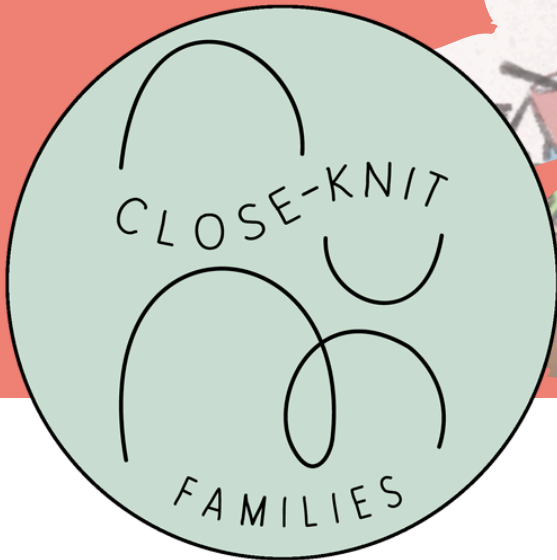


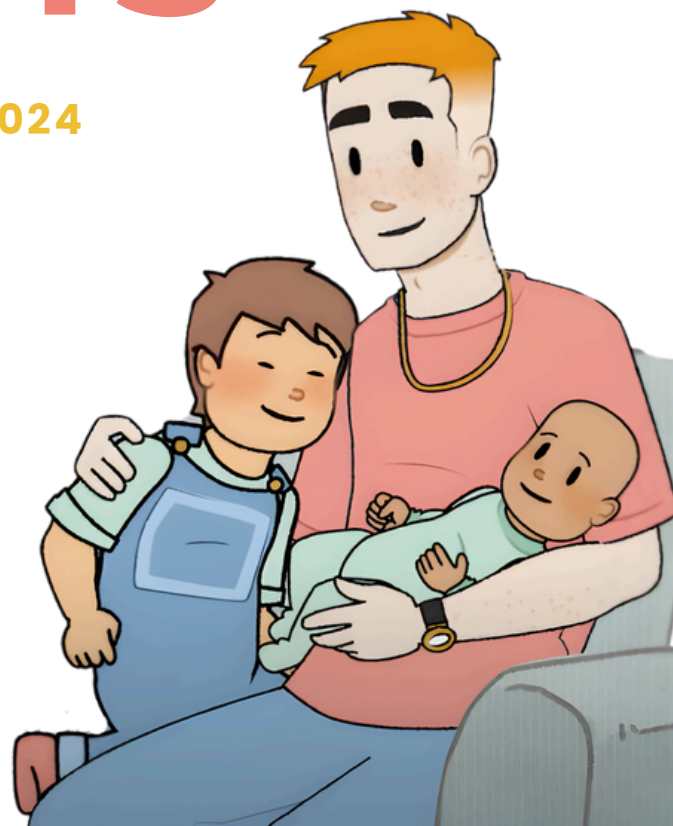
CONNECTING PARENTS
AND CHILDREN



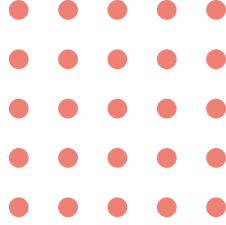
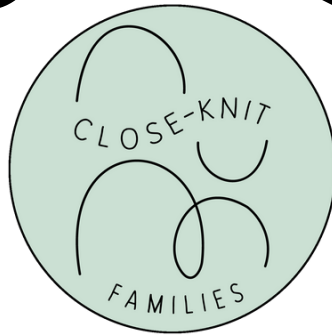
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the period 19th September 2024
to 30th April 2025

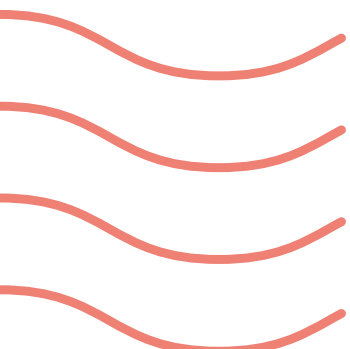
Helping babies and those who
care for them to have
supportive relationships and
positive experiences



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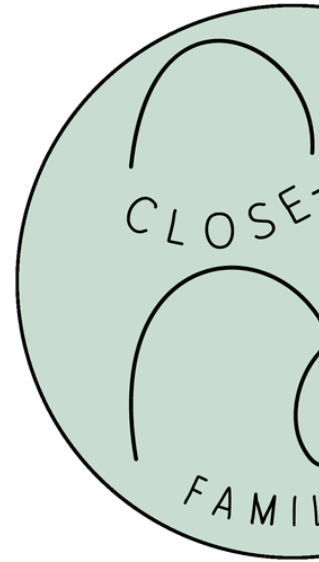
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INTRODUCTION

The trustees are pleased to present their report, together with the unaudited receipts and payments accounts for the charity for the period 19th September 2024 to 30th April 2025.

Close-Knit Families Charitable Incorporated Organisation was established on 19th September 2024 on conversion from Close-Knit CIC (company number 13356454). All assets, liabilities, funds, employees and IP transferred on that date.



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name	Close-Knit Families
Charity registration number	1210105
Registered office	St Aidan's Centre, Clifton Street Middlesbrough, TS1 4BZ
Website and contact email	www.close-knit.org.uk info@close-knit.org.uk
CEO	Bethany Munby
Trustees at report date	Daniel John Sutcliffe (Chair) Charlotte Emily Stevens Dr Susan Elizabeth Jones Jonathan Robert Munby
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 250 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4AA
Independent examiner	Susana Sargeant 13 Deacon Gardens Seaton Carew Hartlepool, TS25 1UU

TRUSTEES

ANNUAL REPORT

Objectives and Activities

Our mission is to help babies and the people who care for them build strong, loving relationships from the very start, so children can feel safe, confident and able to do well now and as they grow – strengthening families and shaping healthier, more connected communities for the future.

We champion early relationships because they shape everything that follows. We create accessible resources, offer impactful sessions and run supportive programmes for families, that are grounded in relationships, neuroscience and lived experience. We also work closely with local partners to strengthen the support available to families and create positive long-term change.

Charitable Objects: For the public benefit, to advance the education and promote and protect the health of parents and children in England and Wales by promoting and developing resources and peer support during pregnancy, birth and being a parent.

The charity helps children, young people, parents and the general population.

The charity exists to support and strengthen family relationships, particularly for families facing challenges such as isolation, poverty, or social disadvantage. Its purposes include:

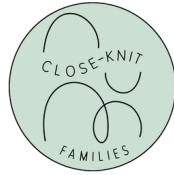
- Promoting connection between children and their caregivers, championing the importance of baby-brain development and nurturing relationships through the production and sharing of resources, education, guidance, and practical support.
- Reducing social isolation by creating opportunities for families to connect and build supportive networks.
- Advancing mental and emotional health within family units by providing resources and interventions.
- Contributing to child development and general well-being for the public benefit.

To achieve its purposes, the activities of Close-Knit Families include:

- Co-production of resources, including videos.
- Workshops and training on parent and baby relationships, baby brain development and parent and child wellbeing.
- Peer support groups where families can share experiences and build networks.
- Community events and activities that foster connection and reduce isolation.
- Resource provision, such as guidance materials or referrals to specialist services.

OUR JOURNEY TO SEPTEMBER 2024

April 2021	Close-Knit Families was founded by Beth Munby as a CIC with the aim of benefitting babies and their parents and carers through accessible, relationship-centred resources.
May 2021 – Jan 2022	Research, project design, organisational development and fundraising.
January – April 2022	Funding secured to co-produce our 'Baby Connections' video animation about baby brain development.
Apr–Oct 2022	Co-production of the video animation with parents and practitioners.
August 2022	Following parent feedback, funding secured for a second animation focused on perinatal parent wellbeing.
November 2022	Launch of 'Baby Connections', our first video animation, made available for organisations working with families and for us to share directly with parents.
2023	Launch of training offer for parents, practitioners, foster carers and schools.
January – July 2023	Co-production of our 'Parent Wellbeing' video animation with parents and practitioners.
July 2023	Launch of our fully funded Parent Wellbeing video animation, supporting parent wellbeing in the baby years.
Sept 2023 – Sept 2024	Baby Connections project: sharing resources and delivering sessions with families in the community.
2024	Focus on community delivery alongside our resource and training offer, and organisational development, as we prepared to apply for CIO status.
March – July 2024	Baby Connections video animation translated into Arabic, Czech and Romanian with support from community groups and schools.
September 2024	Conversion from CIC to CIO, reflecting our commitment to deepening our work with families in the community.



CLOSE-KNIT CIC FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (PRE CIO)

Close-Knit Community Interest Company started on a small scale in 2021 but secured a number of small grants and donations to enable the production of video resources and materials, delivery of training and developing awareness for our work.

This time served as a great foundation for our conversion to a CIO in September 2024

SUMMARY CIC FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Period	Year to 30Apr2022 £	Year to 30Apr2023 £	Year to 30Apr2024 £	Period 1May24-18Sep24 £
Total Income	5,011	28,199	21,994	8,341
Total Expenditure	4,463	28,104	19,850	4,067
Corporation Tax	44	38	427	832
Surplus	504	57	1,717	3,442
Funds at end of Period	504	561	2,278	5,720

Our Impact

Impact Summary: September 2024 – April 2025

Between September 2024 and April 2025, Close-Knit Families strengthened its foundations as an organisation, while continuing to support babies to have nurturing early experiences through the people who care for them and the professionals who work alongside them.

We worked directly with parents in the community through partnerships with South Tees Family Action, Grow Baby Bank in Thornaby, and North Tees Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership. **Forty vulnerable families** received our parent packs—visual, accessible resources shared through the South Tees Vulnerabilities Midwifery Team and local baby banks—helping parents understand baby development, their own wellbeing, and the importance of early relationships.

Our Baby Connections resource was **licensed to two organisations** supporting families in the first 1001 days—HomeStart Teesside and Little Minds in Mind—extending our reach by around **150 families per year**. We also equipped the wider workforce through **training** and presentations delivered to practitioners and teams within Family Action, HomeStart Teesside, the North East and North Cumbria Child Health and Wellbeing Network and as part of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's practice week, strengthening the support available to families across the region.

We delivered interactive sessions in two South Tees **pupil referral units**—Archway Academy and River Tees Academy—helping young people understand how early experiences shape development and how they can relate to babies with care and confidence. Pupils left committed to showing babies “love and affection,” being “more interactive,” “talking more,” “smiling more,” and even “swearing less” around little ones.

Alongside delivery, we invested in our long-term vision: trustees and staff worked on our **theory of change**, we increased our online reach and impact, and we met with Gordon Brown to **advocate** for action on child poverty. Our online resources continued to reach families beyond our direct delivery, with over **650 views** of our videos during this period, extending the reach of our messages about early relationships and parent wellbeing. We also began designing a new community programme for babies and their carers, planned for implementation in 2026.



Our Impact

Our **REACH** this period:

292

beneficiaries, including parents, practitioners and pupils.

150

additional families reached per year through two **new video licence agreements**

650+

online video views, helping us share key messages with families we may never meet in person.

100%

of parents said our workshop helped them to understand how to support their baby's brain development.

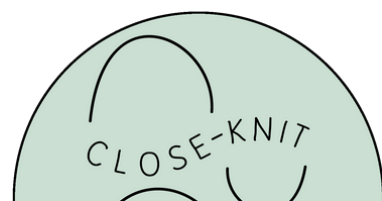
Feedback across our work was consistently **positive**:

"A **perfect resource... accessible** and delivered **sensitively**." — Practitioner, Little Minds in Mind

"Their support has empowered our team to deliver even more **effective, compassionate support** to families." — Partner organisation

Parents described sessions as "interactive," "interesting," "**fantastic**," and shared that they would "**spend more time with my children**" and "look after myself more."

Together, these activities strengthened early relationships, built confidence across families and professionals, and contributed to **long-term, positive change** for babies across Teesside and beyond.



Financial Review

Conversion from CIC

On conversion from Close-Knit CIC the new CIO Close-Knit Families received cash of £6,495, tangible assets of £0 (a fully depreciated laptop computer), debtors of £484 and creditors of £1,159 resulting in transferred available funds of £5,720. The CIO will report its accounts using the receipts and payments method.

Review of CIO financial performance

During the period 19th September 2024 to 30th April 2025 Close-Knit Families secured donations of £1,236, and trading income from charitable activities of £5,090 including sales of video licenses and provision of workshops. The charity has also secured ringfenced funding for the CEO salary from January 2025 to December 2026, totaling £18,000. This is paid in quarters. **Total receipts were £15,810.**

After payments of £11,713 this has resulted in **Net receipts for the period of £4,097**, bringing total cash funds at 30 April 2025 to £10,592 of which £3,148 is restricted.

Reserves Policy

The charity will hold enough reserves to cover its legal commitments.

These include:

- Payroll costs to cover either the notice period or the remaining costs to the end of contract, whichever is lower for each worker.
- Liabilities (not secured against other assets)
- Costs committed to by contract.

At the end of the period the charity holds reserves of £10,592, which more than covers these commitments and is more than 3 months of running costs.

Structure, Governance and Management

Close-Knit Families CIO (charity number 1210105) was established on 19th September 2024 after a conversion from Close-Knit CIC (company number 13356454). All assets, liabilities, funds, employees and IP transferred on that date.

Legal Structure

Close-Knit Families is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. It operates under a Foundation model constitution, last amended on 28 March 2024 and approved at the CIO registration date 19th September 2024. The charity's only voting members are its trustees.

Governing Document

The charity is governed by its constitution, which sets out its charitable objects: to advance education and promote and protect the health of parents and children in England and Wales by providing resources and peer support during pregnancy, birth, and early parenthood. The constitution also details trustee powers, duties, and procedures for meetings and decision-making.

Trustee Appointment and Induction

Trustees are appointed by resolution at a properly convened meeting of the board, in line with the constitution. New trustees receive a copy of the constitution and the latest Trustees' Annual Report and accounts as part of their induction. Trustees serve on a voluntary basis and bring skills and experience relevant to the charity's governance.

Organisational Structure and Delegation

The board of trustees has overall responsibility for the governance and strategic direction of the charity. Day-to-day management is delegated to the founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Bethany Munby, who is one of two part-time paid staff members. The CEO has authority to make operational decisions and incur expenditure within agreed budgets set by the trustees. The trustees meet regularly to review performance, approve budgets, and monitor risk, with the CEO regularly invited to help contribute to strategic decision making.

Decision-Making and Meetings

Trustees make decisions collectively at board meetings, which are held regularly throughout the year. A quorum of at least two trustees is required for decisions. The CEO is invited to contribute to strategic decision making. Where appropriate, decisions may also be taken by written resolution in accordance with the constitution.

Risk Management

The trustees maintain oversight of risks affecting the charity, including financial, operational, and reputational risks and mitigating actions are agreed as necessary.

Conflicts of Interest

Close-Knit Families operates a formal Conflict of Interest Policy, which requires trustees, staff, and volunteers to declare any interests and withdraw from discussions where a conflict arises. This policy is actively applied; for example, one trustee is the spouse of the CEO and does not participate in decisions relating to the CEO's pay or performance. All such conflicts and actions taken are recorded in the minutes.

Policies and Compliance

The charity complies with the Charities Act 2011. Key policies include safeguarding, data protection, and conflict of interest. Any trustee benefits or related party transactions are disclosed in the annual accounts in accordance with legal requirements.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, Close-KnitCloseKnit Families will continue to build on the strong foundations laid this year, with a renewed focus on prevention, community connection and long-term impact for babies and the people who care for them.

We will deepen our preventative work by shifting more of our activity into community settings, creating more opportunities for parents to access support early, easily and without judgement. A key priority is moving beyond increasing knowledge to helping families put what they learn into practice. Our new programme, currently in development, will offer practical, hands-on support during pregnancy, after birth and throughout the first year of parenthood, providing safe spaces where the parent-baby relationship can be supported from the very start. This shift will ensure our work has an even stronger and more lasting impact.

To sustain and develop our work, we will increase our income through grants and wider fundraising, while continuing to generate core funding through resource sales. Strengthening our financial resilience will allow us to invest in the programmes, partnerships and people that make our work possible.

We will continue to equip and strengthen those working with parents, supporting workforce awareness, learning and development. We will also continue our work in schools, helping teenagers understand how early relationships shape a baby's development – supporting the babies in their lives today and shaping their understanding as the parents of the future. Our session delivery and resources will remain central to creating change at scale and helping babies have the best start in life.

Finally, we will complete and embed our theory of change, giving us a clear roadmap for the difference we want to make and how we will measure it. This will guide our decisions, sharpen our focus and help us communicate our impact with clarity and confidence.

These goals will help create a future where babies have the loving, responsive relationships they need to do well now and as they grow – creating positive ripple effects that strengthen families and contribute to a healthier society for generations to come.

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of	Close-Knit Families		
On accounts for the period ended	30th April 2025	Charity no	1210105
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>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 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, · to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and · to state whether particular matters have come to my attention. 		
Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>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.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and · to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or <p>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>		
Signed:	<i>Susana Sargeant</i>	Date:	28/01/2026
Name:	Susana Sargeant		
Relevant professional qualification:	Postgraduate Certificate in Charity Finance & Accountancy		
Address:	13 Deacon Gardens, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, TS25 1UU		
Disclosure: Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	None		

Receipts and Payments Accounts - Close Knit Families

Receipts and payments for the period 19 Sep 2024 - 30 Apr 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Receipts by activity			
Donations & Legacies	236	-	236
Charitable Activities Sales	5,090	-	5,090
Restricted Grants	-	9,000	9,000
Unrestricted Grants	1,000	-	1,000
Other	484	-	484
Total receipts	6,810	9,000	15,810
Payments by activity			
Charitable Activities	- 3,277	- 5,852	- 9,129
Governance Costs	- 842	-	- 842
Support Costs	- 1,742	-	- 1,742
Total payments	- 5,861	- 5,852	- 11,713
Net of receipts/(payments)	949	3,148	4,097
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Opening Cash funds at date of conversion 19 Sep 2024	6,495	-	6,495
Cash funds 30 April 2025	7,444	3,148	10,592

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 April 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Cash funds			
Business Bank Account NatWest	7,444	3,148	10,592
Total cash funds	7,444	3,148	10,592
Assets retained for the charity's own use			
	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	When purchased
Lenovo Laptop	Unrestricted	418	Mar-22
Liabilities			
	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	When due
Corporation Tax for CIC	Unrestricted	- 832	Jan-26
PAYE	Restricted	- 148	May-25
PAYE	Unrestricted	- 417	May-25

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 28th January 2026 and are signed on behalf of the trustees by



Daniel Sutcliffe (Chair)

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

Accounting Basis: These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments (cash) basis in accordance with Charity Commission guidance CC16b. They record cash when received and payments when made, and are accompanied by a Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Going concern: The trustees consider that the charity is a going concern based on current reserves and committed funding.

Fund accounting: Unrestricted funds are for general purposes; restricted funds are for specified projects or purposes.

2. Conversion from CIC to CIO and Legal Status

On 19 September 2024, the organisation converted from a Community Interest Company (CIC) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (Conversion) Regulations 2017. The conversion was approved by the members of the CIC via special resolution and subsequently registered by the Charity Commission.

The conversion represents a change of legal form only. Under the regulations, the CIC was converted into a CIO, meaning the legal entity continued without interruption. All activities, rights, obligations, assets and liabilities of the CIC automatically continued within the CIO structure, and no new legal entity was created.

As the CIO prepares accounts on a receipts and payments basis, no assets or liabilities are recognised in the accounting statements. Instead, the cash balance and other items required under the receipts-and-payments framework are listed in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The closing cash balance and other relevant items of the CIC at the date of conversion became the opening position of the CIO.

All funds previously forming the CIC's net assets became the unrestricted funds of the CIO. No remeasurement or reclassification was required.

A summary of the CIC's position immediately before conversion, provided for information only, is included in Appendix 1.

The trustees confirm that the objectives and activities of the organisation remain aligned with its charitable purposes following conversion, and no material operational changes arose other than those required to comply with the CIO constitution and charity law.

Close-Knit Families is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered in England and Wales, operating under the Foundation model.

Notes to the Accounts cont.

3. Critical Accounting Judgements

Income Recognition

Restricted Grants (Donations and Legacies) - Gift with conditions: Donor specifies funds must be used for a particular purpose or project.

Unrestricted Grants (Donations and Legacies) -The charity can use the funds for any of its general purposes

Charitable Activities- Exchange transaction (provide services for funder's benefit in exchange for payment). Part of primary charitable purpose e.g. sale of video licenses or provision of workshops.

Other Trading Activities - Not donations and not primary-purpose charitable activities, ancillary or fundraising E.g. Fundraising event ticket sales, merchandise sales, shop income, raffles, sponsorship etc. (None to report this period)

Restricted funds purpose: Grant for CEO salary only. £9,000 received

Cost allocation

Salary costs are allocated to Charitable Activities

4. Employees

Total staff costs for the period were £8,820. This included salaries, pension and NI costs.

No employee earned over £30,000.

Total Employees: 2

5. Trustee Remuneration and Related Parties

Trustees received no remuneration or expenses during the period. No related-party transactions identified.

6. Analysis of Receipts and Payments

Restricted funds purpose: Grant for CEO salary only, received quarterly in advance. £9,000 received between Jan25-Apr25.

Receipts	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Net Receipts £
Sales - Charitable Activities	5,090		5,090
Donations and Fundraising	236		236
Restricted Grants	-	9,000	9,000
Unrestricted Grants	1,000		1,000
Refund of PAYE tax Received	483.6		483.6
Receipts Total	6,810	9,000	15,810

Notes to the Accounts cont.

Payments	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Net (Payments) £
Equipment for charitable work	(131)		(131)
Incentives for beneficiaries	(7)		(7)
Printing	(60)		(60)
Promotion to Beneficiaries	(30)		(30)
Salaries	(2,811)	(5,727)	(8,538)
Staff Pensions	(157)	(125)	(282)
Staff Training	(10)		(10)
Travel	(70)		(70)
Charitable Activities Total	(3,277)	(5,852)	(9,129)
Insurance	(842)		(842)
Governance Costs Total	(842)		(842)
Corporation Tax (CIC)	(427)		(427)
Other Computer Costs	(80)		(80)
Subscriptions	(630)		(630)
Web Hosting	(605)		(605)
Support Costs Total	(1,742)		(1,742)
Payments Total	(5,861)	(5,852)	(11,713)

7. Comparatives

This is the CIO's first accounting period, so no prior year comparatives are presented.

8. CIO-specific disclosures

(a) Guarantees — At the reporting date, the CIO had given no guarantees that could result in a liability

(b) Secured debts — At the reporting date, the CIO had no debts secured on its assets

9. Events After Reporting Period

Adjusting event: Goshen Tees Valley Community grant (£2,000), received July 2024, reclassified from restricted to unrestricted without performance obligations, following confirmation by email. This increased the taxable income of the CIC, and therefore reduced the funds transferred at 19th September 2024

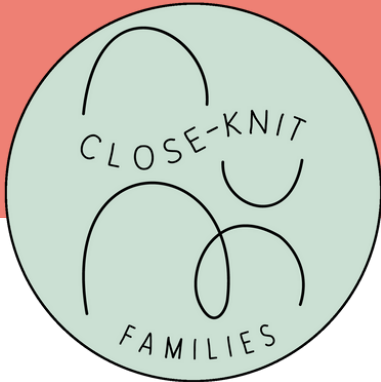
No other material events.

Appendix 1 – Unaudited Close Knit CIC accounts

Balance sheet as at 18 Sep 2024	
	£
Capital Assets	
Computer Equipment Brought Forward	418
Computer Equipment Depreciation Brought Forward	(314)
Computer Equipment Depreciation in year	(105)
Net Book Value	0
Current Assets	
Bank Account: Business Current Account	6,495
PAYE/NI	484
	6,979
less Current Liabilities	
Corporation Tax	(1,159)
Total Net Assets	5,720
Retained Profits	5,720
Total Funds	5,720

Profit and loss for the period 01 May 24 - 18 Sep 24	
	£
Turnover	
Sales	2,202
Donations and Fundraising	1,583
Restricted Grants	2,555
Unrestricted Grants	2,000
	8,341
less Administration Expenses	(2,222)
less Staff Costs	(1740)
less Depreciation	(105)
	(4,067)
Operating Profit	4,274
less Estimated Corporation Tax for period	(832)
Retained Profit this period:	3,442
Retained Profit brought forward:	2,278
Retained Profit carried forward:	5,720

CONNECTING PARENTS AND CHILDREN



[@close.knit.families](https://www.instagram.com/close.knit.families)



[@close.knit.families](https://www.facebook.com/close.knit.families)



www.close-knit.org.uk

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Charity registered in England (1210105)

