

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: SC195896 (Scotland)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC023610

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021  
for  
Befriending Networks Ltd**

Gibson McKerrell Brown LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
14 Rutland Square  
Edinburgh  
Midlothian  
EH1 2BD

**Befriending Networks Ltd**

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

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## **Befriending Networks Ltd**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

Befriending Networks exists to :

- Provide a high standard of information, training, resources, quality development and consultancy in relation to befriending
- Raise the profile and understanding of befriending and its role within a continuum of social care provision
- Support the delivery of high quality befriending services
- Maintain an effective and supportive network among our constituent members.

The principal objectives of the charity are to perform the role of providing information and support for new and established befriending services, which helps them develop effectively and efficiently by sharing experiences and practice. Ultimately, the reason for Befriending Networks is to ensure that isolated people receive a high quality service from befriending organisations. Befriending services are able to initiate supportive relationships delivered by volunteer befrienders to provide social contact for isolated people. Befriending services are often small and can be geographically isolated, and coordinators find value in meeting to share good practice and learning. Befriending Networks also exists to promote the work of its member organisations, and raise the profile of befriending to national and local government, commissioners and funders.

## Befriending Networks Ltd

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

##### Charitable activities

The report on achievement and performance is reported against the goals detailed in the Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021 and follows the same format as the last year three years 2018, 2019 and 2020, to enable comparisons to be drawn and progress monitored and evaluated. It must be noted that the work of the organisation and the performance over this period is set within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic which has hugely impacted Befriending Networks members and those they support. Therefore, the work of the year has focussed on reacting to the wider situation as it arose and trying to proactively provide helpful supportive resources to both members and non-member organisations and groups responding to the situation in communities across the UK.

##### **Provide a platform for member voices; raising awareness, representing them and influencing national and local policy**

Due to Covid-19 much of the early work in the Spring and Summer of 2020 focussed on other aspects of our aims, as both local and national policy makers were redeployed to the crisis response. As the year progressed we were able share the work of befriending projects and how they were able respond and provide vital distance befriending and other supports with national government. We were able to do this with both the Westminster and Scottish Governments via meetings with civil servants, at the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on loneliness and through various Cross Party Groups (Volunteering; Older People, Age, and Ageing; Mental Health; Health Inequalities; Improving Scotland's Health:2021 and beyond; and Children and Young People). In Scotland, we have continued to have an active role as a member of the National Implementation Group for the Social Isolation and Loneliness Strategy; 'A Connected Scotland'. We have responded to Scottish Government consultations on the impact of Covid-19 impact, wellbeing and on recovery plans and were delighted to see some of our comments published. We have met with Neil O'Brien MP chair of the APPG on loneliness and signed up to act as Loneliness Champions as part of the English Tackling Loneliness Action Plan.

During the different stages of the pandemic we ensured the concerns of befriending organisations were shared with Disclosure Scotland re PVG and The Disclosure and Barring Service re DBS checks on the requirements for telephone befriending and crisis support. We have sought clarification on vaccinations, risk assessments and offered members advice on managing the easing and tightening of restrictions as rules changed throughout the year.

National Befriending Week (1st -7th November) was a huge success gaining wider engagement and awareness despite being an online only event this year due to restrictions. The resource pack was freely available from our website and saw over 5000 downloads. Two stories a day were highlighted and shared during the week via the website and social media channels. There were frequent retweets by government departments, that week we had over 170k impressions on Twitter. We were really pleased that this year other organisations joined in including Mencap and Volunteer Scotland who made a focus of the week, utilised the resource pack, created content and highlighted the work of befriending volunteers on their social media platforms. In addition, funders including NLCF and Foundation Scotland shared posts on their social media accounts as did other organisations such as Evaluation Support Scotland.

We have supported the work of other campaigns this year sharing various Befriending Stories from our members during Volunteers Week including on RadioV (Volunteer Scotland), Loneliness Awareness week, , the Clear your Head campaign (Scotland), Lets Talk Loneliness campaign (England). Alongside responding to several other media requests including BBC radio and Global Media for radio content and in other cases found member organisations to provide befrienders and befriendees to share their experiences.

"I'm sure the focus on isolation/loneliness at a national level, and especially with COVID-19 pandemic, has some correlation to the fact that there is influence in policy from you in this area." - Seescape

"Every month you have new members joining and there is a bigger understanding at government level about the benefits of befriending and I believe this is due to your hard work in raising awareness and understanding" - Eric Liddell Centre

"It's good that they have a seat at the table and links to decision makers. I'm glad they have filled that space of representing us nationally" (Feedback from the external evaluation of the Building Connections Funded work in England)

"Befriending Networks are really good at lobbying. They have been trailblazers on loneliness and isolation. They helped us contribute to the UK parliament's call for evidence. Lobbying isn't something we do ourselves. They do the front running which gives befriending recognition." (Feedback from the external evaluation of the Building Connections Funded work in England)

**Support front line organisations to deliver well through providing information and support, encouraging organisational development and capacity building, promoting good practice within the Befriending Sector.**

## Befriending Networks Ltd

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

We saw our membership increase during the year to over 350 member organisations and provided support to many non-members too through our Covid 19 response and free resources. We continued to deliver information and support, training, Quality Standard Accreditation, networking events, annual conference, and have rewritten good practice publications ready for launch later in 2021.

We continued to deliver our core training for coordinators 'vital skills', 30 modules were delivered to 136 participants via online learning. In addition, we ran a range of online topical training courses (27 in total) on Mental Health awareness, supporting people living with Dementia, management and leadership, safeguarding, and bereavement. In total 193 people have benefitted from these online courses.

"As an experienced Volunteering Manager, I found this course hit the right level. It is practical, so I finished with lots of tools and materials I had created from support from the course. It helped reinforce and reassure my own experience and training, and I feel confident to grow and enhance the befriending programme I work on." - Vital skills participant

'It has already been beneficial. I have already implemented things I learned on the course and it has changed the way I think about certain aspects of my management. I feel the most beneficial was the parts that required self reflection but also the tools given to us to use. I don't think there was a part of the course that wasn't beneficial.' - Management and Leadership participant

In response to Covid-19 we created new fast-tracked volunteer training and made this freely available on our website and actively promoted this to support more than just our members. Over 470 organisations have used the training with an estimated 3500 volunteers now having viewed the training videos.

"The speed at which BN found or produced guidance, templates and resources at the start of the pandemic was brilliant. The videos made for volunteer training have been really useful too, to let us focus on producing project specific training." - LEAD Scotland.

In February 2021 we launched our new volunteer training toolkit using learning from the interim training we had offered. This toolkit offers videos plus a range of others resources including reading materials, activities and PowerPoint slides. So far this has been well received:

"my team are loving the new toolkit too, you have certainly helped us with so many great resources and support throughout this time so we are very appreciative members" - Aberlour

"The guidelines and training just released from Befriending Network is a hugely supportive resource and allows us to operate in a safer and better informed capacity. I'm grateful to have this resource and wealth of experience and knowledge to tap into". - English Member

In addition to the above our Building Connections Funding (funded by Her Majesty's Government and National Lottery Community Fund) has allowed us to offer specific support to English organisations. This has included 2 further masterclasses for 100 new befriending projects/organisations set up within the last year with a further two planned for Spring 2021 for more experienced organisations.

Due to members directing their resources to front line delivery during the last year we have allowed Quality in Befriending (QIB) holders to have extend their reaccreditation periods and enabled first time applicants to pause their applications, until they felt able to complete the award. 5 organisations did however manage to complete their Reaccreditation and we hope as 2021 progresses to see others achieving QIB status for the first time.

During the year we also delivered bespoke training and consultation work as a method of providing very specific individual service support and to support Befriending Networks aim of continuing to diversify income streams to aid stability for the organisation.

In response to the pandemic we created a whole new resource section on our website all the resources on there were made freely accessible to all and have been shared widely. Two examples are our Telephone Befriending Guidance with 5328 downloads and our Hints and Tips for positive conversations 3109 downloads. We made our good practice guide: 'Being a Befriender' freely accessible too during this time, this now has over 5682 downloads. Across the year we have kept these resources up to date and added new versions, one recent example is 'A Decision Making Toolkit: The Impact of Easing Restrictions on Befriending' regarding the second lockdown and guidelines in 2021 (1252 downloads to date).

"They put the voice of their members first developing training, resources and providing opportunities for support to ensure that coordinators and volunteers feel confident in undertaking their befriending role." Time to Talk Befriending

In Scotland, we were allocated money from the Scottish Government's Winter Support Fund that enabled a small grants programme to be delivered to Scottish Members. 41 applications were received with 38 awards being granted, totalling £121,490.00. This funded 567 additional matches and provided over 7500 hours of befriending.

## Befriending Networks Ltd

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### **Increase Communication and Networking: provide a network for communication and sharing, develop an evidence base for befriending**

17 Network News (e-newsletters) were produced, this is normally monthly but we increased the regularity during the early stages of the pandemic in order to get information out to members. This now gets sent out to over 800 subscribers. Mailchimp reports suggest that 41% of subscribers are highly engaged

The provision of regional/thematic networking meetings changed due to members needs and travel/meeting restrictions instead during the year we provided 46 weekly Q&A/networking sessions online. Some of these are generic sessions and others with a specific theme, we have now increased capacity at these events to 36 places per session due to them being regularly fully booked. In total over 682 places have been booked across these events. These have been so popular that they will continue into next financial year.

"The Q&A sessions have been a life saver - great to hear other perspectives and discuss difficult topics." - English Member feedback

"If it hadn't been for the live meetings online I think I would have struggled as the sole member of staff overseeing these services during covid-19. Meeting with others from across the country and getting ideas and advice has been brilliant and led me to setting up our own distance befriending service, which has been quite successful. For that I'm immensely grateful and the distance befriending modules/videos were amazing and I was able to offer volunteers some of the content/adapt for our own purpose, so thank you very much :-)" - Seescape

Our annual conference took place online over three sessions on three separate days, it was made free for members to attend in recognition of their hard work and commitment to their communities during the pandemic. We delivered this online event in partnership with Wren and Greyhound who delivered one of the keynotes around 'A Lasting Difference'. 240 delegate places were offered for this event and it was fully booked for every session. The majority of our 15 workshop leaders and two keynote speakers were from our own membership, underpinning our values that we learn from one another.

"I enjoyed the speakers. The information was very relevant and interesting, but I found the workshop most relevant. I have left this conference with lots of ideas and thoughts of how to take things forward. Thank you". - Conference delegate

"I think the conference has been absolutely brilliant this year -I've almost felt more involved and able to be heard which is just fantastic! Being able to see folks' comments as they come in has made me feel really involved. The range of speakers has been great too. Big congratulations to everyone involved -there has obviously been a huge amount of work going on in the background." - Conference delegate

Our social media presence continues to grow with increasing staff time dedicated to this method of communication over the last year and a clear social media plan now being implemented. We have increased our Facebook likes to 1678 in total (up 278). With Twitter we saw an increase to 3335 followers in total (up 276). Befriending Networks Facebook page has over 300 post engagements on an average month and Twitter has a monthly reach averaging almost 100k people.

Research wise we worked with Volunteer Scotland to capture the role and impact of befriending during Covid and shared the results during our online conference. We continue to share any wider learning around loneliness and staying connected such as the recent report from the APPG on Loneliness Inquiry and the Staying Together - Recovering Together Covid 19 Research Report from Time to Talk Befriending and the University of Sussex.

#### **Future Plans**

It remains difficult to predict how 2021/22 will unfold with the continued impact of Covid 19 restrictions and government recovery plans. At a time when loneliness and social isolation is so prevalent and impacting many more people, we will continue to promote safe and professional guidance to those on the front line, who are working with some of the most vulnerable in our society. In addition to ensuring that the experiences and voices of people and organisations are shared, so that the need for befriending and other services that tackle social isolation and loneliness and provided much needed support in communities are prioritised during the recovery period.

At this point we are planning to: continue weekly Q & A webinars which remain highly popular, deliver our final 2 master classes funded through the Building Connections Fund, relaunch our 3 newly updated good practice guides and respond to members needs as the year progresses, alongside continuing to deliver a range of training and support. Our social media will continue actively passing on information remains an important method of maintaining contact with members at this time. Finally, we will work with others to gather and share learning from the last year, it's impact on society and befriending and effective blended models of befriending support for the future.

The Board of Trustees will be consulting members, staff and other stakeholders in creating the next three year strategic plan and will review the staff structure and resource to meet the needs of the growing membership.

## **Befriending Networks Ltd**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial Review**

During the period of these Accounts the Charity received restricted grants and donations of £298,600. The restricted expenditure was £284,665. There were restricted reserves of £18,012 at the year ended 31 March 2021. There was a surplus on unrestricted funds for the year ended 31 March 2021 of £45,629. There were unrestricted reserves of £209,690 at 31 March 2021.

##### **Reserves policy**

It is the policy of the charity at this time to set up the following two new designated funds; £40k Information Tech fund for the ongoing replacement of IT hardware and Software, including the purchase and development of CRM system and any website updates required to enable integration. It is expected this work will begin in this financial year but spend will spread into next financial year hence the designation. £30K development fund to underwrite/match fund applications being submitted during the next 12 months to fund developments in other geographic areas of the UK and increasing national policy influence. In addition to increasing the previous £50k fund to guard against financial insecurity due to the nature of project funding and single year grants to £60k, to reflect the growth in the organisations turnover and unknown income for 2022 onwards.

The remaining funds are unrestricted and are the free reserves of the charity. These should be a minimum of no less than 3 months but aiming for 6 - 9 months running costs in order to support current activities and provide stability towards future operations in line with good governance.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Six of the Directors, or Trustees, can be members of Befriending Networks, called 'Member Directors'. Four of the Directors can be non-members, called 'Appointed Directors'. At each Annual General Meeting Appointed Directors retire, as do the longest standing 50% of Member Directors, although they may stand for re-election if they wish. The business of the Charity is conducted by five Board meetings per year, whilst strategy meetings, sub group meetings and training events are also convened when required. All major decisions are taken at these meetings, while management decisions are taken by the Chief Executive who acts as Company Secretary.

##### **Key management remuneration**

The Directors considered the board of directors, who are the Charity's Trustees, and the Company Secretary comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All Directors give of their time freely and no Director received remuneration for their time. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually.

##### **Related parties**

There are no related parties.

##### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees have been involved in risk managing the organisation's response to the Covid 19 pandemic since early 2020 and this continued throughout 2020/21 as a regular board meeting agenda item. The Trustees are aware that a large proportion of the charity's income is from government grants and continually work to diversify income streams, aiming to maintain the flow of income to protect the charitable activities. The Trustees are also aware of the importance of directing the resources for the benefit of the charity.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**  
SC195896 (Scotland)

**Registered Charity number**  
SC023610

**Registered office**  
63-65 Shandwick Place  
Edinburgh  
EH2 4SD

**Befriending Networks Ltd**

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

**Trustees**

P Winford (resigned 3.4.20)  
J Bates  
G Provan  
J Laird  
G Frame  
C Macleod  
S Coyne  
G F Liddall  
L Jamieson (resigned 24.3.21)  
L Andree (resigned 2.6.21)  
K Duffin (appointed 28.1.21)  
L C Pryke (appointed 28.1.21)

**Company Secretary**

S Van Putten

**Independent Examiner**

Julian Cordery  
FCCA FCA CA  
Gibson McKerrell Brown LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
14 Rutland Square  
Edinburgh  
Midlothian  
EH1 2BD

**Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank plc  
PO Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 1 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



G Frame - Trustee



**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Befriending Networks Ltd**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages eight to fourteen.

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. The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) 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 the independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 seeking explanations from you as 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 connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

(1) 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 to comply with Regulation 8 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.



Julian Cordery  
FCCA FCA CA  
Gibson McKerrrell Brown LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
14 Rutland Square  
Edinburgh  
Midlothian  
EH1 2BD

1 September 2021

Befriending Networks Ltd

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	-	298,600	298,600	134,122
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Training/Network		68,028	-	68,028	65,487
Investment income	3	75	-	75	185
Other income		-	-	-	180
<b>Total</b>		<b>68,103</b>	<b>298,600</b>	<b>366,703</b>	<b>199,974</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds		1,404	19,516	20,920	20,247
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Training/Network	4	21,070	265,149	286,219	170,709
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,474</b>	<b>284,665</b>	<b>307,139</b>	<b>190,956</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>45,629</b>	<b>13,935</b>	<b>59,564</b>	<b>9,018</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		164,061	4,077	168,138	159,120
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b><u>209,690</u></b>	<b><u>18,012</u></b>	<b><u>227,702</u></b>	<b><u>168,138</u></b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Befriending Networks Ltd

Statement of Financial Position  
31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	11	2,524	-	2,524	3,614
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	12	3,186	-	3,186	4,225
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>211,508</u>	<u>18,012</u>	<u>229,520</u>	<u>164,524</u>
		214,694	18,012	232,706	168,749
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(7,528)	-	(7,528)	(4,225)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>207,166</u>	<u>18,012</u>	<u>225,178</u>	<u>164,524</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>209,690</u>	<u>18,012</u>	<u>227,702</u>	<u>168,138</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>209,690</u>	<u>18,012</u>	<u>227,702</u>	<u>168,138</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	14				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				79,690	104,061
Designated fund				<u>130,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>
				209,690	164,061
Restricted funds				<u>18,012</u>	<u>4,077</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>227,702</u>	<u>168,138</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 1 September 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
Laird - Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

**Income recognition**

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.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has the entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the service being performed is deferred until the criteria for income recognition have been met.

**Expenditure recognition**

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. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

**Cost of raising funds**

Raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities, events and trading activities.

**Charitable activities**

Costs of the charitable activities include staff and support costs.

**Support and governance costs**

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to independent examination and an apportionment of overhead and support costs. Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned between funds based on an estimate by the Trustee. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 7.

**Allocation and apportionment of costs**

The costs arising during the year are apportioned to the restricted and unrestricted income on an accruals basis.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost. Cost includes the original purchase price and costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to its present location and into its present condition. After initial recognition, the assets are measured at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The policy is not to capitalise items costing less than £500

Depreciation is provided by equal instalments at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life or, if held under a finance lease, over the lease term, whichever is the shorter.

Plant and machinery - 25% on cost

Befriending Networks Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

**Tangible fixed assets**

Computer equipment - 25% on cost

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. The effect of any change is accounted for prospectively.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	31.03.21 £	31.03.20 £
<b>Grants and Donations</b>				
CYPFEIF & ALEC Fund-Corra Foundation	-	47,000	47,000	47,000
Henry Duncan Grants	-	-	-	6,497
The Scottish Government S10 Equalities Unit	-	49,500	49,500	40,000
Building Connections Fund	-	37,100	37,100	19,975
The Scottish Government S10 Mental Health Directorate	-	40,000	40,000	20,650
Scottish Government Winter Support	-	125,000	125,000	-
	-	298,600	298,600	134,122

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Interest received	75	185

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 5) £	Grant funding of activities £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Training/Network	155,771	121,095	9,353	286,219