



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CHARITY REGISTRATION 1162525

“I didn’t like socialising or meeting people. At DreamArts I make friends, learn lots of new skills and make memories.”

DreamArts Rep Participant

[www.dreamarts.org.uk](http://www.dreamarts.org.uk)

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*Members of DreamArts Rep creating films to fuse into their show during their tour to Paignton*



## THE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

DreamArts has continued to respond with energy, creativity and care to the growing and increasingly complex needs of children and young people. At a time when mental health challenges, poverty and instability are deeply affecting families across Westminster, our mission to transform young lives by fusing arts and therapy has never felt more urgent.

This year, DreamArts has been both busier and stronger, consolidating our practice while extending our reach. As ever, the achievements celebrated in this report belong first and foremost to the young people themselves, whose imagination, courage and generosity continue to inspire everyone who works alongside them.

Our targeted work through **Express** has remained central. Express Plus continues to be Westminster's only free-to-access arts therapy service of its kind, providing a vital lifeline for young people experiencing anxiety, trauma, domestic violence and other acute pressures. Engagement and retention remain exceptionally high, reflecting the trust young people and families place in our team and the value of creative, relational approaches that break down barriers to support. Alongside this, our work with young carers has continued to grow in scale and impact. The Young Carers Support Programme now provides a clear, joined-up pathway of support across the borough, helping to identify young carers earlier and respond more effectively to their needs.

We are proud of the continued development of Friends From Afar, our creative project with young refugees. Spaces where they can feel valued are more important than ever, and this work exemplifies DreamArts' ethos: placing artistic ambition and young people's voices at the centre, while holding wellbeing and safety as foundational. Over the past year, participants formed a 'DreamArts Rep Company' touring original work to audiences locally and nationally, building community, reducing isolation and developing confidence, communication and leadership along the way.

Our **Experiment** and **Expand** programmes have continued to provide accessible routes into creativity and leadership for children and young people across Westminster. From rebuilding confidence and relationships among younger participants following years of disruption, to supporting older young people to take on responsibility, develop professional skills and lead their own ambitious projects, these programmes offer experiences that many would otherwise never access.

Behind all of this work is an exceptional staff team. Supporting young people with complex needs requires care, reflection and resilience, and we remain committed to fostering a working culture that values support, learning and wellbeing. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our Chief Executive Graham Whitlock, our Artistic Director Catherine Palmer, our Therapeutic Director Fariha Rashid and the senior team for their leadership, integrity and vision, as well as our dedicated practitioners and volunteers.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to our funders and partners, particularly John Lyon's Charity, whose continued commitment provides a vital foundation as we look ahead. And finally, thanks to our dedicated Trustees, including Janine Francois who has stepped down from the Board after many years of involvement with the charity's work.

DreamArts enters the coming year with a strong reputation, a clear sense of purpose and an unwavering belief in the potential of every young person we work with. Together, we remain committed to creating brave, creative spaces where young people can explore who they are, strengthen relationships and build the emotional wellbeing they need to thrive.

**NIGEL JONES, Chair**





Word cloud bringing together key words expressed by clients across Express Plus therapy service.

**FRIENDS OF DREAMARTS**

The following members of the DreamArts Family kindly donated to the charity during 2023-24;

*Chorus of Angels*

Anis Suterwalla

*Ovation*

Jon Gyngell Harriet Sutton John Hyatt Mark Bunyan

Zaffer Raniwala Asif Raniwala Toni Medcalf Nigel Jones

Cecil Quillen Ann Goodger Racha Mohsen Afiouni

*Applause*

Ed Lascelles Osahon Orchard Naomi Roper



## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Full Name:** DreamArts

**Status:** Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO) registration number 1162525 (between 1997 and April 2017 DreamArts operated as a charitable trust, registration number 1070614).

<b>Trustees</b>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Resignation</i>	<i>Serving in financial year ending 2025</i>	<i>Trustees on date of Accounts approval</i>
Asif Raniwala (Treasurer)	Feb '17		Yes	Yes
David Mumeni	March '19		Yes	Yes
Janine Francois	April '21	Oct '25	Yes	No
Nigel Jones (Chair)	Oct '21		Yes	Yes
Racha Mohsen Afiouni	March '22		Yes	Yes
Catherine Drake Wilkes	Feb '23		Yes	Yes
Gem Pinkney	Dec '24		Yes	Yes
Anis Suterwalla	Dec '24		Yes	Yes
Ian Dougal	June '24	June '26	Yes	No

**Primary Office:** 34 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

**Principal Officers:** Chief Executive – Graham Whitlock  
Artistic Director – Catherine Palmer Therapeutic Director – Fariha Rashid

**Bankers** The Cooperative Bank **Payroll** Willow Pay Ltd, Kingsway Business Park, Hampton TW12 2HD

**Fundraiser** Sue Crow **Independent Examiner** Albury Associates  
The Future Is... Ltd 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 1 Hobbs House Harrow HA1 3EX



*Members of Carers Express at the UK Young Carers Festival*



# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

## Governing Document

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Company (CIO - registration number 1162525).

## Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are nominated by serving members of the Board, and are appointed at Trustees Meetings and retire by rotation or are eligible for re-election. Trustees serve for a 3 year term, after which a Trustee is eligible for re-election for a further 2 terms of 3 years and up to a maximum of 3 terms.

**Officers:** The Board nominate and elect the Chair and Treasurer.

**Observers:** Board of Trustee Meetings are attended by the Director and Assistant Director, with other team members regularly invited to share the work they've been delivering.

## Trustees Induction and Training

New Trustees undergo a meeting with the Chair and the Director to brief them on their legal obligations under charity law; the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association; the financial performance of the charity; and aspects of the charity's work. Where possible a visit to see DreamArts' work in action is arranged. Trustees are encouraged to attend as many DreamArts projects throughout the year as they can.

## Organisation

The Board of Trustees can have up to 15 members meeting at least 5 times per year and administer the charity's strategy, finance, audit and compliance. To facilitate effective operations the Director has delegated authority for operational matters including finance, employment, policies (including safeguarding), and service delivery.

## Related Parties

DreamArts is a partner within the **Early Help Partnership**. This is a collaboration between Westminster's statutory young people's services and Family Hubs alongside voluntary sector youth providers.

We have also been designated a core partner of the **Early Help Targeted Service**, Westminster's statutory service that supports families in need, and as a result we are commissioned to deliver work including leading support for young carers.

As an outreach organisation DreamArts has an **extensive referral and partnership network** through which we share and contribute to the work of a large number of voluntary and statutory agencies that provide a range of services to children and young people.

## Risk Management

The charity has a risk management strategy which comprises;

- an annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should these risks materialise.

This work has identified the need to mitigate **financial risk** by the setting of a reserves policy to cover costs in the event of the charity ceasing its activities.

**Child protection** issues are central to the charity's work, with all staff and volunteers undergoing safeguarding training. and those involved in direct work checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Staff also receive annual Safeguarding and Welfare training to keep up to date with requirements and best practice, and safeguarding is a standing item at Board of Trustees meetings.



# ABOUT DREAMARTS

## CHARITABLE OBJECTS

*'To advance in life and help children and young people in the London Borough of Westminster and other Greater London Boroughs by providing support and creative activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals'.*

**Mission:** To transform young lives by fusing arts and therapy.

**Objectives:** To support young people to:

- Explore who they are
- Strengthen relationships
- Develop their emotional wellbeing

**Outcomes:** Our Theory of Change provides a framework for the difference we want to make in young lives, focusing our current work and shaping our future direction. Our six core outcomes are to enable young people to:

- Develop positive relationships with peers and adults
- Explore their views, thoughts and feelings
- Share ideas and skills with others
- Take a creative risk
- Take a lead
- Be open to learning new skills



## PROGRAMMES

DreamArts achieves its charitable objects by delivering three programmes of work:

### EXPRESS

Express projects offer tailor-made support for vulnerable groups and individuals, collaborating with charities, social services, parents and, most importantly, with young people themselves.

**Express Collective** enables young people—and, in some cases, their parent or carer—to identify issues and creative mediums to explore solutions. Ongoing initiatives include *Carers Express* with young carers, *Friends From Afar* with young refugees, and *Family Express* which enables parents and children to create, share and learn together.

**Express Plus** provides individual therapy for those struggling to manage their feelings and behaviours. As the only free therapy service of its kind in Westminster, it helps young people to explore their challenges and strengths, building a greater sense of self-worth.

### EXPERIMENT

Weekend Creative Labs enable 6-19 year olds to explore and unleash their talents. Our skilled team support participants to create their own work which leads to better self-exploration - from new musicals to short films. Experiment reduces social isolation and builds positive relationships with peers and adults. No other equivalent affordable arts programme exists in Westminster, the heart of UK Theatre land.

### EXPAND

Our leadership schemes expand skills and horizons, empowering young people to lead their peers, manage their own projects and become creative entrepreneurs and positive forces within their community. This includes our role as a delivery partner for City Lions, Westminster City Council's flagship arts project for ages 13-16.



## OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Young participants we worked with during 2024-25 totaled 556 (2024=440). This is particularly encouraging at a time when many youth and education providers report that participation patterns remain in flux due to the ongoing impact of lockdowns. Additionally, we engaged 51 parents and carers through Family Express and by conducting young carers assessments which provide families with a pathway of support to help meet their needs.

In **Westminster, where 1 in 4 children live in poverty**, most DreamArts participants came from the borough's most deprived wards. Two-thirds of participants were from global majority backgrounds, with the largest groups being Arabic-speaking communities, and the majority of participants were female.

### Outcomes

Each project tailored its evaluation approach, from online surveys to reflective discussions, with outcomes assessed through our Outcome Star framework, measuring six key outcomes.

Young people consistently highlighted the value of **expressing themselves with their peers**. They were able to **share their thoughts and feelings** including their anxieties and fears as well as **sharing their ideas**, which they told us felt especially important after experiencing isolation.

Opportunities to **learn new skills** remained central; for example, the Experiment Performance Company created their own short films, taking control at all stages, from story board to directing and acting in their films.

Through these activities, we continued to achieve our core goals: creating opportunities for young people to build their strengths, explore their challenges and help them realise their potential.

### The DreamArts Way

Our ethos is: 'yes you can, so let's do it together'. We invest in our skilled staff who learn to combine arts-based practice with aspects of attachment, systemic and neuroscience theories. This fosters secure, understanding relationships that support young people with complex needs to engage and reflect upon themselves.

Core to this 'DreamArts Way' is applying the principals of the PACE attachment model, ensuring our team embody Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy. This creates a sense of safety and trust, and we believe DreamArts is the only organisation applying PACE within a youth arts setting. Additionally, our core team is Trauma Informed Trained, enabling us to effectively support young people who have experienced trauma in their lives, further enhancing our impact on their wellbeing.

*"This is a chance I've never had before, improving my confidence, conversation and communication."*

*"A great space to be myself."*

*"It was good to share an emotion and relate to others."*

*"I've gained lots of confidence and maturity and made new friends."*

*"My child says she felt respected, valued and was able to express her feelings. The therapist understood her fears and helped her think better."*





## EXPRESS

Express engaged 350 participants (2024=245).

### **Express Plus**

Westminster's only free-to-access arts therapy provision is delivered in the borough's three Family Hubs serving the most deprived areas.

**Express Plus achieved an 80% attendance rate**, a significant achievement for an out-of-school service supporting families facing considerable challenges. This reflects the high value young people and parents/carers place on the support they receive, and we are proud that over **80% of participants came from global majority backgrounds**, further demonstrating its accessibility and reach.

A notable rise in cases involving domestic violence underscored the importance of Express Plus, allowing us to intervene and provide safeguarding support to protect young people and their families. DreamArts regularly contributes to multi-agency reviews, ensuring joined up support that places the needs of young people at its heart.

We **supported 60 young people**, with the majority referred from Children's Services. Feedback from professionals highlights the transformative difference made. This includes over **90% of young people saying they have a greater sense of self-worth and developed coping skills and resilience** in the face of difficulties.

*"I liked finding out different ways I could be creative with expressing how I feel."*

*"It was really nice to be able to talk to somebody without the worry of judgement."*

## **Express Collective**

### **Well Body, Well Being**

DreamArts designed and delivered a preventative mental health project to raise awareness of disordered eating among young people and professionals in Westminster. Commissioned by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust. DreamArts delivered creative and interactive student workshops and staff training sessions across two higher education settings and a borough-wide youth worker forum.

The project reached **185 young people aged 16–19 and 59 staff**, providing clear information on disordered eating, the impact of social media, recognising warning signs, and where to access local support. Feedback showed strong outcomes: over **70% of young people reported improved understanding**, and **90% knew where to seek help** if needed. Staff reported increased confidence in identifying concerns and supporting young people appropriately.

The project exceeded its original reach targets and highlighted strong demand for continued delivery. It strengthened DreamArts' therapeutic practice and contributed to earlier awareness, informed conversations, and healthier relationships with food and body image among young people.

*"It was really nice to see eating disorders being spoken about without the stereotypes."*

*"It helped me be more aware as I am very susceptible."*



## *Friends From Afar*

FFA continued to thrive, **supporting 50 young refugees. A core group of 12 formed DreamArts Rep Company**, regularly attending weekly sessions to devise and present original work. They explore themes they're passionate about while celebrating their identity beyond immigration status and media stereotypes.

Young people consistently praise the difference FFA makes by breaking down loneliness and providing a consistent safe space in their lives where they can feel **valued and express themselves**. With multiple languages spoken within the group, activities like movement, dance and physical theatre help them to bond and improve their communication and English skills.

DreamArts Rep set out to create a show with universal appeal, choosing 'love' as their theme. They **toured the UK, performing at Birmingham Rep, Bristol and Paignton, to audiences that were predominantly from refugee communities** and young people.

Their homecoming performance took place at FFA's home, The Marylebone Theatre in August. This sell-out show took place against a backdrop of anti-immigrant violence, and their message of togetherness could not have been more timely or powerful.

*"I haven't been outside of London. Wow, it was amazing, I got to relax from stress, we are laughing so much."*

*"It made me think about my own dreams, aspirations, life."* – audience member



## SPOTLIGHT: SUPPORTING YOUNG CARERS

Young carers, among the groups hardest hit by lockdowns, remain a key focus for DreamArts. Since 2023, we have developed and led Westminster's Young Carers Support Programme to **ensure young people with caring responsibilities get the support they need and deserve** to thrive in their caring role, education, and childhood.

### *Carers Express & Therapy Support*

DreamArts Carers Express is a space to explore, create and enjoy. During the year we empowered young people to experiment with spoken word, showcasing their work at The Poetry Society and in a Poetry Zine. We launched a new Juniors group and **provided over 100 hours of respite** ranging from trips to the cinema, museums and West End shows, with our Seniors group taking part in The Young Carers Festival – the largest gathering of young carers in the world.

DreamArts also provides **dedicated weekly one-to-one arts therapy sessions** for young carers and monthly **wellbeing workshops** for adolescents exploring issues including anxiety and relationships.

*"I really like the collaborative environment and the fun we have with everyone in all the trips."*

*"I don't enjoy creative writing at school but this was totally different. I'm proud of my poem and my mum is too."*

### *Reaching young carers*

We **trained over 200 professionals** to identify and support young carers, and our new assessment model, now adopted across Children's Services, has resulted in nearly 100 assessments since it launched (previously there were fewer than 10 identified). We're also launching a package to engage schools.

### *Young Carers Pathway*

Utilising our links with providers across the borough, our Young Carers Programme Manager leads a **pathway partnership of 8 charities and statutory services** who offer support ranging from family mentoring to respite, therapy and employability.

### *Story C – joined-up support in action*

C cares for their mother and younger brother practically and emotionally, and much of their free time is regularly occupied by helping to translate. During their assessment, C said:

*"It's extreme, caring is either very good or really hard! Sometimes I have no choice, I have to step up and I wish there was someone at home who could help me."*

C's pathway is a wonderful example of the strength and variety that the pathway offers. So far, they have accessed support from 6 different organisations, including mentoring, peer support, therapeutic support, employment advice, and housing advice. The flexibility of the pathway has allowed C and their family to dip in and out of services when it best suits their needs.

*"I was really surprised to see options (on the pathway) for myself as well as my child. I'm so glad we can all receive support so we can deal with the challenges we face as a whole family." – Parent feedback*



## EXPERIMENT

Experiment is Westminster's only accessible, ongoing opportunity where children and young people can create original performances to express their thoughts and feelings. We reached 60 participants over the year (2024= 65) and the **majority were from families on free school meals**.

Experiment began with a **special puppetry project in Easter 2024** that continued our collaboration with the award-winning international theatre company, Les Enfants Terribles. Participants explored animating everyday objects into new beings through to having the opportunity to manipulate puppets used in professional productions.

**Summer holiday projects** proved popular as ever, running in the North and South of Westminster to ensure young people from across the borough can express themselves and enhance their wellbeing. Sessions included work with the acclaimed Shobana Jeyasingh Dance company.

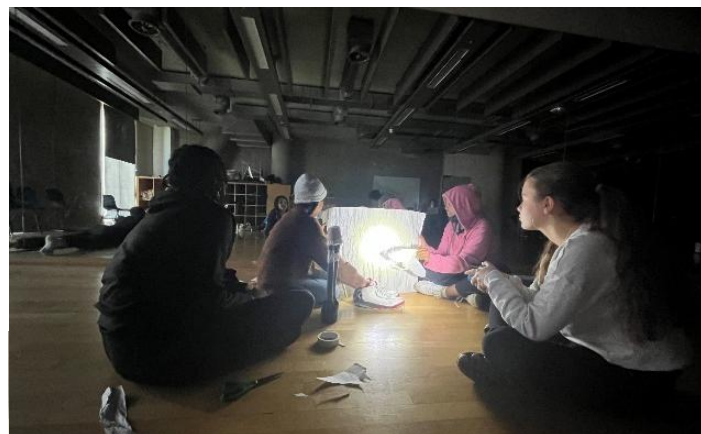
When **Juniors groups** aged 6-13 returned in the autumn it was clear that lockdowns and educational disruptions had left many members struggling in a group setting. We therefore spent time focusing on fun and relationship building, developing teamwork and communication skills through creative devising and games. Two members of our **Performance Company** wrote and directed their own short films, screened alongside 4 new musicals created and performed by the Juniors at our **sell-out Gala in March 2025**.

Young people's wellbeing has been supported through weekly check-ins which are opportunities for participants to express their thoughts and feelings. Many enter the space feeling anxious from their week. Through the course of the day they get to work and connect with their peers, achieve something they can feel proud of and unleash their energies in a safe and non-exposing way, with

**93% telling us they are now more open to learning new skills.** The check-outs are also structured to encourage the group to share something positive they've observed in someone else; this helps to foster teamwork, helps participants to see themselves differently through the eyes of others, and also opens them up to reflecting on their own positive qualities which builds self-esteem.

*"It is a great place to be."*

*"I really enjoy meeting new people."*



## EXPAND

Expand created opportunities for 135 participants to expand their creative experiences (2024=130).

We are committed to enabling young people to access the arts, which included two trips to the Puppet Barge as well as West End theatre trips to shows including *Lion King*.

DreamArts continues to **help develop and deliver City Lions**, Westminster City Council's flagship project to support 13-16 year olds from the borough's deprived areas to engage with creative opportunities on their doorstep.

**Project 8**, our City Lions arts and wellbeing programme, supported 30 students from St Augustine's School and 15 from College Park Special Needs School. In addition, our in-person holiday programmes engaged over 90 young people through creative activities, including workshops at The Saatchi Gallery and The Cartoon Museum.

The City Lions Events Leadership Team, funded through support from our links at Christie's auction house, staged a Halloween event at Royal Kensington Palace.

And we relaunched our Youth Arts Leadership Scheme, **training 8 young people to lead their peers** (pictured below). One of the young leaders was a participant from Friends From Afar and after the training, took on a staff role at DreamArts Experiment.

*"It gave me lots of insight and I learned how to present with different people about topics that are useful – leadership styles and tactics to persuade people which challenged my potential."*



## DREAMARTS STAR

### Sylvia Darkwa-Ohemeng

Sylvia recalls she wasn't doing anything the summer she decided to get involved with DreamArts. She joined aged 15 to play in the band of Street 2 Stage new musical *Can You Live Without It?* at The Cochrane Theatre and the next year ended up stage managing at a West End theatre, which was "exciting and scary as I'd never run a show in my life."

Sylvia stage managed numerous DreamArts Galas as well as *Carnival* which performed at The Royal Opera House. She studied stage management at Rose Bruford going on to stage manage with the Young Vic, Royal Court, the Tricycle now known as The Kiln, at the National Theatre (including *Nine Nights*) and international tours (*Barbershop Chronicles*).

Sylvia still finds time to meet and inspire today's DreamArts stars, giving technical theatre masterclasses and hosting Q&As with Carers Express. She launched Backstage Niche, an exciting initiative and agency aimed at encouraging and promoting people from ethnic minority backgrounds into technical theatre and backstage, and helps DreamArts recruit backstage teams for our shows.

*"I started Backstage Niche because the representation of me was absent backstage. I was the only black woman on my technical theatre course and wrote my dissertation on 'Why is there a lack of ethnic minorities working in backstage theatre?'"*

*At DreamArts we were all young people who lived in London and came from various backgrounds. I only experienced the lack of*

*iversity when I started drama school and working in the professional theatre workforce.*

*Anne-Marie Reid at DreamArts was the first black woman I learned stage management from and hired me for various events and festivals. I spoke to her about what I noticed and she said I should do something about it and this is where the seed of Backstage Niche came from.*

*Not only do we need to reflect our society within theatre, we need to make an active effort to make creative teams inclusive and inspire future generations, just as DreamArts inspired me."*

For more information on Backstage Niche visit [backstageniche.com](http://backstageniche.com).



## FINANCIAL REVIEW

**It is the opinion of the Board of Trustees that the charity remains financially sound. Income for the year ending 31 March 2025 totaled £435,759 whilst expenditure was £427,468. This produced a year-end surplus of £8,291, leaving the charity with reserves of £64,316.**

Incoming resources were up 4% from last year at £435,759 (2024 = £418,971). Our main source of income this year has been grants applied for by the charity primarily to deliver its core programmes. The level of this funding source rose to £338,885 (2024 = £301,291). This includes a John Lyon's Charity grant of £40k per year towards our core costs, and a 3-year grant from Esmée Fairbairn (£40k per year) to support Friends From Afar.

In 2024-25 commissions were £92,015 (2024 = £103,524) which included developing and delivering aspects of City Lions, our young carers commission and our work with unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Our income from donations and tickets generated £4,859 (2024 = £14,196).

Charitable expenditure was £408,304 (2024 = £401,887). £272,863 was expended on Express, £90,312 on Experiment and £45,129 on Expand. The costs spent on generating funds was £18,000 (2024= £18,240) which includes 40% of our Chief Executive's time and our freelance fundraiser's fees. Our governance costs for the year were £1,164 (2024 = £1,890). Thus, we continue our policy of living within our means.

### Reserves Policy

Reserves at year end stood at £64,316 (2024 = £56,025). We have therefore achieved what trustees consider to be a satisfactory reserves level since the charity has no fixed liabilities beyond its core full-time staff team and is structured to be able to reduce its work if funding is not secured for a particular programme.

### Supporters in 2024-25

We are grateful to the following Trusts and Foundations for their support:

John Lyon's Charity  
Young Westminster Foundation  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
City Bridge  
St Giles and William Shelton Education Trust  
City of Westminster Charitable Trust  
Awards for All  
Strand Parishes  
Hyde Park Estate Charity  
Westminster Almshouses  
Arts Council England  
STS & MS Foundation



## LOOKING FORWARD

Our work breaks down barriers to creativity and mental health so that young people can improve and sustain their own emotional wellbeing. Our ambition over the next 3 years is to secure, strengthen and share even more widely our fusion of arts and therapy, whilst remaining true to our core vision: that **young people across Westminster can express themselves on their own terms, explore their challenges and build on their strengths so they can realise their potential.**

Our key strategic goals are to:

- **Build our fusion of arts and therapy to meet young people's wellbeing needs, particularly those in Westminster's most deprived wards.**
- **Secure commissions that enable us to reach young people most in need and provide us with key resources.**
- **Develop and diversify longer-term funding.**

Our **reputation for quality and innovation** remains strong, with **the voice of young people at the heart of our work.** This is reflected in a new 3-year grant of £40k from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation's Youth Led Creativity Fund to support Friends From Afar, and in both Westminster City Council and John Lyon's Charity extending their investment in the Young Carers Support Programme for a further 2 years.

We are excited to be part of a major 3-year collaboration to strengthen wellbeing and transitions to secondary school, working with 5 schools and 2 youth clubs with a grant of £57k per year from John Lyon's Charity. We look forward to assessing and sharing the impact of our fusion of arts and therapeutic practice in **reducing school non-attendance**, which has been rising since the pandemic.

Further **assessments of our impact** will come from Queen Mary University who are carrying out a study of our work with young refugees.

We continue to work hard for DreamArts to be a 'brave space' where we positively challenge ourselves and embed inclusive practice. This includes continuing conversations around inclusiveness and what it means to create a 'safe space' where everyone can try things out, express themselves and grow their skills so that DreamArts can achieve the best outcomes for all young people.

Our priorities for the coming period are to:

- **Sustain** the quality, reach and impact of our programmes.
- **Seek** opportunities for expanding our support among communities hardest hit by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, without compromising on quality.
- **Share** our practice and success, making our pioneering projects more visible in communities and across the sector.

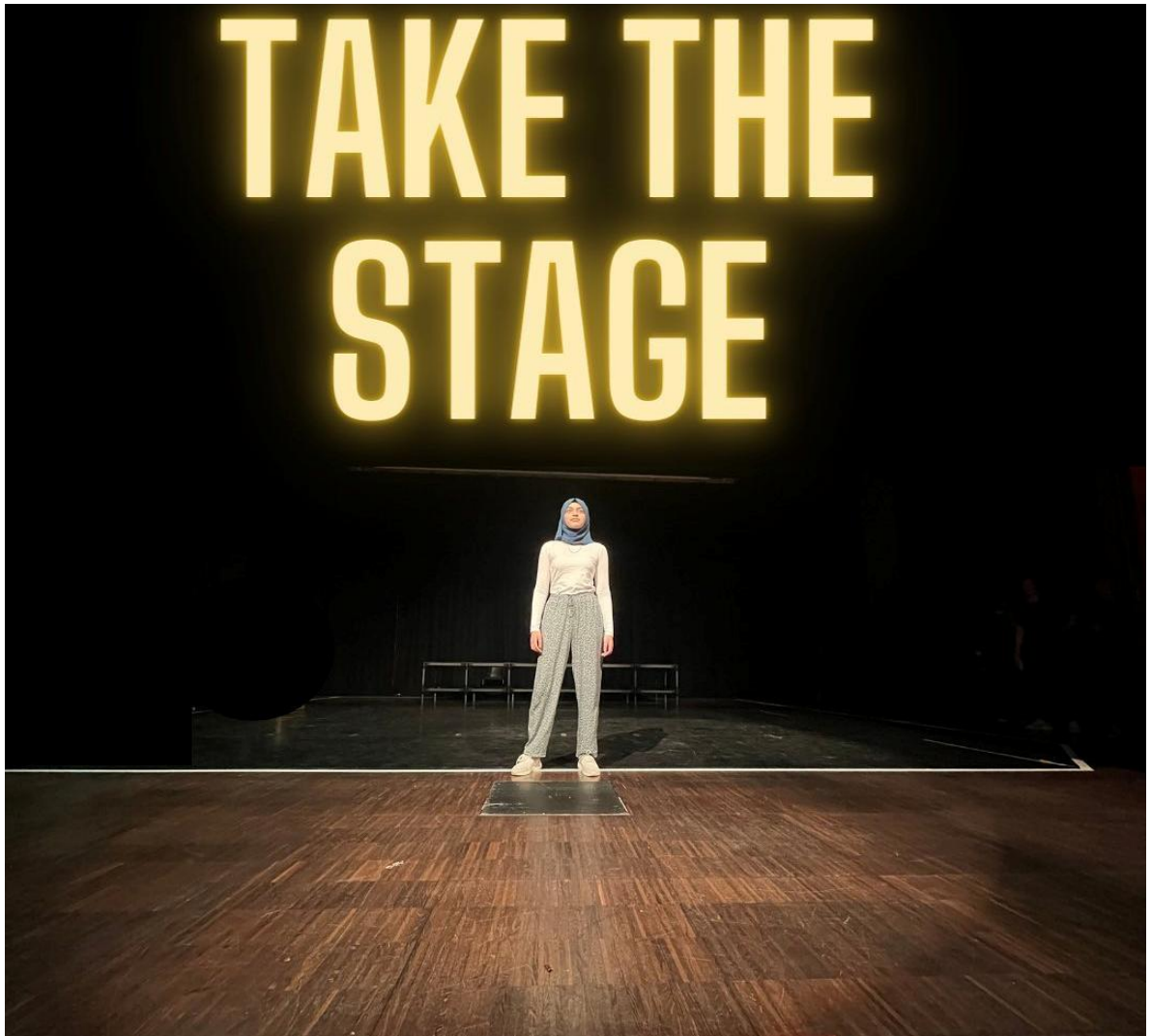
### Future Fundraising

We are grateful to our loyal funders for their past and continuing support, including individuals, Trusts and Foundations and commissioners. We know (because they tell us) that they recognise the impact we have and want to continue to invest in advancing our work. But we also recognise that no funder can guarantee continued funding at the same level or at all. So we will continue to explore ways of diversifying funding sources so that we ensure our long-term success.

This includes support from business and individuals, both those who already know about and recognise the value we provide to local communities and new faces. To this end we will seek to build a network of support from individuals and business to sustain and grow our vision and diversify our income. Please let us know if you would like to join that network, or know of people of businesses in that position.



# TAKE THE STAGE



## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DREAMARTS

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### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dreamarts

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dreamarts (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kiran D Patel BA BFP FCA  
KHI Albury Limited  
2nd Floor, One Hobbs House,  
Harrovia Business Village  
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Harrow  
Middlesex  
HA1 3EX

Date: 15 January 2026



DREAMARTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted fund £	2024 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	6	13,558	27,356
Cash at bank		<u>72,289</u>	<u>31,024</u>
		<b>85,847</b>	58,380
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(21,532)	(2,355)
		<u>64,315</u>	<u>56,025</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<u>64,315</u>	<u>56,025</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>64,315</u>	<u>56,025</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>64,315</u>	<u>56,025</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted funds	8	<u>64,315</u>	<u>56,025</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>64,315</u>	<u>56,025</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 January 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

*Asif Raniwala*

A Raniwala -Trustee



DREAMARTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2025	2025	2024
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £	Total Funds £
Donations and Legacies	-	4,859	4,859	14,156
Incoming resources from charitable activity	354,900	76,000	430,900	404,815
Total incoming resources	354,900	80,859	435,759	418,971
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>				
Raising funds	-	18,000	18,000	18,240
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Express	272,378	485	272,863	267,817
Experiment	42,923	47,389	90,312	93,802
Expand	45,129	-	45,129	38,378
Transfers to Restricted Funds	(5,506)	5,506	-	-
Other	-	1,164	1,164	1,890
<b>Total</b>	354,924	72,544	427,468	420,127
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(24)	8,315	8,291	(1,156)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
Total funds brought forward	24	56,001	56,025	57,181
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	-	64,316	64,316	56,025

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 January 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

*Asif Raniwala*

A Raniwala - Trustee



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**2. RAISING FUNDS**

**Raising donations and legacies**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Support costs	<u>18,000</u>	<u>18,240</u>

**3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.



DREAMARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Full Time	3	3
Part Time	16	14
Freelance Project Staff	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u><u>33</u></u>	<u><u>29</u></u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	14,156	-	19,497
Incoming Resources from Charitable activity	49,120	355,695	404,815
<b>Total</b>	<u>63,276</u>	<u>355,695</u>	<u>418,971</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	18,240	-	18,210
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Express	28,969	238,848	267,817
Experiment	15,357	78,445	93,802
Expand	-	38,378	38,378
Other	1,890	-	1,890
<b>Total</b>	<u>64,456</u>	<u>355,671</u>	<u>420,127</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	(1,180)	24	(1,156)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	57,181	-	57,181
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>56,001</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>56,025</u>

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	13,313	27,111
Other debtors	<u>245</u>	<u>245</u>
	<u><u>13,558</u></u>	<u><u>27,356</u></u>



DREAMARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	17,993	-
Other creditors	<u>3,539</u>	<u>2,355</u>
	<u>21,532</u>	<u>2,355</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	56,025	8,291	64,316
	<u>56,025</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>64,316</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			
	<u>56,025</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>64,316</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	80,859	(72,544)	8,315
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
General fund	354,900	(354,924)	(24)
	<u>435,759</u>	<u>(427,468)</u>	<u>8,291</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			
	<u>435,759</u>	<u>(427,468)</u>	<u>8,291</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General fund	57,181	(1,156)	56,025
	<u>57,181</u>	<u>(1,156)</u>	<u>56,025</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			
	<u>57,181</u>	<u>(1,156)</u>	<u>56,025</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	63,276	(64,456)	(1,180)
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
General Fund	355,695	(355,671)	24
	<u>418,971</u>	<u>(420,127)</u>	<u>(1,156)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			
	<u>418,971</u>	<u>(420,127)</u>	<u>(1,156)</u>



## DREAMARTS

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	<u>57,181</u>	<u>7,135</u>	<u>64,316</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>57,181</u>	<u>7,135</u>	<u>64,316</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	144,135	(137,000)	7,135
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
General fund	<u>710,595</u>	<u>(710,595)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>854,729</u>	<u>(847,595)</u>	<u>7,135</u>

#### 9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.



## DREAMARTS

### DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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	2025 £	2024 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	4,859	14,156
Incoming resources from charitable activity	<u>430,900</u>	<u>408,815</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>435,759</b>	<b>418,971</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Wages	176,007	173,797
Social security	21,402	18,894
Production & Project Costs	<u>109,832</u>	<u>120,882</u>
	<b>307,241</b>	<b>313,573</b>
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Wages	60,998	54,081
Pensions	6,883	5,900
Support Costs	<u>51,182</u>	<u>44,683</u>
	<b>119,063</b>	<b>104,664</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	<u>1,164</u>	<u>1,890</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>427,468</b>	<b>420,127</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u><b>8,291</b></u>	<u><b>(1,156)</b></u>





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