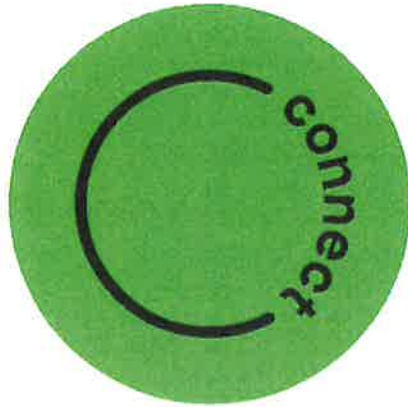




Connect Alloa | SC049028

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for
the year ended 01st December 2024**

Structure, Governance, and Management

Constitution

Connect Alloa is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Connect Alloa was registered as a SCIO on the 6th of February 2019. It is a single-tier SCIO, meaning that its charity trustees are also the members of the charity.

Appointment of Charity Trustees

The members of the Board of Connect Alloa are its charity trustees, all of whom must be over 16 years old. The initial charity trustees were the three individuals who signed the declaration forms that accompanied Connect Alloa's application for incorporation, who are deemed to have been appointed by the members of the organisation as of the SCIO's incorporation on the 6th of February 2019. Charity trustees are appointed at the annual general meeting, or by a resolution passed by a majority vote at any board meeting. The minimum quantity of charity trustees at any point is 3, and the maximum quantity is 13.

Charitable Purposes

The charitable purpose of Connect Alloa, as outlined in clause 4 of its constitution, are:

Providing recreational facilities or organising recreational activities with the aim of improving the conditions of life for the people for whom the facilities or activities are mainly intended.

The advancement of citizenship or community development (including rural or urban regeneration).

Objectives and Activities

Connect Alloa is a dynamic youth group dedicated to encouraging a supportive and inclusive environment for young people in primary and secondary schools. Offering multiple sessions throughout the week, Connect Alloa aims to address various challenges faced by youth today, while promoting personal growth and community engagement. We have several things that we are always working towards such as:

Combating Social Isolation: One of the primary objectives of Connect Alloa is to reduce social isolation among young people. By providing a regular meeting space, the group encourages friendships and connections among participants, helping them to feel a sense of belonging and community. Social activities, peer support, and team-building exercises are integral to this mission, ensuring that every young person feels valued and included.

Enhancing Social Skills: Connect Alloa is committed to helping youth develop essential social skills necessary for effective communication and interaction. Through various group activities, workshops, and discussions, participants learn to navigate social situations, build confidence, and improve their ability to express themselves. This objective not only benefits their current relationships but also equips them with skills for future interactions in both personal and professional contexts.

Building Life Skills: Beyond social skills, Connect Alloa focuses on equipping young people with vital life skills that will serve them well into adulthood. This includes teaching topics such as problem-solving, decision-making, resilience, and teamwork. Interactive sessions that simulate real-life scenarios encourage participants to think critically and engage in practical learning, empowering them to tackle challenges in their everyday lives.

Providing a Safe Space: Safety and support are at the core of Connect Alloa's philosophy. The group aims to create a welcoming and secure environment where young people can openly express themselves, share their experiences, and seek guidance without fear of judgment. Trained staff and volunteers work diligently to ensure that all members feel respected, heard, and safe.

Encouraging Personal Development: Connect Alloa recognizes the unique growth journeys of each young person. Connect seeks to encourage personal development by offering a variety of programs tailored to diverse interests and goals. From creative arts to sports, leadership training to community service, participants are encouraged to explore their talents and passions, helping them to cultivate a sense of identity and purpose.

Promoting Community Engagement: Another important objective is to foster a sense of responsibility and connection to the broader community. Connect Alloa encourages its members to engage in outreach and volunteer opportunities, helping them to develop empathy and a sense of civic duty. By participating in community projects, young people learn the importance of giving back and become more aware of the world around them. We aim to hold several events throughout the year that bring people together, such as raffles, fundraisers, and inviting other community members to use our space.

Through these objectives, Connect Alloa strives to not only support the personal growth of young people but also to empower them to become active, caring members of society. By

Plans for the future period

As Connect continues to grow, we hope to take on additional staff members to help with outreach and digital engagement. Thanks to funding, we were able to create a dedicated position within our team that focuses on both youth work and digital outreach. This role has successfully increased our reach on social media platforms such as Facebook, with an approximate increase of 14.9% between 2023 and 2024. Likewise, a 53.6% increase in page visits in comparison to 2022, showing the benefits of this position and the importance of continuing to invest in this aspect of the charity. We aim to expand our online presence and increase our awareness of our work, encouraging more young people to engage with us while providing support to them and the wider community. Additionally, we hope to grow our volunteer team, whether on a weekly or monthly basis, bringing in fresh ideas to Connect and creating more opportunities for local involvement.

Furthermore, throughout the year, we have invited several guests to run specialised sessions for the young people, for example, Epilepsy Scotland, Youth Parliament, Cats Protection, Safe Drive Stay Alive, and the local Fire Service. By providing a variety of sessions run by external organisations, it keeps sessions engaging and brings valuable insights that the youth workers may not have. Guest speakers can also serve as role models, showing our young people potential career paths, inspiring success stories, and broadening their aspirations.

In the future, we plan to engage more with local primary schools to encourage an uptake in attendees for our younger group (Primary 6 and 7s). We hope to develop a series of programmes that youth workers can deliver in primary schools to better support their young people and help build resilience.

Training & Upskilling

We have hosted several staff days focused on session planning, team building, and scenario-based training to help our youth workers and Project Manager become a more unified and efficient team. Staff members are also encouraged to participate in regular high-speed training or attend online training sessions run by Youth Scotland to enhance their knowledge and continue professional development. Several staff members completed Level 3 Food and Hygiene training, enabling us to offer more cooking sessions for the young people. The project leader will continue to apply for funding to ensure ongoing training is available for staff members.

We have continued to support our young people in working towards their Saltire awards by delegating tasks to boost their confidence, create a sense of ownership of our unit and connect with others. One of our young people achieved a significant number of hours when designing Connects mascot Buzby; this creation allows this young person to express themselves and contribute to Connects journey, as well as working towards a Saltire milestone.

During the summer, we took 8 young people to 'Big Ideas Weekend' where they got to engage in a series of activities such as, special effects makeup, parkour, LGBT history, DJing and many more. This provided our young people the opportunity to learn new skills, take themselves out their comfort zones and make new friends. The attending staff also participated in training courses. In the future, we hope to focus more accreditation

Community Events

This year has been filled with positive community events that have brought us closer together and highlighted our commitment to fostering connections. We celebrated a major milestone with our 5th-year anniversary, marking half a decade of growth, collaboration, and meaningful impact. It was a joyful occasion that allowed us to reflect on our journey and the strong community we've built.

Our quiz night was another highlight, offering a fun and engaging way for everyone to come together and test their knowledge while enjoying each other's company. It was a fantastic opportunity for both new and long-standing members to interact in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

The Christmas Fayre added a festive spirit to our calendar, providing a space for everyone to celebrate the season and support local crafts and businesses. It was a wonderful way to connect with the wider community, and the positive energy was felt by all who attended.

Additionally, we were proud to have a table at one of our partner's events, further strengthening our relationships within the community. This presence allowed us to showcase our work, engage with new faces, and reinforce the collaborative spirit that is central to everything we do.

These events have not only been enjoyable but have also reinforced our shared values and commitment to making a positive impact in our community. We look forward to continuing to build on this momentum in the years to come.

Gaming

We have had a successful period in engaging with various gaming activities, with a youth worker running quite a few board game sessions. The switch is continually used each night, along with Dungeons and Dragons being frequently requested. We have inquired and gained new Dungeons and Dragons books to make the game for varied for the young people.

The young people have expressed interest in other games such as monopoly and a youth worker has run multiple sessions running it for the young people. We've done other games to do with teambuilding as there was a youth led session done with both older and younger group where they created obstacle courses for one and other it was very successful.

It is mostly ran by the volunteers and youth workers however has been run with the project manager and senior youth worker.

Apply for funding

Any funding we look at has a purpose, Although the Project Manager takes lead, he is training up the Youth Services Coordinator and encouraging staff to apply to small pots to be able to provide more for our young people.

Youth Forum

We have continued on with the way our youth forum with ideas such as hot topics. We have a suggestion box that we encourage the young people to use however it isn't as frequently used as we like. We've made it so the young people do have a say in truly what they would like and we do this by approaching the young people as a group and getting the data that is helpful for the betterment of Connect Alloa.

Financial Overview and Funds Achieved

Connect Alloa's main source of funding has been through grants for staffing, resources, and activities.

We have also had young people win local competitions which has allowed us to build up a small amount of money, which we hope to put towards reserves by next year.

Funds/Fundraising achieved 2024

<u>Who funded us</u>	<u>Restricted (£)</u>	<u>Unrestricted (£)</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
<u>Just Giving</u>		<u>102.50</u>	<u>102.50</u>
<u>Donations</u>		<u>3410</u>	<u>3410</u>
<u>Clacks Lottery</u>		<u>86.50</u>	<u>86.50</u>
<u>Clackmannanshire Council</u>	<u>53,250.34</u>		<u>53,250.34</u>
<u>CFSLA</u>	<u>555.89</u>		<u>555.89</u>
<u>Refunds</u>	<u>555.89</u>		<u>555.89</u>
<u>CSET</u>	<u>12,500</u>		<u>12,500</u>
<u>Thistledown Trust</u>	<u>500</u>		<u>500</u>
<u>Youth Scotland</u>	<u>500</u>		<u>500</u>
<u>Robertson Trust</u>	<u>11000</u>		<u>11000</u>
<u>Scottish Children's Charity Trust</u>	<u>4000</u>		<u>4000</u>
<u>Youth Charity Trust</u>		<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
<u>National Lottery Community Fund</u>	<u>49654.00</u>		<u>49654.00</u>
<u>The Garfield Weston Foundation</u>	<u>7500</u>		<u>7500</u>
<u>Groundwork UK</u>		<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>

Statements of Balances - 1st of December 2024

Balance sheet at 1st Dec 2024

Fixed assets

Electronics,

Games & Acces

£1,950.64

Games and Role Playing

Manuals

£27.38

PPE

£65.09

Craft, Promotional and Admin

Items

£526.95

Music Equipment

£2,165.36

Storage

£0.00

£0.00

Utensils

£0.00

£0.00

£4,735.42

Total Fixed Assets

£4,735.42

Closing bank balance

£64,547.90

Total Assets

£69283.32

Less Liabilities

£0.00

£0.00

Notes to the accounts - for the year ended the 1st of December 2024

1. Basis of Accounting

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Connect Alloa

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended the 01st of December 2024, contained within this document.

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) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 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

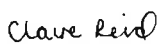
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

Have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Claire Reid

Signature: 

Position: Associate of the Chartered Institute of Management Accounts

Address: 20 Alexandra Drive, Alloa, FK10 2DQ

Date: 24 Sept 2026