REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 2277759 (England and Wales) REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 802376

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2012
FOR
SIGNALS ESSEX MEDIA CENTRE LIMITED

THURSDAY



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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

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 2012. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

2277759 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

802376

Registered office

Victoria Chambers St Runwalds Street Colchester Essex CO1 1HF

Trustees

- appointed 23 5 12 S Bresky - appointed 13 2 12 A Haynes Ms A Klokkarıs - appointed 23 5 12 - appointed 26 7 11 Mrs C McGrail Ms D Roome - appointed 8 8 12 W Stone Mrs H E Thomas - appointed 6 11 12 - appointed 23 5 12 C Totman P Kevlin - resigned 22 11 11 - resigned 31 5 12 Dr S Chaudhuri R Wilson - resigned 21 9 11 - resigned 23 7 12 M J Howes Ms C Sarley - appointed 23 5 12 - resigned 29 10 12 - resigned 16 9 11 P Howell

Company Secretary

D Bishop

Independent Examiner

Baker Chapman & Bussey 3 North Hill Colchester Essex CO1 1DZ

Observers

Belinda Farrell

Essex County Council

Administration Staff

Rachel Hipkiss

Chief Executive Officer

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Signals appointment of trustees is by invitation from the existing board. Signals strive to have a balance of expertise and experience represented on the board of trustees

A structured recruitment programme was implemented throughout the year

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Induction and training of new trustees

Signals have a board induction pack which is aimed at providing members of the board with all the relevant information to make them aware of their responsibilities

Organisational structure

The charity is organised so that the trustees meet bi-monthly with the funders. Ad hoc meetings of the board are also called when the trustees see fit

Related parties

The charity has a very close relationship with Essex County Council, which provides observers who attend regular meetings with the trustees, and provides funding to enable the charity to carry out its charitable activities

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the chanty is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error

Signals board meetings include a review of the charity's accounts as well as a detailed analysis of the cashflow forecast for the coming period

Signals board also consult with the CEO through smaller working groups to look at the operational elements of the organisation

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

To advance education, promote understanding, appreciation of, and participation in digital art, film and media for the benefit of the public Through

- Maintaining a media arts centre for the benefit of the public
- Helping young people and the disadvantaged enjoy and achieve through creative activities, allowing them to develop skills, advance in life and contribute positively to society
- Encouraging the development of the art of digital media and film

Signals aims to support media working in the region, encouraging people to participate in production and increase understanding of media. Signals does this through courses, projects, film and media exhibition, providing equipment and facilities and through guidance, information and sharing skills.

Public Benefit

In deciding a programme of activity and development the Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. In seeking to achieve our aims Signals is strongly committed to working inclusively with all people in the community it serves, much of its project work is aimed at disadvantaged young people who would not usually have access to media production. It is fundamental to Signals' belief that everyone should be able to increase his or her understanding of media.

Signals is a public facility that offers guidance, facilities and courses to all. Signals operate primarily in Essex but also across the Eastern region and works in partnership with other organisations and schools. Signals provides projects for disadvantaged groups that are free for participants and is able to provide resources at its centre or travel to groups enabling full access to our resources. Signals is especially interested in inspiring people to learn and develop personal skills and prioritises groups that face barriers in formal education, either through exclusion from mainstream education or a disadvantage that prevents participation. This could be behavioural, physical or lack of opportunity.

Volunteers

Signals worked with five regular volunteers this year who provided valuable support in workshops, projects and in the office. Many of Signals volunteers go on to full-time training or careers in media. Signals has a volunteer policy and agrees a plan of work and training with each volunteer on commencement.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Achievements

Signals has had a successful year and below are some of the main achievements

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Key projects

Signals continues its work with young people and disadvantaged groups. This year Signals worked with over 1,500 young people developing media and life skills.

Signals also worked with a range of disadvantaged groups including excluded children. Signals actively seeks to work with groups it has not worked with before. This year Signals also worked with young people with disabilities. Including autistic and deaf children.

In 2011 Signals Studio space was refurbished to create a pleasant and safer environment to work and learn. The refurbishment was achieved with a grant from Biffa and with volunteer help

Signals also created a new more interactive website. This included social media links and an on-line payment system for courses and events.

Signals developed and began delivery of the 'Bounce project' Building on recent experience Signals developed its work with Pupil Referral Units to create a 3-year project with three local referral units to create media projects that developed skills in the pupils and increased life chances

Three short films were created with children in East Anglia

'Time Report' a sci-fi tale set in a pollution-plagued future made with Perryfield Junior School

'Black and White ' A 'film noir' made with excluded children at CSS Mile End

'Big Top' an animated film about circus characters, made with autistic children from lpswich. These films were funded by First Light, Earnest Cook, Lankelly Chase and Colchester and Ipswich Museums they were completed in May 2012. The projects helped develop personal, communication and media skills.

Youth Film Club - Signals Youth Film Club continued to thrive and a second group was created to work with two age groups. The group was successful in gaining funding from the Heritage Lottery for a project about piers next year. Members of the group also served as a youth advisory panel for Signals youth work.

Festivals 2012

Three Signals films screened at the Lancaster Children's Film Festival 2012

Courses

Signals expanded its courses programme and re-introduced adult courses, running practical workshops for children, young people and adults in evenings, weekends and during school holidays

Exhibition

Signals was funded by EM media to produce a programme of film and media education that included a screening programme that began in March 2012

Organisational

Signals continues to review and update policy and procedures and consult with stakeholders. It seeks to increase quality and productivity in all that it does and inspire those qualities in the people it works with Signals will continue to do all that is possible to keep overheads to a minimum and diversify its income streams. In this new economic climate Signals will regularly review and revise its business plan. This year Signals benefited working with a freelance fundraiser to work alongside the Director in order to increase the number of applications made and increase fundraising capacity. This increased the number of successful applications made. Signals is pleased to receive on going support and partnership commitment from Essex County Council.

Staffing

Staff Structure

CEO - Full Time Operations Co-ordinator - Part Time Education Project Co-ordinator - Full Time Production Co-ordinator - Full Time

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Signals has diverse income from earned income streams such as commissioned work, equipment, space and skills hire as well as increasing expenence in project fundraising. Signals is also increasingly developing partnership working 2011/12 saw a decrease in commissioned production and education work. However greater support in fundraising lead to a high proportion of project fundraising success - much of these funds will be used in 2012/13

Going in to the 2012/13 Signals has secured 3 year funding for the 'Bounce' project Signals also will be carrying forward other project funding including a Heritage Lottery project and the Creative England programme Signals will also be receiving funding to take part in the intermix project to increase diversity in the arts through mentoring Signals is pleased that Essex County Council continue to support and fund the organisation

Reserves policy

Signals strives to ensure that it develops a reserve fund of 3 months operational costs. At this time it has not achieved this figure. It aims to build up reserves annually from earned income, next year Signals aims to increase reserves by £6,000.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Next years developments are

- To take an active role in the Olympic and Cultural Olympiad celebrations
- To continue to increase the profile of the organisation and increase audiences
- To further develop and expand the board

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SIGNALS ESSEX MEDIA CENTRE LIMITED

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012 set out on pages six to twelve

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The chanty's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The chanty's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Chanties Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to

examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act

- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 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 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 statements below

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 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Chanties

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

Jacqueline Frost ACA Baker Chapman & Bussey 3 North Hill Colchester Essex CO1 1DZ

21 November 2012

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

	Ur Notes	nrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2012 Total funds £	2011 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES Incoming resources from generated funds Activities for generating funds Investment income	2	19,705 5	•	19,705 5	12,402 10
Incoming resources from charitable activities Education, training and production	3	34,398	92,807	127,205	161,827
Total incoming resources		54,108	92,807	146,915	174,239
RESOURCES EXPENDED Costs of generating funds Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs Chantable activities Education, training and production Governance costs Total resources expended		157 100,376 4,657 105,190	57,564 - 57,564	157,940 4,657 162,754	182 168,966 4,946 174,094
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES before transfers		(51,082)	35,243	(15,839)	145
Gross transfers between funds	11	29,650	(29,650)		
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(21,432)	5,593	(15,839)	145
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		21,158	5,093	26,251	26,106
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(274)	10,686	10,412	26,251

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2012

	Notes	2012 £	2011 £
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	7	3,805	3,805
CURRENT ASSETS Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	8	300 24,520 18,297	300 19,878 42,235
		43,117	62,413
CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year	9	(36,510)	(39,967)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		6,607	22,446
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITI	ES	10,412	26,251
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		10,412	26,251
FUNDS Unrestricted funds Restricted funds	11	(274) 10,686	21,158 5,093
TOTAL FUNDS		10,412	26,251

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET - CONTINUED AT 31 MARCH 2012

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2012

The members have not required the chantable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2012 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 chantable 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 chantable company

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2011 12 and were signed on its behalf by

Trustee

rustee

MRS HE THOMAS

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities

Financial Reporting Standard Number 1

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cash flow statement on the grounds that the chantable company qualifies as a small chantable company

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy

Resources expended

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

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful

Fixtures and fittings

- 20% on cost and 10% on cost

Computer equipment

- 50% on cost and 25% on cost

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items

The chanty is exempt from corporation tax on its chantable 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 funds are raised for particular restricted purposes

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

ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS 2.

	Equipment Hire Other income	2012 £ 14,718 4,987	2011 £ 10,315 2,087
		19,705	12,402
3	INVESTMENT INCOME		
		2012 £	2011 £
	Deposit account interest	<u>5</u>	10

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

4	NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES			
	Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting)			
			2012 £	2011 £
	Depreciation - owned assets Surplus on disposal of fixed asset		- -	4,177 (2,500)
5	TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS			
	There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the 31 March 2011	year ended 31 Ma	irch 2012 nor for th	e year ended
	Trustees' Expenses There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 M	arch 2012 nor for	the year ended 31	March 2011
6	STAFF COSTS			
			2012 £	2011 £
	Wages and salanes		72,384	79,709
	Social security costs		6,084	7,279
			78,468	86,988
	The average monthly number of employees during the year wa	s as follows	2012	2011
	Production and support		4	4
7	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
	COST At 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012	5,473	41,191	46,664
	At 1 April 2011 and 01 Water 2012			
	DEPRECIATION At 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012	5,289	37,570	42,859
	NET BOOK VALUE At 31 March 2012	184	3,621	3,805
	At 31 March 2011	184	3,621	3,805
8	DEBTORS AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
			2012	2011
	Trade debtors		£ 21,687	£ 16,261
	Other debtors		2,833	3,617
			24,520	19,878

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

9	CREDITORS AMOUNTS FALLING	DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
				2012	2011
				£	£
	Trade creditors			6,815	7,759
	Taxation and social security			2,545	4,442
	Other creditors			27,150	27,766
					
				36,510	39,967
					
10	ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETW	EEN FUNDS			
				2012	2011
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
	Fixed assets	3,805	-	3,805	3,805
	Current assets	32,431	10,686	43,117	62,413
	Current liabilities	(36,510)	•	(36,510)	(39,967)
		(274)	10,686	10,412	26,251
11	MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	_			
			Net	Transfers	
			movement in	between	
		At 1 4.11	funds	funds	At 31 3 12
		£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted funds General fund	21,158	(51,082)	29,650	(274)
	Restricted funds				
	HLF Young Roots 2011	3,593	(151)	(3,442)	-
	Website	1,500	•	(1,500)	-
	New shoots	•	20,748	(20,748)	-
	Bounce PRU	-	2,399	(2,399)	-
	Creative England	-	(208)	208	-
	Capital	-	1,521	(1,521)	-
	Big Society	-	23	(23)	-
	HLF Young Roots 2012	-	10,911	(225)	10,686
		5,093	35,243	(29,650)	10,686
		<u> </u>			
	TOTAL FUNDS	26,251	(15,839)	-	10,412
			=	====	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

11 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds
Unrestricted funds			(24.600)
General fund	54,108	(105,190)	(51,082)
Restricted funds			
Bounce PRU	10,314	(7,915)	2,399
HLF Young Roots 2012	11,500	(589)	10,911
HLF Young Roots 2011	801	(952)	(151)
New shoots	35,092	(14,344)	20,748
Creative England	12,000	(12,208)	(208)
Capital	22,000	(20,479)	1,521
Big Society	1,100	(1,077)	23
	92,807	(57,564)	35,243
TOTAL FUNDS	146,915	(162,754)	(15,839)

Resources expended on completed projects exceed incoming resources, by virtue of the staff costs attributable to the project. These costs are included in unrestricted expenditure

Bounce PRU The 'Bounce Project' is a three year project working with three CSS partners and children excluded from school, this media project builds vital communication skills and helps the children back to maintain school. This project is supported by Lankelly Chase and Children in Need.

Hentage Lottery Fund Young Roots 2011 'Polish Connections' was an educational film project made by young Polish people in Braintree exploring the contribution made by Polish migrants in Essex during and after WWII

New Shoots A project working with three local disadvantaged groups children from Perryfield's Primary School in Chelmsford, a group of autistic children from Ipswich and excluded children in Colchester, to create three individual short films on subjects important to them

Creative England supported our programme of screenings, courses and project work throughout the year

Capital The refurbishment of Signals' public studio space. This created a safer and more pleasant place to learn and work

Big Society funded a new projector and blu-ray player for film screenings and projects

Hentage Lottery Fund Young Roots 2012 'Turning Tides' - was a film exploring the heritage of seaside resorts and pleasure piers along the Essex coast line working with young people from Colchester and Southend

12 OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Signals signed a five year lease on its premises at St Runwalds Street in May 2008. The annual rental charge is £17,000.

13 GOING CONCERN

Signals has experienced financial pressure in the current, difficult financial climate. However, by continued fund raising Signals has been able to secure new funding for several new projects, including three-year funding from Lankelly Chase and Children in Need towards the Bounce Project with excluded children, and HLF young roots funding for a project taking place next year. Signals also has a strong on-going relationship with Essex. County Council that continues to fund Signals through a service level agreement. Signals has also secured on-going income from diverse sources. The Board believes that Signals will be able to maintain positive cash flows for the foreseeable future and develop reserves. As a result the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

		
	2012	2011
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Activities for generating funds		
Equipment Hire	14,718 4,987	10,315 2,087
Other income	4,307	
	19,705	12,402
Investment income	_	10
Deposit account interest	5	10
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Education, training and production	19,299	46,365
Grants	107,906	115,462
	127,205	161,827
Total incoming resources	146,915	174,239
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs		
Stock	157	182
Charitable activities		
Marketing	497 9,723	2,988 11,242
External projects Restricted projects	36,074	30,733
Plant and machinery	-	4,147
	46,294	49,110
Governance costs		
Wages	3,157	3,446
Accountancy	1,500	1,500
	4,657	4,946
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	69,227	76,263
Social security	6,084 47,707	7,279
Rent and rates	17,797 1,222	17,818 1,499
Insurance	2,606	2,725
Light and heat Repairs and renewals	1,207	3,546
Telephone, postage etc	4,975	2,971
Travel & conference expenses	197	1,141
Sundries	1,376	2,266
Professional fees	2,421 838	2,532
Bank charges and interest	838 85	801 247
Subscriptions & publications Carried forward	108,035	119,088
Caniculorwald		,

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
Management		
Brought forward	108,035	119,088
Staff development & recruitment	212	491
VAT adjustment	2,240	1,682
Security	1,159	1,065
Fixtures and fittings	-	30
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets		(2,500)
	111,646	119,856
Total resources expended	162,754	174,094
Net (expenditure)/income	(15,839)	145

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements