

A photograph of a two-story red brick building with a gabled roof. The building has several windows, including a large arched window on the upper floor. A sign on the building reads 'St John's CENTRE' and 'enriching lives in our community'. The building is surrounded by a low brick wall and some greenery.

Annual Report 2016

1. Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

The Charity name is: St John's Centre, Charity Number: 1146058, Company number: 7597525,

Registered office:

St John's Centre,
St John's Road
Old Trafford,
Manchester M16 7GX

Trustees:

Appointed 2/10/2012: - Rev John D Hughes, Miss Evelyn Cosham, Mrs Louise Dunn, Mrs Sandra Barber, Mrs Glynis Craig, Mrs Tahira Khan Sindhu,
Mr Alastair Livesey appointed 3rd Nov 2015

Additional information:

Senior staff member in charge of day to day management of the charity: Ms Christine Aspinall

Independent examiner of accounts: Mr Alastair Gillian, 53 Burnedge Fold Road, Grasscroft, Oldham OL4 4EE.

Bankers:

Barclays Bank
587, Wilbraham Road,
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy,
Manchester,
M21 9AL

2. Structure, governance and management

St John's Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Charity; it is constituted by Articles of Association adopted March 2011.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with our governing document: 4 Parochial Church Council (PCC) nominated representatives, who are appointed by the PCC at the meeting prior to St John's Centre's AGM, plus 3 members from the local community and 2 spaces for co-optees onto the board from affiliated groups. Trustees are formally elected at the Annual General Meeting. When trustees have been recruited they are asked to attend an interview, and given an induction pack with information on the charitable company, background information, reports from the last 2 meetings, a business plan, relevant policies and a code of conduct. We also provide a trustees' handbook. Ongoing training is arranged for trustees, with opportunities provided for specific training as and when needed.

Decisions are made by trustees sitting as a board at 6 meetings per annum. Specific work is carried out by 1 standing sub group, at present: Funding and Strategy. Other sub groups are set up as and when needed, time limited and specific. The board retains all liability for decision making around financial issues. Day to day management of the project is the responsibility of the Centre Manager, at present Christine Aspinall.

3. Financial review:

Reserves policy

Explanation of any Deficit

See second part of this report for examined accounts for the year 2015/16

4. Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

NONE

5. Charitable Aims, Objectives, Public Benefit statement

The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

1. *To further, or benefit, the residents of Old Trafford, Manchester and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation, leisure time, occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.*
2. *To promote such other purposes as are charitable according to the laws of England and Wales for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined.*

3. **This annual Report contains all aspects of public benefit of the charity.**

Staff & Board Members 2015/16

Staff:

Christine Aspinall - Centre Manager
Elaine Eland - Development Worker
David Esdaile – Strategic Youth Worker
Diane Browne - Administrator
Emma Wilton - Learning Co-ordinator
Prem Kaur - Crèche Supervisor
Lizzie Quinn - Crèche worker
Georgui Georgiev - Cleaner & Maintenance

Board:



John
Hughes



Louise
Dunn



Evelyn
Cosham



Sandra
Barber



Glynis
Craig



Al
Livesey



Tahira
Khan Sindhu

Mission Statement:

Through education and recreation, we seek to promote good relationships within our diverse community; give individuals the opportunity to realise their full potential; meet the needs of the present and create a sustainable resource for the future.



Centre Manager - Christine Aspinall

We celebrate our 5th Year as a Company and Charity and 34 years of service to the community, and what a year it has been.

It has certainly had its ups and downs in terms of funding, but I can now report that we have hit the dizzy heights with the Centre's Learning Project, our core activity, as this has been funded for three years, including crèche, by the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. This enables us to continue to support those in our neighbourhood who need to develop skills and confidence for paid employment. In 2015/16 this was 419 local residentsand so we celebrate!

We Celebrate: A new project for Strategic Youth development in Old Trafford - a pilot for one year with plans to continue this for a further two years. A much needed service for Old Trafford headed up by David Esdaile, who has (amongst other things) set up a successful Youth Partnership for groups working with young people in our area.

We Celebrate: *The Epicurus Project: How to live a happy life* has just begun led by Elaine Eland, to give help for those in need. This includes *Discover Manchester* – a volunteer led project for refugees, new settlers and people new to the area - helping them to orientate themselves, find out about free services, learn English and share a meal together.

We Celebrate: Children and young people's activities have flourished. Stay & Play sessions meet a real need for parents/carers; Minecraft club is popular; Summer School was again much in demand, and was delivered without Children in Need funding this year. Thanks to everyone who made it possible with very little funding.



We Celebrate: Many volunteering opportunities have been offered, both backroom and delivery with growth in this area of our work. Our volunteers have been excellent; many have gained skills and experience and have brought their own skills to share with others. It's encouraging that some have found employment; some are training for a qualification here at the Centre. It's been a pleasure to be able to offer work experience to young people from the local high schools again this year. They have worked in the front office, made posters, answered the phone and dealt with enquiries and many other tasks.



We Celebrate: Partnership work continues to flourish. We have strengthened our links with local organisations and continue our long term partnerships with WEA, Trafford College, Talk English, Trafford Partnership, Trafford Housing Trust, Old Trafford Liaison Group, and Old Trafford Education Employment and Skills group. The National Citizenship Scheme joined us again on the Summer school project. In addition, this year we have worked with the Princes Trust, and host much needed surgeries with Kate Green MP.

We Celebrate: St Johns Centre remains an asset for the wider community not only for private parties and community events but voluntary groups in the area. At present these include: OT Amateur Boxing Club, Brownies, STEP Saturday School, Shylarks acapella singing, Yoga for

Women, Inspirational Voices choir, Taekwondo, Gardening Club, The Proud Trust, Trafford African Caribbean Over 50s, Hellenic School and Trafford Tuition. There have been many other short term groups.



We Celebrate: That we have the benefit of energy generated by solar panels on the church – this year we had Phase 2. This saves the Centre around £500 each year on electricity bills, making us a more sustainable resource - Thank You Sunshine!



Other celebrations: In May John Ward one of our members of staff retired after 10 years – I would like to thank John for all his hard work and dedication to the Centre over the years.

New members of staff joining us:

Rose Thompson – Finance; Georgi Georgiev – Cleaning & Maintenance

Funding:

Our funding comes from many different sources. In these times of austerity securing grant funding has been much more difficult, but we have been successful with the following.

Big Lottery Reaching Communities – Community Learning Project

THT Community Panel – Core Costs

John Grant Davies – Development Work

Manchester Diocese Council for Social Aid - Epicurus Project

Manchester Diocese Mission Development Fund – Core Costs

GM Police – Crèche equipment/Summer Scheme

Manchester Airport Trust – Poly tunnel

The Centre now generates a good amount of its own income. (see pie charts on page14)

Chair's comments – Rev. John Hughes



'On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the fantastic staff team, the wonderful volunteers, the many, many, learners who attend not just the core day time classes but a whole host of activities in the Centre each evening and most weekends. The kind of trust, good will and faith in diverse communities that is found at St John's Centre is something we must never take for granted, especially where national debate and newspaper coverage can appear less tolerant of the kind of rich cultural diversity we have the privilege to serve. All who come here bring so much! So yes, let's celebrate this, and at the same time make sure we both sustain this very local welcome and press for it to be echoed throughout borough and nation.'

Learning Coordinator- Emma Wilton



After more than two years' work, in July 2016 we were awarded a major grant by the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities fund, which provides us with stable staffing and resources for our learning and volunteering for the next three academic years.

This is great news, and testament to the Centre staff's hard work and commitment. As well as being able to retain experienced staff and continue to provide high quality, accessible community learning, this award means we can:

- Consult more with learners and other Centre users, and using their views to shape what we offer;
- Recruit, supporting and training more volunteers;
- Form new and better partnerships with course providers and other statutory and voluntary groups; and
- Share best practice.

We will be able to improve our service to learners and recruit learners from groups which are under-represented in the Centre at present.

Courses 2015-16

In this academic year we registered nearly 450 learners. We continued to have strong relationships with Trafford College Community Learning, the WEA, and Talk English.

Ongoing courses

We continued to run our most popular classes:

- Three accredited ESOL courses;
- Dressmaking (3 courses);
- Literacy and Numeracy (2 levels);
- Cake Decorating (4 classes);
- Painting and Drawing;
- Computing (3 different classes);
- Photoshop and Make a Website; and
- Community Interpreting (Level 2).



In addition to these:

- Talk English provided two ESOL courses, and supported two of our ESOL volunteers to gain a Level 3 qualification (formerly PTLLS).
- Trafford College Community Learning provided First Aid and Food Safety courses, including Paediatric First Aid.
- A Basic DIY course provided by the WEA was popular with learners.

- A “Learning Champions” course enabled our volunteers to learn skills to help them promote the value of learning (both at St John’s and in general) in their communities. Some of these volunteers helped at our 2016 Open Days.
- Trafford Community Learning provided a “Friday Bakes and Cakes” course in November/December where learners baked for our Christmas fundraising event.



Our volunteer-led classes in ESOL, IT, sewing and gardening continued. We launched our “Discover Manchester” project this September to help new arrivals to gain English skills and knowledge of local facilities and attractions.

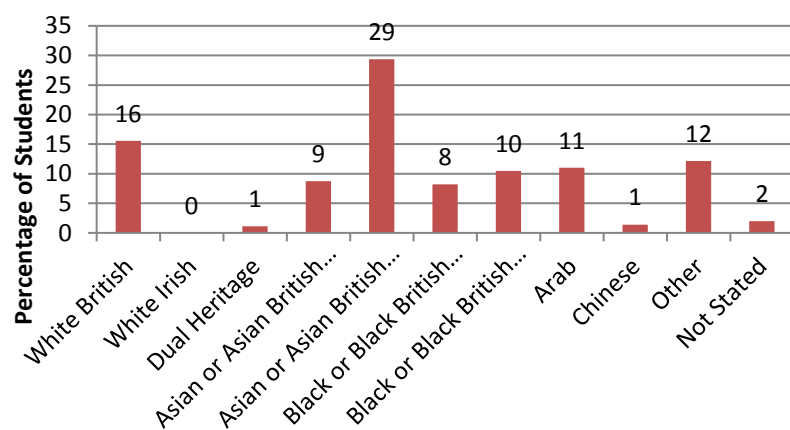
Prospects for 2015/16

Nearly 250 people attended our Open Day, and in September and October our front office handled a further 263 enquiries from learners who wanted to start courses here. In September/October 2016 we enrolled 235 people. We have waiting lists for many courses, particularly ESOL and Cake Decorating.

- We continue to offer our established classes, including 6 ESOL classes and groups.
- Many of our ESOL learners have been able to progress onto Level 1 Functional Skills (English), provided by Trafford College Community Learning.
- The WEA have provided a Photography course; as part of this, the group are taking part in the Manchester-wide “100 Moments” art project.
- The “Supporting Children’s Learning and Development” course, which had only limited success last year, was relaunched in September and now has 17 learners working towards a qualification.
- We have been able to recruit many new ESOL volunteers, who are leading classes and supporting learners in our Discover Manchester group.
- As part of the WEA’s STEMM work, they are providing three experiment-based Science courses starting in November. These will help people learn revisit the basics of Physics, Biology and Chemistry so that they can build their confidence and help their children with homework.
- We are also going to be able to hold WEA courses where adults and children can learn together. We plan to hold a Wildlife course in the spring.

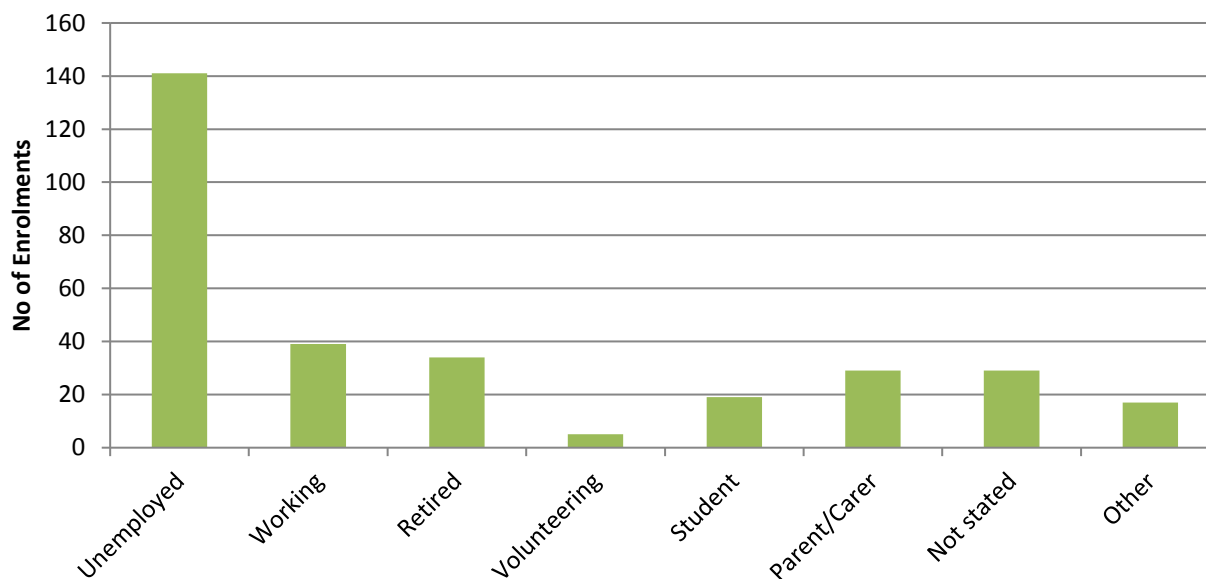
Information Charts for Learning Provision

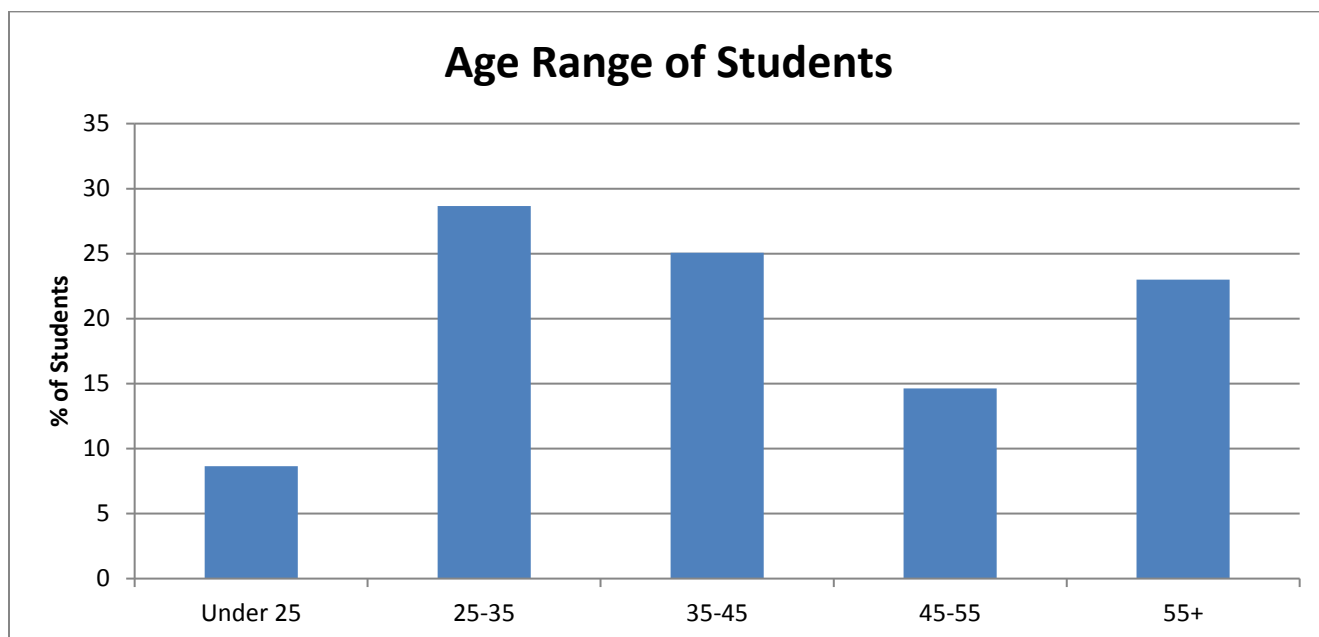
Enrolments 2015/16 Ethnicity



Notes:
Students enrolling more than once have been counted only once.
Data for October enrolments not yet complete. 29/10/16.

Enrolments 2015/16 Employment Status





Volunteering – Diane Browne



Over the past year St John's Centre has had over 30 volunteers supporting us in a variety of roles, such as teaching courses, supporting Centre events and children and young people projects.

Volunteering helps people to build their confidence, learn new skills, find employment or return to education.

St John's is currently supporting volunteers in: ESOL Talk English, Reception Office work, Discover Manchester project, Summer School, Stay & Play, Epicurus project, Photography project, and Crèche.

As of September 2016, I am handing the Volunteer Coordinator's baton over to Elaine Eland, as now we have Lottery funding my role as administrator for the learning project has developed. I would like to thank all the volunteers for the time that they have given to the Centre.

Let's hear from some of our volunteers:

Tariq is originally from Syria and has been volunteering with us since January 2016. Tariq has researched and delivered our 'Discover Manchester' Project, supported in reception and Summer School and much more - he has now been given leave to stay here and we are delighted.

"I love my time volunteering here. The staff are so supportive and helpful, it is a positive environment to be in and I feel very much at home here. It's been great to keep busy and giving something back to the community".
Tariq Tawil.



Morgan is a more recent volunteer with the Centre; he has been involved in our Summer School, using his creative skills in leadership and youth work, Morgan says:

"I became involved through a colleague as I thought it would assist with my career development. I have gained further skills and experience in the formulation and running of workshops alongside development of my photography skills...the Centre has acted as a springboard for my career, through its activities in the community". Morgan Eccleston.

Rachel Kemp has been with us as a volunteer for the last year. As well as skills Rachel brings her own unique sense of fun to the Centre.

"St John's Centre is a brilliant place to volunteer. I wholeheartedly enjoy my time at the centre. The staff are very welcoming and helpful. It has been very good for me personally as I feel that I am part of a close knit team which works in order to provide much needed services and activities for the local community and beyond. My role is varied and interesting. I have been able to improve my skills and use my spare time to make a real difference to people's lives." Rachel Kemp.



Virginia has been volunteering with us since she retired around two years ago now and brings valuable skills and experience.

"I work in the office one morning a week, mostly updating the list of enrolments, producing statistics for the annual report, dealing with phone and counter enquirers. etc. I also help out at open days and enrolment days. I value coming here, the staff create a friendly and supportive atmosphere through the whole centre. I enjoy contributing to and feeling part of such a worthwhile and well used community project." Virginia Bazley.

St John's Pantomime

Thanks to the myriad of volunteers from the community who were not afraid to make fools of themselves in our Annual Pantomime this year 'Jack and the Beanstalk' including our Chair. The event was used to award small grants from St Johns Sunshine too, so a double whammy!

Pictured here: Rev. John Hughes (Dame), Claire Trivino (Jack), June Thomas (Jacks Bro) and - hidden from sight - Peyman and Saeed as the front and back end of Daisy the cow.

The event raised over £600 towards Centre funds.



Souper Soup

Another delicious soup lunch was held in May to raise funds for Christian Aid. Thanks to Emma for organising this and to all those who contributed some very tasty soups. We raised £89.00 towards the charity.



Knit for Syria

The Knit for Syria event was held here again this year, and the group have just completed yet another 'knit in'event, making blankets and knitted goods. It's great that we have the means to be able to support the community in their effort to make life a little better for the Syrian people who are suffering.

These two young ladies who attended one of our Summer Schools seem to speak for us all.



Crèche & Family Activities - Prem Kaur & Lizzie Quinn



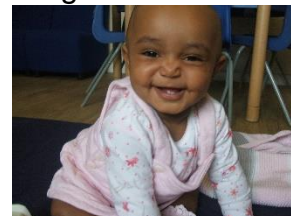
Creche

There have been 115 Children who have benefitted from our creche provision from September 2015- July 2016.

Creche staff still offer settling in time for all children that attend the creche, which has proved to be useful for both parents and children – helping them to feel secure and happy; The most important thing for us!



We offer child development in curriculum areas of literacy, numeracy, understanding the world and design. Children who are attending the creche regularly reap massive rewards.



We have been lucky this year in that we have been supported by Tesco and Iceland, who have donated food, sweets and art and craft materials. with a small grant from Greater Manchester High Sheriff Trust we have been able to buy a super slide, jigsaws, books and some fabulous animals for the children.

The Staff as part of their continued professional development have recently completed level 2 Safeguarding, and attending a Special Educational Needs (SENCO) forum.



Wednesday Stay & Play

Our Stay & Play session continues each Wednesday morning during term time, for parents and under 5s. These still prove to be very popular and our attendance figures have risen in recent months. We have regular visits from Trafford Family Information Service, who come along and talk to the parents, give them information and signpost to other services if needed.

The main aim of the stay and play is to encourage parents to play alongside their children and enable both children and parents to learn together what they might be able to do at home.



Half Term Activities.

Two affordable family activity sessions have been provided during half terms, which are always popular for families in the area. We have great feedback from parents and children.

We have worked with several volunteers who have supported Stay & Play and Half Term Family Activities. As well as making a difference to us, they have gained skills and experience of working with children and families.

What Parents have to say:

"Jayden & Josh have had so much fun at your family Halloween event - they love to dress up, to eat and to make things, thank you!" Angelique.

"My son Leo has been using the creche since he was six months old, he is now two. The creche workers are excellent and he has been really happy in the setting." Heather Rennie.

Development Work - Elaine Eland



Well it's been quite a year this year. Funding for my job came to an end and I temporarily covered for our courses co-ordinator until May, whilst she was seconded onto the Winter Night Shelter project. Through support from the Diocesan development workers we have been able to secure funding for a pilot project (see below). It is stressful continuing work when you are unsure of your future and I haven't felt as enthusiastic as usual! Despite this we have been able to provide some excellent community activities. I look forward to continuing my new role in developing the

Epicurus Experiment.

Christmas 2015 – this year was concentrating on involving existing learners in showing what they have been doing. We had an amazingly well attended Christmas Fair. Santa's Grotto in the church attracted a long queue of children waiting to see our volunteer Santa. Presents were based on birds – to reflect our exhibition "Sanctuary" – around the experience of Kosovan refugees in Manchester.

International Women's Day – This year the event was stripped back to a 'bring a dish, come and have lunch together'. We had women speaking to the group on the new Family Information Service, and on mental health and women. Plus, an enlightening quiz on women and global equality.

Star Gazing – Working with the Worker's Education Association, an event to coincide with national Star Gazing across the UK. Based in the church (due to bad weather) families came to meet scientists and meteorologists speaking about their work and giving practical experiments to try. There were some very powerful telescopes you could try out.

Summer School - Two weeks of activities for children aged 8+. 82 children had fun, and were kept safe & busy, over 2 weeks. We worked with staff and volunteers to offer arts, crafts and sports. Lunch was provided for everyone each day. Salford Foundation worked alongside us for both weeks with young people aged 16-17yrs undertaking their National Citizenship Service. The Suman College provided a cultural day with young people from Beijing presenting Chinese arts, crafts and culture. We worked with GRIP adventure for the first time, kayaking down the Manchester ship canal. Hotel Football were fantastic and let us use their facilities for free – even providing some very posh drinks!



The Epicurus Experiment – We have been granted funding for one year to work 18 hours a week on a pilot scheme to work with the issue of poverty. I have created the Epicurus Experiment based on some of the ideas of the Greek philosopher Epicurus. The project will look at different ways of providing services to those in the community who are on or low wages. *Discover Manchester*, created by one of our volunteers, is part of the Epicurus Experiment. We are upgrading the kitchen and cellar to allow St. John's Centre to take more food and start to look at offering cooked food.

Learning support and volunteering – as part of our Lottery grant I also have 13 hours per week to coordinate volunteers and support the learning in the Centre. I will organise a Centre Focus Group to get feedback from tutors, learners and volunteers. I will also organise events to celebrate learning at our Centre.

Strategic Youth Development – David Esdaile



I started work here in March this year and so far so good! The challenge of getting all the Youth service providers around the table to agree on mutually beneficial ways to work for and with young people is quite a challenge, but the attempt is much needed.

The project will ensure and enable better more effective youth provision because there will be collaborative planning and complementary delivery. Meaning that all our minimal resources will be pooled into a constructive joined up way of doing things, which will be needs led and solutions focussed.

We are anticipating the following outcomes.

- Improved partnership working
- Improved communication & knowledge
- Improved capacity to deliver
- Improved services for young people
- Improved community cohesion
- Increased chance of becoming employed
- Improved emotional and physical wellbeing



In light of the current demise of the Trafford Youth services, it is most appropriate at this time and hopefully going forward we will be able to be the voice of Old Trafford. Engaging in shaping our collective futures with Government agencies, funders and Statutory sector bodies.

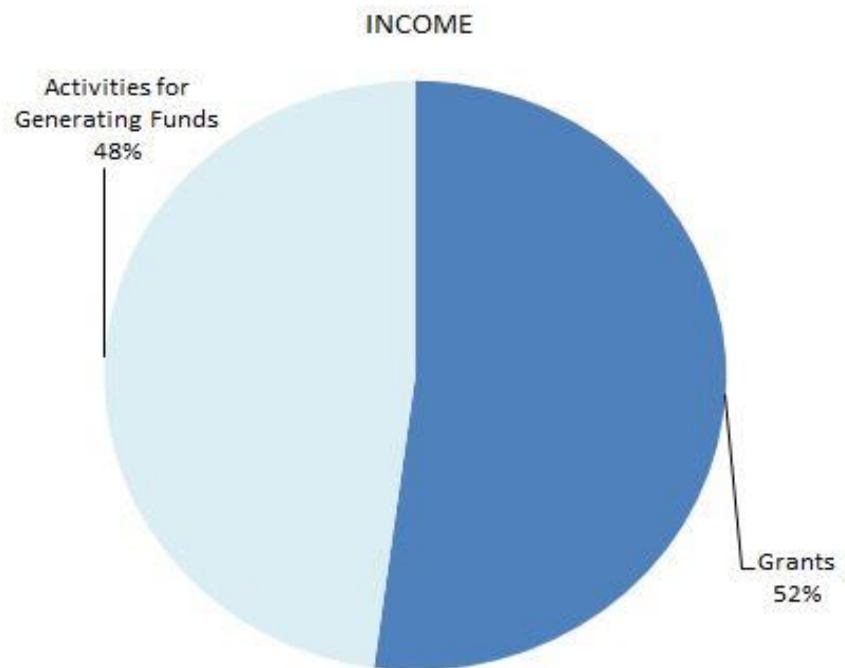
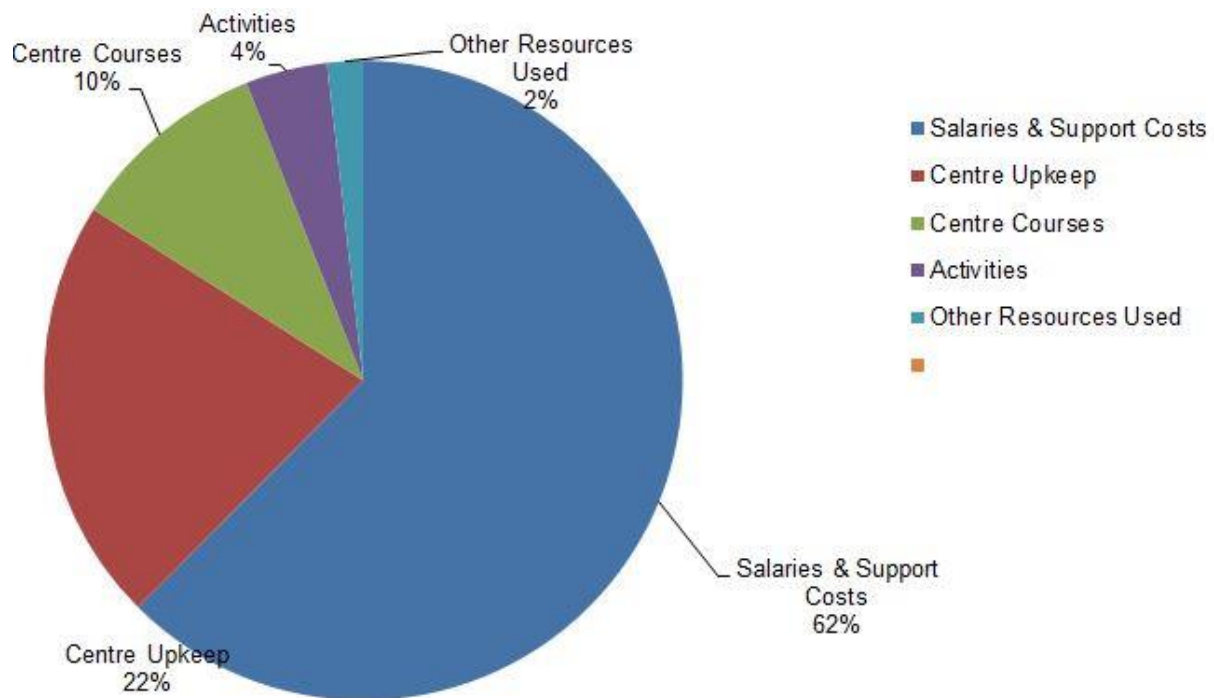
Thank you for the wonderful support from all the staff and Board.

Having the strategic vision that you have is priceless and unfortunately a dying commodity.

Strategic Youth Development -Operational details

Aims	No.	Comment
Mapping & Database	120	Over 120 groups and organisations, statutory and community sector.
Youth Partnership Network members	60	Proactive attendees
Groups Supported	33	Capacity building support
Funding secured	£21,000	Through support of funding applications
Volunteers	7	On projects delivered
Partnership work/planning	16	Mental health, substance abuse, environmental clean ups, etc.
Projects undertaken	3	St. Johns Summer school, OT Newsletter and Youth Music Project

INCOME & EXPENSE at a glance





**With
Funders, Partners & Associates
2015/16**



St John's Church
Manchester Diocese
St John's Sunshine
Love Old Trafford
Trafford Housing Trust
Trafford College
VCAT



Workers Education Assoc.
Trafford Housing Trust
Old Trafford Partnership
Old Trafford Community Panel
Peoples Health Trust
BIG Lottery Reaching Communities

