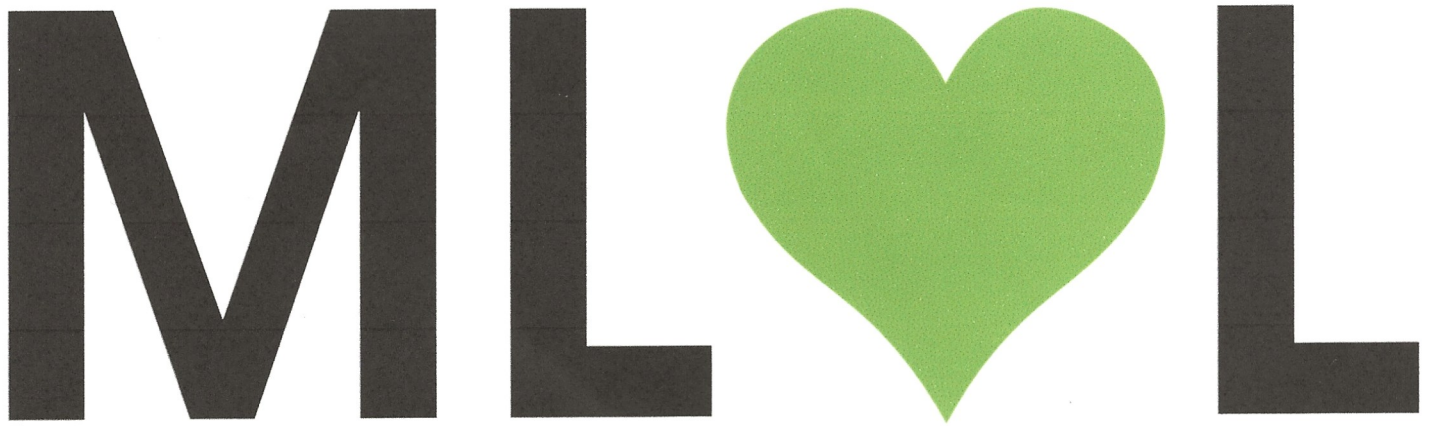




MALAWI LEADERS OF LEARNING

IMPROVING EDUCATION IN GLASGOW AND MALAWI

Scottish Charity Number SC044361
Annual Report and Financial
Statements

For the year ended 31 July 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 July 2025.

1. Reference and Administrative Information

This annual report provides information on the charity's reference details and administrative arrangements for the period under review. The registered address, names of current trustees, and principal contacts are maintained in accordance with OSCR requirements to ensure transparency and accountability. The charity's banking arrangements and independent examiner's details are also set out within the financial statements section, supporting our ongoing commitment to good governance.

Charity Name	Malawi Leaders of Learning (MLOL)
Scottish Charity Number	SC044361
Principal Address	Education Services, Glasgow City Council, 40 John Street, Glasgow G1 1JL
Current Trustees	
Maureen McKenna (Chair)	Marie Breckenridge
David McClelland (Treasurer)	Terry Strain
Fiona Ross (Secretary)	Sharon Hayward
Douglas Hutchison	Les McLean
Laura MacEachran	Samir Sharma
Elizabeth Morrison	Michele Stewart

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is an unincorporated association. It is governed by its constitution which was adopted in September 2014. Malawi Leaders of Learning was granted charitable status by OSCR on 25 October 2013.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees meets at least once each year and trustees receive updates at least every six months. Individual Trustees are appointed by means of a majority vote, with a minimum of five and a maximum of 15 holding office at any one time.

Management

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of Malawi Leaders of Learning. There are no paid members of staff and all support is given on a voluntary basis.

3. Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The advancement of education by:

- Improving the quality of learning and teaching in schools and early childhood development centres in Malawi
- Developing and establishing links with appropriate authorities and bodies in Malawi, providing advice and advocacy when necessary
- Maintaining a public profile through promotion of the project in Malawi and in Scotland.

Activities

To deliver professional learning on

- leadership to every primary headteacher in Blantyre Urban and Rural Districts; and
- learning and teaching and effective use of a library to teachers from every primary school in Blantyre Urban and Rural Districts.

We will continue to provide library books to our partner schools through fundraising and through our partnership with Book Aid. We will also continue to sponsor girls attending Stella Maris Secondary School.

4. Achievements and Performance

During 2024/25, through our partnership with Book Aid, we took delivery of another shipment of books. These are collected from Lilongwe by Francis Maseya and then delivered to the District Education Managers for dispersal to schools. Since our partnership started, we have delivered around 22,000 books to Malawian primary schools.

In September 2022 the trustees approved the [MLOL 2022-25 plan](#). This plan retains our ambition to provide training to every teacher and senior leader in Blantyre Urban and Rural Districts.

We have used social media to engage with more teachers and to encourage new staff to want to travel to Malawi to support the delivery of professional learning. In September 2024, a team of three staff travelled to Malawi for an intense week of professional learning. In February 2025, a second team of four built on the success of the September team in their week-long visit to Blantyre. Note that due to the increasing costs of airfares that we tried three staff going in September. However, following feedback we have reverted to four staff going in February 2025.

In September, a total of 158 senior leaders attended the training across five days at Teacher Development Centres in Blantyre Rural and Urban Districts. A total of 144 teachers/librarians attended the training across four days at Teacher Development Centres. The locations were chosen by the District teams.

In February, a total of 133 senior leaders attended the training across five days at Teacher Development Centres in Blantyre Rural and Urban Districts. A total of 150 teachers/librarians

attended the training across four days at Teacher Development Centres chosen by the District teams.

For both visits, the evaluations were very positive. Senior leaders and teachers enjoyed the training and wanted more. For the senior leaders training the focus was on using the Malawian National Education Standards, as identified by the District senior leaders. For the teachers, the focus was planning, active learning and making effective use of available resources. All enjoyed the interactive format of the learning.

The evaluations from 2024/25 helped us review the training on offer. We are using this year's evaluations and feedback from the team to improve our delivery for session 2025/26 to better meet the needs of the teachers and senior leaders.

Numbers attending training	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Senior leaders	313	282	291
teachers	375	375	294

[EvaluationsFebruary2025](#) and [SeniorleaderevaluationsFeb2025](#) these links provide detailed evaluations from the February 2025 trip.

It is clear from the evaluations that we are building the capacity of leaders and teachers. They are ambitious and want to learn more. We ensure that we build on the evaluations by ensuring that the February team meets with the next September team and the September team meets with the next February team.

Our challenge continues to be the increased cost of airfares and cost of living in Malawi. The Malawian Kwacha has been devalued and may be further devalued. This puts an additional strain on our Malawian colleagues. We have increased the donation towards travel expenses for each participant to MKW5,000. When we first started training, we provided MKW1,000. Feedback from participants and senior District staff suggests that this may need to be increased for session 2025/26.

In addition to this work, we also secured funding from two former MLOs to continue to sponsor two girls. Tereza and Eunice, in Form 4 at Stella Maris Secondary School. This allowed them to complete their secondary education by June 2025. We also secured funding through a sponsor for a primary pupil from Chisawani Primary School to get a prosthetic leg. Her teachers had told us she was a very bright girl who had had her leg amputated due to infection. In June 2025, Faith got a new leg to accommodate her growing.

5. Fundraising

We are asking participants in the visits to contribute at least £500 to the cost of the trip. Overall, each trip is costing up to £10,000. Photocopying of materials is done in Malawi which is more expensive but it means paper is not needed to be carried out and also it contributes to a small Malawian printing company based in Blantyre.

We must do some fundraising in session 2025/26 in order to be able to continue this good work.

We continue to benefit from the generosity of friends, colleagues, schools and community organisations in the form of donations in support of our work

6. Transport

We continue to have a car and a minibus. However, the last two years with no visits has meant that these have not been able to generate any income for us and instead they have cost us money

for insurance, road tax, etc. By February 2023, the minibus had been repaired and was back on the road. However, there remains limited opportunity to generate income. It is hoped this will improve in the next couple of years. Although we may have to think about how we replace the bus. This would be a considerable sum of money to raise. Francis has been able to get one booking from Orbis during 2025.

7. Financial Review

The Financial Statement to 31 July 2025 accompanying this report represents the twelfth year-end accounts prepared for MLOL following the formal granting of charitable status by OSCR in October 2013. Charitable status allows us to claim gift aid, increasing by 25% the value of donations from many of our generous supporters.

Our new fundraising site has been operating since November 2021 and be accessed using the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/malawileadersoflearning>

A new interest bearing account was opened in February 2024 in an effort to generate interest on Trust funds. £60,000 was transferred to a 95 day notice account, currently earning 2.75% gross interest. Whilst interest rates have reduced from the original 4%, the cumulative interest generated to date totals £3,134.99.

Trust income for the year totalled £11,689.

£8,061 was received via Just Giving, £2,102 in bank interest, and Give as You Live generated £46. A fundraising race night event raised an impressive and most welcome £1,480.

Expenditure totalled £11,839 resulting in a net deficit of £150 for the year.

The key elements of expenditure in the current year included £5,100 for travel, £1,755 for accommodation, £1,699 on educational and training resources, and £2,960 on local transport costs.

Summary financial performance is set out below. The net deficit for the year is debited to Trust Funds which have a closing balance of £80,048.

Approved by the trustees on 22 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Maureen McKenna



Chair

Date 8/9/25

David McClelland



Treasurer

Date 8/9/25

Independent Examiner's Report

For the Year 31 July 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Malawi Leaders of Learning

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. 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 seeks 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, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations 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.

Signature:



Lorna Goldie CPFA
Independent Examiner

Date 8/9/25.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year to 31 July 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	2024
Receipts					
Donations	4	£8,107		£8,107	£5,509
Interest received		£2,102		£2,102	£1,033
Fundraising Activities		£1,480		£1,480	-
		£11,689	-	£11,689	£6,542
Payments					
Cost of Fundraising Activities		-	-	-	-
Cost of Charitable Activities		£11,839	-	£11,839	£17,712
		£11,839	-	£11,839	£17,712
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year					
		-£150	-	-£150	-£11,170

Statement of Balances as at 31 July 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	2024
Funds Reconciliation					
Opening Cash at Bank and Hand		£80,198	-	£80,198	£91,368
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		-£150	-	-£150	-£11,170
Closing Cash at Bank and Hand		£80,048	-	£80,048	£80,198
Bank and Cash Balances					
Bank – Current account		£16,491		£16,491	£19,165
Bank – 95 Day Notice Account		£63,135		£63,135	£61,033
Cash		£422		£422	-
Total Funds		£80,048		£80,048	£80,198
Other Assets					
Nil	6			-	-
Liabilities					
Nil	6			-	-

Notes to the Accounts for the Year to 31 July 2025

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3. Related Party Transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees or to any connected persons during the year (2023/24 - nil).

4. Donations and Fundraising

Donations, Just Giving, and Give as You Live contributions totalled £8,107. In addition, our thanks go to Laura MacEachran who organised an enjoyable and successful Race Night in November 2024, generating £1,480 in aid of Trust Funds.

5. Bank Account

MLOL maintains a current account with Virgin Money, the balance of which was £16,490.54 as at 31 July 2025.

£60,000 was transferred to a new 95 day notice interest bearing account with Virgin Money on 27 February 2024. The closing balance, including interest to 31 July 2025 was £63,134.99.

6. Assets and liabilities

The Trust has no assets or liabilities, vehicles having no book value and there are no other amounts owing or due.

7. Governance Costs

No costs have been incurred in relation to governance.

8. Expenses paid to Trustees and the number receiving expenses

£6,855 was incurred on flights and accommodation costs in relation to visits to Malawi over the past year. Trustees are not in receipt of any associated expenses in support of Trust activities.

Approved by the trustees on 22 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Maureen McKenna
Chair



David McClelland
Treasurer