

HELIX ARTS

Annual Report 2008/09



Staff:

- Robert Laycock
Director
- Rowena On
Operations Manager
- Toby Lowe
Programme Manager
- Kate Roebuck
Project Manager
- Juliana Mensah
Project Manager
(Joined 1 July 2009)
- Yvonne Dobson
Administration & Finance Officer
- Andrew McIntyre
Fundraiser / Business Support Manager
(Joined 11 November 2009)
- Frances Arnold
Project Assistant
(Joined 18 November 2009)
- Teri Sayers
Project Manager (left 30 April 2009)

Trustees:

- Susan Winfield (*Chair*)
- Mary Coyle (*Vice Chair*)
- Jules Preston (*Treasurer*)
- Morag Polmear
- Jennifer Hinves
- Mike Worthington
- Claire Carroll
- Sue Kennedy

Contact details:

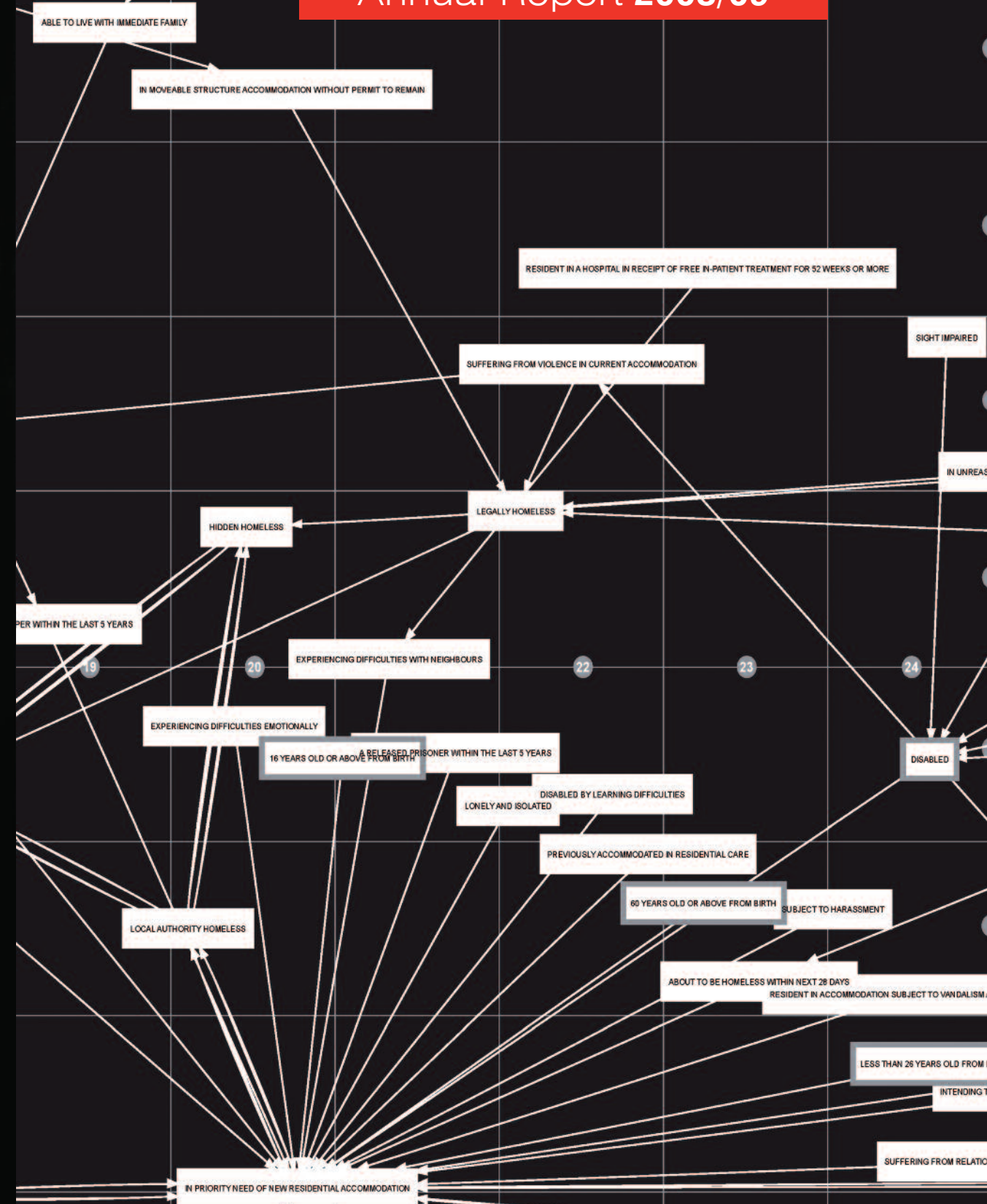
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VAT No. 459 7766 77
Registered Charity No. 700956



Supported by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Introduction

Helix Arts works with artists, in partnership with public and voluntary sector organisations, to create opportunities for people to participate in high quality arts activity.

Our Vision is based on our belief that participation in creative activity is fundamental to the well-being of individuals and communities and therefore should be accessible to all.

Our Mission is to increase equality of opportunity for people to participate in the arts and **our focus** is on those who currently have least opportunity including: children and young people at risk; unemployed adults and employed people on low incomes; people living in deprived

neighbourhoods; those with special educational needs; and people with poor health, particularly the elderly.

In a typical year Helix Arts works with 30 to 50 artists, selected for their ability to co-produce high-quality art through a participatory process. We work across a range of art form areas including visual arts, film-making, creative writing, graphic design, animation, street dance, music, DJing and MCing, photography, drama and textiles.

Helix Arts has charitable status and is revenue funded by Arts Council England, North East.

Please contact us for more information on the organisation and its work, or visit our website at www.helixarts.com

During 2008/09, Helix Arts:

Delivered 500 sessions to 2200 attendees

Provided more than £112,500 worth of work for over 30 different artists

“When I first signed up I didn’t think I would enjoy it very much, but I was so wrong. I can’t believe how much I have. Honestly, it has been fantastic. I’ve learned so much and I’m taking pictures everywhere I go.”

Participant, Big Picture

Chair’s Report

Vision, participation, investment and quality are the key characteristics of the activities and achievements of Helix Arts during the past year.

Our vision remains firm – to increase the equality of access to creative arts activity for those who have the least opportunity and thereby contributing to the well-being of both the individual and the community.

Our evidence of successful participation to deliver our vision is contained in this report, and I hope that in reading it you will get a flavour of some of the 500 sessions of creative activity we have provided as well as the different contributions of the artists we have engaged to provide these creative opportunities. The other key feature of participation is that all of the work is delivered in partnership, through the active participation of the public sector or voluntary organisation which has commissioned the work, thereby ensuring joint planning, delivery and support for the project. We have been pleasantly surprised that despite the economic challenges of the year, this model of partnership is still much in demand.

We have made significant investment during this year into market and organisational development, and the development and dissemination of evidence based practice. We are appreciative of the investment by the Arts Council into Helix Arts to help facilitate our work within the organisation, as well as providing training opportunities for others who are seeking to work in participatory arts.

Our continuing commitment to high quality work is paramount and I am sure that you will see evidence of that quality from the text and images in this report. We are looking forward to working in partnership with the University of Northumbria to research the value of participation in the arts and the identification of quality measures for this type of work. Moreover, in addition to Helix Arts’ already significant reputation as a regional leader in the development of participatory arts, the skills and experience of our senior staff are being sought at a national level.

Our successful achievements are without a doubt attributable to the combined skills of a high quality, creative and vibrant team who are very ably led by Robert Laycock,

Director. Robert excels in combining a vision for the organisation with a professional, financial approach which combine to bring Helix Arts to the successful position it now occupies.

I am indebted to Robert and all the staff for their drive, enthusiasm and commitment to developing creative art opportunities in the community. I would also like to thank the Board members for all their contributions and support. Their diverse range of skills and talents are invaluable in the oversight and governance of the work of Helix Arts as well as the planning for future development opportunities.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Arts Council England, North East to Helix Arts – their ongoing financial support, advice and attendance at Board meetings is much appreciated.

Sue Winfield
Chair

“The programme affords high quality new experiences, even to those young people who have engaged in some creative activity in the past.”

Choices & Moving On Evaluation, Northumbria University

Projects

Choices

An annual programme of arts activity for young people in the criminal justice sector in partnership with North of the Tyne Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP).

Continuing the activity started during 2007/08, the group worked with filmmaker Kate Sweeney to create a series of powerful artworks and video pieces; taking the theme of angels and demons and using it to explore and represent perceptions of self and the world around us. As well as creating the artworks, participants developed technical and creative skills which were showcased at



exhibitions of the work in Byker – at St Michael's Church and the Artworks Gallery. The main film, *Who am I?*, was selected for screening at the Cooperative Young Filmmakers Festival in Bradford on 9 October 2008 and received well-earned recognition by winning a Silver Koestler Award for arts by young offenders.

Following Kate's nine-month artist's residency, the group worked with a further three artists-in-residence: Tommy Anderson (graphic design/ animation) and Rosa Stourac McCreery and Rico Jakk (circus and physical theatre practitioners). This proved to be an exciting combination, producing dynamic work that will be drawn

together into a DVD animation, accompanying booklet of images and digitally printed artworks – all showcased at an exhibition of work to be held at the ISSP in June 2009.

During the year, the project developed a partnership with Dance City to deliver a number of innovative dance workshops aimed at developing more formal approaches to identifying progression routes and encouraging young people on the ISSP to access ETE (education, training and employment) opportunities.

Funded by North of the Tyne ISSP, Arts Council England North East and The Northern Rock Foundation.

Moving On

An annual programme of arts activity for young people in the criminal justice sector in partnership with South of the Tyne Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP).

Last year we organised a series of taster workshops for the group, through which the participants selected Kate Sweeney (filmmaker) and Lindsay Duncanson (photographer) to work with them to create a film called *Poison*.

Other activity included kite-making workshops with Infinite Arts to create a display for the Sunderland International Friendship Festival in July 2008.

Recently the group have been working with artist-in-residence Tommy Anderson (graphic designer and animator) to create street art and animation. The activity also included workshops with Kate Fox (creative writer) and Paul Richardson (aerosol artist). The art work created will form a

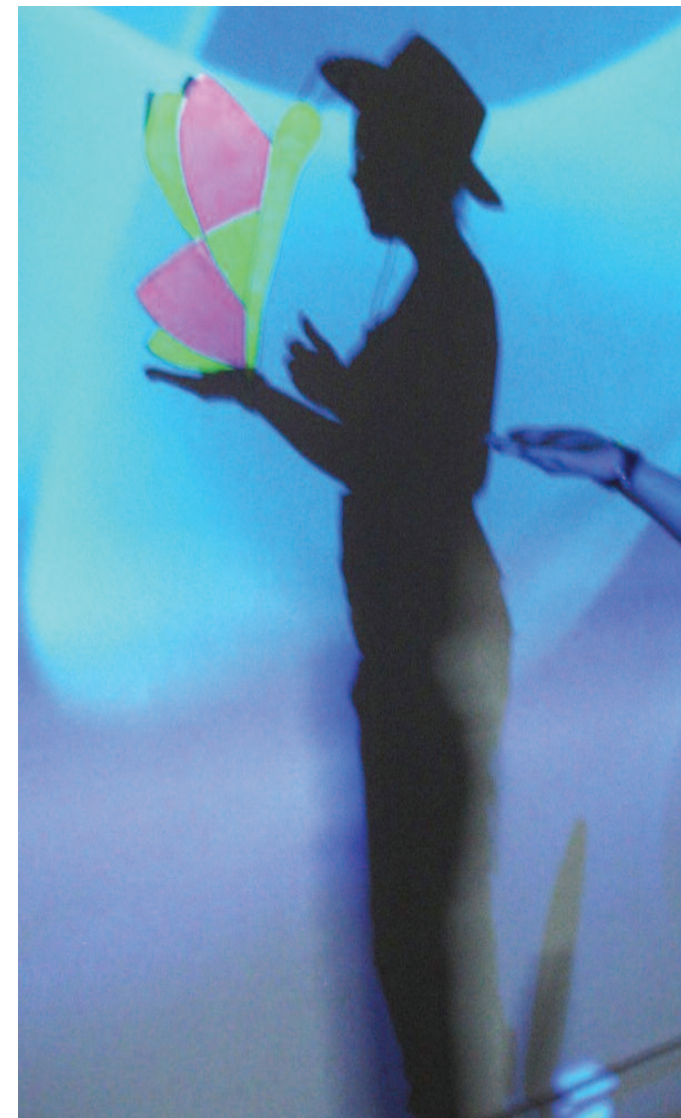


DVD animation, with accompanying booklet and will be showcased at an exhibition in Sunderland in July/August 2009.

As part of our continuing professional development for artists, the Moving On programme also hosted a ten-week pilot artist placement programme for Laura Wilson, enabling her to gain practical experience of leading workshop sessions, mentored by Tommy.

Finishing off a busy year for the project, work also began on developing new programmes of arts activity in partnership with the ISSP in both Gateshead and South Shields. New Line Graffiti were appointed to deliver the first strand of activity, working with the young people in Gateshead to produce large-scale graffiti boards campaigning on issues of anti-social behaviour.

Funded by South of the Tyne ISSP, Arts Council England North East and The Northern Rock Foundation.



Ynot?

A programme of arts activity for young parents and care leavers in partnership with Young People's Services, Sunderland.

During 2008/09 the group worked with writer Paul Summers, graphic designer Tommy Anderson and illustrator Bethan Laker to create a beautifully illustrated and captivating children's book called *The Lost Rainbow*. This book has been professionally printed and launched at Seven Stories, The Centre for the Children's Book, on 27th August 2008. Over 80 people were present at the launch, where they enjoyed a puppet show performed by Alison McGowan and Alex Finnegan and the opportunity to buy copies of the book signed by the young people.

In the latter part of 2008 the young people participated in a series of workshops with photographer



Lindsay Duncanson and creative writers Bob Beagrie and Andy Willoughby exploring how substance misuse impacts on their lives and their communities. The result was a series of honest photographs, texts and poems created by the young people which have been brought together in DVD format and entitled *Snowed In*.

Recently the group have again been working with Bethan Laker and with Richard Liddle (3D product designer) to create a series of illustrated boards that will take up permanent residence in the outside play area of the nursery at The Place in Hendon.

Funded by City of Sunderland.

A Day in Our Lives

A partnership with Tyneside Cyrenians and Trading Places to deliver a programme of arts activity to homeless and chronically excluded people in Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead.

After appointment to the role of lead artist last year, photographer Magali Pettier led a series of photography workshops with the



participants, in and around Newcastle upon Tyne. The photographs were placed on display at Crisis Skylight in Newcastle during May/June 2008.

In addition to the photography, the group also worked with writer Bob Beagrie to capture their experiences and thoughts and graphic designer Joe White helped the group to incorporate those photographs and texts into a stylish hardback book which was published in April 2009.

In early 2009 the participants and Magali wrote and filmed a video piece which will form part of a pack of training materials being developed for use by frontline staff. The soundtrack that accompanies the film is the result of work by the participants, led by Alex Tustin from Worldbeaters Music.

The project ended in style with a well-attended book launch and exhibition at Dance City in the Spring of 2009 showcasing the photography, written pieces and film.

Funded by NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts).



Big Picture

A programme of arts activity in partnership with Sunderland Job Linkage.

The group took part in sixteen three-hour photography workshops run by Lindsay Duncanson, over eight weeks, to produce photographs on the theme of *work*, and to select and exhibit the work at the Back on the Map Employment Awards at the Stadium of Light. The group comprised people of all ages and backgrounds and the project enabled them to learn some of the softer skills, including confidence building and team work, as well as providing an introduction to photography.

Funded by Sunderland Job Linkage.

GEM Arts

A programme of arts activity for BME women in partnership with GEM Arts and Tyneside Women's Health.

During 2009/10 the group will be working with photographer Magali Pettier and textile artist Ruth Gowland, and the programme will culminate in a fashion shoot with a London-based fashion photographer.

Funded by Arts Council England North East and Lankelly Chase.



The Status Manual / Map of Homelessness

During 2008/09, Helix Arts supported artist Heath Bunting to publish *0-9 The System Deluxe*, a manual of status in the UK, and the Map of Homelessness, now on permanent display at Crisis Skylight Newcastle Café.

0-9 The System Deluxe is a unique A-Z guide to UK status developed by internationally renowned artist Heath Bunting. It is of particular relevance to Helix Arts because of a shared interest in the many ways socially engaged arts practice can benefit the lives of people with low status in society, including those in the criminal justice system and people experiencing homelessness and mental health problems. *0-9 The System Deluxe*, together with a specially commissioned essay,

was produced as a ring-bound book and launched at Crisis Skylight in Newcastle upon Tyne on 12 February 2009 alongside the Map of Homelessness.

Commenting on the exhibition, June Grimes, Head of Crisis Skylight Newcastle said: *"Every day we witness at first hand the personal nightmare of being homeless and the barriers people face to an independent and full life. Helix Arts and Heath Bunting, working collaboratively with our members, have captured their experiences in his very powerful work. We are delighted that it will be permanently exhibited in our Café, which aims to equip people with the skills they need to find a route out of homelessness."*

"With the Status Project artist Heath Bunting is beginning to

make real the possibility of a fairer society in which people have opportunity to fulfil their potential regardless of social status. Maybe in five or ten years time an A-Z of the system will be available in every newsagent in every city in the UK. Maybe Status Maps, like the Map of Homelessness, will be as familiar as street or Ordnance Survey maps."

Robert Laycock, Director, Helix Arts

For more information about the Status Project visit <http://status.irational.org>

To purchase a copy of the book contact us or visit <http://www.helixarts.com/pages/publications.html>

Supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Consultancy & Feasibility

Tin Arts

During 2008/09, Helix Arts supported Durham-based arts organisation Tin Arts to undertake organisational development including business modelling and long-term strategic planning.

Thrive!

At the end of 2006/07 Helix Arts was selected by Arts Council England to take part in their national Thrive! programme and a significant amount of work took place during 2007/08 to develop and refine our plans for the investment. A major part of the delivery of these activities took place during 2008/09, including:

Market Development – undertaking detailed stakeholder analysis; running a short-course for artists in partnership with Northumbria University; and planning an artist-led network aimed at raising quality within the sector.

Organisational Development – strategic investment in ICT and staff CPD; and development of our business model in consultation with external experts.

Product/Practice Development – the development of contracting and project management toolkits; establishing a multi-disciplinary advisory panel; and investment in innovative programme development.

Evidence Gathering and Dissemination – working with Northumbria University to develop a research programme to gather evidence of the intrinsic importance of participation in the arts.

Funded by Arts Council England.

Image Credits

Choices: Stencil by the Choices group working with Tommy Anderson; Angel image by Kate Sweeney; images on cubes by Kate Sweeney.

Moving On: Stencil by the Moving On group working with Tommy Anderson; silhouette by Infinite Arts.

Ynot?: Image from Snowed In by Lindsay Duncanson; picture boards at nursery by Bethan Laker and Richard Liddle.

A Day in our Lives: Text by Barry; photograph of participant taking a photograph by Nori Yngdon; photograph of Magali and participants by James Williams. Back cover photograph by Jamie Gordon.

Big Picture: Photograph by Sokina Begum.

The Status Map: Front cover image by Heath Bunting.

Artists

During the year we worked with more than 34 artists, including:

Adam Finlay, Alex Finnegan, Alex Tustin, Alison McGowan, Andrew Willoughby, Andy McDermott, Bethan Laker, Bill Leach, Bob Beagrie, Darren O'Kane, Heath Bunting, Infinite Arts, Joe White, Kate Fox, Kate Sweeney, Keith Mills, Laura Wilson, Lindsay Duncanson, Magali Pettier, Nick Light, Paul Richardson, Paul Summers, Richard Lawson, Richard Liddle, Rico Jakk, Robby Graham, Robby Kerr, Rosa Stourac McCreery, Sandy Duff, Stephanie Cook, Tim Parker, Tommy Anderson

Newcastle College Students: *Bruce Parker, Calum Bartoli, Daniel Sivell-Legender, Edward Drake, Edward Tam*

"When I first worked for Helix Arts I was impressed by the amount of support I had as an artist and the kind of thought that went into setting up the projects and the respect for the art forms and the young people participating."

Artist on Choices/Moving On

**YOU NOW NEED TO START A NEW LIFE,
START AFRESH. SO YOU WILL MY SON,
MAKE YERSEL' HAPPY KID.
GET YERSEL' A WIFE, THAT'S WHAT YOU
NEED, THAT AND A FEW KIDS UNDER
YOUR BELT. SO PICK UP YOUR CHIN
AND HIT IT FULL PELT**

Abbreviated Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2009

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2009 £	Total funds 2008 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income	87,623	29,900	117,523	175,917
Activities for generating funds	640	-	640	370
Investment income	4,308	-	4,308	3,098
Incoming resources from charitable activities	-	307,995	307,995	293,756
Other incoming resources	176	-	176	325
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>92,747</u>	<u>337,895</u>	<u>430,642</u>	<u>473,466</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities	84,837	302,210	387,047	446,938
Governance costs	5,200	-	5,200	4,590
Other resources expended	-	-	-	23,667
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>90,037</u>	<u>302,210</u>	<u>392,247</u>	<u>475,195</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	2,710	35,685	38,395	(1,729)
Total funds brought forward	35,692	55,267	90,959	92,688
Total funds carried forward	<u>38,402</u>	<u>90,952</u>	<u>129,354</u>	<u>90,959</u>

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities for the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	14,131	15,072
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	82,937	42,388
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>170,261</u>	<u>110,965</u>
	253,198	153,353
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(137,975)</u>	<u>(77,466)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>115,223</u>	<u>75,887</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>129,354</u>	<u>90,959</u>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	38,402	35,692
Restricted	<u>90,952</u>	<u>55,267</u>
	<u>129,354</u>	<u>90,959</u>

A full set of accounts is available on request.