A photograph of two people standing on a grassy hillside. The person on the left is wearing a dark jacket and a cap, and is holding a white folder or document. The person on the right is wearing a dark jacket and has white hair. In the background, there is a road, a fence, and several trees, some of which are bare. The overall scene is a rural landscape.

Elders Council of Newcastle
Annual Report and
Accounts 2019/20

Foreword Anne Raffle, Chair



Hello to all our members, friends and partner organisations, and welcome to the Annual Report of the Elders Council of Newcastle.

You may remember at the AGM in 2019 the Trustee Board committed to continue the good work of the EC on behalf of our community. There were amazing contributions at the AGM from our members and guests, and this aided our focus for the 2019-2020 year. The top issue identified was the lack of adequate information about Social and Personal Care at home. This issue was taken up by the Housing, Health & Social Care Group with the intention of reporting on it at the 2020 AGM.

I am pleased to tell you that the Development Plan we undertook to carry out has allowed us to highlight the most important issues affecting older people, as they occur. This is often a changing pattern so we have to be alert to what is going on locally and nationally. During the year we were visited by Older People's Organisations from Leeds, Dunfermline and Middlesbrough. All the representatives highlighted different ways of engagement and it was really enjoyable to meet with them to discuss similar issues. It is also humbling to be recognised as a 'go to' organisation for good practice.

Changes that took place were that Pauline Rutherford left her part-time job with us to take up a full-time post elsewhere. Mary Nicholls was elected as a Trustee at the AGM.

Our Information Day on Enjoying Parks and Open Spaces was planned and organised for March 2020 and we were looking forward to bringing you information about Urban Green and how the parks and allotments have been operating since the management and financial responsibility was handed over by Newcastle City Council. This was cancelled as little did we know how the whole world would be affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic, and we have all had to watch on while families and friends have been isolated and estranged, perhaps at their greatest time of need.

Our office closed in mid-March and we agreed to make contact with as many members by telephone as possible. We are fully aware that a majority of members do not have access to the internet and as a result miss out on our electronic communications.

Executive Officer, Barbara Douglas, has maintained the Business and Administration of the Elders Council, ably supported by Trustees and key volunteers.

Our Mission

In line with our Charitable Objectives our mission is to be Newcastle's member led organisation working with and for older people so that they may live a respected, fulfilled later life. We deliver this by:

- Ensuring older people are well informed through our comprehensive communications programme about the work of the organisation and the wide range of opportunities available in the city for leisure and learning;
- Creating a range of opportunities for older people to have a say about the issues which affect them and sharing their insights with service providers and policy makers.

The Board of Trustees

The business of the Elders Council (EC) is overseen by the Board. The Board holds monthly meetings for 10 months of the year. All Board members play an active role in delivering the work of the organisation, by leading on areas of work and keeping up to date with ageing issues.

Name	Lead Role
Anne Raffle	Chair
Nick Lambert	Treasurer
Alan Gowers	Health Housing and Social Care
Mary Nicholls	Communications
Esther Salamon	Project: Doorbells
John Telfer	Older Person Friendly City
Violet Rook	Deputy Secretary
Taj Khan	Tyne & Wear Citizens

The Board is ably supported by Richard Rook who takes and produces minutes for the Board meetings.

Other EC members have taken a lead role in the following activities:

Steve Whitley	Older Voices (Radio)
Bill Ions	Transport
Julie Irvine	Project: Care at Home

EC Trustees participate in the meetings of the **Age Friendly City Group**, that provides a platform for us to raise issues that are important to older people. It also enables us to keep abreast of new developments.

Facts and Figures over the Year

5 Meetings for Health, Housing & Social Care

The Milecastle Social Group met **11** times



Transport Group met **5** times



Older Voices made **10** Broadcasts



Written and Digital Communications

The Echo Magazine published **4** issues of **1700** hard copies, **268** of them were hand delivered each time; **405** digital copies were sent

The Echo eBulletin was issued **25** times to **700** recipients

Facebook we now have **171** followers

Website has **321** subscribers

Older Person Friendly City
Met **5** times



Wellbeing for Life (EC/Jesmond)
10 meetings in Jesmond Library

Active Voices EC with WEA there were **7** completed courses

Grainger Market
There were **5** EC Days

Case Study

The Bulletin has changed significantly this year. We moved from using a simple Word document format to a free commercially produced product. We had useful support from Arlind Reuter and together we created a new template. The advantage of this format is that we have some analysis from each Bulletin. In October 2019 the Bulletin became 'live'. We now know that it is opened on average by over 49% of the recipients and that an average of 11% open into another link. We were a bit disappointed with the initial figures but discovered from colleagues in "Information Now" that this is remarkably high! It has remained steady throughout and we are gradually increasing the numbers of people who receive the Bulletin.

Doorbells – Dreaming for the Future:

Doorbells is a partnership between EC with Care and Repair England, Skimstone Arts and Northumbria University and is currently funded by Rayne Foundation. We are using performance as a way of provoking conversations about where and how we live in later life.



Member quote:

“While thinking about moving for convenience but not really wanting to, I watched one of the early Doorbells events. It made me realise that I could make suitable changes in and outside of my house to help with mobility issues, and not lose my independence or home.”

Research: members experience of Personal & Social Care at Home

We have been asking members to share their experiences of personal and social care at home so that we can better inform others about the realities (and the myths) of accessing care. Being able to live well at home is a key priority for the Elders Council and we will continue to use the findings from this project to drive for change in the quality of services that older people receive.



The HHSC group hosted a meeting to learn more about the **Life Curve** research and app with colleagues at Newcastle University and ADL Smartcare. We’ve learned how ageing is malleable and that there is a great deal we can do, mainly through physical exercise, to age well. As a result of the meeting, Mental Health Concern invited EC to partner in a funding bid to deliver more exercise opportunities for people at risk of falls. Here is the link: <https://www.adlsmartcare.com/lifecurveapp>

Future Homes Alliance is a partnership of key organisations in the city focused on delivering new housing which takes account of the key issues of an ageing population; climate change and technological innovation. Elders Council is proud to be a partner in this ground-breaking initiative which was granted planning permission in summer 2020 to develop new housing on Newcastle Helix. <https://www.futurehomesalliance.com/>

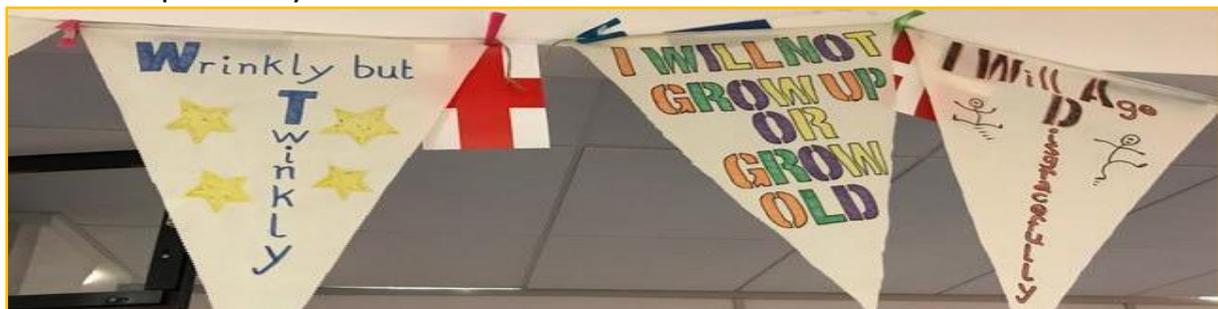
Alan Gowers and Esther Salamon represent EC at the national **Housing Champions Network** hosted by Care and Repair England which provides an opportunity to share learning with other English regions.

The Transport group, regularly meets with city planners and transport providers. Members of the group, Bill Ions and Bill Harbottle, produced the very popular EC Rider with suggestions of trips out over the summer using your bus pass. 800 copies of this were published and distributed.



Older Person Friendly City Group participated in the review of the Newcastle Street Charter and supported Masters student, Dom Langton, by undertaking a review of street furniture in the city centre.

Active Voices sessions were delivered throughout the year in partnership with the Workers Educational Association. A highlight was creating and producing banners as well as writing new lyrics for old song tunes for Older People's Day in October 2019



We are regularly invited to participate in **Research** with Newcastle and Northumbria Universities. Our involvement can range from inviting members to participate in research studies on an individual basis, to being on an Advisory Group.

Responding to COVID 19 meant that we had to cancel the events and activities we had planned for March and April and start to learn new skills. We quickly learnt how to hold Board Meetings on-line. We kept up with the regular bulletin and Magazine and sent these out via email. We started telephoning members who are not on-line so that they knew we hadn't forgotten them. And, we started to prepare to deliver some of our

work via webinars. Learning to work in a different way has given us new ideas for how we might work in the future, but we all look forward to the day when we can meet face-to-face and enjoy each other's company again. A final comment came in the shape of a card from a member. She was contacted to see if she needed support during the lockdown. She has severe arthritis.

"Thank you for contacting me to ask if I needed help. I enjoy receiving your magazine. I have never been able to attend any outings or meetings but have learned quite a lot over the years through your articles."

Thank you

We would also like to thank the members who support the organisation in a variety of different ways including leading on projects; delivering our Communications programme; helping with the Magazine distribution; supporting the project work; attending events; submitting articles for the Magazine and e bulletin and sending in very welcome donations. And last but not least our Trustees for keeping the organisation on an even keel.

We would also like to thank our funders Newcastle City Council and the Community Foundation. We are particularly grateful for the legacy we received from one of our members.



This is Barbara's 20th year with EC and she continues to be the backbone of our charity. She currently works alone as Pauline Rutherford left us to go to a new post and a new staff member has yet to be found. This has placed more onto Barbara's shoulders.

On behalf of all members we would like to thank her for her commitment and dedication to our organisation.

Registered Number 6188907
Charity Number 1122424

THE ELDERS COUNCIL OF NEWCASTLE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 31 MARCH 2020

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2019/20	2018/19
INCOME		
Newcastle City Council	44,000	80,947
Income from Services	5,184	5,492
Donations	1,283	2,693
Legacy	14,715	--
Grant	2,000	2,000
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	--	409
Sundry Income	--	110
	£ 67,182	£ 91,651
EXPENDITURE		
Member Support		
Training & Conference	120	--
AGM & Other Member Support	1,272	1,116
Booked Transport	614	801
	£ 2,006	£ 1,917
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE		
Newsletter Publication	3,792	4,413
Newsletter Postage	2,948	2,919
Publishing, Printing	1,181	1,740
Working Groups and Other Events	1,593	2,770
	£ 9,514	£ 11,842
GOVERNANCE EXPENDITURE		
Insurance	528	445
Professional Fees	--	438
	£ 528	£ 883
GENERAL EXPENDITURE		
Rent, Service Charge and Telephone	4,396	3,299
Staff Costs	34,240	39,973
IT and Website Costs	2,129	2,828
Sundries	101	414
	£ 40,866	£ 46,514
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 52,914	£ 61,156
Net Income Resources	14,268	30,495
FUNDS AT MARCH 2019	81,378	50,883
FUNDS AT MARCH 2020	95,646	81,378

COMPANY NUMBER 6188907

THE ELDERS COUNCIL OF NEWCASTLE LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2020

		2020		2019
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors		858		515
Cash at Bank				
Deposit Account	50,000		--	
Current Account	46,852	96,852	83,506	83,506
		97,710		84,021
 CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year		1,002		1,581
		£ 96,708		£ 82,440
 ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
UNRESTRICTED				
General		£ 95,646		£ 81,387
 RESTRICTED				
As at 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2020		1,062		1,062
		£ 96,708		£ 82,440

Independent Examiner' s Report to the Members of The Elders Council of
Newcastle Limited

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2020.

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

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:

- a) examine the accounts under Section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- b) follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act;
- c) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

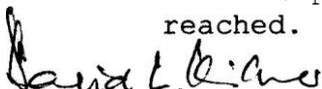
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of 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 statement below.

Independent Examiner' s Report

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention.

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - i) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and
 - ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005) have not been met or

- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David L Kilner FCA
Chartered Accountant
7 Eldon Square
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 JG
10 June 2020