



South Tyneside Council

item 10

Westoe Educational Charity Annual Accounts 2024/25

This document has been classified as: **Not protectively
marked**

Chris Ring, Head of Children and Family Services

Tel 0191 424 680

Cabinet – 5th November 2025

Report to: Cabinet

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Councillor Liz McHugh, Children and Families Social Care & Education and Skills

Report of Stuart Easingwood, Director of Children Services

Subject: Westoe Educational Charity Annual Accounts 2024/25

Date: 5th November 2025

Wards affected: All

Council ambitions: All

Does the report and any appendices contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?

- No, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

For Executive Decisions only:

Is the decision a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

If not in the Forward Plan is the report: N/A

Relevant Scrutiny Chair: N/A

Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? No

(If the decision is anything other than any executive decision made by the Cabinet or a Key Decision made by an officer under delegated powers, call-in is not applicable. This should be explained in the report).

Purpose of Report

1. The Council is the Trustee of the Westoe Educational Charity and is required to consider a financial statement for the last financial year.
2. To approve the annual accounts for 2024/25.

Background Information

3. The Westoe Educational Charity was sealed on 24 March 1997 and registered as a charity on 25 March 1999. The capital sum came from the sale of the old Westoe Comprehensive School site as a wider housing development.
4. The land was subject to covenants which meant that the capital receipt for the school site had to be ring-fenced and used for charitable purposes – hence the Trust was created by the Council.
5. According to the terms of the Scheme as amended in November 2014, income shall be applied in the following ways:
 - To make awards to individual applicants who must be under 25 years old and resident in the Borough and
 - Who must be a looked after child or care leaver
 - Must be awarded to an individual involving advice from social care staff with a maximum award of £1,000 per individual
 - Relate to benefits not funded by mainstream Council budgets
6. There are no criteria in the Trust Document on means-testing applicants. Where the amount requested by qualifying applicants exceeds the interest on investments, it is for the Trustees to decide on their priorities in applying this investment income.
7. Although the Borough Council is the trustee, the director of Children's Services has delegated powers to approve spend from the trust on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Lead Member
8. Availability of funding for the purpose of the Charity is widely publicised, including on the Internet.

Main issues and Options to be Considered

Income and Expenditure During 2024/25

9. The Trust's ongoing income is generated by way of interest earned on the original investment. Income from interest in 2024/25 amounted to £18,558. In addition, the Trust had a balance of £47,464 in earmarked reserves at the year end.
10. There were 3 awards were made by the Trust in 2024/25 totalling £900.
11. All 3 recipients have been for care experienced young people and funding went towards travel and course fees in all cases to enable further education courses to be completed.
12. The detailed accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 are attached at Appendix 1.

Independent Examination of Accounts

13. Westoe Educational Charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 25 March 1999 and is obliged to comply with their reporting requirements from this date.
14. As the accounts of the Westoe Trust form part of the council's overall accounts they are subject to the general audit conditions applied by our external auditors.

Financial and Resources

15. The income and expenditure for the Trust for 2024/25 and Fund balance are as outlined in the report.

Legal and Governance

16. The Trustees must receive annual accounts in accordance with Charity Commission financial regulations.
17. As Trustees of the Charity, Members must act independently of the Authority and only in the best interests of the Charity when making decisions. When spending Charity income Trustees should act prudently, taking a long-term as well as short-term view, ensuring that income is spent only for the purposes of the charity and fairly between persons qualified to benefit.

Risk

18. There are no significant risks in relation to the issues in the report.

Equality and Diversity and Community

19. All applications to the Trust are considered equally based on eligibility against the agreed criteria. Council agreed a motion in March 2023 in which it recognised and called upon the government to recognise care experience as a protected characteristic, in order to level the playing field for those young people. The Westoe Trust supports our looked after children and care leavers by directing resources to further help them to achieve their ambitions

Environmental and Sustainability

20. There are no environmental or sustainability implications arising out of this report.

Council Ambitions, Policies, Strategies and Plans

21. Awards made from the Trust support Council ambitions of health and wellbeing, connected to jobs and targeting support to make things fairer.

Consultation and Engagement

22. The trustee(s) have been consulted on the content of the report, confirming the application of the criteria and supporting the recommendations.

Recommendations

23. It is recommended that the accounts for financial year 2024/25 are approved

Reasons for Recommendations

24. The Council are the Trustees of the Westoe Educational Charity and as such are required to consider an annual report and financial statement for the last financial year

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Financial Statement for Year Ending 31/03/2025

Appendix 1

Westoe Educational Charity – Financial Statement for Year Ending 31/03/2025

Registration Number: 1074869

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

		£
Assets	: Investments (Note 1)	348,922
Add	: Earmarked Reserve (Note 3)	<u>47,464</u>
Total Assets		396,386
Liabilities	: Funds of the Trustees	396,386

Income and Expenditure

		£
Accumulated Interest as at 1 April 2024		0
<u>Add</u>	: Interest on Investment in Year	18,558
<u>Less</u>	: Expenditure (Note 2)	(900)
Net Expenditure		(17,658)
Transfer from earmarked reserve		17,658
Net income after transfer to reserves		<u>0</u>

Notes

- 1 The investment of £348,922 represents the proceeds from the sale of land at Iolanthe Terrace, South Shields in 1991/92. The sum has been invested in the Consolidated Loans Fund of the Authority to earn interest.
- 2 Disbursements were made during 2024/25 in accordance with paragraph 7 of the sealed trust document dated 24th March 1997, and utilising accumulated interest. Disbursements of £900 were awarded in respect of 3 individual applications.
- 3 The earmarked reserve was originally created out of a contribution from Thurston Outdoor Centre during 2003/04 and will be spent in accordance with the Charity's objectives.

	£
Opening Balance	29,806
Additions during year	18,558
.	48,364
Less applied during year	<u>(900)</u>
Balance as at 31/03/25	<u>47,464</u>

Westoe Educational Charity

Annual Accounts 2024/25

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location
Westoe Trust Workings File	Westoe Trust	Finance Team, South Shields Town Hall