserves policy was agreed in 2019 and is located within the body of our financial handbook (available online). The policy states that we hold 12 weeks (one academic full term) cost in our Natwest account should we require it, this would require £5126.48. As at 31/08/2020 we held £218.98 towards these reserves in our Natwest account. This amount was depleted during the lockdown period to ensure the continuation of the group although we look to refill the bank in due course.

Growth

Our charity continues to grow increasing our attendees for the second year running!

2018/19	
Opening balance	£ 5,113.64
Total Income	£ 26,158.16
Membership & Fees	£ 10,268.12
Grants	£ 12,390.00
Donations	£ 3,500.04
Total Costs	£ 22,528.28
Section Leaders	£ 10,702.76
Session Manager	£ 1,680.00
Hall Hire	£ 3,465.00
Performance	£ 1,019.54
Group Expenditure	£ 5,660.98
Closing balance	£ 8,743.52
Protected Cash:	£ 4,936.00
Unprotected Cash:	£ 3,807.52

2019/20	
Opening balance	£ 8,743.52
Total Income	£ 30,193.91
Membership & Fees	£10,854.12
Grants	£14,975.16
Donations	£ 4,364.43
Total Costs	£ 26,641.79
Section Leaders & Managers	£10,610.00
Hall Hire	£ 2,235.00
Performance	£ 8,060.11
Group Expenditure	£ 5,736.68
Closing balance	£ 12,295.64
Protected Cash:	£ 9,573.24
Unprotected Cash:	£ 2,722.40



- ★ Membership & Subs increased by 5% (prices remained fixed for this year).
- ★ Grants increased by 17% in line with the increased attendees.
- ★ Donations from Co-Op and Eventbrite increased our annual donations by £864.39
- ★ Section Leaders cost reduction – changes made to the structure of billing.
- ★ Performance costs – we were committed to producing the first of many shows this year.

STRETTFORD CHILDREN'S THEATRE			
BALANCE SHEET 2019/20			
ASSETS AS AT 31/08/2019		ASSETS AS AT 31/08/2020	
Cash in Hand	£ 400.00	Cash in Hand	£ -
Current Account	£ 8,343.52	Current Account	£ 12,295.64
<i>Natwest</i>	£ 114.01	<i>Natwest</i>	£ 218.98
<i>CAF</i>	£ 8,229.51	<i>CAF</i>	£ 12,076.66
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	£ 3,807.52	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	£ 2,722.40
<i>Restricted Funds</i>	£ 4,936.00	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	£ 9,573.24
Savings Account	£ -	Savings Account	£ -
Inventory	£ -	Inventory	£ -
TOTAL	<u>£ 8,743.52</u>	TOTAL	<u>£ 12,295.64</u>



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

STRETTFORD CHILDRENS THEATRE

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/8/2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

ITA KIRRANE

Date:

6/10/20

Name:

ITA KIRRANE

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body**

(If any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

no issues found

ITA Kierans

Sign:

Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualifications or body



**Annual Report accepted at the Annual General Meeting
of Stretford Children's Theatre
on 11th November 2020**

Signed:

S. Quinton-Holme