

# CIC 34

## Community Interest Company Report

**For official use**  
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*Please  
complete in  
typescript, or  
in bold black  
capitals.*

<b>Company Name in full</b>	BEACON FILMS CIC
<b>Company Number</b>	07740648
<b>Year Ending</b>	31/03/2022

*(The date format is required in full)*

**Please ensure the company name is consistent with the company name entered on the accounts.**

This template illustrates what the Regulator of Community Interest Companies considers to be best practice for completing a simplified community interest company report. All such reports must be delivered in accordance with section 34 of the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 and contain the information required by Part 7 of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005. For further guidance see chapter 8 of the Regulator's guidance notes and the alternate example provided for a more complex company with more detailed notes.

**(N.B. A Filing Fee of £15 is payable on this document. Please enclose a cheque or postal order payable to Companies House)**

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## PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

In the space provided below, please insert a general account of the company's activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a description of how they have benefited the community.

The following is not exhaustive. Please visit [www.beaconfilms.org.uk/impact](http://www.beaconfilms.org.uk/impact) for more information.

**Beacon Films is a production company of Disabled, non-Disabled, Autistic and Neurodivergent filmmakers and film programmers.**

We support around 50 creatives ('members') across the UK, but mainly in North East England.

At Beacon Films we want to

1. Improve our **filmmaking skills**
2. Use our creative work to **change people's attitudes** about disabled people and
3. Build our networks, knowledge and understanding so we can **more independently** offer our skills to each other and our communities

We have organised these aims into the following outcomes. (Last updated with our Project Design Group in October 2022)

	Improve Skills	Change Attitudes	Increase Independence
<b>Me</b> (Filmmaker)	1] I'll develop my filmmaking and employability skills	2] I'll improve confidence in my own abilities	3] I'll become more independent
<b>We</b> (Beacon Films and circles of support)	1] We will provide ongoing and tailored support to develop skills and abilities	2] We will promote filmmakers' skills and abilities to the wider community	3] We will help filmmakers build their networks, knowledge and understanding to help them offer more of their skills to each other and their communities
<b>Us</b> (Wider community and circles of support)	1] We will offer opportunities for you to put your skills into practice beyond Beacon Films	2] We will respect the creative abilities of Beacon Filmmakers and value their contribution	3] We will be inspired to put necessary support in place, and provide ongoing meaningful participation

**\*Circles of support (parents, carers, supporters, teachers etc) straddle "We" and "Us" and are marked in red**

This grid, which was developed with our external evaluator and a Project Design Group of members, covers ALL of our work, recognises that we can't achieve our aims alone and values the different roles that everyone plays in helping us to achieve our aims.

The 2021-2022 Financial Year continued to prove a challenge due to Covid. We delivered limited face-to-face workshops over the Summer of 2021 however these were very restricted. The Omicron variant led to us returning to mainly online delivery in the Autumn of 2021 and Winter of 2022, although our annual BFI Film Academy was delivered in-person with reduced numbers.

## 1/ Improving Filmmaking Skills

*Our BFI Film Academy remains our entry level 'gateway' into the organisation*

*Extracts from our BFI Film Academy report 2021-2022:*

How was your overall rating for industry speakers and tutors on the course? Please explain the participants response(s)

Four out of the six participants completed the evaluation form. All 4 scored this 5/5.

How was the overall rating of the learning materials within the course? Please explain the participants response(s)

3 respondents scored this 5/5, 1 respondent scored this 4/5

How was the overall rating for the Filming Day? Please explain the participants response(s)

4 respondents scored this 5/5

Did participants feel the learning materials were accessible? Please explain the participants response(s)

All 4 responded "Yes"

Did participants gain technical skills? Please explain the participants response(s)

3 responded "Yes", 1 responded "A Little Bit"

Did any participants gain further work experience / career development opportunities? Please detail the responses from participants

None yet. However as demonstrated above and below; those that remain a member of Beacon Films will offered supported work experience, volunteering and/or paid work in screen.

Have any participants entered into any Film Festivals, additional screenings or competitions?

None yet. However as with all other Film Academy productions, we look forward to submitting this film into festivals across the world. **Our current tally of festival screenings of Film Academy productions is 42 events across the UK, North and South America, Europe and Asia.**

How did participants learn about your Film Academy? Please detail the responses below

3 heard through Word of Mouth, 1 heard via the BFI website

Comments from respondents.

"I got to learn about all the behind the scenes things that go into some of my favourite movies."

"I now know how to make films."

"I was able to do more work with cameras and microphones."

"I have had practical on hands experience of how things work behind the camera and in front. Also I have learnt how to edit and add music."

"I was able to get more practice with camera shots."

"I am doing a creative media course at college and what I have learnt from beacon films has helped."

"I think I need a bit more practice."

"I would have liked the sessions to be just on Sundays or 2 or 3 days in the half term or Summer holidays, but not on Saturdays."

"I really enjoyed the course and the people I worked with. I tried to go on the course about 3 yrs ago but I couldn't because of my anxiety. This time I've really learnt a lot from the teachers and so enjoyed the course. It was perfect."

### **31 out of 48 (65%) of our current members are BFI Film Academy alumni.**

This astonishing figure just demonstrates how critical our BFI Film Academy remains, as a gateway into our organisation and the beginning of long-term supportive relationship with disabled filmmakers. See alumni outcomes below.

*Viewfinder is our talent development programme that members can progress onto once they have completed Film Academy. It provides an opportunity to experiment with film and build collaborative relationships with likeminded people*



*Extract from our final report to Spirit of 2012: a 'Viewfinder' funder between 2015 and 2021:*

- In the last quarter of the project, when asked about the extent to which they felt they had improved their film skills, 12 out of 16 respondents scored 7/10 or above. Of these, 7 (58%) felt Beacon Films had helped.

A comment from MT: "I know how to operate cameras properly and am good at research on the films like the birds film and I've grown in confidence over the years on everything."

JM: "I had basic animation skills but learnt about the range of equipment I could use with my disabilities"

KM: "I've learned how to use a camera and sound and lots of research. I also learned about history. I love to learn!"

SR: "I wanted to be an actor and I was."

### From our external evaluator's report

“

Reflecting on the summer programme, Beacon Film workers recorded that:

- [His] work ethic, output is considerable – building models, creating back grounds, creating effects on his computer.
- Her facilitation of others work has increased her independence. She's been supportive, patient, clear, enthusiastic.
- They've been asked to produce things themselves, having worked in groups where people all contribute a little bit. People had to do stuff. It was freeing.
- It was quite revealing: people worked so well. People who had been through Viewfinder in the past helped others.
- In a weird way covid made everyone stronger film makers, and made families and carers understand more of what we do.”

## 2/ Changing Attitudes



*Extract from our final report to Spirit of 2012: a funder between 2015 and 2021:*

A comment from our most recent quarterly survey reads “[Beacon Films] helped me to prove to [a partner organisation who we made a film with] **that I can do more things than they thought I could.**”

Comments from organisations we made films for during the pandemic:

“There's a lot of challenges with our members because people with learning disabilities has been digitally excluded for such a long time, we had a lot of catching up to do. We called Beacon Films who jumped in and helped us all on our zooms at home. Since then we have made 32 films, live events, live stream broadcast.”

“I think filmmaking for voluntary organisations is an easy, accessible way for people to see what we do. <name> been an absolute delight to work with, I think she's produced something which is a really good quality.”

“Whilst we were going through the stresses of thinking about how to cope with COVID and still keep engagement and conversation with our audience, <name>'s ability and skills gave us the opportunity to continue making content and actually as part of our COVID recovery, being able to work with a filmmaker is super beneficial, not only for us, but also in terms of audience benefits.”

“I've really enjoyed the process and I think it was clear to me all the way through that <name> was meaningfully involved in the whole thing, set in her own targets and goals within the project.”

“<name> had worked with youth theatre, and was a youth theatre member for many years and we knew that <name> had the skillset that he's picked up with Beacon Films to do the film for us.”

“<organisation members> love being on film, all the members love being part of it and especially I thought with the lockdown, we love being involved.”

#### **From our external evaluator's report**

““

It was recorded [during conversations with the commissioners] that the effective delivery, diversity of voices, broad picture and quality of the work led to clips of the film being used to promote the commissions with one member talking at the launch event.

””

““

It was recorded that Beacon Films “worked quickly as a team and with members.”

There was a meeting between the November Club and filmmakers where the brief was presented with an outline of context, themes, and story of the production.

Following the meeting, members developed proposals on which November Club were invited to comment. The clear schedule for the film making was valuable as the theatre piece was in rehearsal, so the film was feeding into a wider production schedule. At one point there

was a minor delay due to Beacon Films capacity. It was stated that, because of its broader impact “it would have been good to know this”, although it was described as “a small thing”.

The final films were described as “a great addition to the production, echoing the linking between the historical and contemporary, with the juxtaposition of art forms...The final films worked as it was planned because Beacon Films were the right partner.

”

“

Subsequently, he “worked very independently... (He) comes, he films, asks questions, gets us to do stuff and goes away. He doesn’t faff around. He’s brilliant, been very efficient... It was a very professional relationship.”

There was a particular added value with the individual being “a great role model... The parents were thrilled to have met him and thinking about what their own children could do in the future.

”



*Extract from our report to Screenskills, who funded a mentoring programme for entry level disabled screen professionals*

<b>Total number of mentees on this programme:</b>	10	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Mentees</b>		
Name: JC Specialism: Animation & Dance Film Screen sector: Location: Leeds	"I loved the process - this is a good way for people to work. It made me more creative as I was pushed out of my comfort zone. Mentoring felt like a safety net and it was great to use the mentor as a sounding board"	
Name: PC Specialism: Self-shooter/Editor Screen sector: Location: Newcastle	"I felt I did well on the pitch I prepared for and delivered for the mentoring. I definitely feel more confident as a result of doing it. I feel that I explained myself clearly and answered questions well. Whilst my idea wasn't successful, during the course of the mentoring I successfully applied for a job as a filmmaker at a local theatre company"	

<b>Mentors: (optional)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Name: <i>Unknown (anonymous survey)</i> Specialism: Screen sector: Location:	It was a brilliant scheme and I would love to see and be part of increased opportunities like this one.
Name: <i>Unknown (anonymous survey)</i> Specialism: Screen sector: Location:	I must admit I was a bit nervous myself about being a mentor at first, as I had not done anything like it before, but I truly enjoyed the experience and working with a wonderful mentee. Even though we have gotten to the end of our 8 sessions, my door is always open for any help and advice, and myself and my mentee even talked about a future collaboration which I think would be great. Thanks for creating the programme and bringing everyone together!

### **3/ Increasing Independence**

*Extracts from our final report to Spirit of 2012: a funder between 2015 and 2021:*

- Across the lifetime of Viewfinder Plus, we supported 8 people into short-term volunteering, and 17 people (30% of all participants) into long term volunteering or short/medium term paid work. Combined, this amounted to 1,530 hours of highly skilled and high-value volunteering or paid work through the project.

...

- In the final quarterly survey, when asked the extent to which they felt they had improved their employability skills, 10 out of 16 respondents scored 7/10 or higher. 7 out of the 16 (44%) thought Beacon Films had helped.

- Over the lifetime of the project, 17 out of 55 Viewfinder participants (30%) entered medium-to-long-term volunteering or a paid opportunity that used their filmmaking skills.
- This exceeds what we consider the equivalent target in our original M&E Framework (which was that 25% of participants would do a second volunteering placement after an initial short-term placement) in both numbers and scope; the latter because at least 5 of those participants have been supported into 9 **paid** employment roles, including 1 person who has set up his own filmmaking business.

A comment from PL who has just attained paid work outside Beacon Films: “At work I have been interacting with other people and this is thanks to my experience and knowledge at Beacon Films. I have been told positive feedback there too which I am grateful for. However, I am still cautious out there as not everyone is good but I am still prepared for that just in case.”

A comment from MT, who thinks Beacon Films has helped him develop employability skills and who has recently attained paid work beyond Beacon Films: “It helped me be more confident in looking for jobs and being more social when talking to members of staff...At work I use these skills to get through everything like helping each other find things on shelves, doing it quickly and making them tidy. I am also more organised... I am more punctual in doing jobs and believe in myself more.”

A comment from CB: “I run my own business as a freelancer i also help out with the project design group at beacon films and i am a volunteer filmmaker at daisy chain... I already am established in my career thanks to beacon films”

ZF: “It makes me work on my communication skills, my organisation and giving my ideas”

DR: ““Quite recently I got a job as a general Productions assistant which entails a lot of filming, editing and much more to do with the creative industry. With my previous experience for beacon films it has help me to adapt easier into the role, Beacon films has taught me a lot about the whole process that goes behind creating a piece of contents.

Example it was at beacon films where I was introduced to a more advanced editing software to what I was using previously (Windows movie maker 2008) and the features I didn't know that existed, as well as taught how to use the software I was also showing different ways on editing and the many effects that I never knew existed. Also learnt the different shots I could take with a camera how to storyboard, script-write, light and much more. I also learnt how to work in the team when it comes to projects. All of this has been a massive help to the job that I am in now.”

### **From our external evaluator's report**

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The Next Steps programme [part of Viewfinder Plus] ran from October to December 2021 with 11 participants.

Seven people completed their identified goals within the programme: for two others progress towards the goal was made but the work could not be completed within the time scales. Two

other members were not in contact with Beacon Films during the period. Although some was done on-line, the work was mainly undertaken face to face in parallel with members attending other Beacon Films sessions.

Perhaps reflecting the preparatory work with members, “there was a real eagerness to sit down and talk.” Some expectation management was required and although “most members identified goals effectively” some people found it difficult to sustain focus on a specific goal. For some members the goals were met through the sessions, sometimes supplemented by additional time with the worker.

For others their goals were met through other work within Beacon Films. Where a few people had a similar goal, specific sessions were developed including podcasting, animation, and video making. Three peoples’ goals were not about film making and creativity, but broader issues such as interview skills and creating a CV.

”

“

In mid 2020 HTYT approached Beacon Films seeking to enhance its engagement with film makers with learning disabilities, with logging being identified as an area of business need. The details of the role and opportunity as communicated to members is reproduced as an appendix. Four members employed by Beacon Films were appointed each with around 48 hours work per phase. The initial phase between October and December 2020, was extended to April 2021.

*(If applicable, please just state “A social audit report covering these points is attached”).*

***(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)***

**CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS** – Please indicate who the company’s stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

**We consult our Board of Directors**

1. 3 out of 7 of our company directors are Disabled and/or neurodivergent, bringing lived experience to our decision-making process. Currently 2 of our board members are Beacon Films members.
2. We are currently introducing a fourth Beacon Films member with lived experience to our board to see if they are interested in joining. If they become a director, over half of our board will have lived experience.
3. Our board also includes someone from a strategic screen organisation, ensuring a connection with the screen industry and also a consultant who works with non-profits to support better governance.

**We consult our membership of Disabled, Autistic and Neurodivergent filmmakers**

1. Our Project Design Group of six members decides what projects we do at Beacon Films. They are also consulted on our organisation’s aims and outcomes (referred to above). They were last consulted on this in October 2022 and we plan to regularly review our outcomes ‘grid’ to ensure it remains relevant to the ambitions of those we support.
2. We carry out quarterly surveys with our wider membership. This provides opportunities for them to tell us what they enjoy, and benefit from at Beacon Films. It also provides an opportunity for them to tell us how we could do better.

**We consult staff**

1. ‘Braindumps’, organised by our external evaluator enable staff to feedback on specific projects
2. Staff meetings offer a more general opportunity for staff to be consulted. We feel that we could increase the frequency of these meetings in the future.

**We consult parents, carers and members of the wider community**

1. A regular survey with parents and carers allows a formal way to capture feedback about what impact they think we are having– as well as how we could do better.
2. Our external evaluator has conversations with organisations we make films for and with, conversations with parents, carers and other important people in our members’ lives.

*(If applicable, please just state “A social audit report covering these points is attached”).*

**PART 3 – DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION** – if you have provided full details in your accounts you need not reproduce it here. Please clearly identify the information within the accounts and confirm that, “There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director’s loss of office, which require to be disclosed” (See example with full notes). If no remuneration was received you must state that “no remuneration was received

There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director’s loss of office, which require to be disclosed

**PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION** – Please insert full details of any transfers of assets other than for full consideration e.g. Donations to outside bodies. If this does not apply you must state that “no transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made” below.

No transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made.

***(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)***

**PART 5 – SIGNATORY (Please note this must be a live signature)**

**(DD/MM/YY)**

The original report must be signed by a director or secretary of the company

Signed

Date

24.11.2022

**Please note that it is a legal requirement for the date format to be provided in full throughout the CIC34 report.**

**Applications will be rejected if this information is incorrect.**

*Office held (delete as appropriate) Director/Secretary*

You do not have to give any contact information in the box opposite but if you do, it will help the Registrar of Companies to contact you if there is a query on the form. The contact information that you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

BEACON FILMS CIC	
4 GLENDALE TERRACE	
NEWCASTLE, NE2 1DN	
Tel 0191 580 7000	
DX Number	DX Exchange

**When you have completed and signed the form, please attach it to the accounts and send both forms by post to the Registrar of Companies at:**

*For companies registered in England and Wales:* Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ  
DX 33050 Cardiff

*For companies registered in Scotland:* Companies House, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139  
Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9FF DX 235 Edinburgh or LP – 4 Edinburgh 2

*For companies registered in Northern Ireland:* Companies House, 2nd Floor, The Linenhall, 32-38  
Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BG

**(N.B. Please enclose a cheque for £15 payable to Companies House)**