



Social Ark Annual Report & Accounts 2022

social **ARK**

Company Registration Number : CE021106
Registered Charity : 1188519

SOCIAL ARK
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

31st March 2022

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Social Ark – Trustee’s Annual Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year 30th March 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Objectives and Activities

a. Policies and Objectives

The objects of Social Ark, as set out in our governing document are:

To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in London and the surrounding areas by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:

- (a) advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
- (b) advancing education;
- (c) relieving unemployment.

b. Activities for Achieving Objectives

Social Ark started as a CIC in 2015 and converted to a CIO, gaining charitable status in March 2020. Set up by local resident Lisa Stepanovic, Social Ark is a charity that works with young people from under-resourced East London backgrounds. Social Ark empowers young people to use their lived experience to start social enterprises through structured learning, influential expert mentoring, and wraparound support.

Our trustee board is lived experience led, and collectively, they share many of the same lived experiences as our beneficiaries. 2 of our 5 trustees are service users, we also have a dedicated youth board consisting of young people that have been through our programmes, these young people meet regularly and lead on co-design, helping to shape and steer our work.

Our business learning programmes have been co-designed by our alumni, creating universal, accessible, and easy-to-understand programmes. These tried and tested programmes work for all backgrounds and educational experiences. Young people receive high-quality learning that

builds on their assets and talents, ensuring they become more confident and 'tender ready' for business, funding, and other opportunities.

Our beneficiaries experience intersecting social and economic barriers, including poverty and social exclusion. We've found that no matter how determined they may be, the young people often come to us with personal issues and 'baggage' that weighs them down, holds them back and prevents them from moving forward. We help young people take control of improving their lives and focus their talents and expertise on bettering their own lives while tackling the social issues that are important to them.

Current Programming:

The Step-Up Programme offers exceptional 1:1, group and peer learning, personalised support, and expert mentoring. Sessions cover everything needed to develop and sustain a social business, including piloting, business planning, financial management, monitoring, evaluation, marketing, and other relevant training. Step-Up has been running annually for 4 years, the programme is accessible, inclusive and provides industry-standard learning.

The July 2021/2022 programme was funded by LLDC and EECF, and thanks to the funding provided, the young people received grants of £1,000 each which they were able to use to assist with day-to-day living. Those who needed it also received laptops, tailored training, and business insurance to support their first year of trading.

13 people applied for the programme, 3 dropped out early after realising it wasn't for them, resulting in 10 entrepreneurs completing the programme, 7 of them set up social enterprises and 3 people used the skills learnt to secure full-time jobs in the sector. The Social Ark team and mentors delivered 24 weekly 3-hour learning workshops for 10 dedicated young entrepreneurs. The young entrepreneurs went on to deliver projects in their communities including hosting events and workshops in schools and across the Olympic Park. At least 200 individuals from the community benefited from each project piloted – which means that 2,000 people across East London have directly benefited from Social Ark's Step-Up Programme during this period.

"The programme so far has been amazing! I've joined the Social Ark family and it's been so supportive. Everyone is so open and willing to help each other, even on a personal level, I've really connected with the group. The tailored 1:1 support has been formative for me, it's opened up other leadership and development opportunities that specifically meet my needs. I'm very grateful for the knowledge, information, tools, and ongoing support provided. I feel prepared, and equipped for the journey ahead." - Step-Up Participant

The Investment Ready Programme supports entrepreneurs to be 'tender ready'. The course involves workshops and 1:1 business support, covering business planning & strategy, personal leadership & branding, impact measurement & evaluation, communication & marketing,

pitching & presenting, budgeting & finance, and policies & procedures. Thanks to funding from TNLCF, UNLTD, Social Enterprise Support Fund and Paul Hamlyn Foundation, from November 2021 to March 2022, 13 young entrepreneurs completed the course online. The entrepreneurs worked with a peer-partner to encourage accountability, receiving £250 per month for peer mentoring so they could 'earn while they learn'. As a result of the programme, the entrepreneurs each have impact reports, budgets, management accounts, and a proposal/funding bid in place. All saw an increase in income, and collectively, they secured over £200,000 in revenue or funding in 16 weeks. From March 2021 - March 2022, these entrepreneurs continued to thrive and with access to our specialist regular 1:1 business support, they are making their mark across East London. As per the Social Ark ethos, these young people are now peer mentoring newcomers, some are also taking up leadership roles within the charity, including Project Management of future programmes.

"I loved being a participant on this programme, it was refresher training for me, I really benefited from the proposal and bid writing which resulted in securing much-needed grant funding. I also took on a part-time role at Social Ark supporting the peer support group programme and sharing my expertise and experience of running a social enterprise to help the group implement relatable ways of supporting each other." - Participant

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) 'Young East London Lived Experience Leaders':

August 2021 saw Social Ark awarded multiyear funding of £300,000 over 3 years. This core funding will support us to build on our work so far and continue running for another 3 years. Our programmes, Step-Up, Investment Ready, Here Come the Girls and schools' work experience programmes will see 300 young people benefit over 3 years (100 per year). The aim is for all young people to report improvements in confidence, skills and self-belief. 80 will establish social enterprises, either as companies or HMRC-registered sole traders. A further 90 will move into employment, apprenticeships or further education.

Here Come the Girls: Through our continued partnership with the Hiscox Foundation, we are able to run our three-year empowerment programme 'Here Come the Girls' alongside our TNLCF project. The Social Ark 'Here Come the Girls' social enterprise project aims to positively impact 180 girls over the next 3 years. This 3-year programme consists of two separate 12-week programmes running annually in different schools across East London.

Social Ark was awarded the Cambridge University 2021 Social Innovation Prize in recognition of its innovative work. Utilising this relationship with the university enabled us to tap into its extensive network. We were thrilled when they invited us to partner with them for this programme.

We started the programme in partnership with Mulberry School for Girls in Tower Hamlets. 20 Year 11/12 students took part in after-school learning workshops and offsite visits to Hiscox HQ and Cambridge University. They learned about social enterprise and met inspiring female social

entrepreneurs from the local community. The group were introduced to volunteer mentors who were female leaders from Hiscox UK. The Cambridge University visit saw them introduced to the Social Innovation team. The girls identified the causes and issues they cared about and mapped them out on business model canvases. As the weeks commenced, their projects developed and took shape. As their micro enterprises took shape, they also developed important transferable leadership skills.

"This project has opened my eyes to different careers; I can actually be a social entrepreneur and have a career about something I'm passionate about. What made it special was that it was delivered by people I can relate to, inspiring female community leaders from my own community. I've learned about the importance of defining my own personal values; I always knew I cared about things but didn't realise how powerful it is to get them down on paper. Thank you, Social Ark, I'll never forget this opportunity!" - Mulberry School Student

Continued Personal Development Programme – Ongoing Family Support: At Social Ark, we operate an open door policy, meaning beneficiaries can come and go, and get help as and when they need it. The young entrepreneurs choose to remain part of the Social Ark family, accessing ongoing guidance and in return they peer-mentor newcomers. They have told us that our reliable support is vital to their personal development, wellbeing and their enterprises' growth. Alumni stay involved, they are prioritised for paid employment opportunities, they support us to co-design programmes, fill back office roles and facilitate expert sessions. We pride ourselves on being a family, sharing the same values and journey, empowering and uplifting one another.

Wraparound Support: An integral part of our work is 1:1 support which is often out of hours and goes hand in hand when supporting marginalised young people. Often, our young people can only turn their lives around and showcase transformational outcomes due to intensive behind-the-scenes support. Sometimes we help young people who have been involved in gangs, grooming, are victims of violent crime or at risk of suicide. A consistent and trusted professional is available every step of the journey, we also work with specialist external providers to 'hand-hold' ensuring young people are supported with any issues they may have, enabling them to go on and thrive.

Mentoring: Each beneficiary is matched with three mentors; an industry expert to help them deliver their ideas, a corporate mentor to share business knowledge and skills, and an alumni peer mentor. Our mentors include individuals from corporate backgrounds, private business owners, community support experts, and experts by experience, such as ex-offenders and other individuals with the life experiences required to influence others.

Diversity and Inclusion Training: Bespoke sessions for corporates, co-designed and delivered by our alumni, who are respectfully paid as the experts they are. The facilitators are Social Ark entrepreneurs from all backgrounds and walks of life. Sessions involve sharing lived experiences about structural racism and sensitising participants to concepts of privilege, power, biases, and

othering. These bespoke workshops give corporate employees an insight into the lives of grassroots social entrepreneurs, affirming employees' passion and purpose through thought-provoking activities, reaffirming that their contributions to under-resourced communities are needed and valued.

c. Contribution Made by Volunteers

Social Ark values and recognises volunteering is at the core of its work. Beneficiaries are matched with mentors: an expert in their field, and a peer mentor. Our expert volunteers and mentors deliver 1:1 mentoring and at times, custom and engaging business workshops; topics include: finance management, pitching and presenting, bid and proposal writing, digital know-how, web design, social media, sales and marketing, risk management, safeguarding and more.

We work with driven people who have impressive track records, who are the authority on their specialist subject, and can inspire, influence and support our young people. We are proud to have such a varied network of professionals that share our values and champion our work. Mentors often support more than one young person at any one time and collaborate to support one another's mentees.

"The mentoring has been invaluable, Jayne Chace supported me to perfect my pitching and presenting skills, enabling me to go on to secure over £40k to run my new programmes. I would not be where I am today without my incredible mentor, thank you Jayne." - Participant

We openly advertise volunteering opportunities and recruit through social media, corporates and other non-profit platforms. It is often the case that we gain new volunteers through our network of influential mentors and advisors; many referrals are made by word-of-mouth and personal recommendation. Social Ark volunteers remain at the core of everything we do; in addition to supporting our young entrepreneurs, volunteers also support the Social Ark core team with strategy, fundraising, HR, governance, bookkeeping, referrals and social media. We tailor all volunteering roles and support volunteers with safeguarding training, conducting DBS checks as and when required. We have worked with 40 volunteers between 2021 - 2022, these volunteer mentors provided over 200 hours of expertise and professional support for our young entrepreneurs.

Achievements and Performance

a. Our Impact

From March 2021 - March 2022, Social Ark directly nurtured 26 social enterprises, taking our overall number from 38 to 64 enterprises in this one-year period. Additionally, through our schools and community outreach work with LLDC, Langdon Park School, Mulberry School for Girls and Westfield Stratford Half-Term Projects, we have supported the development of over

400 young people. The young entrepreneurs' business activities directly benefited over 1,500 East London residents and spread the concept of social entrepreneurship and what it means to be socially conscious across our East London boroughs.

Our latest entrepreneurs have started a range of businesses and projects, including online fitness and youth mentoring, wellbeing, music and artistic development, ex-offender creative employment programmes, primary school culture and dance, education on domestic violence, young carers, dance and drama, poetry and spoken word, and sexual abuse support services.

As a result of the Social Ark programmes, the entrepreneurs have gained many skills. In addition to the brilliant projects and start-ups they've created, below are some of the other benefits they have taken away from our programmes:

- Increased self-confidence
- Greater recognition of the value of their own lived experiences
- Greater understanding of business and legal requirements
- Developed a better understanding of social entrepreneurship and community leadership
- A more open attitude to embracing opportunities and challenges
- Established new supportive friendships with people they wouldn't have met otherwise
- Developed a greater understanding and sense of responsibility to social issues

We are extremely proud to have been recognised for the following:

- NatWest SE100 Finalist for the Resilience Award 2021
- 2021 University of Cambridge Social Innovation Prize
- Top 100 Social Enterprises 2021 - NatWest Pioneers Post
- Equality Award 2022 Winner - NatWest Pioneers Post
- Awarded External Accreditation - Social Enterprise Mark CIC
- Accredited London Living Wage Provider

b. Key Financial Performance Indicators

We don't currently have reserves as such, we are a recently converted charity and our funding is mostly restricted for projects, staff costs and organisational development. However, through 2021, our aim is to invest in our core team and build reserves to 6-months running costs as part of our business planning, income generation and fundraising activities – to be reviewed at the end of 2023.

Financial Review

a. Going Concern

The Coronavirus pandemic created uncertainty. The trustees are working to ensure the safety of all those involved with Social Ark and to maintain the continuity of its activities and to adhere to Government advice. After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a secure expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the next twelve months, securing further funding and reserves. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in the financial statements.

Structure, Governance and Management

a. Constitution

Social Ark has a Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity number: 1188519). The principal object of the Charity is to act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in London and the surrounding areas by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational, and other activities.

b. Management Structure

Social Ark has a charitable board of 5 trustees. Collectively, trustees have lived experience of the issues faced by our beneficiaries. We currently have 2 alumni trustees, who have been through our programmes and play a vital role in shaping our work. The skills of our trustees include safeguarding, finance, social services, diversity and inclusion, fundraising, wellbeing and community building, and impact measurement. The Social Ark CEO reports back to the board of trustees. The CEO supports and works closely with the project administrator, support worker, project facilitators and volunteers. The administrator and support worker report to the CEO on a weekly basis, or more often if required. Financial decisions are agreed by at least 2 trustees.

c. Method of Appointment or Election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees, who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charity and of application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Financial statements are published on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements, which may vary from legislation in other jurisdictions. The maintenance and integrity of the charity's website is the responsibility of the trustees. The trustees' responsibility also extends to the ongoing integrity of the financial statements contained therein.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant independent examination information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

Dated:

Signed:

Sarah Castro MBE, Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees of Social Ark (Charity No 1188519) on the accounts for the period ended 31st March 2022.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
- the account did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaz Notay', written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Jaz Notay ACMA CGMA BEng (Hons)
Zoneip Ltd

Statement of Financial Activities
For the period ended 31st March 2022

Recommended categories by activity	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year funds £ F05
Income (Note 3) Income & endowments from:					
Donations & legacies	41,124	156,529	-	197,653	-
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	41,124	156,529	-	197,653	-

Expenditure (Notes 6) Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	1,052	63,657	-	64,709	-
Separate material expense item	-	-	-	-	-
Other	3,191	98,424	-	101,615	-
Total	4,243	162,081	-	166,323	-

Net income / (expenditure) before tax for the reporting period					
Tax payable					

Net income/(expenditure) after tax before investment gains/(losses)					
Net gains/(losses) on investments					
Net income/(expenditure)					
Extraordinary items					
Transfers between funds					

Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use					
Other gains/(losses)					
Net movement in funds					

Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward					
Total funds carried forward					

Balance Sheet
As at 31st March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets					
Tangible assets					
Heritage assets					
Investments					
Total fixed assets					

Current assets					
Stocks					
Debtors					
Investment					
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 4)					

Current assets					
Total current assets					

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 3)					
Net current assets/(liabilities)					
Total assets less current liabilities					

Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 3)					
Provisions for liabilities					
Total net assets or liabilities					

Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds					
Restricted income funds (Note 5)					
Unrestricted funds					
Revaluation reserve					
Fair value reserve					
Total funds					

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

Dated:

Signed:

Sarah Castro MBE, Chair of Trustees

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparing financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) 'Accounting and Reporting' by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the provisions of FRS102 Section 1A Small Entities and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historic 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 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 obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs 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 corporation 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 the funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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

2. Analysis of Income

Analysis of Income	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
Donations and gifts					
Gift Aid					
Legacies					
General grants provided by government/other charities					
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations					

Analysis of Income	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
Donated goods, facilities and services					
Other					
Total					

Material Restricted funds are broken down as follows:

East Wick & Sweetwater	£13,500
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	£39,600
City of London	£25,920
COVID-19 Response	£9,900
Big Lottery Fund – SESF	£49,400
EECF	£15,709

3. Analysis of Creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable				

4. Cash in Bank and on Hand

	This year £	Last year £
Cash at bank and on hand		

5. Charity Funds

Fund names	Type	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Social Ark CIC	Restricted	Surplus Funds from CIC	27,855	156,529	162,081	-	-	22,303