BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales · Charity number 1008190

Details

Other names	BLACKBURN HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE, BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SERVICE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02668971
Registered	1992-02-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Community C V S 45 Railway Road Blackburn BB1 1EZ
Phone	01254583957
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Website	www.communitycvs.org.uk

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Activities

Objects: To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the public, principally but not exclusively in the local government area of Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and its environs (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") and, in particular, build the capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary support, information and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose.To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.For the purposes of this Article 4:(a) "third sector" means charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises.(b) "charities are organisations which are established for exclusively charitable purposes in accordance with the law of England and Wales.(c) "voluntary organisations and social enterprises" are independent organisations, which are established for purposes that add value to the community as a whole, or a significant section of the community, and which are not permitted by their constitution to make a profit for private distribution. Voluntary organisations and social enterprises do not include local government or other statutory authorities.

Activities: We aim to connect people and grow communities. We do this by action - encouraging communities to take control;support - helping the most vulnerable within our community (e.g. ex-offenders, homeless, people in recovery, people with physical or mental health conditions, etc.);resource - helping groups with governance, funding, etc.volunteer - promoting and using volunteers to initiate change

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN
- Blackburn With Darwen
- Blackpool
- Lancashire

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Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,090,404	£1,313,258	£1,408,060	30
2024-03-31	£1,709,651	£1,515,374	£1,630,914	35
2023-03-31	£2,021,006	£2,742,409	£1,436,637	54
2022-03-31	£1,489,181	£1,394,747	£2,040,862	42
2021-03-31	£953,795	£879,139	£1,946,428	30

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mohamed Tayyab Ahmed Sayed Sidat	Chair	2019-02-06
Darren Payne		2026-03-26
Matthew Robinson		2026-03-26
Paul Withers		2026-03-26
REV DR SHANNON LEDBETTER		2014-12-16
STUART PARKER		2026-03-26
Shigufta Khan		2026-03-26
Timothy Mitchell		2026-03-26

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BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1008190

Accounts

Company registration number: 02668971
Charity registration number: 1008190

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

KM
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

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Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	A Abbas S C Ledbetter N McGrath M T Sidat
Secretary	J G Hodgkinson
Chief Executive Officer	J G Hodgkinson
Charity Registration Number	1008190
Company Registration Number	02668971
	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.
Registered Office	Boulevard Centre Cathedral Quarter Blackburn BB1 1EZ
Auditor	KM Chartered Accountants 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 72/78 St James Street Burnley Lancashire BB11 1NH

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees

A Abbas

S C Ledbetter

N McGrath

M T Sidat

H L Allen-Robson (resigned 24th January 2025)

S Shah (resigned 31st October 2025)

C Robinson (appointed 15th July 2024, resigned 27th January 2025)

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives

The principal object of the charity is to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community, in the local government districts of Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and its environs, and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness. To build capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary information, support and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose within the area of benefit. To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

Activities for achieving the objectives

The trustees receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year.

Grant making policies

All small grant programmes managed by Community CVS are managed in accordance with guidance and rules set down by our external partners. They are for activities which conform to the objects of our charity and are distributed to eligible voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to undertake charitable activities.

Fundraising disclosures

Community CVS continues to seek grant funding, contracts and service level agreements from national, regional and local partners to deliver services that are in keeping with our objectives and meet identified needs of the local community within Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 6 December 1991, as amended by Special Resolution on 12 Feburary 1998, and on 16 December 2014. The charitable company is a registered charity umber 1008190.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Induction and training of trustees

A Trustee handbook, including roles and responsibilities, has been prepared for all new Trustees. All new trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive as part of the induction process and go through the Trustee handbook. Resources are available to support Trustees to meet their individual training needs to help them perform their duties as Trustees. Planning days are held with Trustees and staff on an annual basis.

Organisational structure

During the year, the charity employed on average 42 staff to deliver our activities and projects. All staff are responsible to the Chief Executive and ultimately, the trustees/directors. The trustees set the strategic framework within which the Chief Executive and management team operate. The trustees meet as a minimum six times per year as a Board of Trustees and more when required. The trustees receive regular reports on all aspects of the organisation, including finance, human resources, marketing & communications, health & safety, service activities, quality & performance, etc.

Major risks and management of those risks

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. These major risks are the impact of short term funding, changes in funding streams, changes to key personnel and changes in local and central government policy.

TRUSTEES REPORT ON OUR STRATEGY, REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Our strategic framework guides everything we do. The process for developing our strategy started in September 2022 and was completed in September 2024. We used appreciative enquiry as a methodology to discover our core values and strengths, dream about our aspirations for the future, design the building blocks to get there and establish a clear road map to achieve our destiny and deliver our future. External consultants interviewed staff and volunteers, facilitated a two day CVS team 'away day' and supported trustees at an away day.

We held a Together Everyone Achieves More Conference in May 2023 attended by over 300 people from the civil society across Blackburn with Darwen. This was followed up by a 2nd conference in June 2024 with a more detailed conversation that led to the creation of a 6P VCFSE Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen. VCFSE stands for 'Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise'. Within our report we also talk about Civil Society which is another term that is used for describing any organisation or group that is not part of the state (i.e. the public sector) and is not set up for the purpose of generating profits that are distributed to its owners or shareholders (i.e. the private sector). The VCFSE Sector or Civil Society is about being owned by and run for community benefit with any surpluses going back into the organisation or group to help more people.

At the Lancashire level, our strategy has been informed by the co-creation of the VCFSE Manifesto for Lancashire. Working closely with VSNW and LACVS colleagues we engaged VCFSE Sector organisations across Lancashire to co-create the manifesto and in August 2024, LACVS secured Lottery funding for LOCAL Lancashire to implement the manifesto. LOCAL stands for Locally Organised Communities Across Lancashire as we are rooted in the approach to organise and connect communities from the grassroots upwards with networks in each of the 14 local places across Lancashire.

During 2025-2026 we will be looking to provide a refresh of the VCFSE Manifesto for Lancashire to bring it up to date with what is happening across civil society and our public and private sector partners.

The outcome of both the above processes and continuous engagement has created a framework for the next 10 years – which will develop, evolve and transform as our communities, the VCFSE sector and all the stakeholders change over the same period. We will be responsive to the needs of the communities we serve, their aspirations, hopes and fears, the opportunities that present themselves – but always focused on achieving positive impact – socially, economically and environmentally.

OUR STRATEGY:

CONNECTING PEOPLE, GROWING COMMUNITIES

Our Mission:

"To support individuals, organisations and communities to achieve their full potential"

Our Vision:

For CVS to lead positive social, economic and environmental change transforming how the VCFSE Sector works collaboratively with the public and private sectors.

For CVS to be a valued community partner, recognized as the lead local infrastructure support organisation for communities within Blackburn with Darwen and elsewhere.

Our Values

Community Stewardship: valuing service to the community over self-interest and believing everyone has a responsibility to support positive social change for our community now and in the future. To advocate on behalf of our communities, especially the most vulnerable.

Co-operation and Solidarity: valuing mutual support with everyone helping each other to deliver positive social change.

Equity and Fairness: valuing the well-being of everyone and striving to achieve social, economic and environmental justice for all.

Non-Judgemental: valuing everyone for who they are without prejudice or judgement.

Voluntary Action: valuing people and organisations giving their time freely to help other people within our communities.

Willingness to Listen, Learn & Innovate: valuing trying new ideas and new approaches to tackling some of the deep seated socio-economic and environmental challenges that our communities face.

Our Strategic Objectives

Pillar One: Leadership and Advocacy - enabling change for the things that matter to our communities

Pillar Two: Collaborations and Partnerships - creating opportunities to collaborate to tackle the challenges we face.

Pillar Three: Capacity Building, Development and Training - building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change.

Pillar Four: Volunteering - creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

Our Outcomes

Socially: To build fairer, more active, more connected and resilient communities.

Economically: To build an inclusive and mixed economy with higher levels of entrepreneurial activity and a more creative, skilled and productive workforce.

Environmentally: To mobilise our communities to take greater care of our natural world and our climate.

Equity: There is a strong equity thread to everything we do that will run across all our strategic objectives and outcomes.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Highlights In Numbers of our Activities

Leadership and Advocacy

- 220 delegates attended the 6P Conference and helped to co-create the 6P VCFSE Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen.
- During the autumn, the national government began a consultation process on developing a civil society covenant to establish principles for joint working between the public sector and civil society. In December 2024, Community CVS and LACVS formally responded to the consultation on behalf of the Blackburn with Darwen Community Network for the civil society locally within Blackburn with Darwen and on behalf of LOCAL Lancashire for civil society at the Lancashire level.
- Towards the end of the year, Community CVS was asked by the Lancashire and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance to take the lead in undertaking a state of the sector research to start building an evidence base for the sector. It is the first research of its kind within Lancashire and Cumbria and will help to discover the size, shape and various contributions that civil society makes to the social, economic and environmental well-being of our communities.

Collaborations and Partnerships

- Weekly E-bulletin subscription list rising from 377 subscribers to 558 subscribers by the end of the year with 30-60% regularly opening the bulletin.
- Convened over 50 network meetings and events attended by at least 1034 people from 509 organisations providing the space and opportunity to develop deeper collaborations and partnerships.
- Delivered 206 Call for a Kit Clinics in GP practices across Lancashire engaging with 4568 people, who had not returned a bowel cancer kit for analysis.

Capacity Building, Development and Training

- Provided business advice to 113 clients to help them develop their business ideas or make tangible improvements to their business.
- 603 people accessing training, including 65 people on the Aspiring Leaders programme from 56 SMEs (who are co-financing the places), the vast majority being from the VCFSE Sector with 9 Independent Learners.

- Managed 4 grant programmes that awarded 70 grants during the year worth £76,744 and supported the development and delivery of other grant programmes for the benefit of local communities.

Volunteering

- Supported 1204 volunteers & +300 volunteer involving organisations and groups.

More detail on the review of activities over the past year is presented around our four strategic objectives or pillars.

Pillar One: Leadership and Advocacy - enabling change on the things that matter to our communities

BwD Community Network Board

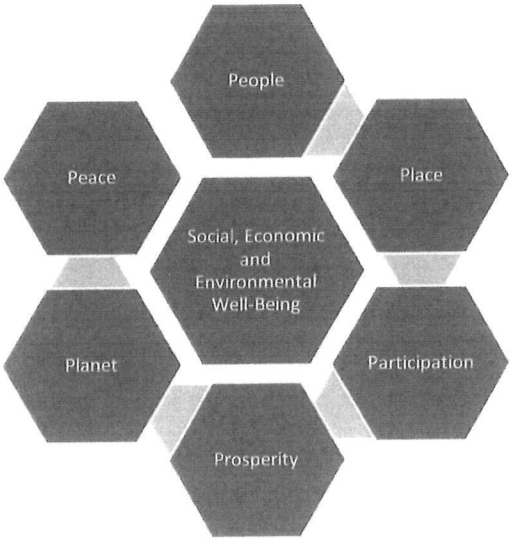
Early in the year, the BwD Community Network Board formally met for the first time on 23rd April 2024 where the constitution was agreed and we began in earnest to take forward what had been agreed a year earlier in May 2023 when at the Together Everyone Achieves More Conference, the civil society or VCFSE sector had overwhelmingly voted to create the Community Network as a way of improving collaborative working within Blackburn with Darwen for civil society and its working relationships with the public sector and the commercial sector.

The 6P VCFSE Conference

On the 4th June 2024, CVS with the Community Network as a partner held our 2nd Conference 'the 6P VCFSE Conference', in Blackburn Central Library. 220 delegates attended the conference and 101 civil society participants ran stalls in King William Street at the 1st Volunteers Week Street Fair to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Volunteers Week. Delegates and stall holders attended the conference, listened to speakers and attended eight workshops on topics linked to the 6Ps helping to co-produce what eventually became the 6P VCFSE Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen.

The 6P VCFSE Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen.

From the initial discussions and ideas from the 2023 and 2024 Conferences, other engagement processes, and complementary work being undertake by networks and partnerships across BwD, the 6P VCFSE Strategy was developed to take forward community led work across all the themes.



The priorities within each theme were formally signed off by the BwD Community Network Board on the 22nd October 2024 and networks and groups started to be set up to take forward the work and lead to collaborative action against the priorities.

PEOPLE

The 9 agreed priority population groups are:

- Asylum seekers, refugees and ethnic minorities
- Carers
- Disabled people and people with long term physical or mental health conditions
- Faith communities
- People with learning disabilities or autism
- People experiencing one or more causes of multiple disadvantage (homelessness; alcohol, substance misuse, gambling or other addictions; mental health; experience of the criminal justice system; survivor or perpetrator of domestic abuse)
- Older people especially the frail elderly or older people experiencing social isolation.
- Young People – especially Care leavers, children living in poverty or children and families with SEND
- Women – especially those experiencing other disadvantages mentioned above.

In terms of progress, we have set up a connected communities network, a men's network, a women's network and a disability network. The BwD Research Group are exploring the potential of undertaking some community research with our young people to better understand their aspirations for the future.

The BwD Community Network Board members have strong links with many of the above population groups and are well placed to address the needs of the identified priority population groups.

PLACE

Agreed priorities are:

- To focus on helping our **deprived neighbourhoods** (11 of the 17 wards in Blackburn with Darwen are amongst the most deprived 20% within England).
- **Housing and homelessness:** to develop closer working across the sector and with our public and commercial sectors with the aspiration of ensuring everyone can access accommodation that meets their needs.
- **Heritage**: to better understand and appreciate our heritage in all its forms, our physical and natural environments and ensure as many people as possible from all backgrounds can appreciate and celebration each other's heritage.
- Improve our **Town Centres**: to explore how civil society can complement and add value to the significant public and commercial investment that goes into our town centres to make them a thriving place to be or to go to for a wide range of activities and purposes.

Deprived Neighbourhoods

Towards the end of the year, the Community Network received a Work Well grant (to be managed by CVS) to undertake community insight work into our most deprived neighbourhoods to discover and share what community assets already exist within those neighbourhoods that can be built upon to help residents improve their health, employment and skills. The work will be done in collaboration with VCFSE groups that best know these neighbourhoods and is planned for the next financial year.

Housing & Homelessness

We have also set up a Housing & Homelessness Network that has met and has started discussions with relevant Council officers and one of the Council's Executive Members with responsibility for housing to put forward the VCFSE's contributions to the emerging housing strategy and the homelessness strategy for Blackburn with Darwen and ensure the needs of the above priority population groups are met.

Heritage and Town Centres

In terms of our heritage and our town centres, we have not started this work yet – but plans are in place for the next conference in June 2025 to focus on Darwen, including its town centre with the view of building closer collaborations with the new Darwen Neighbourhood Board that will oversee the development of Darwen Town Centre and initiatives such as Discover Darwen – which seeks to understand the heritage of Darwen and the links between town and country with the amazing West Pennine Moors surrounding the town. Within Blackburn Town Centre we will support the work to bring back to life our heritage assets. For example, we will support the renovation work to bring The Exchange back to life for the benefit of all our communities.

PARTICIPATION

Agreed priorities are:

- Co-Production with the targeted population groups and the VCFSE Sector
- Digital Inclusion
- Participation in Arts & Culture; Heritage & the Natural World; Physical Activity, Recreation & Sport; combating social isolation, participating in social activities & mutual support.
- Volunteering and Social Action

Significant progress is being made against all the agreed priorities.

Co-Production

In February 2025, CVS was invited to join a BwD a co-production stakeholder group with adult social care, a number of charities and people with lived experience to explore developing a policy and toolkit around co-production – CVS alongside Age UK BwD, BwD Carers Service, Care Network, the Deaf Village, the Blind Society and many others is involved in supporting this important piece of work. The aim is to produce a policy framework that will develop a shared understanding of what co-production means for BwD and guide our work going forward. This piece of work is focused on adults, but there may be scope to make it all age at a future date.

Digital Inclusion

The Digital Inclusion Network, led by Age UK BwD, has worked closely with the local authority to develop a shared approach to offering support around digital inclusion and is exploring ways to resource some of our ideas to take the network forward. CVS is supporting Age UK BwD, the local authority and the network to achieve its aspirations to make BwD a more digital inclusive place with more people supported to digitally participate in a way that suites them. We will develop plans to create digital champions and create a shared vision of what digital inclusion means to our communities.

Participation in Arts, Culture, Heritage & Environment, Sport and Social Life

In December 2024, the Council with the support of the creative and civil society sectors, secured a £760,000 Arts Council Place Partnership Grant that will support the implementation of the Cultural Investment Plan from 2025 to 2027. The programme will build on the work of the Creative Alliance and look to develop a Creative Network that will look to widen and deepen participation in arts and culture. Community CVS is involved through our co-ordinating role for the BwD Chip in Partnership, employing the core team who will work with partners across the civil society and creative sectors to offer and fill 250 cultural volunteer positions over the next two years. We will look to find resources to do the same with heritage & the environment, sports and social life. The Together an Active Future continues to widen opportunities for people to participate in physical activity and sport and there are other initiatives that are being developed that will help with widening participation.

Volunteering and Social Action

Finally, securing the Volunteering for Health funding in July 2024 will help to develop a collaborative BwD approach to volunteering and social action. This year has involved a development phase that led to the development and agreement of a Volunteering for Health Development Plan in March 2025. In 2025-2026 and next two years, CVS will employ a strategic volunteering lead, who will work across the public sector and civil society to develop a Vision and Strategy for Volunteering. The strategy will be overseen by a Volunteering Partnership that involves the local authority, NHS partners, CVS and the Community Network. We will survey, listen to and engage volunteers and volunteer managers in the development of the vision and the strategy. This will start at our 2025 Conference where there will be a workshop on volunteering.

PROSPERITY

The agreed priorities:

- **Employment**: helping more people who are unemployed or economically inactive and want to work to move closer to and into the labour market to fulfil their economic potential.
- **Enterprise:** helping more people from any background, who want to become an entrepreneur and run their own commercial business or social business to do so.
- **Eradicating Poverty, improving Household Income and promoting the Real Living Wage:** helping to increase income levels and tackling the economic inequalities that exist within our communities.

- **Workforce Development and Skills:** developing the skills of residents, communities and the workforce to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes.
- **Valuing the social, economic and environmental contribution of civil society to our shared prosperity**: developing and sustaining Civil Society organisations and the VCFSE Sector as part of the foundational economy for BwD.

Progress undertaken this year:

Employment

As mentioned earlier, the Work Well Partnership has commissioned BwD Community Network with CVS support to undertake some community insight work that will improve our understanding of what community assets exist within our most deprived neighbourhoods to help local communities to improve their health, employment and skills. The work will be done in 2025-2026 and will help to inform future employment support interventions.

Enterprise

Community CVS has delivered the Flying start contract within Blackburn with Darwen (which is reported separately in the trustees report). During they year, CVS also submitted a bid to run a Bootcamp Skills programme aimed Business Fundamentals: Skills for Business Growth, which was successful and will start in 2025-2026. Community CVS is keen to be a catalyst to fostering the entrepreneurial spirit within all our communities. If you aspire to run your own business we will help to give you the skills to do so.

Eradicating Poverty, improving Household Income and promoting the Real Living Wage

At the local level, Community CVS is a partner to the public sector and VCFSE sector joint efforts tackle the cost of living crisis and helping local residents, who are experiencing poverty. Our joint approach started during the COVID Pandemic through the Help Hub, but has developed as a collaboration to help those in crisis and poverty in supporting the Council to provide support to local residents through the Household Support Fund. The collaboration is helping to build community resilience and our collaborative work is setting the foundations for the creation of a local Resilience Network.

Community CVS is a Real Living Wage Employer and actively encourages others to join the movement to commit to paying its employees the real living wage. The main way to eradicate poverty is to create sustainable meaningful jobs that pay the real living wage.

At the Lancashire level, Community CVS is supporting LACVS and Resolve Poverty to create a Lancashire wide Anti-Poverty Network.

Workforce Development & Skills

In 2000, Community CVS set up the Business Training Centre – which can deliver qualifications on behalf of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), the Northern Council for Further Education (NCFE) and the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH). The purpose of the Business Training Centre is to develop and deliver training that meets the needs of the VCFSE Sector Workforce and the many industrial sectors within which the VCFSE Sector operates.

During this year, the team delivered the Aspiring Leaders in Health and Social Care Bootcamp skills programme on behalf of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub. This programme is there to upskill aspiring managers within the VCFSE Sector, who make significant contributions to the health economy. The programme is also open to any small to medium sized enterprises within the public and private sectors for aspiring management roles within the health economy.

Valuing the Social, Economic and Environmental contribution of civil society to our shared prosperity.

Towards the end of the year, Lancashire County Combined Authority consulted on developing a Growth Plan for Lancashire. Community CVS and LACVS responded to the consultation advocating for a greater reference and recognition of the valuable contribution of civil society towards building our shared prosperity. We are a key part of the foundational economy. During the next financial year, the state of the sector research will start to build our evidence base on the exact nature of our contribution and we develop and grow our understanding of the many ways our sector contributes to creating the social, economic and environmental foundations on which a strong economy is based.

PLANET

The agreed priorities are:

- **Mobilising and skilling people** (especially focused on the 9 priority population groups)
- **Protecting and enhancing Parks, open spaces and the natural world**
- **Reducing waste and promoting recycling, reuse and the circular economy**
- Developing BwD as a **Sustainable Food Place**
- Developing a **sustainable VCFSE Sector**.

During the year, we have set up a Climate Community Network, which focuses on the contribution of civil society to saving the planet and involves relevant local stakeholders with an interest in the above priorities. The network will take forward the ideas from our conferences and the work of the People's Jury on Climate Change, which reported in January 2023. The People's Jury on Climate Change had education as its number one priority to raise awareness and mobilise communities to be more active around climate change and the natural world.

The Climate Community Network has links with the Council's Climate Community that brings together partners from across the public, commercial and civil society sectors to provide integrated approaches to tackling the climate emergency.

We will work across the Climate Community to develop volunteer programmes to upskill people, groups and organisations in carbon literacy and the skills needed to take a more active role in climate change by helping everyone to promote more sustainable ways to live.

PEACE

Working with local authorities, the criminal justice system and the VCFSE Sector, to develop collaborative and partnership approaches to meet the following priorities:

- Community safety, community resilience and security
- Domestic abuse
- Eradicating violence against women and girls
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- Celebrating diversity and bridging and connecting communities

During the year, we helped to set up the connected communities network and the women's network. We also helped to facilitate safeguarding training for the VCFSE Sector. There is much more to do on the above priorities over the next ten years.

Pillar Two: Collaborations and Partnerships - creating opportunities to collaborate to tackle the challenges we face.

Convening Spaces for networking, collaborating and partnership working

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

As part of BwD Community Network, we have set up networks and groups for the following:

- People (for VCFSE groups working with the following):
- Men's Network
- Women's Network
- Disabled People's Network
- Planet:
- a Climate Action Network to take forward the suggestions from the People's Jury on Climate Change and the two conferences.
- Peace:
- Connecting Communities Network (mentioned below) as well as building connections and links across communities of place, also builds cohesion and ensure we all get along with each other and ensure
- Place:
- Connecting Communities Network for people and groups from different neighbourhoods and cultural backgrounds to come together to share communalities and differences
- Housing and Homelessness Network to link into the Councils Homelessness Forum and to influence the forthcoming housing strategy

During 2024-2025, CVS has convened open Community Network meetings, sub group network meetings and the annual conference that has involved 355 attendances from 210 organisations. This does not include the board meetings.

In addition to the above, there are

- **CVS Peer Support Network** for anyone volunteering or working within the VCFSE Network, During the year, 224 people attended from 198 different organisations with 94 organisations joining the network for the 1st time during 2024-2025.
- **CVS Business Network** for anyone who has recently established a business whether as a sole trader, a small business or a social business (charity/social enterprise) to come together and network with the view of supporting each other.
- **CVS Community Volunteer Awards** – which brought together 465 attendees from 101 organisations to celebrate volunteering across Blackburn with Darwen.

In total, during the year, we have convened networks and events that have involved at least 1034 people from 509 organisations.

Community CVS is also actively involved in the following networks and partnerships:

People

- Care Network – being a founding member and supporting the charity to help vulnerable people lead independent lives

Prosperity

- Blackburn with Darwen Household Support / Anti-Poverty Network – which consists of the local authority and 12 VCFSE partners.
- Boost Lancashire: helping to promote entrepreneurship across Lancashire.
- Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub: helping to skills the labour market and support workforce development.

- Through LACVS, and working with Resolve Poverty, we are supporting the creation of a Lancashire Anti-Poverty Network.

Planet

- CVS participates in the Climate Community Partnership.
- CVS is a keen supporter of the BwD Food Alliance with its vision to make BwD a Sustainable Food Place.

Participation

- BwD Digital Inclusion Network, led by Age UK BwD and involving over 20 participants from across the public and VCFSE Sectors.
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Volunteering for Health Partnership involving six VCFSE partners, working together alongside the local authorities, the ICB and local NHS trusts.

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

Working alongside Blackpool NHS Foundation Trust, GPs across Lancashire and South Cumbria and charities and community groups supporting the most vulnerable in our community, our health promotion team has delivered the following during 2024-2025:

- Delivered 206 Call for Kit Clinics within GP practices located in deprived areas where there are a high number of non-responders (patients who have not returned a kit sample when requested).
- engaged with 4568 individual non-responders with 1402 in Blackburn with Darwen, 1313 in Greater Preston and 992 in Blackpool.
- Persuaded 1899 patients to attend a face to face session with a CVS Health Promotion Officer at a Call for a Kit Clinic at a low uptake GP surgery (731 in BwD; 436 in Blackpool; and 408 in Greater Preston). 1701 request a kit (90% of attendees).
- Persuaded 1026 people to agree to a telephone consultation with 839 requesting a kit by the end of the consultation (82% of consultees).
- Delivered 9 training sessions to 112 people (staff and volunteers) to raise awareness of bowel cancer.
- Spoke to 1194 people at health promotion events across Lancashire to raise awareness of bowel cancer and the call for a kit clinics.

We continue to work closely with University College London and UCLAN to evaluate the success of our interventions.

Play and Stay Teatime Activities (PASTA)

In autumn 2023, on behalf of public health, we brought together a partnership of IMO, two local primary schools, a community group and dieticians from East Lancashire NHS Hospitals Trust, to pilot a new approach to working with families with primary school age children living within our most deprived neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating and physical activity amongst these targeted populations in the hope of tackling both child poverty, poor health and obesity within these communities.

2024-2025, was the first full year of the pilot. We widened the partnership to include BwD Healthy Living, Accrington Road Community Centre and Youth Action and the pilot is due to end in July 2025 when a full evaluation will be completed.

From the initial evidence completed during the early stages and evaluations of other programmes, in March 2025, the Public Health team decided that the pilot would not continue beyond this initial phase. They decided that it was best to take time to undertake a wider review of interventions. The learning from our pilot will feed into this wider review with the intention of improving provision within Blackburn with Darwen.

SEND and SENDIASS

During the year, we continue to work with families with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, local schools and colleges, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and the local integrated healthcare system, our team provides independent, impartial information, advice and support to parents and carers, and professionals across the public and VCFSE sectors.

The number of children and young people requiring help and the complexity of the support required continues to rise – which suggests there is a growing societal problem for the public sector and civil society, where we need to work together collaboratively to ensure our young population are not disadvantaged and can lead meaningful, fulfilling lives where they reach their full potential.

Pillar Three: Capacity Building, Development and Training - building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BwD Communities Team

2024-2025, was the first full year of operation for our new communities team that was established to help grassroots community action across BwD. The team work closely to support community groups, community centres, community hubs and help residents to set up new groups especially within our most deprived neighbourhoods.

During the year we opened an office within Jubilee Tower Credit Union's building on Duckworth Street in Darwen Town Centre to improve our accessibility for Darwen based community groups, charities and social enterprises. The team helped groups to put everything in place to be able to bid for the BwD Community Fund, the Community Assets Fund and for other funding opportunities and ensure they were in a good place to manage those funds, govern their groups effectively and recruit and support volunteers. We will closely monitor progress and make changes where required.

BwD Community Fund

We continue to administer the **BwD Community Fund** on behalf of Brian Mercer Trust. During the year we held three rounds of the fund and approved grants as follows:

- R12 (June 24) – 16 grants approved worth £12,765.
- R13 (Sept 24) – 18 grants approved worth £16,699.
- R14 (Feb 25) – 11 grants approved worth £10,080
- Total Approved: 45 small grants worth £39,544.

The Community Fund supported the following 45 groups and organisations:

- Arise Restoration Centre
- Blackburn Allstars Majorettes
- Blackburn Foodbank
- Blackburn Goalball Club / Blackburn Blind Sports Association
- Blackburn Sea Cadets

- BwD Diabetes Support Group
- BwD Youth Awareness Project
- Cherry Tree Cricket Club
- Childrens Literature Festivals
- Community Harmony CIC
- Community Enterprise Builds Lives Together
- Core Life
- DARE
- Darwen AFC
- Darwen Amateur Theatrical Society
- Darwen Community Helpers
- Darwen PRIDE
- Hungerian Welfare Association
- Immanuel Scouts
- I Pole
- Interpro Football Club
- Just Run for Today
- Kandaka
- Keep Fit with Kim
- Kiran Women's Group
- Lancashire Community Helpers CIC
- Neurodynamix CIC
- Newrad Fisheries Club
- No 1 Coffee Shop Community Hub CIC
- Offload North West
- Residents of Sunnyhurst Association
- Revidge Allotments Association
- Sabr and Shukr CIC
- Shama Group
- Sister 4 Sisters
- St Edwards Church Hall Play and Stay, Darwen
- St Georges Mill Hill Scouts
- St James Ashgrove Community Space, Darwen
- Talk Changes
- The Billy Project CIC
- The Contenders Boxing
- The Rooftop Bees, Cherry Tree Library

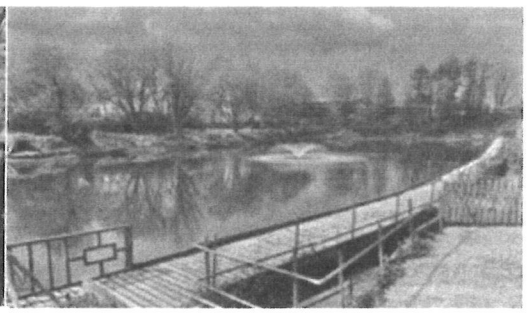
- Their Stories
- Ukrainian Hub Brahma
- Women Well-Being Champions

Spark Recovery Collaborative - Community Assets Fund

Working with the Calico Group, Early Break, IMO, Red Rose Recovery, Roots Community, THOMAS and others, our BwD Communities Team manages the Community Assets Fund on behalf of the Spark Recovery Collaborative to help the recovery community to play a meaningful role within our communities. This is part of our Asset Based Community Development approach to involving communities in their own transformation.

During the year we distributed £31,040 via the Community Assets Fund on behalf of the Spark Recovery Collaborative to the following 16 groups and organisations:

- Arise Restoration Centre
- Community Kitchen
- Core Life
- Darwen Pride
- Just Run for Today
- Lancashire Community Helpers
- Offload North West
- Phoenix Hub
- Re Connection
- Red Rose Recovery
- Roots Sonic Fusion
- Secret Santa CIC
- Sons of Anxiety
- The Billy Project
- Willows Lodge Angling Club
- Word, Power, Collective



More generally we work across the Spark Recovery Collaborative and the wider community to help people in recovery from alcohol or substance misuse to become active in the wider community, volunteering, joining activities and community groups, etc.

The Spark Recovery Collaborative and Community CVS takes an asset-based community development approach to help the individual's recovery journey and we work closely with the Roots Community to join and connect people in recovery to the wider community.

Infant Feeding Community Grants

Working with the Council's Family Hub teams, CVS held an infant feeding community grants pot to help local civil society groups to promote infant feeding to mothers within BwD. During the year we distributed 4 grants to the following organisations:

- Caritas Salford for their Maryvale project in Little Harwood
- Sabr and Shukr CIC
- Snowdrop Doula
- The Billy Project

Darwen Falls

Working with Age UK Blackburn and Care Network, Community CVS have been piloting activity in Darwen with the intention of reducing the number of older people having to visit the Accident and Emergency Department at East Lancashire NHS Hospitals Trust. Our role was to manage a small grants pot, which was distributed to the following Darwen groups:

- DARE
- Darwen Rotary Club
- URC Bowling Group
- Whitehall Bowling Club
- Whitehall Gardening Club

BUSINESS TRAINING CENTRE

Boost Lancashire: Flying Start Business Advice

From October 2023 to March 2025, our two qualified business advisors delivered business advice as part of Boost Lancashire's Flying Start Programme. During the contract – we provided business advice to 113 clients, who comprised individuals exploring new business ideas (58 pre start advice and support); and, to business start ups to businesses in their early years wanting to grow and expand their business (55 existing businesses provided with business advice and support). Businesses – included sole traders, private businesses and social enterprises and spanned several sectors – especially health, the creative industries and manufacturing. The majority of clients were based in Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle. In terms of outcomes, we helped the businesses as follows:

- To create 14 new jobs and safeguard 1 existing job;
- 9 new businesses were supported to launch and start trading;

- 11 existing early stage (start ups) reported increased revenues following support;
- Existing businesses were supported to:
- Improve their productivity: 2 businesses
- Introduce new improved products or services: 11 businesses
- adopt new to the firm technologies or processes: 8 businesses

Bootcamp Skills: Aspiring Leaders in Health and Social Care

During 2024-2025, we delivered our 10 week Bootcamp Skills training programme for Aspiring Leaders in Health and Social Care to 65 people, which comprised 56 co-funded places for employees of small to medium sized enterprises and 9 independent learners.

Safeguarding and Mental Health Training

We facilitated training sessions on safeguarding and mental health training for 104 learners from 82 organisations.

Training for Volunteers and Volunteer Managers

During the year, our dedicated trainer supporting volunteers and volunteer managers delivered 80 training sessions to 322 people from across the VCFSE Sector in Blackburn with Darwen and Preston.

Within Blackburn with Darwen (41 sessions to 124 people)

- Generic training for volunteers: 20 sessions to 55 people.
- training for recovery support volunteers: 5 sessions to 36 people.
- bespoke training for volunteers: no requests this year.
- Training for volunteer managers: 4 sessions to 16 people.
- Training linked to the Quality Mark: 12 sessions to 17 people.
- Trustee Training: no training this year.

Within Preston (39 sessions to 198 people)

- Generic training for volunteers: 12 sessions to 26 people.
- bespoke training for volunteers: 3 sessions for 49 people.
- Step into Volunteering: 2 sessions to 9 people.
- Training for volunteer managers: 5 sessions to 45 people.
- Training linked to the Quality Mark: 15 sessions to 41 people.
- Trustee Training: 2 sessions to 28 people.

The total number of people being trained

Throughout the year, we delivered over 120 training sessions to 603 people, the vast majority of whom were staff or volunteers from civil society organisations.

Pillar Four: Volunteering - creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTEERING

In July 2024, we were notified that we are 1 of 12 partnerships nationally to be successful in developing a Volunteering for Health programme for Lancashire and South Cumbria. Central Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust Charity is the lead body with the Volunteers Centres across Lancashire and Cumbria exploring ways to embed volunteering best practice within our systems to promote health and well-being at the local place level across the system. Spring North are playing a supportive role. From July 2024 to March 2025 we entered a development phase to set up the programme and our development plan was formally signed off in March 2025 ready for a 01st April 2025 start.

We plan to develop and roll out a consistent approach to promoting, recruiting, training and supporting volunteer health champions across the integrated health system and to provide quality volunteer infrastructure support to volunteer involving organisations that use volunteers within the integrated health system. This initiate aims to embed volunteering within our health and social care system and support VCFSE and public sector organisations more widely to use the power of volunteering to tackle the social determinants of health and well-being.

PROMOTION AND VOICE OF VOLUNTEERING

We firmly believe that volunteering should be a vital part of everyone's life, both enriching your own life and helping you achieve your full potential, but also ensuring that you realise that you are part of a community and need to contribute to its health and vitality so that the community can equally reach its potential.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2024

Our Community Volunteer Awards, which we put on in partnership with the local authority and 22 sponsors, continue to go from strength to strength. We received over one thousand nominations from residents and organisations across Blackburn with Darwen for the 20 awards.

The winners for 2024 are as follows:-

Health and Well Being Award

Individual - Sahil Usman
Group - Blackburn Foodbank

Environment Award

Individual - Wayne Dixon
Group - Little Potting Club

Grassroots Community Action Award

Individual - Samantha Nye
Group - The Roots Community

Prosperity, Learning and Employment Award

Individual - Sandy Woods
Group - Offload North West

Young People's Award

Individual - Emma Evans
Group - Blackburn with Darwen Youth Darts Academy

Culture, Leisure and Sporting Life Award

Individual - Keith Brunt
Group - Mill Hill Events Committee

Lindsay Dunn Award (for supporting people with complex needs)

Individual - Muazz Nadat
Group - Phoenix Hub

Renee Black Award (for supporting community cohesion)

Neurodynamix CIC

Community Involvement Award Good Neighbour Award

Darwen Community Helpers Vicky Kelly

Volunteer of the Year Award Lifetime Achievement Award

Richard Croasdale Judith Houghton

CVS Special Award for Outstanding Service

Chris Seddon.

Thanks go to our 22 sponsors (below). Without their support we could not put on this important event.

- Active Lancashire
- Age UK Blackburn with Darwen
- BAM
- Blackburn College
- Blackburn Rovers Community Trust
- Blackburn Rovers FC
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service
- Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum
- Chubb
- Deaf Village North West CIC
- East Lancashire Hospice
- Lancashire Telegraph
- PM & M Accountants
- Newground Together
- Room to Reward
- Suez
- The Calico Group
- The Wish Centre

- UCO – Uniting Communities Organisation
- Voice
- WEPA

GOOD PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

We are developing a portfolio of different training provision aimed at promoting good practice for volunteers or volunteer managers/volunteer involving organisations. Each session normally takes about 3 ½ hours.

During the year, this involved the following:

- **Bespoke Volunteer Training:** which is customized to the needs of the volunteers within a particular organisation or group of organisations who work closely together. We have delivered training for volunteers on equality, diversity and inclusion as one example.
- **Generic volunteer training:** which is training focused on helping to build the confidence and skills of volunteers, helping them to understand about volunteer roles, etc.
- **Recovery Support Volunteer Training**: which is training for volunteers who are supporting people who are recovering from alcohol or substance misuse.
- **Step into Volunteering:** an introductory basic session for potential volunteers to learn about volunteering and the benefits it can bring to help you achieve your goals.
- **Trustee Training:** newly created this year – it is aimed at both new trustees to prepare them for their new role or existing trustees – who might just want a refresher or want to share their learning and experiences with other trustees both new and old.
- **Quality Mark Training:** this involves 3 sessions and successful completion of the training and the work linked to the training will lead to the organization receiving quality mark certification.
- **Volunteer Managers Training:** this is the 2nd of the 3 Quality Mark Training, but is relevant to volunteer managers from across the public or VCFSE Sectors, who might not want to commit to the full 3 quality mark training sessions or might not want to pursue the quality mark.

PRESTON VOLUNTEERS

2024-2025 was the first full year of Preston Volunteers, the new Volunteer Centre based in Preston that Community CVS has set up. During the year we have delivered the following:

- **Voice of Volunteering:** engaging with volunteers and volunteer involving organisations at 135 events throughout the year, listening to the voice of volunteers and volunteer involving organisations as well as supporting them in whatever way we can.
- **Good Practice Development:** 61 people regularly attending Preston Volunteers Forum, which meets on a quarterly basis. Delivered 34 sessions to 144 people on volunteering good practice whether for individuals or organisations. 7 organisations achieve the Valuing Volunteers Quality Mark.
- **Promoting and Creating Volunteering Opportunities:** 476 volunteer opportunities promoted on Volunteer Plus on behalf of Volunteer Involving Organisations. Promoted Preston Community Fund and helped 43 VCFSE organisations to submit applications worth £288,000 that would boost and create volunteering opportunities for local residents.
- **Volunteer Brokerage:** 694 Preston residents registered on Volunteer Plus and accessing support to pursue volunteering opportunities. Delivering weekly volunteer 'drop ins' from Tuesday to Thursday at Glovers Court, Fedcap Preston and Preston Gateway Job Centre. 188 groups and services have been supported to find volunteers.

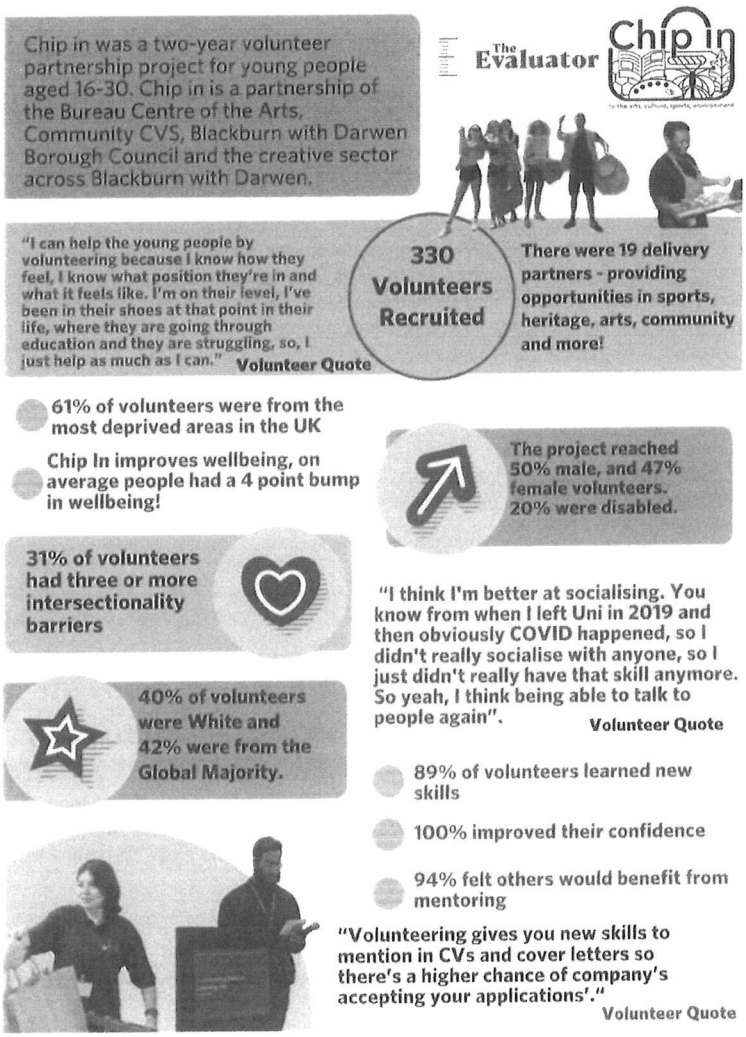
Feedback on the Valuing Volunteers Quality Mark

"Thank you all so much for your incredible support. Without the training and the funding that helped us build our capacity and put the right processes in place, we wouldn't be where we are now with our volunteer programme."
Successful Organisation
Valuing Volunteers Quality Mark

CHIP IN PARTNERSHIP

Led by the Bureau Centre for the Arts, supported by the local authority, with Community CVS employing the core team and co-ordinating the work of the partnership, the BwD Chip In Partnership was one of 19 partnerships nationally piloting a Volunteering Futures programme. Our programme focuses on mentoring young adults aged 16 to 30 years old to volunteer within the arts & culture, heritage, sports & the environment. We delivered it with 19 partners across the creative and civil society sectors. We were the only partnership in the North West. The two-year pilot programme finished in September 2024 and was externally evaluated by **The Evaluator.**

A summary of their findings is included below:



In December 2024, Blackburn with Darwen Council secured a place partnership grant of £760,000 from the Arts Council to invest in the creative sector locally. Part of the grant, will be used to continue investing in the BwD Chip in Partnership and developing its approach to mentoring and volunteering over the next two years (2025-2027).

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Pillar One: Leadership and Advocacy - enabling change for the things that matter to our communities

1. Working with the VCFSE Sector and public sector partners to establish **Blackburn with Darwen Community Network** as the voice of VCFSE Sector to lead and advocate for change on the things that matter to our communities and establish **action groups, forums and networks** to build the collaborations and partnerships that will lead change around the economy, health, climate change, and much more. For example, by

- Advocating for and Championing the creation of a civil society covenant within Blackburn with Darwen
- Leading the state of the sector research across BwD and leading the community insight work into our most deprived neighbourhoods.
- leading collaborations to attract investment and resources to implement the priorities identified within the 6P VCFSE Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen

2. Working through **LACVS to engage stakeholders at the Lancashire level** to develop, refresh and deliver the **VCFSE Manifesto for Lancashire** leading change at the sub-regional level. Providing support to introduced new programmes at the sub regional level and creating new structures to interface with the Lancashire County Combined Authority/Strategic Authority, the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner and other Lancashire wide bodies such as the University of Lancashire, etc. During 2025-2026, we plan to:

- Explore the potential creation of a Lancashire Civil Society Board and the potential for creating a Lancashire wide Civil Society Covenant.
- Bid to be a pilot area for the You Decide Grant programme across Lancashire
- collaborate with HE and research institutions to improve our understanding of the things that matter to our communities.

3. Working to support the work of the **Lancashire and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance** to provide the interface between the VCFSE Sector and the integrated health system, which operates across Lancashire and South Cumbria. During 2025-2026, we plan to:

- Lead state of the sector research to better understand the needs of the sector across Lancashire and Cumbria
- Work with Volunteering for Health partners to establish visions and strategies for volunteering across the health system
- Work with LACVS partners to advocate for more resources to support VCFSE groups to improve the health and wellbeing of residents across Lancashire.

4. Working with **Voluntary Sector North West** (regionally) and **NAVCA** (nationally) to advocate for change at the regional and national levels. Community CVS is a part of a regional and national movement pushing for positive change for our communities and for civil society. The Community CVS sits on the boards for VSNW and NAVCA. During 2025-2026, we plan to:

- Working with VSNW and collaborating with local infrastructure partners across the North West and the North of England to pilot new approaches that work for our places and sub regions.
- Work with NAVCA, its members and New Philanthropy Capital to develop and pilot a new impact framework for infrastructure bodies.
- Work with partners at the regional and national levels to improve the quality of data and evidence we have available on the sector and its contributions.

Pillar Two: Collaborations and Partnerships - creating opportunities to collaborate to tackle the challenges we face.

Network Development and Growth

Linked to **Blackburn with Darwen Community Network** and/or supported by **CVS** during 2025-2026, we plan to further develop the action groups and networks taking forward collaborative work around the 6Ps. The networks in various stages of development are:

People

- Disabilities Network

- Men's Network
- Women's Network

Prosperity

- CVS Business Network
- Resilience Network

Planet

- Climate Action Network

Peace

- Connected Communities Network
- Interfaith Forum

Participation

- Digital Inclusion Network
- Volunteering Partnership

Place

- Darwen: set up the Darwen Community Forum and explore how to roll out the development to Blackburn East, Blackburn West and Blackburn North
- Housing and Homelessness Network
- Neighbourhood Community Action

Partnership Development

VCFSE Partnership Structures: to develop and deepen our collaborations and partnerships working with BwD Community Network, LACVS, Lancashire and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance, VSNW and NAVCA and many more.

Climate Change Community and the Climate Action Network: working with the climate change community across the public, commercial and VCFSE Sectors and creating a climate action network to take forward recommendations from the People's Jury on Climate Change. We will look to widen awareness, education and participation by developing new volunteer programmes to mobilise our communities and developing carbon literacy across our communities.

Partnerships with GPs, the NHS, education and social care

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme Health Promotion Collaboration: working with Blackpool NHS Teaching Foundation Trust, local GPs, universities and others to deliver call for a kit clinics and volunteer health promotion activity across Lancashire to increase awareness and kit completions amongst targeted populations. During the forthcoming year, we will pilot new approaches for engaging with the 50-60 year cohort to raise awareness of the bowel cancer screening programme and increase response rates for kit completions.

Health Conditions: we will explore opportunities to develop community solutions to support residents with a wide variety of health conditions. For example, working with Spring North on Cancer Ambassador Hubs or working with partners on conditions such as COPD, dental hygiene, frailty, food & healthy eating, men's health, physical activity, bereavement & suicide prevention, etc.

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, we will work with children, young people and families, the local authority, local schools and colleges, the health system and the VCFSE Sector to improve the lives of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. We will build upon our long history of delivering SENDIASS and its predecessor programmes and look to co-ordinate partnership approaches to meet other identified needs locally.

Spark Recovery Collaborative: working with people in recovery from alcohol or substance misuse, the local authority, Spark Recovery Collaborative partners, and wider partners within the VCFSE Sector, public sector and commercial sectors to build community assets to make the recovery community and wider community more resilient in supporting people to recover from addictions and play a meaningful active role within their communities.

Pillar Three: Capacity Building, Development and Training - building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change.

Capacity Building and Community Development

Whether it is communities of place or communities of identity, interest and/or circumstances we need to help local communities to develop their responses to what matters to them. We need to co-produce with them the pathways and solutions that meet their needs and aspirations. We will work with partners, to develop new approaches to **developing, mobilising and organising communities** whether these are geographically based communities located within deprived areas or communities of circumstance where people come together to share their lived experience and support each other such as the recovery community from alcohol or substance misuse, mental health recovery community, people with experience of the criminal justice system, the homeless, victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse, veterans, the asylum seeker and refugee community, people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, long term health conditions, etc.

Community Grants

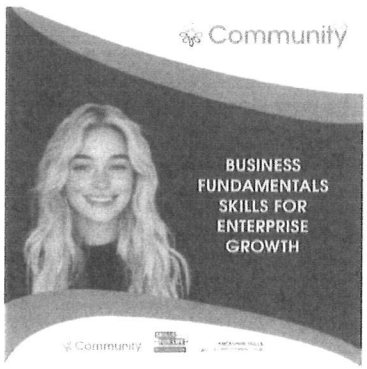
Continue to develop our relationships with local authorities, charitable trusts, the NHS and other commissioners and funders to widen the range of grants we can help them distribute to the VCFSE Sector.

Economic Development

Developing our thinking around new economic models that develop the role of civil society / the social economy as part of the foundational economy and creating new charities and social enterprises to meet gaps in provision against the 6P priorities.

Organisational Development and Practical Support

Developing the ways we can provide practical support to **support organisational development and growth** through business advice, coaching and mentoring, offering support through community accountancy, or help with staff and volunteer recruitment, etc.



Training and Workforce Development

The **CVS Business Training Centre** is now 5 years old. We aspire to be the 'go to' partner for leadership and management training for the VCFSE Sector and small businesses across the sectors we support. We will

- Continue to develop our growing reputation in leadership and management training – especially focused on skilling population groups which are under-represented in leadership positions.
- Focus on industrial sectors where the VCFSE Sector is strongly represented – health economy; business fundamentals; creative industries; climate change and the environment; etc…
- Focus on flexible delivery in bitesize chunks delivering customise bespoke training and accredited units from the range of qualifications we deliver on behalf of CMI, NCFE and RSPH.
- developing our commercial training offer and our training provision to support the delivery of the 6Ps (for example Carbon Literacy training to support the Planet priority).

Pillar Four: Volunteering - creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

Strategic Development of Volunteering

Building strong volunteering infrastructure across Lancashire and ensuring there is a vibrant volunteer eco-system at the place level within Blackburn with Darwen and other communities we serve. A key part of this is to develop visions and strategies for volunteering at the place level. We will lead on developing a shared platform for volunteering and support to the VCFSE Sector across Lancashire and South Cumbria. Within those visions and strategies to continue to advocate for the use volunteering as a stepping-stone towards employment and better health and wellbeing and as a way of supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage or other forms of disadvantage to develop their confidence, skills and experience to improve their life opportunities.

Promotion of and Voice of Volunteering

During the forthcoming year, we will be engaging widely with volunteers, volunteer managers and volunteer involving organisations to develop the vision and strategies for volunteering with Community CVS being the co-ordinating voice to champion and celebrate volunteering.

A key part of celebrating and raising the profile of volunteering is the annual Community Volunteer Awards that Community CVS co-ordinate on behalf of the local authority, VCFSE Sector and our sponsors. During the year, we will be moving the awards away from its home at King George's Hall (whilst restoration work is completed) and will be moving to Ewood Park. We are also moving our awards to embrace the 6P framework – which we are using to highlight everything that the VCFSE Sector does.

Good Practice Development

Continue the development of local **volunteer quality standards, good practice guides, volunteer manager training programmes, training programmes for trustees and various champion roles** and other resources to improve the quality of volunteer experiences and rolling them out to more areas across Lancashire.

Creation and Promotion of Volunteering Opportunities

To work with partners, to create new volunteer opportunities that meet local needs. For example, past and current examples, we are working with BwD Chip in Partnership to create volunteering opportunities for young people and all ages within the arts, culture and creative industries or working with the Spark Recovery Collaborative to create volunteering opportunities for people in recovery from alcohol or substance misuse.

Going forward we are developing new volunteering opportunities for Bowel Cancer Champions, Cancer Ambassadors – but equally it could be to support any long-term physical or mental health condition. Equally it can apply to any of the 6Ps and can apply to digital inclusion, climate change, working with families, etc. We will be looking at ways to embed the development of new volunteering opportunities into everything we do.

Part of the CVS is to work with partners across the system to create new volunteering opportunities that help to address local needs but also create worthwhile meaningful opportunities that benefit the volunteer.

Brokerage

In terms of brokering relationships between residents and the multitude of volunteering opportunities that exist within the local community, we are looking to developing more on-line resources to make it easier for residents to find the opportunities they want to pursue.

THANK YOU

A BIG Thank you to everyone who supports us

We would like to thank our commissioners, grant funders, sponsors, public sector, VCFSE Sector and Private Sector partners.

Commissioners, Grant Funders and Partners

- Arts Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Community Network
- Boost Lancashire
- Brian Mercer Trust
- Eric Wright Charitable Trust
- Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service – LACVS
- Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS
- Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS
- Inclusive North (formerly Lancashire BME Network)
- Lancaster District CVS
- Preston Community Network
- Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde
- West Lancashire CVS
- Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub
- National Lottery Community Fund
- NAVCA
- NHS
- Blackpool NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust
- Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Integrated Care Board and Lancashire and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance
- Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust Charity
- NHS England
- Preston City Council
- Spark Recovery Collaborative
- Calico Group,

- Early Break,
- IMO,
- Red Rose Recovery Lancashire,
- Roots Community
- Spring North
- Voluntary Sector North West

Financial review

The total income for the year was £1,090,404 (2024: £1,709,651) and expenditure £1,313,258 (2024: £1,515,374), leaving a net deficit of £222,854 (2024: £194,277).

Unrestricted income for the year totalled £1,047,916 (2024: £892,066) and expenditure amounted to £1,206,747 (2024: £576,025), resulting in a net deficit on unrestricted funds of £158,831 (2024: Net surplus of £316,041) . A transfer was made from the restricted funds to the unrestricted funds, increasing the overall net deficit on the unrestricted funds to £165,780 (2024: Surplus of £263,007), and reducing the carried forward balance to £1,090,988 (2024: £1,256,768).

Restricted income of £42,488 (2024: £817,585) was received in the year. Expenditure incurred and charged against restricted income funds amounted to £106,511 (2024: £939,349), leaving a net surplus on the restricted funds of £64,023 (2024:£121,764). After the transfer noted above, there was a net deficit on the restricted funds of £57,074 (2024: £68,730), resulting in a carried forward balance of £314,072 (2024: £374,146).

Policy on reserves

Community CVS aims to hold free reserves of between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended on the core costs of the charity excluding funding which is primarily passed directly on in grants and specific service level agreements. This will enable current activities and liabilities to be met in the event of a significant drop in funding. The free reserves amount to £474k at the year end.

The CVS Board of Trustees recognise the good progress that is being made in building our reserves and will look to strengthen them during the forthcoming year.

At the year end the following designated funds are held:

Strategic Investment Fund - £250,000 - set aside for future recruitment of senior staff

Business Continuity - £150,000 - set aside to cover potential redundancy costs for changes in operations

Buildings Fund - £100,000 - for future capital works on the Boulevard Centre and the Community Hub

Restricted funds at the year end:

Buildings- £317,072 - Boulevard Centre acquisition and works undertaken and funded in previous years less impairment less secured mortgage.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

Principal funding sources

During the period, the principal funding was received from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the NHS and European Social Fund to undertake charitable activities, which are described in the Review of Activities.The European Social Fund grants are due to end on the 31st December 2023. As part of the Strategic Review process, the Senior Management Team are devising strategies, in consultation with staff, and to put before the CVS Board of Trustees for approval to replace these funding sources at the appropriate level to undertake future charitable activities that are linked to our strategy going forward.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

M T Sidat MBE
Trustee

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	4	1,047,890	42,488	1,090,378	892,018	817,585	1,709,603
Investment income	5	26	-	26	48	-	48
Total income		1,047,916	42,488	1,090,404	892,066	817,585	1,709,651
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	(1,206,747)	(106,511)	(1,313,258)	(576,025)	(939,349)	(1,515,374)
Total expenditure		(1,206,747)	(106,511)	(1,313,258)	(576,025)	(939,349)	(1,515,374)
Net (expenditure)/income		(158,831)	(64,023)	(222,854)	316,041	(121,764)	194,277
Transfers between funds		(6,949)	6,949	-	(53,034)	53,034	-
Net movement in funds		(165,780)	(57,074)	(222,854)	263,007	(68,730)	194,277
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		1,256,768	374,146	1,630,914	993,761	442,876	1,436,637
Total funds carried forward	17	1,090,988	317,072	1,408,060	1,256,768	374,146	1,630,914

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 17.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

(Registration number: 02668971)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	960,000	980,000
Current assets			
Debtors	14	314,672	138,516
Cash at bank and in hand		687,974	1,062,590
		1,002,646	1,201,106
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(111,638)	(85,516)
Net current assets		891,008	1,115,590
Total assets less current liabilities		1,851,008	2,095,590
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(442,948)	(464,676)
Net assets		1,408,060	1,630,914
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		317,072	374,146
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		1,090,988	1,256,768
Total funds	17	1,408,060	1,630,914

The financial statements on pages 35 to 48 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 15 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
M T Sidat MBE
Trustee

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(222,854)	194,277
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		20,000	20,000
Investment income	5	(26)	(48)
		(202,880)	214,229
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	14	(176,156)	403,439
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15	26,122	(135,997)
Net cash flows from operating activities		(352,914)	481,671
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	26	48
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of loans and borrowings	15	(21,728)	(15,504)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(374,616)	466,215
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		1,062,590	596,375
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		687,974	1,062,590

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:
Boulevard Centre
Cathedral Quarter
Blackburn
BB1 1EZ

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 15 December 2025.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Income
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Buildings	2% per annum straight line basis

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilites that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both periods.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are as follows.

Depreciation

The depreciation expense is the recognition of the decline in the value of the asset and allocation of the cost of the asset over the periods in which the asset will be used. Judgements are made as to the estimated useful life of the assets. These judgements are regularly reviewed to reflect the changing environment.

Impairment of fixed assets

The charity assesses the impairment of tangible fixed assets subject to depreciation whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. These judgments are regularly reviewed to reflect the changing environment.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Contracts and grants	706,784	42,488	749,272	1,559,700
Rental income	80,377	-	80,377	90,575
Training and miscellaneous income	260,729	-	260,729	59,328
	1,047,890	42,488	1,090,378	1,709,603

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	26	26	48

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Operational costs, payments to partners		270,037	-	270,037	471,112
Depreciation		-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Grants paid		36,540	49,437	85,977	50,761
Staff costs		896,170	-	896,170	932,471
Governance costs	7	4,000	-	4,000	3,500
Bank loan interest		-	37,074	37,074	37,530
		1,206,747	106,511	1,313,258	1,515,374

Support costs including staff costs amounted to £100,000 in the year.

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Audit fees			
Audit of the financial statements	4,000	4,000	3,500
	4,000	4,000	3,500

8 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2025 £	2024 £
Audit fees	4,000	3,500

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	779,878	807,669
Social security costs	66,376	69,434
Pension costs	49,916	55,368
	896,170	932,471

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Charitable activities	30	35

During the year, the charity made redundancy and/or termination payments which totalled £Nil (2024 - £11,078).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £185,496 (2024 - £210,173).

11 Auditors' remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Audit of the financial statements	4,000	3,500

12 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost/Valuation			
At 1 April 2024	1,000,000	1,195,741	2,195,741
At 31 March 2025	1,000,000	1,195,741	2,195,741
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	20,000	1,195,741	1,215,741
Charge for the year	20,000	-	20,000
At 31 March 2025	40,000	1,195,741	1,235,741
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	960,000	-	960,000
At 31 March 2024	980,000	-	980,000

Revaluation

The Land and buildings were revalued on 31 March 2023 by an independent valuer.

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	263,474	68,251
Prepayments	9,131	9,432
Accrued income	38,343	59,973
Other debtors	3,724	860
	314,672	138,516

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loans	24,000	24,000
Trade creditors	8,061	18,288
VAT repayable	23,178	-
Other creditors	5,061	-
Accruals	51,338	43,228
	111,638	85,516

Creditors due within one year includes the following liabilities, on which security has been given by the charity:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loan - Barclays Bank	24,000	24,000

The bank loan is secured on the properties owned by the charity.

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loans	442,948	464,676

Creditors amounts falling due after more than one year includes the following liabilities, on which security has been given by the charity:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loan - Barclays Bank	442,948	464,676

The bank loan is secured on the properties owned by the charity.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	639,590	1,047,916	(1,206,747)	(6,949)	473,810
Designated					
Strategic Investment Fund	250,000	-	-	-	250,000
Business Continuity	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Buildings fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Revaluation reserve	117,178	-	-	-	117,178
	617,178	-	-	-	617,178
Total unrestricted funds	1,256,768	1,047,916	(1,206,747)	(6,949)	1,090,988
Restricted funds					
Buildings	374,146	-	(57,074)	-	317,072
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	-	42,488	(49,437)	6,949	-
	374,146	42,488	(106,511)	6,949	317,072
Total funds	1,630,914	1,090,404	(1,313,258)	-	1,408,060

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	594,977	892,066	(576,025)	(271,428)	639,590
Designated					
Strategic Investment Fund	101,436	-	-	148,564	250,000
Business Continuity	130,170	-	-	19,830	150,000
Buildings Fund	50,000	-	-	50,000	100,000
Revaluation reserve	117,178	-	-	-	117,178
	398,784	-	-	218,394	617,178
Total unrestricted funds	993,761	892,066	(576,025)	(53,034)	1,256,768
Restricted funds					
Buildings	378,642	-	(57,530)	53,034	374,146
ESF – Action for Jobs	-	240,600	(240,600)	-	-
ESF – Upskilling	64,234	539,552	(603,786)	-	-
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	-	37,433	(37,433)	-	-
	442,876	817,585	(939,349)	53,034	374,146
Total funds	1,436,637	1,709,651	(1,515,374)	-	1,630,914

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	117,178	842,822	960,000
Current assets	502,646	500,000	-	1,002,646
Current liabilities	(28,836)	-	(82,802)	(111,638)
Creditors over 1 year	-	-	(442,948)	(442,948)
Total net assets	473,810	617,178	317,072	1,408,060

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	117,178	862,822	980,000
Current assets	698,118	500,000	2,988	1,201,106
Current liabilities	(58,528)	-	(26,988)	(85,516)
Creditors over 1 year	-	-	(464,676)	(464,676)
Total net assets	639,590	617,178	374,146	1,630,914

19 Related party transactions

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is a corporate trustee of three charitable incorporated organisations, Blackburn Community Foundation, Darwen Community Foundation and Neighbourhood Community Action. During the financial year, the following transactions were undertaken between the organisations: Blackburn Community Foundation - Nil (2024 £nil); Darwen Community Foundation received a donation of £100 (2024 - £100); Neighbourhood Community Action £nil (2024 - £Nil). During the year, Community CVS received a grant of £50,000 contribution towards working with community groups within our most deprived neighbourhoods from Neighbourhood Community Action. The three charitable incorporated organisations are managed at arms' length of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service.

Garth Hodgkinson, CEO of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a trustee and/or a director of Blackburn Community Foundation, Darwen Community Foundation and Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service. received payments for support of Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service for their Lancashire LOCAL project worth £12,560 (2024 £5,420).

During the previous year 2023-2024, Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service received Kickstart payments for the young people we have supported from Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service totalling £3,961.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 31), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures on material balances for which robust, substantive analytical procedures have been undertaken to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of noncompliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....

Mark R Heaton FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of KM, Statutory Auditor

1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

15 December 2025

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1008190

Accounts

Company registration number: 02668971

Charity registration number: 1008190

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

KM
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

THURSDAY

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COMPANIES HOUSE

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

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Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	S C Ledbetter H L Allen-Robson A Abbas S Shah M T Sidat C Robinson N McGrath
Secretary	J G Hodgkinson
Chief Executive Officer	J G Hodgkinson
Charity Registration Number	1008190
Company Registration Number	02668971
Registered Office	Boulevard Centre Cathedral Quarter Blackburn BB1 1EZ
Auditor	KM Chartered Accountants 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 72/78 St James Street Burnley Lancashire BB11 1NH

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees

S C Ledbetter

H L Allen-Robson

A Abbas

S Shah

M T Sidat

N McGrath (appointed 2nd January 2024)

C Robinson (appointed 15th July 2024)

P Mathauda (resigned 6th December 2023)

R Duckworth (resigned 6th December 2023)

T Fazal (resigned 25th January 2024)

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives

The principal object of the charity is to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community, in the local government districts of Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and its environs, and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness. To build capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary information, support and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose within the area of benefit. To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

Activities for achieving the objectives

The trustees receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year.

Grant making policies

All small grant programmes managed by Community CVS are managed in accordance with guidance and rules set down by our external partners. They are for activities which conform to the objects of our charity and are distributed to eligible voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to undertake charitable activities.

Fundraising disclosures

Community CVS continues to seek grant funding, contracts and service level agreements from national, regional and local partners to deliver services that are in keeping with our objectives and meet identified needs of the local community within Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 6 December 1991, as amended by Special Resolution on 12 Feburary 1998, and on 16December 2014. The charitable company is a registered charity umber 1008190.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Induction and training of trustees

A Trustee handbook, including roles and responsibilities, has been prepared for all new Trustees. All new trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive as part of the induction process and go through the Trustee handbook. Resources are available to support Trustees to meet their individual training needs to help them perform their duties as Trustees. Planning days are held with Trustees and staff on an annual basis.

Organisational structure

During the year, the charity employed on average 42 staff to deliver our activities and projects. All staff are responsible to the Chief Executive and ultimately, the trustees/directors. The trustees set the strategic framework within which the Chief Executive and management team operate. The trustees meet as a minimum six times per year as a Board of Trustees and more when required. The trustees receive regular reports on all aspects of the organisation, including finance, human resources, marketing & communications, health & safety, service activities, quality & performance, etc.

Major risks and management of those risks

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. These major risks are the impact of short term funding, changes in funding streams, changes to key personnel and changes in local and central government policy.

STRATEGY, REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Our strategic framework guides everything we do. We undertook a fundamental strategic review to determine our future direction in a world totally transformed by the impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic, over 10 years of austerity, Brexit, the cost of living crisis, etc.

The process started in September 2022. We used appreciative enquiry as a methodology to discover our core values and strengths, dream about our aspirations for the future, design the building blocks to get there and establish a clear road map to achieve our destiny and deliver our future. External consultants were used to interview staff and volunteers, facilitate a two day CVS team 'away day' and support trustees at an away day.

We held a Together Everyone Achieves More Conference in May 2023 attended by over 300 local residents, volunteers and paid staff from the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups and organisations across Blackburn with Darwen.

The outcome of the process has created a framework for the next 10 years – which will develop, evolve and transform as our communities, the VCFSE sector and all the stakeholders change over the same period. We will be responsive to the needs of the communities we serve, their aspirations, hopes and fears, the opportunities that present themselves – but always focused on achieving positive impact – socially, economically and environmentally.

OUR STRATEGY:

CONNECTING PEOPLE, GROWING COMMUNITIES

Our Mission:

"To support individuals, organisations and communities to achieve their full potential"

Our Vision:

For CVS to lead positive social, economic and environmental change transforming how the VCFSE Sector works collaboratively with the public and private sectors.

For CVS to be a valued community partner, recognized as the lead local infrastructure support organisation for communities within Blackburn with Darwen and elsewhere.

Our Values

Community Stewardship: valuing service to the community over self-interest and believing everyone has a responsibility to support positive social change for our community now and in the future. To advocate on behalf of our communities, especially the most vulnerable.

Co-operation and Solidarity: valuing mutual support with everyone helping each other to deliver positive social change.

Equity and Fairness: valuing the well-being of everyone and striving to achieve social, economic and environmental justice for all.

Non-Judgemental: valuing everyone for who they are without prejudice or judgement.

Voluntary Action: valuing people and organisations giving their time freely to help other people within our communities.

Willingness to Listen, Learn & Innovate: valuing trying new ideas and new approaches to tackling some of the deep seated socio-economic and environmental challenges that our communities face.

Our Strategic Objectives

Taking Action: Leading and Advocating for Change on things that matter to our communities

Support: Creating collaborations and partnerships to tackle the challenges we face.

Resource: Building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change

Volunteer: Creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

Our Outcomes

Socially: To build fairer, more active, more connected and resilient communities.

Economically: To build an inclusive and mixed economy with higher levels of entrepreneurial activity and a more creative, skilled and productive workforce.

Environmentally: To mobilise our communities to take greater care of our natural world and our climate.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The review of activities over the past year is organised under our four strategic objectives.

Action: Leading and Advocating for Change on things that matter to our communities

BwD Community Network & the 6P VCFSE Strategy.

During the year, at the Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) Conference (held in May 2023), the VCFSE Sector voted on setting up a new partnership to co-ordinate activity across the VCFSE Sector and voted to call it Blackburn with Darwen Community Network. Discussions from the workshops have fed into thinking about developing a new strategic framework to guide and promote the work is being developed and co-produced with the VCFSE Sector through workshops held at the initial TEAM Conference and through the 2nd Conference 'the 6P VCFSE Conference' held in June 2024.

- People
- Prosperity
- Planet
- Peace
- Place
- Participation

The 6P strategy will take forward community led work across all the themes. One example, is the Planet priority which will take forward actions from the **People's Jury on Climate Change** which reported in January 2023 and had education as its number one priority to raise awareness and mobilise communities to be more active around climate change and the natural world.

During the year, at the same time as the above, a development group of +20 VCFSE groups developed the vision, values, principles and functions of the Community Network and developed a recruitment pack for appointing a Board for the Community Network. The application process started in January 2024, interviews held and places filled in February 2024, the board met in shadow format in March and held its 1st formal Board meeting in April 2024 where the constitution was agreed.

Lancashire LOCAL - VCFSE Community Manifesto

During the year, our CEO supported LACVS to submit a successful grant application for £484,636 from the National Lottery Community Fund to drive forward the implementation of the Manifesto – which had been developed with the VCFSE Sector in the previous year. The LACVS team was recruited in Autumn 2023 and a launch event was held on 06th March 2024. The nine priorities of the VCFSE Manifesto are -

- Equality and social justice for all: tackling poverty in Lancashire
- VCFSE Sector as an equal partner
- Economic Model that works for Lancashire
- Community Well-Being and person and community centred public service models
- Green communities
- Pioneer a Lancashire Social Prescribing Model

- A Safer Lancashire
- Helping people into employment
- Adequate VCFSE Sector resources to play our full part in the future of Lancashire.

The six P strategy within Blackburn with Darwen will align with and support the delivery of VCFSE Manifesto for Lancashire. For example,

- People will support the Equality, Community Well-Being, Social Prescribing
- Prosperity will support the Economic Model and Helping people into employment themes
- Planet will support the Green Communities Theme
- Peace will support the Safer Lancashire theme
- Place will support the equality theme - especially focusing on our most deprived neighbourhoods and on housing and homelessness.
- Participation will support involving the VCFSE Sector as an equal partner, on volunteering and on co-production amongst other things.

Support: Creating collaborations and partnerships to tackle the challenges we face.

Action for Jobs: Strengthening Communities Passport to Health and Employment

Economic Inactivity and Worklessness remain persistent structural challenges within Blackburn with Darwen and the main urban centres of Lancashire such as Blackpool, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Preston – which feature amongst the most deprived local authorities in the country. Community CVS led a partnership approach with LACVS partners across Lancashire to help those furthest away from the labour market. The project ended on the 31st December 2023 and through its lifetime achieved the following:

- Supported 859 people who were unemployed or economically inactive residents (108% of our target);
- 285 participants (33%) achieved a positive outcome in terms of gaining employment, moving into education or training or job search (for the economically inactive).
- The majority of participants reported health and well-being improvements.

The characteristics of the participants are as follows:

- 83% lived in a jobless household
- 55% were males and 45% females
- 54% have a level 1 qualification or lower (with 24% having no qualifications and 45% not having an English qualification)
- 49% Have a physical or mental impairment or condition that has a long-term negative impact on their ability to do normal activities
- 45% consider that they have a disability that limits their ability to work
- 34% are in recovery from alcohol or substance misuse
- 31% are from an ethnic minority community
- 26% have dependent children
- 23% are ex-offenders
- 19% were aged 50 or over.
- 15% are lone parents.

Some of the people supported, who were facing multiple disadvantage also participated on the Changing Futures Programme that aimed to support residents who were in recovery from addiction, had experience of the criminal justice system, had a mental health conditions, were homeless or living in temporary accommodation, and had experience of domestic abuse either as a survivor or as a perpetrator.

Community CVS has a rich history of supporting people who have experience of one or more of the above characteristics – especially in terms of helping people with volunteering and getting involved in community action. This is continuing through the work of the Community Network and the Spark Recovery Collaborative.

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

Working alongside Blackpool NHS Foundation Trust, GPs across Lancashire and South Cumbria and charities and community groups supporting the most vulnerable in our community, our health promotion team has delivered the following during 2023-2024:

- engaged with 4588 individual non-responders (patients who have not returned a sample when requested)
- 1368 of these were aged 53-60 (30%); 3220 were aged 61 to 74 years old (70%).
- Of these, 684 picked up the phone. (50%)
- 659 accepted the invitation for CFAK. (50%)
- 327 attended the consultation. (50%)
- 312 ordered a test kit. (95%)
- 250 returned a test kit. (80% Uptake rate)
- 8 had a positive test result (2.4% positivity rate)

We continue to work closely with University College London and UCLAN to evaluate the success of our interventions. During the year we distributed a £1500 small grant to East Lancashire Community Action Project to raise awareness of bowel cancer.

Play and Stay Teatime Activities (PASTA)

On behalf of public health, we brought together a partnership of IMO, two local primary schools, a community group and dieticians from East Lancashire NHS Hospitals Trust, to pilot a new approach to working with families with primary school age children living within our most deprived neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating and physical activity amongst these targeted populations in the hope of tackling both child poverty, poor health and obesity within these communities.

During the year, we piloted 3 cohorts of working with families for six weeks within St Lukes and St Philips Primary School, Wensley Fold Primary School and Roots and Wings Home Education Group. 16 families with 25 children engaged and completed the PASTA programme with 3 families leaving early. 90% of the parents who completed the programme reported having a better understanding of the health benefits of certain foods and their ability to use those foods in preparing meals. 35% of families reported an increase in their well-being from participating in the programme. Feedback included:

Parent: 'For the children, it has been a valuable experience and learned lots of stuff about healthy eating and has improved their overall wellbeing'

Young Person: 'Had so much fun here making the food and doing sports, especially with the parents.'

Young Person: 'Enjoyed sports and enjoyed making pasta and cutting the different vegetables and tasting different foods'

Learning from the pilot – included the following:

1. Open and Transparent Communication: The team maintained consistent openness and transparency in communication, facilitating smooth session flows and effective collaboration.

2. Active Parental Participation: Roots & Wings, St Lukes and Wensley Fold parents all actively engaged in the project, demonstrating a strong commitment to involvement and contribution. This was lovely to witness as you could see the positive relationships between all which also contributed to the positive experience.

3. Embracing Suggestions: The project embraced suggestions from participants, fostering a collaborative environment where ideas were welcomed and considered.

4. Personalised Parent Conversations: One-on-one conversations with parents proved highly beneficial, enabling the sharing of life experiences and fostering deeper learning opportunities.

5.Engaging Discussions on Food Habits: Stimulating conversations regarding cooking changes and food consumption patterns led to valuable insights and raised awareness among participants.

6. Successful Introduction of New Foods: The introduction of new foods like Gimbap (sushi) was well-received, with participants appreciating the opportunity to expand their culinary horizons and develop new skills.

7. Skills Development through Activities: Activities embedded with skills development elements significantly contributed to participants' personal growth and competence in various areas.

8. Encouraging Family Involvement: Young people became more involved in family shopping and kitchen tasks, showcasing their increased confidence and competence following the learning opportunities provided by the project.

9. Positive Feedback from Michelle's Visits (the dietician): Visits from Michelle provided valuable feedback, recipes, and observations, fostering a supportive environment and encouraging experimentation without imposing views onto children.

10. High Satisfaction among Sessional Staff: Sessional staff thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, indicating a positive work environment and effective engagement with the project's objectives.

11. Addressing Nutritional Challenges: Challenging conversations with parents regarding certain foods, such as crisps, helped raise awareness about their nutritional impact on young people's health.

12. Community Bonding: The project fostered community bonding, bringing families together and providing opportunities for mutual support and solidarity beyond the project's confines.

Public Health agreed to continue with the pilot into a 2nd year and CVS has committed to building the partnership approach and looking for other funding opportunities to develop and expand the approach across all the deprived areas within Blackburn with Darwen.

SENDIASS

Working with families with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, local schools and colleges, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and the local integrated healthcare system, our team provides independent, impartial information, advice and support to parents and carers, and professionals across the public and VCFSE sectors. In numbers and percentages, for 2023-2024, the service delivered the following:

- Made 2583 contacts (or 11 per working day) with parents/carers, schools, professionals, etc.
- Received and supported 297 unique new referrals (in addition to anyone supported from the previous year);

- 81% directly from parents/carers
- 6% from the local authority
- 4% from schools
- 2% from charities or community groups
- 7% unknown

- Types of support provided includes:
  - 23% information sharing
  - 20% E-mail support
  - 17% impartial advice
  - 14% contacting schools
  - 12% contacting professionals
  - 10% attending meetings and other forms of support
  - 4% signposting
- Assistance in meetings - included support with
  - 25% Common Assessment Framework meetings
  - 18% ECHP Submissions or Review Meetings
  - 13% Education Reviews
  - 10% Progress Meetings
  - 9% Team Around the Family Meetings
  - 8% Without Prejudice Meetings
  - 6% Child in Need Meetings
  - 11% Home Visits, Exclusions and other meetings
- The main support themes that parents/carers requested help with regarding their relationship with schools was:-
  - 40% school lack of support
  - 16% transfer to specialist provision
  - 13% school refusal
  - 12% transfer to another school
  - 7% transition
  - 4% exclusion
  - 4% breakdown of communication
  - 4% transport or another school issue
- The main disability or health condition of the children or young person supported (which was declared) was as follows:-
  - 30% undiagnosed / awaiting diagnosis
  - 24% autism
  - 16% ADHD
  - 5% Learning Needs
  - 4% Anxiety
  - 4% Mental Health
  - 3% Global Development Delay
  - 1% or less from each of the following ASD Non Verbal, Cerebal Palsy, Chromosome, Downs Syndrome, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Epilepsy, Hearing Impairments, Speech Impairment, Visual Impairments, ODD, Physical Disability, Social Anxiety, Social Communications Disorder.

The number of children and young people being undiagnosed or awaiting a diagnosis remains high and the general feeling of parents or carers that their child and the family are insufficiently supported continues to rise and the complexity of the support required by their child or young person continues to rise.

Resource: building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change

CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BwD Communities Team

Throughout the year we have advised individuals and community groups about setting up new VCFSE organisations, about improving governance, about grant funding, about recruiting and supporting volunteers, about data protection, cyber security, and lots and lots of other things. In March 2024, we created a dedicated BwD Communities Team to focus on community action and helping communities to organise and help themselves. The team are hoping to deepen the involvement of local communities in collaborative efforts to improve their local areas and contribute to the Community Network's 6P strategy. We will be seeking funds from the NHS, Lottery, charitable trusts and other funders to take forward this important work.

BwD Community Fund

We continue to administer the **BwD Community Fund** on behalf of Brian Mercer Trust. During the year we held three rounds of the fund and approved grants as follows:

- R9 (June 23) – 16 grants approved worth £10,035.
- R10 (Oct 23) – 13 grants approved worth £11,082.
- R11 (March 24) – 19 grants approved worth £16,316
- Total Approved: 48 small grants worth £37,433.

The Community Fund supported the following 46 groups and organisations:

- Arise Restoration Centre
- Arts to Heal
- Autism Friends Group
- Ayub Sultan Trust
- Bastwell Buddies Ladies Group
- Belmont Village Residents Association
- Big Local Community Playgroup
- Blackburn Goalball Club
- Blackburn Over 50's Group
- Blackburn People's Choir
- Blackburn Road Runners
- Blackburn Symphony Orchestra
- BwD Diabetes Support Group
- BwD Youth Darts Academy
- Cook Well Community
- DARE
- Gecko Games Club
- Higher Croft Community Hub
- I Pole
- In Di Go Dedicated Care and Support CIC
- Interpro Football Club

- Ivy Street Community Centre
- Ladies Together
- Lancashire Community Helpers CIC
- Little Harwood Curry Club
- Mill Hill Community Trust
- Mill Hill Festival and Events Committee
- Mini Hitters
- Net Academy
- Play and Learn Scheme CIC
- Residents of Sunnyhurst Association
- Roots and Wings Ed Group
- Romney Voices
- Sister 4 Sisters
- St Georges Mill Hill Scouts
- St James Ashgrove Community Space, Darwen
- St James Church, Blackburn
- St Stephen's Church, Little Harwood
- St Silas Church, Blackburn
- Sticky Fingers Toddler Group, St Andrews, Livesey
- Symbiosis Health and Well-Being CIC
- Their Stories
- VOICE
- Willows Lodge Angling Club
- Words, Power, Collective
- Young People Together

Spark Recovery Collaborative - Community Assets Fund

Working with the Calico Group, Early Break, IMO, Red Rose Recovery, Roots Community, THOMAS and others, our BwD Communities Team manages the Community Assets Fund on behalf of the Spark Recovery Collaborative to help the recovery community to play a meaningful role within our communities. This is part of our Asset Based Community Development approach to involving communities in their own transformation.

During the year we distributed £30,544 via the Community Assets Fund on behalf of the Spark Recovery Collaborative to the following 15 groups and organisations:

- Arise Restoration Centre
- Bureau Centre for the Arts CIC – Arts Recovery Group
- Offload North West
- Offload North West Women's Hub
- Phoenix Hub
- Prevent to Protect

- Red Rose Recovery
- Roots Community
- Secret Santa CIC
- Shad Chefs
- Shad Chefs Women's Group
- Sons of Anxiety
- Symbiosis
- VOICE
- Willows Lodge Angling Club.

More generally we work across the Spark Recovery Collaborative and the wider community to help people in recovery from alcohol or substance misuse to become active in the wider community, volunteering, joining activities and community groups, etc.

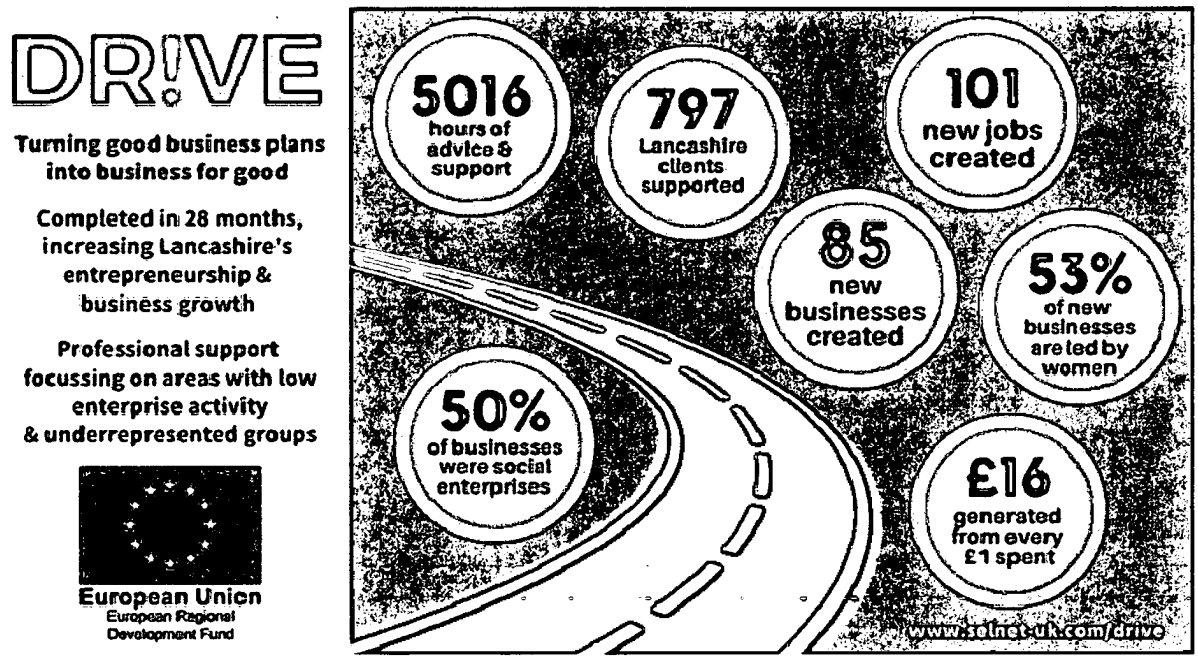
The Spark Recovery Collaborative takes an asset-based community development approach to help the individual's recovery journey and we work closely with the Roots Community to join and connect people in recovery to the wider community.

BUSINESS TRAINING CENTRE

Business Advice and Economic Development

a) **DR!VE**

Community CVS was a partner to SELNET's DR!VE project supporting residents, businesses and social enterprises within Blackburn with Darwen and East Lancashire to become more entrepreneurial. The project ended during the 1st quarter of the reporting year and achieved the following results:



b) **Boost Lancashire: Flying Start**

During quarter three, we started to deliver business advice through Boost Lancashire's Flying Start programme with our two qualified business advisors. During the period – we provided business advice to 46 clients, who comprised individuals exploring new business ideas, to business start ups to businesses in their early years wanting to grow and expand their business. Businesses – included sole traders, private businesses and social enterprises and spanned several sectors – especially health, the creative industries and manufacturing. The majority of clients were based in Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle.

Training

a) **Awareness Training for the Mental Health Workforce Across Lancashire and South Cumbria**

During the year, we trained 160 staff and volunteers across the Mental Health Workforce to raise their awareness of the issues that the asylum seeker and refugee community faces in order to prepare them to provide more tailored support to the asylum seeker and refugee community. Towards the end of the year – we secured a grant to continue the work into 2024-2025.

b) **Upskilling the Health and Social Care Workforce Across Lancashire**

On the 31st December 2023, we completed our Upskilling project, which focused on upskilling Small to Medium Sized Enterprises in the VCFSE or private sectors who contribute towards improved health and well-being in its widest sense (i.e. the wider or social determinants of health). All organisations completed an organisational diagnostic to understand the business needs and priorities. From the diagnostic we worked with the management team to develop a training plan and then delivered training that meets the priorities of the organisation. Through the lifetime of the project we:

- Recruited and trained 2064 employees
- 76% were female; 24% were male
- 50% achieved a full qualification or a unit of a qualification
  - 4% completed an entry level English qualification
  - 74% completed a vocational topic at level 2 or below
  - 22% completed a vocational topic at level 3 or higher
- 50% participated in non-accredited training
- 35% were aged 50 or over
- 33% did not have basic skills (1 in 3)
- 18% were from an ethnic minority background

c) **Bootcamp Skills: Aspiring Leaders in Health and Social Care**

In September 2023, we started to deliver a 10 week Bootcamp Skills training programme for Aspiring Leaders in Health and Social Care. Due to the success of the first two cohorts, which started in September, the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub commissioned a third cohort to start in January 2024. Throughout the 3 cohorts – we trained 40 employees from the health and social care sector with the majority of them progressing to take on more responsibility or new roles within their businesses.

The provision has been designed to meet business needs and is non-accredited but participants are given the option to register with CMI and pursue a unit of a management qualification if they wish to pursue it.

There are plans to grow the provision in future years to meet the rising demand amongst businesses within the health and social care sector and other sectors to invest in their existing workforce and 'grown their own' leaders.

Volunteer: creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

LEAD VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION

In October 2023, Community CVS was the 1st in the country to be awarded Lead Volunteer Organisation status for our Volunteer Centre within Blackburn with Darwen.

We continue to lead on the strategic development of a strong volunteer eco-system within Blackburn with Darwen. We support residents to volunteer, train existing volunteers for Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) across BwD and support VIOs to recruit volunteers, to provide training to their volunteer organisers an help them develop their systems and procedures to ensure the volunteer experience is a good one.

During the year, we introduced an on-line system – Volunteer Plus - to promote volunteering, we worked with VIOs to co-produce a new volunteer quality standards and worked with partners across Lancashire to develop a Volunteering for Health bid (mentioned later on).

We opened an office in Darwen at the Jubilee Tower Credit Union so that volunteers and community groups in Darwen can access our support more easily.

CHIP IN PARTNERSHIP

Led by the Bureau Centre for the Arts, CVS and the Council, Blackburn with Darwen was one of 19 partnerships nationally to be successful in securing £299,624 to support young adults aged 16 to 30 years old to volunteer within the arts & culture, heritage & the environment or sports and physical activity. We are the only partnership in the North West. The partnership of 19 organisations across the public and VCFSE Sectors offers volunteering opportunities with mentoring support for young people. During the year, partners supported 201 young people to volunteer (1 more than the initial target). 61% of the volunteers lived in the most deprived 10% of wards in the country, 42% were from the Global Majority community, 20% had a disability and 31% had 3 or more intersectionality barriers making it more difficult to access volunteering opportunities. The partnership has engaged young people throughout in designing and choosing a name for the partnership, in designing the volunteer opportunities and the mentoring programme and in developing a digital platform to make volunteering easier. An external evaluator judged 'the learning and development in Chip In has been a success'.

We are looking to continue to develop the partnership and secure new sources of funding going forward from the Arts Council, Lottery, NHS, charitable trusts, etc.

PRESTON VOLUNTEERS

In October 2023, Community CVS secured a contract worth £140,000 to set up a new Volunteer Centre in Preston – which became known as Preston Volunteers. We are working closely with Preston City Council, Preston Community Network, LACVS and Volunteer Centres across Lancashire to develop an integrated and consistent approach to providing volunteer infrastructure across Lancashire.

During the initial six months, we have delivered the following:

- Set up our Volunteer Plus system that can promote volunteering opportunities on-line
- We have held 30 'drop ins' or volunteer events – including 12 at Preston Job Centre and 12 at Preston Town Hall
- 161 residents have been recruited onto our Volunteer Plus system for volunteering and referred to the appropriate partner
- 92 people have been placed by 31st March 2024
  - 57% are from ethnic minorities
  - 23% are disabled
  - 33% are unemployed or not able to work

- 169 groups and services have been supported to find volunteers
- Delivered a Volunteer Essentials Toolkit training to 12 attendees to get them ready for volunteering
- Delivered quality mark training to 28 attendees from VCFSE organisations
- Launched the Preston Volunteers Forum with 39 attendees
- Provided guidance on volunteering to 83 VCFSE groups

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2023

Our Community Volunteer Awards, which we put on in partnership with the local authority and 18 sponsors, continue to go from strength to strength. We received 713 nominations from residents, VCFSE organisations, public and private sector partners across Blackburn with Darwen for the 20 awards. The winners for 2023 are as follows:-

Health and Well Being Award

Individual – Si Donnelly

Group – Shad Chefs

Environment Award

Individual – Roy Parker

Group – Blackburn Volunteer Lock-Keepers

Grassroots Community Action Award

Individual – Sarah Bernasconi-Parsons

Group – Clifton Arms

Prosperity, Learning and Employment Award

Individual – Vicky McGurk

Group – Community and Business Partners CIC

Young People's Award

Individual – Becky Shaw

Group – Blackburn with Darwen Parents in Partnership

Culture, Leisure and Sporting Life Award

Individual – John Clucas

Group – Blackburn Pride Committee

Lindsay Dunn Award (for supporting people with complex needs)

Individual – Sarah Bernasconi-Parsons

Group – Ayup Sultan Trust

Renee Black Award (for supporting community cohesion)

ARC, Blackburn (Asylum Seeker and Refugee Community)

Community Involvement Award

Clifton Arms

Good Neighbour Award

Roy Parker

Volunteer of the Year Award

Sarah Bernasconi-Parsons

Lifetime Achievement Award

Gordon Fairweather

CVS Special Award for Outstanding Service

John East.

Thanks go to our 18 sponsors (below). Without their support we could not put on this important event.

VOLUNTEERING FOR HEALTH

In February 2024, Community CVS brought together a partnership of Cumbria CVS, Lancashire Association of CVSs, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity, Spring North and Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde to submit a proposal for nearly £0.5million to invest in volunteer infrastructure across Lancashire and South Cumbria. In July 2024, we were notified that we are 1 of 12 partnerships nationally to be successful and we have entered a development phase to set up the programme. We plan to develop and roll out a consistent approach to promoting, recruiting, training and supporting volunteer health champions across the integrated health system and to provide quality volunteer infrastructure support to volunteer involving organisations that use volunteers within the integrated health system. This initiate aims to embed volunteering within our health and social care system and support VCFSE and public sector organisations more widely to use the power of volunteering to tackle the social determinants of health and well-being.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Taking Action: Leading and Advocating for Change on things that matter to our communities

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COMMUNITY NETWORK AND THE 6P VCFSE Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen

Taking forward suggestions from the 2023 TEAM Conference and 2024 6P Conference and the workshops to develop a more collaborative approach across the VCFSE Sector

- People
- Prosperity
- Planet
- Peace
- Place
- Participation

To lead in the co-production of collaborative actions and bids for resources under the six headings to tackle identified local priorities and need within Blackburn with Darwen.

LANCASHIRE LOCAL and the VCFSE Community Manifesto for Lancashire

To support LACVS, to deliver the Lancashire LOCAL project across Lancashire and advocate for change on behalf of local communities and the VCFSE Sector with sub regional bodies such as the forthcoming Lancashire Combined Authority, the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHANGE

Through our active memberships of Voluntary Sector North West, NAVCA and NCVO to advocate for change at the regional and national levels for the things that matter to the VCFSE Sector and our communities within Blackburn with Darwen.

Support: Creating collaborations and partnerships to tackle the challenges we face.

PEOPLE

To develop collaborative and partnership approaches to meet the following 9 priority population groups:

- Asylum seekers, refugees and ethnic minorities
- Carers
- Disabled people and people with long term physical or mental health conditions
- Faith communities
- People with learning disabilities or autism
- People experiencing one or more causes of multiple disadvantage (homelessness; alcohol, substance misuse, gambling or other addictions; mental health; experience of the criminal justice system; survivor or perpetrator of domestic abuse)
- Older people especially the frail elderly or older people experiencing social isolation.
- Young People – especially Care leavers, children living in poverty or children and families with SEND
- Women – especially those experiencing other disdvantages mentioned above

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme Health Promotion and tackling wider health inequalities

Working with health professionals, GP practices and the VCFSE Sector, to develop collaborative and partnership approaches to enhance our approach to Bowel Cancer Screening Programme Health Promotion and widen our approach to other health inclusion groups and health issues that are part of programmes such as Core 20 Plus 5, Population Health, social determinants of health, etc.

PASTA (PLAY AND STAY TEATIME ACTIVITIES)

Working with health professionals, schools and the VCFSE Sector, to develop collaborative and partnership approaches to encouraging children, young people and families to pursue healthier lifestyles (eating, food growing, physical activity, outdoor activities, etc.).

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES, INCLUDING SENDIASS

Working with health professionals, schools and the VCFSE Sector, to develop collaborative and partnership approaches to helping children, young people and families with special educational needs and/or disabilities in all aspects of their life.

PROSPERITY

To develop collaborative and partnership approaches to meet the following priorities:

- Employment
- Enterprise
- Eradicating Poverty, Household Income and the Real Living Wage
- Workforce Development and Skills
- Developing and sustaining Civil Society organisations and the VCFSE Sector as part of the foundational economy for BwD.

PLANET

To develop collaborative and partnership approaches to meet the following priorities:

- Mobilising people, communities and the VCFSE Sector – especially the Population Group previously agreed in the People theme
- Protecting and enhancing Parks, open spaces and the natural world
- Recycling, reuse and the circular economy
- Developing BwD as a Sustainble Food Place
- Developing a sustainable VCFSE Sector

The above will form part of a wider response to climate change and builds on previous engagement through the People's Jury on Climate Change and the two Conferences CVS has held in partnership with the BwD Community Network.

PEACE

Working with local authorities, the criminal justice system and the VCFSE Sector, to develop collaborative and partnership approaches to meet the following priorities:

- Community safety, community resilience and security
- Domestic abuse

- Eradicating violence against women and girls
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- Celebrating diversity and bridging and connecting communities

PARTICIPATION

Working across the Public, Commercial and VCFSE Sectors, to develop collaborative and partnership approaches to meet the following priorities:

- Co-Production with the targeted population groups and the VCFSE Sector
- Digital Inclusion
- Participation in Arts & Culture; Heritage & the Natural World; Physical Activity, Recreation & Sport; combating social isolation, participating in social activities & mutual support.
- Volunteering and Social Action

PLACE

Working across the Public, Commercial and VCFSE Sectors, to develop collaborative and partnership approaches to meet the following priorities:

- Deprived neighbourhoods (11 of the 17 wards in Blackburn with Darwen are amongst the most deprived 20% within England).
- Heritage
- Housing and homelessness
- Improve our Town Centres

Resource: building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change

- **BUSINESS AND TRAINING CENTRE**

Continue to develop our role in providing business advice and assistance with economic development with Boost Lancashire, local authorities, SELNET

Continue to develop our thinking around new economic models that develop the role of civil society / the social economy as part of the foundational economy.

Continue to develop our growing reputation in leadership and management training – especially focused on aspiring leaders and amongst population groups that are under represented in leadership positions.

Continue to develop and widen the provision within our Training Centre to meet the workforce needs of the VCFSE Sector and complementary sectors such as Health and Social Care, Creative Industries, the Environmental Sector, etc.

- **CAPACITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Continue our work to get more embedded at the neighbourhood level – helping local communities to develop their responses to what matters to them. As well as communities of place, also support communities of identity, interest and/or circumstances to develop pathways and solutions that meet their needs and aspirations.

- **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Continue to develop our relationships with local authorities, charitable trusts, the NHS and other commissioners and funders to widen the range of grants we can help them distribute to the VCFSE Sector.

Volunteer: creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

- **LEAD VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATION / VOLUNTEER CENTRES**

Continue to develop volunteer infrastructure in Blackburn with Darwen ('Blackburn Volunteers' and 'Darwen Volunteers') and Preston ('Preston Volunteers') to provide support across the area to residents seeking volunteering opportunities, existing volunteers and volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) across the VCFSE and Public Sectors.

Continue to advocate for the use volunteering as a stepping-stone towards employment and better health and wellbeing and as a way of supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage or other forms of disadvantage to develop their confidence, skills and experience to improve their life opportunities.

- **BWD CHIP IN PARTNERSHIP**

Continue to develop and grow the BwD Chip in Partnership as a way of getting more young people aged 16 to 30 years old volunteering and participating in the creative arts sector; heritage and environment sectors; or recreation, sports and physical activity sectors.

- **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

Continue to develop and grow our Community Volunteer Awards in partnership with the local authority and our sponsors to celebrate and raise the profile of volunteering within Blackburn with Darwen.

- **VOLUNTEERING FOR HEALTH**

To establish and embed volunteering generally and volunteer health champion roles in particular within and across the integrated health system at the Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire and south Cumbria levels.

THANK YOU

A BIG Thank you to everyone who supports us

We would like to thank our commissioners, grant funders, sponsors, public sector, VCFSE Sector and Private Sector partners.

Commissioners, Grant Funders and Partners

- Arts Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Community Network
- Boost Lancashire
- Brian Mercer Trust
- Bureau Centre for the Arts CIC
- Department for Work and Pensions (European Structural Funds)
- Eric Wright Charitable Trust
- Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service – LACVS
- Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS
- Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS
- Inclusive North (Lancashire BME Network)
- Lancaster District CVS
- Preston Community Network
- Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde

- West Lancashire CVS
- Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Integrated Care Board
- Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub
- National Lottery Community Fund
- NAVCA
- NHS England and Blackpool NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust
- Preston City Council
- SELNET
- Spark Recovery Collaborative
- Calico Group,
- Early Break,
- IMO,
- Red Rose Recovery Lancashire,
- Roots Community
- Spring North
- Voluntary Sector North West

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

2024 Community Volunteer Awards Sponsors

Financial review

The financial statements show incoming resources of £1.7m (2023: £2m), with resources expended of £1.5m (2023: £2.1m). A surplus was generated on the unrestricted fund of £316k.

The significant financial change in the year was the ending of the two ESF funded projects. Income and expenditure for 2024/25 are expected to be circa £1m.

The trustees are pleased with the performance in the year.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

Policy on reserves

Community CVS aims to hold free reserves of between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended on the core costs of the charity excluding funding which is primarily passed directly on in grants and specific service level agreements. This will enable current activities and liabilities to be met in the event of a significant drop in funding. The free reserves amount to £652k at the year end.

The CVS Board of Trustees recognise the good progress that is being made in building our reserves and will look to strengthen them during the forthcoming year.

At the year end the following designated funds are held:

Strategic Investment Fund - £250,000 - set aside for future recruitment of senior staff

Business continuity - £150,000 - set aside to cover potential redundancy costs for changes in operations

Buildings Fund - for future capital works on the Boulevard Centre and the Community Hub

Restricted funds at the year end:

Buildings- £374,146 - Boulevard Centre acquisition and works undertaken and funded in previous years less impairment less secured mortgage.

Principal funding sources

During the period, the principal funding was received from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the NHS and European Social Fund to undertake charitable activities, which are described in the Review of Activities. The European Social Fund grants are due to end on the 31st December 2023. As part of the Strategic Review process, the Senior Management Team are devising strategies, in consultation with staff, and to put before the CVS Board of Trustees for approval to replace these funding sources at the appropriate level to undertake future charitable activities that are linked to our strategy going forward.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 16 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

M T Sidat
Trustee

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 25), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures on material balances for which robust, substantive analytical procedures have been undertaken to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of noncompliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....

Mark R Heaton FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of KM, Statutory Auditor

1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

16 December 2024

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	141	-	141
Charitable activities	4	742,115	817,585	1,559,700	642,007	1,276,636	1,918,643
Investment income	5	48	-	48	40	-	40
Other income	6	149,903	-	149,903	102,182	-	102,182
Total income		892,066	817,585	1,709,651	744,370	1,276,636	2,021,006
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	(576,025)	(939,349)	(1,515,374)	(551,724)	(1,188,114)	(1,739,838)
Other expenditure	8	-	-	-	-	(1,002,571)	(1,002,571)
Total expenditure		(576,025)	(939,349)	(1,515,374)	(551,724)	(2,190,685)	(2,742,409)
Net income/(expenditure)		316,041	(121,764)	194,277	192,646	(914,049)	(721,403)
Transfers between funds		(53,034)	53,034	-	98,240	(98,240)	-
Other recognised gains and losses							
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	117,178	-	117,178
Net movement in funds		263,007	(68,730)	194,277	408,064	(1,012,289)	(604,225)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		993,761	442,876	1,436,637	585,697	1,455,165	2,040,862
Total funds carried forward	19	1,256,768	374,146	1,630,914	993,761	442,876	1,436,637

The notes on pages 33 to 44 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 19.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

(Registration number: 02668971)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	980,000	1,000,000
Current assets			
Debtors	16	138,516	541,955
Cash at bank and in hand		1,062,590	596,375
		1,201,106	1,138,330
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(85,516)	(221,513)
Net current assets		1,115,590	916,817
Total assets less current liabilities		2,095,590	1,916,817
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(464,676)	(480,180)
Net assets		1,630,914	1,436,637
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		374,146	442,876
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		1,256,768	993,761
Total funds	19	1,630,914	1,436,637

The financial statements on pages 29 to 44 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 16 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Mohammed

.....

M T Sidat
Trustee

The notes on pages 33 to 44 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income/(expenditure)		194,277	(604,225)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation	8	20,000	(533,221)
Investment income	5	(48)	(40)
Revaluation of land and buildings		-	1,468,608
		214,229	331,122
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease in debtors	16	403,439	233,993
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	17	(135,997)	27,598
Net cash flows from operating activities		481,671	592,713
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	48	40
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of loans and borrowings	17	(15,504)	(18,802)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		466,215	573,951
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		596,375	22,424
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		1,062,590	596,375

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in , and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:
Boulevard Centre
Cathedral Quarter
Blackburn
BB1 1EZ

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 16 December 2024.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Income
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Judgements
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilites that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both periods.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are as follows.

Depreciation

The depreciation expense is the recognition of the decline in the value of the asset and allocation of the cost of the asset over the periods in which the asset will be used. Judgements are made as to the estimated useful life of the assets. These judgements are regularly reviewed to reflect the changing environment.

Impairment of fixed assets

The charity assesses the impairment of tangible fixed assets subject to depreciation whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. These judgments are regularly reviewed to reflect the changing environment.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Contracts and grants	742,115	817,585	1,559,700	1,918,643

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	48	48	40

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Training, miscellaneous income	59,328	59,328	8,202
Rental income	90,575	90,575	93,980
	149,903	149,903	102,182

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Operational costs, payments to partners		230,512	240,600	471,112	579,351
Depreciation		-	20,000	20,000	49,993
Grants paid		13,328	37,433	50,761	62,641
Staff costs		328,685	603,786	932,471	1,017,094
Governance costs	9	3,500	37,530	41,030	30,759
		576,025	939,349	1,515,374	1,739,838

Support costs including staff costs amounted to £100,000 in the year.

8 Other expenditure

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Impairment of freehold building	-	1,002,571
	-	1,002,571

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Audit fees				
Audit of the financial statements	3,500	-	3,500	5,818
Bank loan interest	-	37,530	37,530	24,941
	3,500	37,530	41,030	30,759

10 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit fees	3,500	5,818

11 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

12 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	807,669	884,240
Social security costs	69,434	78,779
Pension costs	55,368	54,075
	932,471	1,017,094

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Charitable activities	35	54

During the year, the charity made redundancy and/or termination payments which totalled £11,078 (2023 - £Nil).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £210,173 (2023 - £222,066).

13 Auditors' remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit of the financial statements	3,500	5,818

14 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost/Valuation		
At 1 April 2023	1,000,000	1,000,000
At 31 March 2024	1,000,000	1,000,000
Depreciation		
Charge for the year	20,000	20,000
At 31 March 2024	20,000	20,000
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	980,000	980,000
At 31 March 2023	1,000,000	1,000,000

Revaluation

The fair value of the company's Land and buildings was revalued on 31 March 2023 by an independent valuer. Had this class of asset been measured on a historical cost basis, their carrying amount would have been £Nil (2023 - £Nil).

16 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	68,251	72,970
Prepayments	9,432	10,926
Accrued income	59,973	458,059
Other debtors	860	-
	138,516	541,955

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans	24,000	24,000
Trade creditors	18,288	61,682
Other taxation and social security	-	7,656
Accruals	43,228	128,175
	85,516	221,513

Creditors due within one year includes the following liabilities, on which security has been given by the charity:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loan - Barclays Bank	24,000	24,000

The bank loan is secured on the properties owned by the charity.

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans	464,676	480,180

Creditors amounts falling due after more than one year includes the following liabilities, on which security has been given by the charity:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loan - Barclays Bank	464,676	480,180

The bank loan is secured on the properties owned by the charity.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	594,977	892,066	(562,697)	(271,428)	652,918
Designated					
Strategic Investment Fund	101,436	-	-	148,564	250,000
Business continuity	130,170	-	-	19,830	150,000
Buildings fund	50,000	-	-	50,000	100,000
Revaluation reserve	117,178	-	-	-	117,178
	398,784	-	-	218,394	617,178
Total unrestricted funds	993,761	892,066	(562,697)	(53,034)	1,270,096
Restricted funds					
Fixed assets	378,642	-	(57,530)	53,034	374,146
ESF – Action for Jobs	-	240,600	(240,600)	-	-
ESF – Upskilling	64,234	539,552	(603,786)	-	-
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	-	37,433	(37,433)	-	-
	442,876	817,585	(939,349)	53,034	374,146
Total funds	1,436,637	1,709,651	(1,502,046)	-	1,644,242

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	277,738	744,370	(520,010)	92,879	-
Designated					
Fixed assets	131,103	-	(31,714)	(99,389)	-
Match funding projects	66,856	-	-	34,580	-
Business continuity	100,000	-	-	30,170	-
Boulevard centre	10,000	-	-	40,000	-
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	117,178
	307,959	-	(31,714)	5,361	117,178
Total unrestricted funds	585,697	744,370	(551,724)	98,240	117,178
Restricted funds					
Buildings	1,281,302	-	(1,045,791)	143,131	-
Big Local Trust	2,363	(2,363)	-	-	-
ESF – Action for Jobs	-	603,666	(396,258)	(207,408)	-
ESF – Upskilling	105,126	685,995	(685,995)	(40,892)	-
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	66,374	(10,662)	(62,641)	6,929	-
	1,455,165	1,276,636	(2,190,685)	(98,240)	-
Total funds	2,040,862	2,021,006	(2,742,409)	-	117,178

	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds	
General	
General Funds	594,977
Designated	
Fixed assets	-
Match funding projects	101,436
Business continuity	130,170
Boulevard centre	50,000
Revaluation reserve	117,178
	398,784
Total unrestricted funds	993,761
Restricted funds	
Buildings	378,642
Big Local Trust	-
ESF – Action for Jobs	-
ESF – Upskilling	64,234
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	-
	442,876
Total funds	1,436,637

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	117,178	862,822	980,000
Current assets	916,512	281,606	2,988	1,201,106
Current liabilities	(58,528)	-	(26,988)	(85,516)
Creditors over 1 year	-	-	(464,676)	(464,676)
Total net assets	857,984	398,784	374,146	1,630,914

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2023
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	400,000	600,000	1,000,000
Current assets	636,961	281,606	219,763	1,138,330
Current liabilities	(41,983)	(24,000)	(155,530)	(221,513)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(258,822)	(221,358)	(480,180)
Total net assets	594,978	398,784	442,875	1,436,637

21 Related party transactions

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is a corporate trustee of three charitable incorporated organisations, Blackburn Community Foundation, Darwen Community Foundation and Neighbourhood Community Action. During the financial year, the following transactions were undertaken between the organisations: Blackburn Community Foundation - Nil (2023 £nil); Darwen Community Foundation received a donation of £100 (2023 - £100); Neighbourhood Community Action £nil (2023 - £Nil). The three charitable incorporated organisations are managed at arms' length of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service.

Roger Duckworth, who was a trustee of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service and was also a trustee of the Brian Mercer Trust. Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service manage a grant fund called the Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund that is supported by the Brian Mercer Trust. Roger Duckworth sat on the grant panel that makes decision on how the grants are allocated. Roger Duckworth resigned as a trustee of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service on the 6th December 2023 and has also resigned from the Brian Mercer Trust. Following those resignations - Roger Duckworth no longer sits on the grants panel.

Sajida Shah, who is a trustee of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a committee member of the Kiran Ladies Group. During the year, the Kiran Ladies Group did not receive a grant but in the previous year they received two grants £nil (2023 £925) from the Community Fund. Sajida was not involved in the grant panel that made that award.

Garth Hodgkinson, CEO of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a trustee and/or a director of Blackburn Community Foundation, Darwen Community Foundation and Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service. During the year, Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service received Kickstart payments for the young people we have supported from Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service totalling £3961(2023 £15,878); received payments for VOICE engagement work around the impact of COVID 19 on behalf of NHS England from Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service totalling £nil (2023 £5601); and, received payments for support of Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service for their Lancashire LOCAL project worth £5420 (2023 £nil).

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1008190

Accounts

Company registration number: 02668971

Charity registration number: 1008190

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

KM
1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

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Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	S C Ledbetter T Fazal H L Allen-Robson A Abbas S Shah M T Sidat
Secretary	J G Hodgkinson
Chief Executive Officer	J G Hodgkinson
Charity Registration Number	1008190
Company Registration Number	02668971
Registered Office	Boulevard Centre Cathedral Quarter Blackburn BB1 1EZ
Auditor	KM 1st Floor, Block C The Wharf Manchester Road Burnley Lancashire BB11 1JG
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 72/78 St James Street Burnley Lancashire BB11 1NH

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees

S C Ledbetter

T Fazel

H L Allen-Robson (appointed 24 January 2023)

A Abbas (appointed 19 July 2022)

S Shah (appointed 16 December 2022)

M T Sidat

R P T Duckworth (resigned 6 December 2023)

L C Kershaw-Calvert (resigned 24 January 2023)

P R Mason (resigned 20 October 2022)

P Mathauda (resigned 6 December 2023)

R V McDonald (resigned 19 July 2022)

B A Todd (resigned 19 July 2022)

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives

The principal object of the charity is to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community, in the local government districts of Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and its environs, and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness. To build capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary information, support and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose within the area of benefit. To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

Activities for achieving the objectives

The trustees receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year.

Grant making policies

All small grant programmes managed by Community CVS are managed in accordance with guidance and rules set down by our external partners. They are for activities which conform to the objects of our charity and are distributed to eligible voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to undertake charitable activities.

Fundraising disclosures

Community CVS continues to seek grant funding, contracts and service level agreements from national, regional and local partners to deliver services that are in keeping with our objectives and meet identified needs of the local community within Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 6 December 1991, as amended by Special Resolution on 12 Feburary 1998, and on 16December 2014. The charitable company is a registered charity umber 1008190.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Induction and training of trustees

A Trustee handbook, including roles and responsibilities, has been prepared for all new Trustees. All new trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive as part of the induction process and go through the Trustee handbook. Resources are available to support Trustees to meet their individual training needs to help them perform their duties as Trustees. Planning days are held with Trustees and staff on an annual basis.

Organisational structure

During the year, the charity employed on average 42 staff to deliver our activities and projects. All staff are responsible to the Chief Executive and ultimately, the trustees/directors. The trustees set the strategic framework within which the Chief Executive and management team operate. The trustees meet as a minimum six times per year as a Board of Trustees and more when required. The trustees receive regular reports on all aspects of the organisation, including finance, human resources, marketing & communications, health & safety, service activities, quality & performance, etc.

Major risks and management of those risks

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. These major risks are the impact of short term funding, changes in funding streams, changes to key personnel and changes in local and central government policy.

Our strategy, review of activities and future developments

Our strategic framework guides everything we do. During 2022-2023, we undertook a fundamental strategic review to determine our future direction in a world totally transformed by the impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic, over 10 years of austerity, Brexit, the cost of living crisis, etc. Our communities are facing many challenges, including:-

Social Challenges:

- Growing population and creation of new communities
- Developing the capabilities of disadvantaged populations and creating pathways so they can achieve their potential
- Mobilising communities and tackling social isolation and high levels of physical and mental ill health

- Widening inequalities, poverty and deprivation

Technological Challenges:

- The digital gap between digital 'haves' and 'have nots' is widening – need for a strategic approach to digital inclusion
- Need to improve the use of digital technologies and data within the VCFSE Sector

Economic Challenges:

- Enabling the 1/3rd of the adult population who are unemployed or economically inactive to move closer to and into the labour market
- Supporting residents with the cost of living crisis
- Promoting entrepreneurship and helping businesses across the public, commercial and social economies to develop, grow, be more inclusive, create more better paid jobs and be more socially and environmentally responsible.

Environmental Challenges:

- Deteriorating natural spaces in need of love and attention
- General lack of awareness and action within our communities
- Poor housing conditions and urban spaces that need to change
- Need for leadership on climate change and co-ordinated action across communities and sectors. Blackburn with Darwen has declared a climate emergency, has created a people's jury on climate change, which has shared their findings and is implementing the recommendations a way forward.

Political Challenges:

- National Government needs to devolve more and include the VCFSE sector as an equal partner in public policy initiatives.
- Lancashire is playing 'catch up' in terms of devolution.
- The NHS transformation within Lancashire and South Cumbria has stalled and more holistic community approaches that combine clinical and non-clinical interventions need to be developed across the system.

During the review and strategic process, we used

- appreciative enquiry as a methodology to discover our core values and strengths, dream about our aspirations for the future, design the building blocks to get there and establish a clear road map to achieve our destiny and deliver our future.
- external consultants to interview staff and volunteers, facilitate a two day CVS team 'away day' and support trustees at an away day.
- Staff and volunteers to engage widely across our communities and held a Together Everyone Achieves More Conference (May 2023) attended by over 300 local residents, volunteers and paid staff from the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups and organisations across Blackburn with Darwen.

The outcome of the process has created a framework for the next 10 years – which will develop, evolve and transform as our communities, the VCFSE sector and all the stakeholders change over the same period. We will be responsive to the needs of the communities we serve, their aspirations, hopes and fears, the opportunities that present themselves – but always focused on achieving positive impact – socially, economically and environmentally.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

OUR STRATEGY:

CONNECTING PEOPLE, GROWING COMMUNITIES

Our Mission:

"To support individuals, organisations and communities to achieve their full potential"

Our Vision:

For CVS to lead positive social, economic and environmental change transforming how the VCFSE Sector works collaboratively with the public and private sectors.

For CVS to be a valued community partner, recognized as the lead local infrastructure support organisation for communities within Blackburn with Darwen and elsewhere.

Our Values

Community Stewardship: valuing service to the community over self-interest and believing everyone has a responsibility to support positive social change for our community now and in the future. To advocate on behalf of our communities, especially the most vulnerable.

Co-operation and Solidarity: valuing mutual support with everyone helping each other to deliver positive social change.

Equity and Fairness: valuing the well-being of everyone and striving to achieve social, economic and environmental justice for all.

Non-Judgemental: valuing everyone for who they are without prejudice or judgement.

Voluntary Action: valuing people and organisations giving their time freely to help other people within our communities.

Willingness to Listen, Learn & Innovate: valuing trying new ideas and new approaches to tackling some of the deep seated socio-economic and environmental challenges that our communities face.

Our Strategic Objectives

Taking Action: Leading and Advocating for Change on things that matter to our communities

Support: Creating collaborations and partnerships to tackle the challenges we face.

Resource: building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change

Volunteer: creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

Our Outcomes

Socially: To build fairer, more active, more connected and resilient communities.

Economically: To build an inclusive and mixed economy with higher levels of entrepreneurial activity and a more creative, skilled and productive workforce.

Environmentally: To mobilise our communities to take greater care of our natural world and our climate.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The review of activities over the past year is organised under our four new emerging strategic objectives.

Action: Leading and Advocating for Change on things that matter to our communities

Action on Climate Change: People's Jury on Climate Change (August 2022 to January 2023)

Working alongside the local authority and key stakeholders, Community CVS sat on the oversight panel for the People's Jury on Climate Change. We offered space within the Boulevard Centre to host all the meetings of the People's Jury. We listened to their report and have committed to working alongside the People's Jury and our partners to implement their recommendations – especially focused on raising awareness and mobilising communities to be more active in conserving and appreciating our green spaces and the natural environment.

VCFSE Manifesto for Lancashire (June 2022)

Working alongside VSNW, LACVS and VCFSE Leaders across Lancashire to implement the VCFSE Manifesto and its nine priorities -

- Equality and social justice for all: tackling poverty in Lancashire
- VCFSE Sector as an equal partner
- Economic Model that works for Lancashire
- Community Well-Being and person and community centered public service models
- Green communities
- Pioneer a Lancashire Social Prescribing Model
- A Safer Lancashire
- Helping people into employment
- Adequate VCFSE Sector resources to play our full part in the future of Lancashire.

Our CEO supported LACVS to submit a successful grant application to the National Lottery Community Fund to drive forward the implementation of the Manifesto, which will begin in 2023-2024.

Action for Jobs: Strengthening Communities Passport to Health and Employment

Economic Inactivity and Worklessness remain persistent structural challenges within Blackburn with Darwen and the main urban centres of Lancashire such as Blackpool, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Preston – which feature amongst the most deprived local authorities in the country. Community CVS led a partnership approach with Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS and the Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde to help those furthest away from the labour market.

During the year,

- We recruited 332 unemployed or economically inactive residents (115% of our target);
- 106 (32%) achieved a positive outcome in terms of gaining employment, moving into education or training or job search (for the economically inactive).
- The majority of participants also reported improvements to their health and well-being.

For the project as a whole, the characteristics of the participants are as follows:

- 83% lived in a jobless household
- 54% have a level 1 qualification or lower (with 24% having no qualifications and 45% not having an English qualification)

- 49% Have a physical or mental impairment or condition that has a long-term negative impact on their ability to do normal activities
- 44% consider that they have a disability that limits their ability to work
- 34% are in recovery from alcohol or substance misuse
- 26% have dependent children
- 23% are ex-offenders
- 15% are lone parents.

The project supported people with multiple disadvantage and worked alongside the DLUCH/Lottery funded Changing Futures Programme that aimed to support residents who were in recovery from addiction, had experience of the criminal justice system, had a mental health conditions, were homeless or living in temporary accommodation, and had experience of domestic abuse either as a survivor or as a perpetrator.

Support: Creating collaborations and partnerships to tackle the challenges we face.

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

Working alongside Blackpool NHS Foundation Trust, GPs across Lancashire and South Cumbria and charities and community groups supporting the most vulnerable in our community, our health promotion team has during 2022-2023:

- delivered call for a kit clinics in 84 GP practices across Lancashire and South Cumbria (with the majority taking place in Blackburn with Darwen and Greater Preston).
    - o 581 non responders attended face to face with 97% ordering a kit
    - o 450 non responders had a telephone consultation with 88% ordering a kit
    - o 58% of non responders ordered, completed and returned the kit with 2.45% being invited for further tests after something was detected.
- Distributed small grants to community groups to raise awareness of bowel cancer - including
    - o Bangladesh Welfare Association
    - o East Lancashire Community Action Project
    - o Little Harwood Curry Club
    - o Sahara
    - o Veterans in Communities
- Held a conference with national speakers (October 2022) where the team launched their inflatable bowel and the e-learning package that the team has developed to raise awareness of bowel cancer amongst frontline staff within the healthcare system across the public and VCFSE sectors.

SENDIASS

Working with families with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, local schools and colleges, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and the local integrated healthcare system, our team provides independent, impartial information, advice and support to parents and carers, and professionals across the public and VCFSE sectors. In numbers, for 2022-2023, the service

- Received 3428 enquiries (or 16 per working day) as follows:
    - o 49% from parents
    - o 29% from schools
    - o 11% from the local authority
    - o 10% from partners across the public and VCFSE Sectors
- Received 412 unique referrals;
- Attended 313 case meetings with parents and professionals (3 meetings every 2 working days).

- Attended 13 home visits with parents and their children and young people
- Attended 34 multi-agency partners meetings involving parents and professionals across the public and VCFSE Sectors

Spark Collaborative Community Asset Fund

During the year we set up a new Community Assets Fund on behalf of the Spark Recovery Collaborative and distributed the following 8 grants worth £16,892:

- Blackburn with Darwen Youth Awareness Project
- Breakthrough Brain Health
- Bureau Centre for the Arts CIC
- Darwen Community Drumming Circle
- Rise and Shine
- Shad Chefs
- Sober Bee
- Talk Ourselves Well man Collective.

More generally we work across the Spark Recovery Collaborative and the wider community to help people in recovery from alcohol or substance misuse to become active in the wider community, volunteering, joining activities and community groups, etc.

Resource: building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change

CAPACITY BUILDING

Small Grants

We continue to administer the BwD Community Fund on behalf of Brian Mercer Trust. During the year we held four rounds of the fund and approved grants as follows:

- R5 (May 22) – 11 grants approved worth £7180.
- R6 (Sept 22) – 10 grants approved worth £6358.
- R7 (Oct 22) – 28 grants approved worth £19,100.
- R8 (Feb 23) – 11 grants approved worth £8962.
- Total: 50 small grants worth £41,600.

DEVELOPMENT

a) **Community Development**

Throughout the year we have advised individuals and community groups about setting up new VCFSE organisations, about improving governance, about grant funding, about recruiting and supporting volunteers, about data protection, cyber security, and lots and lots of other things.

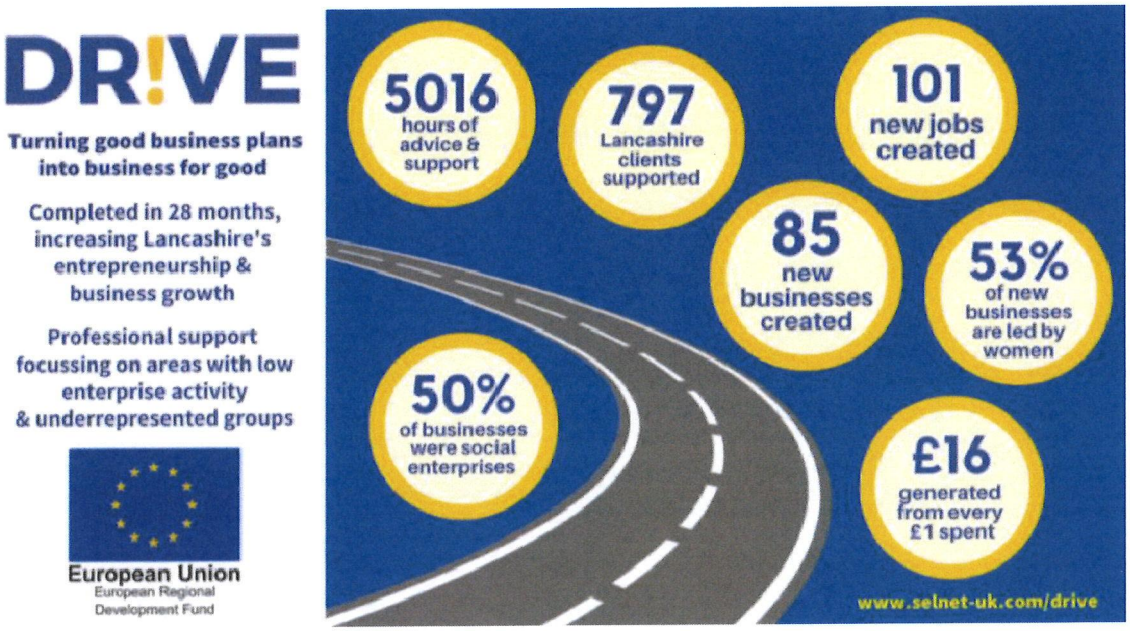
b) **DR!VE: Economic Development**

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

Community CVS was a partner to SELNET's DR!VE project supporting residents, businesses and social enterprises within Blackburn with Darwen and East Lancashire to become more entrepreneurial. Durning 2022-2023, we provided 12 hours business advice to 57 potential entrepreneurs to develop their business idea and be enterprise ready; provided 12 hours business advice to 50 new business start ups or established businesses, the majority of whom were social enterprises; and provided business diagnostics to 10 businesses/social enterprises.

Overall the project was amazingly successful and had the following outcomes:



TRAINING CENTRE

a) **Awareness Training for the Mental Health Workforce Across Lancashire and South Cumbria**

Late in the year, we secured a grant to work with asylum seekers and refugees to develop a training package that will raise awareness of the issues that the asylum seeker and refugee community faces to train the mental health workforce and better prepare them to support the asylum seeker and refugee community. The work to develop and then deliver the training will start in 2023-2024.

b) **Upskilling the Health and Social Care Workforce Across Lancashire**

The project is to upskill Small to Medium Sized Enterprises in the VCFSE or private sectors who contribute towards improved health and well-being in its widest sense (i.e. the wider or social determinants of health). The upskilling is to prepare the organisations for the potential growth within the health economy. All organisations supported will undertake an organisational diagnostic to understand the business needs and priorities. From the diagnostic we will work with the management team to develop a training plan and then deliver training that meets the priorities of the organisation. We are working with LACVS partners and other infrastructure bodies across Lancashire on the project.

During the year, we have

- recruited 929 employees to participate in training

- 81% were female
- 40% did not have basic skills
- 33% were aged 50 or over
- 14% were from an ethnic minority background

- trained 409 to gain a full qualification or a unit of qualification
  - 14 basic English
  - 258 in a vocational topic at level 2 or below
  - 137 in a vocational topic at level 3 or higher
  - Many more received non accredited training

Volunteer: creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

Community Volunteer Awards 2022

The 2nd awards evening after the break for the COVID 19 Pandemic. It keeps getting bigger and better. Feedback includes:

"Really enjoyed the evening. Like the venue – really feels like an occasion, which is quite right! It's lovely to hear all the positive stories of people who are doing so much good in their communities. And the food and the entertainment were good (especially liked the brass band!)"

"It was just a thoroughly enjoyable evening. I think the programme with all the details about the nominees is really important so that everyone can really find out why those people have been chosen. And the stories themselves are just brilliant. I don't think anyone can have left without a smile on their faces!"

"We as a group were really made up about winning. It came as a big surprise when we won. It feels really good that people are recognising our work, though, and more so that people are recognising that there is a need for groups like ours."

"The whole setting was really nice. The food was top notch. I really liked that we had entertainment from local organisations. It gave it more of a personal feel."

"The amazing thing about the Community Volunteer Awards is the diversity of the groups, attending and winning – its inspiring everyone working to the common goal of making Blackburn with Darwen a better place, thank you to everyone and you all deserve to win "

"We thought it was a great success and vibrant occasion that brings so many people together to celebrate many aspects of our vibrant and diverse community. Thanks to you and all at CVS for the all the work you do to make it such a success."

"Thank you for a fantastic evening. So humbled to see so many people making BwD a better place to live. The room looked magnificent and my family and friends were so impressed with the whole affair. Well done Donna and your team for the enormous efforts in making the evening so special."

CHIP IN PARTNERSHIP

In April 2022, Blackburn with Darwen was one of 19 partnerships nationally to be successful and secured a £299,624. We were the only area in the North West. Our project will focus on supporting young adults aged 16 to 30 years old to volunteer within the arts, cultural, heritage, sports and physical activity or the environment. CVS recruited the partnership co-ordinator who started in role in August 2022 and the project support officer who started in January 2023. The partnership of 19 organisations across the public and VCFSE Sectors were offered training to be able to mentor the young people. The project runs for two years and we are exploring ways of continuing beyond the initial phase.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Taking Action: Leading and Advocating for Change on things that matter to our communities

- Develop a community organising programme and seek resources to mobile local communities to take action on improving our most deprived neighbourhoods
- Seek resources to take forward the recommendations of the People's Jury on Climate Change – especially around developing open green spaces and caring for our natural world

Support: Creating collaborations and partnerships to tackle the challenges we face.

- Develop the Blackburn with Darwen Community Network to be the voice of the VCFSE Sector
- Bring together partners to mobilise our communities to take action on becoming fairer communities with more inclusive economies and protect our natural environment

Resource: building the capabilities of individuals, organisations and communities to lead change

- Continue our work in supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantages to be active in the life of the community around them, volunteering, learning, make social connections, reflecting on what needs to change in their lives and pursuing new opportunities – including employment or career opportunities.
- Continue our work to get more embedded at the neighbourhood level – helping local communities to develop their responses to what matters to them. As well as communities of place, also support communities of identity, interest and/or circumstances to develop pathways and solutions that meet their needs and aspirations.
- Continue developing our work to help people start up in business, help more people to set up community groups, charities and social enterprises and develop a new economic model
- Seek resources to develop leadership and management training for the health and social care and VCFSE Sectors and develop other training opportunities to respond to the needs of our communities and our workforce.

Volunteer: creating an effective volunteer eco-system to support our communities.

- Continue to advocate for and being the voice of volunteering – developing new ways to promote and celebrate volunteering.
- Continue to support the development of the Chip in Partnership, other volunteer partnerships and developing a more strategic approach to developing the volunteer ecosystem.
- Seek lead volunteer organisation quality accreditation for Community CVS and consider developing a volunteer quality standards mark in partnership with other volunteer infrastructure
- Develop our training offer for volunteers and volunteer organisers
- Expand our volunteer infrastructure offer to new geographies.
- use volunteering as a stepping stone towards employment and better health and wellbeing and as a way of supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage or other forms of disadvantage to develop their confidence, skills and experience to improve their life opportunities.

THANK YOU

A BIG Thank you to everyone who supports us

We would like to thank our commissioners, grant funders, sponsors, public sector, VCFSE Sector and Private Sector partners, including:-

- Age UK Blackburn with Darwen

- Al Imdaad Foundation
- BBC Radio Lancashire
- Blackburn and Darwen Junior Brass Band
- Blackburn College
- Blackburn Foodbank
- Blackburn Rovers Community Trust
- Blackburn Rovers FC
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service
- Blackburn with Darwen Hive Network
- Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum
- Blackburn Youth Zone
- Boost Lancashire
- Brian Mercer Trust
- Bureau Centre for the Arts CIC
- Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS
- Calico Group
- Care Station Northwest
- Community and Business Partners CIC
- Department for Work and Pensions (European Union)
- DPM Security
- Early Break
- East Lancashire Hospice
- Eric Wright Charitable Trust
- Farleys Solicitors LLP
- Good Things Foundation
- Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen
- Herbert Parkinsons (part of the John Lewis Partnership)
- Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS
- IMO
- Lancashire Association of CVSs
- Lancashire BME Network
- Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Lancashire Skills Hub
- Lancashire Women
- Lancaster District CVS
- McDonalds

- Morrisons PLC
- NAVCA and the VCS Emergencies Partnership
- Newground Together
- NHS - Blackpool NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust,
- NHS - East Lancashire NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust
- NHS - NHS England
- NHS - Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- NHS – Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
- Nightsafe
- Preston City Council
- Preston Community Network
- Red Rose Recovery Lancashire
- SELNET
- Shelter
- Spring North
- Suez Recycling
- Star Tissue UK
- The Well-Being Farm
- Tristar Printers, Sign & Display
- Trueman Change
- VOICE
- Voluntary Sector North West
- Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde
- West Lancashire CVS
- Wish Centre – Blackburn and Darwen District Without Abuse

Financial review

The year ended 31st March 2023 was a year of growth with a 35% increase in income, although approx 13% of total income was from ESF funds (referred to elsewhere in this report). Overall surplus in the year was £281k. At 31st March 2023 the two buildings were valued at a total of £1m, resulting in an exceptional depreciation charge of £1m.

Total funds at the year end amounted to £1,436k and are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Report

Policy on reserves

Community CVS aims to hold free reserves of between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended on the core costs of the charity excluding funding which is primarily passed directly on in grants and specific service level agreements. This will enable current activities and liabilities to be met in the event of a significant drop in funding.

The CVS Board of Trustees recognise the good progress that is being made in building our reserves and will look to strengthen them during the forthcoming year.

At the year end the following designated funds are held:

Strategic Investment Fund - £101,436 - set aside for future recruitment of senior staff

Business continuity - £130,170 - set aside to cover potential redundancy costs

Buildings Fund - for future capital works on the Boulevard Centre and the Community Hub

Restricted funds at the year end:

Buildings- £378,642 - Boulevard Centre acquisition and works undertaken and funded in previous years less impairment less secured mortgage

ESF - £64234 - unspent funds to be used in 2023/24.

Principal funding sources

During the period, the principal funding was received from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the NHS and European Social Fund to undertake charitable activities, which are described in the Review of Activities. The European Social Fund grants are due to end on the 31st December 2023. As part of the Strategic Review process, the Senior Management Team are devising strategies, in consultation with staff, and to put before the CVS Board of Trustees for approval to replace these funding sources at the appropriate level to undertake future charitable activities that are linked to our strategy going forward.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 21 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

M T Sidat

Trustee

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 15), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focussed on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Charities Act 2011;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- we identified laws and regulations which were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures on material balances for which robust, substantive analytical procedures have been undertaken to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of noncompliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Mark R Heaton FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of KM, Statutory Auditor

1st Floor, Block C
The Wharf
Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

21 December 2023

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		141	-	141	3,842	-	3,842
Charitable activities	4	642,007	1,276,636	1,918,643	450,394	944,356	1,394,750
Investment income	5	40	-	40	257	-	257
Other income	6	102,182	-	102,182	90,332	-	90,332
Total income		744,370	1,276,636	2,021,006	544,825	944,356	1,489,181
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	(551,724)	(1,188,114)	(1,739,838)	(468,437)	(926,310)	(1,394,747)
Other expenditure	8	-	(1,002,571)	(1,002,571)	-	-	-
Total expenditure		(551,724)	(2,190,685)	(2,742,409)	(468,437)	(926,310)	(1,394,747)
Net income/(expenditure)		192,646	(914,049)	(721,403)	76,388	18,046	94,434
Transfers between funds		98,240	(98,240)	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses							
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets		117,178	-	117,178	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		408,064	(1,012,289)	(604,225)	76,388	18,046	94,434
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		585,697	1,455,165	2,040,862	509,309	1,437,119	1,946,428
Total funds carried forward	19	993,761	442,876	1,436,637	585,697	1,455,165	2,040,862

The notes on pages 24 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 19.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

(Registration number: 02668971)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	1,000,000	1,935,387
Current assets			
Debtors	16	541,955	775,948
Cash at bank and in hand		596,375	22,424
		1,138,330	798,372
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(221,513)	(193,915)
Net current assets		916,817	604,457
Total assets less current liabilities		1,916,817	2,539,844
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(480,180)	(498,982)
Net assets		1,436,637	2,040,862
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		442,876	1,455,165
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		993,761	585,697
Total funds	19	1,436,637	2,040,862

The financial statements on pages 20 to 34 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 21 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
M T Sidat
Trustee

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(604,225)	94,434
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation	8	(533,221)	49,997
Investment income	5	(40)	(257)
Revaluation of land and buildings		1,468,608	-
		331,122	144,174
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	16	233,993	(400,281)
Increase in creditors	17	27,598	130,487
Net cash flows from operating activities		592,713	(125,620)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	40	257
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of loans and borrowings	17	(18,802)	(22,330)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		573,951	(147,693)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		22,424	170,117
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		596,375	22,424

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in , and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:
Boulevard Centre
Cathedral Quarter
Blackburn
BB1 1EZ

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 21 December 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Income
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Judgements
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilites that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both periods.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities are as follows.

Depreciation

The depreciation expense is the recognition of the decline in the value of the asset and allocation of the cost of the asset over the periods in which the asset will be used. Judgements are made as to the estimated useful life of the assets. These judgements are regularly reviewed to reflect the changing environment.

Impairment of fixed assets

The charity assesses the impairment of tangible fixed assets subject to depreciation whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. These judgments are regularly reviewed to reflect the changing environment.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Charitable activities	642,007	1,276,636	1,918,643	1,394,750

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	40	40	257

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fees and supplies	8,202	8,202	10,649
Rental income	93,980	93,980	79,683
	102,182	102,182	90,332

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		-	-	43,220	43,220	-
Grant funding of activities		-	-	62,641	62,641	88,341
Staff costs		-	322,495	694,599	1,017,094	885,904
Governance costs	9	24,941	5,818	-	30,759	10,136
		24,941	328,313	800,460	1,153,714	984,381

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also governance costs of £30,759 (2022 - £10,136) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 9 for further details.

8 Other expenditure

	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£
Impairment of freehold building	1,002,571	1,002,571
	1,002,571	1,002,571

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds		Total 2023	Total 2022
	Designated	General		
	£	£	£	£
Audit fees				
Audit of the financial statements	-	5,818	5,818	3,000
Other governance costs	24,941	-	24,941	-
Allocated support costs	-	-	-	7,136
	24,941	5,818	30,759	10,136

10 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Audit fees	5,818	3,000

11 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

12 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	884,240	777,865
Social security costs	78,779	61,140
Pension costs	54,075	45,774
	1,017,094	884,779

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Charitable activities	54	42

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £222,066 (2022 - £232,883).

13 Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Audit of the financial statements	5,818	3,000

14 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	2,468,608	195,741	2,664,349
Revaluations	(1,468,608)	-	(1,468,608)
At 31 March 2023	1,000,000	195,741	1,195,741
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	533,846	195,116	728,962
Charge for the year	(533,846)	625	(533,221)
At 31 March 2023	-	195,741	195,741
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
At 31 March 2022	1,934,762	625	1,935,387

16 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	72,970	90,733
Prepayments	10,926	5,840
Accrued income	458,059	679,375
	541,955	775,948

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	24,000	24,000
Trade creditors	61,682	46,983
Other taxation and social security	7,656	24,537
Other creditors	-	241
Accruals	128,175	98,154
	221,513	193,915

Creditors due within one year includes the following liabilities, on which security has been given by the charity:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loan - Barclays Bank	24,000	24,000

The bank loan is secured on the properties owned by the charity.

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	480,180	498,982

Creditors amounts falling due after more than one year includes the following liabilities, on which security has been given by the charity:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loan - Barclays Bank	480,180	498,982

The bank loan is secured on the properties owned by the charity.

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
General Funds	277,738	744,370	(520,010)	92,879	-	594,977
Designated						
Fixed assets	131,103	-	(31,714)	(99,389)	-	-
Strategic Investment Fund	66,856	-	-	34,580	-	101,436
Business continuity	100,000	-	-	30,170	-	130,170
Buildings fund	10,000	-	-	40,000	-	50,000
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	117,178	117,178
	307,959	-	(31,714)	5,361	117,178	398,784
Total unrestricted funds	585,697	744,370	(551,724)	98,240	117,178	993,761
Restricted funds						
Fixed assets	1,281,302	-	(1,045,791)	143,131	-	378,642
Big Local Trust	2,363	(2,363)	-	-	-	-
ESF – Action for Jobs	-	603,666	(396,258)	(207,408)	-	-
ESF – Upskilling	105,126	685,995	(685,995)	(40,892)	-	64,234
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	66,374	(10,662)	(62,641)	6,929	-	-
	1,455,165	1,276,636	(2,190,685)	(98,240)	-	442,876
Total funds	2,040,862	2,021,006	(2,742,409)	-	117,178	1,436,637

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General Funds	392,453	544,825	(468,437)	(191,103)	277,738
Designated					
Fixed assets	-	-	-	131,103	131,103
Match funding projects	66,856	-	-	-	66,856
Business continuity	40,000	-	-	60,000	100,000
Boulevard centre	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
	116,856	-	-	191,103	307,959
Total unrestricted funds	509,309	544,825	(468,437)	-	585,697
Restricted funds					
Buildings	1,348,866	-	(67,564)	-	1,281,302
Big Local Trust	2,363	-	-	-	2,363
ESF – Action for Jobs	-	263,588	(263,588)	-	-
ESF – Upskilling	-	670,775	(565,649)	-	105,126
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	72,805	-	(6,431)	-	66,374
Eric Wright Charitable Trust	13,085	-	(13,085)	-	-
Small grants	-	9,993	(9,993)	-	-
	1,437,119	944,356	(926,310)	-	1,455,165
Total funds	1,946,428	1,489,181	(1,394,747)	-	2,040,862

Transfers between funds in the current year are analysed as follows:

Designated funds are renamed and levels reviewed (as detailed in the Trustees report).

Brian Mercer Charitable Trust - £6,929: grants payable in excess of grants received. Excess met from general reserve.

Fixed assets and revaluation reserve - the buildings were revalued at 31st March 2023, with appropriate adjustments made. The amounts in credit on these funds are calculated based on net book value less bank borrowings, secured on these properties.

ESF upskilling: understatement of expenditure in year ended 31st March 2022 of £40.892.

ESF Action for Jobs: understatement of expenditure in years ended 31st March 2021 and 2022 less understatement of income in year ended 31st March 2022 of £207,408.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2023
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	400,000	600,000	1,000,000
Current assets	636,961	281,606	219,763	1,138,330
Current liabilities	(41,983)	(24,000)	(155,530)	(221,513)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(258,822)	(221,358)	(480,180)
Total net assets	594,978	398,784	442,875	1,436,637

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2022
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	654,085	1,281,302	1,935,387
Current assets	350,732	176,856	270,784	798,372
Current liabilities	(169,915)	(24,000)	-	(193,915)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(498,982)	-	(498,982)
Total net assets	180,817	307,959	1,552,086	2,040,862

21 Related party transactions

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is a corporate trustee of three charitable incorporated organisations, Blackburn Community Foundation, Darwen Community Foundation and Neighbourhood Community Action. During the financial year, the following transactions were undertaken between the organisations: Blackburn Community Foundation - Nil (2022 £nil); Darwen Community Foundation received a donation of £100 (2022 - £100); Neighbourhood Community Action £nil (2022 - £16,600). The three charitable incorporated organisations are managed at arms' length of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service.

Roger Duckworth, who was a trustee of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a trustee of the Brian Mercer Trust. Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service manage a grant fund called the Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund that is supported by the Brian Mercer Trust. Roger Duckworth sat on the grant panel that makes decision on how the grants are allocated. Roger Duckworth resigned as a trustee of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service on the 06th December 2023 and has also resigned from the Brian Mercer Trust.

Sajida Shah, who is a trustee of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a committee member of the Kiran Ladies Group. During the year, the Kiran Ladies Group received two grants worth £925 (2022 £495) from the Community Fund. Sajida was not involved in the grant panel that made that award.

Garth Hodgkinson, CEO of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a trustee and/or a director of Blackburn Community Foundation, Darwen Community Foundation and Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service. During the year, Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service received Kickstart payments for the young people we have supported from Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service totalling £15,878 (2022 £59,613) and received payments for VOICE engagement work around the impact of COVID 19 on behalf of NHS England from Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service totalling £5601 (2022 £nil).

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1008190

Accounts

Registered number: 2668971
Charity number: 1008190

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

(A company limited by guarantee)

AUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees

P Mathauda
PR Mason (resigned 20 October 2022)
RV McDonald (resigned 19 July 2022)
BA Todd (resigned 19 July 2022)
SC Ledbetter
T Fazal
MT Sidat
RPT Duckworth
A Abbas (appointed 19 July 2022)
LC Kershaw-Calvert (appointed 19 July 2022)
M Bailey
SC Ledbetter
A Whittaker-Stewart
T Fazal (resgined 30.06.17)
RV McDonald
M Hilton (appointed 14.12.16)
HM Thomson (appointed 24.01.17)

Company registered number

2668971

Charity registered number

1008190

Registered office

Boulevard Centre
Cathedral Quarter
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 1EZ

Company secretary

JG Hodgkinson

Chief executive officer

JG Hodgkinson

Independent auditors

KM
1st Floor
Block C
The Wharf, Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Advisers (continued)

Bankers

Barclays
8/14 Darwen Street
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB2 2BZ

Solicitors

Farleys Solicitors
Unit C1, Hursthood Court
Duttons Way
Shadsworth Business Park
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 2PT

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) as ame9ded by Update Bulletin 1 (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under secion 383, the strategic report required ofmedium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

The charity is also known under the name Community CVS.

Objectives and Activities

a. POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

The principal object of the charity is to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community, in the local government districts of Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and its environs, and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness. To build capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary information, support and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose within the area of benefit. To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

b. ACTIVITIES FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

The trustees receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives through the planning process and looking forward to plan our future activities.

c. GRANT MAKING POLICIES

All small grant programmes managed by Community CVS are managed in accordance with guidance and rules set down by our external partners. They are for activities which conform to the objects of our charity and are distributed to eligible voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to undertake charitable activities.

d. MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

Community CVS has a strategic plan, which guides everything we do. The strategy includes the following, vision, values, mission statement and strategic ambitions.

Our strategic framework guides everything we do.

Our Vision
"To create a more prosperous, equitable, active and greener Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire".
Inspiring people & organisations to action: through volunteering, through donating money or resources to make a positive contribution to the life of the community.

Connecting people & organisations across all sections of society: helping to create the social networks across our communities and sectors to instigate positive change.

Influencing decision makers: to listen to local residents, charities, community groups and social enterprises, who have a voice to shape key decisions about the local community.

Developing the capabilities of existing organisations: to have a bigger impact within our communities and helping new businesses, charities and social enterprises to set up in response to local needs.

Targeting our support: to the most vulnerable within society and to the more deprived neighbourhoods within our community.

Our Values
Community Stewardship: valuing service to the community over self-interest and believing everyone has a responsibility to support positive social change for our community now and in the future.

Co-operation: valuing people and organisations collaboratively working together for the benefit of our communities.

Fairness: valuing social justice, equality and solidarity, striving to make a more equal society as a way of supporting the social, economic and environmental well-being of everyone within our communities.

Voluntary Action: valuing people and organisations giving their time freely to help other people within our communities.

Willingness to Listen, Learn & Innovate: valuing trying new ideas and new approaches to tackling some of the deep seated socio-economic and environmental challenges that our communities face

Our Mission:
"To support individuals, organisations and communities to achieve their full potential"

Our Strategic Objectives
- Support: helping people to access services and improve their quality of life
- Action: empowering people and organisations to achieve inclusive, sustainable growth
- Resource: connecting, funding and developing the VCFSE Sector
- Volunteer: improving volunteer experiences by developing a quality volunteer eco-system.

The trustees will receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and will review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and will review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives through the planning process and looking forward to plan our future activities

e. VOLUNTEERS

Community CVS is managed by a board of up to twelve Trustees, who freely volunteer their time to sit on the Executive Committee and oversee the strategic direction of the organisation. In addition, the committee members frequently liaise with the management team offering advice and support with a variety of tasks including participating in the recruitment process for new members of staff. All trustees are supported by the Chief Executive.

In addition, we use volunteers throughout what we do, helping to run reception, delivering activities, providing 1-

2-1 peer support. We have 322 volunteers registered on our Volunteer Bank, who volunteer with us and with our close partners. Not all the volunteers who are registered with us have been active during the COVID 19 Pandemic or the year in question. We are reviewing our approach to supporting volunteers going forward.

Achievements and performance

a. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The review of activities over the past year is organised under our four building blocks or strategic objectives.

Support: helping people to access services and improve their quality of life

Lancashire Bowel Cancer Screening Programme
We are commissioned by the NHS to help them to engage with those sections of the community that they find 'hard to reach' and help them to make informed choices about whether they want to access the bowel cancer screening programme. Bowel Cancer remains the fourth most common cancer in the UK and the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths. The NHS offers screening to all adults between the ages of 60 and 75. Regular screening can reduce the risk of dying from bowel cancer by 16%. 53% of people, who are diagnosed with bowel cancer survive bowel cancer for 10 years or more. The earlier the diagnosis the more likely you are to survive and for longer.

Our approach from 2017 until 2020 has focused on holding a Call for a Kit Clinic in the local GP surgery within deprived communities where there is a low up take of the bowel screening programme. We will ring patients directly and arrange an appointment to see one of our staff at the surgery or do a telephone consultation. During COVID 19 (from April 2020 onwards), we have had to pause our activity so as not to create additional pressures on the NHS system.

However, during the year, our research partners have completed an evaluation of our work in 2019 and submitted their research findings to the Journal of Medical Screening. In 2019 the ODR approved and set up data sharing contracts between the Public Health England, University College London (UCL), HUB and the Lancashire BCSP. During the past two years, our team have worked with the Hub data analyst and UCL Dr Christian Von Wagner Senior Lecturer in Behavioural Research in Early Diagnosis of Cancer, Dr Sandro Stoffel Research Associate and Dr Lesley McGregor, Senior Lecturer of Psychology at the University of Stirling. The team have concluded their evaluation of work and submitted an article called 'Evaluation of the Call for a Kit intervention to increase bowel cancer screening uptake in Lancashire, England' to the Journal of Medical Screening – which was published on-line on the 12th April 2022 and its conclusion is as follows:-

"this study shows that the CFAK intervention was successful in getting 15.3% of the non-attenders targeted to participate in the CRC screening programme. The in-person and phone-based consultations were effective in motivating more than half of the participants into ordering and returning a test kit."

This is a major step forward in demonstrating the effectiveness of our work and providing an evidence base from which to evaluate our work.

Whilst it is frustrating not to be out there, doing call for a kit clinics, the team have been very active developing their resources and piloting equality work with various BME groups, people with disabilities, and the deaf community to better understand the needs within different communities so that we can respond appropriately when we can resume our engagement work to get more people to feel comfortable and understand the importance of requesting, completing and returning bowel cancer kits.

Access to Primary Care

Towards the end of the year, we started a community engagement research project to discover people's views and experiences on accessing primary care. The research will continue into 2022-2023 and be reported in 2023.

Community Swabbing and other COVID 19 work
Throughout the year, Community CVS has employed 11 sessional workers to work with the Richmond Medical Practice to undertake Community Swabbing and other COVID 19 work across Pennine Lancashire under the direction of the GP practice.

Working with LACVS partners and Voluntary Sector North West, on behalf of NHS England we participated in a 1000 Voices Project to find out people's perspectives on the COVID 19 Pandemic. We interviewed people from targeted population groups, including young people, people living in deprived neighbourhoods, people living in rural areas and disabled people or people with learning disabilities or autism. Community CVS interviewed 150 people out of the 419 interviewed by LACVS partners, which covered the Lancashire and Cumbria element of the 1000 Voices project. The final report is due for publication in 2022-2023.

National VCS Emergencies Partnership
The CVS CEO has continued to provide a link between local VCS infrastructure bodies in Lancashire and the national VCS Emergencies Partnership, which was set up in 2017 in response to the Grenfell Disaster. The national VCS Emergencies Partnership is co-chaired by the British Red Cross and NAVCA and also contains as members such as Business in the Community, Community Foundations UK, Fareshare, Muslim Aid, the National Emergencies Trust, NCVO, Re:Act, the Salvation Army, St John's Ambulance, Victims Support and Volunteering Matters. We are an active member of the North Multi-Agency Cell. Learning from the COVID 19 Pandemic – we understand the importance of having strong communication channels between national bodies and local infrastructure.

Digital Drop Ins and Digital Inclusion
Community CVS is a member of the UK On-Line Centre Network, which is brought together by Good Things Foundation, the Online Centres Network is made up of thousands of grassroots organisations, all working to tackle digital and social exclusion by providing people with the skills and confidence they need to access digital technology. During the year, we have provided an open door policy for people to come Monday to Friday to the Boulevard Centre for basic IT support to help them with life issues. We have run 94 sessions this year. 73 Participants have taken part since April 2021. 7 of the participants have become Volunteer tutors. Almost all have completed the required modules in Learn My Way to develop their digital skills.

The Digital IT sessions in Clitheroe have been held every week for 1.5 – 2hrs and are volunteer led by an employability and career advisor volunteer and an IT expert volunteer. The Job Centre refers people to the sessions who are lacking digital skills but are also quite a long way from the labour market. The sessions help participants improve their general IT skills but also help them to acquire specific online job applications skills and other online services but also assist with employability skills and knowledge. In addition, we endeavour to assist participants to manage issues that are causing barriers to employment or issues that impact on their confidence and motivation and due to a lack of digital skills and digital resources many of the participants also have difficulty accessing their online Universal Credit account which we try to help with to minimise the risk of sanctioning.
Since April 2021 we have received 22 voluntary referrals from the Job Centre and 7 people had referred themselves either by responding to our advertisements or having come along to a session with an existing participant. The 7 people who self-referred are mostly people who are retired and are seeking help with digital skills to be able to do everyday tasks in this digital age. Of the 22 Job Centre referrals, 15 have regularly attended the sessions and made the following progress:

- 8 of them have found work (with 2 of them still attending sessions to develop their digital skills after starting work)
- 6 are still attending and job seeking
- 1 stopped attending but is not expected to have found employment.
- 1 person is seeking volunteering
- 1 person just needed help to print his CV
- 6 people are not job seeking but joined the group just to gain or improve their digital skills.

Population Health Mangement
Towards the end of the previous year, Community CVS worked alongside Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Primary Care Networks to allocate £69,950 in grants to the following organisations: Age UK Blackburn with Darwen / One Voice; Blackburn Community Foundation / Lancashire Wildlife Trust; Blackburn with Darwen Community Business; Blackburn Youth Zone; Care Network; Jubilee Tower Credit Union; and Neighbourhood Community Action.

During this period, the organisations delivered activity to contribute to the COVID 19 community response, but also to tackle health inequalities and the wider determinants of health. A report will be produced in the forthcoming year to summarise the impact of those projects.

SENDIASS
The Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service [SENDIASS] provides free, accurate and impartial information and support to children and young people between the ages of 0-25 and their parents to enable them to make informed decisions about special educational needs provision across the education, health and social care system.

The demand for the service and for wider support for families with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities continues to increase. We are working with hundreds of families and there is a need for CVS to explore with partners what we can collectively do to improve the support available locally.

Action: empowering people and organisations to achieve inclusive, sustainable growth

Business Advice and Enterprise Support
2021-2022 was the 2nd year where Community CVS provided business support to residents, VCFSE organisations and SMEs across Lancashire. During the year, Community CVS was a sub-contractor to Winning Pitch to deliver work as part of Boost Lancashire and

- Provided 12 hours business advice to 73 potential entrepreneurs to develop their business idea and be enterprise ready
- Provided 12 hours business advice to 18 new business start ups – which have started trading.

During the year, Community CVS started working alongside the Affilius Group and SELNET, on a DRIVE project and provided match funding towards the project. The project as a whole aims support over 200 new or existing businesses over the next two years to grow. The businesses can be within the private sector or charities / social enterprises. During the year,

- Provided 12 hours business advice to 11 potential entrepreneurs to develop their business idea and be enterprise ready
- Provided 12 hours business advice to 11 new business start ups or established businesses, the majority of whom were social enterprises.
- Provided business diagnostics to 2 social enterprises.

In addition, we provided additional training and support to the Rachel Shuttleworth Textiles Collection to help with establish a new social enterprise.

Employment Support: Action for Jobs
This was the 2nd year of our Strengthening Communities Passport to Health and Employment Project, which we have shortened the title to Action for Jobs. The project is to support those furthest away from the labour market and prioritise people living in Blackpool, Preston, Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn or Pendle, who are in the most deprived local authority areas in the country. The project is funded by the European Union's European Social Fund. We are working collaboratively with Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS and the Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde to deliver this project.

During 2021-2022, we have

- Recruited 332 unemployed or economically inactive residents (of whom 65 are aged 50+ (20%), 114 are from BME backgrounds (34%) and 149 are disabled/health condition (45%)).
- Supported 39 unemployed participants to move into work or self-employment; 54 participants to move into education or training upon leaving; and, 13 economically inactive residents to move into employment or job search. 106 participants (32%) achieved one of the three positive outcomes and many more reported positive changes to their circumstances from the support they received such as volunteering within the community, joining a new group activity, reporting improvements to their health and well-being, etc.

As at November 2022, the profile of the participants who had been supported through the project was: 49% having a physical or mental impairment or condition that has a long term negative impact on their ability to do normal activities; 42% consider themselves to have a disability that limits their ability to work; 73% live in a jobless household; 28% have dependent children and 10% dependent adults; 16% are lone parents; 21% have experience of the criminal justice system; and 31% are in recovery from alcohol or substance misuse. 55% of participants have no qualifications or a qualification at level 1 or below. 52% do not have an English qualification. The project is achieving its objective of reaching out to those furthest away from the labour market.

Kickstart: the Government initiative to support young people into work
During the 2021-2022, CVS supported 12 young people with work placements as part of the Government's kickstart programme. At the end of the programme, the majority of the young people progressed in further training or employment.

Resource: connecting, funding and developing the VCFSE Sector

Connecting and Communicating
In terms of communicating with the VCFSE Sector, during the 2021-2022 year we delivered the following electronic communications:
a) E Bulletins
a. 51 weekly bulletins with 8 special e-bulletins - more than 30% click a link and more than 10% open - which are both higher than industry standards
b. There were 274 subscribers at the beginning of the year and 319 by the end of the year, a 16% rise during the year.
b) Twitter
a. 145 tweets
b. 31,237 impressions
c. 6260 profile visits
d. 232 mentions
e. 58 new followers in the year
f. Current followers 2189
c) Facebook
a. Reach 28,470
d) Website
a. 20,934 visitors
b. 38,037 page views
e) CVS Network
a. 11 meetings (5 virtual and 6 face to face) attended by 207 people from across 128 VCFSE Sector and Public Sector organi
b. sations.
c. 992 e-mail communications sharing VCFSE and public sector information to the 280 contacts on the mailing list.

Advocating on behalf of the VCFSE Sector
Working with LACVS, the Voluntary Sector North West and othe VCFSE Lancashire leaders we continued to support the development of a Lancashire LOCAL VCFSE Manifesto with a final version due for publication later in 2023.

Upskilling the Health and Social Care Workforce Across Lancashire
In April 2021, the Department of Work and Pensions approved our £2.1million Upskilling the Health and Social Care Workforce Across Lancashire project. The project is to upskill Small to Medium Sized Enterprises in the VCFSE or private sectors who contribute towards improved health and well-being in its widest sense (i.e. the wider or social determinants of health). The upskilling is to prepare the organisations for the potential growth within the health economy. All organisations supported will undertake an organisational diagnostic to understand the business needs and priorities. From the diagnostic we will work with the management team to develop a training plan and then deliver training that meets the priorities of the organisation. We are working with LACVS partners and other infrastructure bodies across Lancashire on the project.
During the initial year of the project,

- Engaged with 62 VCFSE organisations or SMEs.
- Recruited 434 employees from those organisations to the project (26% male and 74% female – we are particularly focuses on helping females to improve their labour market status).
- 37% are aged 50+; 22% are from BME backgrounds; 9% disabled; 7% single parents with dependent children; and 12% employed without basic skills.
- 52 employees achieved a unit or full qualification at level 2 or below.
- 12 employees achieved a unit or full qualification at level 3 or above.

Volunteer: improving volunteer experiences by developing a quality volunteer eco-system.

Volunteer Centre
CVS runs the local Volunteer Centre, which is part of the national network of volunteer centres, which are quality accredited by NAVCA, our national body. During the year, we continued to deliver the five core functions of a Volunteer Centre:-
- Strategic Development
- Good Practice Development
- Developing Volunteering Opportunities
- Voice of Volunteering
- Brokerage

Working with LACVS, we are looking at ways to provide consistent volunteering infrastructure across Lancashire.

Fast 4wd
Fast 4wd is a CVS project that we have been delivering since 2010 to help people in treatment or recovery from alcohol or substance misuse to play an active role within their community as part of their recovery journey. We recruit, train and support residents, including those with lived experience, to volunteer as recovery support volunteers to help people in recovery. Recovery Support Volunteers volunteer across a wide range of organisations to support people in recovery. We also support people in recovery to access volunteer opportunities anywhere in our communities in roles that can utilise their skills, talents and experience.

During the year, the Blackburn with Darwen Public Health team put out to tender a new contract for the Substance Misuse Services in their entirety and included the provision that we called Fast 4wd. We talked to all potential prime contractors and were partners with the successful tender which was led by the Calico Group and included Early Break, IMO, Red Rose Recovery and ourselves as partners. Collectively, we are known as the Spark Recovery Collaborative and our role within the collaborative is to set up and manage a Community Assets Fund and support volunteering across the collaborative and build community links.

Community Volunteer Awards
The Community Volunteer Awards was held on 03rd November 2021 at King George's Hall. It was our best yet, we received 416 nominations and the awards panel had a very difficult time making decisions. It was the 1st time for a lot of people to come together since the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Winners were:

- Dorothy Greenwood (Health & Well Being – individual); Age UK BwD (Health & Well Being – organisation).
- Janet Ross (Prosperity & Learning – individual); Asian Carers Group (Prosperity & Learning – organisation).
- Hannah Goldthorpe (Grassroots Community Action – Individual); Radio Hospital Blackburn (Grassroots Community Action – organisation).
- Fiona Dunn (Young People – individual); Nightsafe (Young People – organisation).
- Peter Grogan (Environment – individual); Whitehall Park Supporters Group (Environment – organisation).
- Craig Walsh (Culture, Leisure & Sport – individual); BwD Bowls Partnership (Culture, Leisure & Sport – organisation).
- Aisha Mehboob (Lyndsay Dunn Award – individual); Neighbourhood Community Action (Lyndsay Dunn Award – organisation).
- Herbert Parkinson (Community Involvement); Blackburn Central High School (Renee Black Award); Brian Tull (Good Neighbour Award).
- Yaqoob Hussain (Volunteer of the Year Award); Rita Billington (Lifetime Achievement Award).
- Elizabeth Taylor and Graham Jones (CVS Special Award for Outstanding Service).

Volunteering Now Partnership
In November 2021, the Arts Council launched the Volunteering Futures Programme inviting organisations to apply to support high quality volunteering opportunities for young people and those that experience barriers to getting involved in volunteering across arts, heritage, museums, libraries, sport and other community settings. CVS worked with the Bureau Centre for the Arts and the local authority to pull together a partnership bid at short notice and submitted an expression of interest in December 2021 and a full bid by the January 2022 deadline. The partnership involves the following 17 organisations: Bureau Centre for the Arts (lead body), Community CVS (employing the partnership co-ordinator), Blackburn College, Blackburn Festival of Light, Blackburn Rovers Community Trust, Blackburn Youth Zone, British Textile Biennial, Council's library and museum service, Culturapedia, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Making Rooms, National Festival of Making, Prism Contemporary, Super Slow Way, Together an Active Future, Uncultured Creatives and the Strategic Youth Alliance.

In April 2022, we were one of 19 partnerships nationally to be successful and secured a £299,624. We were the only area in the North West. Our project will focus on supporting young adults aged 16 to 30 years old to volunteer within the arts and cultural sectors, sports and physical activity or the environment. Community CVS will employ the partnership co-ordinator and admin support, but they will be co-located at the Bureau Centre for the Arts. We will also provide training support for people on the project and helping to develop a volunteering digital platform.

b. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES/INCOME GENERATION

Community CVS continues to seek grant funding, contracts and service level agreements from national, regional and local partners to deliver services that are in keeping with our objectives and meet identified needs of the local community within Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire.

c. INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees retain funds in an interest bearing account and take advantage of the interest received albeit at currently low interest rates.

Financial review

a. GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. RESERVES POLICY

.Community CVS aims to hold free reserves of between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended on the core costs of the charity excluding funding which is primarily passed directly on in grants and specific service level agreements. This will enable current activities and liabilities to be met in the event of a significant drop in funding. The CVS Board of Trustees recognise the good progress that is being made in building our reserves and will look to strengthen them during the forthcoming year.

c. PRINCIPAL FUNDING

During the period, the principal funding was received from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the NHS and European Social Fund to undertake charitable activities, which are described in the Review of Activities. The European Social Fund grants are due to end on the 31st December 2023. As part of the Strategic Review process, the Senior Management Team are devising strategies, in consultation with staff, and to put before the CVS Board of Trustees for approval to replace these funding sources at the appropriate level to undertake future charitable activities that are linked to our strategy going forward.

Structure, governance and management

a. CONSTITUTION

The charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 6 December 1991, as amended by Special Resolution on 12 Feburary 1998, and on 16 December 2014. The charitable company is a registered charity number 1008190.

b. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

c. POLICIES ADOPTED FOR THE INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

A Trustee handbook, including roles and responsibilities, has been prepared for all new Trustees. All new trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive as part of the induction process and go through the Trustee handbook. Resources are available to support Trustees to meet their individual training needs to help them perform their duties as Trustees. Planning days are held with Trustees and staff on an annual basis.

d. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

During the year, the charity employed on average 42 staff to deliver our activities and projects.

All staff are responsible to the Chief Executive and ultimately, the trustees/directors. The trustees set the strategic framework within which the Chief Executive and management team operate.

The trustees meet as a minimum six times per year as a Board of Trustees and more when required. The trustees receive regular reports on all aspects of the organisation, including finance, human resources, marketing & communications, health & safety, service activities, quality & performance, etc.

e. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. These major risks are the impact of short term funding, changes in funding streams, changes to key personnel and changes in local and central government policy.

Plans for future periods

a. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

During the 2022-2023 period – we will undertake a strategic review to determine what our priorities will be in a world that is still recovering from the COVID 19 Pandemic, reeling from the cost of living crisis and potential global recession, facing greater inequalities, learning to using technology in different ways and stilling looking to get to grips with climate change. Globally, feels like a completely different world to the one prior to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Within the UK, we are readjusting to life outside of the European Union and struggling with political instability, economic uncertainty and social challenges that are pulling our community in opposite directions. Whilst we undertake the strategic review, during the next year, in addition to our normal Volunteering and VCFSE Support, the CVS Board of Trustees agreed to focus on three big ticket items – 'Health, Wealth and Equity'. Developments within each of these areas are as follows:

Volunteering and VCFSE Support

- Promoting VCFSE sector engagement in the national Third Sector Trends study and working with Professor Tony Chapman to do a strategic assessment in Blackburn with Darwen
- Engaging with CVS members and key stakeholders across the Borough to help shape what we do in the future.
- Engaging with BwD VCFSE Sector leaders to create a strategic co-ordinating group for Blackburn with Darwen
- Developing the Volunteering Now Partnership and exploring ways of widening the partnership or taking the learning from the partnership and applying it wider within the VCFSE Sector.

In December 2021, our national body NAVCA developed a new framework for its members, which focus on the following four pillars:

- Leadership and advocacy across diverse communities, bringing people together to have a stronger voice and influence, mobilising and encouraging community ambition and aspiration as a connecter and 'door opener' for the VCFSE Sector and local communities.
- Community development and practical support strengthening spaces and opportunities for people to come together to develop their goals and drive aspirations for their communities.
- Partnerships and Collaborations bringing together networks and connecting local voluntary and community organisations with each other and with strategic and systems partners, to create, pursue and implement opportunities for joint working.
- Encouraging and Nurturing Volunteering Leading and generating an expectation and culture in which volunteering can thrive.

We will incorporate the 4 pillars within our strategic review. The importance of working across multiple geographies is increasingly becoming important as life becomes more connected. It is important to emphasis and understand the multi-layered approach that CVS will need to develop to adapt to the increasingly complex world we operate within. CVS and the VCFSE Sector will need to be able to appropriate at the following levels:

- the grassroots neighbourhood level,
- the Borough level,
- the Pennine Lancashire level,
- the Lancashire or Lancashire and South Cumbria level,
- the North-West and North of England level; and,
- the national levels.

We need to develop strong partnerships both within the VCFSE Sector and across the sectors so we can work with both public and commercial sector partners at those levels.

Health

a) System Transformation
To look at ways to better engage VCFSE sector organisations in the transformation of the health system through the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership and the Blackburn with Darwen place based partnership. During the forthcoming year, Clinical Commissioning Groups will be formally disbanded and the Integrated Care Board and the new structures will become a reality. CVS will have to adjust and support the VCFSE sector within Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire and South Cumbria to make appropriate adjustments.

b) Bowel Cancer Screening Programme
In partnership with Blackpool NHS Teaching Hospital Trust and GP practices across Lancashire and South Cumbria, look to re-introduce Call for a Kit Clinics as soon as the NHS gives the 'green light' and develop other health promotion activity to engage with targeted populations that the NHS struggle to engage effectively with and are less likely to complete and return the kits – who the NHS classify as 'non-responders'.

c) Initial Response Service
In partnership with Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust, Spring North and Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, pilot embedding Community Well-Being Co-ordinators within the multi-agency team at The Mount in Accrington to support the 24 / 7 initial response service to make links with the wider VCFSE Sector to ensure referrals to the service have access to the right community solutions for them.

d) Population Health Management and the Art of Hosting
In partnership with the Integrated Care Board, explore ways for the VCFSE sector to be embedded in future approaches to population health management and explore using engagement approaches such as art of hosting, appreciative inquiry and others to look at ways of building community power and getting communities to take control of the health, wealth and equity within their communities.

e) Spark Recovery Collaborative
In partnership with the Spark Recovery Collaborative (Calico, Early Break, IMO and Red Rose Recovery), we will set up and manage a Community Asset Fund for the collaborative and help to recruit, train and support volunteers to support the collaborative and help the recovery community to become more active within the wider community.

f) Upskilling the Health and Social Care Workforce
In partnership with our LACVS partners, we will ramp up our training offer to VCFSE organisations and private SMEs across Lancashire to contribute to the social determinants of health.

g) Lancashire and Cumbria Health Equity Commission
We will consider the findings of the Lancashire and Cumbria Health Equity Commission once their report is published and explore ways that the VCFSE Sector can work with system partners to deliver those findings effectively.

Wealth
With the economic impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic, economic impact of Brexit and the cost of living crisis, Community Wealth Building and importance of building more equal economies is rising up the agenda. Socially, Economically and Environmentally there is a widening gap between 'the haves' and 'the have nots'.

a) Social Wealth
This contains the social fabric and the assets, skills, capabilities and talents with the community whether spatial (e.g. living in the same neighbourhood); communities of interest (e.g. sharing similar passions/activities/hobbies); communities of identity (e.g. sharing similar characteristics); or communities of circumstance (e.g. having similar lived experiences). The levels of human capital, social capital, institutional capital differ between communities – which determine what social wealth exists within that community.

We need to improve our understanding of all the different communities we serve, which will start with the strategic review and develop into how we engage and build strong relationships across our communities and build an evidence based approach to assessing the social wealth within our communities.

b) Economic Wealth
The economic consequences of Brexit, the COVID 19 Pandemic, the cost of living crisis and everything else we are facing are likely to impact on the lives of many people for a very long time.

In the short term, in relation to Enterprise, Employment and Skills – we will continue

- to develop our links to support more potential entrepreneurs to become 'enterprise ready',
- to help more businesses to start up, especially those located in deprived neighbourhoods,
- to support the set up and growth of charities and social enterprises
- to deliver the ESF Strengthening Communities Passport to Health and Employment (known as 'Action for Jobs') to help those furthest away from the labour market to move towards and into work
- to deliver training and develop the skills of people within our community
- to strengthen our working relationships with partners and support VCFSE Sector involvement across all areas of economic development, welfare to work, and education and training

Longer term we need to better understand the obstacles everyone are facing and develop clear pathways to help people, communities and organisations to improve their economic status and contribution they can make to Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire. We need to better understand our communities in relation to the six capital framework of the Levelling Up White Paper.

c) Environmental Wealth
The COVID 19 Pandemic put a spotlight on some of the environmental constraints and disparities within our communities where access to open green space was not open to everyone. We also have a climate emergency that we all need to respond to. Developing our environment wealth – the assets, skills, capabilities and talents at our disposal to be environmental aware and be able to choose and pursue sustainable options in our lives is increasingly important. CVS needs to be a catalyst for change within the VCFSE Sector to become more greener and help our communities to become greener.

Equity: providing targeted support to give everyone the chance to make the most of their lives

Communities of Place
Blackburn with Darwen continues to have too many neighbourhoods featuring in the most deprived in the country. CVS has a role to support the community anchor organisations within these neighbourhoods to support the social, economic and environmental development of their community. This will be explored more in the strategic review and through engaging with those community anchor organisations.

Communities of Identity
Whatever the protected characteristic, whether it is age, gender, disability, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, CVS has a role in helping those communities to self-organise and contribute socially, economically and environmentally to the life of the wider Blackburn with Darwen community. We know from our SENDIASS service that more needs to be done to support people with learning disabilities and autism. We know from engagement more needs to be done to support our LGBTQR communities. We know the BME communities and disabled communities were adversely impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic. There is lots of work to do done to remove obstacles and level the playing field for lots of communities.

Communities of Interest
One example, of a community of interest that may require further CVS support to help co-ordinate a better response is around economic inactivity. We need to collaborate with partners to develop clear pathways for supporting those furthest away from the labour market to progress in terms of economic inclusion and gaining meaningful work. 33% of Blackburn with Darwen's working age population is currently not in work. For the majority this is not a matter of choice – they have a shared interest in improving their economic situation. We will look to bring together relevant partners from across the VCFSE Sector to tackle this issue.

Communities of Circumstance
We will continue to support the Changing Futures Programme, which looks to transform provision to support adults experiencing multiple disadvantage (e.g. homelessness, contact with the criminal justice system, alcohol or substance misuse, mental health, domestic abuse) and provide a link between the public sector and the VCFSE Sector and community assets. We will also start working on the legacy from the programme and how we can sustain change across the system.

THANK YOU
A BIG Thank you to everyone who supports us
We would like to thank our commissioners, grant funders, sponsors, public sector, VCFSE Sector and Private Sector partners, including:-

- Afflilius Group
- Age UK Blackburn with Darwen
- Al Imdaad Foundation
- BBC Radio Lancashire
- Blackburn and Darwen Junior Brass Band
- Blackburn College
- Blackburn Foodbank
- Blackburn Rovers Community Trust

- Blackburn Rovers FC
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service
- Blackburn with Darwen Hive Network
- Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum
- Blackburn Youth Zone
- Brian Mercer Trust
- Bureau Centre for the Arts CIC
- Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS
- Calico Group
- Care Station Northwest
- CGL Inspire
- Community and Business Partners CIC
- Department for Work and Pensions (European Union)
- DPM Security
- Early Break
- East Lancashire Hospice
- Eric Wright Charitable Trust
- Farleys Solicitors LLP
- Good Things Foundation
- Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen
- Herbert Parkinsons (part of the John Lewis Partnership)
- Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS
- IMO
- Lancashire Association of CVSs
- Lancashire BME Network
- Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Lancashire Women
- Lancaster District CVS
- McDonalds
- Morrisons PLC
- National Children's Bureau / Council for Disabled Children / DFE
- NAVCA and the VCS Emergencies Partnership
- Newground Together
- NHS - the Clinical Commissioning Groups in Blackburn with Darwen and East Lancashire and Richmond Medical Practice
- NHS - Blackpool NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust,
- NHS - East Lancashire NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust
- NHS – NHS England
- NHS – Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
- Nightsafe
- Red Rose Recovery Lancashire
- SELNET
- Shelter
- Spring North
- Suez Recycling
- Star Tissue UK
- The Well-Being Farm
- Tristar Printers, Sign & Display
- Trueman Change
- VOICE
- Voluntary Sector North West
- Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde
- West Lancashire CVS

- Winning Pitch
- Wish Centre – Blackburn and Darwen District Without Abuse

MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees (who are also directors of Blackburn with Darwen Counci for Voluntary Service for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 22 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee SC Ford Butler

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 set out on pages 22 to 38. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in

doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focussed on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Charities Act 2011;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- we identified laws and regulations which were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures on material balances for which robust, substantive analytical procedures have been undertaken to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of noncompliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mark Heaton FCCA Dcha (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

KM

1st Floor
Block C
The Wharf, Manchester Road
Burnley
Lancashire
BB11 1JG
22 December 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	-	3,842	3,842	*17,535*
Charitable activities	3	944,356	450,394	1,394,750	*748,552*
Other trading activities	4	-	90,332	90,332	*65,150*
Investments	5	-	257	257	*29*
Other income	6	-	-	-	*122,529*
TOTAL INCOME		944,356	544,825	1,489,181	*953,795*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	8	926,310	468,437	1,394,747	*879,139*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9	926,310	468,437	1,394,747	*879,139*
NET INCOME BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		18,046	76,388	94,434	*74,656*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		18,046	76,388	94,434	*74,656*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		1,437,119	509,309	1,946,428	*1,871,772*
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,455,165	585,697	2,040,862	*1,946,428*

The notes on pages 24 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 2668971

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12		**1,935,387**		*1,985,384*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	**775,948**		*375,667*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**22,424**		*170,117*	
		798,372		*545,784*	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(193,915)**		*(53,431)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**604,457**		*492,353*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**2,539,844**		*2,477,737*
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		**(498,982)**		*(531,309)*
NET ASSETS			**2,040,862**		*1,946,428*
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	16		**1,455,165**		*1,437,119*
Unrestricted funds	16		**585,697**		*509,309*
TOTAL FUNDS			**2,040,862**		*1,946,428*

The charity's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 22 December 2022 and signed on their behalf, by:

Trustee S Gallagher **Trustee**

The notes on pages 24 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

1.3 Going concern

No material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the company to continue as a going concern have been identified by the directors.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	-	2% straight line
Office equipment	-	25% straight line

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.12 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Donations	-	**3,842**	**3,842**	*17,535*
Total 2021	-	*17,535*	*17,535*	

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Grants and service level agreements	**944,356**	**450,394**	**1,394,750**	*748,552*
Total 2021	*255,502*	*493,050*	*748,552*	

GRANTS AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
BwD Borough Council	-	30,000	30,000	*30,000*
BwD BC Children's Services	-	56,000	56,000	*28,000*
NHS	-	180,279	180,279	*293,992*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth with Whitebirk Commmunity Grant Fund	-	-	-	*11,025*
BWD BC - Changing Futures	-	11,333	11,333	-
NCB Independent Supporters SENDIASS	-	10,000	10,000	*31,881*
ESF SCPHE Action for Jobs	263,588	-	263,588	*172,877*
ESF Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	670,775	-	670,775	*8,600*
Spring North Ltd	-	36,754	36,754	*45,889*
Winning Pitch - Boost Sub Contract	-	36,400	36,400	*17,828*
Affilius	-	29,341	29,341	-
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	4,750	-	4,750	*9,500*
Blackburn Foodbank	-	-	-	*45,460*
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	-	-	-	*40,000*
DWP	-	60,287	60,287	-
Good Things Foundation	5,243	-	5,243	*13,500*
Total	944,356	450,394	1,394,750	*748,552*

4. RENT, ROOM HIRE AND OFFICE SERVICES

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Rent, room hire and office services	-	79,683	79,683	*65,150*
Consultancy and training fees	-	10,649	10,649	-
	-	90,332	90,332	*65,150*
Total 2021	-	*65,150*	*65,150*	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Bank interest receivable	-	257	257	*29*
Total 2021	*-*	*29*	*29*	

6. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Funding for CJRS/Marketing and design etc	-	-	-	*122,529*
Total 2021	*-*	*122,529*	*122,529*	

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	Grants to Institutions 2022 £	Total 2022 £	*Total 2021 £*
Big Local Shadsworth with Whitebirk	-	-	*403*
Grants, Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust/SFA	6,431	6,431	*6,445*
Grants Community Fund - Eric Wright Charitable Trust	11,960	11,960	-
Grants, NHS Population Health Management	69,950	69,950	-
	88,341	88,341	*6,848*
Total 2021	*6,848*	*6,848*	

In 2021, unrestricted expenditure on grants payable was £ Nil and restricted expenditure was £6,848

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Accountancy and professional fees	-	7,136	7,136	*1,400*
Auditor's remuneration	-	3,000	3,000	*-*
Mortgage interest	12,215	-	12,215	*22,780*
Total	12,215	10,136	22,351	*24,180*

In 2021, unrestricted expenditure on governance costs was £1,400 and restricted expenditure on mortgage interest of £22,780.

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff costs 2022 £	Depreciation 2022 £	Other costs 2022 £	Total 2022 £	*Total 2021 £*
Central Services (including Boulevard Centre)	35,836	-	-	35,836	*314,427*
Commissioned Services	265,421	-	69,950	335,371	*228,921*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	-	-	-	-	*3,528*
Big Lottery - Volunteer Co-ordinator Post/Ways to Wellbeing	-	-	-	-	*47,164*
Community Fund - Brian Mercer CT/Eric Wright CT	1,125	-	24,822	25,947	*6,445*
Good Things Foundation	5,244	-	-	5,244	*13,500*
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	4,750	-	11,960	16,710	*9,500*
DWP-ESF-SCPHE Action for Jobs	306,982	-	70,688	377,670	*172,877*
DWP - ESF Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	265,421	-	260,200	525,621	*8,600*
Capital projects	-	49,997	-	49,997	*49,997*
Charitable activities	884,779	49,997	437,620	1,372,396	*854,959*
Expenditure on governance	-	-	22,351	22,351	*24,180*
Total 2022	884,779	49,997	459,971	1,394,747	*879,139*
Total 2021	*646,128*	*49,997*	*183,014*	*879,139*	

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	**49,997**	*49,997*
Auditors' remuneration - audit	**3,000**	*-*
Independent Examiner's fees	**-**	*1,400*

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2021 - £NIL).
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2021 - £NIL).
During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2021 - £NIL).

11. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**777,865**	*568,518*
Social security costs	**61,140**	*42,967*
Other pension costs	**45,774**	*34,643*
	884,779	*646,128*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	**42**	*30*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel totalled £232,883 - 6 employees (2021 - £212,009 - 5 employees)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	**2,468,608**	**195,741**	**2,664,349**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	**484,474**	**194,491**	**678,965**
Charge for the year	**49,372**	**625**	**49,997**
At 31 March 2022	**533,846**	**195,116**	**728,962**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	**1,934,762**	**625**	**1,935,387**
At 31 March 2021	*1,984,134*	*1,250*	*1,985,384*

13. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	**90,733**	*117,180*
Prepayments	**5,840**	*5,323*
Accrued income	**679,375**	*253,164*
	775,948	*375,667*

14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	**24,000**	*14,003*
Trade creditors	**46,983**	*14,143*
Other taxation and social security	**24,537**	*19,922*
Other creditors	**241**	*97*
Accruals and deferred income	**98,154**	*5,266*
	193,915	*53,431*

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Bank loans	**498,982**	*531,309*

Creditors include amounts not wholly repayable within 5 years as follows:

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Repayable by instalments	**402,982**	*475,297*

The mortgage is secured against the property at 35-37 and 45 Railway Road, Blackburn

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers in/out	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Match funding projects	**66,856**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**66,856**
Business continuity and redundancy costs	**40,000**	**-**	**-**	**60,000**	**100,000**
Boulevard Centre costs	**10,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10,000**
	116,856	**-**	**-**	**60,000**	**176,856**
General funds					
General Fund	**392,453**	**544,825**	**(468,437)**	**(191,103)**	**277,738**
Fixed Asset Fund	**-**	**-**	**-**	**131,103**	**131,103**
	392,453	**544,825**	**(468,437)**	**(60,000)**	**408,841**
Total Unrestricted funds	**509,309**	**544,825**	**(468,437)**	**-**	**585,697**

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds

ERDF - Building (from previous years)	72,900	-	(2,187)	-	70,713
Change Up	45,076	-	(1,352)	-	43,724
DCSF - Co-Location Fund	656,790	-	(52,543)	-	604,247
Capacitybuilders - Capital Investment Programme Strand C	374,100	-	(7,482)	-	366,618
BwD BC Housing Grant	200,000	-	(4,000)	-	196,000
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	2,363	-	-	-	2,363
ESF - DWP - SCPHE - Action for Jobs	-	263,588	(263,588)	-	-
ESF - DWP - Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	-	670,775	(565,649)	-	105,126
Good Things Foundation - Future Digital Inclusion	-	5,243	(5,243)	-	-
NAVCA Emergency Partnership	-	4,750	(4,750)	-	-
Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	72,805	-	(6,431)	-	66,374
Community Fund - Eric Wright Charitable Trust	13,085	-	(13,085)	-	-
	1,437,119	944,356	(926,310)	-	1,455,165
Total of funds	1,946,428	1,489,181	(1,394,747)	-	2,040,862

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Match funding projects - this designated fund is held to provide match funding to current projects and to be held to support future projects that may require match funding.

Business continuity and redundancy costs - this designated fund is held to cover any or all business continuity or redundancy costs should our contracts or grants be terminated at short notice.

Boulevard centre costs - this designated fund is held to cover any unplanned capital works required to maintain the Boulevard Centre or the Community Hub.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

ERDF building - In 2005, the charity was awarded an ERDF capital grant of £112,500 towards the acquisition of 45 Railway Road, BLACKBURN BB1 1EZ with the intention of converting the premises into a third sector resource centre. The building was purchased in April 2006.

Change up -In 2005, the charity was awarded a capital grant of £19,555 towards the acquisition of 45 Railway Road, BLACKBURN BB1 1EZ with the intention of converting the premises into a third sector resource centre. The building was purchased in April 2006.

DCSF - Co Location fund - -In April 2009, in partnership with the local authority we submitted an expression of interest into the Governments Co-Location Fund to create a Community Resource Centre. We were eventually awarded £1,155,000 towards the capital scheme. The façade of the building was retained, but everything else behind the façade was demolished and replaced by a new purpose-built

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

building. The building was re-named the Boulevard Centre and opened in September 2011.

Capacitybuilders - Capital Investment Programme Strand C - In March 2009, we submitted an expression of interest to Capacitybuilders Capital Investment Programme Strand C – for flagship schemes to develop third sector resource centres. We were eventually awarded a £500,000 grant, which was the largest allocation allowed. The façade of the building was retained, but everything else behind the façade was demolished and replaced by a new purpose-built building. The building was re-named the Boulevard Centre and opened in September 2011.

BWD BC Housing Grant - In 2009, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council committed £250,000 from its Housing grant towards the Resource Centre scheme, which would create a purpose build Day Centre and Night Shelter for young people who are homeless, which will be managed by Nightsafe. The façade of the building was retained, but everything else behind the façade was demolished and replaced by a new purpose-built building. The building was re-named the Boulevard Centre and opened in September 2011.

Big Local Trust - Shadsworth & Whitebirk Community Grant - Blackburn with Darwen CVS is a local trusted organisation on behalf of the national Big Local Trust and the local residents of Shadsworth with Whitebirk. Our role was to manage a small grants scheme, which ran from the inception of the Big Local Partnership in Shadsworth with Whitebirk.

ESF - DWP - SCPHE - Action for jobs - In August 2020, the Department for Work and Pensions approved our European Social Fund application to help those furthest away from the labour market to improve their employability and move them into jobs, education and training or job search (if they are economically in active). The grant is worth £1.280,735 and we are delivering it in partnership with other CVS's, Volunteer Centres and equality networks across Lancashire. The project will run until 31st December 2023 when the European Programme officially closes within the UK following our departure from the European Union.

ESF - DWP - Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce - In April 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions approved our European Social Fund Application – which aims to upskill people employed in SMEs (Small to Medium Sized Enterprises) within the charitable and private sectors by providing basic skills, units or full qualifications at level 2 or below or units or full qualifications at level 3 or above. The grant is worth £2,134,180. The project will run until 31st December 2023 when the European Programme officially closes within the UK following our departure from the European Union.

Good Things Foundation - This programme was funded by the Department for Education and involves CVS providing support over a 4 week period to complete 4 of the following 8 units:

- Week 1: Using the Internet; On-Line safety.
- Week 2: Using E-mail; Using On-Line Forms.
- Week 3: Using Facebook; Using Search Engines.
- Week 4: Creating Documents; On-Line Shopping.

In 2021-2022, the programme was ending and we were provided with tapering funding to support those who had already enrolled on the provision in March 2022.

NAVCA Emergency Partnership - the grant has been awarded for the Community CVS CEO to act as a local liaison lead to link local infrastructure organisations across Lancashire into the North Cell of the National VCS Emergencies Partnership.

Brian Mercer Charitable Trust - a partnership between the local authority, the Brian Mercer Trust and Community CVS. The Brian Mercer Trust has agreed to provide up to £40,000 per year towards the Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund, which is aimed at supporting small volunteer run community groups to contribute to the health and well-being of local people. CVS will manage and promote the fund on behalf of the partnership.

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Eric Wright Charitable Trust - the charity has periodically made financial contributions towards the Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund for CVS to distribute as grants to local community groups and charities to improve the health and well-being of local people.

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Balance at 31 March 2021* £
Designated funds				
Match funding projects	*66,856*	-	-	*66,856*
Business continuity and redundancy costs	*40,000*	-	-	*40,000*
Boulevard Centre costs	*10,000*	-	-	*10,000*
	116,856	-	-	*116,856*
General Fund	*238,908*	*698,293*	*(544,748)*	*392,453*
Restricted funds				
ERDF - Building (from previous years)	*74,925*	-	*(2,025)*	*72,900*
Change Up	*46,363*	-	*(1,287)*	*45,076*
DCSF - Co-Location Fund	*711,743*	-	*(54,953)*	*656,790*
Capacitybuilders - Capital Investment Programme Strand C	*383,612*	-	*(9,512)*	*374,100*
BwD BC Housing Grant	*205,000*	-	*(5,000)*	*200,000*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	*(5,134)*	*11,025*	*(3,528)*	*2,363*
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	-	*9,500*	*(9,500)*	-
National Lottery Community Fund (was Big Lottery) - Ways to Wellbeing	*47,164*	-	*(47,164)*	-
ESF - DWP - SCPHE - Action for Jobs	-	*172,877*	*(172,877)*	-
ESF - DWP - Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	-	*8,600*	*(8,600)*	-
Good Things Foundation - Future Digital Inclusion	-	*13,500*	*(13,500)*	-
Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	*39,250*	*40,000*	*(6,445)*	*72,805*
Community Fund - Eric Wright Charitable Trust	*13,085*	-	-	*13,085*
	1,516,008	*255,502*	*(334,391)*	*1,437,119*
Total of funds	*1,871,772*	*953,795*	*(879,139)*	*1,946,428*

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds	116,856	-	-	60,000	176,856
General funds	392,453	544,825	(468,437)	(60,000)	408,841
	509,309	544,825	(468,437)	-	585,697
Restricted funds	1,437,119	944,356	(926,310)	-	1,455,165
	1,946,428	1,489,181	(1,394,747)	-	2,040,862

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Balance at 31 March 2021* £
Designated funds	*116,856*	-	-	*116,856*
General funds	*238,908*	*698,293*	*(544,748)*	*392,453*
	355,764	*698,293*	*(544,748)*	*509,309*
Restricted funds	*1,516,008*	*255,502*	*(334,391)*	*1,437,119*
	1,871,772	*953,795*	*(879,139)*	*1,946,428*

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,281,302	654,085	1,935,387
Current assets	173,863	624,509	798,372
Creditors due within one year	-	(193,915)	(193,915)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(498,982)	(498,982)
	1,455,165	585,697	2,040,862

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Restricted funds 2021 £	*Unrestricted funds 2021* £	*Total funds 2021* £
Tangible fixed assets	*1,422,483*	*562,901*	*1,985,384*
Current assets	*14,636*	*531,148*	*545,784*
Creditors due within one year	-	*(53,431)*	*(53,431)*
Creditors due in more than one year	-	*(531,309)*	*(531,309)*
	1,437,119	*509,309*	*1,946,428*

18. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity and the group operates a defined contributions pension scheme through TPT Retirement Solutions.
The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £45,774 (2021 - £34,643). Contributions totalling £Nil (2021 - £Nil) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is a corporate trustee of three charitable incorporated organisations, Blackburn Community Foundation, Darwen Community Foundation and Neighbourhood Community Action. During the financial year, the following transactions were undertaken between the organisations: Blackburn Community Foundation – Nil (2021 £nil); Darwen Community Foundation received a donation of £100 (2021 - £nil); Neighbourhood Community Action received a donation of £100 from CVS and a grant of £16,500 from the NHS Population Health Management Grant Programme, which Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service manages (2021 - £nil). The three charitable incorporated organisations are managed at arms' length of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service.

Roger Duckworth, who is a trustee of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a trustee of the Brian Mercer Trust. Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service manage a grant fund called the Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund that is supported by the Brian Mercer Trust. Roger Duckworth sits on the grant panel that makes decision on how the grants are allocated.

Sajida Shah, who is a trustee of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a committee member of the Kiran Ladies Group. During the year, the Kiran Ladies Group received a grant of £495 from the Community Fund. Sajida was not involved in the grant panel that made that award.

Garth Hodgkinson, CEO of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a trustee and/or director of Care Network, Neighbourhood Community Action, BwD Community Business and Jubilee Tower Credit Union. These organisations received grants that are managed by Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service. Garth Hodgkinson declared a conflict of interest at the meeting where the grant applications were considered and did not take part in the decision-making relating to these grants.

Garth Hodgkinson, CEO of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service is also a trustee and/or a director of Blackburn Community Foundation, Darwen Community Foundation and Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service. During the year, Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service received Kickstart payments for the young people we have supported from Lancashire Association of Councils for Voluntary Service totalling £59,363 (2021 £nil).

20. CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1008190

Accounts

APPENDIX A: TRUSTEES REPORT ON OUR STRATEGY, REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

CONNECTING PEOPLE, GROWING COMMUNITIES

Our strategic framework guides everything we do.

Our Vision

"To create a more prosperous, equitable, active and greener Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire".

How?

Inspiring people & organisations to action: through volunteering, through donating money or resources to make a positive contribution to the life of the community.

Connecting people & organisations across all sections of society: helping to create the social networks across our communities and sectors to instigate positive change.

Influencing decision makers: to listen to local residents, charities, community groups and social enterprises, who have a **voice** to shape key decisions about the local community.

Developing the capabilities of existing organisations: to have a bigger impact within our communities and helping new businesses, charities and social enterprises to set up in response to local needs.

Targeting our support: to the most vulnerable within society and to the more deprived neighbourhoods within our community.

Our Values

Community Stewardship: valuing service to the community over self-interest and believing everyone has a responsibility to support positive social change for our community now and in the future.

Co-operation: valuing people and organisations collaboratively working together for the benefit of our communities.

Fairness: valuing social justice, equality and solidarity, striving to make a more equal society as a way of supporting the social, economic and environmental well-being of everyone within our communities.

Voluntary Action: valuing people and organisations giving their time freely to help other people within our communities.

Willingness to Listen, Learn & Innovate: valuing trying new ideas and new approaches to tackling some of the deep seated socio-economic and environmental challenges that our communities face

Our Mission:

“To support individuals, organisations and communities to achieve their full potential”

Our Strategic Objectives

- **Support:** helping people to access services and improve their quality of life
- **Action:** empowering people and organisations to achieve inclusive, sustainable growth
- **Resource:** connecting, funding and developing the VCFSE Sector
- **Volunteer:** improving volunteer experiences by developing a quality volunteer eco-system.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Before reviewing our activities over the past year using our four building blocks of what we are about – we need to report on our and VCFSE Sector activities that have taken place as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic, which has impacted on every community across the globe during 2020-2021.

COVID 19

On the 23rd March 2020, the Prime Minister announced the 1st national lockdown within the UK, which legally came into force on the 26th March 2020. From 10th May 2020, a plan to lift the lockdown in phases during June was introduced. Local lockdowns began in July 2020 with Leicester being the first area, closely followed by Blackburn with Darwen. In August, the 'eat out to help out' initiative was introduced to help the hospitality sector. In September, the situation began to deteriorate again and the Government introduced a three-tier system in October in England and announced another national lockdown, the 4 week circuit breaker, which ran from the 05th November until the 2nd December 2020. Following a short break over the Christmas period, a third national lockdown was introduced on the 06th January 2021 with many of the restrictions continuing until the 12th April 2021. Below we describe how the local authority, CVS and the wider VCFSE sector responded to the Pandemic, which has been truly amazing. The response below is only the tip of the iceberg. We know many more charities, community groups, faith groups and social enterprises will have made significant contributions in supporting our communities.

BwD Help Hub

The local authority very quickly set up a local help hub to support those in need. The CVS CEO volunteered alongside the CEO of the Care Network to support Council officers to co-ordinate activity. From 30th March 2020 until 26th April 2020, the help hub panel meet twice daily during the week and once daily at weekends to allocate requests for support. After that date, the council had developed a more automated system.

Campaign to Support the VCFSE Sector

The CVS response was that the VCFSE Sector needed extra resources quickly to help to respond to the crisis. In March/April 2020, CVS joined the national #everydaycounts campaign to bring resources into the VCFSE Sector to support our response to COVID 19. We wrote to every Lancashire MP and got their support to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask for support on behalf of the VCFSE Sector. We wish to acknowledge the support of all the local MPs across Lancashire and thank them for their support, which managed to persuade HM Treasury to release a £750million package of support for charities at the national level. It also persuaded the National Lottery and other national grant funders to change their grant programmes to focus on the COVID 19 community response (more detailed in the Resource section).

BwD VCFSE Sector Crisis Response Emergency Food Group (known as 'Nourish')

Whilst waiting for the Government's national response, Community CVS members and other local VCFSE organisations were at the forefront of the Borough's partnership response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. At the end of March 2020, the local authority's Community Support Unit set up the BwD VCFSE Sector Crisis Response Emergency Food Group, which is known as Nourish, to pool resources and ensure an effective and efficient response to charitable food distribution as a full partner in the developing BwD Help Hub. It is important

that we acknowledge and celebrate the considerable support provided by charities, community groups, faith groups and social enterprises within the Borough.

Here are some of the VCFSE partners that have been involved in delivering hot meals and food parcels during the initial phase of the COVID 19 Pandemic from March 2020 to the end of July 2020.

Tauheedal Islamic Girls High School (TIGHS) have cooked and distributed over **8,000** meals up to the end of July. They have provided meals to ARC project, Children's services, Nightsafe and asylum seekers and refugees.

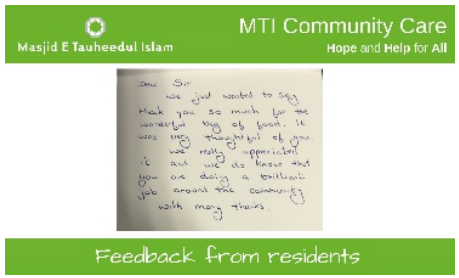
Over the summer holidays, working with the Olive Primary School they committed to supplying **100** meals per week for Youth Action as part of the Holiday hunger programme.

During the initial phase, **Westholme School** have made **7,609** hot meals which have been distributed to Newground Together, Age UK Blackburn with Darwen, BwD Carers Service, the Wish centre, Blackburn Youth Zone, THOMAS and Ivy St Community Centre. Again, during the summer holiday period – they continued to support families by providing meals throughout the school holidays in partnership with Spring North.

Feedback from a family who received food from Blackburn Youth Zone "I would like to say that they have been brilliant in delivering hot food daily and that it was a life saver. I relied on that hot meal to feed my children being worried of not having enough to feed them

during the day put a lot of pressure on me and I am grateful that they could help me. My young children waited every day anxiously to see what treat they would get as they really enjoyed the delicious food and thank you for referring me to them thanks”

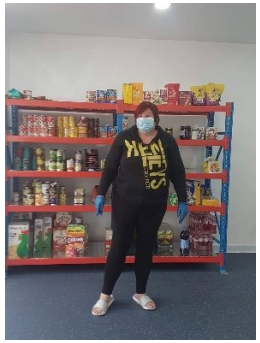
MTI Community Care have been providing support to vulnerable, elderly and isolated families in Blackburn and surrounding areas. During the initial phase, they have offered support with providing **2,727** hot meals to the local community and **220** food parcels



Community and Business Partners CIC (CBP) at the Energy Zone have distributed **6,000** emergency food parcels to residents within Blackburn with Darwen during the initial phase. “I just want to say again how truly grateful I am for your services. I feel terrible turning up every day but honestly, you are truly a lifesaver for me and my children. Thank you again so much x”. “Thank you so much for the food! 😊My son and I really appreciate it! “Collected a family food portion yesterday wow I couldn't believe how much stuff there was. It has definitely helped me during this hard time 💜friendly and welcoming staff. Thank you”

IMO Charity supported residents by providing 733 food packs and over **700** hot meals during the initial phase.

Health Living have delivered a total of **700** parcels with **499** delivered from Big Local and **201** from Local Conversations, In addition to the parcels that have delivered to households, they have distributed short dated stock directly from both locations, via a pub in Livesey and a church in Darwen totalling **600** households.



Feedback from people receiving parcels. One gentleman we delivered to in Higher Croft had not seen anyone in 6 weeks and burst into tears when he met our volunteer at the door.
Thank u so so much for my parcel today means so much to me and my family the love of the community coming together to help people out is amazing so thanks again ❤️🌈.
Cannot thankyou enough for taking all that food to uncle dave, bless you he was so thrilled, thankyou it will last him quite some time from what he's said x

Blackburn Foodbank over the course of the pandemic have switched their operation from face to face to being phone based with home delivery. They fulfilled **1,619** vouchers providing food for **2,416** adults and **1,999** children throughout Blackburn and Darwen. With the help and support of Blackburn Rovers Community Trust and minibuses supplied by Blackburn Youth Zone and St Augustine's School, they successfully [illegible] **39,735** meals to Foodbank customers in the Community.

Blackburn Youth Zone [illegible]ed collaboratively and supported the distribution of **10,120** meals to members[illegible]munity in need during the initial phase of the COVID-19 crisis. Through the initial phase of the crisis they have run 2 large campaigns - 'Zone to Home' and 'The Big Iftar' each of these provided **500** families with the ingredients and recipes to allow them to have fun together through cooking a meal.

Rebeca Ramsay, Our Community, Our Future programme manager said *"It was wonderful to see so many people sharing a meal together in this new way. The current lockdown is a difficult time for so many people, but we've shown that as a community we can still come together, and support one another"*

Benefit Mankind Volunteers have been supporting the elderly who may be self-isolating

across Lancashire in partnership with Buncer Lane Pharmacy, Blackburn to deliver **over 200** food packs daily across the county. An emergency hotline was setup where anyone requesting a food parcel could have it delivered to their home.

Youth Action supported residents by providing **2,115** food packs, **865** hot meals to residents, and **60 home growing kits** so that families can grow their own food.

Summary: Collectively the BwD VCFSE Sector Crisis Response Emergency Food Group have collectively delivered over **36,600** hot meals and **25,800** food parcels to people in need within Blackburn with Darwen during the initial phase of the COVID 19 Pandemic from March 2020 until the end of July 2020. In addition to this, many community organisations provided more localised support, such as the volunteer managed community centres, SEBS, Darwen Food Larder and many more.

Tackling Social Isolation and Offering Mutual Support

Throughout 2020-2021, lots of residents needed reassurance due to the isolating effect of COVID 19 Pandemic. A few examples of how charities responded include:

- Age UK Blackburn with Darwen launched a COVID 19 Well-Being Service providing practical, emotional and social support to 1382 older people during the year. This included over 800 new referrals from the BwD Help Hub. The service was delivered remotely by staff and volunteers.

- BwD Carers Service quickly moved their support on-line. They distributed activity kits and pamper kits and put a wide range of social activities on-line on MS Teams and Zoom, including arts and craft sessions, coffee mornings, quiz nights, creative writing workshops, food workshops, musicals, make up parties. You name it – I think the Carers Service did it! The number of carers and their families that they supported runs into the thousands.

- Care Network also moved their support to a remote offer. The Care Network Hub was closed throughout the period, but the staff team did welfare calls and e-mails to 2500 of their most vulnerable customers. They also supported 542 households, who were new to Care Network, who had been referred for support from the BwD Help Hub.

- Community CVS having closed their doors from March to June decided that there was a real need for a face to face point of support for members of our community that struggled to access support on-line/remotely. We ensured our buildings where COVID 19 compliant and started to deliver digital drop ins on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help people get on-line. We opened the Community Hub in the evenings and weekends to allow 5 mutual aid groups (AA, CA, NA, etc.) to meet face to face whilst adhering to the strict COVID 19 guidelines. We also provided 1-2-1 support on an appointment basis to 104 BwD residents helping them with practical support and employment support.

National VCS Emergencies Partnership

Linking national efforts with the local responses described above.

In April 2020, Community CVS was invited to on-line meetings to discuss how the national VCS Emergencies Partnership could best work alongside Local Infrastructure Organisations across England to support local community responses to the Covid 19 pandemic. The national VCS Emergencies Partnership had been set up in 2017 in response to the Grenfell Disaster. The national VCS Emergencies Partnership is co-chaired by the British Red Cross and NAVCA and also contains as members such as Business in the Community, Community Foundations UK, Fareshare, Muslim Aid, the National Emergencies Trust, NCVO, Re:Act, the Salvation Army, St John's Ambulance, Victims Support and Volunteering Matters.

The CEO of Community CVS, alongside the CEO of Lancashire BME Network volunteered to act as the Lancashire Local Liaison Officers with a brief to liaise between the 8 local infrastructure bodies and the national support structures and identify any unmet needs at the local level where national support could help to fill. Over the year, we attended weekly or fortnightly meetings of the North Multi-Agency Cell sharing information and co-ordinating efforts across the VCS Sector.

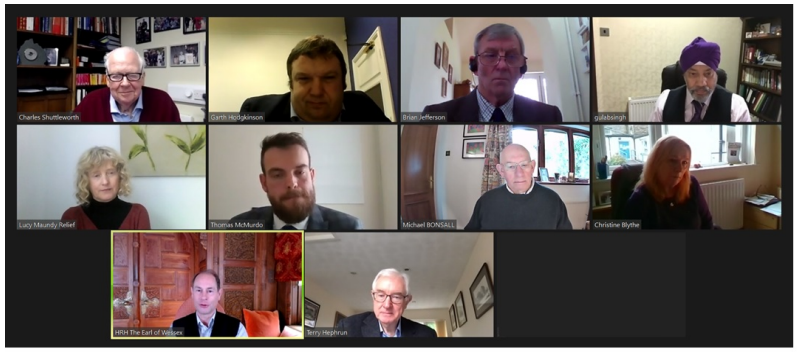
Community Swabbing and the Community Test Programme

In August 2020, the 3 CVSs in Pennine Lancashire began working with the Richmond Medical Practice to recruit and train volunteers to become paid sessional workers to help with Community Swabbing and the Community Test Programme. Within a week of being

asked, we mobilised over 100 people to express an interest in being trained for the roles. Following the training sessions, Community CVS has employed 17 sessional community swabbers from September 2020 until March 2021.

Royal Visit

On the 20th November 2020, Community CVS, alongside other charities from across Lancashire, was asked to participate in an on-line Royal Visit with HRH Duke of Wessex to explain the fantastic work that the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector is doing in response to the COVID 19 Pandemic across Lancashire. He was definitely appreciative of the work going on in Lancashire as part of the COVID community response.



Lancashire COVID 19 Community Support Fund

SEBS Case Study

South East Blackburn Community Food Club was set up in 2017 to help families access affordable food. When COVID struck, SEBS approached CVS for help to respond to the crisis and access PPE equipment, storage containers and to buy a van so that they can distribute more food over a larger area.

We ensured they had all the information and policies in place that a funder would require and helped them to apply for funding to Lancashire COVID 19 Community Support Fund, to buy a van.

Community CVS promoted and supported local VCFSE groups to tap into the Lancashire COVID 19 Community Support Fund, which was managed by the Community Foundation for Lancashire, who were fantastic in how they set up the fund so quickly and made it easy to access.

For the period – 22nd March 20 to 01st Feb 21, Blackburn with Darwen VCFSE organisations accessed £267,817 to support 54 projects benefiting 59,753 people. The BwD VCFSE Sector supported more people than anywhere else in Lancashire. We are thankful for the support of the Community Foundation for Lancashire and its donors and funders.

Digital Drop Ins and Digital Inclusion

CVS is part of the UK On-Line Centres Network, which is supported by the Good Things Foundation. During the year, we operated digital drop ins in Blackburn on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a drop in at Clitheroe on Fridays. Due to COVID 19, people had to book a slot in advance and there were only six people who could access support at any one time. We provided the following:-

- **Initial Help and Support**
  Helping anyone who is struggling to access public services on-line – accessing benefits, searching for jobs, whatever they need on-line support.

- **Future Digital Inclusion**
  Providing support over a 4 week period to complete 4 of the following 8 units:
  - Week 1: Using the Internet; On-Line safety.
  - Week 2: Using E-mail; Using On-Line Forms.
  - Week 3: Using Facebook; Using Search Engines.
  - Week 4: Creating Documents; On-Line Shopping.

  145 people registered against a target of 100 (145% of target)
  58 people completed 4 units of the basic skills course; 28 people progressed onto the next stage.

- **Make it Click**

More advanced support to access on-line free courses via the Learn My Way learning platform in topics such as spreadsheets, using Google calendar, etc. During the year,

- 115 people started an on-line course with our support
- 110 people completed 3 units (against a target of 187 – 58%)

Health engagement: Lancashire Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

We are commissioned by the NHS to help them to engage with those sections of the community that they find 'hard to reach' and help them to make informed choices about whether they want to access the bowel cancer screening programme. Bowel Cancer remains the fourth most common cancer in the UK and the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths. The NHS offers screening to all adults between the ages of 60 and 75. Regular screening can reduce the risk of dying from bowel cancer by 16%. 53% of people, who are diagnosed with bowel cancer survive bowel cancer for 10 years or more. The earlier the diagnosis the more likely you are to survive and for longer.

Our approach is to hold a Call for a Kit Clinic in the local GP surgery within deprived communities where there is a low up take of the bowel screening programme. We will ring patients directly and arrange an appointment to see one of our staff at the surgery or do a telephone consultation. During COVID 19, we have had to pause our activity so as not to create additional pressures on the NHS system.

In 2019 the ODR approved and set up data sharing contracts between the Public Health England, University College London (UCL), HUB and the Lancashire BCSP. Our team have worked with the Hub data analyst and UCL Dr Christian Von Wagner Senior Lecturer in Behavioural Research in Early Diagnosis of Cancer and Dr Sandro Stoffel Research

Associate providing them with the BCSP outcome data for the October 2017 to March 2020 period. **Key points to note are as follows:**

- 10,231 non-responders were engaged with from Oct 2017 - March 2020
- 7371 non-responders were sent a BCSP kit (72% of the people we have talked to)
- 3461 kits were completed (47% of people who received a kit)
- 84 individuals had abnormal results
- 45 adenomas detected
- <5 actual bowel cancers detected

The UCL team are now analysing the data, which is the largest project of this kind anywhere in the country. Nowhere has undertaken a similar volume of face to face and telephone engagement. We await the final evaluation in eager anticipation.

Whilst it is frustrating not to be out there, doing call for a kit clinics, the team have been very active correcting data for the above evaluation, developing recovery and equality plans, undertaking staff development, reviewing training materials for Bowel Cancer awareness sessions, engaging with partners.

SENDIASS: Supporting families with education, health & care

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service [SENDIASS] provides free, accurate and impartial information and support to children and young people between the ages of 0-25 and their parents to enable them to make informed decisions about special educational needs provision across the education, health and social care system.

During the year, we moved our support on-line and with telephone support. Over the year we have supported over 200 families. It has been an extremely difficult year for these families with the education, health and social care system all being adversely affected by the COVID 19 Pandemic. With the COVID restrictions in place, access to schools, health and social care has become more difficult and our role has largely concentrated on supporting families to navigate the system and get whatever support has been available during these difficult times.

Towards the end of the year, the local authority has increased our commission in recognition of the valuable work we do and has also asked us to develop a Friends of the Local Offer Group where volunteers can help to communicate what is on offer to families with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Towards the end of the year, Community CVS worked alongside Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Primary Care Networks to distribute £70,000 in grants to the following organisations: Age UK Blackburn with Darwen / One Voice; Blackburn Community Foundation / Lancashire Wildlife Trust; Blackburn with Darwen Community Business; Blackburn Youth Zone; Care Network; Jubilee Tower Credit Union; and, Neighbourhood Community Action.

The organisations are delivering activity to contribute to the COVID 19 community response, but also to tackle health inequalities and the wider determinants of health.

In addition, the Blackburn with Darwen Community Fund refocused its grant programme on tackling health inequalities and supporting the wider determinants of health. The March 2021 grant round supported the following organisations:

- St Georges Mill Hill Scouts
- Ivy Street Community Centre
- In Di Go Dedicated Care and Support CIC
- VOICE
- Newrad Fisheries
- Corporation Park Supporters Group
- We are Blackburn
- Blackburn Goalball Club
- Blackburn with Darwen Sea Cadets

Collectively these endeavours are being described as the Health Equity Task Force. A report will be produced in March 2022 on the progress being made on the VCFSE approach.

Action: empowering people and organisations to achieve inclusive, sustainable growth

Business Advice and Enterprise Support

2020-2021 is the first year, where Community CVS has started to provide business support to residents across Lancashire. With the demise of Bootstrap Enterprise, there was a gap in provision, which CVS was well placed to fill. We secured a sub contract with Winning Pitch to deliver the Boost Flying Start Programme across Lancashire. During the year, Community CVS

- Provided 12 hours business advice to 53 potential entrepreneurs to develop their business idea and be enterprise ready
- Provided 12 hours business advice to 2 new business start ups – which have started trading.

Towards the end of the year, Community CVS was chosen to work alongside the Affilius Group and SELNET, on a DRIVE project, which is set to start in the first quarter 2021-2022.

The project as a whole will support over 200 new or existing businesses over the next two years to grow. The businesses can be within the private sector or charities / social enterprises.

Anybody wanting some advice or support from qualified business advisors should get in touch with Lynn Trickett at Community CVS. We can help with business planning,

registering your business or charity with Companies House or the Charity Commission, marketing, workforce development and lots more.

Employment Support: Action for Jobs

In August 2020, our Strengthening Communities to Health and Employment grant application was by the Department for Work and Pensions [we have shortened the title to Action for Jobs]. The project is support those furthest away from the labour market living in Blackpool, Preston, Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn or Pendle, who are in the most deprived local authority areas in the country. The project is funded by the European Union's European Social Fund and will run from July 2020 until September 2023.

European Union
European Social Fund

Passport approved to and Burnley,

The project is worth £1,280,735 in grant. We are to support 792 people who are unemployed or economically inactive, 161 of whom are to be aged 50+, 316 from a BAME community and 492 are to be disabled or have a health condition.

We plan to help 184 people into work or job search upon leaving and 163 into education or training upon leaving so 347 participants or 44% of participants should achieve a positive outcome.

During 2020-2021, we have

- Recruited 143 unemployed or economically inactive residents (26 of whom are aged 50+, 55 are from BAME backgrounds and 52 are disabled)
- Supported 12 participants to move into work or self-employment and 6 to move into education or training upon leaving.

We are working collaboratively with Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS and the Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde to deliver this project.

Resource: connecting, funding and developing the VCFSE Sector

Connecting

In terms of communicating with the VCFSE Sector, during the 2020-2021 year we delivered the following electronic communications:

a) E Bulletins
   a. 65 bulletins (a minimum of 1 per week with additional special e-bulletins) - more than 30% click a link and more than 10% open - which are both higher than industry standards

b) Twitter
   a. 99 tweets
   b. 33,694 impressions
   c. 2269 profile visits
   d. 195 mentions
   e. 78 new followers in the year
   f. Current followers 2131

c) Facebook
   a. Posts 138
   b. Reach 19,179
   c. Reactions 731
   d. Likes increase from 243 to 260
   e. Followers increase from 290 to 346

d) Website
   a. 15840 visitors

b. 28,930 page views

On our website we posted information and links to help VCFSE organisations and volunteer-involving organisations to adapt to life with COVID 19 Pandemic.

The CVS Network meetings were moved to on-line meetings. We worked to support the local authority and VCFSE organisations using networks and groups that had been established by others such as the local authority supported Nourish Group, the Age UK Blackburn with Darwen supported Digital Inclusion Network.

In terms of health, the Pennine Lancashire VCFSE Leadership Group and the Lancashire and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance and being an advocate for the VCFSE Sector on the Pennine Lancashire Leaders Forum. In terms of wider economic and skills activities – Lancashire Skills Hub's Skills Forum and Employers Forum and the Boost Lancashire network.

In general terms, LACVS. We also worked with Voluntary Sector North West and Lancashire leaders to start the Lancashire LOCAL engagement to start the process of identifying priorities across Lancashire.

Funding

As mentioned earlier, many of the national funding bodies set up programmes to respond to the COVID 19 Pandemic after the #every day counts national campaign that was led by NCVO, NAVCA and others and supported locally by Community CVS alongside local infrastructure bodies across the country.

Throughout the year, Community CVS has promoted the funding portal (176 additional users were registered during the year) and funding opportunities as they have emerged through our weekly e-bulletin. We have provided assistance to any individual VCFSE organisation when requested to do so. However, it has been a team effort right across the VCFSE Sector that has enabled the sector to bring in over £5,583,921 in grants to support over 237 projects. These are the grants we know about – but there will be many more that we do not know about. The value of having an active VCFSE Sector to our local community cannot be underestimated. The difference the VCFSE Sector has made has been phenomenal. The CVS trustees would like to thank each and every CVS member for their contributions during the past year.

Funder	Number of	Amount
Barrow Cadbury Trust	3	51,150
BBC Children in Need	14	468,28
BwD Community Fund managed by Community CVS	15	11,17
Comic Relief	1	288,00
Community Foundation for Lancashire COVID 19 Support	54	267,71
Cooperative Foundation	1	9,98
DCMS	46	1,342,76
DEFRA	1	30,00
DWP – ESF	1	1,280,73
MHCLG	1	84,03
Lloyds Bank Foundation	1	33,00
National Churches Trust	1	4,50
National Lottery Community Fund	25	458,54
NHS Population Health Management Grants	7	70,00
Sport England	52	766,30
The Clothworkers Foundation	3	35,98

The Henry Smith Charity	1	188,00
The Trussell Trust	2	68,75
WEA - Lancashire ESF Community Grants	7	122,99
Woodward Charitable Trust	1	2,00
Total	**237**	**5,583,92**

CVS Training Centre

Just before the start of the year, CVS recruited a Business & Training Manager (February) and acquired 35 Railway Road (March) with the intention of creating a Training Centre that over time, would deliver training focused

- To improve service delivery, especially on equality, diversity and inclusion
- To improve the skills of anyone economically inactive or unemployed, or wanting to refocus their careers to set up in business or seek a career within the VCFSE sector
- To improve the skills and capabilities of the VCFSE Sector Workforce and the wider workforce that improves people's health and well-being
- To improve the skills of people managing volunteers, capabilities of volunteer-involving organisations and the skills of volunteers themselves

In March 2020, we submitted a £2.1million funding application to the Department for Work and Pensions

European Union
European Social Fund

to Upskill the Health and Social Care Workforce Across Lancashire. Throughout the year, we periodically providing additional information to support the application whilst it was being appraised. The project was finally approved in April 2021. The project is to upskill Small to Medium Sized Enterprises in the VCFSE or private sectors who contribute towards improved health and well-being in its widest sense (i.e. the wider or social determinants of health). The upskilling is to prepare the organisations for the potential growth within the health economy. All organisations supported will undertake an organizational diagnostic to understand the business needs and priorities. From the diagnostic we will work with the management team to develop a training plan and then deliver training that meets the priorities of the organization. Through the project we aim to train 2330 employed people with 260 gaining basic skills, 590 employed people gaining units of qualifications at level 2 or below and 285 employed people gaining units of qualifications at level 3 or above. In addition, to this we will assist 405 females in the workplace to improve their labour market status.

Volunteer: improving volunteer experiences by developing a quality volunteer eco-system.

Volunteer Centre

CVS runs the local Volunteer Centre, which is part of the national network of volunteer centres, which are quality accredited by NCVO. During the year, we continued to deliver the five core functions of a Volunteer Centre:-

- Strategic Development
- Good Practice Development
- Developing Volunteering Opportunities
- Voice of Volunteering
- Brokerage

Community Volunteer Awards

The Community Volunteer Awards was originally planned for the 3rd June 2020. Given the situation with the COVID 19 Pandemic, we had to delay the awards ceremony and it was eventually held on 03rd November 2021. It was our best yet, we received 416 nominations and the awards panel had a very difficult time making decisions. A fuller report will be included in next year's trustees report, but we would like to thank all our sponsors, who

maintained their support until we could hold the event and celebrate the volunteer efforts of everyone within Blackburn with Darwen.

Fast 4wd

Fast 4wd is a CVS project that we have been delivering since 2010 to help people in treatment or recovery from alcohol or substance misuse to play an active role within their community as part of their recovery journey. We recruit, train and support residents, including those with lived experience, to volunteer as recovery support volunteers to help people in recovery. Recovery Support Volunteers volunteer across a wide range of organisations to support people in recovery. We also support people in recovery to access volunteer opportunities anywhere in our communities in roles that can utilise their skills, talents and experience.

During the year

- 136 volunteers participated on the project (54 existing and 82 new volunteers): 24% from the BAME communities; 58% female;
- The team delivered 55 on-line group sessions
- Recovery Support Volunteers delivered 1506 1-2-1 sessions to people they were supporting through their recovery
- 1198 people from the recovery community have been supported to access Food Parcels during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Strengthening Communities Volunteering in Lancashire

During the first quarter, the SCVL project, which ended on the 31st March 2020 was externally evaluated by RSM UK Consulting LLP. The project supported

- 711 participants [164 were aged 50+; 227 were from a BAME background; 368 had a disability or health condition]
- 123 moved into education or training and 111 got a job or moved into job search
- 33% achieved positive outcomes
- For every £1 spend the project achieved £1.89 in social value.

The consultants concluded:
"Collectively, the project's success in improving the lives of people with mental health, offending behaviours or in recovery from substance misuse, who represented over 60% of the participants, has been significant. As highlighted within the report, the project demonstrates the value of investing in positive asset-based approaches which lead to better positive outcomes for the individuals concerned, but also saves the health and social care system and the criminal justice system money.

There is a need for commissioners within the health and social care and criminal justice systems to make substantial investment in asset-based prevention and early intervention services on 'invest to save' principles. As this project has demonstrated, investing in asset-based approaches will save the whole system money and 'free up resource' for further investment in prevention and early intervention. Commissioning the need to re-orientate where investment goes to create better outcomes for those populations and for the system

and needs to engage with those populations to co-create the re-orientation of investment" (page 18).

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

During the 2021-2022 period and over the next few years we will focus on:-

Support: helping people to access services and improve their quality of life

CVS needs to focus our attention on population groups that have been adversely impacted by COVID 19 and support them to get access to the services they need.

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

- Engaging GP practices and starting the Call for a Kit Clinics as soon as the NHS gives the 'green light';
- Incorporating any learning from the University College London evaluation once published;
- Adapting to changing needs identified following the impact of COVID 19.

Changing Futures

- Supporting the Changing Futures Programme, which looks to transform provision to support adults experiencing multiple disadvantage (e.g. homelessness, contact with the criminal justice system, alcohol or substance misuse, mental health, domestic abuse) and be a link between the public sector and the VCFSE Sector and community assets.

- Preparing for changes to the Fast 4wd project to integrate with the Changing Futures Programme, but also any changes that are introduced as a result of the retendering exercise.

Digital Drop Ins and Digital Inclusion

- Expanding our digital drop ins in Blackburn to every day of the week and developing our provision in Clitheroe so that people experiencing barriers to accessing public services (created by the digital by default approach) can get the support they need.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The COVID 19 Pandemic has shone a spotlight on the inequalities which exist within our communities and across the nation. CVS needs to

- work alongside equality focused organisations to engage, understand and research what impact COVID 19 has had for different parts of our community and what we need to do to support those sections of our population.

- develop our training provision to upskill staff across the public and VCFSE Sectors in equality, diversity and inclusion so that they are equipped to ensure that everyone has access to their services and can be supported to improve their quality of life.

Education, Health and Social Care

- to develop partnerships and projects so the VCFSE Sector can capitalise on any opportunities that are presented from the transformation and changes that are occurring within the integrated health and social care system

- lobby for change as part of the Health Equity Commission and advocate for and enable marginalised groups within the education, health and social care system to get their voices heard.

Action: empowering people and organisations to achieve inclusive, sustainable growth

The economic consequences of the COVID 19 Pandemic are likely to impact on the lives of many people for a very long time.

Enterprise, Employment and Skills

- to develop our links to support more potential entrepreneurs to become 'enterprise ready',

- to help more businesses to start up, especially those located in deprived neighbourhoods,

- to support the set up and growth of charities and social enterprises

- to deliver the ESF Strengthening Communities Passport to Health and Employment (known as 'Action for Jobs') to help those furthest away from the labour market to move towards and into work

- to strengthen our working relationships with partners across all areas of economic development, welfare to work, and education and training

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- to collaborate with equality focused organisations and community anchor organisations within our deprived neighbourhoods to engage with, research and better understanding the economic challenges they face

- to undertake a feasibility study into establishing an equality focused employment agency that will support those furthest away from the labour market to access employment opportunities.

- to collaborate with partners to develop clear pathways for supporting those furthest away from the labour market to progress in terms of economic inclusion and gaining meaningful work. 33% of Blackburn with Darwen's working age population is currently not in work.

Community Wealth Building

- To develop a community wealth building strategy for the VCFSE Sector and the Borough, which will focus on creating and retaining wealth and supporting the inclusive and sustainable growth of our communities.

- To advocate for community wealth building at the Pennine Lancashire and Lancashire levels with the Lancashire Local Economic Partnership and the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System

- To work with partners across the public, VCFSE and commercial economies to develop the building blocks to an effective community wealth building strategy, developing partnerships and projects to take forward this important work.

Sustainable Development

- To collaborate with environmental charities, social enterprises and public sector and private sector partners to make progress on the 'green' agenda within Blackburn with Darwen and across Lancashire exploring what we can do together to support food growing, development of open green space and green infrastructure, water conservation, energy conservation, recycling and waste minimization.

- To develop partnerships and projects to take forward this work.

Resource: connecting, funding and developing the VCFSE Sector

COVID 19 is likely to have a lasting impact on the VCFSE Sector. Organisations are already changing and adapting from what they have learnt throw COVID. It has reawakened many to their social missions and purpose in life. The role of technology and the challenges posed by technology on how to support those who are digitally excluded are being grappled with. Economically, within the VCFSE Sector there are gaps emerging between those organisations, who are at the forefront of the response and the recovery – who have

accessed commissions, grants, donations, etc. to rightfully make a huge difference to the people they serve and those organisations, who have had to sustain long periods without income or activity because of COVID rules and being responsible organisations for not wanting to support or encourage transmission within the local population. Environmentally, the VCFSE sector is becoming more aware of our responsibilities to take sustainable development seriously and become an advocate for change. Politically, the Government's policy agenda is constantly changing and the VCFSE Sector needs to be well positioned to seize on any opportunities as they arise.

So how does this influence what CVS will do in being the main community infrastructure body who supports the VCFSE Sector locally over the next few years:

Connecting Across Multiple Layers

It is important to emphasis and understand the multi-layered approach that we will need to develop to adapt to the increasingly complex world we operate within. CVS and the VCFSE Sector will need to be able to appropriate at the following levels:

- the grassroots neighbourhood level,
- the Borough level,
- the Pennine Lancashire level,
- the Lancashire or Lancashire and South Cumbria level,
- the North West and North of England level; and and,
- the national levels.

We need to develop strong partnerships both within the VCFSE Sector and across the sectors so we can work with both public and commercial sector partners at those levels.

Internally within the VCFSE Sector we need to create the space for the VCFSE Sector to learn and grow together. We need to engage with, research and build our collective understanding of the VCFSE Sector and its offer. We also need to build our relationships with each other. We are open to suggestions from our membership on how best to do this. We will explore ways to:

- develop the CVS Network
- pilot setting up a Chief Executive's Network; networks for other
- develop a digital platform that can support and digitally connect the VCSFE Sector
- develop closer collaborations and partnership working

We have always had close relationships with our public sector partners, which we need to retain and develop, but we also need to consider how we build strong partnerships with commercial partners.

Funding and Income Generation

- To improve the quality of business advice available to the VCFSE Sector to better understand the 4 main income sources for charities and social enterprises
  - Commissioning – securing contracts as a prime or sub contractor
  - Grant funding – through applying to charitable trusts, lottery distributors, public sector bodies
  - Traded income – by selling products or services in the open market
  - Voluntary Income - through donations, fundraising, member subscriptions

- To improving the information and support we can provide to VCFSE Sector for them to be aware of grant funding opportunities

- To explore how we can best support and skill the VCFSE Sector to maximum income opportunities (via funding workshops, funding fayres, facilitating collaborations and partnerships, helping organisations to be ready for commissioning, exploring enterprise or fundraising, etc.)

Developing and Skilling

- **Community & VCFSE Developments**
  Where there are identified needs within the Borough and clear gaps in what the VCFSE Sector offers (and no existing provision), we will work with our public sector colleagues to develop new charities or social enterprises to fill those gaps.

- **Project and Partnership Development**
  To support the VCFSE Sector to develop collaborative projects and to submit collaborative solutions for tender opportunities, grant funding opportunities, project ideas to meet needs identified in the joint strategic needs assessment and to support the strategic objectives within the Borough.

- **Training Centre and Workforce Development**
  To deliver the Upskilling the Health and Social Care Workforce Across Lancashire as the 1st project major project of the Training Centre. Longer term to work with public and VCFSE Sector to create appropriate career pathways for particular vocational areas.

Our goal is to support the sustainable growth of the VCFSE Sector to complement what is being offered in the public and commercial sectors and provide a resilient plural economy that meets the changing needs of our local population and communities.

Volunteer: improving volunteer experiences by developing a quality volunteer eco-system.

To re-imagine our Volunteer Centre and what it should focus on to help volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations in Blackburn with Darwen and across Lancashire in a post COVID changing world. The key components of a re-imagined Volunteer Centre will explore what we need to do to

- be an **advocate for Volunteering:** promoting the value of volunteering, undertaking community research to better understand volunteering and developing more strategic approaches and securing investment to create a quality volunteer eco-system across the public, commercial and social sectors to encourage more residents to get involved in community life.

- **create and develop targeted approaches** to provide additional support to help segments of the population who volunteer less than others, experiencing barriers and finding it difficult to volunteer. We will build on our past experiences (Fast 4wd, Inclusive Volunteering, Millennium Volunteers, Volunteering on Prescription, Welcome Project, etc.) but need to understand where there are gaps within our volunteer eco-system where a targeted approach is needed and where additional support may be required to enable people to access volunteering opportunities in an inclusive way. We will explore opportunities within arts and culture, digital, environment, recreation and sport, health and social welfare, community, social and economic development.

- **focus on Community Development:** to support the local authority, NHS and VCFSE partners to develop community led responses whether it is focused on geographical

neighbourhoods or communities of interest where peer support and mutual aid and having a shared lived experience or mutual interest is of vital importance.

- **develop the Community Fund and other grant programmes:** to invest in grassroots community action and developing our community assets where residents and volunteer run community organisations are instrumental in delivering activities and much needed community provision.

- **Community Volunteer Awards**: to work alongside sponsors and key stakeholders to develop and grow the annual Community Volunteer Awards with the aim of recognising, celebrating and raising the profile of volunteering across our communities within Blackburn with Darwen.

- **Digitally Enabled Solutions:** to explore ways of using technology more to enable everyone to find out about volunteering and volunteer involving organisations and for those organisations' to support their volunteers.

- **Skills for Volunteering:** to develop a non-accredited and accredited curriculum that meets the needs of volunteers and volunteer involving organisations and complements what is already available through adult learning, FE Colleges and other training providers.

Our long-term aspiration is to be the go to partner to understand best practice in terms of volunteering. An organization that researches the needs of volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations. Can advise on the best ways to recruit, train and retain volunteers. Can provide training for volunteers and volunteer managers both non-accredited and

accredited. An organisation that invests in communities and community development and can help volunteer run organisations with governance, with funding, with marketing and communications, with managing volunteers. A one stop shop for help and support.

A BIG Thank you to everyone who supports us

We would like to thank our commissioners, grant funders, sponsors, public sector, VCFSE Sector and Private Sector partners, including:-

- Abbey Catering Equipment Hire Ltd
- Afflilius Group
- Age UK Blackburn with Darwen
- Al Imdaad Foundation
- BBC Radio Lancashire
- Big Local Trust
- Blackburn and Darwen Junior Brass Band
- Blackburn College
- Blackburn Foodbank
- Blackburn Rovers Community Trust
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service
- Blackburn with Darwen Hive Network
- Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum
- Blackburn Youth Zone
- Brian Mercer Trust
- Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS
- Care Station Northwest
- CGL Inspire
- Department for Work and Pensions (European Union)
- Eric Wright Charitable Trust

- Good Things Foundation
- Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen
- Herbert Parkinsons (part of the John Lewis Partnership)
- Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS
- Lancashire Association of CVSs
- Lancashire BME Network
- Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Lancaster District CVS
- McDonalds
- Morrisons PLC
- National Children's Bureau / Council for Disabled Children / Department for Education
- NAVCA and the VCS Emergencies Partnership
- NHS - Blackburn with Darwen NHS Clinical Commissioning Group / East Lancashire NHS CCG
- NHS - Blackpool NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust,
- NHS - East Lancashire NHS Teaching Hospitals Trust
- Nightsafe
- SELNET
- Spring North
- Suez Recycling
- Star Tissue UK
- Tristar Printers, Sign & Display
- Trueman Change
- VOICE

- Voluntary Sector North West
- Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde
- West Lancashire CVS
- Winning Pitch
- Wish Centre – Blackburn and Darwen District Without Abuse

Registered number: 2668971
Charity number: 1008190

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

(A company limited by guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees

P Mathauda
PR Mason
RV McDonald
BA Todd
SC Ledbetter
T Fazal
MT Sidat
RPT Duckworth (appointed 01.07.21)

Company registered number

2668971

Charity registered number

1008190

Registered office

Boulevard Centre
Cathedral Quarter
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 1EZ

Company secretary

JG Hodgkinson

Chief executive officer

JG Hodgkinson

Accountants

CW Accountants Ltd
30 Brotherston Drive
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB2 4FJ

Bankers

Barclays
8/14 Darwen Street
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB2 2BZ

Advisers (continued)

Solicitors

Farleys Solicitors
Unit C1, Hursthood Court
Duttons Way
Shadsworth Business Park
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 2PT

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) as amended by Update Bulletin 1 (effective 1 January 2015).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

The charity is also known under the name Community CVS.

Objectives and Activities

a. POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

The principal object of the charity is to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community, in the local government districts of Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and its environs, and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness. To build capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary information, support and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose within the area of benefit. To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

b. ACTIVITIES FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

The trustees will receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and will review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and will review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives through the planning process and looking forward to plan our future activities.

c. GRANT MAKING POLICIES

All small grant programmes managed by Community CVS are managed in accordance with guidance and rules set down by our external partners. They are for activities which conform to the objects of our charity and are distributed to eligible voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to undertake charitable activities. During the year – we created two new charities Blackburn Community Foundation and Darwen Community Foundation to accelerate our ability to fundraise and generate additional income to give out as grants for the benefit of our local communities.

d. MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

Community CVS has a strategic plan, which guides everything we do. The vision document linked to the strategic plan was first adopted in September 2013 following a major strategic review and has been updated on an annual basis. The strategy includes the following, vision, values, mission statement and strategic ambitions.

Please see the appendix at the end of the fnancial statements for a more detailed report on the strategic framework of the charity.

d. MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT - continued

The trustees will receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and will review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and will review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives through the planning process and looking forward to plan our future activities

e. VOLUNTEERS

Community CVS is managed by a board of up to twelve Trustees, who freely volunteer their time to sit on the Executive Committee and oversee the strategic direction of the organisation. In addition, the committee members frequently liaise with the management team offering advice and support with a variety of tasks including participating in the recruitment process for new members of staff. All trustees are supported by the Chief Executive.

In addition, we use volunteers throughout what we do, helping to run reception, delivering activities, providing 1-2-1 peer support. We have over 300 volunteers registered on our volunteer bank, who volunteer with ourselves and our close partners. Collectively in 2018-2019, they undertook over 50,000 hours of volunteering worth in monetary terms the equivalent of over £500,000 based on the average wage in Blackburn with Darwen.

Achievements and performance

a. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The trustees' have reviewed our activities over the past year using our four building blocks of what we are about.

These building blocks include the support, action, resource and volunteer and more detail is given in the appendix at the end of these financial statements.

b. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES/INCOME GENERATION

Community CVS continues to seek grant funding, contracts and service level agreements from national, regional and local partners to deliver services that are in keeping with our objectives and meet identified needs of the local community within Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire.

c. INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees retain funds in an interest bearing account and take advantage of the interest received albeit at currently low interest rates.

Financial review

a. GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate

resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. RESERVES POLICY

.Community CVS aims to hold free reserves of between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended on the core costs of the charity excluding funding which is primarily passed directly on in grants and specific service level agreements. This will enable current activities and liabilities to be met in the event of a significant drop in funding. The Executive Committee recognise that our free reserves are at a low level and are embarking on a new business strategy to create surpluses that will allow the organization to build up its reserves once more.

c. PRINCIPAL FUNDING

During the period, principal funding was received from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and the National Health Service in order to achieve the majority of the objectives and activities mentioned earlier in the Review of Activities. With the impact of austerity, there has been a reduction in contract and grant income with some work being reduced or ended altogether – which has presented financial challenges to the organisation.

As an organization, we are committed to diversifying our income streams so that we are not too dependent on any one source of income and managing the potentially financially volatile environment in a measured and managed way.

Going forward – we intend to create new legal entities that can help both with our own diversification, but also to help grow voluntary and community action and help build community resilience especially within our most deprived communities.

Structure, governance and management

a. CONSTITUTION

The charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 6 December 1991, as amended by Special Resolution on 12 Feburary 1998, and on 16 December 2014. The charitable company is a registered charity number 1008190.

b. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

c. POLICIES ADOPTED FOR THE INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

A Trustee handbook, including roles and responsibilities, has been prepared for all new Trustees. All new trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive as part of the induction process and go through the Trustee handbook. Resources are available to support Trustees to meet their individual training needs to help them perform their duties as Trustees. Planning days are held with Trustees and staff on an annual basis.

d. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

During the year, the charity employed on average 30 staff to deliver our activities and projects.

All staff are responsible to the Chief Executive and ultimately, the trustees/directors. The trustees set the strategic framework within which the Chief Executive and management team operate.

The trustees meet as a minimum six times per year as an Executive Committee and more when required. The trustees receive regular reports on all aspects of the organisation, including finance, human resources, marketing & communications, health & safety, service activities, quality & performance, etc.

e. RELATED PARTY RELATIONSHIPS

There are no related party relationships.

f. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. These major risks are the impact of short term funding, changes in funding streams, changes to key personnel and changes in local and central government policy.

Plans for future periods

a. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

During the 2021-22 period the charity will continue to develop their building blocks mentioned previously (ie support, action, resource and volunteer).

Please see the appendix at the end of these financial statements for a more detailed report.

MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees (who are also directors of Blackburn with Darwen Counci for Voluntary Service for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 5/10/21 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee Paul R. Mason — PAUL R. MASON

Trustee R. McDonald — BOB McDONALD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (the 'charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of AAT and an afiliated member of ACIE, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: G Davies Dated: 5/10/21

Gillian Davies AAT qualified and afiliated member of ACIE

CW Accountants Ltd
30 Brotherston Drive
Blackburn BB2 4FJ

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	-	**17,535**	**17,535**	*14,508*
Charitable activities	3	**255,502**	**493,050**	**748,552**	*793,959*
Other trading activities	4	-	**65,150**	**65,150**	*99,453*
Investments	5	-	**29**	**29**	*76*
Other income	6	-	**122,529**	**122,529**	*10,312*
TOTAL INCOME		**255,502**	**698,293**	**953,795**	*918,308*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	9,8	**334,391**	**544,748**	**879,139**	*913,027*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10	**334,391**	**544,748**	**879,139**	*913,027*
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		**(78,889)**	**153,545**	**74,656**	*5,281*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(78,889)**	**153,545**	**74,656**	*5,281*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		**1,516,008**	**355,764**	**1,871,772**	*1,866,491*
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,437,119**	**509,309**	**1,946,428**	*1,871,772*

The notes on pages 12 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 2668971

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	*2020 £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13		**1,985,384**		*2,035,381*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	**375,667**		*335,155*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**170,117**		*73,254*	
		545,784		*408,409*	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	**(53,431)**		*(33,367)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**492,353**		*375,042*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**2,477,737**		*2,410,423*
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		**(531,309)**		*(538,651)*
NET ASSETS			**1,946,428**		*1,871,772*
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	17		**1,437,119**		*1,516,008*
Unrestricted funds	17		**509,309**		*355,764*
TOTAL FUNDS			**1,946,428**		*1,871,772*

The charity's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The Trustees consider that the charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the charity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 5/10/2021 and signed on their behalf, by:

Trustee PAUL R. MASON **Trustee** R. McDonald BOB McDONALD

The notes on pages 12 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required.

No restatements were required.

1.3 Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the Friends is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	-	2% straight line
Office equipment	-	25% straight line

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.9 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.12 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Donations	-	17,535	17,535	*14,508*
Total 2020	-	*14,508*	*14,508*	

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Grants and service level agreements	**255,502**	**493,050**	**748,552**	*793,959*
Total 2020	*398,973*	*394,986*	*793,959*	

GRANTS AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
BwD Borough Council	-	**30,000**	**30,000**	*48,209*
BwD BC Children's Services	-	**28,000**	**28,000**	-
NHS	-	**293,992**	**293,992**	*209,160*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth with Whitebirk Commmunity Grant Fund	**11,025**	-	**11,025**	*22,050*
Selnet Ltd - BBO AOP/IIY/CF	-	-	-	*4,699*
Big Lottery - BBO Reach It	-	-	-	*7,484*
Reaching Communities -- Ways to Wellbeing	-	-	-	*101,539*
NCB Independent Supporters SENDIASS	-	**31,881**	**31,881**	*73,250*
ESF Strengthening Communities Volunteering in Lancashire	-	-	-	*162,201*
ESF SCPHE Action for Jobs	**172,877**	-	**172,877**	-
ESF Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	**8,600**	-	**8,600**	-
Spring North Ltd	-	**45,889**	**45,889**	*74,367*
Winning Pitch - Boost Sub Contract	-	**17,828**	**17,828**	-
Home Office - Building Stronger Britain Together	-	-	-	*18,500*
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	**9,500**	-	**9,500**	-
Blackburn Foodbank	-	**45,460**	**45,460**	-
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	**40,000**	-	**40,000**	*40,000*
Eric Wright Charitable Trust	-	-	-	*20,000*
Good Things Foundation	**13,500**	-	**13,500**	*12,500*
Total	**255,502**	**493,050**	**748,552**	*793,959*

4. RENT, ROOM HIRE AND OFFICE SERVICES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Rent, room hire and office services	-	65,150	65,150	*99,128*
Consultancy and training fees	-	-	-	*325*
	-	65,150	65,150	*99,453*
Total 2020	-	*99,453*	*99,453*	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Bank interest receivable	-	29	29	*76*
Total 2020	-	*76*	*76*	

6. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Funding for CJRS/Marketing and design etc	-	122,529	122,529	*10,312*
Total 2020	-	*10,312*	*10,312*	

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	Grants to Institutions 2021 £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Big Local Shadsworth with Whitebirk	**403**	**403**	*21,300*
Grants, Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust/SFA	**6,445**	**6,445**	*42,680*
	6,848	**6,848**	*63,980*
Total 2020	*63,980*	*63,980*	

In 2020, unrestricted expenditure on grants payable was £Nil and restricted expenditure was £63,980

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Central Services (including Boulevard Centre)	**-**	**314,427**	**314,427**	*307,790*
Commissioned Services	**-**	**228,921**	**228,921**	*154,190*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	**3,528**	**-**	**3,528**	*21,300*
Big Lottery - Volunteer Co-ordinator Post/Ways to Wellbeing	**47,164**	**-**	**47,164**	*101,539*
Community Fund - Brian Mercer CT/Eric Wright CT	**6,445**	**-**	**6,445**	*48,805*
Good Things Foundation	**13,500**	**-**	**13,500**	*12,500*
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	**9,500**	**-**	**9,500**	-
DWP-ESF-SCPHE Action for Jobs	**172,877**	**-**	**172,877**	-
DWP - ESF Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	**8,600**	**-**	**8,600**	-
Capital projects	**49,997**	**-**	**49,997**	*49,372*
Completed projects	**-**	**-**	**-**	*203,172*
	311,611	**543,348**	**854,959**	*898,668*
Total 2020	-	*898,668*	*898,668*	

In 2020, unrestrictred expenditure on charitable activities was £461,980 with restricted expenditure of £436,688,.

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Independent Examiner's fees	-	1,400	1,400	*1,200*
Mortgage interest	22,780	-	22,780	*13,159*
Total	22,780	1,400	24,180	*14,359*

In 2020, unrestricted expenditure on governance costs was £1,400 with restricted expenditure of £13,159.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff costs 2021 £	Depreciation 2021 £	Other costs 2021 £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Central Services (including Boulevard Centre)	**249,834**	**-**	**64,593**	**314,427**	*307,790*
Commissioned Services	**190,921**	**-**	**38,000**	**228,921**	*154,190*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	**3,125**	**-**	**403**	**3,528**	*21,300*
Big Lottery - Volunteer Co-ordinator Post/Ways to Wellbeing	**47,164**	**-**	**-**	**47,164**	*101,539*
Community Fund - Brian Mercer CT/Eric Wright CT	**-**	**-**	**6,445**	**6,445**	*48,805*
Good Things Foundation	**13,500**	**-**	**-**	**13,500**	*12,500*
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	**9,500**	**-**	**-**	**9,500**	-
DWP-ESF-SCPHE Action for Jobs	**123,484**	**-**	**49,393**	**172,877**	-
DWP - ESF Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	**8,600**	**-**	**-**	**8,600**	-
Capital projects	**-**	**49,997**	**-**	**49,997**	*49,372*
Completed projects	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	*203,172*
Charitable activities	**646,128**	**49,997**	**158,834**	**854,959**	*898,668*
Expenditure on governance	**-**	**-**	**24,180**	**24,180**	*14,359*
Total 2021	**646,128**	**49,997**	**183,014**	**879,139**	*913,027*
Total 2020	*654,691*	*49,997*	*208,339*	*913,027*	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	**49,997**	*49,997*
Independent Examiner's fees	**1,400**	*1,200*

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2020 - £NIL).
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2020 - £NIL).
During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2020 - £NIL).

12. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**568,518**	*574,302*
Social security costs	**42,967**	*42,279*
Other pension costs	**34,643**	*38,110*
	646,128	*654,691*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	**30**	*31*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	**2,468,608**	**195,741**	**2,664,349**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	**435,102**	**193,866**	**628,968**
Charge for the year	**49,372**	**625**	**49,997**
At 31 March 2021	**484,474**	**194,491**	**678,965**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	**1,984,134**	**1,250**	**1,985,384**
At 31 March 2020	*2,033,506*	*1,875*	*2,035,381*

14. DEBTORS

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Trade debtors	**117,180**	*188,112*
Prepayments	**5,323**	*5,751*
Accrued income	**253,164**	*141,292*
	375,667	*335,155*

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Bank loans and overdrafts	**14,003**	*20,664*
Trade creditors	**14,143**	*985*
Other taxation and social security	**19,922**	*8,778*
Other creditors	**97**	-
Accruals and deferred income	**5,266**	*2,940*
	53,431	*33,367*

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Bank loans	**531,309**	*538,651*

Creditors include amounts not wholly repayable within 5 years as follows:

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Repayable by instalments	**475,297**	*455,995*

The mortgage is secured against the property at 35-37 and 45 Railway Road, Blackburn

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds				
Match funding projects	**66,856**	**-**	**-**	**66,856**
Business continuity and redundancy costs	**40,000**	**-**	**-**	**40,000**
Boulevard Centre costs	**10,000**	**-**	**-**	**10,000**
	116,856	**-**	**-**	**116,856**
General funds				
General Fund	**238,908**	**698,293**	**(544,748)**	**392,453**
Total Unrestricted funds	**355,764**	**698,293**	**(544,748)**	**509,309**

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds

ERDF - Building (from previous years)	**74,925**	**-**	**(2,025)**	**72,900**
Change Up	**46,363**	**-**	**(1,287)**	**45,076**
DCSF - Co-Location Fund	**711,743**	**-**	**(54,953)**	**656,790**
Capacitybuilders - Capital Investment Programme Strand C	**383,612**	**-**	**(9,512)**	**374,100**
BwD BC Housing Grant	**205,000**	**-**	**(5,000)**	**200,000**
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	**(5,134)**	**11,025**	**(3,528)**	**2,363**
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	**-**	**9,500**	**(9,500)**	**-**
National Lottery Community Fund (was Big Lottery) - Ways to Wellbeing	**47,164**	**-**	**(47,164)**	**-**
ESF - DWP - SCPHE - Action for Jobs	**-**	**172,877**	**(172,877)**	**-**
ESF - DWP - Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	**-**	**8,600**	**(8,600)**	**-**
Good Things Foundation - Future Digital Inclusion	**-**	**13,500**	**(13,500)**	**-**
Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	**39,250**	**40,000**	**(6,445)**	**72,805**
Community Fund - Eric Wright Charitable Trust	**13,085**	**-**	**-**	**13,085**
	1,516,008	**255,502**	**(334,391)**	**1,437,119**
Total of funds	**1,871,772**	**953,795**	**(879,139)**	**1,946,428**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Balance at 31 March 2020* £
Designated funds				
Match funding projects	*66,856*	-	-	*66,856*
Business continuity and redundancy costs	*40,000*	-	-	*40,000*
Boulevard Centre costs	*10,000*	-	-	*10,000*
	116,856	-	-	*116,856*
General Fund	*182,753*	*519,335*	*(463,180)*	*238,908*

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds

ERDF - Building (from previous years)	*76,950*	-	*(2,025)*	*74,925*
Change Up	*47,650*	-	*(1,287)*	*46,363*
DCSF - Co-Location Fund	*756,450*	-	*(44,707)*	*711,743*
Capacitybuilders - Capital Investment Programme Strand C	*393,124*	-	*(9,512)*	*383,612*
BwD BC Housing Grant	*210,000*	-	*(5,000)*	*205,000*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	*(5,884)*	*22,050*	*(21,300)*	*(5,134)*
Henry Smith Charity - Ex Offenders	*6,470*	-	*(6,470)*	-
Big Lottery - Selnet Ltd - BBO AOP/IIY/CF	*1,622*	*4,888*	*(6,510)*	-
Big Lottery - WEA - BBO - Reach It	*1,904*	*7,295*	*(9,199)*	-
Home Office - Building a Stronger Britain Together	*292*	*18,500*	*(18,792)*	-
National Lottery Community Fund (was Big Lottery) - Ways to Wellbeing	*47,164*	*101,539*	*(101,539)*	*47,164*
ESF - Strengthening Communities Volunteering in Lancashire	-	*162,201*	*(162,201)*	-
Good Things Foundation - Future Digital Inclusion	-	*10,000*	*(10,000)*	-
Good Things Foundation - Make it Click	-	*2,500*	*(2,500)*	-
Community Fund - Skills Fund Agency	*2,500*	*10,000*	*(12,500)*	-
Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	*20,325*	*40,000*	*(21,075)*	*39,250*
Community Fund - Eric Wright Charitable Trust	*8,315*	*20,000*	*(15,230)*	*13,085*
	1,566,882	*398,973*	*(449,847)*	*1,516,008*
Total of funds	*1,866,491*	*918,308*	*(913,027)*	*1,871,772*

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds	**116,856**	**-**	**-**	**116,856**
General funds	**238,908**	**698,293**	**(544,748)**	**392,453**
	355,764	**698,293**	**(544,748)**	**509,309**
Restricted funds	**1,516,008**	**255,502**	**(334,391)**	**1,437,119**
	1,871,772	**953,795**	**(879,139)**	**1,946,428**

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Balance at 31 March 2020* £
Designated funds	*116,856*	-	-	*116,856*
General funds	*182,753*	*519,335*	*(463,180)*	*238,908*
	299,609	*519,335*	*(463,180)*	*355,764*
Restricted funds	*1,566,882*	*398,973*	*(449,847)*	*1,516,008*
	1,866,491	*918,308*	*(913,027)*	*1,871,772*

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Restricted funds 2021 £	**Unrestricted funds 2021** £	**Total funds 2021** £
Tangible fixed assets	**1,422,483**	**562,901**	**1,985,384**
Current assets	**14,636**	**531,148**	**545,784**
Creditors due within one year	**-**	**(53,431)**	**(53,431)**
Creditors due in more than one year	**-**	**(531,309)**	**(531,309)**
	1,437,119	**509,309**	**1,946,428**

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Restricted funds 2020 £	*Unrestricted funds 2020* £	*Total funds 2020* £
Tangible fixed assets	*1,421,643*	*613,738*	*2,035,381*
Current assets	*118,624*	*289,785*	*408,409*
Creditors due within one year	*(24,259)*	*(9,108)*	*(33,367)*
Creditors due in more than one year	-	*(538,651)*	*(538,651)*
	1,516,008	*355,764*	*1,871,772*

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity and the group operates a defined contributions pension scheme through Scottish Equitable. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £34,643 (2020 - £38,110). Contributions totalling £Nil (2020 - £Nil) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The related parties or community organisations with activities which are complementary to and in futherance of the objectives of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service. The trustees and officers of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service do not receive remuneration from these organisations and do not hold any beneficial interest.

22. CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.

Registered number: 2668971
Charity number: 1008190

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

(A company limited by guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees

P Mathauda
PR Mason
RV McDonald
BA Todd
SC Ledbetter
T Fazal
MT Sidat
RPT Duckworth (appointed 01.07.21)

Company registered number

2668971

Charity registered number

1008190

Registered office

Boulevard Centre
Cathedral Quarter
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 1EZ

Company secretary

JG Hodgkinson

Chief executive officer

JG Hodgkinson

Accountants

CW Accountants Ltd
30 Brotherston Drive
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB2 4FJ

Bankers

Barclays
8/14 Darwen Street
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB2 2BZ

Advisers (continued)

Solicitors

Farleys Solicitors
Unit C1, Hursthood Court
Duttons Way
Shadsworth Business Park
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 2PT

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) as amended by Update Bulletin 1 (effective 1 January 2015).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

The charity is also known under the name Community CVS.

Objectives and Activities

a. POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

The principal object of the charity is to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community, in the local government districts of Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire and its environs, and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness. To build capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary information, support and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose within the area of benefit. To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

b. ACTIVITIES FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

The trustees will receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and will review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and will review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives through the planning process and looking forward to plan our future activities.

c. GRANT MAKING POLICIES

All small grant programmes managed by Community CVS are managed in accordance with guidance and rules set down by our external partners. They are for activities which conform to the objects of our charity and are distributed to eligible voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to undertake charitable activities. During the year – we created two new charities Blackburn Community Foundation and Darwen Community Foundation to accelerate our ability to fundraise and generate additional income to give out as grants for the benefit of our local communities.

d. MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

Community CVS has a strategic plan, which guides everything we do. The vision document linked to the strategic plan was first adopted in September 2013 following a major strategic review and has been updated on an annual basis. The strategy includes the following, vision, values, mission statement and strategic ambitions.

Please see the appendix at the end of the fnancial statements for a more detailed report on the strategic framework of the charity.

d. MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT - continued

The trustees will receive a quarterly update on actions derived from the strategic plan and will review progress towards implementing the strategy every year and will review the strategy itself. The content of the plan is discussed at the annual planning days for staff and trustees and the strategic plan will be formally reviewed by the trustees at its first Executive Committee of the financial year each year. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives through the planning process and looking forward to plan our future activities

e. VOLUNTEERS

Community CVS is managed by a board of up to twelve Trustees, who freely volunteer their time to sit on the Executive Committee and oversee the strategic direction of the organisation. In addition, the committee members frequently liaise with the management team offering advice and support with a variety of tasks including participating in the recruitment process for new members of staff. All trustees are supported by the Chief Executive.

In addition, we use volunteers throughout what we do, helping to run reception, delivering activities, providing 1-2-1 peer support. We have over 300 volunteers registered on our volunteer bank, who volunteer with ourselves and our close partners. Collectively in 2018-2019, they undertook over 50,000 hours of volunteering worth in monetary terms the equivalent of over £500,000 based on the average wage in Blackburn with Darwen.

Achievements and performance

a. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The trustees' have reviewed our activities over the past year using our four building blocks of what we are about.

These building blocks include the support, action, resource and volunteer and more detail is given in the appendix at the end of these financial statements.

b. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES/INCOME GENERATION

Community CVS continues to seek grant funding, contracts and service level agreements from national, regional and local partners to deliver services that are in keeping with our objectives and meet identified needs of the local community within Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire.

c. INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees retain funds in an interest bearing account and take advantage of the interest received albeit at currently low interest rates.

Financial review

a. GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate

resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. RESERVES POLICY

.Community CVS aims to hold free reserves of between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended on the core costs of the charity excluding funding which is primarily passed directly on in grants and specific service level agreements. This will enable current activities and liabilities to be met in the event of a significant drop in funding. The Executive Committee recognise that our free reserves are at a low level and are embarking on a new business strategy to create surpluses that will allow the organization to build up its reserves once more.

c. PRINCIPAL FUNDING

During the period, principal funding was received from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and the National Health Service in order to achieve the majority of the objectives and activities mentioned earlier in the Review of Activities. With the impact of austerity, there has been a reduction in contract and grant income with some work being reduced or ended altogether – which has presented financial challenges to the organisation.

As an organization, we are committed to diversifying our income streams so that we are not too dependent on any one source of income and managing the potentially financially volatile environment in a measured and managed way.

Going forward – we intend to create new legal entities that can help both with our own diversification, but also to help grow voluntary and community action and help build community resilience especially within our most deprived communities.

Structure, governance and management

a. CONSTITUTION

The charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 6 December 1991, as amended by Special Resolution on 12 Feburary 1998, and on 16 December 2014. The charitable company is a registered charity number 1008190.

b. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

c. POLICIES ADOPTED FOR THE INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

A Trustee handbook, including roles and responsibilities, has been prepared for all new Trustees. All new trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive as part of the induction process and go through the Trustee handbook. Resources are available to support Trustees to meet their individual training needs to help them perform their duties as Trustees. Planning days are held with Trustees and staff on an annual basis.

d. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

During the year, the charity employed on average 30 staff to deliver our activities and projects.

All staff are responsible to the Chief Executive and ultimately, the trustees/directors. The trustees set the strategic framework within which the Chief Executive and management team operate.

The trustees meet as a minimum six times per year as an Executive Committee and more when required. The trustees receive regular reports on all aspects of the organisation, including finance, human resources, marketing & communications, health & safety, service activities, quality & performance, etc.

e. RELATED PARTY RELATIONSHIPS

There are no related party relationships.

f. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. These major risks are the impact of short term funding, changes in funding streams, changes to key personnel and changes in local and central government policy.

Plans for future periods

a. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

During the 2021-22 period the charity will continue to develop their building blocks mentioned previously (ie support, action, resource and volunteer).

Please see the appendix at the end of these financial statements for a more detailed report.

MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees (who are also directors of Blackburn with Darwen Counci for Voluntary Service for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 5/10/21 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee Paul R. Mason — PAUL R. MASON

Trustee R. McDonald — BOB McDONALD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (the 'charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Trustees of the charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of AAT and an afiliated member of ACIE, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: G Davies Dated: 5/10/21

Gillian Davies AAT qualified and afiliated member of ACIE

CW Accountants Ltd
30 Brotherston Drive
Blackburn BB2 4FJ

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	-	**17,535**	**17,535**	*14,508*
Charitable activities	3	**255,502**	**493,050**	**748,552**	*793,959*
Other trading activities	4	-	**65,150**	**65,150**	*99,453*
Investments	5	-	**29**	**29**	*76*
Other income	6	-	**122,529**	**122,529**	*10,312*
TOTAL INCOME		**255,502**	**698,293**	**953,795**	*918,308*
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	9,8	**334,391**	**544,748**	**879,139**	*913,027*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10	**334,391**	**544,748**	**879,139**	*913,027*
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		**(78,889)**	**153,545**	**74,656**	*5,281*
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(78,889)**	**153,545**	**74,656**	*5,281*
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		**1,516,008**	**355,764**	**1,871,772**	*1,866,491*
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,437,119**	**509,309**	**1,946,428**	*1,871,772*

The notes on pages 12 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 2668971

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	*2020 £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13		**1,985,384**		*2,035,381*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	**375,667**		*335,155*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**170,117**		*73,254*	
		545,784		*408,409*	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	15	**(53,431)**		*(33,367)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**492,353**		*375,042*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**2,477,737**		*2,410,423*
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		**(531,309)**		*(538,651)*
NET ASSETS			**1,946,428**		*1,871,772*
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	17		**1,437,119**		*1,516,008*
Unrestricted funds	17		**509,309**		*355,764*
TOTAL FUNDS			**1,946,428**		*1,871,772*

The charity's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The Trustees consider that the charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the charity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 5/10/2021 and signed on their behalf, by:

Trustee PAUL R. MASON **Trustee** R. McDonald BOB McDONALD

The notes on pages 12 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required.

No restatements were required.

1.3 Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the Friends is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold property	-	2% straight line
Office equipment	-	25% straight line

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.9 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.12 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

1.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Donations	-	17,535	17,535	*14,508*
Total 2020	-	*14,508*	*14,508*	

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Grants and service level agreements	**255,502**	**493,050**	**748,552**	*793,959*
Total 2020	*398,973*	*394,986*	*793,959*	

GRANTS AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
BwD Borough Council	-	**30,000**	**30,000**	*48,209*
BwD BC Children's Services	-	**28,000**	**28,000**	-
NHS	-	**293,992**	**293,992**	*209,160*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth with Whitebirk Commmunity Grant Fund	**11,025**	-	**11,025**	*22,050*
Selnet Ltd - BBO AOP/IIY/CF	-	-	-	*4,699*
Big Lottery - BBO Reach It	-	-	-	*7,484*
Reaching Communities -- Ways to Wellbeing	-	-	-	*101,539*
NCB Independent Supporters SENDIASS	-	**31,881**	**31,881**	*73,250*
ESF Strengthening Communities Volunteering in Lancashire	-	-	-	*162,201*
ESF SCPHE Action for Jobs	**172,877**	-	**172,877**	-
ESF Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	**8,600**	-	**8,600**	-
Spring North Ltd	-	**45,889**	**45,889**	*74,367*
Winning Pitch - Boost Sub Contract	-	**17,828**	**17,828**	-
Home Office - Building Stronger Britain Together	-	-	-	*18,500*
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	**9,500**	-	**9,500**	-
Blackburn Foodbank	-	**45,460**	**45,460**	-
Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	**40,000**	-	**40,000**	*40,000*
Eric Wright Charitable Trust	-	-	-	*20,000*
Good Things Foundation	**13,500**	-	**13,500**	*12,500*
Total	**255,502**	**493,050**	**748,552**	*793,959*

4. RENT, ROOM HIRE AND OFFICE SERVICES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Rent, room hire and office services	-	65,150	65,150	*99,128*
Consultancy and training fees	-	-	-	*325*
	-	65,150	65,150	*99,453*
Total 2020	-	*99,453*	*99,453*	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Bank interest receivable	-	29	29	*76*
Total 2020	-	*76*	*76*	

6. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Funding for CJRS/Marketing and design etc	-	122,529	122,529	*10,312*
Total 2020	-	*10,312*	*10,312*	

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	Grants to Institutions 2021 £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Big Local Shadsworth with Whitebirk	**403**	**403**	*21,300*
Grants, Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust/SFA	**6,445**	**6,445**	*42,680*
	6,848	**6,848**	*63,980*
Total 2020	*63,980*	*63,980*	

In 2020, unrestricted expenditure on grants payable was £Nil and restricted expenditure was £63,980

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Central Services (including Boulevard Centre)	**-**	**314,427**	**314,427**	*307,790*
Commissioned Services	**-**	**228,921**	**228,921**	*154,190*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	**3,528**	**-**	**3,528**	*21,300*
Big Lottery - Volunteer Co-ordinator Post/Ways to Wellbeing	**47,164**	**-**	**47,164**	*101,539*
Community Fund - Brian Mercer CT/Eric Wright CT	**6,445**	**-**	**6,445**	*48,805*
Good Things Foundation	**13,500**	**-**	**13,500**	*12,500*
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	**9,500**	**-**	**9,500**	-
DWP-ESF-SCPHE Action for Jobs	**172,877**	**-**	**172,877**	-
DWP - ESF Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	**8,600**	**-**	**8,600**	-
Capital projects	**49,997**	**-**	**49,997**	*49,372*
Completed projects	**-**	**-**	**-**	*203,172*
	311,611	**543,348**	**854,959**	*898,668*
Total 2020	-	*898,668*	*898,668*	

In 2020, unrestrictred expenditure on charitable activities was £461,980 with restricted expenditure of £436,688,.

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Independent Examiner's fees	-	1,400	1,400	*1,200*
Mortgage interest	22,780	-	22,780	*13,159*
Total	22,780	1,400	24,180	*14,359*

In 2020, unrestricted expenditure on governance costs was £1,400 with restricted expenditure of £13,159.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff costs 2021 £	Depreciation 2021 £	Other costs 2021 £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Central Services (including Boulevard Centre)	**249,834**	**-**	**64,593**	**314,427**	*307,790*
Commissioned Services	**190,921**	**-**	**38,000**	**228,921**	*154,190*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	**3,125**	**-**	**403**	**3,528**	*21,300*
Big Lottery - Volunteer Co-ordinator Post/Ways to Wellbeing	**47,164**	**-**	**-**	**47,164**	*101,539*
Community Fund - Brian Mercer CT/Eric Wright CT	**-**	**-**	**6,445**	**6,445**	*48,805*
Good Things Foundation	**13,500**	**-**	**-**	**13,500**	*12,500*
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	**9,500**	**-**	**-**	**9,500**	-
DWP-ESF-SCPHE Action for Jobs	**123,484**	**-**	**49,393**	**172,877**	-
DWP - ESF Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	**8,600**	**-**	**-**	**8,600**	-
Capital projects	**-**	**49,997**	**-**	**49,997**	*49,372*
Completed projects	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	*203,172*
Charitable activities	**646,128**	**49,997**	**158,834**	**854,959**	*898,668*
Expenditure on governance	**-**	**-**	**24,180**	**24,180**	*14,359*
Total 2021	**646,128**	**49,997**	**183,014**	**879,139**	*913,027*
Total 2020	*654,691*	*49,997*	*208,339*	*913,027*	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	**49,997**	*49,997*
Independent Examiner's fees	**1,400**	*1,200*

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2020 - £NIL).
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2020 - £NIL).
During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2020 - £NIL).

12. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**568,518**	*574,302*
Social security costs	**42,967**	*42,279*
Other pension costs	**34,643**	*38,110*
	646,128	*654,691*

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	**30**	*31*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	**2,468,608**	**195,741**	**2,664,349**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	**435,102**	**193,866**	**628,968**
Charge for the year	**49,372**	**625**	**49,997**
At 31 March 2021	**484,474**	**194,491**	**678,965**
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	**1,984,134**	**1,250**	**1,985,384**
At 31 March 2020	*2,033,506*	*1,875*	*2,035,381*

14. DEBTORS

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Trade debtors	**117,180**	*188,112*
Prepayments	**5,323**	*5,751*
Accrued income	**253,164**	*141,292*
	375,667	*335,155*

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Bank loans and overdrafts	**14,003**	*20,664*
Trade creditors	**14,143**	*985*
Other taxation and social security	**19,922**	*8,778*
Other creditors	**97**	-
Accruals and deferred income	**5,266**	*2,940*
	53,431	*33,367*

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Bank loans	**531,309**	*538,651*

Creditors include amounts not wholly repayable within 5 years as follows:

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Repayable by instalments	**475,297**	*455,995*

The mortgage is secured against the property at 35-37 and 45 Railway Road, Blackburn

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds				
Match funding projects	**66,856**	**-**	**-**	**66,856**
Business continuity and redundancy costs	**40,000**	**-**	**-**	**40,000**
Boulevard Centre costs	**10,000**	**-**	**-**	**10,000**
	116,856	**-**	**-**	**116,856**
General funds				
General Fund	**238,908**	**698,293**	**(544,748)**	**392,453**
Total Unrestricted funds	**355,764**	**698,293**	**(544,748)**	**509,309**

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds

ERDF - Building (from previous years)	**74,925**	**-**	**(2,025)**	**72,900**
Change Up	**46,363**	**-**	**(1,287)**	**45,076**
DCSF - Co-Location Fund	**711,743**	**-**	**(54,953)**	**656,790**
Capacitybuilders - Capital Investment Programme Strand C	**383,612**	**-**	**(9,512)**	**374,100**
BwD BC Housing Grant	**205,000**	**-**	**(5,000)**	**200,000**
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	**(5,134)**	**11,025**	**(3,528)**	**2,363**
NAVCA Emergencies Partnership	**-**	**9,500**	**(9,500)**	**-**
National Lottery Community Fund (was Big Lottery) - Ways to Wellbeing	**47,164**	**-**	**(47,164)**	**-**
ESF - DWP - SCPHE - Action for Jobs	**-**	**172,877**	**(172,877)**	**-**
ESF - DWP - Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce	**-**	**8,600**	**(8,600)**	**-**
Good Things Foundation - Future Digital Inclusion	**-**	**13,500**	**(13,500)**	**-**
Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	**39,250**	**40,000**	**(6,445)**	**72,805**
Community Fund - Eric Wright Charitable Trust	**13,085**	**-**	**-**	**13,085**
	1,516,008	**255,502**	**(334,391)**	**1,437,119**
Total of funds	**1,871,772**	**953,795**	**(879,139)**	**1,946,428**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Balance at 31 March 2020* £
Designated funds				
Match funding projects	*66,856*	-	-	*66,856*
Business continuity and redundancy costs	*40,000*	-	-	*40,000*
Boulevard Centre costs	*10,000*	-	-	*10,000*
	116,856	-	-	*116,856*
General Fund	*182,753*	*519,335*	*(463,180)*	*238,908*

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds

ERDF - Building (from previous years)	*76,950*	-	*(2,025)*	*74,925*
Change Up	*47,650*	-	*(1,287)*	*46,363*
DCSF - Co-Location Fund	*756,450*	-	*(44,707)*	*711,743*
Capacitybuilders - Capital Investment Programme Strand C	*393,124*	-	*(9,512)*	*383,612*
BwD BC Housing Grant	*210,000*	-	*(5,000)*	*205,000*
Big Local Trust - Shadsworth and Whitebirk Community Grant Fund	*(5,884)*	*22,050*	*(21,300)*	*(5,134)*
Henry Smith Charity - Ex Offenders	*6,470*	-	*(6,470)*	-
Big Lottery - Selnet Ltd - BBO AOP/IIY/CF	*1,622*	*4,888*	*(6,510)*	-
Big Lottery - WEA - BBO - Reach It	*1,904*	*7,295*	*(9,199)*	-
Home Office - Building a Stronger Britain Together	*292*	*18,500*	*(18,792)*	-
National Lottery Community Fund (was Big Lottery) - Ways to Wellbeing	*47,164*	*101,539*	*(101,539)*	*47,164*
ESF - Strengthening Communities Volunteering in Lancashire	-	*162,201*	*(162,201)*	-
Good Things Foundation - Future Digital Inclusion	-	*10,000*	*(10,000)*	-
Good Things Foundation - Make it Click	-	*2,500*	*(2,500)*	-
Community Fund - Skills Fund Agency	*2,500*	*10,000*	*(12,500)*	-
Community Fund - Brian Mercer Charitable Trust	*20,325*	*40,000*	*(21,075)*	*39,250*
Community Fund - Eric Wright Charitable Trust	*8,315*	*20,000*	*(15,230)*	*13,085*
	1,566,882	*398,973*	*(449,847)*	*1,516,008*
Total of funds	*1,866,491*	*918,308*	*(913,027)*	*1,871,772*

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds	**116,856**	**-**	**-**	**116,856**
General funds	**238,908**	**698,293**	**(544,748)**	**392,453**
	355,764	**698,293**	**(544,748)**	**509,309**
Restricted funds	**1,516,008**	**255,502**	**(334,391)**	**1,437,119**
	1,871,772	**953,795**	**(879,139)**	**1,946,428**

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

SUMMARY OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Balance at 31 March 2020* £
Designated funds	*116,856*	-	-	*116,856*
General funds	*182,753*	*519,335*	*(463,180)*	*238,908*
	299,609	*519,335*	*(463,180)*	*355,764*
Restricted funds	*1,566,882*	*398,973*	*(449,847)*	*1,516,008*
	1,866,491	*918,308*	*(913,027)*	*1,871,772*

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Restricted funds 2021 £	**Unrestricted funds 2021** £	**Total funds 2021** £
Tangible fixed assets	**1,422,483**	**562,901**	**1,985,384**
Current assets	**14,636**	**531,148**	**545,784**
Creditors due within one year	**-**	**(53,431)**	**(53,431)**
Creditors due in more than one year	**-**	**(531,309)**	**(531,309)**
	1,437,119	**509,309**	**1,946,428**

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Restricted funds 2020 £	*Unrestricted funds 2020* £	*Total funds 2020* £
Tangible fixed assets	*1,421,643*	*613,738*	*2,035,381*
Current assets	*118,624*	*289,785*	*408,409*
Creditors due within one year	*(24,259)*	*(9,108)*	*(33,367)*
Creditors due in more than one year	-	*(538,651)*	*(538,651)*
	1,516,008	*355,764*	*1,871,772*

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charity and the group operates a defined contributions pension scheme through Scottish Equitable. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £34,643 (2020 - £38,110). Contributions totalling £Nil (2020 - £Nil) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The related parties or community organisations with activities which are complementary to and in futherance of the objectives of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service. The trustees and officers of Blackburn with Darwen Council for Voluntary Service do not receive remuneration from these organisations and do not hold any beneficial interest.

22. CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.