



rainbow  
**heartlands**  
LGBTQ+

Rainbow Heartlands LGBTQ+ | SCo52521

Trustees' Annual Report

April 2023 – March 2024

## Charity contact information



Rainbow Heartlands LGBTQ+

Scottish Charity Number: SCo52521

Email address: [hello@rainbowheartlands.co.uk](mailto:hello@rainbowheartlands.co.uk)

Website: [rainbowheartlands.co.uk](https://rainbowheartlands.co.uk)

Facebook / Instagram/Threads: @RainbowHeartlands

## Our Charity Trustees



James Hunter  
since April 2023



Marysia Macfarlane  
since April 2023



Matt Wester  
since April 2023



Charlotte Lloyd-Perry  
since November 2023

## Our objectives and activities

Rainbow Heartlands LGBTQ+ was established in April 2023 to support LGBTQ+ people across the region of Perth & Kinross.

Our main purpose is promoting equality and diversity for and by LGBT+ people in Perth & Kinross.

As such, our aims as a charity are:

- Enhance and grow the level of activities and opportunities for LGBTQ+ people
- Provide safe spaces, inclusive environments and welcoming settings for people no matter how they may identify
- Raise awareness of LGBTQ+ matters, hardships and best practices to third party organisations and groups

Even as a young charity, we have strived to make sure that activities and opportunities are as accessible for everyone that wishes to take part as possible. To achieve this, we have expanded our digital presence over the past year through our website [www.rainbowheartlands.co.uk](http://www.rainbowheartlands.co.uk), with the aim of this being the landing page for those wanting to find out what is on their doorstep, as well as provide many opportunities to make contact to suggest new activities and ideas for groups too.

This is complemented by our first Wednesday of the month including a relaxed 'Cuppas and Chats' at a local café in the centre of Perth, where we can share more information about upcoming activities for the month, and how people can get involved.

Further to this, we have provided our social media presence through Facebook and Instagram, as well as shared our monthly activities calendars inclusive of all groups and events with an LGBTQ+ theme through a mailing list including key community contacts and networks that are able to spread the message further.

## Our structure, governance and management

### Type of governing document

We are governed by our Constitution of Rainbow Heartlands LGBTQ+, which all our listed Trustees are compliant with through their commitment to the charity.

This Constitution was approved by OSCR as part of our initial charity application since 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. This version in use at the time of this Annual Report. Any future Constitutional amendments will be subject to approval from OSCR and will be noted as a new version in future Annual Reports.

### Trustee recruitment and appointment

Our Board of Trustees predominantly come from a background of either identifying as LGBTQ+ or coming from a place of allyship and understanding of the community.

We bring a range of skills and experiences through community engagement and involvement in project delivery under other charities. Going forward, we aim to recruit charity trustees on the same basis, with an ideal aim of 4-5 board members over the first 5 years, depending on the requirements of the charity as it grows.

We made the decision not to appoint specific roles within the Board of Trustees in the first year of operation, and instead aligned skillsets to specific tasks and actions to help get the charity up and running.

## Achievements and performance

As a new charity to the vibrant Perth & Kinross region, we have made strides in making sure our brand becomes known. We have achieved this through:

- Developing the monthly LGBTQ+ Events & Activities calendar and our up-to-date webpage detailing what opportunities are available.
- Promoted new and growing activities in conjunction with other LGBTQ+ groups, organisations and interested parties.
- Seeking outreach opportunities and growing awareness of our charity, share what we are doing and planning towards.
- Supporting the establishment of a new training and education delivery platform, which will run as an affiliated company, Rainbow Training Ltd. launching in the next financial year.
- Supporting new community initiatives that help promote LGBTQ+ voices and experiences from our local community.
- Enhanced our donations profiles, with the aid of our volunteers, community connections and client agencies.

Whilst our first year has been predominantly spent getting things set up, moving forward we feel that it's right to grow our range of volunteering opportunities and enable them to contribute more to the charity going forward, which in turn enhances their personal development and skillset to carry in the future.

We have also made considerable efforts in developing our internal processes and practices to go forward with as a charity.

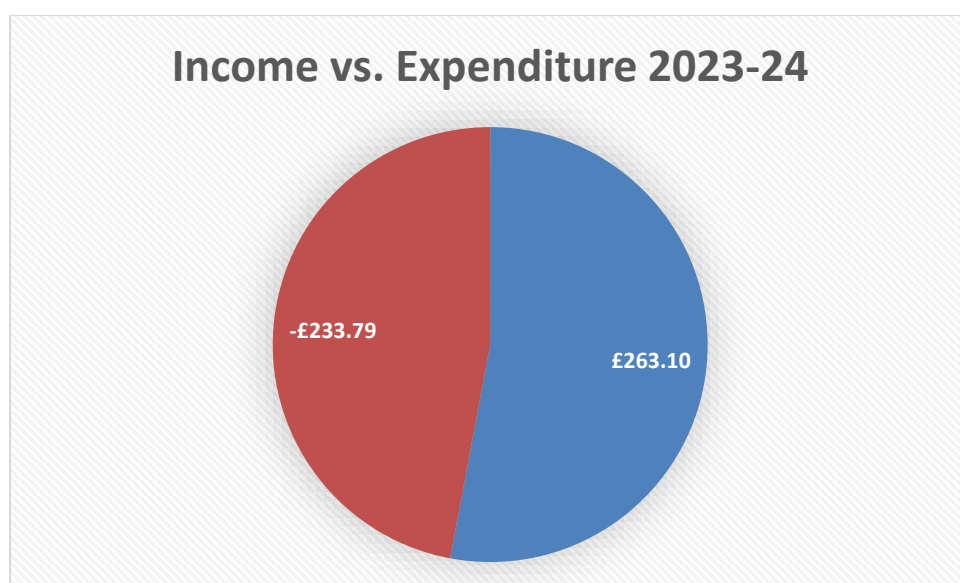
With our initial group of Trustees all coming from charity and community-focused backgrounds, we felt it right to ensure that we had everything set up in the background before our next steps in delivering on our commitments for LGBTQ+ people.

To provide some further context to this, we have:

- Spent time giving our policies and procedures careful consideration to ensure that they are proactive as we develop and grow as a charity.
- We've ensured our insurances cover has been thoroughly researched and appropriately will be put in place early in the next financial period.
- We have consulted with those at Perth & Kinross' Third Sector Interface for assistance in gathering key resources for getting started.
- We have attended various events and functions which aim to provide funding options and open dialogue with those administering charity funding within our region.
- Considered our recruitment plan for Trustees, Volunteers and Project Officers to ensure there is a diverse voice from across Perth & Kinross

Most of our time and efforts have helped to lay the groundwork in place for the new financial year.

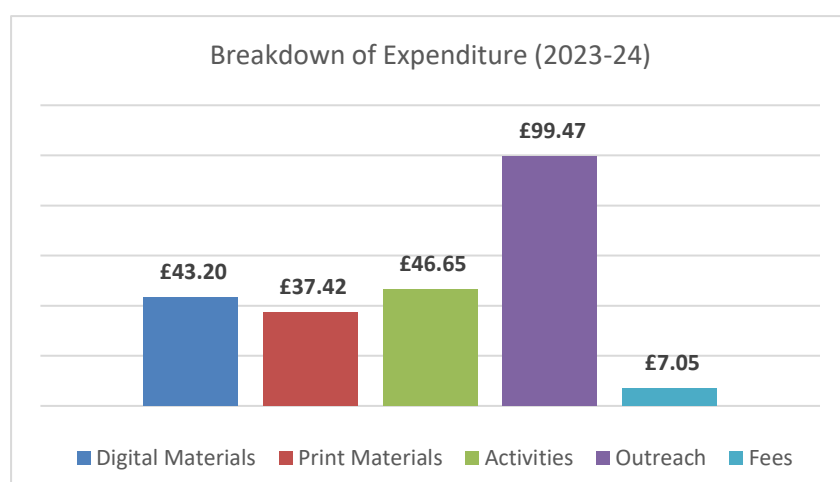
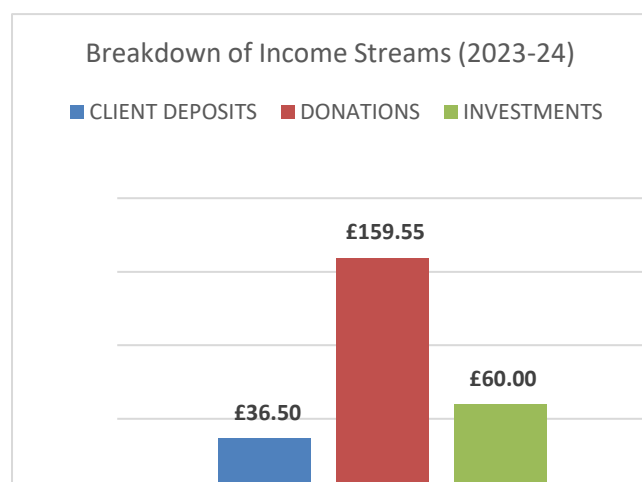
## Financial review



During the 2023-24 period, most of our resources and efforts were put into getting the charity fully set-up with policies, presence and good practices going forward.

As a result of a limited first year regarding outreach and fundraising, our full income totalled at £263.10, whilst our expenditure was £233.79.

Below is the breakdown of each:



Client deposits – through our fundraising profile on Rainbow Lottery, receiving 50% of the lottery tickets purchased by those who opt to support our charity through this scheme.

Investments – a small contribution from our board members to help get the initial parts of the charity funded (e.g. digital and print materials)



### Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Given our limited capacity and getting set up during early phases, we have not specified a policy on reserves during this financial year. We have a limited supply of assets that have little monetary value, obtained on a donation basis. We will aim to have a specific statement on our reserves for the 2024-25 reporting period.

### Details of any deficit

There is no deficit to note in this year's annual accounts.

### Donated facilities and services

We do not currently have any of our own specific donated facilities or services.

## Our future plans

Our plans for 2024-25 are much more geared towards developing growth within the community, and ensuring this is reflected across Perthshire. We recognise our current offering is predominantly Perth City, with many rural areas left without much voice or activity.

Through our aims to launch a Rural Rainbows project, this will seek to consult and engage with those based in rural towns and villages where LGBTQ+ people may be considerably more isolated and feel the need to hide their identity. With this consultation, we would then look to introduce a basis for activities and events taking place regularly.

As well as this, we are looking to continuing growing our volunteer base, along with the assignment of a Trustee becoming a Volunteer Co-ordinator to work towards more strategic and supportive practices in this area of the charity.

We will also seek to bring in existing LGBTQ+ community groups that have grown considerable traction in recent years, where the support of an umbrella charity would be mutually beneficial, and ensure that they receive the adequate support that they require.

We will continue to develop our monthly activities calendar, together with our online presence and in-person engagement in multiple areas, as well as continue to work closely with partner organisations where collaborative practices benefit all those involved.

Overall, we will continue to advance our aim as a charity to further equality and diversity practices that reflects positively on the LGBTQ+ community, family, friends and allies.

## Final notes

Establishing ourselves as a new charity has been a journey in itself, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank organisations, groups and individuals that have helped us along the way. Your contribution and efforts haven't gone unnoticed, and we really value your willingness to show support – thank you!

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matthew Wester', is written inside a rectangular box with a teal border.

Print name

Matthew Wester

Designation

Charity Trustee

Date

31/12/24