

**Living
It Up**

ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending 31st December 2022

Charity Registration Number - 1199155

St Cuthberts Hall, Newnham Street, Bedford, MK40 3JR

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ORGANISATION PROFILE

Organisation History

Living It Up was originally founded in 2009 as a Community Group. We became a CIC (Community Interest Company) in 2016 and gained Charitable Status (CIO) 31st May 2022. A CIO is a legal structure regulated by the Charity Commission that was introduced to help simplify the process for setting up a charity.

Living It Up began fully operating as a charity on 1st January 2023.



Trustees

Our Trustees are:

Michael Collett - Chair

Rachael Cavanagh - Treasurer

Vicki Airs

Gareth Wright

Oliver Monks

Sarah Neyland

Sarah Fletcher

Sue Reed - stood down February 2023

About our Trustees

For this financial year Mike, Sue and Gareth came over from the CIC. When we became a CIO Fizz Heseltine and Claire Crawford-Smith (previous directors of the CIC) became co-CEO.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. They can however recover expenses incurred directly as a result of their role.

There has to be a minimum of 4 serving trustees.

Trustees are recruited to ensure a diversity of relevant skills and expertise needed for effective governance of the charity. They must complete a skills audit and attend a meeting as an observer. We will always have at least 1 serving trustee who uses our services.

TRUSTEE INDUCTION AND TRAINING

Training

Training is routinely and regularly offered to all trustees, both new and existing.

Induction

All trustees must complete an organisational induction.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Confirming reading of conflict of interest policy
- Signed declaration of interests

Structure Chart

Please see the following page for our structure chart.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Mike Collett
Chair of Trustees



Gareth Wright
Trustee



Vicki Airs
Trustee



Sarah Fletcher
Trustee



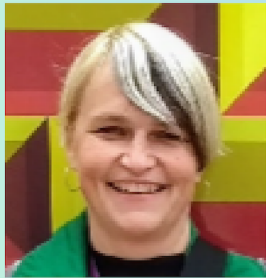
Sarah Neyland
Trustee



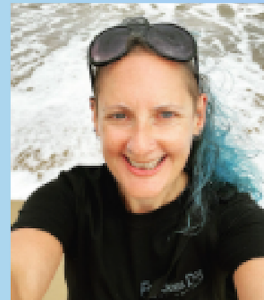
Oli Monks
Trustee



Rachael Cavanagh
Trustee /Treasurer



Claire Crawford-Smith
Co-CEO



Fizz Heseltine
Co-CEO



Carly Morris
Operations Manager



PAC Staff and
Volunteers



Gig Buddies Staff
and Volunteers



Gr8 Mates Staff
and Volunteers



Events Staff and
Volunteers



Hall Staff

WHAT WE DO

Living It Up provides social and educational opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and autism in and around Bedfordshire.

OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The objects of Living It Up CIO are:

The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among vulnerable adults and children, with a physical or learning disability or autism who are socially excluded on the grounds of their disability, by providing:

1. Opportunities to learn new skills, education and training that are designed to assist them to integrate into society;
2. Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community.



ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES IN THE YEAR

For the upcoming year we hope to achieve the following:

Performing Arts Centre

- Recruit additional experts to increase range of opportunities
- Hire out the Radio/Music room to the community
- If funds allow, hiring a shop space in the town centre

Gig Buddies

- Recruit and train more volunteers
- Respond to need in other Local Authority Areas

Gr8 Mates

- Establish LGBTQ+ element of this service
- Recruit and train more volunteers
- Find funding for increased staffing hours

Events

- Find and recruit more volunteers
- Hold regular bi-monthly events

St Cuthberts Hall

- Market as a community hall/community centre
- Establish as an independent venue



IMPACT ON BENEFICIARIES

Since achieving CIO status we have noted the following impact on the people that we work with:

Performing Arts Centre

- Gig Buddies put on a gig as part of the Carousel UK tour and Delta Sonic, one of our bands had the opportunity to play here and share their music with a wider audience

Gig Buddies

- We applied and were successful in being selected to host a gig as part of the Carousel UK tour = we had 3 bands/artists with learning disabilities and/or autism playing, and a local band The Pride headlining. This meant that followers of The Pride had the opportunity to listen to artists that they wouldn't ordinarily listen to

Gr8 Mates

- Supporting a number of budding relationships to develop

Events

- We held our first post COVID event in December 2022

St Cuthberts Hall

- We were successful in getting funding to enable us to begin the work needed to launch the hall as an Independent Music Venue

