**STEP OUT SHEFFIELD FINANCIAL REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR 2023 – 2024**

Whilst I “formally” retired from the Management Committee at the last AGM, nobody took on the role of Treasurer, so I have maintained the accounts for an additional year!

A spreadsheet is attached with a breakdown of income and expenditure, and a comparison with previous years.

This year has been another tremendous year for Step Out Sheffield financially. Despite a record expenditure of nearly £12,000 the accounts show a surplus for the year of £8,328.58, with a balance at the end of the financial year of £52,471.10.

This is partly due to the continued support of Sheffield City Council who provided £5,750 in Ward Pot Grants (again, not bad for a Council that turned its back on Step Out Sheffield in 2016!), but more significantly due to the payment received from the University of Sheffield Medical School (£14,014) for providing placements for Medical Students.

Financially, the organization is well placed to move forwards.

However, there is now a problem (isn’t there always!)

At the moment Step Out Sheffield functions legally as a “not for profit” organization.

For “profit” read “surplus”, so in real terms, a not for profit organization made a profit of £8,328.58 over the financial year.

Thanks to the University of Sheffield Medical School, Step Out Sheffield now holds far higher financial reserves than is allowed for a not for profit organization.

To be absolutely blunt about this. The people legally responsible under Charity Commission rules are the Management Committee, and if this situation is not resolved they could face personal legal action.

LEGALLY Step Out Sheffield cannot carry on as a not for profit organization. To avoid Management Committee members facing legal problems it is essential to change the status of the organization to become some form of Registered Charity, or Charitable Company.

Were I still on the Management Committee I would find this situation unacceptable, and rather than risk legal action I would resign! I suspect many of the current members of the Management Committee would feel the same.

I am reliably informed that the status of Step Out Sheffield will be an Agenda Item at the AGM. People do not generally like change, but this time failing to change the financial status of the organization could easily result in nobody being prepared to serve on the Management Committee, Step Out Sheffield folding as an organization, and the loss of £52,471.10.

Just something to think about.

NIGEL ROSS

Volunteer Walk Leader