



*The*  
**Rossendale Trust**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Manon making a pasta lunch.



Suzy and Sarah share a moment of joy at the Rossendale Fashion Show.



**Moira Beswick**  
Chair of Trustees

***"It has been another exciting and busy year, with COVID pressures easing, and the development of the external activities provided by the Oakwood and WorkTaste teams."***



# WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIR



**As I move into my tenth year as Chair of the Trust, I am so very proud to be leading a charity providing both an outstanding service to our tenants and unmatched services to people living in the wider community.**

The breadth and accessibility of the services we provide meet the needs of a large proportion of people with learning disabilities living in our area. The demand for our services is ever increasing and we continuously strive to meet these demands whilst maintaining excellent levels of support for all.

We have continued our success in attracting positive external recognition through both national and local awards.

In March 2022, the Trust were awarded **Employer of the Year** by the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce. More recently we achieved the prestigious **Princess Royal Training Award** in recognition of our outstanding training and skills development programme. This commendation has only been granted to forty-seven companies throughout the UK during the current year, confirming the high standards that are demanded to

be a caring employer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their commitment and support over the last twelve months and to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all the staff who care so passionately for our tenants and those who attend our external services. I also must thank everyone within the community who continue to support the Trust in so many ways and without whom we could not continue to develop and grow.



*Horticulture team at the  
Rossendale Trust*



*Richard and Linda enjoy a dance at our garden party.*



*It takes a huge team effort to put on great events.*



**Steve Nichols**  
Chief Executive

***“The recent past has been dominated by the COVID crisis, but the Trust has been successful in keeping both tenants and staff safe and have continued to provide high quality care for over seventy people in Macclesfield and Buxton.”***



# FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**We are currently undertaking several strategic initiatives for the future in developing our medium-term plans. These include an upgraded website, tenant communication strategy, digitisation of records and regeneration of the Oakwood site.**

A great example of our development is the success of our residential portfolio. The continuous purchase of properties in Macclesfield in recent years has enabled the Trust to build our tenant base for people with learning disabilities. This is an excellent way of organically supporting the ongoing needs of our sector and enabling us to promote our business model.

However, the operating environment has been very difficult. The financial requirements to meet our tenant needs on an ongoing basis are not being fully funded by the commissioning services, thus creating a tough financial situation. Government constraints are also unhelpful, and with limited support for the National Living Wage increases we will continue to have challenges in the future.

Fortunately, we currently have a strong balance sheet and a good sustainable financial model for our short and medium-term future. This has been almost exclusively due to the wonderful generosity of our benefactors. Over the past five years we have received over one million pounds in fundraising, without which we would have been in a much more difficult position.

Staff retention and recruitment along with the need to address the issue of low pay is at the core of our operational planning. We provide mandatory training programmes for our staff, financial educational support and an attractive benefits package – all of which assist in recruiting and retaining good quality employees.

As you can imagine, employee levels have been a real challenge, but we have still provided a very high level of service, and the Trust has maintained low levels of sickness and turnover of staff are low when compared to industry standards.



*Eleanor enjoying a music session as part of Oakwood*



*Fiona doing the dishes in her apartment.*



*David making a drink for a visitor.*



## **Andrea Wright**

Registered Manager & Head of Supported Living

### ***Last year we:***

*Introduced new job roles to help us on our journey of continuous improvement*

*Made service developments to improve our IT infrastructure enabling our digital progression plans for 2023*

*Met the Accessible Information Standard by improving communication with our beneficiaries*

*Introduced a new Governance and Outcomes team which strives for continuous improvements for the people we support and our organisation as a whole*

*Introduced new policies such as Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Mental-Health and Wellbeing*

# SUPPORTED LIVING



**2022 has continued to be a tough year; tough because of the impact the pandemic has had on recruitment in the social care sector, coupled with the lack of any financial support from our commissioners.**

However, it has been undeniably rewarding at the same time. Everyone has worked hard behind the scenes to develop and improve the way we do things at the Trust. This has a positive impact on our delivery of care and support, ultimately benefitting the people we support and employ at Rossendale.

In 2022 we introduced new values at the Trust. The values were de-

veloped following discussions with staff and tenants. As a result of this Trust wide collaboration the values that have been adopted are;

**Warm** - The Trust is a homely environment where everyone feels welcome and well supported.

**Respectful** - We respect and appreciate others for their individual beliefs, passions, goals, and choices whilst embracing person centred care.

**Inclusive** - The Trust provides an inclusive environment where people of all backgrounds can come together and feel valued.

These three values are embedded right throughout our business from recruitment to induction to providing person centred care, and how we treat each other.

Last year we built the foundations for even further development in 2023 and as we approach the new year we look forward to building on the progress made. We have many exciting projects to develop and are eager to see what these will bring to the services we provide. In spite of the difficult climate which we are living in, we remain determined to provide excellent opportunities for the people we support.



*Nici and Gareth exchanging a smile at the Queens Jubilee.*





*Paul serving the drinks on his WorkTaste placement.*



*Trevor answering the phone on the Rossendale Trust reception.*



**Colin Gillespie**  
WorkTaste Manager

***Our achievements:***

*71% of supported interns moved into meaningful paid work*

*We have increased intern numbers by 400% since 2019*

*33 Interns have completed the SI programme since 2019*

*WorkTaste now supports 79 weekly placements across all programmes*

*We have seen an increase on employer engagement in last 3 years*

*We have increased PA clients by 300% since 2020*

*WorkTaste Coaches up 20% since 2020*



# WORKTASTE



**WorkTaste, our supported employment programme, is a Trust initiative enabling more individuals to experience a real work setting within the local community. WorkTaste encourages local businesses and community projects to host short workplace opportunities for our tenants.**

These are supported 1:1 by trained Rossendale staff, who record progress, encouraging individuals in consolidating and developing their skills, whilst creating a portfolio which can be shared with prospective hosts at interview.

WorkTaste is an outstanding success and excellently supported by a wide range of local employers. The number of people embarking on the project has increased from three in 2013 to over twenty-five by the Spring of 2023. The WorkTaste scheme is predominantly funded by external benefactor support.

We also receive good support from government initiatives driven by DWP. We remain heavily involved in the Access to Work funded Supported Internship programme and have been since 2019 where

we have established links with four local education providers to supply our highly skilled coaches.

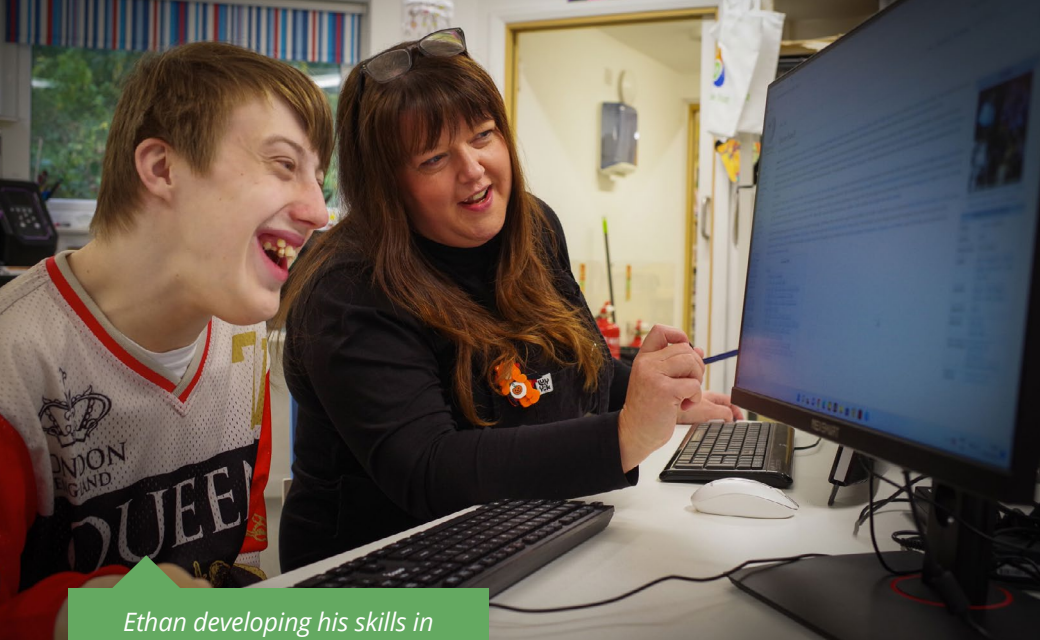
Over the last 12 months we have continued to promote our PA service whereby we encourage our clients to engage in both social and work experiences. We currently have seven clients, two of which are now employed, and the rest are

funded privately or through Local Authority direct payments.

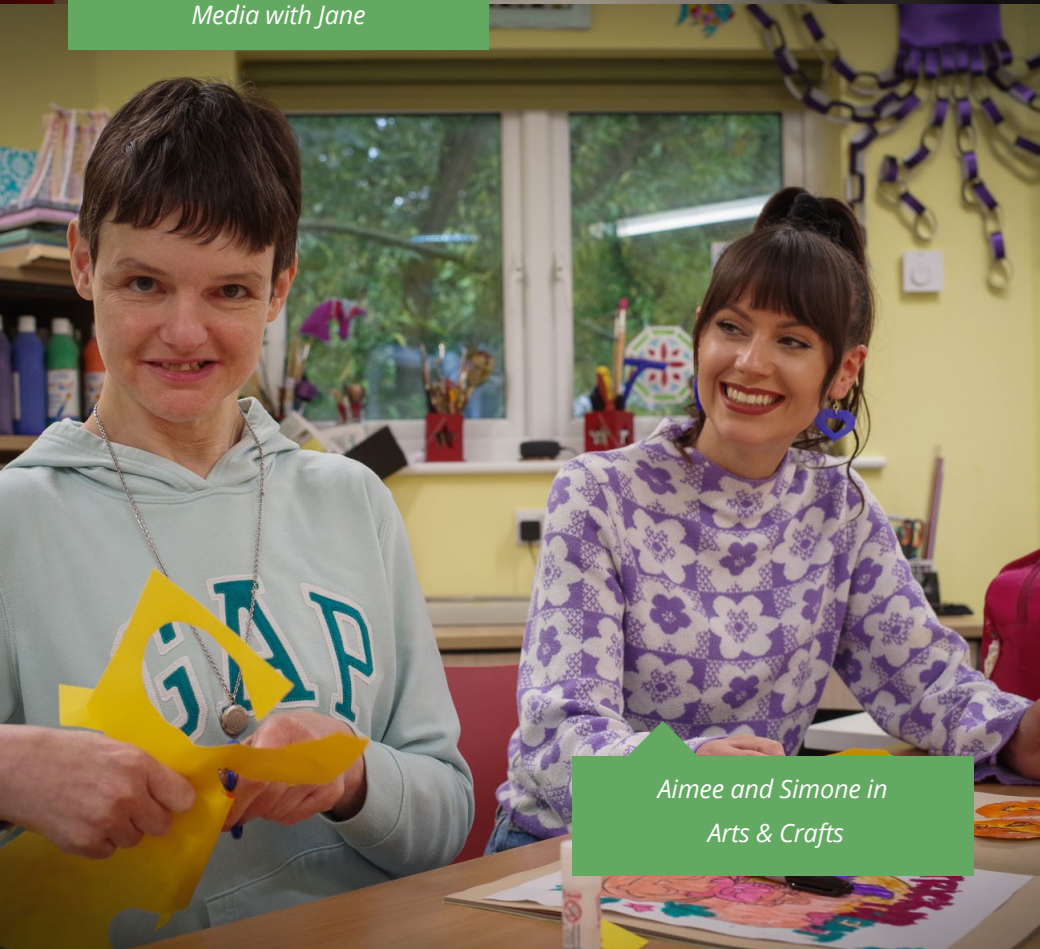
WorkTaste continuously proves to be a very rewarding experience, for the supporting employers, the people undertaking the placements and our team of coaches.



*Amelia at her WorkTaste placement at Macclesfield Hospital.*



*Ethan developing his skills in Media with Jane*



*Aimee and Simone in Arts & Crafts*



**Jason Blythe**  
Day Services Manager

### ***Last year we provided:***

*390 half day sessions a week*

*70 individual slots a week to choose from across 20 activities*

*101 individuals currently benefitting from our award winning service*

*20,000 sessions a year*

*and*

*100% of respondents stated they were happy with the service*

*Over a quarter of respondents said their favourite part of Oakwood was the opportunity to socialise*



# OAKWOOD ACTIVITIES

**Oakwood is the Trust's day activity service, providing a broad range of opportunities to Trust tenants and individuals living in the wider community. Oakwood focuses on tackling social isolation by promoting choice, through a structured timetable of 20 different activities to choose from.**

Our current portfolio consists of Media and Printing, Arts, Horticulture, Woodwork, Cookery, Healthy Cookery, Baking, Music, Drama, Farm, National Trust, Rudyard and Forestry Group, Social Group, Day Trips, Walking, Keep Fit, Pilates, Video Gaming, Tabletop Games and Multi-Sports.

Following complete closure of our service during the Covid pandemic, Oakwood is back and now operating a full and successful service with robust risk assessments and procedures in place to minimise any further outbreaks. Our return specifically highlighted the importance of Oakwood in providing people with the opportunity to socialise. The exuberance and enthusiasm with which people returned to Oakwood was a joy to see.

Oakwood is continuing to expand, with new referrals coming through regularly and current users requesting to increase their number of sessions.

Our Oakwood Day Service would be nothing like the vibrant, innovative and developing service we of

fer today without major input from funders and fundraising initiatives. This support means that not only can we sustain our current levels of service, but that we can also look to meet the ever increasing requests from families and carers in our locality.



*Neil baking up delicious dishes in Cookery*



*The summer Fete in full swing.*



## **Sue Heaven**

Head of Fundraising & PR

### ***Last year we:***

*Exceeded our fundraising target  
by 21%*

*Gained 173 new donors*

*Our average gift increased by  
67%*

*Were fortunate to have;  
178 fantastic volunteers*

*1840 hours were gifted to us*

*50 exceptional volunteers helped  
at our Annual Fete Day*

*We saw an increase in  
attendance at our events*



*Sarah (SOS Boutique) with Paul, Dawn and  
Duncan at the Annual Rossendale Fashion  
Show.*



# FUNDRAISING

**The funding landscape becomes more competitive every year with an ever increasing amount of “worthy causes” looking to attract funds. At its heart, fundraising is about fighting for a cause and having a passion for the work that we do.**

We are fortunate that here at the Rossendale Trust we have a staff team who share that passion. It's their stories and pictures which enable us to have a “library” of material to work with. They bring our publications to life and enhance our campaigns for support.

We need our events to raise our profile and create opportunities for people to connect. And at last in 2022 we were able to return to our packed and diverse calendar of our most popular in-person events.

These included our Ladies Lunch and Annual Fete. Having undertaken two digital Fetes it was an absolute pleasure to welcome back crowds of local families and supporters to our grounds and to treat them to an afternoon of good old fashioned fun!

We were also thrilled to be able to reignite our Fashion Show, an event which brings together the people we support and our staff. There was not a dry eye in the house as our tenants returned to the catwalk - they had patiently waited since 2019 for this moment after all.

Our Charity has become a beacon of what can be achieved by a relatively small organisation. We exceeded our fundraising target by 21% which given the economic challenges we all face - is pretty remarkable. We also gained 173 new donors to the Trust with the average gift of £100 up by 67%.

We are lucky to have the support of families, volunteers, staff and partners whose valuable contributions are woven into the rich tapestry which is the Rossendale Trust.

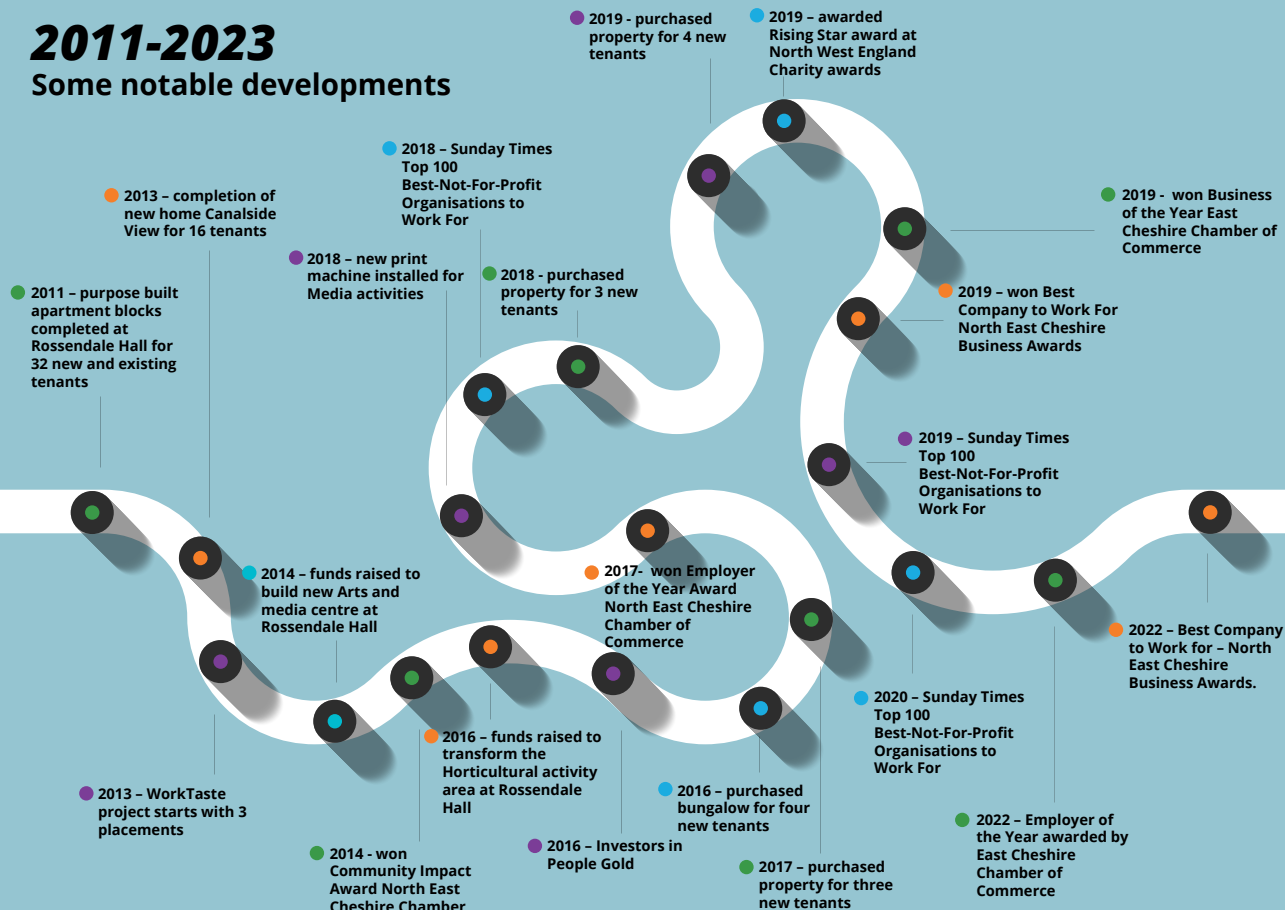
Thank you ALL so much!



*Andrea and Jason putting on a show at the Fashion Show.*

# 2011-2023

## Some notable developments



It is impossible to cover all our successes over the years, there have been so many.

Above is a summary of some of our most notable achievements and developments over recent years, many of which would not have been achievable were it not for the generous financial support we have received from funders and through fundraising activities.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022



## INCOMING RESOURCES

Incoming resources from generated funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021/22 Total	2020/21 Total
Voluntary income	£171,488	£103,850	£275,338	£222,597
Activities for Generating Funds	£0	£0	£0	£0
Investment Income	£200,898	£0	£200,898	£185,818
Incoming resources from charitable activities	£4,795,869	£0	£4,795,869	£4,720,652
Gain/Loss on sale of fixed assets	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other incoming resources	£4,497	£0	£4,497	£0
Transfer from RT Ltd to R Trust	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£5,172,752</b>	<b>£103,850</b>	<b>£5,276,602</b>	<b>£5,129,067</b>

## OUTGOING RESOURCES

Cost of generating funds				
Costs related to incoming resources	£88,386	£0	£88,386	£16,519
Charitable activities - Cost of care	£4,950,268	£45,944	£4,996,212	£4,871,474
Capital grant	£0	£0	£0	£0
Governance costs	£37,179	0	£37,179	£36,616
Gain/Loss on sale of fixed assets	£0	£0	£0	£0
Other outgoing costs	£0	£0	£0	£0
Transfer from RT Ltd to R Trust	£2,308	-£2,308	£0	£0
<b>Total Outgoing expenses</b>	<b>£5,078,141</b>	<b>£43,636</b>	<b>£5,121,777</b>	<b>£4,924,609</b>

Income for the financial year before transfers	£94,611	£60,214	£154,825	£204,458
Gross transfers between funds	£0	£0	£0	£0
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	£0	£0	£0	£21,616
<b>Net movement of funds</b>	<b>£94,611</b>	<b>£60,214</b>	<b>£154,825</b>	<b>£204,458</b>



## The Rossendale Trust

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Email: [info@rossendaletrust.org](mailto:info@rossendaletrust.org)

### VISION

To create an environment in which people can develop and grow, enabling them to have ownership of their own lives and futures.

### MISSION

To meet the needs of people in our care by supporting them to live a full and meaningful life.

Reg. Charity No. 1146771  
Company No. 7921722



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[www.rossendaletrust.org](http://www.rossendaletrust.org)

*'Employer  
of the Year'*



PRINCESS ROYAL  
TRAINING AWARD  
2022