

Registered Number: 07195175 (England & Wales)

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

**Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

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## NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST

### Members

L Wight  
J Drummond-Hill  
K D Fairley (resigned 31 May 2023)  
A Broadbent (appointed 13 July 2023)  
S King (appointed 1 June 2023)  
H Lynch (appointed 13 July 2023)

### Trustee

K D Fairley<sup>1</sup> (Chair)  
V Somerville (Vice Chair)  
F Swinburn (Vice Chair)  
P Bradley<sup>1</sup>  
A Broadbent<sup>1</sup> (term expired 13 July 2023)  
B Frean (resigned 30 March 2023)  
M Goodwin (appointed 13 March 2023)  
J Low  
H Owen (resigned 1 December 2022)  
J Shaw (resigned 22 September 2023)  
A Shields (resigned 30 June 2023)  
L Rodham  
C Warren

<sup>1</sup> Member of Audit and Risk Committee

### Company Secretary:

P Robson

### Executive Leadership Team:

Chief Executive Officer	L Rodham
Accounting Officer	L Rodham
Head Teacher	M Gray
Head Teacher	T Urwin
Head Teacher	Z Hammond
Chief Operating Officer	A Collishaw
Corporate Director – ICT, Estates & Data	K Broadfoot
Director of HR	K Fairley

### Company Name:

New College Durham Academies Trust

### Company Registration Number:

07195175 (England & Wales)

### Principal and Registered Office:

New College Durham Academies Trust  
Framwellgate Moor Campus  
Durham,  
DH1 5ES

### Independent Auditors:

Wylie & Bisset (Audit) Limited  
168 Bath Street  
Glasgow  
G2 4TP

### Bankers:

Lloyds Bank Plc  
Market Place  
Durham  
DH1 3NL

### Solicitors:

Ward Hadaway  
Sandgate House  
102 Quayside  
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 3DX

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust now operates three secondary academies, with Wellfield School joining the Academy Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023. North Durham Academy is a 11-16 school, with a student capacity of 1,500 and serves the catchment area of Stanley. Consett Academy is a 11-19 school, with a student capacity of 1,700 and serves the catchment area of Consett. Wellfield School is a 11-16 school with a student capacity of 1011. The combined student capacity is 4,211 and had a combined roll of 3,579.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Constitution**

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of New College Durham Academies Trust are also the trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as New College Durham Academies Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

##### **Members' Liability**

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

##### **Trustees' Indemnities**

The academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees from claims arising against negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. Further details are provided in note 10.

##### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

Trustees are appointed for a term of four years and are not subject to retirement by rotation. Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Trustees are appointed and removed by the Sponsor and Co-Sponsor respectively. Trustees, Parent Trustees and other Trustees are appointed in accordance with the articles of association. The Chief Executive Officer, should they agree, will serve as a Trustee for the length of their employment.

##### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

The training and induction is provided for all new Trustees. Training is provided on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

##### **Organisational Structure**

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting a strategic plan and approving medium-term financial plans. They are also responsible for monitoring of development plans and the overall performance of the Academy Trust, by overseeing the use of budgets, making major decisions about the direction of the Academies Trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

During the period the Academy Trust Board operated a number of committees, including an Audit and Risk Committee, a Remuneration Committee, a Resources Committee, an Education and Standards Committee and the Local Governing Bodies of the Academies. Terms of reference has been established for all committees within the Academy Trust, which compliments the approved Scheme of Delegation. They set out the matters reserved for the Academy Trust Board, those delegated to the committees, the Local Governing Bodies and the Chief Executive Officer.

A Trust Executive Leadership Team has been established to oversee the leadership of the Academy Trust. Senior Leadership teams have been established within the Academies to undertake the day to day management of each Academy and are accountable to the Local Governing Bodies and the Academy Trust Board.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

#### **Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The pay and remuneration of the academy's key management personnel are determined by the Academy Trust Board with reference to both national and regional benchmarks, and any salary scales are underpinned by an analytical job evaluation scheme and are considered to be reasonable and defensible reflection of the individual's role and responsibilities and considers both educational and financial performance. Progression up these salary scales is based on performance, and is evaluated annually,

The posts are considered for cost of living awards by the Academy Trust Board, alongside all other staff, and the key measure for awards is one of affordability.

#### **Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

##### **New College Durham**

New College Durham is the lead sponsor of the Academy Trust.

##### **Durham County Council**

Durham County Council is the co-sponsor of the Academy Trust, however is not deemed to be a related party. The Council provides numerous paid-for services to the Academy Trust under Service Level Agreements.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

##### **Objects and Aims**

The principal object and activity of the Charitable Company is the operation of North Durham Academy, Consett Academy and Wellfield School to provide education for students of different abilities between the ages of 11 and 19 (11 and 16 at North Durham Academy and Wellfield School).

The main objectives of the Academy Trust during the period ended 31 August 2023 were to ensure the successful on-going operations of the Academies. To achieve this, the Academy Trust has entered into relevant funding agreements with the Secretary of State for Education.

The activities undertaken to achieve these objectives are all intended to provide the highest quality of education in the public sector for students between the ages of 11 and 19.

##### **Academy Trust**

The Academy Trust's main objective is the successful performance of the Academies. The Academy Trust operates a principle of aligned autonomy, which is a concept that allows for independence while still being part of a larger group. It is a way for organisations to work together towards shared goals while still remaining their own identity and culture. There is an expectation that all schools within the Academy Trust exceed national performance measures across all key measures and secure as a minimum a "Good" Ofsted rating. Trust wide procedures ensure that intervention is in direct proportion to need so that each school receives appropriate support to ensure outcomes for all learners are at least good. Intervention is determined by the level of categorisation, which considers outcomes, the Head Teachers own evaluation, the application of the Ofsted's School inspection handbook and floor standards. The level of categorisation will affirm the trust's commitment to responding rapidly to the needs of the individual schools. All Schools within the Academy Trust now have a "Good" Ofsted rating.

During 2022/23 Wellfield School joined the Academy Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023. The focus continues to be on rapid and sustained improvement supported by highly experienced senior leaders and a team of school improvement specialists. The skills, expertise and composition of the Trustees and Governors has supported the continued improvement.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

#### **North Durham Academy – Background Information**

North Durham Academy has 1,036 students on roll with the intake increasing year on year. The academy continues to draw its pupils from Stanley and surrounding areas. The number of students joining the Academy with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is increasing, particularly those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). The proportion of students whom have special educational needs or disability is 20% (National Average 12.4%). North Durham Academy has a predominately white British student population, with very few students from ethnic groups and very few students whom speak English as an additional language 4% (National Average 18.1%). The Academy currently has 54% of students who are supported through the pupil premium fund which is significantly above the national average (27%). North Durham Academy continues to re-establish strong links with a range of local employers. North Durham Academy current Ofsted grading is "Good".

#### **Wellfield School – Background Information**

Wellfield School has 904 students on roll. The school draws students from Wingate and the surrounding areas, in recent years the school has established good links through its transition programme and improved reputation, resulting in an increase in students coming from as far as Coxhoe and Bowburn. The proportion of students whom have Special Educational Needs and Disability is 20% (National Average 12.4%). Wellfield School has a predominately white British student population, with very few students from ethnic groups and very few students whom speak English as an additional language 1% (National Average 18.1%). The School currently has 44% of students who are supported through the pupil premium fund which is significantly above the national average (27%). Wellfield Schools current Ofsted grading is "Good" which was secured in 2018.

#### **Consett Academy – Background Information**

Consett Academy has 1,639 students on roll, with the intake increasing year on year. The Academy continues to draw its students from Consett and the surrounding area. It successfully works with 11 partner primary schools, but often takes students from another 6 faith/non-faith primary schools in the area. In the last four years it has seen its Year 7 intake increase resulting in the Academy reaching its capacity in Key Stage 3 and 4 from September 2022.

Consett Academy has a predominately white British student population, with very few students from ethnic groups and very few students whom speak English as an additional language 4% (National Average 18.1%). The proportion of students whom have Special Educational Needs and Disability is 14% (National Average 12.4%), with increasing numbers within Years 7 and 8. The Academy currently has 33% of students who are supported through the pupil premium fund (National Average 27%). Consett Academy continues to embed strong links with a range of local employers. Consett Academy received an Ofsted inspection on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and secured a "Good" judgement.

#### **Public Benefit**

The Academy Trust's aims and achievements are set out within this report. The activities set out in this report have been undertaken to further the Academy Trust's charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission and the Trustees have paid due regard to this guidance in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

#### **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST - FUTURE PLANS**

The Academy Trust is led by Linda Rodham as the Academy Trust's Chief Executive Officer. New College Durham Academies Trust is a Durham Multi Academy Trust for Local Schools. The Academy Trust is currently reviewing its overarching strategic plan, including updating the mission, vision, ethos and values of the Academy Trust. The strategic objectives will be updated during 2023/24.

#### **Vision and Ethos**

The current vision of the Academy Trust is to make sure that every school in the Trust offers the minimum of a good education to the children of the communities they serve. Community is very important to the Academy Trust and we want to develop a successful Trust for local children. Our Academies are at the heart of their local communities and strive to deliver on our founding principles of Inclusion, Progression and Excellence which supports a central vision of 'Students First'.

The principle of Inclusion provides opportunities for students of all abilities, aspirations and backgrounds and involving staff, governors, students and the wider community in determining the direction of our Trust. Our curriculums are broad and challenging, with the academic success of students at the heart of what we do.

To enable Progression, the Academies strives to ensure all students achieve their potential and we provide effective advice and guidance. This means that learners have the tools to make informed and appropriate decisions for future study and employment, encouraging them to take on new challenges and reach higher levels of achievement. The focus on Excellence underpins all we do whether in learning areas; working in the community or governing and leading the Academies.

#### **Aims and Values**

Our aim is for all schools in the Trust to be inclusive, exciting centers for our communities. We wish to create a family of excellent Academies characterised by high achievement and success for all. We intend to grow our educational provision which will include "all through" provision from 3 to 18 years and work with post-16/18 providers to ensure that students can make informed choices on their educational/employment opportunities when they leave the MAT. We will never lose sight of our key priority, putting students first.

Underpinning this vision are our values which will:

- Support the emotional health and wellbeing of all members of the Trust – including students, staff and parents;
- Provide a learning environment which promotes high standards and places an unrelenting emphasis on meaningful, motivational and challenging learning;
- Wish to achieve consistently outstanding educational achievement for all our students;
- Have high expectations of behaviour;
- Wish to ensure NCDAT is outward looking and continues to promote and develop mutual support and collaboration between our Academies and other educational providers;
- Celebrate the unique identity of communities we serve and to ensure each Academy is at the heart of its community; and;
- Promote and sustain a safe, caring, but challenging culture inside and outside of the classroom; and;
- Prepare our students for the next steps of their educational and life journey.

To underpin the vision, aims and values, the Academy Trust's Development Plan has 7 strategic priorities as detailed below: -

- Improving the Quality of Education, Attitudes and Outcomes
- Developing leadership at all levels
- Ensure systems, infrastructure and resources which support learning, school improvement and expansion
- Financial stability of Academies and Trust and improved environmental sustainability
- Establishing a shared learning culture through employee development, engagement, wellbeing and collaboration opportunities
- Ensuring strong Governance and Compliance
- Sustainable Trust growth

## NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Wellfield School joined the Academy Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, the benefits of Wellfield School joining the Academy Trust includes staff benefiting from career progression through a wider number of schools, enhanced professional development, strong Corporate Support Services and high level of reserves. Overall this proposal has strengthened the Academy Trust and converted an existing maintained school into an Academy.

During 2023/24 it is also expected that the primary phase arm of the Academy Trust develops which would include Durham primary schools joining the Academy Trust. The Regional Schools Commission Advisory Board on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 approved 4 local primary schools to join the Academy Trust. It is anticipated that the Primary Schools will join the Academy Trust during the Spring Term 2024. This would develop stronger links within the community. By having a family of strong primary schools within the Academy Trust, ultimately the Academy Trust would be able to support other primary schools.

2022/23 has been a year of significant change, which has seen the Trust moving from two Schools, one of which had an Ofsted judgement of "Requires Improvement", to three schools all of which have a "Good" Ofsted judgement and the approval for an additional 4 "Good" Primary Schools to join the Academy Trust. Once the initial Primary Schools join the Academy Trust, it is expected that further Primary Schools will join in 2024/25, all from within County Durham.

#### Achievements and Performance – North Durham Academy

##### School Characteristics

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
School Characteristics				
Numbers on roll	924	982	1,017	1,036
% pupils known to be eligible for Pupil Premium	52%	52%	59%	54%
% pupils speaking English as an additional language	1%	2%	3%	4%
% pupils with Special Needs Education (SEN) (including statements)	14%	23%	25%	20%

##### Student Outcomes Key Stage 4 – North Durham Academy

Details of North Durham Academy's Year 11 examination performance is detailed in the table below.

	2022/23
Progress 8	-0.80
English Progress	-0.78
Maths Progress	-0.93
English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) Progress	-0.90
Open Progress	-0.52
Basics (EM) 4+	39.8%
Basics (EM) 5+	21.1%
Attainment 8	36.04
Ebacc Attainment	9.77

The academy's outcomes have declined in the majority of areas when compared to the 2019 data. Languages standard pass has significantly improved, with a slight improvement in 9-5 disadvantaged basics. Progress 8 overall is -0.77, without the 19 outliers it would have been -0.5. However, this is a decline from 2019 when Progress 8 was -0.38.



**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****North Durham Academy – Future Plans**

North Durham Academy progress against 2022/23 targets together with 2023/24 targets are stated in the table below.

	<b>2022/23 Target</b>	<b>2022/23 Actuals</b>	<b>2023/24 Targets</b>
Progress 8	0.01	-0.80	0
% 9-5 in English and Maths	46	21.1	43.0
% 9-5 in English	60	35.7	58.0
% 9-5 in Maths	51	25.1	49.0
% 9-4 in English and Maths	70	39.8	61.0
% 9-4 in English	77	53.8	71.0
% 9-4 in Maths	75	42.7	67.0
% Science Standard Pass	73	42.3	69.0
% Science Strong Pass	51	23.9	44.0
% Languages Standard Pass	65	60.3	71.0
% Languages Strong Pass	49	39.7	54.0

Attendance	95%	85%	93%
Persistent Absenteeism *		47%	28%
Suspension **	16%	89%	40%

\*% of students with less than 90% attendance

\*\*No suspensions/total number of students

North Durham Academy's improvement plan has four areas for improvement as detailed below: -

- **Quality of Education** – The Academy will continue to improve and strengthen the quality and consistency of teaching and assessment for all children. The Academy will also improve feedback/live marking to ensure progress and to review the assessment system for Key Stage 3 and to continue to embed and develop good practice at Key Stage 4. A high-quality literacy provision will become embedded. Furthermore, proactive intervention and increased accuracy of assessment will take place together with improved delivery of the 6-part lesson sequence to enable students to make good progress in their learning. SEND provision will be improved through quality first teaching. The Academy aims to achieve a progress 8 score for Year 11 in line with national averages.
- **Behaviour and Attitudes** – The Academy will improve attendance so it is in line with the national average and to ensure that all children arrive on time for school and minimise internal truancy / lateness. There will be a reduction in the number of suspensions. The Academy will create an effective provision at wave 2 and 3 to support students with specific needs. Alternative Provision effectiveness will be monitored. Low level disruption and passive learning in lessons will be eradicated and there will be increased engagement/collaboration with positive habits for learning.
- **Personal Development** – The Academy will further develop student voice and continue to provide good Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance. There will be a focus on student's mental health and wellbeing to build resilient learners and improve and embed an effective personal development curriculum.
- **Leadership and Management** – The Academy will develop staff at all levels and continue to maximise the benefits of the appraisal process. Safeguarding will continue to be a strength and governance will continue to be strong and ensure that the school has a clear vision and strategy for improvement.

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****Achievements and Performance****Consett Academy****School Characteristics**

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Numbers on roll	1,437	1,547	1,575	1,586
% pupils known to be eligible for Pupil Premium	39%	37%	34%	33%
% pupils speaking English as an additional language	3%	3%	1%	4%
% pupils with SEN (including statements)	12%	13%	14%	14%

**Student Outcomes Key Stage 4 – Consett Academy**

Details of Consett Academy's Year 11 examination performance is detailed in the table below.

**Student Outcomes Key Stage 4**

	2022/23
Progress 8	-0.37
English Progress	-0.39
Maths Progress	-0.58
English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) Progress	-0.62
Open Progress	-0.13
Basics (EM) 4+	58%
Basics (EM) 5+	36%
Attainment 8	43.5
Ebacc Attainment	12

The Academy's outcomes have improved during 2022/23 with the Progress 8 score increasing from -0.49 to -0.37. There have also been improvements in Maths Progress, English Baccalaureate Progress and Open Progress.

**Student Outcomes Key Stage 5****Progress Measures**

Academic				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
No of Students	46	35	55	50
No of Entries	123	107	180	161.5
Overall VA	+0.56	+0.43	n/a	n/a

**Attainment**

Academic									
2020/21			2021/22			2022/23			
	Acad	Nat	Gap	Acad	Nat	Gap	Acad	Nat	Gap
Overall Average points score	41			39.11			29.73		
Overall Grade	B=			B+			C=		

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****CONSETT ACADEMY - FUTURE PLANS**

Consett Academy progress against 2022/23 targets together with 2023/24 targets are stated in the table below.

**Key stage 4**

	<b>2022/23 Targets</b>	<b>2022/23 Actuals</b>	<b>2023/24 Targets</b>
Progress 8	0.01	-0.37	0
% 9-5 in English and Maths	60	35.8	45.0
% 9-5 in English	70	54.4	61.0
% 9-5 in Maths	60	40.2	51.0
% 9-4 in English and Maths	76	57.8	66.0
% 9-4 in English	80	73.6	74.0
% 9-4 in Maths	80	61.1	71.0
% Science Standard Pass	79	49.4	71.0
% Science Strong Pass	60	24.5	46.0
% Languages Standard Pass	95	85.7	82.0
% Languages Strong Pass	80	71.4	69.0

Attendance	95%	88%	93%
Persistent Absenteeism*		42%	28%
Suspension**	6.00%	27%	20%

\*% of students with less than 90% attendance

\*\*No suspension/total number of students

**Key Stage 5**

	<b>2022/23 Targets</b>	<b>2022/23 Actuals</b>	<b>2023/24 Targets</b>
<b>L3 Overall</b>			
Students included in L3 Overall Cohort	55	50	76
L3 Overall Average Points per Entry	31.11	29.73	38
L3 Overall Average Grade	B+	C=	B=
L3 Overall Total Entries	174	161.5	231
<b>A-Level</b>			
Students included in A Level Cohort	55	48	73
A Level Average Points per Entry	39.07	28.86	38.65
A Level Average Grade	B+	C=	B=
A Level Total Entries	150	131.5	163
<b>Applied General</b>			
Students included in Applied General Cohort	21	19	33
Applied General Average Points per Entry	39.38	33.1	38
Applied General Average Grade	Dist+	Dist-	Dist+
Applied General Total Entries	24	19	53

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Consett Academy Development Plan 2023-24 has 4 priorities detailed below: -

- **Quality of Education** – The Academy will ensure high quality teaching across all lessons by addressing the teaching and learning priorities. There will be improvement in the quality of assessment at Key Stage 3, so that progress is better and data more accurate. All staff will access effective and bespoke CPD. The literacy strategy will ensure our curriculum and teaching develops high levels of literacy for all students. Finally, the Academy will further improve outcomes and recruitment in the Sixth Form
- **Behaviour and Attitudes** – The Academy will improve behaviour and instil increased expectations with uniform. There is an expectation that students will play a highly positive role in the academy, including student ambassadors. There will be effective oversight of Alternative Provision. There will be an improvement with attendance being above national average.
- **Personal Development** – Personal Development will adhere to statutory guidance and enable students to debate and discuss key concepts. The Academy will design a tutor programme that interleave the key concepts of British Values, protected characteristics and other PSHE concepts.
- **Leadership and Management** – The Academy will develop Heads of Year to ensure impact on progress/achievement and ensure staff at all levels are focused on the progress of pupils particularly in key groups. Governors will continue to play a key role in the Quality Assurance of the Academy.

**Achievements and Performance – Wellfield School****School Characteristics**

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
School Characteristics				
Numbers on roll	846	856	903	928
% pupils known to be eligible for Pupil Premium	44.5%	44%	41%	44%
% pupils speaking English as an additional language	0.95%	1%	1.6%	1.6%
% pupils with Special Needs Education (SEN) (including statements)	19.3%	20.9%	19.4%	17.5%

**Student Outcomes Key Stage 4 – Wellfield School**

Details of Wellfield School's Year 11 examination performance is detailed in the table below.

	2022/23
Progress 8	-0.21
English Progress	-0.63
Maths Progress	-0.07
English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) Progress	-0.19
Open Progress	+0.10
Basics (EM) 4+	61.1%
Basics (EM) 5+	35.9%
Attainment 8	45.15
Ebacc Attainment	12.91

Wellfield School outcomes produced a Progress 8 score of -0.21 it is expected that in 2023/24 a positive Progress 8 score will again be produced.

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****Wellfield School – Future Plans**

Wellfield School progress against 2022/23 targets together with 2023/24 targets are stated in the table below.

	<b>2022/2023 Actuals</b>	<b>Target 2023/24</b>
Progress 8	-0.21	+0.1
% 9-5 in English and Maths	35.9	50.0
% 9-5 in English	45.5	66.0
% 9-5 in Maths	49.7	60.0
% 9-4 in English and Maths	61.1	68.0
% 9-4 in English	67.7	78.0
% 9-4 in Maths	70.1	74.0
% Science Standard Pass	52.9	67.0
% Science Strong Pass	36.2	48.0
% Languages Standard Pass	60.4	67.0
% Languages Strong Pass	34	49.0

Attendance	88%	93%
Persistent Absenteeism*	38%	28%
Suspension**	47%	20%

\*% of students with less than 90% attendance

\*\*No suspensions/total number of students

Wellfield School's School Improvement Plan has five areas for improvement as detailed below: -

- **Quality of Education** – The Academy will raise achievement for all Year 11 students, with a focus on Pupil Premium, High Prior Attaining and SEND. The Academy will continue to develop a culture of reading across subject areas and beyond the classroom, and further develop intervention strategies to raise reading ages for students who are below their chronological reading age. There is an expectation that English results will achieve a positive Progress 8 score and shared best practice for extended writing will be developed. Furthermore, whole school expectations for accountable talk will be embedded and improved use of assessment to personalise teaching and implement effective interventions. There will be further development of high-quality teaching across all lessons by delivering bespoke teaching and learning training linked to the new Academy Trust Teaching and Learning policy. Extra curricula will be fine-tuned serving the needs of all students with a particular focus on Pupil Premium, and SEND.
- **Behaviour and Attitudes** – The Academy will reduce the number of suspensions and permanent exclusions, particularly for SEND students. Outstanding habits for behaviour for learning will become embedded. The positive learning environment will be further developed to allow all groups of students to feel safe and supported through staff ensuring they have up to date knowledge of inclusion legislation and best practice. Robust monitoring and escalation procedures for attendance will be developed, leading to an increase in overall attendance. The number of students who leave roll for Elective Home Education will be reduced. There will be improved punctuality to both school and lessons.
- **SEND expectations** for the progress of SEND students across the school, particularly in Key Stage 3 will be raised. The effectiveness of SEND transition will be increased. The capacity and efficiency of the SEND team will be increased.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

- **Personal Development** – The Academy will Diversify the extra-curricular offer and track engagement to ensure proportional representation of key sub-groups, particularly SEND and Pupil Premium students. The 8 Gatsby benchmarks will further develop an active careers programme. The School will develop student's resilience, confidence to prepare them for adult life and skills to engage in society and the transition programme will be developed. Student leadership will be further developed and community links will be extended.
- **Leadership and Management** – The Academy will engage with all stakeholder behind a compelling school mission statement, underpinned by strong values that permeate all strategic discussions, decisions and actions. Stakeholders voices will be considered in the improvement journey.

### **NCDAT – ACADEMY TRUST – FUTURE PLANS**

At an Academy Trust level, the following strategic priorities have been identified

- **Improving the Quality of Education, Attitudes and Outcomes**
  - Develop and deliver an ambitious, relevant and responsive curriculum inside and outside the classroom
  - Enhance aspirational and inspirational teaching which delivers student progression, outcomes and better life chances
  - Support all our stakeholders to become healthy, safe, engaged members of the academy and community they live in
- **Developing leadership at all levels**
  - All leaders understand the clear and ambitious vision for providing high-quality education to all students
  - Develop a framework for developing leaders and managers across all aspects of the Trust
  - Ensure robust succession planning
- **Ensure systems, infrastructure and resources support learning, school improvement and expansion**
  - Develop effective central services and systems to support schools demonstrate our commitment to drive improvement
  - Ensure, IT Estates and Corporate Strategies support school improvement
  - Harmonise systems and software to reduce staff workload, increase efficiencies and optimise evidence-based decision making through use of data and collaboration
- **Continued financial stability of academies and Trust and improved sustainability**
  - Ensure medium term financial plans are balanced
  - Maximisation of external grants, trading opportunities and investigate options to improve the efficiency of the Trust
  - Improved sustainability of the Academies Trust to align to the outcomes from COP26
- **Establish a shared learning culture through employee development, engagement and wellbeing and collaboration opportunities**
  - Develop all staff to become experts in their area or subject specialism to support a career pathway and progression
  - Provide opportunities to further develop a well-trained and motivated workforce to increase staff retention and progression within the Trust
  - Develop a modern approach to staff well-being, work life balance and ensure staff rewards and recognition are part of the culture
- **Strong Governance and Compliance**
  - Embed governor development programme, including formalising governor training
  - Ensure that the Trust has a culture of challenge to further improve and ensure compliance in all areas
  - Continue to develop the risk and business strategies that provide stakeholders with the appropriate assurances

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

- Sustainable Trust Growth
  - Demonstrate Trust capacity through improvements in existing schools securing Good or better Ofsted judgements recognised by parents, future partners and DfE
  - Increase student numbers through transition, recruitment and through additional schools joining the Trust
  - Maximise opportunities to ensure our schools have the capacity to develop

#### **Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

#### **Financial Review**

Most of the Academy Trust's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE/ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE/ESFA. In accordance with The Charities SORP (FRS102), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, total expenditure of £25,215k was in excess of recurrent grant funding from the DfE/ESFA together with other incoming resources.

All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the Academy Trusts objectives. At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £64,769k and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 11 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the academy.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of the LGPS pensions scheme, resulting in an actuarial gain of £1,131k recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £67,745k comprising £66,542k of restricted funds and £1,203k of unrestricted funds.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The Academy Trust holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds). Restricted and unrestricted funds are held:

- To provide funds which can be designated to specific areas such as investment in fixed assets over and above capital grants from the ESFA
- To meet future lifecycle costs associated with maintaining and replacing plant and equipment and infrastructure in the academies' new buildings
- To provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The level of reserves is reviewed by the Trustees regularly throughout the year. The minimum level of reserves for the ongoing needs of the Academy Trust is reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Academy Trust is conscious of balancing the need to retain an acceptable level of reserves whilst not holding excessive reserves with no long-term plan for investment. It therefore considers the minimum level of reserves (excluding ring-fenced ICT and Premises reserves) to be at least 8% of General Annual Grant income which is sufficient to cover 4 weeks routine expenditure and unexpected emergency costs.

In relation to General Reserves Trustees expect the following: -

- General Reserves will be as a minimum 8% of General Annual Grant Income, which is deemed sufficient to cover 4 weeks expenditure (excluding depreciation).
- Individual Academies would not be required to automatically contribute to the general reserves as long as the general reserve is above this benchmark.
- Should the level of general reserves drop below the above limit contributions will be made from academy budgets until the above benchmarks is exceeded. The period of repayment and individual schools making the contribution will depend on the under-pinning reasons.
- Should the level of general reserves exceed the above limits a business case will be produced and the CEO may agree to fund any of the following activities: -
  - Additional support for an Academy within the Academy Trust
  - Development of management/leadership capacity
  - School Improvement initiatives, linked to the Trust Development Plan
  - Support of large-scale procurement exercises to implement efficiency programmes
  - Supporting restructuring programmes
  - Supporting agreed expenditure within the Business Continuity Planning
  - Funding to support Academy Trust expansion initiatives

The Trustees expect that sustainable long-term ICT and Premises ring-fenced refresh reserves are in place, which are under-pinned by the Academy Trust's capital strategy and long-term replacement schedules. Detailed expectations are as follows: -

- Fully funded Premises and ICT refresh reserves to be in place.
- An Academy Trust wide capital strategy to identify expenditure priorities, across the Trust estate, is in place which underpins the Premises and ICT reserve.
- Where required, increases are made to the reserves to ensure that the Premises and ICT reserves are sustainable.
- Devolved Formula Capital will be allocated to support the Premises and ICT refresh reserves, in line with the Academy Trust's capital strategy.



## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Academy Trust's current level of free reserves are £3,049k and therefore are considered to be above the minimum level of reserves required for the ongoing needs of the Academy Trust.

#### **Investment Policy**

Where the cash flow identifies a base level of cash funds that will be surplus to requirements these may be invested only in the following:

- Interest bearing deposit accounts
- Fixed term deposits (less than 364 days)
- UK registered Banks
- Banks registered with the Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The Academy Trust invests surplus funds and interest rates are reviewed prior to each investment. This policy maximises investment return however the over-riding factor is minimising risks to the principal sum. At the Balance Sheet date, the Academy Trust had £533k invested in deposit accounts with Lloyds Bank.

#### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The principal risks and uncertainties are centred on changes in the level of funding from the DfE/ESFA. In addition, the Academy Trust is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which results in the recognition of a significant deficit on the Academy Trust balance sheet.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks, to which the academy is exposed, in particular those relating to cost of staffing, quality of teaching, progress of students, staff retention, attendance of students and staff, cyber-attacks and other operational areas of the Academy Trust, and its finances.

The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academy Trust faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school visits) and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

The Academy Trust has fully implemented the requirements of the Keeping Children Safe in Education procedures and all staff have received training in this area.

The Academy Trust is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties in common with other academies. The Academy Trust has in place procedures to identify and mitigate financial risk.

#### **Disabled Persons**

New College Durham Academies Trust is committed under legal duties (Equality Act 2010) to eliminating all forms of discrimination and encouraging good relations and diversity amongst our workforce and student population, through the management and implementation of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and policy for the Academy Trust.

Lifts, ramps and disabled toilets are installed and door widths are adequate to enable wheelchair access to all main areas of the academy. The policy of the Academy Trust is to support recruitment and retention of students and employees with disabilities. The academy does this by adapting the physical environment by making support resources available and through training and career development.

#### **Covid19**

The effect of the Covid-19 pandemic reduced significantly during 2022/23 as the Academy Trust returned to pre-pandemic operating procedures. Trustees consider that the financial and operational control measures were unaffected by the pandemic. A significant amount of work has been undertaken in response to the recovery curriculum to ensure students learning is not negatively affected long term. The longer terms of aims of the Academy Trust have not been affected by Covid19 as of the end of the reporting period.

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****TRUSTEES' REPORT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023****Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting**

The Companies (Trustees' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 for accounting periods commencing after this date, which places a duty on companies to report energy and carbon information including, its UK annual energy use, the intensity ratio, methodologies used in calculation and a narrative of measures taken to improve energy efficiency.

The table below details the Streamlined Energy and Carbon report, including energy intensity ratio for the period 2018/19 to 2022/23.

	Gas Charges	Electricity Charges	Bio Fuel Charges	Total energy cost	Energy Intensity Ratio – Gas	Electricity Intensity Ratio – Electricity	Energy Intensity Ratio – Bio-Fuel	Total Energy Intensity Ratio
2018/19	£48,811	£166,584	£10,572	£225,967	679.7	639.8	139.8	1,459.4
2019/20	£56,594	£228,956	£13,762	£299,313	774.0	594.5	128.9	1,497.5
2020/21	£65,984	£180,213	£15,483	£261,680	712.7	498.7	112.7	1,323.2
2021/22	£99,061	£333,703	£4,991	£437,755	782.6	642.6	139.1	1,564.3
2022/23	£95,698	£432,892	£6,187	£534,778	719.2	754.2	22.0	1,481.3

The increase in total energy costs in 2022/23 is partially due to Wellfield joining the Academy Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023. The intensity ratio has been calculated by dividing the total KWh consumption by the number of pupil numbers. Work continues to reduce the Academy Trust's carbon footprint with the bio-fuel boiler at North Durham Academy and Combined Heat and Power plan at Consett both being maximised.

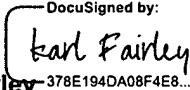
**Auditor**

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company trustee, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

**Signed**

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Karl Fairley 378E194DA08F4E8...  
 Trustee

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Statement of Governance**

#### **Governance Statement**

#### **Scope of Responsibility**

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that New College Durham Academies Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

During 2022/23 the board of trustees had delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs L Rodham as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between New College Durham Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### **Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
K D Fairley (Chair)	6	6
C Warren	6	6
A Broadbent	5	6
H Owen	0	1
A Shields	3	6
M Goodwin	2	2
B Frean	1	3
V Somerville (Vice Chair)	6	6
J Low	5	6
L Rodham	6	6
P Bradley	6	6
F Swinburn (Vice Chair)	6	6
J Shaw	4	6
F Blues	1	2

#### **Governance Review**

A review of the Academy Trust's Governance arrangements was carried out by the National Governance Association. The review focused on the effectiveness of the Academy Trust Board, and compliance issues. Following this review the Academy Trust has reviewed the Members of the Academy Trust.

During 2022/23 the Academy Trust Board has reviewed the terms of reference for the Local Governing Bodies, and other committees. In addition, succession planning and membership of all the Academy Trust's committees has been reviewed and a skills audit undertaken of the Local Governing Bodies.

The Audit and Risk Committee is a Committee of the main board of Trustees and is authorised to investigate any activity within its terms of reference or specifically delegated to it by the board. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee is to maintain an oversight of the Academy Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework. It reports its findings annually to the board of Trustees and the accounting officer as a critical element of the board's annual reporting requirements.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Statement of Governance**

<b>Governance Statement</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
<b>Trustee</b>		
A Broadbent (Chair)	3	4
K D Fairley	4	4
P Bradley	4	4

During 2022/23 the Education Standards Committee continued to meet which is a further sub-committee of the Academy Trust Board. The remit of this Board is

- To consider and approve targets for student progress, attainment and attendance.
- To receive reports, provide challenge and robustly debate on the progress towards targets, notably student progression and achievement by Year Groups and sub groups including SEND and Gifted and Talented.
- To monitor and evaluate the development and application of the quality strategy and the policies and procedures for quality assurance, self-assessment, improvement plans and curriculum and timetable provisions.
- To monitor and evaluate the application of equality and diversity policy, safeguarding, student exclusion and attendance.
- To monitor and review any other matters referred to it by ATB and advise and make recommendations to the ATB on the above as appropriate.

Attendance at the meetings in the year was as follows: -

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
J Low (Chair)	7	7
K Fairley	7	7
C Warren	7	7
A Shields	5	7
J Murray*	2	7
L Rodham	7	7
J Shaw	4	7
* Non-Director Member of the Committee		

A further sub-committee of the Academy Trust Board is the Resources Group, whom review the Corporate functions of the Academy trust. Attendance at the meetings in the year was as follows:

<b>Director</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
P Bradley (Chair)	3	3
F Swinburn	2	2
B Frean	0	2
L Rodham	1	3
C Warren	3	3
V Somerville	2	2

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Statement of Governance**

#### **Governance Statement (continued)**

##### **Review of Value for Money**

The accounting officer, has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the Academy Trust has delivered significant savings and improved value for money. The Academy Trust has secured the following savings secured by the Corporate Services Team: -

- Management accounts have reported the on-going improving budget position throughout the financial year, even considering the additional inflationary pressures. Overall an improved budget position with reserves increasing by £465k in 2022/23 and an Academy Trust wide balance budget with healthy level of reserves.
- Continuation of the external contracts, due to ICT Support, & Grounds Maintenance, during 2022/23 the Academy Trust secured £211k from other Academy Trusts.
- Implementation of a major comprehensive refresh programme during summer 2022/23 which included the installation of new audio/visual display monitors in all classrooms at Consett Academy and the installation of a new secure network at Wellfield School.
- The implementation of the new Management Information System has been completed with the transfer to Arbor taking place from September 2023. Moving to Arbor introduces a trust wide Management Information System which is pivotal as the Academy Trust expands.
- External Lettings, continue at both Wellfield School and North Durham Academy. 2023/24 will be the first full year of operations at two schools and income of £170k is anticipated.
- The Academy Trust has been successful in securing additional external funding during 2022/23. In total £662k of additional funding has been secured across a range of funders, including Department for Education (Condition Improvement Fund and Trust Capacity Fund), Tesco Community Grants, Durham County Council (Fun & Food, Opening School Facilities), Cash 4 Kids, Woodlands Trust and The Turing Scheme.
- The Academy Trust continues to utilise Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning techniques for the Schools within the Academy Trust.

##### **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them effectively, efficiently and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in New College Durham Academies Trust for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

##### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The board of Trustees have reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Trustees.

## NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST

### Statement of Governance

#### Governance Statement (continued)

##### The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and monthly financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees
- regular reviews by the Corporate Services Group of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks

The board of Trustees considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided to appoint Auditone as internal auditor with effect from 1 September 2020.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- IT Service Desk
- Business Continuity
- Estates Management
- Interim Review of Performance Management
- System Access Management
- Follow up review

The auditor reported to the board of Trustees, through the Audit and Risk committee on a termly basis on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

All work set out in the audit plan was completed as scheduled. Outstanding audit recommendations continue to be worked on, with termly updates of progress presented to the Audit and Risk Committee. Wylie & Bisset LLP have continued as the Academy Trust's external auditors during 2022/23.

##### Review of Effectiveness

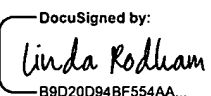
As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer Mrs L Rodham, has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- The work of the internal auditor
- The work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit and Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

**Signed**

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**L Rodham**  
**Accounting Officer**

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**Karl Fairley**  
**Chair**

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

As Accounting Officer of New College Durham Academies Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board and the Education and Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and ESFA.

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**L Rodham, Accounting Officer**  
**13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

## NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who act as governors of New College Durham Academies Trust and are also the trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction published by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards [FRS 102] have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform to the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**K Fairley, Chair  
Trustee**



## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of New College Durham Academies Trust**

We have audited the financial statements of New College Durham Academies Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the report and financial statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of New College Durham Academies Trust**

#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report & Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report & Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report & Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### **Responsibilities of the Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 22, the trustees, who are also the directors of New College Durham Academies Trust for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud**

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we considered the following:

- The nature of the academy, the environment in which it operates, and the control procedures implemented by management and the trustees; and
- Our enquiries of management and trustees about their identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

Based on our understanding of the academy and the sector we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to, but were not limited to;

- Regulations and legislation pertinent to the academy's operations

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of New College Durham Academies Trust**

We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material impact on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of management override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to;

- Posting inappropriate journal entries.

Audit response to the risks identified;

Our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following;

- Gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the academy and the sector in which it operates;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management, trustees and legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance, reviewing internal audit reports and reviewing correspondence with the Department for Education and Education & Skills Funding Agency,
- In addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; evaluating rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

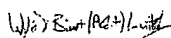
### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of New College Durham Academies Trust**

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and in respect of the separate opinion in relation to compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency on terms that have been agreed.

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:



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Scott Gillon BA (Hons) FCCA, CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
Wylie & Bisset (Audit) Limited  
Statutory Auditor  
168 Bath Street  
Glasgow  
G2 4TP

Date 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to New College Durham Academies Trust and the Education Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by New College Durham Academies Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to New College Durham Academies Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to New College Durham Academies Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than New College Durham Academies Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of New College Durham Academies Trust accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of New College Durham Academies Trust funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Direct consideration and corroboration of evidence used to inform the accounting officer's statements;
- Procedures to assess compliance with the funding agreement and Academies Financial Handbook from those already performed as part of the audit;
- Consideration of whether expenditure outside of the academies delegated authorities has received departmental approval;
- Evaluation and assessment of the operating effectiveness of the general control environment and operational level which are intended to reduce the risk of irregularity;
- Assessment of adequacy of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities;
- Testing transactions with connected parties to determine whether the Academy Trust has complied with the 'at cost' requirement of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

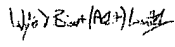
### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to New College Durham Acadmies Trust and the Education Funding Agency**

- Consideration of whether the absence of a control represents a breach of authorities;
- Review of accounts or transactions susceptible to a greater risk of impropriety such as credit cards and cash accounts.

This list is not exhaustive and we performed additional procedures designed to provide us with additional appropriate evidence to express a conclusion on regularity consistent with the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

### **Conclusion**

In the course of our work nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Scott Gillon BA (Hons) FCCA, CA  
Reporting Accountant  
Wylie & Bisset (Audit) Limited  
Statutory Auditor

Date 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**  
**(including Income and Expenditure Account)**

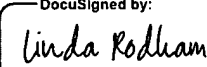
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	7	12	615	<b>634</b>	111
- Transfer on conversion	2a			24,866	<b>24,866</b>	-
Charitable activities	3	-	22,646	-	<b>22,646</b>	17,537
Other trading activities	4	792	-	-	<b>792</b>	1,056
Investments	5	39	-	-	<b>39</b>	2
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>838</b>	<b>22,658</b>	<b>25,481</b>	<b>48,977</b>	<b>18,706</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities:	6,7	1,140	22,530	1,545	<b>25,215</b>	20,395
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1,140</b>	<b>22,530</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>25,215</b>	<b>20,395</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>		<b>(302)</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>23,936</b>	<b>23,762</b>	<b>(1,689)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	15	162	-	(162)	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/ income before other gains and losses</b>		<b>(140)</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>23,744</b>	<b>23,762</b>	<b>(1,689)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains / (losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	1,131	-	<b>1,131</b>	7,132
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(140)</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>23,774</b>	<b>24,893</b>	<b>5,443</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		1,343	70	41,439	<b>42,852</b>	37,409
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>65,213</b>	<b>67,745</b>	<b>42,852</b>

All of the Academy Trust's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

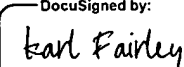
**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Balance Sheet  
As at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

	Notes	2023 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2022 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		64,769		40,831
<b>Current assets</b>					
Current investments	18	500		-	
Stock	12	-		-	
Debtors	13	1,318		876	
Cash at bank and in hand	18	4,510		4,413	
		<u>6,328</u>		<u>5,289</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(2,835)</u>		<u>(2,097)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>3,493</u>		<u>3,192</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>68,262</u>		<u>44,023</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>68,262</u>		<u>44,023</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		<u>(517)</u>		<u>(1,171)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>67,745</u>		<u>42,852</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
. Fixed Asset Fund	15	65,213		41,439	
. Restricted Income fund	15	1,846		1,241	
. Pension Reserve		<u>(517)</u>		<u>(1,171)</u>	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>66,542</u>		<u>41,509</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	15		<u>1,203</u>		<u>1,343</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>67,745</u>		<u>42,852</u>

The financial statements on pages 29 to 49 were approved by the Board of Trustees, and authorised for issue on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**L Rodham**  
Accounting Officer

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Karl Fairley, Chair**  
Trustee

**Company Number: 07195175**



**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Cash Flow Statement****For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

	Notes	<b>2023</b> <b>£000</b>	2022 £000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	<b>561</b>	802
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends, interest and income from investments		<b>35</b>	2
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		-	4
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<b>(614)</b>	(905)
Capital grants/ Contributions		<b>615</b>	93
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>36</b>	(806)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>597</b>	(4)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022</b>		4,413	4,417
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023</b>	18	<b>5,010</b>	4,413

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

#### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

##### **1.1. Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard. Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by EFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

New College Durham Academies Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

##### **1.2. Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education.

##### **1.3. Going Concern**

The Directors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The Directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least on year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### **1.4. Income**

All income is recognised once the Academy Trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

#### **Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

##### **1.5. Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Charitable activities are costs incurred on the Academy Trust's educational operations. Including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Academy Trust apportioned to the charitable activities.

All resources expended are stated inclusive of any irrecoverable VAT.

##### **1.6. Tangible Fixed Assets**

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and are depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long term leasehold property	-	over 50 years
Long term leasehold land	-	over 125 years
Fixtures and fittings	-	over 2 to 5 years
Computer equipment	-	over 3 years

##### **1.7. Interest Receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Academy Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

##### **1.8. Stock**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

##### **1.9. Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

##### **1.10. Cash at Bank and Hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

#### **Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

##### **1.11. Liabilities**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

##### **1.12. Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Academy Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

##### **1.13. Financial Instruments**

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

##### **1.14. Leased Assets**

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

##### **1.15. Taxation**

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

##### **1.16. Pension Benefits**

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes.

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

#### **Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)**

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 19, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

#### **1.17. Agency Arrangements**

The Academy Trust acts as an agent distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received are paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 23.

#### **1.18. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

##### *Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:*

The Academy Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2020 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****2. Donations and capital grants**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
Capital Grants	-	615	615	93
Donations	7	12	18	18
	<u>7</u>	<u>627</u>	<u>634</u>	<u>111</u>

**2a. Conversion to an Academy Trust**

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 an Academy Order was approved to allow Wellfield School to join the Academy Trust.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 the Wellfield School converted to academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and fixed assets transferred to the New College Durham Academies Trust for £nil consideration. All liabilities were extinguished prior to transfer.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet with a corresponding net amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations – transferred on conversion.

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000</b>	<b>Total £000</b>
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	24,866	24,866
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,866</u>	<u>24,866</u>

**3. Funding for the Trust's Educational Operations**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
<b>DfE / EFA grants</b>				
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	19,350	19,350	15,245
. Pupil Premium	-	1,222	1,222	994
. Other DfE/EFA grants	-	1,391	1,391	540
Sen Funding	-	217	217	114
. Other Government Grants	-	2	2	25
. Other Grants	-	410	410	407
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,592</u>	<u>22,592</u>	<u>17,325</u>
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	54	54	212
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,646</u>	<u>22,646</u>	<u>17,537</u>

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****4. Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
Sundry Income	549	-	549	977
Catering Income	18	-	18	-
Uniform	19	-	19	2
School Trips	206	-	206	77
	<u>792</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>792</u>	<u>1,056</u>

**5. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
Investment Income	39	-	39	2
	<u>39</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>2</u>

**6. Expenditure**

	<b>Staff Costs £000</b>	<b>Non-Pay Expenditure</b>		<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
		<b>Premises £000</b>	<b>Other £000</b>		
Academy's educational operations:					
. Direct costs	13,157	-	2,505	15,662	13,363
. Allocated support costs	3,180	4,936	1,437	9,553	7,032
	<u>16,337</u>	<u>4,936</u>	<u>3,942</u>	<u>25,215</u>	<u>20,395</u>

Net Income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	<b>2023 £000</b>	<b>2022 £000</b>
Depreciation	1,545	1,309
Gain/ Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	4
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****7. Charitable Activities**

	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
Direct costs – educational operations	<b>15,662</b>	<b>13,363</b>
Support costs – educational operations	<b>9,553</b>	<b>7,032</b>
	<b>25,215</b>	<b>20,395</b>

<b>Analysis of direct costs</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>9,591</b>	<b>9,439</b>
National insurance	<b>1,016</b>	<b>588</b>
Pension cost	<b>2,549</b>	<b>1,850</b>
Educational supplies	<b>1,486</b>	<b>943</b>
Examination fees	<b>252</b>	<b>164</b>
Staff development	<b>55</b>	<b>51</b>
Technology costs	<b>346</b>	<b>164</b>
Educational consultancy	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>
Travel and subsistence	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>
Other direct costs	<b>347</b>	<b>148</b>
	<b>15,662</b>	<b>13,363</b>

<b>Analysis of support costs</b>	<b>Educational operations £000</b>	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
Wages & Salaries	2,672	2,672	1,944
National Insurance	159	159	89
Pension Cost	352	352	144
Depreciation	1,545	1,545	1,309
Net interest cost on pension scheme	41	41	124
Technology Costs	152	152	84
Recruitment and Support	50	50	62
Maintenance of Premises and Equipment	440	440	391
Cleaning	480	480	435
Rates	153	153	139
Energy	535	535	416
Insurance	77	77	66
Other	1,703	1,703	778
Transport	165	165	156
Catering	598	598	490
Occupancy Costs	22	22	49
Bank Interest & Charges	4	4	4
Other support costs	346	346	250
Governance costs	59	59	102
<b>Total support costs</b>	<b>9,553</b>	<b>9,553</b>	<b>7,032</b>



**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****8. Staff Costs****a. Staff costs during the period were:**

	<b>Total 2023 £000</b>	<b>Total 2022 £000</b>
Wages and salaries	11,397	10,412
Social security costs	1,175	676
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	2,902	1,994
	<b>15,474</b>	<b>13,082</b>
Supply staff costs	865	972
	<b>16,339</b>	<b>14,054</b>

**b. Special Staff severance payments**

Special severance payments totalling £42,000 (2022: £nil) were paid during the year. Individually, the payments were: £20,000, £11,000, £8,000 and £3,000.

**c. Staff numbers**

The average number of persons employed by the academy during the period was as follows:

	<b>2023 No.</b>	<b>2022 No.</b>
Teachers	160	157
Teaching Support	79	51
Corporate Support	52	35
Management	22	10
	<b>313</b>	<b>253</b>

**d. Higher paid staff**

The number of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 was:

	<b>2023 No.</b>	<b>2022 No.</b>
£60,001 - £70,000	10	3
£70,001 - £80,000	4	3
£80,001 - £90,000	2	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£100,001 - £110,000	1	-
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Executive Principal, Principal, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Director of ICT and Estates and Deputy Principals as listed on pages 1 and 2. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer contributions) received by the key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £715,051 (2022: £1,125,156).

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****9. Related Party Transactions - Trustees' and Directors' Remuneration and Expenses**

During the year, no Directors received any remuneration as none of the Directors, are employees of the Academy Trust (2022 - £NIL).

During the year, one Director had expenses paid worth £271 (2022 – £177 for one director).

During the year, no Directors received any benefits in kind. The Accounting Officer, is an employee of the Academy Trust and also received no benefits in kind (2022 - £NIL).

**10. Trustees', Directors' and Officers' Insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2023 was included within the insurance premium and is not separately identified.

**11. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Long term leasehold land and property £000	Fixtures and Fittings £000	Computer Equipment £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2022	47,233	5,059	5,880	22	58,194
Additions	109	98	410	-	617
Donated Assets	24,838	13	15	-	24,866
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	72,180	5,170	6,305	22	83,677
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2022	7,599	4,664	5,090	10	17,363
Charged in year	1,022	113	398	12	1,545
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	8,621	4,777	5,488	22	18,908
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 August 2022	39,634	395	790	12	40,831
At 31 August 2023	63,559	393	817	0	64,769

**12. Stock**

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Finished goods and goods for resale	-	-
	-	-

*Finished goods and goods for resale held totals £360. With the level of rounding this is not shown.*

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****13. Debtors**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Trade debtors	174	150
VAT recoverable	161	283
Other debtors	9	6
Prepayments and accrued income	973	437
	<b>1,317</b>	<b>876</b>

**14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Trade creditors	654	717
Other creditors	808	665
Accruals and deferred income	1,373	715
	<b>2,835</b>	<b>2,097</b>

**14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	501	323
Released from previous years	(501)	(323)
Resources deferred in the year	1,224	501
Deferred Income at 31 August 2023	<b>1,224</b>	<b>501</b>

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for lettings booked for the autumn term 2023.

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****15. Statement of Funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,241	19,350	(18,745)	-	1,846
Pupil Premium	-	1,222	(1,222)	-	-
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	1,391	(1,391)	-	-
Other Government grants	-	219	(219)	-	-
Other grants	-	464	(464)	-	-
Donations	-	12	(12)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,171)	-	(477)	1,131	(517)
	70	22,658	(22,530)	1,131	1,329
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Legacy assets	40,016	-	(1,523)	3	38,496
Wellfield Assets	-	24,866	-	-	24,866
Devolved formula capital	137	48	-	(115)	70
Capital expenditure from GAG	(127)	329	-	-	202
Premises funding	808	-	-	12	820
Capital expenditure funded from	11	-	(11)	-	-
Revenue Contribution	-	238	-	-	238
Other capital	155	-	(11)	-	144
ICT funding	438	-	-	(62)	376
	41,439	25,481	(1,545)	(162)	65,213
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>41,509</b>	<b>48,139</b>	<b>(24,075)</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>66,542</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>(1,140)</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>1,203</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>42,852</b>	<b>48,977</b>	<b>(25,215)</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>67,745</b>

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****15. Statement of Funds (continued) – prior year**

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	865	15,244	(14,868)	-	1,241
Pupil Premium	-	994	(994)	-	-
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	540	(540)	-	-
Other Government grants	-	140	(140)	-	-
Other grants	-	619	(619)	-	-
Donations	-	7	(7)	-	-
Pension reserve	(7,498)	-	(805)	7,132	(1,171)
	<b>(6,633)</b>	<b>17,544</b>	<b>(17,973)</b>	<b>7,132</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Legacy assets	40,443	-	(427)	-	40,016
Devolved Formula Capital	222	51	-	(136)	137
Capital expenditure from GAG	9	-	(136)	-	(127)
Premises funding	851	-	-	(43)	808
Capital expenditure funded from ICT reserve	324	-	(313)	-	11
Revenue contribution	-	-	(348)	348	-
Other capital	240	42	(85)	(42)	155
ICT Funding	752	-	-	(313)	438
<b>Total restricted fixed asset funds</b>	<b>42,841</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>(1,309)</b>	<b>(186)</b>	<b>41,439</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>36,208</b>	<b>17,637</b>	<b>(19,282)</b>	<b>6,946</b>	<b>41,509</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>(1,113)</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1,343</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>37,409</b>	<b>18,706</b>	<b>(20,395)</b>	<b>7,132</b>	<b>42,852</b>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance and insurance.

Pupil Premium is to be used as the school sees fit to support disadvantaged children, in line with the approved Pupil Premium strategy. SEN is income received from Durham County Council to be used for special educational needs costs.

Other government grants relate to monies received from and due back to DCC due to pupil transfers, and other government grants.

Unrestricted funds are to be used as the trustees deem necessary.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****15. Statement of Funds (continued)****Analysis of fund balance by Academies**

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
North Durham Academy	935	917
Consett Academy	1,858	1,510
Wellfield School	97	-
NCDAT	142	143
Trust	17	14
Total before fixed asset fund and pension reserve	<b>3,049</b>	2,584
Restricted fixed asset fund	<b>65,213</b>	41,439
Pension reserve	<b>(517)</b>	(1,171)
Total	<b>67,745</b>	42,852

**16. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds**

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Fixed Asset</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	64,769	<b>64,769</b>	<b>40,831</b>
Current assets	4,038	1,846	444	<b>6,328</b>	<b>5,289</b>
Current liabilities	(2,835)	-	-	<b>(2,835)</b>	<b>(2,097)</b>
Pension Scheme Liability		(517)		<b>(517)</b>	<b>(1,171)</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>65,213</b>	<b>67,745</b>	<b>42,852</b>

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****16. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds (continued) – prior year**

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022 £000</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021 £000</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	40,831	<b>40,831</b>	41,235
Current assets	3,440	1,241	608	<b>5,289</b>	5,128
Current liabilities	(2,097)	-	-	<b>(2,097)</b>	(1,456)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,171)	-	<b>(1,171)</b>	(7,498)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>41,439</b>	<b>42,852</b>	<b>37,409</b>

**17.Reconciliation of Net Income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from Operating Activities**

	<b>2023 £000</b>	<b>2022 £000</b>
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	<b>23,762</b>	(1,689)
<b>Adjusted for:</b>		
Depreciation	<b>1,545</b>	1,309
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>(615)</b>	(93)
Interest receivable	<b>(39)</b>	(2)
Donation on transfer in	<b>(24,866)</b>	-
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	<b>312</b>	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>124</b>	681
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>41</b>	124
decrease in stocks	<b>-</b>	3
(Increase) in debtors	<b>(442)</b>	(168)
Increase in creditors	<b>739</b>	637
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>802</b>

**18. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>At 31 August 2023 £000</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022 £000</b>
Notice deposits (short term deposit)	<b>500</b>	-
Cash in hand and at bank	<b>4,510</b>	4,413
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>5,010</b>	<b>4,413</b>

## **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

#### **19. Pension Commitments**

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Durham County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the year ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 26 October 2023.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

#### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

##### **Introduction**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

##### **Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Government Actuary's Department (the Department) on 26 October 2023. The key results of the valuation are:

- New employer contribution rates were set at 28.6% of pensionable pay (including administration fees of 0.08%);
- total scheme liabilities for service to the effective date of £262 billion, and notional assets of £222.2 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion;
- an employer cost cap of 8.1% of pensionable pay.
- the assumed real rate of return is 2.8% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 4.45%.

The new employer contribution rate for the TPS will be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £503k (2022: £416k).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).



**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****19. Pension Commitments (Continued)**

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The Academy Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £674k (2022: £556k), of which employer's contributions totalled £503k (2022: £416k) and employees' contributions totalled £171k (2022: £140k). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 13.4 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

In 2015 the government introduced reforms to public sector pensions, meaning most public sector workers were moved into new pension schemes. In December 2018, the Court of Appeal ruled that the 'transitional protection' offered to members in these schemes amounted to unlawful discrimination. This case is known as the 'McCloud/Sargeant' judgement and a charge of £219k is included in the statement of financial activities as past service costs. The Supreme Court decision in June 2019 not to allow the Government leave to appeal, means the difference in treatment has been remedied across all relevant schemes, including the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

<b>Principal actuarial assumptions</b>	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>3.60%</b>	3.70%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	<b>2.60%</b>	2.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>5.10%</b>	4.10%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	<b>2.60%</b>	2.70%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	<b>85.00%</b>	80.00%
	<b>At 31 August 2023</b>	<b>At 31 August 2022</b>
The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:		
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>21.7</b>	22.1
Females	<b>23.9</b>	24.2
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>22.9</b>	23.2
Females	<b>25.0</b>	25.7

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****19. Pension Commitments (Continued)**

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2023</b>	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Equity instruments	5,513	5,140
Debt instruments	3,826	2,847
Property	813	789
Cash	217	132
Other	466	489
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>10,835</b>	<b>9,397</b>

**Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Current service cost (net of employer contributions)	(124)	(681)
Net interest cost	(41)	(124)
Past service cost	-	-
<b>Total operating charge</b>	<b>(165)</b>	<b>(805)</b>

**Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>10,568</b>	<b>17,550</b>
Current service cost	627	1,097
Interest cost	445	298
Employee contributions	171	140
Actuarial (gain)	(1,632)	(8,299)
Past service costs	(340)	(218)
Benefits paid	1,513	-
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>11,352</b>	<b>10,568</b>

**Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>9,397</b>	<b>10,052</b>
Interest income	404	174
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(501)	(1,167)
Employer contributions	503	416
Employee contributions	171	140
Benefits paid	(340)	(218)
Plan Introductions, benefit changes, curtailments, and settlements	1,201	-
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>10,835</b>	<b>9,397</b>
<b>Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1,171</b>

**NEW COLLEGE DURHAM ACADEMIES TRUST****Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023****20. Operating Lease Commitments**

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trust's minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	<b>2023</b> <b>£000</b>	<b>2022</b> <b>£000</b>
<b>Amounts Payable:</b>		
Within 1 year	-	21
Between 1 and 5 years	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21</b>

**21. Members Liability**

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

**22. Related Party Transactions**

The lead sponsor of the Academy Trust is New College Durham. During the year the college provided meeting space and refreshments to support and Academy Trust's business. The total amount paid for these services in the year was £1,540 (2022: £340).

The co-sponsor, Durham County Council provides numerous services to both academies under Service Level Agreements. These include ICT support services, buildings maintenance, crisis response service and off-site education provision. The total amount paid for these services during the year, excluding National Non-Domestic Rates, was £nil (2022: £Nil).

In entering into transactions, the Academy Trust has complied with the requirements of the ESFA's Academies Trust Handbook.

**23. Agency Arrangements**

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the year ending 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust has had a balance brought forward of £11,138 received £12,725 and distributed £13,000. No income or expenditure is recognised in the financial statements. The £10,863 of undistributed funds is included in creditors at the year end.

**24. Financial instruments**

	<b>2023</b> <b>£'000</b>	<b>2022</b> <b>£'000</b>
<b>Financial assets measured at amortised cost</b>		
Current assets	<u>174</u>	<u>150</u>
<b>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>		
Current Liabilities	<u>1,522</u>	<u>931</u>