

FREE 2 TALK COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Company limited by guarantee

**Company Registration Number:
06620303 (England and Wales)**

Unaudited statutory accounts for the year ended 30 June 2020

Period of accounts

Start date: 1 July 2019

End date: 30 June 2020

FREE 2 TALK COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Contents of the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 30 June 2020

Balance sheet

Additional notes

Balance sheet notes

Community Interest Report

FREE 2 TALK COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2020

	<i>Notes</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
		£	£
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand:		96,367	38,059
Total current assets:		<u>96,367</u>	<u>38,059</u>
Net current assets (liabilities):		<u>96,367</u>	<u>38,059</u>
Total assets less current liabilities:		<u>96,367</u>	<u>38,059</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year:	3	(50,000)	
Accruals and deferred income:		(37,000)	(31,343)
Total net assets (liabilities):		<u>9,367</u>	<u>6,716</u>
Members' funds			
Profit and loss account:		9,367	6,716
Total members' funds:		<u>9,367</u>	<u>6,716</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

FREE 2 TALK COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Balance sheet statements

For the year ending 30 June 2020 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The directors have chosen not to file a copy of the company's profit and loss account.

**This report was approved by the board of directors on 1 February 2021
and signed on behalf of the board by:**

Name: Genna Whitlock
Status: Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

FREE 2 TALK COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 30 June 2020

1. Accounting policies

Basis of measurement and preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A (Small Entities) of Financial Reporting Standard 102

FREE 2 TALK COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 30 June 2020

2. Employees

	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
Average number of employees during the period	8	6

FREE 2 TALK COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 30 June 2020

3. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year note

	<i>2020</i>
	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	50,000
Total	<u>50,000</u>

COMMUNITY INTEREST ANNUAL REPORT

FREE 2 TALK COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Company Number: 06620303 (England and Wales)

Year Ending: 30 June 2020

Company activities and impact

The companies main activity has been the delivery of the Trusted Relationships Fund. The objective for this programme is to reduce young people's involvement in exploitation and abuse, as victims and/or perpetrators, through: Increasing the consistency and quality of support for children and young people at risk of becoming involved in exploitation and abuse; Improving trust between young people and adults who are there to support them; Developing protective factors that build resilience in children and young people (including support networks; positive role models; sense of purpose; self-esteem; critical thinking skills). Youth Work Outputs Youth Groups being delivered weekly Blackthorn 12+; Semilong 12+; Kings Heath. The fourth area for this project was to be launched in this quarter however due to Covid-19 this has been delayed. The fourth area identified in March 2020 is Belling in Northampton. Blackthorn 67 members in Yr2: 64% female, 36% male; aged mainly 13-17. Engagement has increased since August and significantly so since January with the highest attendance of 32 young people in a session. Racecourse (based in a park transferred to Kings Heath) 34 members in Yr2: 39% female, 61% male; aged mainly 14-17. Engagement has been higher in the summer and significantly dipped since autumn. Kings Heath 14 members in Yr2: 29% female, 71% male; aged mainly 13-15. Increasing membership as knowledge of the group increases. Semilong 82 members in Yr2: 27% female, 73% male; aged mainly 14-17. There has been a steady increase in members throughout the quarter. Mentoring Outputs Of the current open mentoring caseload, 37 % are at a level 2, 60% Level 3 need and 3% at level 4 need. Reasons for referrals include risk of exclusion, anger management, anti-social behaviour, risk of offending, housing issues, poor family relationships, young people transitioning, bereavement, NEET, CSE, CCE. 56% have issues with mental health. Early indications suggest that the movement to remote/ online mentoring is impacting the engagement of some of our most vulnerable young people. Youth Groups Outcomes Blackthorn The youth groups continue to engage between 20-30 young people per session. They have engaged in structured workshops, by GYM, around exploitation, drugs and gangs recently. This has been in line with their programme planning with young people and youth workers. The young people engaged well in this and have continued support and education following this workshop. Contextual safeguarding work continues in this area which is increasing our focus on the year 6 children in the 8-11s group. Those identified as at risk or vulnerable to exploitation are being discussed within the team. They will be offered a key worker in the youth group or parents will be approached to offer mentoring support through school. A summer programme and transition support to secondary is being developed. Woodvale Primary have identified a small group of children from the area that require this support. There are again some barriers with partnership working with Blackthorn Primary which are being unpicked and developed through the local policing team to understand and support the Trusted Relationships work. Semilong Young people continue to engage in this group and are accessing their mentoring through the session. The school drop ins continue to support the engagement. There have been no significant changes in the past 2 months. Kings Heath This youth group has launched testing a model of subcontracting a community activist to partner in the work of the Youth Team. This is in response to some difficulties with young people's mistrust and negative view of Free 2 Talk which has stemmed from conflict between 2 young people. The model for this session has launched well, there were 15 young people in the last session and these were engaged in programme planning. The community activist will be central to leading this and developing a sustainable plan post Trusted Relationships funding. Post Covid Restrictions Youth groups have all been delivered through online spaces. Blackthorn 12+ on Discord; Semilong 12+ on Google Meets and Kings Heath through gaming spaces. The differing spaces for delivery were discussed with members and decided on dependent on their feedback. The project has trail blazed the range of online support for young people through the lockdown. Understanding of quality and consistent delivery in this pandemic has been drawn from national thinking and forums providing seamless support for our members and sharing best practice locally and nationally throughout. The project measures trust through the depth of discussion and the requests for support directly from young people. With the move to online delivery we have seen a number of young people continue to seek support through the pandemic. Online spaces demand the young people to seek out direct support from youth workers as they are central to facilitation 100% of the time in our platforms. Our online groups have little space to just be present, be part of something, without active engagement like face to face sessions. This is where our alternative sessions provide the type of voyeur and passive engagement. Within youth groups we have had: 112 attendances by 33 young people in 24 sessions, young people continue to seek support through directly funded online platforms. In addition to the three youth groups, online sessions have also been provided during weekdays since the 30th March. These have had 613 attendances, by 69 young people in 54 sessions. Young people have continued to request support with their relationships; managing lockdown; shielding vulnerable relatives; racism and Black Lives Matter. Young people are reporting that the coping strategies they developed through lockdown has boosted their confidence and resilience. Some young people have sought support for substance misuse in lockdown. They are reporting issues with their mental health through the past 3 months but also significantly less stress and anxiety from not being in a school environment. Young people continue to have usual challenges of bullying and relationships. This period has enabled deeper reflection and critical thinking within groups which maybe due to the changed environment or communal awareness of fragility of life. We are seeing an increase in mental health issues, experience in abusive home lives, loss and bereavement. Social Action Project Outcomes Youth Summit: Young leaders are being identified to be part of Youth Work training alongside the Community of Practice. The youth-led conference has been agreed as annual event possibly in Youth Work week again for 2020. Free 2 Talk will support this through the social action element of this project to assist delivery led by NAYC. Trusted Relationships has sparked further partnership working with the PCC, Youth Works CIC and CIRV. Our team will be supporting a music project alongside other artists to complete a project on the Youth Commission around gangs and youth violence. Peer support is being established through the mentoring. 1 young person now co-produces and presents a live chat stream every Friday. 1 young person has represented peers in a local radio interview to appeal for laptops / computers for young people that don't have these through our digital inclusion project. 2 young people have taken part in evaluations with Behaviour Insights. 2 young people have volunteered to be part of the Young Trainers Group for the MA in Youth & Community Leadership at University of Northampton. Mentoring Outcomes The average length of mentoring is longer than anticipated as mental health issues are ongoing, these are higher level than expected. The drop in at Progress Schools has been running for some time however young people needed more privacy to access additional support. This will now be reshaped through increased structure in self-awareness groupwork through a negotiated informal education programme. Weston Favell Academy and Northampton Academy are being approached to offer drop ins. Post Covid Restrictions We have had only 2 young people disclosing child protection concerns within this period. However, this drop is due to the significant lack of contact with young people. This is

reflective of the patterns observed in other open access services and education for young people. The steering group took the decision to start using distance travelled measures identified on commencement of the project from November 2019 due to no guidance from evaluators. The response from young people has been mixed however due to the pandemic these are now inappropriate to be completed remotely. Staff report being unable to support young people effectively as issues are raised through the measures. The increased consciousness and anxiety evoking questions are too risky to complete without face to face support. Youth Workers are taking on an advocacy role to support young people's engagement with their social worker. This is reducing the wasted resource of Social Workers; although this has increased the amount of time allocated to each young person, consequently workloads are higher than expected which exaggerates the staffing / recruitment issues. Workforce Development A project plan for training in Contextual Safeguarding between Youth Support, Youth Workers and Social Workers locally is being developed. This will be countywide training that this project contributes to. A growing number of practitioners have taken part in the community of practice. There has been a training workshop and practice meeting completed. This works in partnership with the University of Northampton as well as Youth Services across the county. It is identifying practice needs and skills shortages. It also provides Youth Workers a place to share best practice and advocate issues for young people to develop action to address these. The project has been able to drive contextual safeguarding from a community perspective through the safeguarding partnership and community safety partnership. The project has been able to bring partners together to work on the exploitation strategy and procedures for serious violence incidents. Free 2 Talk are part of subgroup for child exploitation for Northamptonshire Safeguarding Partnership. Free 2 Talk provide representation on the field work steering group for a new MA in Youth and Community Leadership launching September 2020. Post Covid Restrictions The Youth Provider Network has been strengthened throughout the pandemic with the last meeting having the greatest attendance and resulting in a multiagency service gap analysis based on NYA guidance of vulnerable young people's needs. Joint planning and resourcing has begun for the first time meaningfully. In addition, Free 2 Talk have driven the agenda for the Community of Practice for Youth and this is now established; led by University of Northampton. This will provide access to professional practice training and development. Current planned training is in developing informal education in partnership with young people; enabling youth voices and effective safeguarding. The project's work in Blackthorn Northampton has underpinned the development of the Contextual Safeguarding Toolkit currently drafted by Northamptonshire Safeguarding Partnership. The project is steering the awareness training and champions to embed the toolkit into practice. We envisage this to be achieved within the next 6 months to support the issues evolving from the pandemic. Sharing events in local workforce: Learning being shared via: Youth Providers Network Monthly Meeting Signs of safety training: 16/7/20 Creating informal education and youth participation Regular partnership sharing through the steering group bi-monthly.

Consultation with stakeholders

Young people – they are consulted with on every session delivered through understanding their strengths and needs; how they see their communities, issues which affect them and their plans for involvement and contribution to making a difference in their own communities. There is a clear plan for the active involvement of young people as part of the journey of support with us. Parents and carers – they are consulted with through contact when they are collecting or dropping off young people to sessions. They are involved in the consent for membership and any external visits and trips. They are consulted with in community events. Communities – they are consulted with at every opportunity through development projects or events which are delivered. Other organisations and authorities – they are consulted with when meeting to work on issues faced by young people and their communities.

Directors' remuneration

The aggregate amount of emoluments paid to or receivable by directors in respect of qualifying services was £41,790.39. Emolument to directors has been made in payment of service delivery as a practitioner and in consideration of their role of as directors. There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors or compensation for director's loss of office which require to be disclosed.

Transfer of assets

No transfer of assets other than for full consideration

This report was approved by the board of directors on
1 February 2021

And signed on behalf of the board by:

Name: Genna Whitlock

Status: Director

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.