



Arts Culture Health and Wellbeing Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts

1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Scottish Charity Number: SC050848
Company Number: CS005082

c/o Art in Healthcare, 18 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EP

info@achws.org

www.achws.org

Charity Trustees

The following people were trustees during the year:

- Robbie McGhee **[Chair]**
- Katey Warran **[Vice Chair]**
- Len McCaffer **[Treasurer]**
- Vanessa Paynton **[Secretary]**
- Claire Stevens (Resigned 21st November 2024)
- Lucy Casot
- Chris Fremantle
- Barbara Gulliver
- Jan-Bert van den Berg
- Lewis Hou
- Sally Thomson

Mission, Objectives and Activities

Arts Culture Health and Wellbeing Scotland (ACHWS) is a national network linking together, advocating for and supporting those working at the interface of arts, culture, health and wellbeing in Scotland.

ACHWS aims to advance health and wellbeing in Scotland through the promotion and practice of arts and cultural work across a range of health, social, cultural, care, and community contexts.

ACHWS is an inclusive, active member-led network that is open for anyone to join, including artists, organisations, healthcare providers, practitioners, and researchers.

We take a broad understanding of the arts and culture in a health, medical and social context, advocating for best artistic practice, value and working conditions.

Our wide reach is driven by the range and diversity represented across the arts, culture, and health sectors as we give a voice to individuals, communities and practitioners from all areas of society promoting equal opportunities to create, participate, influence and engage.

Our innovative approach is based on an understanding that we represent and respond to participants lived experience and individual needs related to their personal health and wellbeing. Also, that of their communities alongside our members' practice, experience and support requirements, our sectors' body of research and evidence, and our stakeholders wider aims, objectives and plans.

Our vision is for art and culture to be recognised as transformative to health and wellbeing and accessible to everyone in Scotland.

Our strategic aims are to:

1. Build an active and engaged network, representing the voice of the arts and health sector
2. Grow our organisation to be resilient and meet the wider needs of the network
3. Empower our membership and wider network to raise awareness and share information, best practice and insights.
4. Lead the debate that will affect policy change in culture and health strategies and frameworks within Scotland.
5. Support creatives practitioners and health and care professionals in the arts, culture, and health sectors to identify needs, professional development and mentorship.

To achieve our purpose, ACHWS implements a programme of activity including:

- Delivering a programme of open and subject specific events where we bring research, policy, and practice together to explore new ways of working and share learning.
- Providing regularly updated information about new areas of research, policy development and practice outcomes.
- Advocating and campaigning for the role of arts and culture in enhancing the quality of care and wellbeing of communities in Scotland.
- Developing strategic partnerships with Voluntary Health Scotland, Public Health Scotland, Creative Scotland, Scottish Government, and other high-level bodies.

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document

ACHWS has been an officially recognised charity by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator since 17th March 2021.

ACHWS is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation no. SC050848. Our constitution is our governing document, published on our website and setting out our purpose and our governance rules and arrangements.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Our constitution requires a minimum of five trustees and permits a maximum of fifteen. We started the year with eleven trustees. One trustee stood down during the year.

The Board committed to a Board Improvement Programme including developing the approach to board recruitment and succession planning.

The Board keeps an up-to-date skills audit of all Trustees with a view to informing future recruitment to the Board. In 25/26 we will be looking to recruit new trustees, including a Chair.

Achievements and Performance

Our Aims, Strategy and Business Plan

Over this period, we developed our Strategy including a stakeholder consultation and will produce a final strategy and three-year Business Plan in 25/26.

Development Coordinator and Freelancer Support

We have had a part-time freelance Development Co-ordinator in place since May 2023 with an ambition to make this an employee position in the future. In 24/25 we expanded our capacity to include two other freelancer support positions.

Firstly, we recruited a Membership Manager whose role included membership communications, marketing and social media. Towards the end of the year, we recruited a PR and communications Manager whose role includes copy and article writing and developing a case study library. These roles are funded for 25/26.

This has allowed us to focus on our operational development, network development and board development, broadening the range of activity, events and communications with the membership, increased advocacy and extending and strengthening the relationships with our network of key stakeholders and partners.

Operational Development

We developed a procurement policy, project brief and freelancer contracts as part of the Board Improvement Plan. There was a suite of draft policies developed with the view to finalise them in 25/26.

Network Development

Our network membership has increased over this period with regular engagement across all of our communication routes and social platforms, as well as attending and networking at an increasing number of relevant sector events.

We also carried out a current membership review and identified the need for development. Our current membership is based on newsletter sign up, and we are exploring a more robust and informative membership model.

In late 24/25 we secured funding from Creative Scotland for a membership development project to be delivered in 25/26 which will inform our future membership model.

Board and Working Groups

The Board met four times across the period and alongside supporting the Development Coordinator and overseeing the ongoing activity based on the current Strategy.

The Board also took part in a Board Development training day facilitated by Culture in Business Scotland and Board Away Day on 18th April and have been engaged in a number of improvement areas to support good governance e.g. development of refreshed policies, regular meetings between office bearers etc.

We chose to suspend the current Working Group (A group made up of trustees, members and stakeholders) as the remit was unclear. As part of the Improvement Plan we identified a number of areas that could be supported by specialist advisory groups.

We are developing a framework and clear role for a number of groups made up of trustees, members and stakeholders with a focused remit to guide our work. This will be implemented across 25/26.

Networking

Across this period, we have continued to broaden our links and our reach, and increase our understanding of what the sector, and related sectors, might need from ACHWS. The ongoing dialogue with our members and key stakeholder organisations has provided us with the ability to instigate and participate in conversations across the sectors and develop a number of collaborations and partnerships.

This has included representation at a range of events including: The Glasgow University Mental Health Catalyst, UCL SHAPER Scaling Up Research Launch, Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival Events, Voluntary Health Annual Conference, SCVO's The Gathering Conference, National galleries Scotland Annual Conference, The Stove Community Report launch at Parliament, MGS Heal and Culture Day, The Centre for Research on Environment Society and Health (CRESH) online session, Health Equity in Scotland Conference, Creative Wellbeing Symposium in Dumfries, Voluntary Health Scotland Strategy Day and Parliamentary Summer Event.

A number of joint events and new connections have been developed with a range of partners including Healing Arts Scotland, World Health Organisation (WHO), Jameel Arts and health Lab (partnership of WHO, New York University, and Culturunners), Baring Foundation and Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival.

Member Communications

In this period six e-bulletins have been produced which included articles and news about projects, policy, funding, resources and other developments in the area of arts health and culture as well as highlighting events within the ACHWS programme.

We also sent ten of member specific emails with call to action on a range of topics and highlighting opportunities in the sector. These were all distributed via our online membership mailing list and sent to key stakeholders.

Mailchimp emails and e-bulletin - current database: 1,235, total sends: 25,303, up 8,334% on last year, this is a mix of sending more frequent emails and increasing the database. Open rate 50.3%, up 25.8% on last year, unsubscribe rate: 0.25%, down 98.7%

ACHWS Events

We built on our events programme delivering 5 online conversations and one training event: Cultural Health Framework training event, Cultural Rights, International Connections, Now You See Us (online), A New Strand - Art, Displacement & Mental Health and Performance Anxiety for members.

We also hosted an online conference programme of 5 events as part of Healing Arts Scotland. These events included: The Role of Culture in Health and Wellbeing – Trama, Conflict and Displacement, Can Creative and Cultural Engagement Transform our Brain?, The Role of Culture in Health - The Future of Social Prescribing, The Role of Culture in Health – What the Research Tells Us and The Role of Culture in Health in Island and Rural Communities.

We had between 50-150 signups for each event and the conversations were recorded with the links being shared with all attendees, our members and key stakeholders and on our YouTube channel.

Website

The website was maintained and updated as required and the reach and engagement has improved over the year. We shared a range of articles, including the e-bulletin content, and posts highlighting practice, research and initiatives in Scotland.

In addition to network news and information we signpost to our website from relevant social media and emails.

The planned redesign 24/25 was delayed to 25/26 due to limited resources.

Social Media

During this year we focused on a regular social media plan delivering higher levels of engagement and increasing our relevance and reach through a scaled-up programme of activity.

X - @achwscotland - content views year to date: 27,631 this is from a mix of posts and re-posting

Facebook - achwscotland - . reach up 354.1%, content interactions: Up 173.3% on last year. Link click up 100% on last year, page visits up 76.7% on last year and follows up 26.5% on last year.

Advocacy and Campaigning

We have continued to create strong links across a range of UK and Scottish organisations and network members in order to collaborate over shared learning, expertise, and resources.

We attended a number of key meetings as well as the Chair and Trustees holding a range of positions on board and working groups of relevant organisations. These ongoing and ever deepening partnerships will help us continue to support advocacy for arts, culture, health, and wellbeing work happening in Scotland and across UK.

We also regularly attend relevant Cross-Party meetings and events that are part of a UK network of Culture and Health Networks including CHWA (England), Realta (Northern Ireland), WAHWN (Wales) and Arts Care (Republic of Ireland), as well as respond to relevant UK Government consultations. We are on the Advisory Board of National Centre for Creative Health, lead the Healing Arts Scotland Legacy Group and are a member of the Healing Arts Scotland planning group.

Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland and Creative Scotland

ACHWS has maintained an ongoing engagement with Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government across this period including a regular meeting with the Culture Directorate.

ACHWS also developed a relationship with PHS and attended a range of consultations around the Public Health Framework and Public Health Scotland Strategy Development as well as regular meetings looking at the role of arts and culture in health, culture in greenspaces, arts and culture in health data etc.

In this period this has included attending: The Culture Team's Connections and Partnerships: The Value of Culture in Communities summit, Health Inequalities and Culture in the Communities Cross Party Groups across the year, UK All Party Parliamentary Group Creative Health and Prevention and House of Commons Roundtable - Global Value of UK Arts

Funding

Creative Scotland awarded us a grant of £64,650, for the fiscal year 24/25, providing the funding for the Development Co-ordinator and increased freelance support. Due to a delayed funding payment, they also agreed that we could carry over £20,900 awarded in previous year to complete the planned activity. There was an award of £25,000 made at the end of 24/25 for a membership development project to be carried out in 25/26.

Creative Scotland has also committed to supporting the network from protective funds in 25/26 with the ambition that we move to a multi-source funding model and move the Creative Scotland Open fund from 26/27 onwards. Creative Scotland's support has enabled ACHWS to consolidate and build capacity as a national network across Scotland.

Healing Arts Scotland Week – August 2024

In 24/25 we made a substantial commitment to support the development of a Healing Arts event in Scotland (a-week national arts and health festival). Healing Arts Scotland was part of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's global 'Healing Arts' campaign in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and was produced by Scottish Ballet together with a national coalition of organisations across culture, science, health, education and government.

ACHWS played a pivotal role in the development and support of the Healing Arts Scotland programme as well as presenting a bespoke online conference programme, amplifying the in-person events to a Scotland wide audience and continues to support the legacy and potential for a future event in 2026.

Financial Review

The charity recorded a surplus for the period of £30,341 (2024: deficit of £37,492), all on restricted funds. Total funds at the year-end amounted to £38,003 (2024: £7,662), all bar £300 held as restricted funds. Two final grant payments from Creative Scotland, relating to the previous financial year, were received at the start of the year, while three instalments of grant funding for 2024/25 are expected to be received in the next financial year.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity does not currently have a formal reserves policy but are looking to develop one over 25/26. Note that we cannot build up unrestricted reserves using grant funding which is restricted for use against defined activity.

ACHWS Future Plans

Over the coming year the current strategy will be reviewed alongside the development of a 3-year business plan and a funding strategy for the organisation. We will continue our focus on our operational improvement plan by finalising a suite of essential policies & procedures that support the further development of the organisation. We will develop a Board recruitment and Succession Plan which will be agreed and implemented, as well as look to recruit the maximum number of trustees set out in our constitution and a new Chair in 25/26.

The ongoing commitment to Board Development will continue with the rollout of a range of advisory groups and board subgroups to widen the geographic spread, areas of representation and a balance of culture and health.

We will continue to engage with national Government to advocate for the arts, culture, health and wellbeing agenda with the aim of increasing our reach, meaningful engagement and partnership working, the provision or sign posting of resources, research and relevant information as well as providing a platform to showcase the range of works taking place across Scotland.

We will focus on deepening our engagement with and understanding of key partners in arts, culture, health wellbeing in Scotland (Creative Scotland, Public Health Scotland, NHS Scotland, Scottish Government Health and Culture Teams, Cross Party Groups, Academic Research, National Centre for Creative Health etc.) to establish the common issues and priorities. Based on these we will put the mechanisms in place for information to be shared and dialogue to occur across arrange of events, channels and consultations.

Alongside this, we will secure the required funding support in order to grow and develop a robust and resilient in-house structure and ensure we have a multi-source funding model in place by 26/27.

We will look to develop and grow the network through a Membership Development Programme and increase our member-led activity across all communication and social channels.

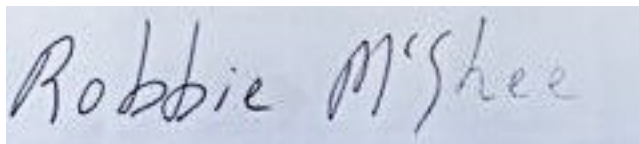
We will also redesign the website with the aim to build our audience by sharing engaging content, research, events and opportunities as well as a showcase for arts, culture, health and wellbeing work being conducted in Scotland.

Our member focused events programme will be extended further to increase the range of relevant sector issues, areas of practice, impacts and activity through presentations, conversations, practice and model case studies and training events. This will sit alongside a wider range of events focused on increased dialogue and discourse across disciplines, we will be looking to curate a range of online, and in-person networking opportunities over the coming year.

The organisation has gained a huge amount of momentum, engagement and members over the last 12 months and we look forward to growing this further while ensuring we have a robust and resilient framework to support that growth.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robbie McGhee". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Print name: Robbie McGhee

Designation: Chair of Board

Date: 30/10/2025

Arts Culture Health and Wellbeing Scotland

SC050848



Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	April	2024		31	March	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants		71,685			71,685	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	-	71,685	-	-	71,685	-
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	71,685	-	-	71,685	-
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities		40,684			40,684	37,192
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination		660			660	300
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	-	41,344	-	-	41,344	37,492
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	41,344	-	-	41,344	37,492
Net receipts / (payments)	-	30,341	-	-	30,341	(37,492)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	30,341	-	-	30,341	(37,492)

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	300	7,362			7,662	45,154
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account		30,341			30,341	(37,492)
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	300	37,703	-	-	38,003	7,662
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

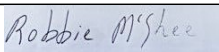
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	Independent examination fee	Restricted fund	720	660
		Total	720	660

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature*

Print Name

Date of
approval


Robbie McGhee

30/10/2025

* Please note - OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures

Additional analysis (1)**Analysis of receipts and payments****1 Donations**

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £		Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Creative Scotland		71,685		71,685	-
				-	
				-	
				-	
Total	-	71,685		71,685	-
	-	-		-	-

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Development Co-ordinator		34,111			34,111	29,831
Consultancy		3,112			3,112	-
Web and computer support		2,240			2,240	4,744
Event costs		800			800	550
Speaker costs		350			350	2,000
Service charges		71			71	67
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	40,684	-	-	40,684	37,192
	-	reference error	-	-	reference error	-

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Additional analysis (2)**5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds**

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nature and purpose of funds

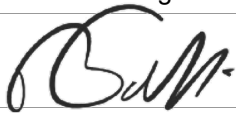
Arts Culture Health and Wellbeing Scotland

SC050848

Additional analysis (3)**6 Breakdown of restricted funds**

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					71,685	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	71,685	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	71,685	-
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					40,684	37,192
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					660	300
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	41,344	37,492
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	41,344	37,492
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	30,341	(37,492)
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	30,341	(37,492)

Nature and purpose of funds

		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						
Report to the trustees/members of		Charity name Arts Culture Health and Wellbeing Scotland						
		Registered charity number: SC050848						
On the accounts of the charity for the period		Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
		01	April	2024	to	31	March	2025
Set out on pages		10 - 15						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.							
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.							
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention - which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.							
Signed:					Date:	13.11.2025		
Name:	M A P Taddei MA FCA							
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales							
Address:	Johnston Smillie Ltd 5 South Gyle Crescent Lane Edinburgh EH12 9EG							