

Cre8tion

ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCES &
FUNDRAISING

OUR PROJECT

HOW TO
GET
INVOLVED

HIGHLIGHTS





I am really excited to step into the role as Chair for Cre8! I've been involved as a Trustee for 18 months and felt incredibly proud when the Trustees confirmed me as the next Chair in June this year. We must all give our heartfelt thanks to our previous Chair Pip Mossdrop, and for his guidance, encouragement and steadfast commitment during the past 11 years. Pip remains a remarkable champion for the work of all Churches and faith initiatives across Macclesfield and this will continue I'm sure.

One of my first tasks has been talking to the many people who are involved in Cre8 and also those who are connected to the organisation in the wider community; it seems clear to me that 'what Cre8 is and stands for' is well articulated and understood. The organisation is highly credible and Cre8's work was externally recognised by the Queen's Award honour we received in 2015.

As the Cre8 strapline says; we are a 'Faith' based organisation which aims to be 'Community' led, bringing about transformational 'Change'. Our basic aspiration is to reveal light, by finding and revealing the gifts of people in the community.

Part of Cre8's uniqueness and sustainability is being rooted in Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) principles, and we as Trustees are keen to continue and promote this.

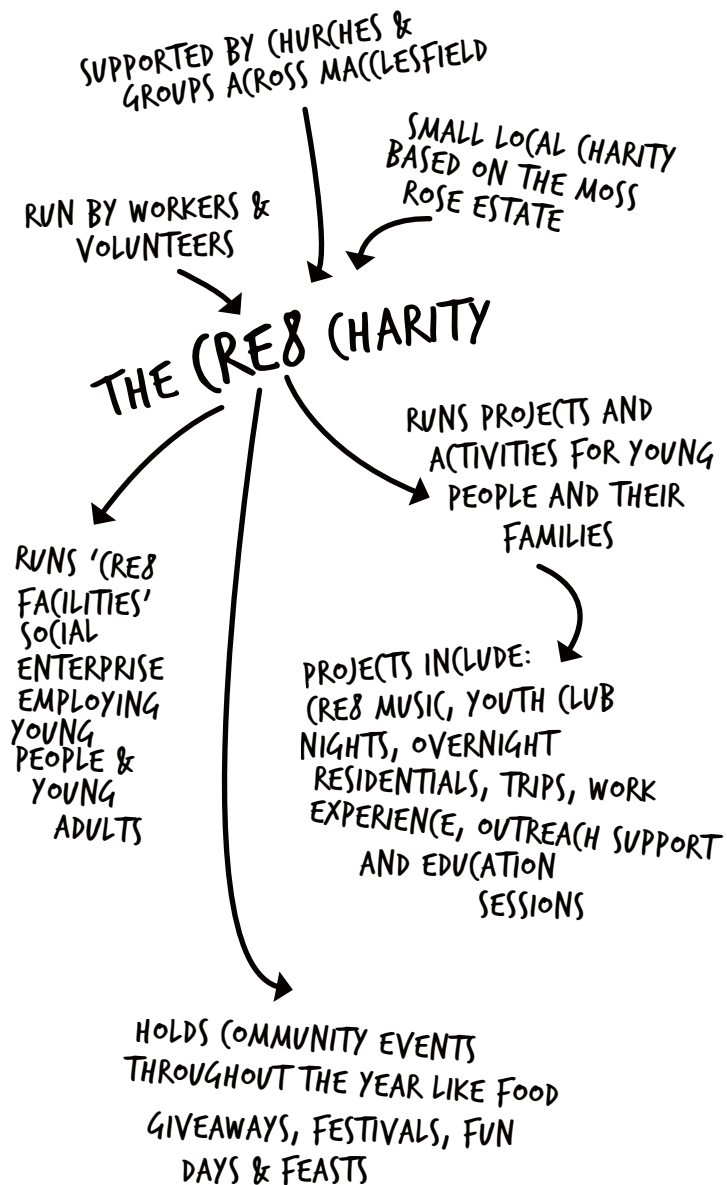
As Trustees our role is to ensure Cre8's activities and projects are in line with our charitable objectives, as well

as being done safely with risk carefully managed, money spent wisely and we have the best people doing the job. Over the past year it's been great to see and hear how our young people are achieving and developing along their own journeys. Particular highlights for me have been winning two North West Charity awards, entering a large team of volunteers and workers in the Macc 5K and Macc Half Marathon and raising over £1,000 and hearing our young musical talent perform at several concerts and events.

As for the future, over the next 3 years the Trustee group want, to see Cre8 become an even more attractive place for people to join and become part of; partnering with other organisations working on the Moss Rose Estate to promote the 'asset based' principles and ensure local talent and skills are developed to aid local solutions. We want to continue to build relationships, to share learnings beyond our community of the Moss Rose Estate, and most importantly, to have a structured mentoring of our Community Leaders both present and future.

I hope that looking through this report, and the many inspiring stories on our website and social media, will encourage you to join us in supporting Cre8 in whatever way you can, and be part of the Cre8 Community.

~ Jenni Hardy, Chair of Cre8's Trustees



Cre8 Macclesfield is a company limited by guarantee number 07737871 and a registered charity number 1147150.

SO, WHAT'S CRE8 ALL ABOUT?

Cre8 Youth and Community Programme is a small local charity which has been working with young people and their families in Macclesfield for the last 11 years. Cre8 has grown to be a significant part of the neighbourhood and now employs a number of full and part time staff, as well as volunteers, running a variety of projects and two businesses. Our projects include things like access to music making activities, youth clubs, one-to-one sessions to support and encourage engagement with education, overnight trips and residentials, bike workshops, outreach work to support the hardest to reach, most vulnerable young people, and giving young people employment and work experience.

Cre8 is based on the Moss Rose Estate on the south side of Macclesfield; an area characterised by poor health stats, low achievement in education, deprivation and child poverty.

Our work is aimed towards empowering young people and adults in the local area to make change happen for themselves and also for their local neighbourhood.

Cre8 is a charity so our income comes from a variety of places: donations and fundraising from individuals and organisations, grant funding, and importantly we earn some of our income by working for it. Our two social enterprise businesses are run as commercial businesses and any income goes into supporting our charitable work. Our one-to-one sessions are charged to the referring agency or school.

>> You can read more about our Finances on page 25.

COMMUNITY

A photograph of three children running through shallow water on a beach. The child on the left is a girl with long brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and black leggings. The child in the middle is a girl with brown hair in a bun, wearing a black sports top and black leggings. The child on the right is a boy wearing a dark blue t-shirt and red and white patterned shorts. They are all running from left to right, splashing water. In the background, there is a sandy beach and a rocky coastline with green moss or algae.



"THANK YOU ALL FOR A
REALLY GOOD WEEKEND
AND FOR ALL YOU DO FOR
THE KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY"

Comment on social media from a parent who came along to some of the activities and events during the Cre8 Festival

Cre8 has been a faith-based organisation on the Moss Rose Estate for many years now and I am often asked how faith influences what we do. I can tell you: it's everything...

Nearly all of us who work at Cre8 have lived on the Estate for some time and we feel very much part of this community. It is our home and our friends are here, and some of us are involved in 'regular' Church in some way.

What underpins Cre8's work is that we are seeking to find, discover and release the wonderfulness of God that we believe is in every person. We believe that everyone is 'made in God's image'; which means that each of us are wonderfully blessed by God, whoever we are. We are loved by God and we have something of God within us. Everyone. Sometimes that wonderfulness gets squashed out, sidelined, or forgotten. Sometimes that wonderfulness is hard to see or hidden. Our job is to try and help each other to find it; to push away the things which stop wonderfulness from showing itself, and to remind each other that it's within us. That is how faith works in Cre8; we look to see the image of God in the wonderfulness of young people.

It is our huge privilege to help young people in discovering new things they can do; to see proud parents with watery eyes watching their children perform in a concert; and to see young people make something they never thought they could make. We know there are many hidden talents and we know the best talent is home-grown.

The people of the Moss Rose Estate are wonderful. We already have the talents and ideas to make our own

lives better and more fun – if we could just be asked, encouraged and allowed to do it. We already have enough creativity between us to make our own lives better if we can only be given the space to make things happen. For us, this is what community is about; living together and making things happen.

We were amazed to be shortlisted for the North West Charity Awards this year, and completely stunned when we actually won! The award we received was for 'Small Charity Big Impact'. We certainly feel that we are small, but that doesn't matter to us. I think our impact is strengthened because we are passionate about community: the whole community, not just young people. The community events we put on are for anyone and everyone who wants to come and we love putting on these events. We like to have fun - together.

When things are not so fun we want to try and help as well. Over the last few months as Universal Credit has begun to bite, we've given away increasing amounts of food to people who have little or nothing to eat. Lots of young people have been involved in this, sorting and boxing food and delivering it to doorsteps. It is good to be able to give. Giving is at the heart of community. We hope we can continue to very much be a part of the community of the Moss Rose Estate and to help it give its wonderfulness to itself.

~ Rob Wardle, Director of Cre8 & Church of England Priest



ISING AND FUNDRAISING DONATIONS

THANKYOU
FOR MAKING
CRE8 GREAT!

Cre8 is an independent charity so our money comes from a variety of places like donations from groups or individuals, grant funding, and we also believe it's very important to earn our own money through work; that's one of the reasons we have our social enterprise businesses.

This year our supporters have been incredible raising money and Cre8's profile in a variety of ways. We love being involved with a huge range of events and are so grateful to all our supporters for hosting various events, talks and activities.

Fully funding all the Cre8 services is always a challenge and we are working hard to 'get the message out' to gain ongoing support for Cre8.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us including... Church groups, home mission giving, collections at services or birthdays, schools fundraising, businesses donating money or items, people hosting events, and of course the individuals who support us every month through regular giving - our Friends.



- The United Reformed Church in Macclesfield chose Cre8 as one of their charities for the annual Christmas Tree Festival and raised £800.
- Our stand at the Moss Rose Family Fun Day & Dog show sold preloved clothing & items from our Boutique, and had lots of fun games!
- The Laurence Singers choir chose Cre8 as one of their charities to support during the year and donated £1,000 and held a fundraising concert for Cre8 at St Michaels Church, which included some incredible joint performances with young people from our music project.
- Entering a community team of 17 runners in the Macc 5K and Macc Half for the first time and raising a phenomenal £1,400. Go team!
- Job Day at the Cre8 Festival - organised by young people. A day doing gardening jobs for people around Macclesfield, and car washing - all raising money towards the Camas Residential.
- Anne Kite & friends organised a wonderful Floral Design Evening with Mark Entwistle raising £1,700. Amazing. Thank you Kitey.



HIGHLIGHT
FROM THE PAST YEAR

The BIG church day out... Delivering an accredited Award at our Music project... Passing NOCN's external inspection... Being shortlisted in two categories for the North West Charity Awards... Receiving the 'Rising Star' Award at the North West Charity Awards... Nominating Creamline Dairies for Outstanding Charity Support Award - and then winning it!... Welcoming a new Chair of Trustees... Entering Team Cre8 in the Macc 5K and Half Marathon... Laurence Singers Concert featuring an unforgettable joint finale... Featuring in a national newspaper for 'Road to Wigan Pier 2017'... Receiving the Award for Excellence in Innovation from Cheshire Community Foundation... A shiny new minibus donated by Oliver Valves... Treacle Market... Community Christmas Feast & Food Giveaway... Moss Rose Family Fun Day... Selling our Homemade goods... Holding our own Business Breakfast event at MTFC... Building planters for St Peters Church... and everything else!



GET INVOLVED...

Want to make a difference in your own community?

There are lots of ways you can get involved.

FINANCIAL DONATION

Cre8 is an independent charity and we have to raise all our own funds so financial donations are essential to keep Cre8 going. One-off donations, regular monthly giving and legacies all help us continue with sustainable projects for young people and this community. We try and make it easy for people to give to us, our regular monthly givers are known as a 'Friends', and we can help you to set up a monthly direct debit. Find out how at www.cre8macclesfield.org/financial-donation

WISHLIST

There are always items we're looking for to keep Cre8 projects running. Being a charity, if we can get them for free that's even better!

Our wishlist is constantly being updated so keep checking www.cre8macclesfield.org/wishlist

PRAYER

We are always incredibly grateful for the many different ways people support Cre8 and we rely particularly on people's prayers. If you'd like to support our work through prayer, you can find some prayer points to help you at www.cre8macclesfield.org/prayer

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are at the heart of Cre8. We welcome volunteers of any age, background and experience. The most important thing for a Cre8 volunteer is to be able to listen to young people about whatever they want to talk about and not to judge. Enthusiasm, patience and a passion for 'something', be it bike riding, art & craft, gardening or flying model aeroplanes, are really important qualities too.





"THANKYOU FOR HAVING
ME AT CRE8 IT'S
THE BEST THING THAT'S
HAPPENED TO ME!"

Taken from a card that was made and given to Cre8 leaders by a young person who has just started coming to Cre8 Clubs

We've been running Youth Club nights since Cre8 first began in 2006; that's 11 years of games, challenges, cooking and sharing meals, informal learning, making things, arts and crafts, building community and adventures! Of course there have been plenty of laughs, conversations and memories and we are always really pleased when former Club 'originals' come back to volunteer; that tells us that Clubs are working.

This year, young people have worked on several projects on the theme of 'Cre8 Goes Global'. Together with our volunteers and leaders, young people have used art to reflect upon issues faced by communities across the world. We have also developed a 'Camas' art project which will tie in with the residential we do every year. And in response to 'One Love Manchester' we used art to reflect on what happened in the aftermath of the Manchester Arena bombings.

Our young leaders programme, encouraging older young people (aged 14-16) to volunteer regularly at Clubs has really taken off this year. It's been wonderful to see young people value the training and learning in youthwork and safeguarding principles of making everyone happy in a safe environment; all this alongside enjoying Club night themselves. We are looking forward to developing the young leaders programme in 2018.

Our adult volunteers at Clubs are the key to making the activities happen and to making the evenings exciting and challenging. Volunteers share their passions – be that baking, creating quizzes, sewing, sports activities and many other things. We find that young people always respond when an adult shares their own hobby or genuine interest; young people like to 'follow' adults and share their interests. It is hugely valuable to a young person to have an adult who will sit and chat with them about their day whilst, for example working on a sewing project; this is something that our young people really value and yearn for; kindness, patience and time for them. So thank you to our great team of volunteers across our Youth Clubs - you have done some brilliant stuff this year with young people, and we know from experience that they won't forget.

Our Youth Clubs evolve and we review the format and set-up on a regular basis. Over the years we have added new Clubs, split Clubs up and created subgroups. This is in response to the needs and challenges of the young people who access our Clubs at that particular time. It can also depend on the resources of staff and volunteers that we have available. It's important that we do this; to respond to what's needed in the best way that we can.



"THANKYOU FOR HAVING
ME HERE AND BEING KIND.
I FEEL PART OF IT. . .
I OWN THIS PLACE!"

Comment from a young person who comes to Cre8 Learning Plus sessions and has successfully moved to a new school

Cre8 'Learning Plus' is our One-to-One Education project which has been running for seven years. It began because we knew there was a need for those who didn't or wouldn't go in to school full time. Today, our project takes referrals from schools across the county. We average around 1000 two-hour sessions in a school year and since we began we've had 94 young people come to Cre8 education sessions. Cre8 Learning Plus continues to be a significant contributor to 'Alternative Education' for schools in our area.

nocn

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

This year our delivery of National Open College Network (NOCN) qualifications has been

very successful. Cre8 is able to accredit the different things we do during sessions like art, craft, gardening, cooking and bike repair and maintenance. This gives value to the time young people are with us and helps to encourage and improve their self-esteem; great preparation for a hopeful return to the benefits of full-time formal education.

Cre8 Learning Plus highlights this year have included:

- **Themed food weeks** - Pie week being the most popular - Fruit week the least! We cooked and shared meals together with young people at the Cre8 House.
- **Construction project** building large wooden planters for a project with St Peter's Church Macclesfield.

This was hugely beneficial to the young people enabling them to learn new skills and create a worthwhile community resource in the St Peters garden.

- Leaving '*abandoned*' *homemade flower bouquets* around the streets of the Moss Rose Estate for people to find and take home or give away on Valentines day – all with little handwritten notes saying 'You are beautiful'.

The young people who are referred by schools or agencies come to Cre8 for a variety of reasons such as permanent exclusion or at risk of being excluded, refusing to go to school, or being 'in-between' schools due to safeguarding, family, behavioural or social care matters. We are finding that the young people who are referred to us during the last few years have ever increasing and more complex needs. We are therefore having to cap the number of sessions we can do at Cre8 because of the limited resources we have and because of the demands the work puts on our youth work team.

Cre8 sessions are planned and designed to help young people to gain confidence, raise self esteem and social skills – all in a safe environment. Our belief is that formal and informal education and learning are important for all of us, and so we want young people to reconnect with education or help them to transition to a new school, college or job.

MUSIC



"WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENING OF MUSIC
SHOWCASING SUCH INCREDIBLE
TALENT! IT IS TREMENDOUS TO SEE HOW
THE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE DEVELOPED, THEIR
STAGE PRESENCE NOW SO CONFIDENT"

Comment on social media from a member of the audience at one of our concerts

Young people involved in Cre8 Music continue to challenge and inspire us with their performances and learning. Our music project is in its sixth year and we've now had our third recommendation from the National Foundation for Youth Music; a wonderful achievement for everyone who is involved.

Since we began the music project in 2011 we have delivered almost 3000 music sessions! These are a mixture of drop-in (have-a-go) sessions, professional tutored lessons, concerts, recording sessions and group-teaching workshops. Cre8 Music runs on three days per week as an after-school activity. In addition we put on concerts at least three times per year, we run trips to music events and workshops during school holidays and residencies for community-building. We try to make Cre8 Music a holistic project just like our other Cre8 projects.

In January this year we began to deliver a focused weekly teaching session to a group of 6 young people who want to progress their music skills and knowledge. The group are working towards a qualification in music performance which is awarded by NOCN. Cre8's professional music tutors and practitioners deliver the course to the group that studies together each week. This is a HUGE

progression for us and for the young people. The performance unit they are currently working on is challenging. As the young people progress their learning we can see how much their individual performance skills and confidence are improving as they learn and reflect on their musical identities.

All of this is made possible by the funding we receive from Youth Music. To have been awarded funds for the next three years is testament to the incredible work Cre8 Music project does, and it's a young people's project. The support which our youth workers and tutors offer around the young people and their music activities is what contributes to its success.

Come along to a Concert and you will discover the wonderful community spirit that flows through the project.



RESIDENTIALS →



"THANKS SO MUCH
IT WAS SO
GOOD"

Comment on social media from a young person who came on the Camas residential for the first time

Residentials are intense youthwork and 'intervention'. Youth workers (voluntary and paid) are with a group of young people for the whole time; everything is done together. You share the fun adventures and experiences, like treasure hunts around an ancient church in Tatton or abseiling down a cliff at Camas, and we share the chores, the tiredness, the grumpiness and the cooking. We fallout and we reconcile and importantly we learn to get along. Young people learn that it's OK to try - to just have a go. More of the world is revealed - you may think you've done camping but come along on a Cre8 residential and young people will help you experience that all over again with fresh eyes, ears, and senses!

MEMORABLE and EXHAUSTING. Those seem to be the two words that pop up when we ask youth workers and volunteers to describe residentials. It might seem like a short period of time and look like a 'holiday' - but that's definitely not the case! Building community is done on a residential because we eat, do chores, have fun and play games together. We learn how to understand each other, how to live together in a way which keeps us all good, safe and happy.

We've run 57 residentials (overnight trips) since Cre8 began in 2006; some are targeted towards a couple of challenging young people we feel would really benefit from time away in a small group on an adventure like conquering a mountain, and some with larger groups to far flung places like the wilds of Scotland or the Taize Community for young people and young adults in France.

A firm favourite is the Camas Centre, part of the Iona Community, on the Isle of Mull off Scotland's west coast. It's always an epic adventure, and the values and beliefs of Camas are aligned much to our own. We've exchanged workers and volunteers over the years and we like to give back and deepen connections by helping to build sheds for Camas (for accommodation, storage, chickens, pizza ovens and post). It's quite a legacy. We're sure we will continue to make the pilgrimage north with various different groups over the years to come. Our young people, young adults and families absolutely love it - who'd have thought a week in the rain, midges, no mains electric, vegetarian food and no phone signal would be so popular - the power of living simply in community!



(RE8) JOBS

"WHAT A NICE YOUNG
MAN! I WISH I COULD
BOTTLE THAT KIND
OF COURTESY!"

Comment on social media from a supporter who
kindly donated some bikes to Cre8.

We believe in work; contributing to society and to our communities. It's an important part of everything we do at Cre8 - all our projects and activities involve work, sometimes in just a small way, for example helping with 'chores' during a club night or residential. It's why Cre8, as a charity, does paid work to earn our own income.

Young people are asking to work. They always have done. Usually along the lines of "have you got anything for me to do?" or "can I help you do that?". They are enthusiastic, at least at first, especially when they can see the fruits of their labour - something they have helped to construct, repair or sell. But sometimes it can take a while to change an attitude of "I can't do that", "why should I bother" or "there's no point".

For the last 10 years we have run some form of work experience project. Over the last couple of years this has evolved into our Cre8 Jobs project. We give young people supported work experience to improve their skills and readiness for work. This has been focussed on young people aged 14 and upwards.

We support young people and young adults who are 'hardest to reach' and the least likely to be recruited, trained and employed in the 'outside' world. Often,

they are the least likely to hold down a job.

For this work experience we don't employ the young people, instead they do get free food and trips as a reward. The work experience does prepare them for employment, which might be in one of our social enterprises if work is available.

In early 2017 we worked on a fantastic project for St Peter's Church community garden constructing planters and benches. It was absolutely brilliant and great to have so many different young people involved learning a new skill and being able to quickly see the results of their work.

Going forward we have a Community Pathway project funded by Cheshire Community Foundation, which is developing over 2017. We will be doing practical work clearing and maintaining community pathways across the area and working with young people volunteering to help improve their own neighbourhoods. Young people like to work - and the reward of some good food shared together each day, and a fun trip at the end is a great motivator!

CHESHIRE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Cre8
FACILITIES LTD



"I WORK FOR CREAMLINE AT STOCKPORT AND I HAVE TO PRAISE ADAM AND HIS RIGHT HAND MAN NATHAN THEY ALWAYS DO A BRILLIANT JOB TEN OUT OF TEN!"

Comment on social media from a van driver at Creamline Dairies

Cre8 Facilities is one of our social enterprises; delivering a high-standard fleet washing service to Creamline Dairies in Manchester. Cre8 has delivered this commercial contract for Creamline for the past four years, ensuring their vehicles, including 250 milk floats, are cleaned and jet-washed on a two week cycle. Because Creamline give Cre8 this regular financial contract, we are able to provide supported employment experience for young people and young adults who are ably led by one of our experienced Team Leaders. Creamline's Directors wanted to support Cre8 and they also needed their vehicle fleet cleaning; this was the starting point and from there we came to agree the cleaning contract and then set up the Cre8 Facilities social enterprise. A true win win for both organisations.

The work we have through Creamline brings much-needed income into the charity and also helps us to employ and support young people and give them the skills needed to succeed in the world of work. Taking pride in our work is really important - there's



no better feeling than when the team come back into the office desperate to show before and after photos and see the pride on their faces from a job well done. Great!

We are honoured and extremely proud that Creamline's support of Cre8 Facilities won the top prize for Outstanding Charity Support at the North West Charity Awards. The unique and innovative way in which they support Cre8, by working in partnership to provide a commercial contract whilst also providing support and understanding because of the challenges of employing hard-to-reach young people, deserved to be recognised and rewarded. This partnership is a great way for business and charity to come together.

Congratulations and thank you Creamline!





"THANKYOU TEAM CRE8!
I HAVE COME HOME
AND MY GARDEN LOOKS
AMAZING... THANK YOU ALL!"

Comment on social media from a member of the community whose garden we cleared during the 'Job Day' at the Cre8 Festival

The past year has seen some up and downs for our social enterprise Cre8 Works. We lost our regular Peaks and Plains Housing Trust grounds maintenance contract at the beginning of 2016. Whilst Peaks and Plains were very pleased with our work and they received high levels of tenant satisfaction, unfortunately due to budget constraints Peaks and Plains could not continue to offer our pathway maintenance service.

Our contract work is now limited to maintaining two sites; the grounds at Macclesfield's Almshouses and Surface Technology International Ltd at their site in Poynton. We are enormously grateful to these two organisations for their continued support of our social enterprise work with young people.

At the moment therefore, Cre8 Works is only operating on less than one day per week, and we want to do much more.

Cre8 Works is set up to deliver high quality commercial grounds maintenance contracts, whilst employing young people as workers and giving them 'employment experience'. We have impressive evidence of our ability to deliver these contracts

on time and with high customer satisfaction. Our strengths are:

- staff trained and qualified in both horticulture and youth work/people work
- experience in employing limited-skills workers
- well-maintained equipment with the ability to invest as required
- organisation and business management experience
- excellent customer, relational and people skills

To make Cre8 Works a success we need businesses and other organisations to support us by wanting to support young people by offering sustainable long term (minimum 2 years) contracted work to us. If you:

- have a contract that needs fulfilling
- want to support our work financially

Then please get in touch with Rob Wardle our Director on 07710 173177.

FINANCE(S)

These summary financial figures cover the year 2015-16 and relate to Cre8 Macclesfield - the charity. Full Financial Statements can be found on our website www.cre8macclesfield.org

INCOME	Income (£'s)	Income (%)
Donations & fundraising	£34,542	18%
Grants	£66,607	34%
Trusts	£35,000	18%
Contracted work	£57,449	30%
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>£193,598</i>	

EXPENDITURE	Expenditure (£'s)	Expenditure (%)
Charitable activities	£53,964	24.3%
Wages & Salaries	£156,058	70.3%
Premises	£9,364	4.2%
Legal & Professional	£2,567	1.2%
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>£221,953</i>	

The year to August 2016 proved to be a financially difficult one for Cre8 with overall income reduced by £40K due in the main to: a reduction in Learning Plus revenues, a lower level of general donations and the loss of a major contract for Cre8 Works. However the financial position of the charity remains strong, with total funds at August 2016 standing at £187K and a cash balance of £164K.

THANK YOU!

TO ALL THE
INDIVIDUALS,
FAMILIES AND GROUPS
WHO DONATE TO CRE8



THE
SWALLOW
TRUST



CHESHIRE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION





cre8

FAITH (CHANGE) COMMUNITY

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