SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales · Charity number 1024546

Details

Other names	SCVS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02832920
Registered	1993-08-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Sefton Cvs 3rd Floor North Wing Burlington House Crosby Road North WATERLOO
Phone	01519200726
Email	mail@seftoncvs.org.uk
Website	www.seftoncvs.org.uk

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Activities

Objects: 1.1 THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY SHALL BE:1.1.1 TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE BOROUGH OF SEFTON (AND IN SUCH OTHER AREAS AS THE TRUSTEES DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME) AND IN PARTICULAR (BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING):1.1.1.1. THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION;1.1.1.2. THE ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTH; AND1.1.1.3. THE PREVENTION AND RELIEF OF POVERTY; AND1.1.1.4. THE RELIEF OF THOSE IN NEED, BY REASON OF YOUTH, AGE, ILL HEALTH, DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR OTHER DISADVANTAGE.1.1.2 TO PROMOTE AND ORGANISE COOPERATION IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ABOVE PURPOSES AND TO THAT END TO BRING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE PURPOSES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SEFTON (AND IN SUCH OTHER AREAS AS THE TRUSTEES DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME).1.1.3 TO ADVANCE ANY OTHER EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE PURPOSE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME.

Activities: Sefton CVS promotes voluntary,community and faith activity in the borough of Sefton and surrounding areas by means of providing services to and support for voluntary, community and faith organisations.CVS acts as the principal coordinating and umbrella infrastructure organisation and is a conduit between voluntary sector organisations, through networks and joint working, and the statutory sector.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BOROUGH OF SEFTON AND SUCH OTHER AREAS AS THE TRUSTEES DETERMINE
- Sefton

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Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£4,823,292	£4,831,511	£1,934,534	102
2024-03-31	£4,737,629	£4,622,673	£1,976,887	112
2023-03-31	£4,494,443	£4,718,375	£1,811,578	94
2022-03-31	£4,686,262	£4,221,631	£2,084,984	94
2021-03-31	£4,144,017	£3,687,938	£1,602,783	96

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MARK SONNE	Chair	2013-03-27
Brian Thomas		2017-01-25
Colonel Mark Charles Heath Underhill OBE		2025-07-23
DAVID MCGREGOR		
DAVID WREN ROSCOE		
Dr MICHAEL JOHN HOMFRAY		2011-11-10
Dr Peter Hawkins		2024-07-22
Helen Margaret Ollivier		2024-05-22
PAUL PASCHAL CUMMINS		
PAULETTE LAPPIN		2013-11-01
Romils Mathew		2021-10-20
Valerie Elson		2015-05-20

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SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1024546

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1024546

Company Registration No. 02832920 (England and Wales)

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr D Roscoe	
	Mr P Cummins	
	Dr M Homfray	
	Ms P Lappin	
	Mr D McGregor	
	Mr M Sonne (Chair)	
	Mr B Thomas	
	Mr R Mathew	
	Ms V Elson	
	Dr P Hawkins	(Appointed 22 July 2024)
	H M Ollivier	(Appointed 22 July 2024)
Chair of the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne	
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees	Mr B Thomas	
Observers to the board from Sefton MBC	Councillor J Pugh	
	Councillor C Carragher	
	Councillor D Robinson	
Patrons	The Worshipful Mayor of Sefton	
	Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE OStJ DL FRSA	
President	Mr Mark FW Blundell CVO, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside	
Chief Executive	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA	
Secretary	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA	
Charity number	1024546	
Company number	02832920	
Registered office	3rd Floor, North Wing Burlington House Crosby Road North Waterloo Liverpool L22 0LG	
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited 14th Floor The Plaza 100 Old Hall Street L3 9QJ	
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 99-101 Lord Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 6PG	

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Solicitors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL
Principal Insurers	Edwards Insurance Brokers Stonebridge House Kenilworth Road Meriden CV7 7LJ
Investment advisors	Rathbones Port of Liverpool Building Brunswick St L3 1NW

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Charity

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service is constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital and registered in England and Wales, No 2832920. The principal governing document is the company Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners, No 1025456. Sefton CVS was founded in 1974 as an unincorporated charity and became a charitable company in 1993. Sefton CVS celebrated its 50th year in 2024.

The principal address and registered office of the company is Suite 3B, 3rd Floor, Burlington House Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, Merseyside L22 0LG.

The Trustees report for 2024/25 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act, 2016 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice and the charity's governing document.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects, as described in the CVS Memorandum and Articles of Association, and amended in 2023, are:

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

- The advancement of education;
- The advancement of health;
- The prevention and relief of poverty;
- The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

To promote and organise cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time.

To advance any other exclusively charitable purpose according to the law of England and Wales as the trustees may determine from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission
To promote and assist voluntary, community and faith sector activity.

Vision
A vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector that encourages and supports independent resilience and sustainable communities.

Values

The CVS guiding principles:

- Put Sefton people, places, and organisations at the heart of what we do.
- Be open and fair in our transactions.
- Take responsibility and be accountable for our actions.
- Promote equality, diversity, and cohesion through our activities.
- Support the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Seek solutions, not problems.
- Be prepared to listen and learn.
- Operating ethically, honestly and with the highest standards of integrity.

Sefton CVS has six overarching activities:

- Providing support services to the voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector.
- Promoting partnerships within the sector and between the voluntary sector and other sectors.
- Providing a channel through which the sector is represented.
- Developing new ideas, strategies, and organisations.
- Supporting and developing volunteering opportunities.
- Promoting equality of opportunity and access and promoting the value of diversity

Governance and Management

The Board of Directors as Trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction and over-seeing the financial sustainability of the organisation, establishing policy, priorities and forward planning through the governance structures of the charity. The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. An annual board programme to track progress is produced.

Board meetings and sub-committees have operated face to face and digitally. The sub committees of CVS, which includes the Corporate Management Group and Finance Group, met on a regular cycle with actions reported back to each Board meeting.

Key activities include:

- Presentation of latest management accounts, investment updates and budget and sustainability performance
- Chief Executives strategic and operational report
- Recruited Dr Peter Hawkins and Margaret Ollivier to the July 25 Board as new Trustees
- Regular updates on HR, governance and compliance, health and safety
- Project presentations received from Sefton Young Advisers, Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project, Hospital Discharge, High Intensity Users
- Partnership working and responding to the impact of the Southport Tragedy
- Submission for the Navajo LGTBQI assessment subsequently achieved in July 2024
- Ongoing review of policies and strategy development
- CVS new Strategic Plan
- Safeguarding Assurance and Governance
- The Board continued to review its practice using the Charity Governance Code modules for larger charities.
- Approval of new lease arrangements for Burlington House and office refurbishment works

Appointment of Officers

At the Board meeting in Feb 2024, Mark Sonne was appointed Chair and Paulette Lappin Vice Chair with Brian Thomas acting as Treasurer, following Liz Barnett's resignation as Chair due to ill health. The Board agreed to continue the officers for the financial year 24/25.

President and Patrons

Mark FW Blundell CVO, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, continued to act as President. Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE FRSA DL and the office of the Mayor of Sefton continued as Patrons. President and Patrons provided unstinting support to the organisation during the year.

Sefton CVS AGM 2024

The 31st Annual General Meeting as a charitable company was held at Sefton CVS office on 16th October 2024, where the accounts and annual report were adopted. Mitchell Charlesworth Limited were appointed as Auditors for the following year. Margaret Ollivier and Dr Pete Hawkins joined the Board in year and were confirmed for a further three years at the AGM. Three Trustees were reappointed: Val Elson, Romils Mathew and David McGregor. The CVS President and Patrons were present and spoke at the meeting.

Professional Advisers

EBS Law act as CVS's external Human Resource advisers. WRM are CVS's external Health and Safety advisers. Brabners LLP Liverpool continued as our specialist advisers on charity governance and law. MRB act as financial management and employee benefits advisers. Rathbones manages Sefton CVS investment portfolio.

Use of Buildings

The lease for Burlington House with Tracey Investment Ltd was due for renewal in 2024 and was extended for a further 10 years, with reduced floor space. A programme of refurbishment of the Third Floor would be undertaken in 2025. This was agreed by the Trustees in November 2025.

CVS manage Southport Community Centre in a partnership with the Parochial Church Council of St Simon and St Jude's. CVS and Brighter Living Partnership hold a joint lease until 2039 with the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Due to the repurposing of the Strand, Strand by Me secured a new premise within the shopping centre, 47, Medway, Strand Shopping Centre, Bottle, Merseyside, L20 4SR which was opened during November 2024. A new 3 year lease was agreed with Sefton Council The official opening took place in January 2025.

Reserves

The Trustees have determined the reserve levels of the charity giving consideration to the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trustees have concluded that, to allow the charity to be managed efficiently and to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve equivalent to approximately 3 months of all core expenditure should be maintained.

Therefore, the General Reserve has been set as £171,840.

There has been a review of designated funds in the light of forecast activity for the year ahead, and these are included in note 26.

Sefton CVS Investment Policy

Rathbones act as Investment Managers and manage a portfolio investment in line with the ethical investment intentions of Sefton CVS. This portfolio performance is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure a satisfactory return that can contribute to the furtherance of the objectives of the Charity. Some funds are still held on a short-term investment basis with HSBC, which enables the charity to have access to the funds to ensure liquidity.

The Trustees regularly review the performance of these funds with consideration to the investment of the organisation's reserves and an investment strategy in line with the organisation's ethical and environmental values. The lasting impact of the pandemic on the world-wide economy and international conflicts had affected the short-term performance of CVS portfolio investments which has been considered by the Trustees on a regular basis.

Quality Assurance

Sefton CVS hold the following quality assurance marks and training accreditations:

- Volunteer [RJ1] Centre Quality Assurance
- Navajo (LGBTIQ friendly) Charter Mark (renewed in the year)
- Workplace Wellbeing Charter
- Disability Confident Employer
- Open Awards Approved Centre
- Recognised Centre Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
- Social Value Quality Mark Level 1
- Living Wage Employer
- LCR Fair Employment Charter

Sefton CVS is a key agency in strategic partnerships and interventions in the borough, addressing local priorities through the work of the key Partnership Boards, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Partnership Board.

CVS is also recognised as a key non-statutory partner within Sefton Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board.

In addition, CVS works closely with Sefton Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside via Sefton Partnership Board, the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and the borough's thematic planning groups to support local commissioning priorities.

Sefton CVS is also a partner in sector engagement and developing initiatives across the City Region with VS6, engaging with the Combined Authority and Metro Mayor's Office, and across the wider North West working with Voluntary Sector North West and engaging with the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Partnerships.

Key features of this and other strategic work during 2024/25 included:

- Continued participation in ongoing workstreams relating to NHS transformation, health and social care integration and advocating the vital role that both the funded and unfunded sectors play in providing services and support to borough residents by addressing the priorities of statutory partners and the Sefton Partnership.
- Facilitating sector networks and forums, involving both groups and individuals, as a consultation and engagement conduit, helping to develop public policy and shape local services.
- Participation in a range of Sefton Council work programmes, including the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Sefton Partnership Board.
- Also engaging in the work of the People and Communities Group, Community Safety Partnership, Sefton Leadership Collaborative Multi-Agency Group, Sefton Adult Forum, Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership and Sefton Combatting Drugs Partnership.
- Active involvement in other work programmes relating to children, young people and families including the Corporate Parenting Board, SEND Continuous Improvement Board, Children and Young People Partnership Board, Youth Offending Service Management Board, Early Help Partnership Board, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Board and Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership Forum.
- Continued involvement as Chair of the multi-agency Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Partnership (WRAP) and making a significant contribution to the Child Poverty Strategy for Sefton.
- Delivery of MECC (Making Every Contact Count) training to the wider workforce, including elected members, local authority staff, GPs, DWP staff and the VCF sector.
- Facilitating participation and engagement mechanisms with the equalities groups, the Young Advisors, SYMBOL, and the Youth Cabinet as conduits to our public sector partners.
- Facilitating the New Realities Steering Group and supporting key areas of work that demonstrate innovative working across public and voluntary sector agencies.
- Providing VCF sector representation and input to the NHS Leading for Systems Change groups.
- Participation by the Chief Executive in the Sefton Lieutenancy Panel, providing advice and updates on the VCF sector to the Deputy Lieutenants of Merseyside covering Sefton.
- Continuing to co-ordinate the wide range of services delivered by Living Well Sefton, an integrated wellness service commissioned by Public Health, with additional activities delivered by the Strand By Me community and health services shop.
- Engaging with stakeholder groups about the proposed redevelopment of Bootle's Strand shopping centre, with particular emphasis on CVS/VCF sector participation in the development of a proposed health hub.
- In partnership with VOLA, continuing to deliver the Include-IT Mersey digital inclusion programme through a City Region collaborative of RSLs and VCF sector organisations, further funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund through the LCR Combined Authority.
- Hosting a celebration event in November to mark Sefton CVS's 50th anniversary attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Ruth Hussey, the Mayor of Sefton, partners, funders, VCF sector representatives, trustees, staff, and volunteers.
- Continuing to co-ordinate and develop Sefton's Warm and Welcome Spaces provision, a network of safe and accessible venues providing food, warmth and social activities for people affected by the cost of living crisis. 762 sessions were run during the year by our 40 community partners with 14,497 attendances. Options were also explored to sustain the project beyond 2024.
- Co-ordinating a group of 16 organisations who provided vouchers and clothing to 1,616 residents in need.

- Working as an active member of the Greater Merseyside VS6 which is a focal point for VCF and social enterprise infrastructure/support providers to debate, influence and shape policy at the Liverpool City Region level.
- Ongoing participation in VS6 work plans including monitoring of the Shared Prosperity Fund, development of the VS6 manifesto, ensuring the sector is engaged with ICB regional and place developments and supporting the delivery of LCR digital connectivity programmes.
- Working with VS6 partners and NHS Mersey Care NHS Trust to secure a Sefton allocation of around £171,000 of Community Mental Health Transformation funding into locally based voluntary organisations.
- Supporting the delivery of activities by the Liverpool City Region Dementia Friendly Advisory Group to raise awareness of dementia and the services and support available to people affected by the condition.
- Working in partnership with the other CVS organisations on Merseyside as part of a sub-regional network. This year we co-ordinated VCF engagement with the development of regional NHS structures to ensure the appropriate involvement of the sector and local communities in new relationships and joint working across the City Region.
- Through the Sefton CVS CEO, engaging with Merseyside Resilience Forum and the VCSE Emergencies Partnership's national monthly network.

Southport Tragedy and Recovery

On July 29th August 2024, Southport experienced the tragic events of a knife attack at the Hart Street dance class, which culminated in the loss of life of Alice, Bibi, and Elsie with others seriously injured and traumatised. On July 30th, riots and disorder broke out in the town and targeted at Southport Mosque with similar events occurring in towns and cities across the UK.

- Southport Sefton Council established a 'Recovery Cell' to lead the local response to the two separate incidents in Southport with Sefton CVS being a key strategic partner. CVS inputted to the initial thematics and is represented on the four pillar thematics going forward.
- Sefton CVS established the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector, (VCFS), Recovery Group to harness the local experience and expertise to put in place a VCFS Recovery plan. Over 35 different Southport VCF groups and organisations are represented on the group which continues to meet.
- CVS commenced a comprehensive 'listening exercise' with the voluntary, community and faith sector during the months of August and September 2024 to gain insight into the immediate, medium, and long-term needs of the community.
- Coordinated a Small Grants Fund with £15,000 from Sefton Council to meet local needs in the immediate and medium-term. To date over 45 different community, family, youth, and interfaith community activities. It also included the commissioning of training on building security and safety and trauma informed practice for frontline VCF staff and volunteers.
- Worked closely with the Community Foundation for Lancashire and Merseyside as they coordinated the public appeal '*Southport Stronger Together Appeal'* The main priorities for the allocation of the funds are for directly impacted individuals and families experiencing bereavement, serious injury, immediate hardship, and psychological injury and the first grants were awarded in the early days of the funds being established. This still remains the main priority for the fund.

  11 schools were awarded grants with an association with those immediately impacted by the tragedy. An element of the fund, in accordance with the priorities, criteria and approval of the appeal, could be used to support Southport VCFS agencies, or those that deliver services in Southport, The Foundation supported eight anchor Southport community organisations to build capacity and continue to support the local community following the tragic events of last summer to extend delivery. CVS were asked to lead the *Voluntary, Community & Faith (VCF) Sector Grant Fund* for grants between £500 and £5,000. The priorities for the grant fund: community cohesion, psychological and wellbeing support, youth provision and community reassurance programmes, training, capacity building, events, and activities. The deadline for submissions was 23rd February. Subsequently, the grant panel allocated £62,709,63 to 22 VCF sector organisations based in or providing services in Southport.

- The VCF sector Recovery group developed the *'VCF Anti-Racism and Inclusion Pledge'* which was successfully launched on 31st October 2024 in partnership with the Liverpool City Region's Race Equality Unit. To date 22 VCFS groups and organisations have signed up to the Pledge and further work will be continued into 2026.

- Worked with the *Belong Network* on behalf of the sector to support them to reach different groups and organisations in Southport as part of their community assessment work.
- Building security and audit training was delivered to 12 Southport VCF groups in order to strike the balance of open access and inclusion with safety and security.
- The CEO of Sefton CVS sits on the Council's Southport Recovery Executive Leadership Group and will retain strategic oversight of the sectors' funding allocation across the different work programmes through sector representation.

Locality Working

Sefton CVS is aligned to Sefton Council's locality based working model strategically and adopts a locality approach when working with Sefton's communities.

Community Development Interventions

Organisation Development and Capacity Building

CVS deliver comprehensive organisation development and capacity building services in localities to support people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery by:

- Supporting loca people to set up and develop robust, sustainable and high impact groups, associations, organisations and social enterprises.
- By supporting established local community organisations and social enterprises to improve their effectiveness, reach and social impact.
- By bringing people together to network, share knowledge, operate creatively and collaborate more effectively and extensively.
- Supporting organisations to mitigate against, and respond to the Cost of Living Crisis.

Groups can access support in charity or social/community enterprise start up; acquiring/managing community assets; governance and leadership; achieving quality standards; social impact; project development and organisational growth; identifying and applying for funding; business planning; developing policies; skills development; accountancy services and payroll and volunteering having a voice in local decision making.

Key activity undertaken in 2024/25 included:

- 750 intensive cases of capacity building and customised support were provided to 212 groups and 78 individuals. 17% of the groups worked with had an annual income between £10K and £100K and 16.5% had an annual income under £10K.
- The majority of support provided by CVS has been for services that have a focus on the following themes of work: Children, Young People & Families (9%), Adult Health and Wellbeing (12%), Faith/Place of Worship (12%), and Sports/Recreation/Arts and Culture (17%) and Education/Training/Employability (11%).
- Groups who deliver services across the full geographical area of the borough accessed support from CVS, however the service demand has been greatest amongst those delivering services which operate borough wide (57%).
- Hosted six 'Meet the Funder' events, connecting 91 attendees with local, regional and national funders.
- Held a 'Social Impact Tool Workshop' which provided support to four organisations to improve their social impact reporting.
- Five VCF organisations benefitted from attending a Volunteers and the Law Masterclass which was delivered in partnership with Brabners LLP.
- Facilitated the Shared Prosperity Capacity and Resilience Grants distributing £90,000 to 21 VCF sector organisations targeted on activities in reducing operating costs and increasing income levels.

Funding Advice and Information

The Funding Advice and Information function provides bespoke information and interventions to enable VCFSE sector organisations to access funding opportunities and support them to become more financially sustainable and build organisations' capacity to prepare strong proposals to charitable trusts, funders and commissioners.

The Group Development Team works closely with local and national charitable trusts and grant makers to ensure that their criteria are widely understood and available to potential applicants through one to one advice sessions, Meet the Funder surgeries, the MFIP portal and customised mailings. CVS also brief local funders and Charitable Trusts as to local demands and impacts, which assists them having an increased understanding of needs on the ground.

The service provides detailed support in developing proposals to bid status, assistance in compiling evidence and data, final submission and bespoke advice in monitoring and managing the grants once awarded. It also provides a bid review service, which improves the quality of applications and the ability of the applicant for future submissions. CVS also provides a bespoke bid reading service on request.

Identifying funds and resources to continue support responses to the Cost of Living Crisis and supported the local VCFSE sector to submit £3,824,479 worth of funding applications, whilst securing £2,183,256 in known funding applications through bespoke advice and support.

Key activity undertaken in 2024/25 included:

- A further £1,346,223 worth of bids were awaiting funding decisions at the end of March 2025.
- Sefton CVS also administers Merseyside Funding Information Portal (MFIP) website on behalf of the VCF infrastructure bodies in the Liverpool City Region. During 2024/25 MFIP has attracted 40,000+ views from over 12,000 unique visitors to the website.
- Sefton CVS provides a bespoke service to organisations making submissions to the Big Lottery Programmes, specifically Reaching Communities and Awards for All. Throughout the year, we supported groups to secure £1,662,799 from the Reaching Communities Fund.
- Funding surgeries were facilitated for National Lottery Heritage Fund, Burbo Bank Community Fund, Steve Morgan Foundation and Duchy of Lancaster. Connecting 91 attendees with local, regional and national funders.
- Participated in the work of the Merseyside Charitable Trusts Group and the Merseyside Funders Advice Network.

Grants

Throughout the year, we secured and administered a range of grants from a variety of funders, which resulted in £1,179,066.75 worth of grant funding being awarded to local community, voluntary and faith sector organisations.

Grants awarded during 2024-25 included:

- Living Well Sefton awarded £83,182 via Community Resilience Grants, £60,000 via Locality Grants and £8,889 via Workplace Wellbeing Grants, meaning LWS awarded a total of £111,948 in grants to the sector.
- Working in partnership with Sefton Council, grant funding totalling £88,310 was awarded to 40 organisations to deliver Warm and Welcome Space sessions across Sefton.
- Winter Clothing, in partnership with Sefton Council, £75,000 was administered via 16 VCF sector organisations to reach 555 recipients to provide winter clothing and essentials.
- Administered £45,000 on behalf of Sefton Council's 13 organisations from public health funding to support initiatives which aim to improve the wellbeing of people aged over 65 in Sefton.
- Administered £25,000 to eight organisations to deliver initiatives aimed at reducing drug and alcohol related harm to young people, and £12,000 to four organisations to capture qualitative insights into drug and alcohol use, on behalf of Sefton's Combating Drugs Partnership.

The funds we supported organisations to secure, alongside the grants we administered and our grant allocation carried out by VOLA, and Living Well Sefton, means we facilitated £3,362,322 worth of investment into the VCF sector.

Heritage

Sefton at 50, Hearts of Gold Heritage Lottery Project aims to; involve a wider range of people in heritage; identify and better explain Sefton's rich and diverse heritage; help people and organisations to develop skills; educate people about heritage and make the local area a better place to live, work or visit. The project aims to achieve these outcomes by: awarding community grants for heritage projects, celebrating special people, places and events from the last 50 years in Sefton and creating three locality-based heritage trails with research and local knowledge from volunteers.

Key activities for 2024-25

- The Hearts of Gold Project has awarded Heritage Lottery Community Grants of £23,054.42 to 15 VCF groups between 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025, totalling £50,010.42 to 32 VCF organisations over the duration of the project. Some of the vibrant community activities have included: intergenerational podcasts; creative writing and story-telling; projects about horticultural heritage and coastal biodiversity; performing arts and community theatre and tapestries illustrating Sefton's rich heritage.
- 3 community heritage trails have been completed in Bootle, Netherton and Formby informed by research from local volunteers. Printed trail leaflets have been produced for each location, along with dedicated websites and wooden hearts placed at points along the route with QR codes to explain more about the locations featured on the trails.
- There have been 2 Heritage Meet the Funder events between 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025, one with National Lottery Heritage Fund North.

Community Accountancy

The Community Accountancy Service provides a range of services including payroll management, bookkeeping, preparing annual accounts, budgets and forecasts, as well as offering advice and guidance in areas such as VAT and Gift Aid. The Team provide training to staff and trustees either on a one-to-one basis or in group sessions and offers support to VCF sector groups in financial crises.

Key Activity undertaken in 2024/25 included:

- Provided accountancy services to 115 groups.
- Annual accounts prepared for 112 groups.
- Independent Examinations carried out for 50 groups.
- Provided Payroll Bureau Service to 24 groups and Pensions Service to 15 groups.
- Contracted to undertake bookkeeping for 45 groups.
- Provided VAT return support to 1 group.

SEFTON 4 GOOD

Sefton 4 Good supports philanthropy and local giving, primarily through an online presence. The project encourages local people and organisations to donate their time, skills, money, or resources to support Sefton-based good causes. There are a range of options through which donors can donate (payroll giving, Just Giving through Virgin Money and text giving). Local good causes also have the opportunity to maximise their fundraising by channelling it through Sefton 4 Good, who can claim gift aid on their behalf. Sefton 4 Good works with the Private Sector, the Public Sector, the VCF sector and the general public to empower them to support the good causes on their doorstep.

Key activities undertaken in 2024/25 included:

- Continued to grow our social media presence on Facebook (787 followers), Instagram (708 Followers) and LinkedIn (40 Followers) for Sefton 4 Good. This year, we reduced our use of Twitter (X) and launched a presence on Blue Sky.
- Fundraising activity involved: an Easter raffle, a silent auction, Euro 2024 sweepstakes, a Halloween quiz, a raffle at the Volunteer Celebration Event and Sefton 50th Event. Selling Sefton 4 Good craft group pink hearts at a couple of craft events.

- There have been three Citizens 4 Good awards held at Southport, Bootle, and Maghull Town Halls. 42 local people, groups or educational establishment teams who have gone above and beyond for their local community were celebrated at these three events. The Mayor of Sefton thanked the nominees, handing out certificates and recognising their selfless contributions to Sefton.
- £500 was donated to the Southport Citizens 4 Good awards by Southport BID in October 2024.
- Raised the profile of Sefton 4 Good by attending events and holding promotional stands, for example, Black Norman Solicitors networking evening.
- Supported the Winter Warm packs for vulnerable citizens in the borough; Waterloo Primary School and St Philip's School, Litherland bought students to help pack the bags ready to be distributed.
- To celebrate the borough of Sefton turning 50 we hosted a number of Volunteer Taster Days with Friends of Waterloo Seafront Gardens, Canal and River Trust, Bootle Library, Southport Community Centre and The Inclusion Network. Together, we had 94 people volunteer.

Training and skills

The Sefton CVS Training and Skills Programme builds the knowledge and skills of the VCF sector workforce, thereby strengthening the capability and capacity of the organisations they work for to sustain and grow their operations.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Providing training opportunities that benefitted a total of 531 individuals, including e-learning packages offered as a suite of 28 online courses by online learning platform TES Development.
- Providing TES Development online training packages to 193 individuals.
- Delivering more than 20 'in-person' and remote training courses and masterclasses on a wide range of topics including mental health, bid writing, safeguarding policy, recruiting volunteers, mentoring, dementia, equality, and diversity.

Volunteering

Volunteer Centre Sefton supports volunteers, and the organisations that recruit volunteers, by providing a brokerage service that matches local people to organisations with volunteering opportunities.

Staff also provide bespoke support to organisations deploying volunteers including good practice guides, advice on policies and procedures, training and support with developing new initiatives. The centre also links in with regional and national agencies in policy work relating to volunteering, and has been awarded the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation from NAVCA.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Increasing the number of volunteer registrations on the Team Kinetic system from 975 to 1,549 during the year.
- Increasing the number of volunteer-involving organisations on the system to 505 during the year, offering a total of 765 volunteering opportunities.
- Holding four Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forums covering a range of volunteer-related topics attended by 68 people.
- Hosing a volunteer celebration event during Volunteers' Week attended by the Mayor of Sefton, Councillor June Burns, as well as other elected members. The event was attended by 34 organisations with a total of 150 guests.
- Providing intensive one-to-one support to 28 individual volunteers, signposting them to relevant roles and introducing them to appropriate organisations.
- Responding to 239 enquiries from 127 groups and individuals on topics such as volunteer recruitment, policies and procedures and best practice.
- Working with nine businesses on employer-supported volunteering opportunities.
- Continuing to grow our Volunteer Centre Sefton social media presence on Facebook (815 followers), Instagram (761 followers) and LinkedIn (59 followers). This year, we reduced our use of X/Twitter and launched a presence on Blue Sky instead.

Criminal justice

The aim of Sefton CVS's work in this field is to provide strategic leadership within the VCF sector, and to be a conduit to partners and interpret policy relating to the criminal justice system, community safety and reducing reoffending.

It involves working with key partners within Merseyside Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, HM Prison Service and Sefton Council.

Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project

This project provides mentoring and befriending support to offenders before and after release from HMP Liverpool, with the aim of helping them to resettle positively back into the community.

A comprehensive tailored service is provided to assist offenders with overcoming any barriers they face, with the objective of reducing reoffending rates significantly, and thus the impact on the wider community.

In 2024/25 the project was funded by a range of agencies and charitable trusts including the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, the John Armitage Charitable Trust and Sefton Council's Drug and Alcohol Partnership.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- 230 offenders engaged with the project to seek support, of whom 98 were matched with a volunteer mentor to progress work on their individual action plans.
- Supporting mentees via 2,968 one-to-one interventions.
- Recruiting and training 239 new volunteer mentors.
- Providing mentees with 2,735 hours of volunteer mentoring support which equates to an economic value of £42,666 based on average wage rates in Sefton.
- Achieving a 10% cent reoffending rate for those who engaged with the project and subsequently returned to prison, compared with the national average of 33%.

Equalities

Sefton Equalities Team works with partners to reduce inequalities in the borough by supporting and enabling partners to meet their requirements under the Equalities Act 2010 legislation.

It also provides a conduit through which Sefton's protected groups can gain access to, and participate in, decision making, consultation and engagement.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Supporting the delivery of the Combined Authority's Race Equality Strategy.
- Delivering understanding personality disorder training and cultural competency training to South Sefton PCN staff.
- Delivering equality, diversity and inclusion training to the senior leadership team of the UK Clinical Research Facilities Network.
- Delivering self-harm training to staff and volunteers of the Crisis Cafes in Sefton.
- Delivering modern day slavery and human trafficking awareness training to almost 30 strategic partners including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Supporting Sefton Prevent, a multi-agency forum which aims to combat extremist activity and indoctrination across the borough.
- Supporting the local authority asylum seeker/refugee forum, a multi-agency group providing information, advice and support.
- Participating in Sefton Hate Crime Joint Action Group meetings, and the Crown Prosecution Service Hate Crime Sub-group.

- Hosting asylum seeker surgeries with NHS GPs at Thornton and Netherton health centres, and weekly migrant surgeries in the north of the borough at Parenting 2000 and Holy Trinity School.
- Ensuring the implementation of the Navajo Action Plan to enable Sefton CVS to retain the Navajo Charter Mark.
- Providing advocacy at DWP and employment tribunals, with extensive arrears recovered for clients.
- Ongoing support for football's Show Racism the Red Card educational work.
- Helping NHS partners to access DEB communities in Sefton.

DEBs CDW Project (Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds Service)

This project provides intensive one-to-one support to vulnerable members of Sefton's DEB communities who are experiencing mental health issues.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Delivering 2,477 interventions for 565 people from DEB/migrant backgrounds from 48 different nationalities. 61 were asylum seekers, of whom 36 had complex needs.
- Working with a total of 257 new clients during the year. The three most common issues raised were again mental health, legal matters and safeguarding.
- Helping 19 clients to claim £114,963 in benefits arrears from the DWP through representation at social security appeal tribunals.
- Providing ongoing support to Ukrainian and Russian clients affected by the current conflict.
- Attending 24 meetings of the Southport Recovery Group and Community Cohesion Sub-group in response to the knife attack in the town.
- Providing direct support to Southport Mosque by meeting with the Imam in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy.

Children, young people and families

This area of the work of Sefton CVS involves the development of a co-ordinated, strategic approach to local services, seeking to embed best practice to deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families, with a focus on multi-agency working and integrated processes.

The Every Child Matters Forum, which has 773 members, facilitates VCF sector representation, enabling the sector to provide service solutions to the needs and priorities identified locally and nationally.

There are also additional sub-groups focusing on key areas of work including the Thrive Network, the Education and Mental Health Network and the Sefton Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Facilitating four meetings of the Every Child Matters Forum and supporting the VCF sector's response to a range of themes including family hubs, domestic abuse and youth voice and participation.
- Co-ordinating the Thrive Network sub-group which brings together organisations in Sefton who are keen to support children and young people using the Thrive model. Chaired by the CVS Children Young People and Families Lead, the group is well attended by a wide range of partners.
- Facilitating the Education and Mental Health Network sub-group which provides an opportunity for local schools to highlight good practice and partner agencies to share information about their services. Regular updates are also provided by school mental health support teams.
- Co-ordinating Perinatal Community of Practice meetings, which provide partners across Sefton who work with families with children up to two years old with an opportunity to share good practice and information on the services available in the borough.
- Involvement in the new Sefton Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group established by partners including Sefton CVS, Sefton Council, Mersey Care and Career Connect to bring together youth voice and engagement in the borough.
- Co-ordinating 162 referrals for Southport and Birkdale Provident Society Trust grants for vulnerable families.
- Co-ordinating the Sefton Emotional Achievement Service (SEAS), a partnership of charities working to deliver bespoke emotional wellbeing support to children, young people, families and schools.

- Co-ordinating Buddy Up, a mentoring and befriending project for young people (13-18) with special educational needs and disabilities. It aims to reduce their social isolation, increase their confidence and prepare them for a more independent adulthood. 35 young people accessed 1,226 hours of activities during the year.
- Co-ordinating the linked Buddy Up+@Alchemy social club for young adults aged 18-25 which aims to improve their emotional health and wellbeing and increase their independence. 64 young adults accessed 3,765 hours of social opportunities during the year.

Sefton Young Advisors

Sefton CVS employs seven Young Advisors aged from 15-22 to show community leaders and decision makers how to engage young people in community life.

They help organisations to 'youth proof' their practices, policies, strategies and commissioning, and engage directly with other young people to get them involved.

The Young Advisors have gained local, regional and national recognition for their work through a range of awards and commendations.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Representing the views of young people at the Healthwatch Sefton Steering Group, Sefton Children's and Young People's Board, Sefton Education and Mental Health Network, the Every Child Matters Forum, the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, the Youth Providers Network, the Thrive Network and the former Experience and Patient Engagement Group.
- Developing and launching Have Your Say Sefton, an opportunity for young people across the borough to comment on topics important to them, with the information gathered then fed back to senior leaders and elected members. During the year the Young Advisors consulted on transport and activities for young people in Sefton.
- Updating the Youth Voice and Participation Toolkit to include the Lundy model of participation.
- Providing feedback on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- Attending the Sefton Parent Carer Forum Local Offer Event at St Michael's School and Youth Quake at Mann Island.
- Providing feedback to Sefton School Health Team on 'Chat Health'.
- Taking part in the 'Deliver You' campaign as part of the National Youth Strategy.

Health and wellbeing interventions

During 2024/25 the Health and Social Care Forum ensured that the voice of the VCF sector was heard within the strategic planning arenas of both health and social care.

Throughout the year members worked with Adult Social Care in preparation for their first CQC inspection and also participated in the options appraisal for the Shaping Care Together Programme.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Facilitating six meetings of the Health and Social Care Forum which currently has 176 members. Speakers from a range of organisations have provided members with insights into critical issues, for example Oliver McGowan training and the system challenges this would present for people with learning difficulties and autism.
- Engaging in consultation on Change NHS, Shaping Care Together, urgent and emergency care at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals and women's services across Sefton and Liverpool.
- Providing an opportunity to articulate the wider community impacts of the Southport knife attack, and a space to reflect. This intelligence was used to inform plans to support community cohesion and resilience.
- Disseminating safeguarding training opportunities to align with the aims and objectives of Sefton Adult Safeguarding Board and activities associated with Safeguarding Awareness Week.
- Providing a community engagement mechanism for the Sefton Combatting Drugs Partnership, addressing issues including the challenges of complex lives, homelessness and the new property pool process.

- Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens hosting three meetings focusing on topics including ageism, physical activity, extra care housing, dementia prevention, falls prevention, hydration awareness and the older people's forums.
- Co-ordinating a public health grant scheme providing funding for projects and initiatives designed to improve the wellbeing of Sefton residents aged over 65.

Dementia Friendly Sefton

The Dementia Friendly Sefton Forum, which had more than 60 members, held four meetings during 2024/25. It has subsequently merged with the Sefton Dementia Steering Group established by the Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Championing a range of issues including the importance of dementia design, hydration in dementia, dementia prevention, cancer and dementia and the Herbert Protocol.
- Supporting activities at the Atkinson Southport, Maghull Town Hall and Bootle Library during Dementia Action Week.
- Providing representation at a number of strategic health and social care meetings throughout the borough including, for example, the Liverpool City Region Dementia Advisory Board and the Sefton Carers Partnership Board.
- Leading on the Dementia Friendly St Oswald's project which aims to collect insights and create innovative and creative solutions to low dementia diagnosis rates within Sefton's St Oswald's electoral ward area.
- Consulting with University of Liverpool Senior Clinical Lecturer Dr Uazman Alam resulting in a successful funding bid for further research into ophthalmology and dementia diagnosis.

Mental Health Navigation Service

Sefton CVS established a new Mental Health Navigation Service during the year using Mental Health Transformation funding.

A gap analysis of existing service limitations identified a need for additional resources in cost of living support, carer support and help for individuals experiencing loneliness and isolation.

In summer 2024 a grant scheme was launched seeking expressions of interest for the provision of these services and three organisations received funding:

- Citizens Advice Sefton is delivering social welfare law advice and support services across the borough.
- Sefton Carers Centre is providing support to both individuals caring for someone with a severe mental illness, and those who have a severe mental illness who also have caring responsibilities.
- Expect is providing support to people living with severe mental illness who feel lonely and isolated.

This service began operations in February 2025 and receives referrals directly from the NHS Mersey Care Community Mental Health Team.

Sefton In Mind

Sefton In Mind, a sub-group of the Health and Social Care Forum, has around 140 members. Four meetings of the group were held during 2024/25.

Key activities during the year included:

- Producing an adult mental health snapshot in response to the tragic events in Southport in July. This mirrored a previous snapshot developed for children's mental health support.
- Redeveloping the Sefton In Mind Directory to underpin the Public Health-led 'We're Here' campaign. The directory features contact details for 30 organisations. During the campaign the website received more than 25,000 views from 1,700 unique users, resulting in 974 click-throughs to organisational information.
- Hosting a 'Time to Talk Mental Health Research' event in partnership with the Mental Health Research for Innovation Centre (M-RIC). As part of this initiative small grants were awarded to ten VCF sector groups undertaking activities supporting M-RIC's work in making mental health research more accessible.

Living Well Sefton

Sefton CVS co-ordinates the Living Well Sefton programme, funded by Public Health with the aim of reducing health inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups in Sefton and those living in the most deprived communities in the borough.

The emphasis of the programme is on prevention and early intervention, and working with a broad range of partners to meet the needs of local people by enabling them to access the services they need easily.

The overall aim of the service is to enable Sefton residents to live well by addressing the factors that influence their health, helping them to be independent, resilient and support both themselves and the people around them.

Sefton CVS is the lead partner in the initiative in a consortium model with the May Logan Centre, Netherton Feelgood Factory, Brighter Living Partnership, Citizens Advice Sefton, Sefton Carers' Centre, SmokeFree Sefton and Active Lifestyles, in addition to more than 20 other Living Well Sefton neighbourhood partners.

In addition, the Social Prescribing Link Worker Service is overseen by Living Well Sefton managers, subcontracted to the Brighter Living Partnership in north Sefton and funded by the Primary Care Networks.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- A total of 7,509 Sefton residents interacting with the service (including Active Sefton/Smoke Free).
- 3,235 new clients interacting with the service for the first time. Key issues of concern included being more active, healthy eating, mental wellbeing and social isolation.
- 94% of clients completing either a Universal Consultation and/or a Brief Intervention.
- Achieving 92% improved mental wellbeing among clients, measured by the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale.
- 224 clients starting and completing a course, and 2,155 individual goals set and completed including improvements to diet, being more active and reducing stress/anxiety.
- Hosting six Making Every Contact Count training sessions attended by 41 people.
- Delivering a wide range of courses and sessions on subjects including growing confidence, weight management, healthy cooking, a ladies friendship group, bereavement support, welfare benefits support, sleep mentoring, eating for health, a craft group and mindful movements
- Attending a wide range of community events including a men's health event at the Feelgood Factory, Sefton healthy hearts event, the InvestSefton marketplace and a cardio vascular disease prevention awareness day.
- Providing emergency response and community engagement following the Southport Knife attack and subsequent riots.
- Partner organisations offering drop-in sessions to support clients with low-level mental health issues.
- Supporting 30 VCF sector groups and 2,819 individuals with £52,130 of funding in Community Resilience Grants. The two rounds focused on mental health and healthy eating and physical activity.
- Supporting 16 small and medium-sized businesses with a total of £6,783 in Workplace Wellbeing Grants.

Strand By Me

Strand By Me is an 'in-person' addition to the service provided by Living Well Sefton.

Located in Bootle's Strand shopping centre, the service allows people to access face-to-face advice and support on Living Well Sefton services, as well as those provided by other organisations in Sefton whose role is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and encourage positive lifestyles.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Relaunching the service at the end of November 2024 after it had been closed for most of the year.
- Welcoming 315 visitors, with 209 of them new to the service. 133 members of the public experienced Brief Interventions with 167 residents being signposted to other sources of support.

- Hosting a wide range of services including Smoke Free Sefton, Healthwatch Sefton, Life Rooms, the Alzheimer's Society, Sole Survivors PTSD support, Sahir (LGBTQ+), Salvation Army Employment Plus, Light for Life, Parenting 2000, Bootle Hub, the Feelgood Factory bereavement clinic, Reach Men's Centre and sight loss charity Galloways.
- Hosting pop-up events to support national awareness weeks on a range of topics including sexual health awareness, dementia and healthy hearts.
- Providing a community venue for the Social Prescribing Link Workers and the Community Connectors to undertake one-to-one client work.
- Working as a member of the Strand Group in collaboration with local community groups, Salt and Tar, the Strand management team and Sefton Council.

Community Connectors

The Community Connectors team link residents to organisations and activities in their local communities, helping to reduce levels of social isolation and loneliness.

To reach as many people as possible the team can call on a team of Community Champion volunteers who work alongside individuals on a short-term basis, increasing their confidence in attending groups and activities, while encouraging them to make their own connections as well.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Handling 181 referrals into the Community Connectors service during the year, offering clients one-to-one support and signposting information.
- Making 1,068 signposting referrals to other organisations over the 12-month period, including those offering careers advice, dementia support, long-term condition support and mental health services.
- Offering an outreach service to those visiting Maghull Advice Centre.
- Participating in a wide range of open days, awareness events and forums across the borough.
- Providing 'Happy to Chat' benches at four locations in south Sefton – the May Logan Centre, North Park, Sean's Place and SING Plus. These feature scannable codes which encourage people who feel isolated or lonely to get in touch with the service.
- Expanding outreach promotional opportunities by developing a monthly Health Hub with partners Parenting 2000 (Respiratory Parent Champion), Healthwatch and the Salvation Army.
- Expanding the service's digital offer by running Meet the Connectors 'Cuppa and Chat' Zoom meetings to explain the role of the service and the assistance available.
- Co-ordinating the team of Community Champion volunteers who provide key services including support with the running of groups and offer 'buddy' support to clients who lack the confidence to attend groups or activities for the first time.
- Supporting the collation of a physical activity spreadsheet for Public Health focused on the activities and groups available across the borough.

Social Prescribing Service

The Social Prescribing Service now has a team of 18 workers across Sefton who liaise closely with the local primary care networks to improve the wellbeing of isolated and vulnerable people by helping them to access the wide range of community support available in the borough.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Handling 2,711 referrals during the year.
- Continuing to build excellent partnerships working alongside local NHS mental health services including the APPs (Associate Psychological Practitioners), community mental health teams (primary and secondary) and the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) programme.
- Organising drop-in sessions in a variety of community settings to encourage people who may wish to access support from the service.
- Engaging with academic research opportunities such as the Defining Social Prescribing Practice study conducted by the Social Prescribing Research Group at Oxford University.
- Continuing the Brighter Connections group in Southport. Funded by a Living Well Sefton Community Resilience Grant the group gives residents the chance to socialise, chat and meet new people.

- Delivering training sessions on the service to NHS staff in Southport and Formby and GP registrars.
- Working with the Complex Lives Group, a pioneering project in north Sefton looking at reducing barriers to support for those who meet the complex lives criteria, and trying to reduce the impact of the health inequalities they face.
- Developing closer links with the Social Prescribing GP Champions to increase awareness and support communication.
- Introducing fully-funded tai chi to support the mental health and wellbeing of residents with support from the Locality Grants, and supporting ongoing activities such as the Men's Group and Men's Shed run as part of the Living Well Sefton programme.
- Delivering a range of healthy living courses as part of the Living Well Sefton offer including Think Differently Cope Differently and others focusing on healthy cooking, weight and sleep.

Enhanced Care at Home Social Prescribing

This service continues to work alongside South Sefton Primary Care Network on providing social prescribing support to older, housebound and/or frail people who have experienced a recent hospital admission.

Staffing changes during the year resulted in capacity within other services being utilised and subsequently a reduced staffing structure of two Enhanced Care Social Prescribers.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- 541 referrals being received by the team.
- 244 support plans being completed and 572 cases completed and closed following 6,087 interventions towards achieving goals.
- 452 signposting referrals being made to a range of different services.
- Processing 53 successful lower rate attendance allowance applications resulting in annual income increases totalling £200,223.
- Processing 60 successful higher rate attendance allowance applications resulting in annual income increases totalling £338,676.

Reablement Service

The Reablement Service provides rehabilitative support to people with a range of health conditions and unmet social issues to enable them to regain their independence.

This includes interventions for timely and safe discharge from hospital, and the assessment of needs to avoid unnecessary dependence on more acute, long-term services.

The service is delivered by the South Sefton Health and Wellbeing Trainers and the High Intensity User Service and Enhanced Care Social Prescribing Link Workers.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- 701 referrals being received by the team of Health and Wellbeing Trainers.
- 14,780 interventions being delivered by the team, the most common areas that clients needed support with being finance, social inclusion and accommodation-related issues.
- Clients achieving 90% of the personal goals they set with the help of the Health Trainers, a significant increase on 67% the previous year.
- Clients accessing £60,956 in benefits and grants with the support of the team.

High Intensity User (HIU) Service

This initiative, funded by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Sefton Place, aims to reduce inappropriate A&E attendances and hospital admissions by individuals identified as

'frequent attenders'. The project aims to address the underlying causes for presenting at A&E.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Intensive work with 90 people to reduce their A&E attendances and hospital admissions – 55 from Southport and Formby A&E and 35 from Aintree A&E.
- Providing support to 198 people who re-attended Southport A&E for dressings, advising them on using other sources of community-based treatment services rather than A&E.
- 41 signposts to other services – 30 from Southport and Formby and 11 from Aintree.
- Providing 6,621 interventions to help people achieve their goals, 4,829 from Southport and Formby and 1,792 from Aintree.
- Attending a wide variety of multi-disciplinary team meetings in both the north and south of the borough.
- Making a presentation on Sefton's HIU journey at the first National HIU Community of Practice event.

REDI (Reablement Drives Independence)

This project is an extension of the High Intensity User Service and is funded by Mersey Care's Mental Health Transformation.

The aim is to use the methodology of what works for the High Intensity User Service and embed this into community mental health to help address the underlying causes for frequent calls to community mental health teams (CMHTs) and crisis lines.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Intensive work with five people during the year (three from north CMHT/two from south CMHT) to reduce the frequency of calls.
- Keeping caseloads low due to the complexity of the cases and to provide a high quality of service and level of interactions.
- Carrying out 64 face-to-face interactions and 401 non-face-to-face interactions.
- Introducing the new clinical system RIO which supports integrated working.

Sefton Crisis Cafes

The Crisis Café Service offers out-of-hours support to anyone experiencing a mental health crisis in Sefton.
The service runs drop-in sessions at two sites (Crosby and Southport) from 5pm-11pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to give borough residents aged 18 and above a place of safety as an alternative to attending A&E.

Team members offer one-to-one support and a social space with refreshments in order to reduce distress and better manage crisis situations. Support is also provided via phone, email or Zoom meeting if required.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Recording a total of 1,826 attendances across both sites during the year. Out of these visits 86 were categorised as people in crisis, 175 in post crisis and 1,485 were to maintain wellbeing during a difficult period.
- Crosby recording 53 new registrations during the year, and Southport 66, a total of 119 new clients.
- Providing telephone support on 1,580 occasions.
- Working in partnership with Parenting 2000 who provide a full-time Peer Support Worker at each Crisis Café to provide additional support to people who may need it during weekdays.

Community Cancer Navigators

The Community Cancer Navigators offer support to people living with, or affected by, cancer who are over the age of 18 and registered with a south Sefton GP practice.

The Navigators can support clients with physical, practical, financial and emotional difficulties, and assist them in contacting the most appropriate services that can provide help.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- 343 cases being referred to the project.
- Active promotion of the service to health professionals within adult social care, primary care nursing teams, GP practices and local support groups.
- Helping clients to access £5,000 in Macmillan grants and to make 212 applications for benefits and other grants, adding up to a total financial gain for clients living with cancer of £495,859.
- Signposting clients on 744 occasions to a total of more than 45 other groups and support services, and making 1,215 onward referrals to services such as occupational therapy, benefits advisers and clinical psychologists.
- Continuing to run the Navigating Cancer Together Group which meets weekly and has provided more than 40 people with a range of information, advice and support.

Sefton Cancer Social Action Lead

This project focuses on raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer within local communities, and to encourage more people to go for NHS screening when invited.

The service focuses on tackling inequalities in cancer outcomes and empowering people to seek timely advice.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Working with People First Merseyside on making information accessible to people with limited literacy skills.
- Provision of healthy eating resources, slow cookers and healthy eating skills development to St. Leonard's Community Centre.
- Supporting local group In Stitches run by Sefton Opera which offers attendees companionship and support while involved in knitting, crocheting and other craft activities.
- Developing a Make Every Contact Count approach for hairdressing and beauty therapist students at Hugh Baird College encouraging them to share positive contacts

Hospital Discharge and Admission Avoidance Service

The Hospital Discharge and Admission Avoidance Service (HDAAS) accepts referrals from health and social care professionals, and self-referrals, from any Sefton resident aged 18 and above who has recently been discharged from hospital, or who is unwell at home and being supported by any team in Sefton Emergency Community Response as part of admission avoidance support.

The service provides free practical support for up to six weeks, including ensuring that patients have basic provisions in their home, help with accessing assistive technology and carrying out basic risk assessments to ensure accommodation is suitable to meet a patient's needs.

The team also help patients to maximise their income through signposting to other services, for example specialist benefits and debt advice.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Receiving 717 referrals over the 12-month period.
- Completing 726 home visits, making 2,306 welfare telephone calls and signposting clients to more than 30 other services and organisations.
- Supporting 62 clients with Blue Badge applications.
- Supporting 149 clients with benefits applications including Attendance Allowance, PIP and Pension Credit.

Healthwatch

Sefton CVS employs the management teams of both Healthwatch Sefton and Healthwatch Knowsley who report to their respective Boards. Each organisation produces its own annual report. Healthwatch operates throughout England as the consumer champion for health and social care.

Include-IT Mersey

Sefton CVS, in collaboration with the VOLA Consortium, delivers the Include-IT Mersey digital inclusion project across the Liverpool City Region.

The aim is to help digitally excluded residents to improve their digital skills, motivation, confidence and access to digital technology.

Launched in 2017 it was originally funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund. Since 2023 the project has been funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Since its inception, Include-IT Mersey has supported 2,747 people through basic digital skills courses, 1,312 of whom are known to have progressed to employment, active job search or volunteering. Several thousand more have accessed support through the network of volunteer-led digital drop-ins across the city region.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Training a further 298 learners to develop essential digital skills, making a total of 638 for the two-year period 2023 to 2025, exceeding UKSPF targets.
- 82% of learners achieving their learning aims and completing their programme of study.
- 179 learners progressing to training/education, paid employment, volunteering or moving into active job-search.
- Expanding the network of digital drop-ins, with notable success in establishing them in libraries.
- 1,182 attendances at digital drop-ins, making a total of 1,923 over the two years, with the second-year figure 60% higher than the first.
- 59 volunteers actively involved in the digital drop-ins over the two years, contributing around 4,250 hours of volunteering.
- An evaluation of the project indicating high levels of satisfaction among learners with 100% of survey respondents reporting improved digital skills and 94% saying that this had had a positive effect on their health and wellbeing.

Southport Community Centre

Southport Community Centre in the town's Norwood area works closely with the Brighter Living Partnership to provide local access to voluntary, community and faith sector services across north Sefton.

Key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Welcoming more than 15,000 visitors and service users over the 12-month period.
- Continuing to provide activities, services and groups for the local community based on their needs. This included Warm and Welcome Spaces provision over the winter and summer periods.
- Acting as a hub for local organisations and residents to hire, which attracts a high number of users.
- Providing an IT suite which is available for use by the public and also used for regular training and support sessions run by local providers.

Communications

Sefton CVS manages the Here For You online directory, providing details of around 3,000 services offered by 1,000 VCF sector organisations in the borough, which attracted more than 10,000 visitors during the year.

Where applicable the directory also includes links to each organisation's website, social media pages and Companies House and Charity Commission pages.

CVS has continued to regularly review and update the listings and add the details of newly-established VCF sector groups and the services they provide.

Other key activities during 2024/25 included:

- Sharing more than 120 separate articles on the CVS website including details of events, activities, job vacancies, policy updates and consultations. These generated 90,000 views and 35,000 unique visits.
- Issuing 49 separate CVS email updates sent to around 1,100 subscribers per update.
- Managing the Sefton CVS X/Twitter account - @SeftonCVS – which had a total of 5,500 followers on 31st March 2025.
- Managing the Sefton CVS Facebook page (facebook.com/SeftonCVS) which has around 2,300 followers.
- In response to the tragic incident in Southport on 29th July 2024 establishing a dedicated web page, Support for Southport. This signposted to updates, information and details of wider support services on Sefton Council's Southport Together Hub, as well as details of VCF sector involvement in the Southport Recovery Programme.
- Hosting a dedicated Warm/Welcome Spaces Network page on the CVS website with information on providers across Sefton. This attracted 3,900 views during the year.
- Acting as an information and consultation conduit on a wide range of strategic and operational consultations and stakeholder engagement activities for partners including Sefton Council, the Integrated Care Partnerships for Cheshire and Merseyside and Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Trust.

The input of volunteers and donations in kind

13 volunteers have supported the Trustee Board and role of Patrons this year. A further 191 volunteers have engaged through Sefton CVS projects and initiatives.

Disclosure of Trustees Remunerations Notes to the accounts

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or related entity.

Disclosure of Trustees Expenses

Trustees were reimbursed travel costs to attend meetings on behalf of the charity totalling £nil.

Use of assets

The Trustees consider the value of assets to be fairly stated.

Balance sheet in the light of future plans

The Trustees consider that the balance sheet is strong enough to fulfil the short-term plans of the core activities and that of the managed projects.

The extent of dependence of particular donors

Sefton CVS has, wherever possible, diversified its funding sources for the development of specific projects. The core services are highly dependent upon the continued support of Sefton MBC with their contribution of £419,315 (2024: £419,315).

Availability of assets

The current assets are available for the general purposes of Sefton CVS although some of its funding is restricted to specific core services and deferred income for services to be delivered in discrete and managed projects.

Fixed assets

The fixed assets of the company and major changes therein during the period are recorded in the notes to the accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr D Roscoe
Mr P Cummins
Dr M Homfray
Ms P Lappin
Mr D McGregor
Mr M Sonne (Chair)
Mr B Thomas
Mr R Mathew
Ms V Elson
Dr P Hawkins (Appointed 22 July 2024)
H M Ollivier (Appointed 22 July 2024)

Sefton MBC Representatives non-voting:

Councillor John Pugh Sefton MBC
Councillor Clare Carragher Sefton MBC
Councillor Dave Robinson Sefton MBC

Patrons The Worshipful the Mayor of Sefton
Colonel Martin G C Amlôt OBE, OStJ DL FRSA

President The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside Mr Mark FW Blundell CVO

Company Secretary and Chief Executive Angela White (Carter) OBE FRSA

Chair of the Board of Directors Mr Mark Sonne

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Small company provisions

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr M Sonne (Chair)
Trustee

Mrs A White (Carter), OBE FRSA
Company Secretary to the Board of Trustees

24 September 2025

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 judgements and 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. 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 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's 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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within 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 the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose 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 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in 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 company through discussions with directors and other management
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence
- identified laws and regulations 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 company'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 to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

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 non-compliance. 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 is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://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 members, 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 charitable company's members 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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mr Tony Stanley ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
Accountants
17 October 2025

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	494,770	3,714	498,484	535,110
Charitable activities	4	82,745	4,219,555	4,302,300	4,180,878
Investment income	5	22,508	-	22,508	21,641
Total income		600,023	4,223,269	4,823,292	4,737,629
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	5,519	-	5,519	7,677
Charitable activities	7	687,359	4,138,633	4,825,992	4,614,996
Total resources expended		692,878	4,138,633	4,831,511	4,622,673
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	(34,134)	-	(34,134)	50,353
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(126,989)	84,636	(42,353)	165,309
Gross transfers between funds		91,815	(91,815)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(35,174)	(7,179)	(42,353)	165,309
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		757,608	1,219,279	1,976,887	1,811,578
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		722,434	1,212,100	1,934,534	1,976,887

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	524,333	10,777	535,110
Charitable activities	4	63,848	4,117,030	4,180,878
Investment income	5	21,641	-	21,641
Total income		609,822	4,127,807	4,737,629
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	6	7,677	-	7,677
Charitable activities	7	655,960	3,959,036	4,614,996
Total resources expended		663,637	3,959,036	4,622,673
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	50,353	-	50,353
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(3,462)	168,771	165,309
Net movement in funds		(3,462)	168,771	165,309
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		761,070	1,050,508	1,811,578
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		757,608	1,219,279	1,976,887

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		27,047		13,101
Investments	**14**		583,355		613,234
			610,402		626,335
Current assets					
Debtors	**18**	457,987		588,674	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,151,428		1,093,237	
		1,609,415		1,681,911	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	(285,283)		(331,359)	
Net current assets			1,324,132		1,350,552
Total assets less current liabilities			1,934,534		1,976,887
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**26**		1,212,100		1,219,279
Unrestricted funds - general	**27**		135,743		238,080
Unrestricted funds - Designated			586,691		519,528
			1,934,534		1,976,887

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 24 September 2025

Mr M Sonne (Chair)
Trustee

Company registration number 02832920 (England and Wales)

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**29**		54,703		103,183
Investing activities					
Proceeds from disposal of fixed asset investments		333,911		31,855	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(14,765)		-	
Purchase of investments		(348,052)		-	
Cash movement on investment portfolio		9,886		(32,880)	
Investment income received		22,508		21,641	
Net cash generated from investing activities			3,488		20,616
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			58,191		123,799
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,093,237		969,438
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,151,428		1,093,237

1 Accounting policies

Company information
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 3rd Floor, North Wing, Burlington House, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 0LG.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association , the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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).

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are 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 cost 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 Trustees' Annual Report.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, and contract income is included in income when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
- When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in income until the preconditions for use have been met.
- When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in restricted funds when receivable.

Voluntary income includes discretionary grants for projects, goods and services where no service agreement or contract exists.

Other grants, which have particular service requirements and which are provided in accordance with a contract or service level agreement are included in the Statement of Financial Activities under the heading Charitable Activities.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Management and governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost, including any incidental costs of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold improvements	over the period of the lease
Office equipment	33.3% per annum on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

1.13 Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds are restricted to agreed transfers to cover restricted fund deficits, or where other transfers have been agreed by the trustees or with donor organisations.

1.14 Group accounts

The charity had two wholly owned subsidiaries, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and Communities are People Limited.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board. Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

Communities are People Limited was dissolved on 14 January 2025.

1.15 Taxation

The charity benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from income and from receipts under Gift Aid.

The charity is not able to recover Value Added Tax and expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities 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 current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Support cost allocation

Support costs are allocated against the projects of the charity on a percentage basis reflecting time spent in the appropriate areas.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	25	3,714	3,739	-	10,777	10,777
Grants receivable for core activities	494,745	-	494,745	524,333	-	524,333
	494,770	3,714	498,484	524,333	10,777	535,110
Grants receivable for core activities						
Sefton MBC	434,165	-	434,165	434,165	(120)	434,045
NHS South Sefton CCG	53,080	-	53,080	52,606	-	52,606
NHS Southport & Ormskirk CCG	-	-	-	27,552	-	27,552
Sefton 4 Good	-	3,414	3,414	-	5,819	5,819
Other	7,500	300	7,800	10,010	5,078	15,088
	494,745	3,714	498,459	524,333	10,777	535,110

4 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grant income	1,860,970	20,000	678,477	478,985	133,692	3,172,124	2,877,371
Grant monies to be redistributed	986,135	31,296	30,000	-	-	1,047,431	1,239,659
Other income	82,745	-	-	-	-	82,745	63,848
	2,929,850	51,296	708,477	478,985	133,692	4,302,300	4,180,878
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds - general	82,745	-	-	-	-	82,745	63,848
Restricted funds	2,847,105	51,296	708,477	478,985	133,692	4,219,555	4,117,030
	2,929,850	51,296	708,477	478,985	133,692	4,302,300	4,180,878

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant income

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2025
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB	385,760	20,000	182,763	-	-	588,523
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	-	-	54,684	478,985	-	533,669
Sefton MBC	-	-	254,344	-	-	254,344
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	-	23,054	-	-	23,054
Southport & Formby PCN	341,433	-	-	-	-	341,433
Big Lottery	-	-	69,752	-	93,692	163,444
Sefton MBC	331,457	-	-	-	-	331,457
South Sefton PCN	479,863	-	-	-	-	479,863
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	292,661	-	-	-	-	292,661
Other	29,796	-	93,880	-	40,000	163,676
	1,860,970	20,000	678,477	478,985	133,692	3,172,124

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant monies to be redistributed

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2025
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB	-	28,000	-	-	-	28,000
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Sefton MBC	972,386	-	-	-	-	972,386
Other	13,749	3,296	-	-	-	17,045
	986,135	31,296	30,000	-	-	1,047,431

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grant income	1,836,398	10,000	381,581	495,047	154,345	2,877,371
Grant monies to be redistributed	821,945	47,520	357,934	-	12,260	1,239,659
Other income	63,848	-	-	-	-	63,848
	2,722,191	57,520	739,515	495,047	166,605	4,180,878
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	63,848	-	-	-	-	63,848
Restricted funds	2,658,343	57,520	739,515	495,047	166,605	4,117,030
	2,722,191	57,520	739,515	495,047	166,605	4,180,878

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant income

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2024
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB	454,680	-	211,459	-	-	666,139
National Lottery Heritage Fund	4,200	-	52,573	432,977	-	489,750
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Southport & Formby PCN	276,639	-	-	-	-	276,639
Big Lottery	-	-	-	62,070	93,692	155,762
Sefton MBC	256,138	-	85,728	-	-	341,866
South Sefton PCN	498,462	-	-	-	-	498,462
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	306,379	-	-	-	-	306,379
Other	39,900	10,000	31,821	-	20,653	102,374
	1,836,398	10,000	381,581	495,047	154,345	2,877,371

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant monies to be redistributed

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2024
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB	-	47,250	76,000	-	-	123,250
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000
Sefton MBC	821,945	-	236,676	-	12,260	1,070,881
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	-	27,258	-	-	27,258
Duchy of Lancaster Benvolent Fund	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
	821,945	47,250	357,934	-	12,260	1,239,389

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	8,073	8,101
Interest receivable	14,435	13,540
	22,508	21,641

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Investment management	5,519	7,677
	5,519	7,677

7 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children,Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	£	£
Staff costs	1,224,539	27,164	300,879	101,701	136,038	1,790,321	1,827,470
Activities undertaken directly	384,532	29,556	22,260	342,530	3,285	782,163	699,795
	1,609,071	56,720	323,139	444,231	139,323	2,572,484	2,527,265
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	829,743	1,800	347,524	-	-	1,179,067	1,077,937
Share of support costs (see note10)	377,154	9,109	346,579	94,528	85,904	913,274	858,325
Share of governance costs (see note 10)	66,557	1,608	61,161	16,681	15,160	161,167	151,469
	2,882,525	69,237	1,078,403	555,440	240,387	4,825,992	4,614,996
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds - general	268,351	19,175	262,943	71,716	65,174	687,359	655,960
Restricted funds	2,614,174	50,062	815,460	483,724	175,213	4,138,633	3,959,036
	2,882,525	69,237	1,078,403	555,440	240,387	4,825,992	4,614,996

7 **Charitable activities** **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	1,232,827	26,779	309,177	113,204	145,483	1,827,470
Activities undertaken directly	306,956	38,012	13,629	337,488	3,710	699,795
	1,539,783	64,791	322,806	450,692	149,193	2,527,265
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	751,486	1,500	324,951	-	-	1,077,937
Share of support costs (see note10)	393,156	14,969	318,268	62,413	69,519	858,325
Share of governance costs (see note 10)	69,380	2,642	56,165	11,014	12,268	151,469
	2,753,805	83,902	1,022,190	524,119	230,980	4,614,996
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	282,663	25,215	246,076	48,256	53,750	655,960
Restricted funds	2,471,142	58,687	776,114	475,863	177,230	3,959,036
	2,753,805	83,902	1,022,190	524,119	230,980	4,614,996

8 Grants payable

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Total
	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:				
Brighter Living	129,870	-	8,350	138,220
Netherton Feelgood Factory	184,933	-	7,140	192,073
Netherton Park	9,000		7,000	16,000
Citizens Advice Sefton	175,262	-	-	175,262
Onward Homes	164,121	-	3,000	167,121
St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre	1,215	-	12,600	13,815
Sefton Carers Centre	45,189	-	1,850	47,039
Parenting 2000	14,500	-	10,825	25,325
Independence Initiative	-		7,500	7,500
Light for Life Sefton	-	-	9,800	9,800
Venus	4,990	-	4,600	9,590
Compassion Acts	2,455	-	18,950	21,405
Home - Start Southport & Formby	5,480	-	7,700	13,180
Kindfullness	5,536	-	9,962	15,498
Sefton Opera	180	-	6,400	6,580
Swan Women's Centre	6,600		4,900	11,500
L30 Community Centre	-	-	3,600	3,600
Woodvale & Ainsdale	8,315	-	7,566	15,881
Other grants between £4,000 and £10,000	19,228	-	65,890	85,118
Other grants less than £4,000	52,869	1,800	149,891	204,560
	829,743	1,800	347,524	1,179,067

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, Sefton4Good is described in the Trustees' report.

Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when the grant is formally accepted by the receiving organisation. Any undistributed balances at the year end are included in the restricted fund balances for the appropriate theme.

8 **Grants payable** **(Continued)**

Prior year

	Health and Wellbeing	Children,Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Total
	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:				
Brighter Living	120,530	-	3,580	124,110
Netherton Feelgood Factory	177,460	-	3,000	180,460
Citizens Advice Sefton	167,000	-	-	167,000
Onward Homes	168,956	-	-	168,956
St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre	-	-	13,000	13,000
Sefton Carers Centre	37,040	-	525	37,565
Parenting 2000	5,000	500	6,500	12,000
Independence initiative	-		10,000	10,000
Light for Life Sefton	-	-	2,000	2,000
Venus	3,300	-	7,338	10,638
Compassion Acts	-	-	15,800	15,800
Home - Start Southport & Formby	2,040	-	6,300	8,340
Kindfulness	1,330	-	10,880	12,210
Sefton Opera	1,338	-	6,245	7,583
L30 Community Centre	-	-	9,720	9,720
Woodvale & Ainsdale	2,950	-	4,350	7,300
Other grants between £4,000 and £10,000	-	-	50,491	50,491
Other grants less than £4,000	64,543	1,000	175,222	240,765
	751,487	1,500	324,951	1,077,937

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, Sefton4Good is described in the Trustees' report.

Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when the grant is formally accepted by the receiving organisation. Any undistributed balances at the year end are included in the restricted fund balances for the appropriate theme.

9 Support and governance costs

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	164,173	102,054	110,928	66,557	443,712
Children, Young People and Families	3,965	2,465	2,679	1,608	10,717
Community Development Program	150,864	93,780	101,935	61,161	407,740
Digital Inclusion	41,147	25,578	27,802	16,681	111,208
Criminal Justice Program	37,394	23,245	25,266	15,160	101,065
	397,543	247,122	268,610	161,167	1,074,442

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	171,138	106,383	115,634	69,380	462,535
Children, Young People and Families	6,516	4,051	4,403	2,642	17,612
Community Development Program	138,540	86,120	93,608	56,165	374,433
Digital Inclusion	27,168	16,888	18,357	11,014	73,427
Criminal Justice Program	30,261	18,811	20,447	12,268	81,787
	373,623	232,253	252,449	151,469	1,009,794

10 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Fees payable to the charity's auditors:	2025	2024
	£	£
Audit of the charity's annual accounts	9,000	9,000
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	1,800	1,800

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Employees (excluding seconded and Sefton Healthwatch staff)	102	112

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	2,029,932	2,065,006
Social security costs	259,294	242,097
Other pension costs	169,708	185,424
	2,458,934	2,492,527

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,000 to £69,999	-	1
£70,000 to £79,999	1	-

Contributions totalling £4,497 (2024: £4,164) were made to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000

The remuneration of key management personnel was £256,098 (2024: £261,599)

12 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of the trustees were reimbursed for expenses (2024: None).

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Assets under construction	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	20,472	-	16,642	37,114
Additions	-	14,765	-	14,765
At 31 March 2025	20,472	14,765	16,642	51,879
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2024	7,371	-	16,642	24,013
Depreciation charged in the year	819	-	-	819
At 31 March 2025	8,190	-	16,642	24,832
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2025	12,282	14,765	-	27,047
At 31 March 2024	13,101	-	-	13,101

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2024	574,480	38,754	613,234
Additions	348,052	-	348,052
Valuation changes	(38,812)	-	(38,812)
Cash movement	-	(9,886)	(9,886)
Disposals	(329,233)	-	(329,233)
At 31 March 2025	554,487	28,868	583,355
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	554,487	28,868	583,355
At 31 March 2024	574,480	38,754	613,234

15 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £
Revaluation of investments	(34,134)	50,353

16 Subsidiaries

Market value at 1 April 2024 and at 31 March 2025 is £nil

Historical cost:
At 1 April 2024 and at 31 March 2025 is £nil

Communities are People Limited
The subsidiary, Communities are People Limited is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 06157031. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is wholly owned by the charity, is currently dormant and has £1 ordinary share capital.

The subsidiary was dissolved on 14 January 2025.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited
The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 08453782. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is limited by guarantee, the charity is the sole subscriber and the amount guaranteed is £1.

The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, was formed on 20 March 2013 and its objects are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) the operation of a Local Healthwatch organisation in Sefton with the aim of gathering people's views on, and experiences of, the health and social care system and becoming a consumer champion for both publicly funded health and social care.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board.

The activities are controlled by and reported in the accounts of Healthwatch Sefton Limited, the subsidiary company.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Funding	167,895	166,033
Expenditure	(164,413)	(174,548)
Movement in year	3,482	(8,515)
Balance brought forward	23,720	32,235
Balance carried forward	27,202	23,720

The investment has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial at 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025 and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced for 2025 Sefton Council for Voluntary Service does not control the activities of Healthwatch Sefton.

17 Financial instruments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	1,626,865	1,704,876
Instruments measured at fair value through SOFA	554,487	574,480
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	224,431	160,394

18 Debtors

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	446,054	573,531
Other debtors	512	(646)
Prepayments and accrued income	11,421	15,789
	457,987	588,674

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Other taxation and social security		60,852	57,139
Deferred income	21	-	113,826
Trade creditors		83,959	38,281
Other creditors		128,419	99,363
Accruals		12,053	22,750
		285,283	331,359

20 Funds held as agent

Sefton CVS holds funds for its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, of £55,022 (2024: £51,540), in a bank account operated by Sefton CVS. The amount payable to its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and an equivalent amount of the bank balance are excluded from these accounts.

21 Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Arising from Deferred contract income	-	113,826

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

21 Deferred income (Continued)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	-	113,826
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	113,826	-
Released from previous periods	(113,826)	-
Resources deferred in the year	-	113,826
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	-	113,826

22 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	169,708	185,424

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

23 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	52,500	45,000
Between two and five years	210,000	-
In over five years	262,500	-
	525,000	45,000

24 Related party transactions

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year (2024: None).

No guarantees were given or received.

Remuneration paid to key management is disclosed in note 11. There were no other disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

25 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

As at 31 March 2025, the charity had financial commitments of £104,827 relating to office refurbishments. £11,421 was invoiced and prepaid during the 24/25 financial year.

26 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	473,199	2,658,612	(2,471,142)	(37,000)	623,669	2,847,205	(2,614,173)	(28,146)	828,555
Children, Young People and Families	50,909	57,520	(58,687)	-	49,742	51,296	(50,062)	-	50,976
Community Development Programs	317,748	750,023	(776,114)	37,000	328,657	712,091	(815,460)	(63,669)	161,619
Digital Inclusion	18,014	495,047	(475,863)	-	37,198	478,985	(483,723)	-	32,460
Criminal Justice Programs	190,638	166,605	(177,230)	-	180,013	133,692	(175,213)	-	138,492
	1,050,508	4,127,807	(3,959,036)	-	1,219,279	4,223,269	(4,138,633)	(91,815)	1,212,100

26 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing encompasses a variety of funds that represents the various projects coordinated and facilitated by Sefton CVS which aim to develop the local VCF sector's response to both local and national health priorities. This covers areas such as Reablement, health promotion and sexual health awareness.

Health and Wellbeing key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG, Merseyside Care NHS Foundation Trust, Southport and Formby PCN and Bootle, Crosby & Maghull PCN.

Children, Young People and Families

Children, Young People and Families projects centre on the development of a co-ordinated and strategic approach to local services, that seeks to embed best practice and deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families, with a focus on multi-agency working and integrated processes.

Children, Young People and Families key funders include NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG.

Community Development Programs

The main aim of Community Development Programs is to support local people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery in Sefton. This covers a variety of initiatives from the provision of financial services (via the Community Accountancy Service) to the management and coordination of a shopping service for older people in North Sefton.

Community Development Programs key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG, NHS South Sefton CCG, Big Lottery Fund and Children in Need.

26 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Digital Inclusion

Digital Inclusion mainly covers projects managed by the VOLA Learning Consortium. VOLA supports the Merseyside Voluntary and Social Enterprise in relation to learning, skills and employment support.

Digital Inclusion's key funders include Big Lottery Fund.

Criminal Justice programs

Sefton CVS work closely with local prisons including HMP Liverpool and HMP Hindley to promote voluntary, community and faith sector activity and opportunities to offenders and their families. From providing voluntary offender mentoring services to allowing access to information, advice and support for offenders, Sefton CVS is one of the leading organisations in prison and offender engagement.

Criminal Justice programs key funders include Big Lottery Fund, HM Prison Service, John Armitage Foundation, Achieve Northwest and Merseyside Police.

The Trustees' Annual Report includes further detail in respect of these funds.

Information regarding individual funds and grants is shown in note 4.

Transfers

The trustees have reviewed the restrictions on funding, where available, and have concluded that any restrictions have been discharged.

27 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Redundancy Contingency Fund	248,707	-	-	248,707	-	(20,302)	-	228,405
Southport Refurbishment Fund	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
IT Replacement Fund	20,000	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Fixed Asset Fund	14,555	-	-	14,555	-	-	12,492	27,047
Business Transition Fund	11,055	-	-	11,055	-	-	-	11,055
HWOP Development Fund	116,823	601	(10,023)	107,401	2,532	(8,734)	59,342	160,541
ECM Development Fund	66,510	533	(13,641)	53,402	1,898	(12,539)	32,474	75,235
Collaboration Development Fund	10,106	-	-	10,106	-	-	-	10,106
Website Development Fund	4,302	-	-	4,302	-	-	-	4,302
Burlington House Accommodation Fund	40,000	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
	542,058	1,134	(23,664)	519,528	4,430	(41,575)	104,308	586,691

27 Designated funds **(Continued)**

The Redundancy Contingency Fund is designated to provide for the employee redundancy costs likely to be incurred should the charity cease to operate.

The Fixed Asset Fund represents the ring fencing of assets which are not available as part of the general liquid reserves of the charity.

The Business Transition Fund represents monies set aside to enable the charity to respond positively to the changing funding landscape.

The following development funds represent monies ring fenced by the Trustees to develop the local VCF sector's response to local and national issues.

- Health Well Being and Older Persons Development Funds
- Every Child Matters Development Funds
- Collaboration Development Funds

The Website Development Fund has been created by SCVS trustees in recognition of the need to maintain the charity website.

The Southport Renovation Fund has been established to undertake a program of renovations at All Souls Community Centre, Southport, Norwood Road, Southport PR8 6HQ.

The IT Replacement fund represents monies set aside to enable the Charity to replace the significant investment made in IT as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, at the end of the current investments life cycle.

The Burlington House Accommodation Fund has been established to meet the terms of the current lease and restore the office at Burlington House back to their original state at the end of the tenure.

28 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	**Designated funds 2025**	**Restricted funds 2025**	**Total 2025**	Unrestricted funds 2024	Designated funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	-	27,047	-	27,047	-	13,101	-	13,101
Investments	23,711	559,644	-	583,355	106,807	506,427	-	613,234
Current assets/(liabilities)	112,032	-	1,212,100	1,324,132	131,273	-	1,219,279	1,350,552
	135,743	586,691	1,212,100	1,934,534	238,080	519,528	1,219,279	1,976,887

29	Cash generated from operations	2025 £	2024 £
	(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(42,353)	165,309
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(22,508)	(21,641)
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	34,134	(50,353)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	819	1,455
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	130,687	(115,413)
	Increase in creditors	67,750	9,980
	(Decrease)/increase in deferred income	(113,826)	113,826
	Cash generated from operations	54,703	103,163

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1024546

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1024546

Company Registration No. 02832920 (England and Wales)

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Sefton CVS

Supporting Local Communities

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr D Roscoe Mr P P Cummins Dr M Homfrey Ms P Lappin Mr D McGregor Mr M Sonne (Treasurer & Chair) Ms V Elson Mr B Thomas Mr R Mathew
Chair of the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne
Advisors to the board from Sefton MBC	Councillor J Pugh Councillor J Hardman Councillor D Robinson
Patrons	The Worshipful Mayor of Sefton Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE OStJ DL FRSA
President	Mr M Blundell, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside
Chief Executive	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA
Secretary	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA
Charity number	1024546
Company number	02832920
Registered office	3rd Floor, North Wing Burlington House Crosby Road North Waterloo Liverpool L22 0LG
Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Suite 5.1 Tempest 12 Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2DT
Bankers	HSBC Bank PLC 99-101 Lord Street Liverpool L2 6PG

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Solicitors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL
Principal Insurers	Edwards Insurance Brokers Stonebridge House Kenilworth Road Meriden CV7 7LJ
Investment advisors	Rathbones Port of Liverpool Building Pier Head L3 1BW

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Charity

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service is constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital. The company is registered in England and Wales, No 2832920. The principal governing document is the company Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners, No 1025456. Sefton CVS was founded in 1974 as an unincorporated charity and became a charitable company in 1993. Sefton CVS celebrates its 50th year in 2024.

The principal address and registered office of the company is the Suite 3B, 3rd Floor, Burlington House Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, Merseyside L22 0LG.

The Trustees report for 2023/24 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act, 2016 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice and the charity's governing document.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects, as described in the CVS Memorandum and Articles of Association, and amended in 2023, are:

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

- The advancement of education;
- The advancement of health;
- The prevention and relief of poverty;
- The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

To promote and organise cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission
To promote and assist voluntary, community and faith sector activity.

Vision
A vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector that encourages and supports independent resilience and sustainable communities.

Values

The CVS guiding principles:

- Put Sefton people, places and organisations at the heart of what we do.
- Be open and fair in our transactions.
- Take responsibility and be accountable for our actions.
- Promote equality, diversity and cohesion through our activities.
- Support the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Seek solutions, not problems.
- Be prepared to listen and learn.
- Operating ethically, honestly and with the highest standards of integrity.

Sefton CVS has six overarching activities:

- Providing support services to the voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector.
- Promoting partnerships within the sector and between the voluntary sector and other sectors.
- Providing a channel through which the sector is represented.
- Developing new ideas, strategies and organisations.
- Supporting and developing volunteering opportunities.
- Promoting equality of opportunity and access and promoting the value of diversity

Governance and Management

The Board of Directors as Trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction and over-seeing the financial sustainability of the organisation; establishing policy, priorities and forward planning through the governance structures of the charity. The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. An annual board programme to track progress is produced.

Board meetings and sub-committees have operated face to face and digitally. The sub committees of CVS, which includes the Corporate Management Group, Information Governance Group and Finance Group, met on a regular cycle with actions reported back to each Board meeting.

Key activities include:

- The Information Governance framework IG Toolkit was updated in June 2023
- Undertook an annual equality and diversity survey of Trustees, staff and volunteers
- Continued to work to the principles contained with the Liverpool City Region Race Equality Combined Authority statement adopted in 21/22. This work was taken forward by the staff Equality and Diversity Task Group reporting into the Board.
- Ongoing review of policies including introduction of a new Code of Conduct for Trustees.
- Rathbones Investment Managers reported on the performance of CVS investments to the July 2023 Board
- The Board continued to review its practice using the Charity Governance Code modules for larger charities.
- Brabners LLP were asked to review the CVS governance document and proposed changes were being put for consideration by the Charity Commission in June 2023.

Appointment of Officers

At the Board meeting in Feb 2024, Mark Sonne was appointed Chair and Paulette Lappin Vice Chair with Brian Thomas acting as Treasurer. Sincere thanks was given to Liz Barnett retiring as Chair.

President and Patrons

Mr Mark Blundell, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, continued to act as President. Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE FRSA DL and the office of the Mayor of Sefton continued as Patrons. President and Patrons provided unstinting support to the organisation during the year.

Sefton CVS AGM 2023

The 30th Annual General Meeting as a charitable company was held at Sefton CVS office on 18th October 2023, where the accounts and annual report were adopted. BWM Accountants Limited were appointed as Auditors for the following year. Four Trustees were reappointed: Paul Cummins, Paulette Lappin, Mark Sonne and Brian Thomas. The CVS President and Patrons were present and spoke at the meeting.
Nicola Ronan and Pete Spiers were not seeking re-election due to work commitments and were duly thanked for their continued support during their terms of office.

Professional Advisers

EBS Law act as CVS's external Human Resource advisers. WRM are CVS's external Health and Safety advisers. Brabners LLP Liverpool continued as our specialist advisers on charity governance and law.

Use of Buildings

CVS has a 6-year lease with Bruntwood Properties, now Tracey Investment Ltd at Burlington House, from which the charity headquarters operate, which was renewed in December 2018.

CVS manage Southport Community Centre in a partnership with the Parochial Church Council of St Simon and St Jude's. CVS and Brighter Living Partnership hold a joint lease until 2039 with the Diocesan Board of Finance.

CVS has a licence to operate a community health shop, Strand by Me in the Bootle Strand Shopping Centre. Due to the repurposing of the Strand, at the end of the financial year, Strand by Me was preparing to move to a new location designated in the Strand.

Reserves
The Trustees have determined the reserve levels of the charity giving consideration to the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trustees have concluded that, to allow the charity to be managed efficiently and to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve equivalent to approximately 3 months of all core expenditure should be maintained.

Therefore, the General Reserve has been set as £282,892.

There has been a review of designated funds in the light of forecast activity for the year ahead, and these are included in note 27.

Sefton CVS Investment Policy

Rathbones act as Investment Managers and manage a portfolio investment of £500,000 in line with the ethical investment intentions of Sefton CVS. This portfolio performance is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure a satisfactory return that can contribute to the furtherance of the objectives of the Charity. Some funds are still held on a short-term investment basis with HSBC, which enables the charity to have access to the funds to ensure liquidity.

The Trustees regularly review the performance of these funds with consideration to the investment of the organisation's reserves and an investment strategy in line with the organisations ethical and environmental values. The lasting impact of the pandemic on the world-wide economy and international conflicts had affected the short-term performance of CVS portfolio investments which has been considered by the Trustees on a regular basis.

Quality Assurance

Sefton CVS hold the following quality assurance marks and training accreditations:

- Volunteer Centre Quality Assurance.
- Navajo (LGBTIQ friendly) Charter Mark (renewed in the year)
- Workplace Wellbeing Charter
- Disability Confident Employer
- Open Awards Approved Centre
- Recognised Centre Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
- Social Value Quality Mark Level 1 (achieved in the year)
- Living Wage Employer (achieved in the year)
- LCR Fair Employment Charter

CVS as a Strategic Partner

Sefton CVS is involved as a key agency in strategic partnerships and interventions addressing local priorities through the work of the key partnership Boards, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Board. CVS is also recognised as a key non-statutory partner with Sefton Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board.

CVS works closely with Sefton Council and its Departments, the local NHS Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) via Sefton Partnership Board, the Primary Care Networks (PCN's), and thematic planning groups supporting local commissioning priorities. Sefton CVS is also a partner in developing initiatives and sector engagement in the City Region with VS6 engaging with the Combined Authority and Metro Mayor's Office and within the North West working with Voluntary Sector North West and engaging with the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Partnerships.

During 23/24 CVS continued to engage with the Council and NHS partners to support a variety of workstreams and programmes including:

- Our involvement in the ongoing workstreams relating to community resourcefulness, NHS transformation, integration and advocating the vital role that both the funded and unfunded sector undertakes in providing services and support to Sefton residents in addressing the priorities of statutory partners and the Sefton Partnership.
- Facilitated sector networks and forums, involving both groups and individuals, as a consultation and engagement conduit, participating in public policy and developing and shaping local services.
- Participated in a range of Sefton Council work programmes including the Health and Wellbeing Board and Sefton Partnership Board.
- CVS is also engaged in the work of the People and Communities Group, Community Safety Partnership, Sefton Leadership Collaborative Multi-Agency Group, Sefton Adult Forum, Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership and Sefton's Combatting Drug's Partnership.
- In relation to children, young people and families, representation was maintained at the Corporate Parenting Board, SEND Continuous Improvement Board, Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board, Youth Offending Service Management Board, Early Help Partnership Board, Emotional Health and Well-Being Board, and Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership Forum.
- CVS is engaged in the Local Safeguarding Children's and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board, representation is provided at the appropriate sub-groups.
- Continued involvement as Chair in the multi-agency Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Partnership (WRAP) and significant contribution to the new Child Poverty Strategy for Sefton.
- Continued engagement in developing the Sefton's Partnership's Place Plan, supporting relevant integrated workstreams and providing leadership to the 'Community First' priority.
- Delivery of MECC (Making Every Contact Count) training to the wider workforce, inclusive of Elected Members, Council staff, GP's, DWP and the VCF sector.
- Facilitated participation and engagement mechanisms with equalities groups, Young Advisers, SYMBOL and the Youth Cabinet as conduits to our public sector partners.
- Supported VCF sector organisations and enterprises to manage change, reshape services to meet need and demand through business and financial planning support and customised interventions to individual groups.
- Facilitated the New Realities Steering Group and supported key areas of work which demonstrate innovative working across public and voluntary sector agencies.
- Provided VCF sector representation and input to the NHS Leading for System Change Groups.
- The CEO participated as a member of the Sefton Lieutenancy Panel with the Deputy Lieutenant's of Merseyside covering Sefton providing advice and updates on the local VCF sector.
- Continued to support and develop the Merseyside Charity Mentoring Service as a pilot in creating mentoring placements working with Financial and Professional Services Advisory Board, the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and CVS's in the Liverpool City Region.
- Continued delivery and coordination of VCF sector services delivering under 'Living Well Sefton', an integrated wellness service commissioned by Public Health, including additional activities delivered by Strand By Me – a local community and health services shop.
- Engaged in stakeholder groups regarding the proposed re-development of the Strand, with particular emphasis on CVS/VCF participation in the development of a proposed health hub.
- In partnership with VOLA, CVS continued to deliver a programme of digital inclusion interventions through a Liverpool City Region collaborative of VCFSE organisations funded from 1st April by the Shared Prosperity Fund through the LCR Combined Authority.

- The Sefton CVS Annual Conference 2023 “Funding For Impact”, took place on November 28th at the Linacre Mission Centre and was attended by 120 delegates. The focus of the event was to consider how organisations can enhance funding opportunities available. Speakers included Councilor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member for Sefton Council, Phil Porter, Chief Executive for Sefton Council and Pete Hawkins, Founder of Windmill Foundation. Delegates participated in a variety of workshops which focused on; developing strategic priorities for Sefton Place Plan, Fundraising for the Future, Demystifying Social Value, Charity Law Updates and Shaping Sefton’s VCF Sector’s Manifesto. Information about the conference and workshop materials are detailed here.
- Continued to co-ordinate and develop Sefton’s Warm and Welcome Spaces provision, a network of safe and accessible venues which adopted a Warm Spaces Charter to provide warmth, food and social activities for people affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. Options were also explored to sustain the project beyond 2024. 1,938 sessions were delivered through our 39 community partners with 34,773 attendances over the year.
- Coordinated a collaborative of 15 organisations who provided vouchers and clothing to 1,616 residents in need.
- An active member of the Greater Merseyside VS6, which is a focal point for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) infrastructure / support providers to debate, influence and shape policy at the Liverpool City Region (LCR) level. VS6 provides public and private sector partners working at the City Region spatial level, a formal point of contact to engage with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, through the infrastructure / support providers.
- Continued to develop an NHS Transformation work programme aligned to the work of the Sefton Partnership Board. Achievements included; two VCF organisations have achieved the Social Value Level 1 Charter Mark, researched and reported findings which consider the introduction of a Community Levy in Sefton, and, created and piloted a new VCF Social Impact Tool for VCF organisations in Sefton.
- Participated in the work plans initiated by VS6 which included; work to secure and invest Shared Prosperity Funding and ensuring the sector is engaged with ICB developments. Supported the delivery of LCR digital connectivity programmes and associated grant rounds, and, worked with VS6 partners and NHS Mersey Care NHS Trust to secure and allocation Place allocations for Community Mental Health Transformation investment.
- Provided representation on the Mental Health Transformation Oversight Group and the Marmot Community Advisory Board.
- Supported the delivery of activities for the Liverpool City Region Dementia Friendly Advisory Group, to raise awareness of dementia and services and support available to people it affects.
- Delivered supporting to the National Academy of Social Prescribing for the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership.
- Sefton CVS is affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), National Association of Community and Voluntary Action, (NAVCA) Social Value UK, Charity Finance Group, CLINKS, Institute of Certified Book Keepers.
- CVS works in partnership with the other 4 district CVS’s in Merseyside as part of a sub-regional network. This year we coordinated VCF engagement in the development of regional NHS structures to ensure appropriate representation and involvement of the VCF sector and local communities.
- Sefton CVS, through the CEO engages with Merseyside Resilience Forum and the VCS Emergencies Partnerships national monthly network.

Locality Working

Sefton CVS is aligned to Sefton Council’s locality based working model strategically and adopts a locality approach when working with Sefton’s communities.

Community Development Interventions

Organisation Development and Capacity Building

CVS deliver comprehensive organisation development and capacity building services in localities to support people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery by:

- Supporting local people to set up and develop robust, sustainable and high impact groups, associations, organisations and social enterprises.

- By supporting established local community organisations and social enterprises to improve their effectiveness, reach and social impact.
- By bringing people together to network, share knowledge, operate creatively and collaborate more effectively and extensively.
- Supporting organisations to mitigate against, and respond to the Cost of Living Crisis.

Groups can access support in charity or social/community enterprise start up; acquiring/managing community assets; governance and leadership; achieving quality standards; social impact; project development and organisational growth; identifying and applying for funding; business planning; developing policies; skills development; accountancy services and payroll, disclosure and barring umbrella service, volunteering having a voice in local decision making.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- 1,505 intensive cases of capacity building and customised support were provided to 267 groups and 109 individuals. 29% of the groups worked with had an annual income between £10K and £100K and 31% had an annual income under £10K.
- The majority of support provided by CVS has been for services that have a focus on the following themes of work: Children, Young People & Families (9%). Adult Health and Wellbeing (15%), Faith/Place of Worship (14%), and Sports/Recreation/Arts and Culture (20%) and Education/Training/Employability (11. %).
- Groups who deliver services across the full geographical area of the borough accessed support from CVS, however the service demand has been greatest amongst those delivering services which operate across the borough (50%).
- Hosted six ‘Meet the Funder’ events, connecting 67 attendees with local, regional and national funders.
- Held two ‘Better Bid Writing Workshop’ which sought to improve the bid writing skills of 21 attendees.
- Five VCF organisations benefitted from attending a Charity Law Masterclass which was delivered in partnership with Brabners LLP.

Funding Advice and Information

The Funding Advice and Information function provides bespoke information and interventions to enable VCFSE sector organisations to access funding opportunities and support them to become more financial sustainable and build organisations’ capacity to prepare strong proposals to charitable trusts, funders and commissioners.

The Group Development Team work closely with local and national charitable trusts and grant makers to ensure that their criteria are widely understood and available to potential applicants through one to one advice sessions, Meet the Funder surgeries, the MFIP portal and customised mailings. CVS also brief local funders and Charitable Trusts as to local demands and impacts, which assists them having an increased understanding of needs on the ground.

The service provides detailed support in developing proposals to bid status, assistance in compiling evidence and data, final submission and bespoke advice in monitoring and managing the grants once awarded. It also provides a bid review service, which improves the quality of applications and the ability of the applicant for future submissions. CVS also provides a bespoke bid reading service on request.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

Identifying funds and resources to support responses to the Cost of Living Crisis and supported the local VCFSE sector to submit just over £1,429,000 worth of funding applications, whilst securing just over £1,179,000 in known funding applications through bespoke advice and support.

- A further £241,351 worth of bids were awaiting funding decisions at the end of March 2024.
- Sefton CVS also administer Merseyside Funding Information Portal (MFIP) website on behalf of the VCF infrastructure bodies in the Liverpool City Region. During 2023/24 MFIP has attracted 60,000+ views from over 15,000 unique visitors to the website.
- Sefton CVS provides a bespoke service to organisations making submissions to the Big Lottery Programmes, specifically Reaching Communities and Awards for All. Throughout the year, we supported groups to secure £444,811 from the Reaching Communities Fund.

- Funding surgeries were facilitated for National Lottery Community Fund, Heritage Fund, PH Holt Community Foundation, Burbo Bank Community Fund and BBC Children in Need. Connecting 67 attendees with local, regional and national funders.
- Participated in the work of the Merseyside Charitable Trusts Group and the Merseyside Funders Advice Network.

Grants

Throughout the year, we secured and administered a range of grants from a variety of funders, which resulted in £411,897 worth of grant funding being awarded to local community, voluntary and faith sector organisations.

- Living Well Sefton awarded, £83,182 via Community Resilience Grants, £60,000 via Locality Grants and £8,889 via Workplace Wellbeing Grants, meaning LWS awarded a total of £111,948 in grants to the sector.
- Working in partnership with Sefton Council, grant funding totalling £120,000 was awarded to 39 organisations to deliver Warm and Welcome Space sessions across 40 sites in Sefton.
- Winter Clothing, in partnership with Sefton Council, £45,760 was administered via 15 VCF sector organisations to reach 1,616 recipients to provide winter clothing and essentials.
- The King's Coronation Fund (developed in partnership with The Duchy of Lancaster's Benevolent Fund, local fundraising platform Sefton 4 Good and Living Well Sefton) awarded 43 grants totalling £37,632 to local community groups to deliver social and community activities as part of activities to mark the King's Coronation.
- Administered £53,038 on behalf NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Sefton) to 23 organisations from Ageing Well Funding to support initiatives which aim to keep people well during the Winter period.

The funds we supported organisations to secure, alongside the grants we administered and our grant allocation carried out by VOLA, means we facilitated £2,311,874 worth of investment into the VCF sector.

Heritage

Sefton at 50, Hearts of Gold Heritage Lottery Project aims to; involve a wider range of people in heritage; identify and better explain Sefton's rich and diverse heritage; help people and organisations to develop skills; educate people about heritage and make the local area a better place to live work or visit. The project aims to achieve these outcomes by: awarding community grants for heritage projects, celebrating special people places and events from the last 50 years in Sefton and creating three locality-based heritage trails with research and local knowledge from volunteers.

- Awarded Community Grants totalling £26, 956 to 17 VCF organisations . Funded activities included; intergenerational projects in community centres, sewing and art groups, organisations working with children from a wide range of communities in Sefton and groups featuring horticulture and coastal biodiversity.
- Facilitated a 'Sefton at 50 Hearts of Gold Steering Group'.
- Recruited volunteers for the South Sefton Heritage Trail.
- Appointed an Independent Evaluator for the project.

Community Accountancy

The Community Accountancy Service provides a range of services including payroll management, bookkeeping, preparing annual accounts, budgets and forecasts, as well as offering advice and guidance in areas such as VAT and Gift Aid. The Team provide training to staff and trustees either on a one-to-one basis or in group sessions and offer support to VCF sector groups in financial crisis.

Key Activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- Provided accountancy services to 103 groups; 57% of groups had incomes under £100k.
- Annual accounts prepared for 90 groups.
- Independent Examinations carried out for 46 groups.
- Provided Payroll Bureau Service to 25 groups and Pensions Service to 15 groups.
- Contracted to undertake bookkeeping for 45 groups.
- Provided VAT return support to 1 group.

SEFTON4GOOD

Sefton4Good supports philanthropy and local giving, primarily through an online presence. The project encourages local people and organisations to donate their time, skills, money or resources to support Sefton-based good causes. There are a range of options through which donors can donate (payroll giving, Just Giving through Virgin Money and text giving). Local good causes also have the opportunity to maximise their fundraising by channelling it through Sefton 4 Good, who can claim gift aid on their behalf. Sefton 4 Good works with the Private Sector, the Public Sector, the VCF sector and the general public to empower them to support the good causes on their doorstep.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- Continued to grow our social media presence on X (Twitter) and Facebook and launched Instagram and LinkedIn for Sefton 4 Good
- Fundraising activity involved: an Easter raffle, silent auction, Liverpool Cathedral abseil, Harry Potter quiz, raffle at the Volunteer Celebration Event, launched Sefton 4 Good craft group making pink hearts which will be sold
- There have been three Citizens 4 Good awards held at Southport, Bootle and Maghull Town Halls. 55 local people, groups or educational establishment teams who have gone above and beyond for their local community were nominated. The Mayor of Sefton thanked the nominees, handing out certificates and recognising their selfless contributions to Sefton.
- Raised the profile of Sefton 4 Good by attending events and holding promotional stands, for example Black Norman solicitors networking evening.
- Supported the Winter Warm packs for vulnerable citizens in the borough

Training and Skills

The Training and Skills Programme builds the skills and knowledge of individuals from the VCF sector workforce, thereby strengthening the capability and competence of organisations to sustain and grow by:

- Providing capacity building to community-based organisations to ensure they are legally compliant and working to good practice.
- Ensuring a professional and up-to-date workforce within the VCF sector.
- Ensuring organisations are fit for purpose / tender / commission ready.
- Developing opportunities and supporting health and wellbeing.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- A total of 498 individuals benefitted from formal training opportunities provided via Sefton CVS. This included e-learning packages which offer 40 online courses in total delivered by TES online learning platform - https://www.educare.co.uk/tes-develop
- Provided TES Development online training package to 155 individuals.
- 8 Individuals completed Mental Health First Aid Training.
- 22 different training courses / masterclasses were delivered including courses accredited by organisations such as TES Development online training package, Making Every Contact Count and RSPH Understanding Health Improvements.
- Training courses and Master Classes have been delivered both in person and remotely, which have included: TES Development online training package, MOM’s Volunteer Mentoring Training, Mental Health First Aid Training, Debt and Mental Health Training, Better Bid Writing, Recruiting, Retaining and Motivating Volunteers, Equality & Diversity Training, Safeguarding Policy & Procedures, MECC Level 1 and 2, Recruiting and Managing Volunteers with Team Kinetic, Dementia Friends, Hate Crime Awareness Training, Understanding a Personality Disorder training, Racial Cultural Awareness, Training, Cyber Security Training, MECC for Mental Health, Volunteers and the Law Training, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, and, Racial Cultural Awareness

Volunteering and Citizenship

Volunteer Centre Sefton supports volunteers and the organisations that recruit volunteers by providing a brokerage service that matches local people to organisations with volunteering opportunities.

The Centre also provides bespoke support to organisations deploying volunteers including good practice guides, policies and procedures, training and developing new initiatives. The Centre links with national and regional agencies in policy work relating to volunteering and was awarded the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation from NAVCA.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/2024 included:

- Launched Instagram and Linked In for Volunteer Centre Sefton and continued to grow our social media presence on X (Twitter) and Facebook
- Registrations of volunteers on Team Kinetic grew to 975
- Registrations of organisations on Team Kinetic grew to 485 with 650 opportunities
- Held four Volunteer Coordinator's Forums covering a range of topics, attended by 58 people.
- Continued to update the Volunteer Centre Sefton website, offering pages to support volunteering in specific areas such as mental health support and young people
- Held training sessions covering a range of subjects including Social Media and volunteering, Recruiting and Managing Volunteers using Team Kinetic and Volunteers and the Law.
- A Volunteer Celebration Event was held during Volunteers' Week, attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Mr Mark Blundell and the Mayor of Sefton, Councillor June Burns. The event was attended by 16 organisations and certificates were given out to over 237 volunteers through the week.
- Created and distributed monthly newsletters, one for organisations and one for to promote specific roles in specific locations which have yielded successful volunteer applications
- Provided one-to-one intensive support to 28 individual volunteers, signposting to relevant roles and introducing to organisations.
- Recorded 239 enquiries relating to volunteering such as volunteer recruitment, policies and procedures and best practice from 127 groups or individuals.
- Conducted a sector wide survey to groups and individuals around volunteering perceptions in the borough.
- Promoted volunteering at a number of events and networking including; LJMU, Edge Hill University and Liverpool Guild fairs, Hugh Baird College volunteering fair, Change Grow Live recovery fair, LCR Careers Hub, Sefton Economic Forum, Sefton Local Offer Live, and, Arden SEN College fair.
- Promoted the service on local radio stations, BBC Merseyside and Mighty FM
- Promoted volunteering as an avenue into employment, mental and physical wellbeing and community integration through our Ukrainian Support Project.
- Offered two, 10-week, work experience placements to Hugh Baird college students.

Southport Community Centre

Southport Community Centre in Norwood, Southport, works closely with the Brighter Living Partnership to provide access to VCF support across North Sefton. The centre welcomed over 15,000 visitors and users, in 2023/24.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- The centre continued to provide activities and groups for the local community based on their need. This included Warm and Welcome Spaces provision over the Winter and Summer periods. The Centre also acted as hub for local organisations and residents to hire which attracted a high number of users.
- IT Suite accessed by members of the public and used for regular training and support sessions ran by local providers.
- On-going safety checks and general maintenance continued to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the risk schedule.

Information and Communication

Sefton CVS manage the 'Here For You' online directory of approximately 3,000 services offered by 1,000 VCF sector organisations, attracting 10,000+ visitors during the year.

- Sefton CVS continued to routinely update and review directory records and add newly-established voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector organisations as well as the services and support they provide to Sefton residents. Where applicable, the Here For You directory also includes direct links to the organisation's website, social media pages (Facebook and Twitter), and Companies House and Charity Commission pages. Throughout the year we undertook significant maintenance and updates of our Here For You Directory, carrying out quality checks of all entries.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Shared 150+ separate website articles on seftoncvs.org.uk, including events, activities, job vacancies, policy updates and consultations. This garnered 94,000 views and 38,000 unique visits.
- 67 separate Sefton CVS email Updates, including information about funding opportunities, national/ regional news and policy, training and development opportunities sent to approximately 1,000 subscribers per update.
- Twitter @SeftonCVS has a total of 5,760 followers on its main account (as of 31st March 2023), which shows an increase in followers of 100 during the 12-month period. The @SeftonCVS account posted 234 Tweets during April 2022 – December 2022, gaining 85,000+ impressions and over 51,600+ profile views. Due to changes on X (formerly Twitter), as of December 2023, analytics became a paid for feature and due to consistent changes to the social network it was opted not to pay for this feature.
- Sefton CVS Facebook Page (facebook.com/SeftonCVS) has a total of 1,800 'Likes' and 2,100 'Followers'.
- Sefton CVS currently manages over 23 additional social media accounts (Twitter & Facebook) for various projects and initiatives, which provide a total number of approximately 22,000+ followers.
- The CVS website continued to hosted a dedicated Warm Spaces Network web page, providing information on Warm Space Providers in Sefton. Sefton CVS have attracted over 4,600 views, between April 1st 2023 – March 31st 2024, from visitors accessing the location and opening information for Warm Space Providers across Sefton.
- Sefton CVS acted as a consultation and information conduit on a wide range of strategic and operational consultations, ongoing promotion of stakeholder engagement activities from partners including Sefton Council, Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP) for Cheshire and Merseyside and Cheshire & Merseyside NHS Trust.

Sefton Equalities

Sefton Equalities Team works with partners to reduce inequalities in the borough by supporting and enabling partners to meet their requirements under the Equalities Act 2010 legislation. It provides a conduit through which Sefton's protected groups gain access to and participate in decision making, consultation and engagement.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- Supported delivery of the Combined Authorities Race Equality Strategy.
- Understanding Personality Disorder Training delivered to NHS and Local Authority staff.
- Supported Sefton Prevent, a multi-agency forum to consider extremist activity/indoctrination and intelligence across Sefton and alerted the forum to extreme right-wing activity within the borough.
- Supported the Local Authority Asylum seeker/refugee forum which is a multi-agency support form sharing intelligence and information on asylum seeker/refugees and support across the borough and LCR.
- Equalities Steering Group met to ensure implementation of the Navajo Action Plan enabling Sefton CVS to retain the Charter Mark.
- Participated in Sefton Hate Crime Joint Action Group meetings, providing advice and support to progress common areas of work.
- Participation in the Crown Prosecution Service Hate Crime Sub-Group Group.
- Asylum seeker surgeries with NHS GPs at Thornton and Netherton Health Centres and weekly migrant surgeries held in the North of the borough at Parenting 2000 and Holy Trinity school.
- Advocacy at DWP and Employment tribunals with extensive arrears recovered.
- Continued support for the 'Show Racism the Red Card' anti-racist educational work.
- Supported NHS partners to access DEBs communities in Sefton.
- Members of the Council's Race Equality Strategy Group

DEB's CDW Project (Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds Service)

This project provides intensive one to one support to vulnerable members of Sefton's DEBs Communities experiencing mental health conditions.

- 2,477 interventions have been delivered for 565 people from DEBs / Migrant backgrounds from 48 different nationalities.
- The three priority presenting issues were mental health, legal issues with increased welfare/debt assistance and safeguarding which is roughly consistent with the priority issues for 2022 / 2023.
- The service worked with a total of 256 new clients during the year.
- Most referrals into the service came via NHS organisations.
- The Service continued to provide support to Ukraine and Russian clients in response to the ongoing conflict.
- Of the 565 clients supported 36 were asylum seekers with complex needs.
- Supported clients to obtain over £108,000 in DWP benefit arrears through representation at Social Security appeal tribunals.

Criminal Justice Interventions

Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project

CVS deliver an offender mentoring project working closely with HMP Liverpool and other prisons releasing men back into the Merseyside area. This project provides mentoring support to offender's pre and post release from HMP'S Liverpool and Altcourse enabling them to resettle positively back into the community. A comprehensive tailored service is provided to assist offenders in overcoming barriers with the objective of reducing reoffending.

In 2023/24 the project was funded by a range of agencies and charitable trusts including the National Lottery Fund, John Armitage Charitable Trust and the High Sheriff of Merseyside's Fund.

Key activity undertaken during 2023/24 included:

- 257 offenders have engaged with the project
- Of these 158 were matched with a Volunteer Mentor
- Our mentees benefitted from 3,204 one to one interventions
- The project recruited and trained 235 Volunteer Mentors.
- The project provided 2,644 volunteer mentoring support hours to mentees with an economic value of *£41,246.
- The Reducing Reoffending Rate for 2023 was just 8% compared to the national average of 33%.

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/proven-reoffending-statistics-july-to-september-2019

*Using the average wage paid by Sefton businesses in 2022. The average wage = £30,585 per annum, this equates to £586.70 per week and (assuming a 35-hour week) an hourly rate of £15.60 Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved (From Nomis on 17th March 2022).

Other related activity:

- Reviewed the volunteer recruitment and training programme to ensure compliance with government legislation and changes in safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults' policies and procedures.
- Continued to deliver the Pathway for Assisting Life model (PAL) training to volunteers to encourage a greater awareness around suicide intervention.
- Attended employability events at Liverpool and Edge Hill Universities to promote the work of the Project and recruit volunteer community mentors.
- Delivered celebration events to recognise the invaluable contribution our community volunteers make in supporting the mentees to reduce re-offending.
- Membership of HMP Liverpool Partnership meetings, Integrated Offender Management meetings and local Resettlement Boards in both HMP's Liverpool and Altcourse.
- Extended the service into HMP Hindley.

Health and Wellbeing Interventions

From April 2023 to March 2024 the significant structural changes in the health and social care landscape continue to impact the VCFSE sector. The transformation agenda set out in the NHS Plan, made clear the strategic role of the VCFSE sector across the Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP) and the primacy of Place in driving that agenda forward. The work of the Health and Social Care Forum has aligned with the development of the Sefton Place Plan. Additionally, over the course of this year we have taken a leading role in the preparation for CQC assessment and the progression of the Mental Health Transformation Programme

Key activity undertaken in 2023/2024 included:

- Facilitated six Health and Social Care Forum (HSCF) meetings for its membership which stood at 186 at end of March 2024. Topics considered during meetings included; consultation on the Sefton Place Plan, (the consequence of which was the identification of the need for a Community First approach and the development of an easy read version of the Sefton Place Plan); Adult Safeguarding and Integrated Care.
- The HSCF became a community partner for Sefton's Combat Drugs Partnership and Complex Lives Steering Group. We also hosted a White Ribbon Day event in November as part of Safeguarding Adults week, at which the Domestic Abuse Partnership outlined their new service developments.
- Speakers from a range of organisations have given forum members insight into the critical issues impacting the borough.
- The forums sub-groups that work on specific themes. Sefton In Mind is a Mental Health Forum, Sefton Partnership for Older People focusses on Ageing Well in Sefton and maintaining oversight of the Older Peoples Strategy. Dementia Friendly Sefton champions' making Sefton a good place for people to live if they or someone they care about has Dementia.
- Sefton In Mind, has 145 members, who considered best practice across in terms of mental health service delivery across Cheshire and Merseyside. Bringing researchers and practice together with the voice of lived experience, Sefton In Mind has made links with the new Mental Health Research and Innovation Centre (MRIC) at Liverpool University with an intention of developing more opportunities for people in Sefton to be involved in research.
- Supported the work of the Collaborative Research and Engagements Network (CoREN) in Sefton. CoREN is part of ARC North West which aims to strengthen community engagement in research that impacts on health inequalities. A Collaboration Café was hosted in Liverpool and was attended by groups from across Sefton, Knowsley and Liverpool.
- Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens (SPOC) identified that the Older Peoples Strategy comes to an end in 2024 and have offered to work with Public Health in the next stage of developing a response to the Director of Public Health's Annual Report Ageing in Sefton.
- Dementia Friendly Sefton (DFS) engaged with the lead commissioner from the ICP, to support the development of the Sefton Dementia Strategy. Speakers at the Forum covered topics including, House of Memories, a research project looking at an innovative eye test that has the potential to predict dementia, New Realities, Assistive Technology and the importance of hydration for vulnerable adults.

Living Well Sefton

Sefton CVS has coordinated the Living Well Sefton (LWS) Programme funded through Public Health to contribute towards the reduction of health inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups and those living in our most deprived communities in Sefton. The LWS service is a partnership between Sefton CVS, May Logan Centre, Netherton Feelgood Factory, Brighter Living Partnership, Citizens Advice Sefton, Sefton Carers' Centre, SmokeFree Sefton and Active Lifestyles, in addition to 20+ Living Well Sefton Neighbourhood Partners. In addition, the Social Prescribing Link Worker service is overseen by the LWS Managers, subcontracted to Brighter Living Partnership in North Sefton and funded by the PCN's.
The LWS Service went out to public procurement to deliver the services for next three years from 2024.
Sefton CVS and its partners were successful.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/2024:

- 8,904 (With Active Sefton/Smoke Free) interacted with the service. 1,725 new clients interacted with Living Well Sefton, support for these clients included: being more active, support with mental wellbeing, healthy eating/cooking and social isolation.

- 68% of clients completed a Universal Consultation and 64% a Brief Intervention.
- 228 clients started/completed a course.
- 84% improved mental wellbeing (measured by The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS)
- 1,991 individual goals completed.
- 20 Making Every Contact Count Training session took place, attended by 129 people from 30+ organisations.
- Delivered the following courses; Think Differently Cope Differently, Weigh Forward, Bereavement, Menopause Support, along with activities aimed at men.
- Attended community events, including: Sefton Local Offer Live, Waterloo Christmas Lights Switch On, Winter Wellbeing events, Sefton Pride and Windrush Celebrations and Sefton Equal Voices.
- Supported Lower My Drinking, Know Your Numbers, World Mental Health Day and the We're Here Campaigns.
- Our partners offered 'Mental Health Drop Ins' based on need to support clients with their Mental Health (low level) along with establishing other programmes such as IBS support, Health Walks and Eating for Health.
- Provided wraparound support at Sefton's Warm Spaces, helping to engage with those struggling due to the cost of living crisis. Our LWS Mentors provided support for all Warm Spaces.
- 33 groups and 1,702 beneficiaries were supported with £43,059.54 of funding from the Community Resilience Grants – rounds 12 (Mental health) and 13 (Movement in winter months)
- 30 SMEs supported through the Workplace Wellbeing grant with a total of £8,889.
- A Respiratory Parent Champion pilot began in Q4 of 2023/24 hosted by Parenting 2000 to offer support to families where children in L20/21 face respiratory issues.

Strand By Me

Strand By Me is an in-person addition to the service that Living Well Sefton provides. Located in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre, the service allows residents in Sefton access face-to-face support. Residents can receive advice on Living Well Sefton services, along with services from other organisations within the Sefton community to help improve general health, wellbeing and encourage positive lifestyles.

- 952 members of the public have experienced 'Brief Interventions' in Strand By Me throughout 2023.
- Strand By Me offers support through signposting to services and actively hosts Smoke Free Sefton, Healthwatch Sefton, Life Rooms, Include IT Mersey, May Logan, Sole Survivors and Galloways Support for sight loss on a weekly and monthly basis.
- Provided a digital hub for those without digital access to apply for jobs, fill out PPP/PIP/UC applications and housing applications.
- Provided a community venue for Social Prescribing Link Workers and Community Connectors to undertake one-to-one client work.
- Promoted the NHS led "Know Your Numbers" campaign by delivering dedicated events with key partners

Community Connectors

- 218 people were referred into the Community Connectors service during 2023/2024, who benefitted from one to one support and signposting information about groups and activities in their local area, carers advice, dementia support services, long-term condition support and mental health services.
- 888 signposting referrals were made during the year.
- Outreach attendance at The Maghull Advice Centre has offered a vital service to those visiting the centre.
- The services Maghull Memory Café has grown continuously, drawing in new members and carers on a monthly basis. Dementia support and awareness are consistently demonstrated, together with carer assistance through the Connectors service.
- Six locations in North Sefton now have Happy to Chat benches, which include scannable codes which encourage those who are feeling isolated or lonely to get in touch with the service.
- Participation in a wide range of forums, events, and open days, these include; Sefton Local Live events in North and South Sefton, MacMillan Wellbeing Clinic, Know your Numbers to name a few.
- Expanded the services digital offer to reach a larger audience by holding "Cuppa & Chat" zooms to explain the roles of connectors and the assistance and guidance we provide.
- Co-ordinated a Marketplace Event in Maghull for clients to find out more about services/groups available to them.

- Launched a successful Memory Café for those living with Dementia and their carers with the support of another local organisation.
- A team of Community Champion volunteers who support with the running of groups, Christmas Hamper deliveries to vulnerable local residents and offer 'buddy' support to clients who lack in confidence to attend activities for the first time.

Social Prescribing Service:

The Social Prescribing Team has developed into a team of 20 workers across Sefton, consisting of four Senior Social Prescribing Link Workers. The service works closely with local Primary Care Networks to improve the wellbeing of isolated and vulnerable people in the community, by supporting access to targeted and universal provision.

Over the last year, the service has received: **2,798 referrals**

- Continued to build excellent communication partnerships with NHS mental health services across the borough, including APPs (Associate Psychological Practitioners), the Community Mental Health team, and ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme) mental health practitioners and the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Programme.
- Established an additional "Think Differently Cope Differently" course for the service for the Maghull area, in partnership with the May Logan Centre LWS Mentors.
- Offered drop-in services in a variety of community venues for people who may wish to be supported by the Social Prescribing service, and an opportunity for staff running services to signpost clients to the service directly.
- Facilitated the introduction of extended access hours for the service in Litherland, enabling more people to access the service during the early evening.
  Activity in the north of the borough, delivered by the Brighter Living Partnership.
- Launched 'The Brighter Connections' group in Southport. Funded by the Community Foundation for Merseyside, the group involves guest speakers, activities and a chance to chat and meet new people.
- Delivered training sessions on Social Prescribing in Southport and Formby to NHS staff as part of Protected Learning Time. The team also attended GP Registrar training and hosted a Q&A session about the service.
- Membership of the Complex Lives Group, a pioneering project in North Sefton looking at reducing barriers to support for those who meet the complex lives criteria and trying to reduce the impact of health inequalities.
- Developed links with Social Prescribing GP Champions to increase awareness and support communication.

Reablement Service

The Reablement service provides person-centred support to service-users with a wide range of health conditions and unmet social concerns, to enable them to regain independence, including interventions for avoiding unnecessary dependence upon more acute, long term services. The services are delivered through South Sefton Health and Wellbeing Trainers, High Intensity User service and Enhanced Care Social Prescribing Link Workers.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- Health and Wellbeing Trainers received 756 referrals into their service.
- 11,079 interventions were delivered by the team of Health Trainers.
- The most prevalent areas clients required support with were; finances, health, accommodation, and social inclusion. This was followed by confidence building, family and relationships, and lastly substance misuse.
- Clients have set a total of 1136 personal goals were set over the course of the year. 765 (67%) of these goals have been met through the support of Health Trainers.
- £47,590.25 has been awarded to patients claiming benefits and/or grants, supported by the team.

Enhanced Care at Home Social Prescribing

During the second year of service, there was a greater demand for the service and a waiting list was created, and a third Enhanced Care at Home Social Prescribing Link Worker recruited. The service continues, now with 3 full time staff, working alongside South Sefton Primary Care Network to provide social prescribing support to older, housebound and/or frail individuals who had experienced a recent hospital admission. The service also expanded to accept referrals from a wider number of GP surgeries.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- 569 referrals received
- 250 support plans completed.
- 5,063 contacts recorded on EMIS
- 902 cases completed and closed.
- 638 signposting referrals to different services.

High Intensity User Service

This project is an initiative funded by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Sefton Place, which aims to reduce inappropriate A and E attendances and admissions from individuals identified as frequent attenders. Through a strength-based person centred and solution focused approach, working closely with individuals, the project aims to help address the underlying causes for presenting at A and E.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- The service expanded into Liverpool University Foundation Trust (Aintree site).
- The service worked intensively with 113 people throughout the year, to reduce A&E attendances and hospital admissions. 95 people from Southport A&E and 18 people from Aintree A&E.
- 122 signposting's to services (95 from Southport cohort and 27 from Aintree cohort).
- 25 people successfully completed the service and completed evaluations (21 from Southport cohort and 4 from Aintree cohort), all rating the service at 100% meeting their needs
- Representation is provided at the national High Intensity Users Support Group, to receive updates on relevant strategies and expertise from HIU leads across the country.
- This year the team attend a wide variety of MDT's, including frequent attender MDTs at each hospital; Alcohol MDTs in for North and South of the borough; Complex Lives MDT in south of the borough.

Crisis Cafés

The service offers out of hours support to anyone experiencing a mental health crisis in Sefton. Drop-in sessions operate across two sites (in Crosby and Southport) between the hours or 5pm – 11pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to give adults aged 18+ a place of safety as an alternative to attending A&E. One to one support and a social space with refreshments are offered in order to help reduce distress and better manage crisis situations. Support is also provided via phone, zoom or email if needed.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- Throughout the year, the Crisis Café's recorded a total 2,400 attendances across both sites. Out of these visits, 261 where categorised as "crisis" attendance, 393 were "post crisis" attendance and "1,574" were to maintain wellbeing during a difficult time.
- Crosby site has had 57 new registrations and Southport site 56, meaning the service was accessed by 113 new clients during the year.
- Across the full year telephone support was provided on 1,062 occasions.
- The most commonly reported reason stated for interacting with the service was "to maintain wellbeing during a difficult time".
- Worked in partnership with Parenting 2000 who provide a full time Peer Support Worker assigned to the Crisis Café project, one in Crosby and one in Southport. These provide additional support to service users who may require it during weekdays.
- Representation and partnership working is facilitated at the following meetings; Suicide Prevention Board, Southport and Aintree Hospital's Frequent Attendee meetings, Sefton in Mind, Crisis Café Nation Network meetings and Southport Pride events.

Community Cancer Navigators

Community Cancer Navigators offer support to people living with or affected by cancer who are over the age of 18 and registered with a South Sefton GP Practice.

The Navigators help people living with cancer identify physical, practical, financial and emotional concerns and assist them to contact the most appropriate person or service to help meet those needs. I.e. If physical concerns are identified, the Navigator will support the person to contact the appropriate service such as a GP or Clinical Nurse Specialist. In other cases, with consent, the Navigator may provide onward referral on the patient's behalf, to the relevant service or professional such as with Adult Social Care, Occupational Therapy or Clinical Phycology. The Navigators provide emotional support and as an accessible community service to ensure that people living with or affected by cancer get the right support at the right time.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- 417 cases were referred to the project between April 2023 and March 2024.
- Active promotion of the service to professionals within Adult Social Care, Primary Care Nursing Teams, GP Practices and local support groups, to provide an overview of the support the Cancer Navigators can provide for people living with or affected by Cancer in South Sefton.
- Successfully supported individuals to access £16,250 in Macmillan grants and to complete 307 applications for benefits and other grants. This equates to a total annual financial gain for people in Sefton living with cancer of £348,167.00.
- Signposted to over 45 groups and support services 744 times and provided 462 onward referrals to services such as Occupational Therapy, Emergency Limited Assistance Scheme, Benefits Advisor and Clinical Psychology.
- Piloting of the "Navigating Cancer Together" (NCT) support group. The group meets weekly and has supported over 30 people, hosting guest speakers from 25 different local groups and services including Healthwatch Sefton, Active Lifestyles, Merseyside Fire and Rescue, Life Rooms and Macmillan Benefits Team.

Sefton Social Action Lead with Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance and CVS's at place in the region

A new project adopted during the year, to improve knowledge of the signs and symptoms of cancer within local communities and encourage more people to go for NHS screening when invited. The service focuses on tackling inequalities in cancer outcomes across Sefton and work with local groups and organisations to empower people to seek advice in an informal and welcoming environment. Simple conversations during enjoyable activities have encouraged individuals to attend screening appointments and seek advice about any concerns that could be cancer related.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- Delivered Sefton Baby Baskets, an initiative which promoted Breast Cancer awareness month to new mums.
- Promotion at various community groups, including; People First, Venus, Stemcell Scousers, Myeloma Support Group, South Sefton Carers Support Group and May Logan Healthy Living Centre.
- Supported local group "Instítches" hosted by Sefton Opera, to sustain the group who offer companionship and support whilst knitting/crocheting.
- Promotion at The Bowersdale Day Centre - Healthy lifestyle programme linking physical exercise and healthier eating.
- Hugh Baird Refreshers Event – Raised awareness of early signs and symptoms of cancer and the impact of lifestyle choices.
- Kindfulness Café - Snowdrop walk and talk event at Rode Hall.

Hospital Discharge and Admission Avoidance Service (HDAAS)

The Hospital Discharge and Admission Avoidance Service (HDAAS) accept referrals from health and social care professionals as well as self-referral for any resident of Sefton aged 18+ who has: recently been discharged from hospital or similar health setting, or who is unwell at home and being supported by any team in the Sefton Urgent Community Response (UCR) as a part of admission avoidance support. The HDAA Service aims to provide free practical common-sense support for up to six weeks to support hospital discharge and help prevent unnecessary admissions or readmissions to hospital.

The service provides a range of support including ensuring patients have basic provisions in their home such as shopping, heating, help to access assistive technologies, functional assessment for aids and minor adaptations and basic risk assessments to ensure accommodation is appropriate and suitable to meet needs. The HDS Team also provide support to maximise income through signposting or referral for benefits check, help to complete forms and signposting to specialist debt management where needed.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- 499 cases were referred to the project between April 2023 and March 2024.
- Supported clients to achieve 2,237 goals/tasks.
- Support has been wide and varied including - providing essential shopping, assistance to complete benefit applications, functional assessments for low level aid and minor adaptations, as well as providing emotional support and empowering patients to build their confidence and self-esteem.
- Signposted 1,420 times to over 30 services including - Welfare Rights Benefit Advisors, local cleaning and home help services, local groups and support services, shopping services and Lifeline/assistive technology services.
- The team provided 744 home visits and 2,002 welfare telephone calls.
- All of the team are Trusted Assessor Level 3 trained and have been able to provide functional assessments for low level equipment such as perching stools, shower chairs and commodes, as well as assessing for minor adaptations such as internal and external grab rails.
- Facilitated the making purchases for items or goods required to expediate safe discharges from hospital using the One-Off Budget for Hospital Discharge via prepayment cards, in partnership with Sefton Carers Centre.
- Supported the completion of 189 applications for grants and benefits. In Attendance Allowance alone this is an annual financial gain for people in Sefton of £436,321.00.
- HDAAS, Sefton Carers Centre and Sefton Place representatives provided a presentation at the Manchester Central Convention centre for the NHS Confed Expo 2023. This has resulted in the work being published on the NHS England website as an example of excellent patient outcomes as a result of collaborative commissioning approach for hospital discharge and hospital avoidance.

REDI (Reablement Drives Independence)

This project is an expansion of the High Intensity User service, funding by Mersey Care's Mental Health Transformation. The aim is to use the methodology of what works for HIU and embed this into community mental health. This element of work aims to help address the underlying causes for frequently calling NHS Community Mental Health Teams and Crisis Lines.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- The service worked intensively with 18 people throughout the year, to reduce the frequency of calls to CMHT and crisis lines. 9 from north CMHT & 9 from south CMHT.
- The caseloads are kept low due to the complexity of these cases, to ensure the service can provide high level quality of service, with a high level of interactions.
- 107 face to face interactions and 1050 non-face to face interactions.
- One client featured in the Mersey Care magazine in Summer 2023 to showcase the impact our support had on her life.

Healthwatch

Sefton CVS employs the management teams to deliver both Sefton and Knowsley Healthwatch reporting to their boards. Each produces public annual reports. Healthwatch functions operate in each borough in England and were established to act as a consumer champion for health and social care.

Children, Young People and Family Interventions

The Strategic Lead for Children and Families facilitates the development of a coordinated, strategic approach to local services, seeking to embed best practice to deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families with a focus on multi-agency working and the incorporation of integrated processes.

Every Child Matters Forum facilitates VCF representation enabling the sector to provide service solutions to the needs and priorities identified locally and nationally. 654 members participate in forums, policy briefing and receive information bulletins. There are additional sub groups including the Thrive Network, The Education and Mental Health Network, Perinatal Community of Practice and The Sefton Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group they enable members to focus on these priority areas of work and develop partnership approaches where possible.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- **Every Child Matters Forum** - Facilitated 3 meetings of Every Child Matters Forum and supported the VCF sector's engagement in a range of themes which included: Child Exploitation, Family Health and Wellbeing and Complex Lives.
- **The THRIVE Network** brings together organisations in Sefton who are keen to support children and young people using the THRIVE model, which is featured in Sefton's Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The meeting is chaired by the Sefton CVS Strategic Lead for Children and Families and has good attendance from a range of partners, including; Sefton Early Help, Acting Angels, SWAN, Sefton SEN & Inclusion, Samaritans, Parenting 2000, Sefton Young Advisors, Place 2 Be, RASA Merseyside, Sefton Carers Centre, Mersey Care, Sefton Local Offer, Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHST), Sefton Parent Carer Forum, Active Sefton.
- **Education and Mental Health Network** provides an opportunity for local schools to share good practice, partner agencies to share information about their offer, and an update from Mental Health Support Teams in Schools. Guests speakers for 23/24 have included: Smoke Free Sefton, MHST, RASA, Holy Family High School, Parenting 2000, Netherton Moss Primary School, SWACA and Thrive Network.
- **Perinatal Community of Practice** meetings take place quarterly and provide partners across Sefton working with families with children age 0 – 2 years an opportunity to share good practice and what is on offer in Sefton.
- **Sefton Youth Voice Strategic Steering** Partners include; Sefton CVS, Sefton MBC (Engagement, Youth Justice, Early Help, Social Care, SEND, Inclusion, Public Health) Mersey Care, Education, Career Connect. Bringing together youth voice and engagement in Sefton.
- Chaired the Early Help Champions Group. A partnership of agencies in Sefton linked to the Early Help Partnership Board.
- Delivered Thrive training to St John's Primary School and the Youth Justice Team on line and to the Sefton Children's Services Social Work Academy.
- Coordinated referrals for Southport and Birkdale Provident Society Trust grants for vulnerable families with 187 referrals being actioned through the year.
- Provided DBS checks for local VCF sector staff and volunteers processing 181 disclosures for 29 separate organisations.
- Coordination of the Sefton Emotional Achievement Service (SEAS), a partnership of charities working collaboratively to deliver bespoke emotional wellbeing support to children, young people, families and schools.
- Coordination of Buddy Up, a mentoring and befriending project for young people (13-18) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; reducing their social isolation, increasing their confidence and preparing them for a more independent adulthood. 64 young people accessed 2,157 hours of activities.
- Coordination of Buddy Up+@Alchemy is a social club for young adults aged 18 to 25 who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; reducing their social isolation, improving emotional health and wellbeing and increasing independence. 44 young adults' access 3,050 hours' worth of social opportunities.

Sefton Young Advisors

9 Sefton Young Advisors aged 15 – 22 (25 with SEND) are employed to show community leaders and decision makers how to engage young people in community life. They help organisations 'youth proof' their practices, policies, strategies and commissioning. They engage directly with other young people to get them involved. Sefton Young Advisors have gained national and local recognition through awards and commendations for their work.

Sefton Young Advisors have representation at Healthwatch Sefton Steering Group, Sefton's Children and Young People's Board, Sefton's Education and Mental Health Network, Every Child Matters Forum, The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, The Youth Providers Network, The Thrive Network and the former Experience and Patient Engagement Group.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

- Provided feedback on 'Happy n Healthy Hub' logo and social media.
- Contributed to Sefton's Cultural Strategy Consultation.
- Planned and created a training video resource for the Youth Voice and Participation Toolkit.
- Designed and facilitated two face-to-face training sessions for Sefton MBC staff for the Youth Voice and Participation Toolkit.
- Attended the Sefton Parent Carer Forum event – Local Offer Live in Southport.
- Attended a Pre-Council Briefing Meeting at Southport Town Hall to discuss the Cost of Living.
- Designed and created a workbook for young people as part of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- SYMBOL (Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders) meeting planned and facilitated by Sefton Young Advisors took place in June with the theme of Cost of Living.
- Youth-proofed a document about Long Covid for young people aged 16 and 17.
- Facilitated workshops with young people to design logos and posters for the Child Friendly Initiative.
- Created a Young People's Mental Health Survey for the Sefton Emotional Health Partnership.
- Met with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to discuss their 'Future of Work' consultation.
- Attended the Climate Change Conference at Salford University.
- Worked on the Merseyside Hope Hack and attended the event at Liverpool University.
- SYMBOL (Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders) Meetings planned and facilitated by Sefton Young Advisors took place in July and October. Themes were: Climate Change, Mental and Physical Wellbeing, Poverty and Inequality, Community Safety, Racism and Division.

Unemployment Interventions

Building Better Opportunities Include-IT Mersey Digital Inclusion Project

Sefton CVS, in collaboration with VOLA Consortium deliver the Include-IT Mersey Digital Inclusion Project across the Liverpool City Region. It is part of the Building Better Opportunities programme, co-financed by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund, which funds projects that tackle poverty and promote social inclusion.

Key activity undertaken in 2023/24 included:

The ESF-funded delivery phase of the project concluded in April 2023, having supported 2,109 adult learners to develop basic digital skills and get online; 53% of whom progressed to a positive destination of work, further training, or active job-search; exceeding contractual targets. A copy of the independent evaluation report is available here.

During its UKSPF extension phase, by March 2025, the project aims to support an additional 500+ people to develop their digital skills and get online with a primary focus on the development of basic digital skills, rather than job outcomes, as was the case previously through ESF; however, the project continues to provide employment support to those whose goal is finding a job.

- At the end of its first year of UKSPF funding, the project has supported a further 340 learners, exceeding year-1 recruitment targets.
- 85% of learners achieved their learning aims and completed their programme of study.

- 77 learners progressed to training/ education, paid employment, volunteering, or moved into active job-search.
- Feedback indicates high levels of satisfaction by those that completed their programme of study, with 100% of feedback forms reporting improved digital skills.
- 97% of respondents for whom it was relevant felt the course had made them more employable.
- 80% of those that previously didn't trust the internet said they now do and feel that they can go online safely.
- 61% of people who didn't previously have their own a computer device and access to the internet now do; and overall 95% of people said they now know where they can go in the community to get online should they need to.
- In addition to IT courses, the project facilitated a steadily growing network of volunteer-led digital drop-ins across the city region, located in a range of community buildings and libraries. Over the year, the drop-ins were accessed by a 741 people who received help with a range issues relating to tablets, laptops, smartphones and computers in general. We would like to thank the 37 volunteers who gave up their valuable time this year to support members of the public with their digital support needs.

The input of volunteers and donations in kind

13 volunteers have supported the Trustee Board and role of Patron this year. A further 207 volunteers have engaged through Sefton CVS projects and initiatives.

Disclosure of Trustees Remunerations Notes to the accounts

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or related entity.

Disclosure of Trustees Expenses

Trustees were reimbursed travel costs to attend meetings on behalf of the charity totalling £nil.

Review of Finances

Use of assets

The Trustees consider the value of assets to be fairly stated.

Balance sheet in the light of future plans

The Trustees consider that the balance sheet is strong enough to fulfil the short-term plans of the core activities and that of the managed projects.

The extent of dependence of particular donors

Sefton CVS has, wherever possible, diversified its funding sources for the development of specific projects. The core services are highly dependent upon the continued support of Sefton MBC with their contribution of £419,315 (2023: £478,315).

Availability of assets

The current assets are available for the general purposes of Sefton CVS although some of its funding is restricted to specific core services and deferred income for services to be delivered in discrete and managed projects.

Fixed assets

The fixed assets of the company and major changes therein during the period are recorded in the notes to the accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr D Roscoe	
Mrs E Barnett	(Resigned 21 February 2024)
Mr P P Cummins	
Dr M Homfrey	
Ms P Lappin	
Mr D McGregor	
Mr M Sonne (Treasurer & Chair)	
Ms V Elson	
Venerable P Spiers	(Resigned 22 November 2023)
Mr B Thomas	
Ms N Speed	(Resigned 22 November 2023)
Mr R Mathew	

Sefton MBC Representatives non-voting:

Councillor John Pugh	Sefton MBC
Councillor Judy Hardman	Sefton MBC
Councillor Dave Robinson	Sefton MBC

Patrons The Worshipful the Mayor of Sefton
Colonel Martin G C Amlôt OBE, OStJ DL FRSA

President The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside Mr Mark Blundell

Company Secretary and Chief Executive Angela White (Carter) OBE FRSA

Chair of the Board of Directors Elizabeth Barnett

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Small company provisions

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
Mr M Sonne (Treasurer & Chair)



.....
Mrs A White (Carter), OBE FRSA
Company Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Date: 2nd October 2024 .....

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. 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 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's 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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within 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 the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose 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 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in 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 company through discussions with directors and other management
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence
- identified laws and regulations 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 company'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 to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

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 non-compliance. 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 is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://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 members, 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 charitable company's members 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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Louise Casey ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

9 October 2024
.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Suite 5.1
Tempest
12 Tithebarn Street
Liverpool
L2 2DT

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	524,333	10,777	535,110	552,000
Charitable activities	**4**	63,848	4,117,030	4,180,878	3,905,158
Investment income	**5**	21,641	-	21,641	13,334
Other incoming resources	**6**	-	-	-	23,951
Total income		609,822	4,127,807	4,737,629	4,494,443
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**7**	7,677	-	7,677	7,033
Charitable activities	**8**	655,960	3,959,036	4,614,996	4,711,342
Total resources expended		663,637	3,959,036	4,622,673	4,718,375
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**16**	50,353	-	50,353	(49,474)
Net movement in funds		(3,462)	168,771	165,309	(273,406)
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		761,070	1,050,508	1,811,578	2,084,984
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		757,608	1,219,279	1,976,887	1,811,578

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	**3**	548,477	3,523	552,000
Charitable activities	**4**	88,471	3,816,687	3,905,158
Investment income	**5**	13,334	-	13,334
Other incoming resources	**6**	-	23,951	23,951
Total income		650,282	3,844,161	4,494,443
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	**7**	7,033	-	7,033
Charitable activities	**8**	632,326	4,079,016	4,711,342
Total resources expended		639,359	4,079,016	4,718,375
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**16**	(49,474)	-	(49,474)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(38,551)	(234,855)	(273,406)
Gross transfers between funds		34,694	(34,694)	-
Net movement in funds		(3,857)	(269,549)	(273,406)
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		764,927	1,320,057	2,084,984
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		761,070	1,050,508	1,811,578

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		13,101		14,555
Investments	**15**		613,234		561,877
			626,335		576,432
Current assets					
Debtors	**19**	588,674		473,261	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,093,237		969,438	
		1,681,911		1,442,699	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**20**	(331,359)		(207,553)	
Net current assets			1,350,552		1,235,146
Total assets less current liabilities			1,976,887		1,811,578
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**26**		1,219,279		1,050,508
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	**27**	519,528		542,058	
General unrestricted funds		238,080		219,012	
			757,608		761,070
			1,976,887		1,811,578

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 2nd October 2024

.....
Mr M Sonne (Treasurer & Chair)
Trustee

Company registration number 02832920

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	**29**		105,007		(140,524)
Investing activities					
Proceeds from disposal of fixed asset investments		30,031		-	
Cash movement on investment portfolio		(32,880)		(2,027)	
Investment income received		21,641		13,334	
Net cash generated from investing activities			18,792		11,307
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			123,799		(129,217)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			969,438		1,098,655
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,093,237		969,438

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 3rd Floor, North Wing, Burlington House, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 0LG.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association , the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (“FRS 102”) and the Charities SORP "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).

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are 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 cost 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 Trustees' Annual Report.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, and contract income is included in income when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
- When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in income until the preconditions for use have been met.
- When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in restricted funds when receivable.

Voluntary income includes discretionary grants for projects, goods and services where no service agreement or contract exists.

Other grants, which have particular service requirements and which are provided in accordance with a contract or service level agreement are included in the Statement of Financial Activities under the heading Charitable Activities.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Management and governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost, including any incidental costs of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold improvements	over the period of the lease
Office equipment	33.3% per annum on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.13 Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds are restricted to agreed transfers to cover restricted fund deficits, or where other transfers have been agreed by the trustees or with donor organisations.

1.14 Group accounts

The charity has two wholly owned subsidiaries, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and Communities are People Limited.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board. Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

Communities are People Limited is currently dormant and consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements.

1.15 Taxation

The charity benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from income and from receipts under Gift Aid.

The charity is not able to recover Value Added Tax and expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities 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 current and future periods.

There are no critical estimates within the accounts.

Support costs are allocated against the projects of the charity on a percentage basis reflecting time spent in the appropriate areas.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	-	10,777	10,777	-	3,523	3,523
Grants receivable for core activities	524,333	-	524,333	548,477	-	548,477
	524,333	10,777	535,110	548,477	3,523	552,000
Grants receivable for core activities						
Sefton MBC	434,165	(120)	434,045	478,315	-	478,315
NHS South Sefton CCG	52,606	-	52,606	28,422	-	28,422
NHS Southport & Ormskirk CCG	27,552	-	27,552	22,390	-	22,390
Sefton MBC - Health and Social Co-ordinator	-	-	-	14,850	-	14,850
Sefton MBC - Youth Voice Worker	-	-	-	4,500	-	4,500
Sefton 4 Good - Ukranian Fund	-	-	-	-	1,844	1,844
Sefton 4 Good	-	5,819	5,819	-	1,535	1,535
Other	10,010	5,078	5,078	-	144	(3,379)
	524,333	10,777	525,100	548,477	3,523	552,000

4 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grant income	1,836,398	10,000	381,581	495,047	154,345	2,877,371	2,962,025
Grant monies to be redistributed	821,945	47,520	357,934	-	12,260	1,239,659	854,662
Other income	63,848	-	-	-	-	63,848	88,471
	2,722,191	57,520	739,515	495,047	166,605	4,180,878	3,905,158
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	63,848	-	-	-	-	63,848	88,471
Restricted funds	2,658,343	57,520	739,515	495,047	166,605	4,117,030	3,816,687
	2,722,191	57,520	739,515	495,047	166,605	4,180,878	3,905,158

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant income

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2024
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB	454,680	-	211,459	-	-	666,139
National Lottery Heritage Fund	4,200	-	52,573	432,977	-	489,750
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Southport & Formby PCN	276,639	-	-	-	-	276,639
Big Lottery	-	-	-	62,070	93,692	155,762
Sefton MBC	256,138	-	85,728	-	-	341,866
South Sefton PCN	498,462	-	-	-	-	498,462
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	306,379	-	-	-	-	306,379
Other	39,900	10,000	31,821	-	20,653	102,374
	1,836,398	10,000	381,581	495,047	154,345	2,877,371

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant monies to be redistributed

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2024
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB	-	47,250	76,000	-	-	123,250
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000
Sefton MBC	821,945	-	236,676	-	12,260	1,070,881
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	-	27,258	-	-	27,258
Duchy of Lancaster Benvolent Fund	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southport & Formby PCN	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Sefton PCN	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
	821,945	47,250	357,934	-	12,260	1,239,389

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grant income	1,599,407	48,000	383,612	706,060	224,946	2,962,025
Grant monies to be redistributed	726,162	-	128,500	-	-	854,662
Other income	88,471	-	-	-	-	88,471
	2,414,040	48,000	512,112	706,060	224,946	3,905,158
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	88,471	-	-	-	-	88,471
Restricted funds	2,325,569	48,000	512,112	706,060	224,946	3,816,687
	2,414,040	48,000	512,112	706,060	224,946	3,905,158

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant income

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2023
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	254,308	-	90,273	-	-	344,581
NHS South Sefton CCG	215,370	27,000	38,607	-	-	280,977
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	65,115	21,000	140,415	-	-	226,530
The Big Lottery	-	-	10,000	706,060	93,692	809,752
HM Prision Service	-	-	-	-	16,575	16,575
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Southport & Formby PCN	223,219	-	-	-	-	223,219
South Sefton PCN	562,391	-	-	-	-	562,391
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	277,104	-	-	-	-	277,104
Other	1,900	-	104,317	-	74,679	180,896
	1,599,407	48,000	383,612	706,060	224,946	2,962,025

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant monies to be redistributed

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2023
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	726,162	-	67,500	-	-	793,662
NHS South Sefton CCG	-	-	-	-	-	-
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Big Lottery	-	-	36,000	-	-	36,000
HM Prision Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southport & Formby PCN	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Sefton PCN	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	(25,000)	-	-	25,000
	726,162	-	128,500	-	-	854,662

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from listed investments	8,101	10,585
Interest receivable	13,540	2,749
	21,641	13,334

6 Other incoming resources

	Total	Restricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Other income	-	23,951

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Investment management	7,677	7,033
	7,677	7,033

8 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	£	£
Staff costs	1,232,827	26,779	309,177	113,204	145,483	1,827,470	1,826,786
Activities undertaken directly	306,956	38,012	13,629	337,488	3,710	699,795	869,220
	1,539,783	64,791	322,806	450,692	149,193	2,527,265	2,696,006
Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	751,486	1,500	324,951	-	-	1,077,937	1,045,171
Share of support costs (see note10)	393,156	14,969	318,268	62,413	69,519	858,325	824,639
Share of governance costs (see note 10)	69,380	2,642	56,165	11,014	12,268	151,469	145,526
	2,753,805	83,902	1,022,190	524,119	230,980	4,614,996	4,711,342
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	282,663	25,215	246,076	48,256	53,750	655,960	632,326
Restricted funds	2,471,142	58,687	776,114	475,863	177,230	3,959,036	4,079,016
	2,753,805	83,902	1,022,190	524,119	230,980	4,614,996	4,711,342

8 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	1,122,658	22,245	314,709	167,020	200,154	-	1,826,786
Activities undertaken directly	283,075	28,404	31,313	521,715	4,713	-	869,220
	1,405,733	50,649	346,022	688,735	204,867	-	2,696,006
Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	842,825	-	202,346	-	-	-	1,045,171
Share of support costs (see note10)	325,519	11,762	168,453	187,348	130,780	777	824,639
Share of governance costs (see note 10)	57,445	2,076	29,727	33,062	23,079	137	145,526
	2,631,522	64,487	746,548	909,145	358,726	914	4,711,342
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	245,486	27,259	120,157	145,585	93,285	554	632,326
Restricted funds	2,386,036	37,228	626,391	763,560	265,441	360	4,079,016
	2,631,522	64,487	746,548	909,145	358,726	914	4,711,342

9 Grants payable

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Criminal Justice Programs	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:					
Brighter Living	120,530	-	3,580	-	124,110
Netherton Feelgood Factory	177,460	-	3,000	-	180,460
Citizens Advice Sefton	167,000	-	-	-	167,000
Onward Homes	168,956	-	-	-	168,956
St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre	-	-	13,000	-	13,000
Sefton Carers Centre	37,040	-	525	-	37,565
Parenting 2000	5,000	500	6,500	-	12,000
Independence Initiative	-		10,000	-	10,000
Light for Life Sefton	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Venus	3,300	-	7,338	-	10,638
Compassion Acts	-	-	15,800	-	15,800
Home - Start Southport & Formby	2,040	-	6,300	-	8,340
Kindfullness	1,330	-	10,880	-	12,210
Sefton Opera	1,338	-	6,245	-	7,583
L30 Community Centre	-	-	9,720	-	9,720
Woodvale & Ainsdale	2,950	-	4,350	-	7,300
Other grants between £4,000 and £10,000	-	-	50,491	-	50,491
Other grants less than £4,000	64,543	1,000	175,222	-	240,765
	751,486	1,500	324,951	-	1,077,937

9 Grants payable **(Continued)**

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, Sefton4Good is described in the Trustees' report.

Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when the grant is formally accepted by the receiving organisation. Any undistributed balances at the year end are included in the restricted fund balances for the appropriate theme.

9 Grants payable **(Continued)**

Prior year

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Criminal Justice Programs	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:					
Brighter Living	142,983	-	3,508	-	146,491
Netherton Feelgood Factory	197,260	563	550	-	198,373
Citizens Advice Sefton	167,004	-	-	-	167,004
Onward Homes	178,171	-	500	-	178,671
St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre	3,167	-	18,500	-	21,667
Sefton Carers Centre	38,060	-	2,000	-	40,060
Parenting 2000	2,356	563	8,500	-	11,419
Swan Women's Centre	5,298		10,914	-	16,212
Light for Life Sefton	-	-	-	-	-
Venus	-	-	-	-	-
Compassion Acts	2,500	-	27,450	-	29,950
Home - Start Southport & Formby	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants between £4,000 and £10,000	45,199	1,124	65,525	-	111,848
Other grants less than £4,000	60,827	(2,750)	64,900	-	122,977
	842,825	(500)	202,347	-	1,044,672

9 Grants payable **(Continued)**

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, Sefton4Good is described in the Trustees' report.

Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when the grant is formally accepted by the receiving organisation. Any undistributed balances at the year end are included in the restricted fund balances for the appropriate theme.

10 Support and governance costs

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	171,138	106,383	115,634	69,380	462,535
Children, Young People and Families	6,516	4,051	4,403	2,642	17,612
Community Development Program	138,540	86,120	93,608	56,165	374,433
Digital Inclusion	27,168	16,888	18,357	11,014	73,427
Criminal Justice Program	30,261	18,811	20,447	12,268	81,787
Covid-19 Projects	-	-	-	-	-
	373,623	232,253	252,449	151,469	1,009,794

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	141,697	88,082	95,741	57,445	382,965
Children, Young People and Families	5,120	3,183	3,460	2,076	13,839
Community Development Program	73,327	45,581	49,545	29,727	198,180
Digital Inclusion	81,552	50,694	55,103	33,062	220,411
Criminal Justice Program	56,928	35,388	38,465	23,079	153,860
Covid-19 Projects	338	210	229	137	914
	358,962	223,138	242,543	145,526	970,169

11 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Fees payable to the charity's auditors:	2024	2023
	£	£
Audit of the charity's annual accounts	9,000	8,415
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	1,800	1,785

12 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Employees (excluding seconded and Sefton Healthwatch staff)	112	94

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,065,006	2,019,592
Social security costs	242,097	240,040
Other pension costs	185,424	188,251
	2,492,527	2,447,883

Included within payroll costs are redundancy and similar payments of £nil (2023: £1,294).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 to £69,999	1	1

Contributions totalling £4,164 (2023: £4,080) were made to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000

13 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of the trustees were reimbursed for expenses (2023: None).

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	20,472	16,642	37,114
At 31 March 2024	20,472	16,642	37,114
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2023	6,552	16,006	22,558
Depreciation charged in the year	819	636	1,455
At 31 March 2024	7,371	16,642	24,013
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2024	13,101	-	13,101
At 31 March 2023	13,920	635	14,555

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2023	556,003	5,874	561,877
Valuation changes	39,015	-	39,015
Cash movement	-	32,880	32,880
Disposals	(20,538)	-	(20,538)
At 31 March 2024	574,480	38,754	613,234
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2024	574,480	38,754	613,234
At 31 March 2023	556,003	5,874	561,877

16 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	50,353	(49,474)

17 Subsidiaries

Market value at 1 April 2023 and at 31 March 2024 is £nil

Historical cost:
At 1 April 2023 and at 31 March 2024 is £nil

Communities are People Limited
The subsidiary, Communities are People Limited is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 06157031. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is wholly owned by the charity, is currently dormant and has £1 ordinary share capital.

The subsidiary has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited
The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 08453782. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is limited by guarantee, the charity is the sole subscriber and the amount guaranteed is £1.

The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, was formed on 20 March 2013 and its objects are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) the operation of a Local Healthwatch organisation in Sefton with the aim of gathering people's views on, and experiences of, the health and social care system and becoming a consumer champion for both publicly funded health and social care.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board.

The activities are controlled by and reported in the accounts of Healthwatch Sefton Limited, the subsidiary company.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Funding	166,033	170,609
Expenditure	(174,548)	(153,263)
Movement in year	(8,515)	17,346
Balance brought forward	32,235	14,889
Balance carried forward	23,720	32,235

The investment has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial at 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024 and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced for 2024 as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

18 Financial instruments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	1,704,876	1,419,967
Instruments measured at fair value through SOFA	574,480	556,003
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	160,394	152,198

19 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	573,531	441,678
Other debtors	(646)	2,976
Prepayments and accrued income	15,789	28,607
	588,674	473,261

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Other taxation and social security		57,139	55,355
Deferred income	23	113,826	-
Trade creditors		38,281	34,195
Other creditors		99,363	90,024
Accruals and deferred income		22,750	27,979
		331,359	207,553

21 Funds held as agent

Sefton CVS holds funds for its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, of £51,540 (2023: £60,055), in a bank account operated by Sefton CVS. The amount payable to its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and an equivalent amount of the bank balance are excluded from these accounts.

22 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

Contributions totalling £21,356 (2023: £17,569) were payable to the fund at the year end and are included in creditors.

The charge to the SoFA in respect of defined contribution schemes was £188,251 (2023: £171,192)

23 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Arising from Deferred contract income	113,826	-

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	113,826	-
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	-	-
Resources deferred in the year	113,826	-
Deferred income at 31 March 2024	113,826	-

24 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	45,000	60,000
Between two and five years	-	45,000
	45,000	105,000

25 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	261,599	252,306

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year (2023: None).

No guarantees were given or received.

There were no other disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

26 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	543,372	2,325,569	(2,386,036)	(9,706)	473,199	2,658,612	(2,471,142)	(37,000)	623,669
Children, Young People and Families	40,637	48,000	(37,228)	(500)	50,909	57,520	(58,687)	-	49,742
Community Development Programs	340,470	515,635	(626,391)	88,034	317,748	750,023	(776,114)	37,000	328,657
Digital Inclusion	51,563	730,011	(763,560)	-	18,014	495,047	(475,863)	-	37,198
Criminal Justice Programs	244,041	224,946	(265,441)	(12,908)	190,638	166,605	(177,230)	-	180,013
Covid-19	99,974	-	(360)	(99,614)	-	-	-	-	-
	1,320,057	3,844,161	(4,079,016)	(34,694)	1,050,508	4,127,807	(3,959,036)	-	1,219,279

26 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing encompasses a variety of funds that represents the various projects coordinated and facilitated by Sefton CVS which aim to develop the local VCF sector's response to both local and national health priorities. This covers areas such as Reablement, health promotion and sexual health awareness.

Health and Wellbeing key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG, Merseyside Care NHS Foundation Trust, Southport and Formby PCN and Bootle, Crosby & Maghull PCN.

Children, Young People and Families

Children, Young People and Families projects centre on the development of a co-ordinated and strategic approach to local services, that seeks to embed best practice and deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families, with a focus on multi-agency working and integrated processes.

Children, Young People and Families key funders include NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG.

Community Development Programs

The main aim of Community Development Programs is to support local people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery in Sefton. This covers a variety of initiatives from the provision of financial services (via the Community Accountancy Service) to the management and coordination of a shopping service for older people in North Sefton.

Community Development Programs key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG, NHS South Sefton CCG, Big Lottery Fund and Children in Need.

26 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Digital Inclusion

Digital Inclusion mainly covers projects managed by the VOLA Learning Consortium. VOLA supports the Merseyside Voluntary and Social Enterprise in relation to learning, skills and employment support.

Digital Inclusion's key funders include Big Lottery Fund.

Criminal Justice programs

Sefton CVS work closely with local prisons including HMP Liverpool and HMP Hindley to promote voluntary, community and faith sector activity and opportunities to offenders and their families. From providing voluntary offender mentoring services to allowing access to information, advice and support for offenders, Sefton CVS is one of the leading organisations in prison and offender engagement.

Criminal Justice programs key funders include Big Lottery Fund, HM Prison Service, John Armitage Foundation, Achieve Northwest and Merseyside Police.

Covid 19

This fund represents a range of projects in response to the global pandemic this included the provision of shopping services, distributing PPE equipment and providing support to Sefton MBC in their co-ordinated response. The key funders include Sefton MBC.

The Trustees' Annual Report includes further detail in respect of these funds.

Information regarding individual funds and grants is shown in note 4.

Transfers

The trustees have reviewed the restrictions on funding, where available, and have concluded that any restrictions have been discharged.

27 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Redundancy Contingency Fund	198,707	-	-	50,000	248,707	-	-	248,707
Southport Refurbishment Fund	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
IT Replacement Fund	10,000	-	-	10,000	20,000	-	-	20,000
Fixed Asset Fund	20,555	-	-	(6,000)	14,555	-	-	14,555
Business Transition Fund	11,055	-	-	-	11,055	-	-	11,055
HWOP Development Fund	124,373	752	(13,302)	5,000	116,823	601	(10,023)	107,401
ECM Development Fund	78,551	953	(25,902)	12,908	66,510	533	(13,641)	53,402
Collaboration Development Fund	10,147	-	(41)	-	10,106	-	-	10,106
Website Development Fund	4,302	-	-	-	4,302	-	-	4,302
Burlington House Accommodation Fund	20,000	-	-	20,000	40,000	-	-	40,000
	487,690	1,705	(39,245)	91,908	542,058	1,134	(23,664)	519,528

27 Designated funds **(Continued)**

The Redundancy Contingency Fund is designated to provide for the employee redundancy costs likely to be incurred should the charity cease to operate.

The Fixed Asset Fund represents the ring fencing of assets which are not available as part of the general liquid reserves of the charity.

The Business Transition Fund represents monies set aside to enable the charity to respond positively to the changing funding landscape.

The following development funds represent monies ring fenced by the Trustees to develop the local VCF sector's response to local and national issues.

- Health Well Being and Older Persons Development Funds
- Every Child Matters Development Funds
- Collaboration Development Funds

The Website Development Fund has been created by SCVS trustees in recognition of the need to maintain the charity website.

The Southport Renovation Fund has been established to undertake a program of renovations at All Souls Community Centre, Southport, Norwood Road, Southport PR8 6HQ.

The IT Replacement fund represents monies set aside to enable the Charity to replace the significant investment made in IT as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, at the end of the current investments life cycle.

The Burlington House Accommodation Fund has been established to meet the terms of the current lease and restore the office at Burlington House back to their original state at the end of the tenure.

28 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	**Designated funds 2024 £**	**Restricted funds 2024 £**	**Total 2024 £**	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	-	13,101	-	13,101	-	14,555	-	14,555
Investments	106,807	506,427	-	613,234	34,374	527,503	-	561,877
Current assets/(liabilities)	131,273	-	1,219,279	1,350,552	184,638	-	1,050,508	1,235,146
	238,080	519,528	1,219,279	1,976,887	219,012	542,058	1,050,508	1,811,578

29	Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	165,309	(273,406)
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(21,641)	(13,334)
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	(50,353)	49,474
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	1,455	3,000
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(115,413)	66,396
	Increase in creditors	9,980	27,346
	Increase in deferred income	113,826	-
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	103,163	(140,524)

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1024546

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1024546

Company Registration No. 02832920 (England and Wales)

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Sefton CVS

Supporting Local Communities

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr D Roscoe Mrs E Barnett (Chair) Mr P P Cummins Dr M Homfrey Ms P Lappin Mr D McGregor Mr M Sonne (Treasurer & Vice Chair) Ms V Elson Venerable P Spiers Mr B Thomas Ms N Speed Mr R Mathew
Chair of the Board of Trustees	Mrs E Barnett
Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne
Advisors to the board from Sefton MBC	Councillor J Pugh Councillor J Grace Councillor D Robinson
Patrons	The Worshipful Mayor of Sefton Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE OStJ DL FRSA
President	Mr M Blundell, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside
Chief Executive	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA
Secretary	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA
Charity number	1024546
Company number	02832920
Registered office	3rd Floor, North Wing Burlington House Crosby Road North Waterloo Liverpool L22 0LG
Auditor	BWM Tempest Suite 5.1 12 Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2DT

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Bankers	HSBC Bank PLC 197 Stanley Road Bootle Merseyside L20 3DX
Solicitors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL
Principal Insurers	Edwards Insurance Brokers 1 Rotten Row Barns 1957 Warwick Road Knowle Solihull B93 0DX
Investment advisors	Rathbones Port of Liverpool Building Pier Head L3 1BW

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Charity

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service is constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital. The company is registered in England and Wales, No 2832920. The principal governing document is the company Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners, No 1025456. Sefton CVS was founded in 1974 as an unincorporated charity and became a charitable company in 1993.

The principal address and registered office of the company is the Suite 3B, 3rd Floor, Burlington House Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, Merseyside L22 0LG.

The Trustees report for 2022/23 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act, 2016 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice and the charity's governing document.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects, as described in the CVS Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

- The advancement of education;
- The advancement of health;
- The prevention and relief of poverty;
- The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

To promote and organise cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission
To promote and assist voluntary, community and faith sector activity.

Vision
A vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector that encourages and supports independent resilience and sustainable communities.

Values

The CVS guiding principles:

- Put Sefton people, places and organisations at the heart of what we do.
- Be open and fair in our transactions.
- Take responsibility and be accountable for our actions.
- Promote equality, diversity and cohesion through our activities.
- Support the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Seek solutions, not problems.
- Be prepared to listen and learn.
- Operating ethically, honestly and with the highest standards of integrity.

Sefton CVS has six overarching activities:

- Providing support services to the voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector.
- Promoting partnerships within the sector and between the voluntary sector and other sectors.
- Providing a channel through which the sector is represented.
- Developing new ideas, strategies and organisations.
- Supporting and developing volunteering opportunities.
- Promoting equality of opportunity and access and promoting the value of diversity

Governance and Management

The Board of Directors as Trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction and over-seeing the financial sustainability of the organisation; establishing policy, priorities and forward planning through the governance structures of the charity. The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. An annual board programme to track progress is produced.

Board meetings and sub-committees have operated face to face and digitally. The sub committees of CVS, which includes the Corporate Management Group, Information Governance Group and Finance Group, met on a regular cycle with actions reported back to each Board meeting.

Key activities include:

- The Information Governance framework IG Toolkit was updated in June 2022
- Undertook an annual equality and diversity survey of Trustees, staff and volunteers
- The Board continued its commitment to work towards the Sefton Climate Change Strategy with regular reports against an action plan from CVS Climate Change Group plan supported by the Climate Change Board Champion
- Continued to work to the principles contained with the Liverpool City Region Race Equality Combined Authority statement adopted in 21/22. This work was taken forward by the staff Equality and Diversity Task Group reporting into the Board.
- Rathbones Investment Managers reported on the performance of CVS investments to the May 2022 Board
- The Board commenced a review of its practice using the Charity Governance Code modules for larger charities.
- Brabners LLP were asked to review the CVS governance document and proposed changes were being put for consideration by the Charity Commission at the end of the financial year.

EBS Law act as CVS's external Human Resource advisers. WRM are CVS's external Health and Safety advisers. Brabners LLP Liverpool continued as our specialist advisers on charity governance and law.

Sefton CVS AGM 2022

The 29th Annual General Meeting as a charitable company was held electronically on 12th October 2022, where the accounts and annual report were adopted. BWM were appointed as Auditors for the following year. Two Trustees were reappointed: Elizabeth Barnett and Dave Roscoe.

Appointment of Officers

At the Board meeting in November 2022, Elizabeth Barnett was re-elected as Chair officers and Mark Sonne as Treasurer and Vice Chair.

President and Patrons

Mr Mark Blundell, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, continued to act as President. Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE FRSA DL and the office of the Mayor of Sefton continued as Patrons. President and Patrons provided unstinting support to the organisation during the year.

Use of Buildings

CVS has a 6-year lease with Bruntwood Properties, now Tracey Investment Ltd at Burlington House, from which the charity headquarters operate, which was renewed in December 2018.

CVS manage Southport Community Centre in a partnership with the Parochial Church Council of St Simon and St Jude's. CVS and Brighter Living Partnership hold a joint lease until 2039 with the Diocesan Board of Finance.

CVS has a licence to operate a community health shop in the Bootle Strand. The licence is currently held over as the Strand has since transferred to Sefton Council.

Reserves
The Trustees have determined the reserve levels of the charity giving consideration to the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trustees have concluded that, to allow the charity to be managed efficiently and to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve equivalent to approximately 3 months of all core expenditure should be maintained.

Therefore, the General Reserve has been set as £219,013

There has been a review of designated funds in the light of forecast activity for the year ahead, and these are included in note 26

Sefton CVS Investment Policy

Rathbones act as Investment Managers and manage a portfolio investment of £500,000 in line with the ethical investment intentions of Sefton CVS. This portfolio performance is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure a satisfactory return that can contribute to the furtherance of the objectives of the Charity. Some funds are still held on a short-term investment basis with HSBC, which enables the charity to have access to the funds to ensure liquidity.

The Trustees regularly review the performance of these funds with consideration to the investment of the organisation's reserves and an investment strategy in line with the organisations ethical and environmental values. The impact of the pandemic on the world-wide economy and the war in Ukraine has affected the short-term performance of CVS portfolio investments which has been considered by the Trustees on a regular basis.

Quality Assurance

Sefton CVS hold the following quality assurance marks and training accreditations:

- NAVCA Quality Award
- Volunteer Centre Quality Assurance.
- Navajo (LGBTIQ friendly) Charter Mark (renewed in the year)
- Workplace Wellbeing Charter
- Disability Confident Employer
- Open Awards Approved Centre
- Recognised Centre Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
- Social Value Quality Mark Level 1 (achieved in the year)
- Living Wage Employer (achieved in the year)

CVS as a Strategic Partner

Sefton CVS is involved as a key agency in strategic partnerships and interventions addressing local priorities through the work of the key partnership Boards, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Board. CVS is also recognised as a key non-statutory partner with Sefton Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board which was established during the year.

CVS works closely with Sefton Council and its Departments, the developing Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) now Sefton Partnership Board, the Primary Care Networks (PCN's), and thematic planning groups supporting local commissioning priorities. Sefton CVS is also a partner in developing initiatives and sector engagement in the City Region with VS6 engaging with the Combined Authority, Metro Mayor's Office and the Local Enterprise Board (LEP) and within the North West working with Voluntary Sector North West.

During 22/23 CVS continued to engage with the Council and NHS partners to support a variety of workstreams and programmes.

- Continued our involvement in the ongoing workstreams relating to community resourcefulness, NHS transformation, integration and advocating the vital role that both the funded and unfunded sector undertakes in providing services and support to Sefton residents in addressing the priorities of statutory partners and the newly established Sefton Partnership.
- Facilitated sector networks and forums, involving both groups and individuals, as a consultation and engagement conduit, participating in public policy and developing and shaping local services.
- Participated in a range of Sefton Council work programmes including the Health and Wellbeing Board and Sefton Partnership Board.
- CVS is also engaged in the work of the Consultation and Engagement Panel, Community Safety Partnership, Sefton Leadership Collaborative Multi-Agency Group, Sefton Adult Forum and Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership.
- In relation to children, young people and families, representation was maintained at the Corporate Parenting Board, SEND Improvement Board, Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board, Youth Offending Service Management Board, Early Help Partnership Board, Emotional Health and Well-Being Board, and Sexual Health Partnership.
- CVS is engaged in the Local Safeguarding Children's and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board, representation is provided at the appropriate sub-groups.
- Continued involvement as Chair in the multi-agency Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Partnership (WRAP) and significant contribution to a new Child Poverty Strategy for Sefton.
- Continued engagement in the process to establish a new ICP Place Based Partnership for Sefton, the Sefton Partnership, and provided VCF sector input into the draft Sefton Place Plan and associated priorities.
- Delivery of MECC (Making Every Contact Count) training to the wider workforce, inclusive of Elected Members, Council staff, GP's, DWP and the VCF sector.
- Facilitated participation and engagement mechanisms with equalities groups, Young Advisers, SYMBOL and the Youth Cabinet as conduits to our public sector partners.
- Supported VCF sector organisations and enterprises to manage change, reshape services to meet need and demand through business and financial planning support and customised interventions to individual groups.
- Facilitated the New Realities Steering Group and supported key areas of work which demonstrate innovative working across public and voluntary sector agencies.
- Provided VCF representation and advice to the NHS Shaping Care Together programme.
- Responded to requests to support multi-agency work in response to the humanitarian crisis emerging in the Ukraine. CVS supported VCF sector provision to establish a welcome centre and our online fundraising platform was used to accept financial donations from members of the public.
- The CEO participated as a member of the Sefton Lieutenancy Panel with the Deputy Lieutenant's of Merseyside covering Sefton providing advice and updates on the local VCF sector
- Supported the development of the Merseyside Charity Mentoring Service as a pilot with x mentoring placements working with Financial and Professional Services Advisory Board of the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and CVS's in the Liverpool City Region
- Implementation and coordination of VCF sector services delivering under 'Living Well Sefton', an integrated wellness service commissioned by Public Health, including additional activities delivered by Strand By Me – a local community and health services shop.
- In partnership with VOLA, CVS continued to deliver a programme of digital inclusion interventions through a Liverpool City Region collaborative of RSL's and VCFSE organisations funded through the National Lottery Community Fund "Building Better Opportunities programme" and the LCR ESF Investment Priority 1.4: Active inclusion.

- The Sefton CVS Annual Conference 2022 “Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis”, took place on November 29th at the Lake House, Crosby Coastal Park and was attended by 80 delegates. The focus of the event was to consider the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis, both on Sefton’s VCF sector and the communities we serve. Speakers included Councilor Hardy, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health, Gareth Duffield Area Manager, Trussell Trust and Maddy Desfoges, Chief Executive NAVCA. Delegates participated in a variety of workshops which focused on; practical help for residents, building resilient organisations, food insecurity and how the Sefton Partnership can consider the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis on local residents. Details of the conference and workshop materials are shown here: https://seftoncvs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Sefton-CVS-Annual-Conference-2022-Resources.pdf
- An active member of the Greater Merseyside VS6, which is a focal point for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) infrastructure / support providers to debate, influence and shape policy at the Liverpool City Region (LCR) level. VS6 provides public and private sector partners working at the City Region spatial level, a formal point of contact to engage with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, through the infrastructure / support providers. The CEO of Sefton CVS acts as the Third Sector Representative on the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Board (LEP).
- Provided support to Sefton’s multi-agency Ukraine resettlement programme as well as support the work of a voluntary, community and faith sector hub, a collaboration of organisations who were supporting settlement. We were also successful in securing funding from Merseyside Community Foundation to deliver an initiative which promoted digital inclusion and volunteering opportunities for Ukrainian Refugees.
- Continued to develop an NHS Transformation work programme aligned to the work of the Sefton Partnership Board. 14 voluntary, community and faith sector organisations were supported to commence work to achieve the Social Value Level 1 Charter Mark, research scoping the possibility of introducing a Community Levy in Sefton was undertaken, and, a VCF Social Impact Tool has been developed.
- Participated in the work plans initiated by VS6 which included; participating in digital inclusion mapping work to inform the delivery of LCR digital connectivity programmes, participating in preparatory work to progress Shared Prosperity Funding by engaging with the sector to support LCR priorities, work alongside Voluntary Sector North West to ensure the sector is engaged in developing partnership with the NHS ICB for the Cheshire and Merseyside region, and, provided representation on the Mental Health Transformation Oversight Group and the Marmot Community Advisory Board.
- Supported the delivery of activities for the Liverpool City Region Dementia Friendly Advisory Group, to raise awareness of dementia and services and support available to people it affects.
- Delivered supporting to the National Academy of Social Prescribing for the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership.
- Sefton CVS is affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), National Association of Community and Voluntary Action, (NAVCA) Social Value UK, Children England, Charity Finance Group, Institute of Certified Book keepers.
- CVS works in partnership with the other 4 district CVS’s in Merseyside as part of a sub-regional network. This year we coordinated VCF engagement in the development of regional NHS structures to ensure appropriate representation and involvement of the VCF sector and local communities.
- Sefton CVS, through the CEO engages with Merseyside Resilience Forum and the VCS Emergencies Partnerships national monthly network.

Locality Working

Sefton CVS is aligned to Sefton Council’s locality based working model strategically and adopts a locality approach when working with Sefton’s communities.

Community Development Interventions

Organisation Development and Capacity Building

CVS deliver comprehensive organisation development and capacity building services in localities to support people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery by:

- Supporting local people to set up and develop robust, sustainable and high impact groups, associations, organisations and social enterprises.
- By supporting established local community organisations and social enterprises to improve their effectiveness, reach and social impact.

- By bringing people together to network, share knowledge, operate creatively and collaborate more effectively and extensively.
- Supporting organisations to realign their services and access funding during the pandemic.

Groups can access support in charity or social/community enterprise start up; acquiring/managing community assets; governance and leadership; achieving quality standards; social impact; project development and organisational growth; identifying and applying for funding; business planning; developing policies; skills development; accountancy services and payroll, disclosure and barring umbrella service, volunteering having a voice in local decision making.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- 1,023 intensive cases of capacity building and customised support were provided to 386 groups and 56 individuals. 36% of the groups worked with had an annual income between £10K and £100K and 32% had an annual income under £10K.
- The majority of support provided by CVS has been for services that have a focus on the following themes of work: Children, Young People & Families (23%). Adult Health and Wellbeing (15.%), Faith/ Place of Worship (11%), and Sports/Recreation/Arts and Culture (15%) and Community Safety/ Vulnerable People (11.%).
- Groups who deliver services across the full geographical area of the borough accessed support from CVS, however the service demand is consistently greatest amongst those delivering services in the south of the borough (23%).
- Hosted five ‘Meet the Funder’ events, connecting 79 attendees with local, regional and national funders.
- Held a ‘Better Bid Writing Workshop’ which sought to improve the bid writing skills of 12 attendees.
- Hosted a workshop to provide information and advice to local making applications to the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Fund.

Funding Advice and Information

The Funding Advice and Information function provides bespoke information and interventions to enable VCFSE sector organisations to access funding opportunities and support them to become more financial sustainable and build organisations’ capacity to prepare strong proposals to charitable trusts, funders and commissioners.

The Group Development Team work closely with local and national charitable trusts and grant makers to ensure that their criteria are widely understood and available to potential applicants through one to one advice sessions, Meet the Funder surgeries, the MFIP portal and customised mailings. CVS also brief local funders and Charitable Trusts as to local demands and impacts, which assists them having an increased understanding of needs on the ground.

The service provides detailed support in developing proposals to bid status, assistance in compiling evidence and data, final submission and bespoke advice in monitoring and managing the grants once awarded. It also provides a bid review service, which improves the quality of applications and the ability of the applicant for future submissions. CVS also provides a bespoke bid reading service on request.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

Identifying funds and resources to support responses to the Cost of Living Crisis and supported the local VCFSE sector to submit just over £3,094,000 worth of funding applications, whilst securing just over £1,686,800 in known funding applications through bespoke advice and support.

- A further £1,408,146 worth of bids were awaiting funding decisions at the end of March 2023.
- Sefton CVS also administer Merseyside Funding Information Portal (MFIP) website on behalf of the VCF infrastructure bodies in the Liverpool City Region. During 2022/23 MFIP has attracted 104,000+ views from over 25,000 unique visitors to the website.
- Sefton CVS provides a bespoke service to organisations making submissions to the Big Lottery Programmes, specifically Reaching Communities and Awards for All. Throughout the year, we supported groups to secure £624,994 from the Reaching Communities Fund. Bespoke support was also provided to groups applying to The Henry Smith Charity which awarded a total of £197,496 to local VCF organisations.

- Remote funding surgeries were facilitated for National Lottery Community Fund, Heritage Fund, Sefton Platinum Jubilee Fund, PH Holt Community Foundation, Burbo Bank Community Fund, DWF Foundation, PH Holt Foundation. Connecting 79 attendees with local, regional and national funders.
- Participated in the work of the Merseyside Charitable Trusts Group and the Merseyside Funders Advice Network.

Grants

Throughout the year, we secured and administered a range of grants from a variety of funders, which resulted in £3,740,902 worth of grant funding being awarded to local community, voluntary and faith sector organisations.

- Sefton In Mind (SIM) Small Grants, supported by Public Health Sefton through Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health System (CHAMPS) Mental Health Funding, we awarded £36,000 to nine organisations working to support good mental health in Sefton.
- Living Well Sefton awarded, £83,182 via Community Resilience Grants, £57,045 via Locality Grants and £15,432 via Workplace Wellbeing Grants, meaning LWS awarded a total of £155,659 was awarded in grants to the sector.
- Working in partnership with Sefton Council, grant funding totalling £73,000 was awarded to 24 organisations to deliver Warm Space sessions across 32 sites in Sefton.
- Winter Clothing, in partnership with Sefton Council, £57,000 was administered via 12 VCF sector organisations to reach 716 recipients to provide winter clothing and essentials.
- The Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund (developed in partnership with The Duchy of Lancaster's Benevolent Fund, local fundraising platform Sefton 4 Good and Living Well Sefton) awarded 55 grants totalling £28,743 to local community groups to deliver social and community activities as part of Jubilee celebrations
- Administered £9,500 on behalf of NAVCA's Community Pantry Fund and £15,000 from the Duchy of Lancaster to support Community Pantries.

The funds we supported organisations to secure, alongside the grants we administered and our grant allocation carried out by VOLA, means we facilitated £2,767,770 worth of investment into the VCF sector.

Community Accountancy

The Community Accountancy Service provides a range of services including payroll management, bookkeeping, preparing annual accounts, budgets and forecasts, as well as offering advice and guidance in areas such as VAT and Gift Aid. The Team provide training to staff and trustees either on a one-to-one basis or in group sessions and offer support to VCF sector groups in financial crisis.

Key Activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Provided accountancy services to 98 groups; 55% of groups had incomes under £100k.
- Annual accounts prepared for 86 groups.
- Independent Examinations carried out for 40 groups.
- Provided Payroll Bureau Service to 25 groups and Pensions Service to 15 groups.
- Contracted to undertake bookkeeping for 46 groups.
- 1 group was supported with VAT return.

SEFTON4GOOD

Sefton4Good supports philanthropy and local giving, primarily through an online presence. The project encourages local people and organisations to donate their time, skills, money or resources to support Sefton-based good causes. There are a range of options through which donors can donate (payroll giving, Just Giving through Virgin Money and text giving). Local good causes also have the opportunity to maximise their fundraising by channelling it through Sefton 4 Good, who can claim gift aid on their behalf. Sefton 4 Good works with the Private Sector, the Public Sector, the VCF sector and the general public to empower them to support the good causes on their doorstep.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Fundraising activity involved; an Easter raffle, Jumpers 4 Good Day and a silent auction.
- There have been three Citizens 4 Good awards held, during which the Mayor of Sefton thanked and gave certificates to 44 local people who have gone above and beyond for their local community.
- Raised the profile of Sefton 4 Good by attending events and holding promotional stands, for example we were interviewed on BBC Radio Merseyside and Maghull Radio.
- Part funded grants through the Sefton Platinum Jubilee Fund
- Issued £3885 of grants to support community-based activities, including in response to Sefton's Afghan Appeal.

Training and Skills

The Training and Skills Programme builds the skills and knowledge of individuals from the VCF sector workforce, thereby strengthening the capability and competence of organisations to sustain and grow by:

- Providing capacity building to community-based organisations to ensure they are legally compliant and working to good practice.
- Ensuring a professional and up-to-date workforce within the VCF sector.
- Ensuring organisations are fit for purpose / tender / commission ready.
- Developing opportunities and supporting health and wellbeing.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- A total of 664 individuals benefitted from formal training opportunities provided via Sefton CVS.
- Provided TES Development online training package to 229 individuals.
- 256 individuals achieved accreditation through courses facilitated by CVS – This included e-learning packages which offer 26 online accredited courses in total – link to list of training courses included: www.educare.co.uk/news/educare-essentials-training-package-for-businesses.
- 15 Individuals completed Mental Health First Aid Accredited 2-day course.
- 22 different training courses / masterclasses were delivered including courses accredited by organisations such as TES Development online training package, Mental Health First Aid England and RSPH.
- Training courses and Master Classes have been delivered both in person and remotely, which have included: TES Development online training package, MOM's Volunteer Mentoring Training, Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, Safeguarding Reflective Practice, Mental Health First Aid Training, Debt and Mental Health Training, Better Bid Writing, Recruiting, Retaining and Motivating Volunteers, Equality & Diversity Training, Safeguarding Policy & Procedures, MECC Level 1 and 2, Recruiting and Managing Volunteers with Team Kinetic, Dementia Friends, Hate Crime Awareness Training, Understanding a Personality Disorder training, Racial Cultural Awareness Training, Cyber Security Training, MECC for Mental Health, Royal Society for Public Health Level 2 Understanding Health Improvement, Volunteers and the Law Training, Suicide Prevention Training.

Volunteering and Citizenship

Volunteer Centre Sefton supports volunteers and the organisations that recruit volunteers by providing a brokerage service that matches local people to organisations with volunteering opportunities.

The Centre also provides bespoke support to organisations deploying volunteers including good practice guides, policies and procedures, training and developing new initiatives. The Centre links with national and regional agencies in policy work relating to volunteering and has submitted a new application to renew the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation from NAVCA.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/2023 included:

- Implementing a new volunteer management system: Team Kinetic and provided training to 55 participants who will be using the new system.
- Registrations of volunteers on Team Kinetic has grown throughout the year from 77 to 551.
- Registrations of organisations in Team Kinetic has grown from 383 to 466, which showcased 493 volunteering opportunities.
- Held nine Volunteer Coordinator's Forums with 91 attendees. The forums covered a wide range of topics including: Young People and Volunteering, COVID 19 effects on Volunteering, Vision for Volunteering, Engaging diverse volunteers, Student Volunteering Week, Cost of Living and Christmas Volunteering and Volunteer's Week.
- Refreshed and updated the Volunteer Centre Sefton website.
- Training sessions were attended by 84 people.
- Held a Platinum Jubilee Volunteer Celebration Event with 150 guests, attended by the Mayor of Sefton, Cllr. Claire Carragher and the Lord Lieutenant of Sefton, Mr Mark Blundell.
- Held two Volunteer Open Days, a Befriending Volunteering Event and a bespoke event in Bootle to promote volunteering to local residents.
- Launched two monthly newsletters, one directed at organisations and one for volunteers.
- Provided on-to-one intensive support to 54 individual volunteers, signposting to relevant roles and introducing to organisations.
- Assisted with 115 individual queries from approximately 94 organisations relating to volunteering such as volunteer recruitment, policies and procedures and best practice.
- Volunteer certificates were issued to over 120 volunteers during Volunteers Week during June 2022 , bringing the total issued throughout the year to 198. Preparation was also undertaken for a further 267 people's volunteer contributions, to be recognised during Volunteers Week June 2023 .

Southport Community Centre

Southport Community Centre in Norwood, Southport, works closely with the Brighter Living Partnership to provide access to VCF support across North Sefton. The centre welcomed over 10,000 visitors and users, in 2022/23, after reopening to the public after the Covid pandemic.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- The centre continues to provide activities and groups for the local community based on their need. This included Ukrainian response work and Warm Spaces provision over the Winter period. The Centre is also a hub for local organisations and residents to hire which attracts a high number of users.
- IT Suite available to the public and used for regular training and support sessions ran by local providers.
- On-going safety checks and general maintenance continued to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the risk schedule.

Information and Communication

Sefton CVS manage the 'Here For You' online directory of approximately 3,000 services offered by 1,000 VCF sector organisations, attracting 10,000+ visitors during the year.

- Sefton CVS continued to routinely update and review directory records and add newly-established voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector organisations as well as the services and support they provide to Sefton residents. Where applicable, the Here For You directory also includes direct links to the organisation's website, social media pages (Facebook and Twitter), and Companies House and Charity Commission pages. Throughout the year we undertook significant maintenance and updates of our Here For You Directory, carrying out quality checks of all entries.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Shared 170+ separate website articles on seftoncvs.org.uk, including events, activities, job vacancies, policy updates and consultations. This garnered 106,000 views and 78,900 unique visits.
- 75 separate Sefton CVS email Updates, including information about funding opportunities, national/ regional news and policy, training and development opportunities sent to approximately 822 subscribers per update.
- Twitter @SeftonCVS has a total of 5,660 followers on its main account (as of 31st March 2023), which shows an increase in followers of 310 during the 12-month period. The @SeftonCVS account posted 516 Tweets during April 2022 - March 2023, gaining 170,000 impressions and over 130,000 profile views.
- Sefton CVS Facebook Page (facebook.com/SeftonCVS) has a total of 1,500 'Likes' and 1,800 'Followers'.
- Sefton CVS currently manages over 23 additional social media accounts (Twitter & Facebook) for various projects and initiatives, which provide a total number of approximately 22,000+ followers.
- The CVS website hosted a dedicated Warm Spaces Network web page, providing information on Warm Space Providers in Sefton. Since launching the web page in November 2022, Sefton CVS have attracted over 30,000 views from visitors accessing the location and opening information for Warm Space Providers across Sefton.
- Sefton CVS acted as a consultation and information conduit on a wide range of strategic and operational consultations, ongoing promotion of stakeholder engagement activities from partners including Sefton Council, Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP) for Cheshire and Merseyside and Cheshire & Merseyside NHS Trust.
- Strengthened our Customer Relationship Management tool, Civi-CRM, to improve our reporting processes and increased the number of teams using the tool.

Sefton Equalities

Sefton Equalities Team works with partners to reduce inequalities in the borough by supporting and enabling partners to meet their requirements under the Equalities Act 2010 legislation. It provides a conduit through which Sefton's protected groups gain access to and participate in decision making, consultation and engagement.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Adopted the Combined Authorities Race Equality Strategy and initiated development of a subsequent action plan.
- Adopted the Local authority Diverse Ethnic Background terms in how people identify.
- Understanding Personality Disorder Training delivered to NHS and Local Authority staff.
- Debt and Mental Health Training delivered to VCF sector and NHS staff to enable greater support for those suffering financial difficulty due to the Cost of Living Crisis.
- Equalities Steering Group met to ensure implementation of the Navajo Action Plan enabling Sefton CVS to retain the Charter Mark.
- Participated in Sefton Hate Crime Joint Action Group meetings, providing advice and support to progress common areas of work.
- Participation in the Crown Prosecution Service Hate Crime Sub-Group Group.
- Asylum seeker surgeries with NHS GPs at Thornton and Netherton Health Centres and weekly migrant surgeries held in the North of the borough at Parenting 2000 and Holy Trinity school.
- Advocacy at DWP and Employment tribunals with extensive arrears recovered.
- Continued support for the 'Show Racism the Red Card' anti-racist educational work.
- Developed a new relationship with Mersey Care Long Covid-19 service and Sefton Talking Matters with training delivered on counselling of DEBs communities.
- Unconscious Bias in Recruitment presentation provided to a local advice centre.

DEBs CDW Project (Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds service)

This project provides intensive one to one support to vulnerable members of Sefton's DEBs Communities experiencing mental health conditions.

- 2118 interventions have been delivered for 489 people from DEBs / Migrant backgrounds from 41 different nationalities. The three priority presenting issues were mental health, legal issues and safeguarding. This is consistent with the priority issues for 2021 / 2022.
- The service worked with a total of 147 new clients during the year. Most referrals into the service came via NHS organisations.
- The Service provided support to Ukraine and Russian clients in response to conflict. The service translated all the welcome/safeguarding information on behalf of the local authority, Sefton Carers Centre and Compassion Acts.
- Of the 489 clients supported 60 were asylum seekers with complex needs
- Supported clients to claim £199,850 in new benefit/income claims from the Department of Work and Pensions

Criminal Justice Interventions

The aim of this work is to provide strategic leadership within the VCF sector and be a conduit to partners and interpret policy relating to the criminal justice system, community safety and reducing reoffending, working with key partners within Merseyside Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, HM Prison Service and Sefton Council.

Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project

CVS deliver an offender mentoring project working closely with HMP Liverpool and other prisons releasing men back into the Merseyside area. This project provides mentoring support to offender's pre and post release from HMP Liverpool by enabling offenders to resettle positively back into the community. A comprehensive tailored service is provided and assists offenders in overcoming barriers with the objective to reduce reoffending significantly and its impact on the wider community.

In 2022/23 the project was funded by a range of agencies and charitable trusts including the National Lottery Fund, John Armitage Charitable Trust, Achieve North West and the High Sheriff of Merseyside.

Key activity undertaken during 2022/23 included:

- The project has successfully recovered from the impact of the COVID pandemic and has resumed all activities.
- 269 ex-offenders were matched with a Volunteer Mentor.
- The project recruited and trained 264 Volunteer Mentors.
- The project provided 3,505 volunteer mentoring support hours to mentees with an economic value of *£54,678.
- The Reducing Reoffending Rate for 2022/2023 was just 8% compared to the national average of 33%.

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/proven-reoffending-statistics-july-to-september-2019

*Using the average wage paid by Sefton businesses in 2022. The average wage = £30,585 per annum, this equates to £586.70 per week and (assuming a 35-hour week) an hourly rate of £15.60 Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved (From Nomis on 17th March 2022).

Other related activity:

- Throughout the year, the project coordinated Pathway for Assisting Life model (PAL) training to volunteers, which encouraged a greater awareness around suicide intervention.
- Attended employability events at Liverpool University, which attracted current Law, Social Science and other students attracted to work within the criminal justice system.
- Regularly attend HMP Liverpool Partnership Meetings, Integrated Offender Management meetings and local Resettlement Boards.
- Extended the service into HMP Altcourse in Liverpool.

HMP Liverpool Liaison Work

Sefton CVS's Partnership Liaison Officer works within HMP Liverpool to broker relationships with a diverse range of VCF and enterprise sector organisations which provide the foundation for the offender's resettlement journey. This approach blends a range of creative and innovative VCF sector services with existing statutory support and enables a more holistic and collaborative approach to supporting offenders to move on with their lives when released back into their local community. Sefton CVS also works strategically within the prison with offender pathway leads and key staff to support and develop VCFSE partnership work and local interventions with the aim of reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Continued to support the Prisons Covid-19 Recovery Plan by contributing to risk assessments and adapting activities in step with national and prison specific requirements. Supported the re-introduction of social activities into the establishment, such as football and support groups.
- In partnership with Liverpool City Council, delivered a 10 week 'Nurturing Programme' which worked with male prisoners who had children aged between 0-18 years old. The programme consisted of a 10-week course, during which attendees reflected on their own upbringing to prevent the reoccurrence of adverse childhood experienced for their children and, more broadly, reduce intergenerational offending.
- Facilitated the introduction of THRIVE career hub into HMP Liverpool with a view to providing support to prison leavers with care experience to access finance, education, employment and training pathways.
- Continued to lead and support partnership meetings within HMP Liverpool to ensure continued support for mentees both in custody and on release. In addition to senior Staff from HMP Prison Liverpool, a range of agencies are involved, e.g. CLG, POPs, the Growth Company IAG, Career Connect and Achieve North West, Cells Merseyside etc.

Health and Wellbeing Interventions

From April 2022 to March 2023 there have been a number of significant structural changes in the health and social care landscape, that had implications for the VCF sector. In July 2022 the Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP) for Cheshire and Merseyside was established along with the governing body of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to form the Integrated Care system (ICS). The VCF Sector are integral to the development of the new health and social care system. We continue to coordinate and facilitates the development of the VCF sector in Sefton around local and national health and wellbeing priorities forging links with the ICB, ICS and the local Primary Care Networks (PCN's).

Key activity undertaken in 2022/2023 included:

- Facilitated six Health and Social Care Forum meetings for it's membership which stands at 188. Topics considered during meetings included; updates from Sefton's Health and Wellbeing Board, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, Adult Safeguarding, Shaping Care Together and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meetings.
- During November 2022 a bespoke event was organised, in Partnership with Healthwatch Sefton, to introduce the newly appointed Independent Chair of Sefton's Adults Safeguarding Partnership to the diversity of the VCF sector offer, and the opportunity to work more closely to support safeguarding in Sefton.
- Sefton In Mind hosted a World Mental Health Day event at Crosby Library in October 2022 with over 60 people in attendance. The event focussed on the voices of Experts By Learning, Experts By Practice and Experts By Experience.
- CVS supported the work of the Collaborative Research and Engagements Network (CoREN) in Sefton. CoREN is part of ARC North West which aims to strengthen community engagement in research that impacts on health inequalities. An event was hosted at Crosby Library looking at how qualitative research experiences are shared.
- In February 2023 CVS hosted the first in person Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens (SPOC) since the pandemic. The meeting was much appreciated by those in attendance and much of the conversation reflected the impact of the pandemic on the re-engagement of older people within community activities.

- Researched and captured the activity of 59 VCF organisations working to improve mental health and wellbeing in Sefton to find out the nature of support they offer. Gaps in services were identified were identified alongside positive feedback. The results were shared with the local Mental Health Transformation Task and Finish Group.
- Continued our commitment to supporting Sefton to be a Dementia Friendly Community. All new staff undertake Dementia Friends Training. CVS facilitated an online Dementia Friendly Communities meeting at the beginning of the year and intend to continue this work supporting improvements in diagnosis and support for people living with dementia and their carers.

Living Well Sefton

Sefton CVS has coordinated the Living Well Sefton (LWS) Programme funded through Public Health to contribute towards the reduction of health inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups and those living in our most deprived communities in Sefton. The LWS service is a partnership between Sefton CVS, May Logan Centre, Netherton Feelgood Factory, Brighter Living Partnership, Citizens Advice Sefton, Sefton Carers' Centre, SmokeFree Sefton and Active Lifestyles, in addition to 20+ Living Well Sefton Neighbourhood Partners.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/2023:

- 5,564 (With Active Sefton/Smoke Free) interacted with the service, 1,489 of these were new clients.
- 86% of clients completed either a Universal Consultation or Brief Intervention.
- 212 clients started/completed a course.
- 94% improved mental wellbeing (measured by The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS)
- 1,916 individual goals completed.
- 9 Making Every Contact Count Training sessions took place, these were offered to a range of organisations throughout Sefton. No's
- The service continued to run courses such as Think Differently Cope Differently, Weigh Forward, Bereavement and Menopause support.
- Our partners offered 'Mental Health Drop Ins' based on need to support clients with their Mental Health (low level).
- The service supported Sefton's Ukraine's response by co-ordinating the voluntary sector offer and attending the welcome centres to offer our support.
- We have also provided wraparound support at Sefton's Warm spaces, helping to engage with those struggling due to the cost of living crisis.
- 64 groups and 6,892 beneficiaries supported with £83,682 of funding from the Community Resilience Grants – rounds 9 (Obesity), 10 (Community Resourcefulness) and 11 (Mental Health).
- 39 SMEs supported through the Workplace Wellbeing grant with a total of £18,382.

Strand By Me

Strand By Me is an in-person addition to the service that Living Well Sefton provides. Located in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre, the service allows residents in Sefton access face-to-face support. Residents can receive advice on Living Well Sefton services, along with services from other organisations within the Sefton community to help improve general health, wellbeing and encourage positive lifestyles.

- Almost 2,500 members of the public visited Strand By Me throughout 2022/23.
- Strand By Me offers support through signposting to services and actively hosts Smoke Free Sefton, Healthwatch Sefton, Life Rooms, Include IT Mersey, May Logan, Sole Survivors and Galloways Support for sight loss on a weekly and monthly basis.
- Provided a face to face service in the 'new normal' after COVID restrictions lifted to support those with services that had gone online or over the phone and no longer delivered a face to face service.
- It has continued with COVID 19 support through booking vaccines and helping the public get their COVID passports.

Community Connectors

- 252 people were referred into the Community Connectors service during 2022/2023, who benefitted from signposting information about groups and activities in their local area, carers advice, dementia support services, long-term condition support and mental health services.
- 433 signposting referrals were made during the year to such organisations.
- The Community Connector service funded a trip to the Plaza, a local community cinema, in collaboration with Maghull Town Council for those living with Dementia and their carers to enjoy an afternoon watching 'Carousel'.
- The service co-ordinated a Marketplace Event in Maghull for clients to find out more about services/groups available to them.
- The service launched a successful Memory Café for those living with Dementia and their carer's with the support of another local organisation.
- The service has supported numerous local organisations by offering signposting information around funding and development opportunities and advice, volunteer recruitment and linking them in with other relevant professionals. The team have also attended numerous health fayres, promotional events and hubs throughout the year to offer wellbeing information to attendees.
- The service manages a team of Community Champion volunteers who support with the running of groups, Christmas Hamper deliveries to vulnerable local residents and offer 'buddy' support to clients who lack in confidence to attend activities for the first time.

Social Prescribing Service:

The Social Prescribing Team has developed into a team of 20 workers across Sefton, consisting of four Senior Social Prescribing Link Workers. The service works closely with local Primary Care Networks to improve the wellbeing of isolated and vulnerable people in the community, by supporting access to targeted and universal provision.

Over the last year, the service has received: **2,384 referrals**

- Continued to build excellent communication partnerships with NHS mental health services across the borough, including APPs (Associate Psychological Practitioners), the Community Mental Health team, and ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme) mental health practitioners and the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Programme. Social Prescribers also attend and contribute to the work of the South Mental Health Hub.
- Established a new social group in the north of Southport, to provide social activities and companionship to isolated residents.
- Offered drop-in services in a variety of community venues for people who may wish to be supported by the Social Prescribing service, and an opportunity for staff running services to signpost clients to the service directly.
- Engaged community partners in research with implementation of person-centred community-based support services and lessons for social care providers. This has included inviting people to become involved with research run by UCLAN, interviews by PhD students and hosting social care and mental health students.
- Working in partnership with 'Hoarders Helping Hoarders', we have set-up a new local hoarder support group.
- National Social Prescriber day was celebrated across the teams with events at Strand by Me and Brighter Living Partnership, inviting referring agents and past clients. Radio Merseyside also hosted a Social Prescriber to talk about our work as part of the day's celebrations.
- In partnership with local group, Sole Survivors, six months of funding was secured through LWS, to host a weekly peer support group for people who live with PTSD.
- Launched a new North Sefton Carers Centre Group at Southport Community Centre.
- Teams participated in various training opportunities, including; Domestic Abuse, Personality Disorders, Sight Loss and Agoraphobia.
- Developed promotional videos about Social Prescribing including two case studies from patients who have accessed the service.

Reablement Service

The Reablement service provides person-centred support to service-users with a wide range of health conditions and unmet social concerns, to enable them to regain independence, including interventions for avoiding unnecessary dependence upon more acute, long term services. The services are delivered through South Sefton Health and Wellbeing Trainers, High Intensity User service and Enhanced Care Social Prescribing Link Workers.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Health and Wellbeing Trainers received 677 referrals into their service.
- 10,411 interventions were delivered by the team of Health Trainers.
- The most prevalent areas clients required support with were; finances, health, accommodation, and social inclusion. This was followed by confidence building, family and relationships, and lastly substance misuse.
- Clients have set a total of 890 personal goals were set over the course of the year. 599 (67%) of these goals have been met through the support of Health Trainers.
- Health & Wellbeing Trainers have continued to work with clients to address a wide range of complex issues with support from the Integrated Care Team of professionals.

Enhanced Care at Home Social Prescribing

During April 2023, we hosted a new team of two Social Prescribing Link Workers who work alongside South Sefton Primary Care Network to provide social prescribing support to older, housebound and/or frail individuals who had experienced a recent hospital admission.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- 131 referrals received
- 41 support plans completed.
- 80 cases completed and closed.
- 221 signposting referrals to 46 different services.

High Intensity User Service

This project is an initiative funded by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Sefton Place, which aims to reduce inappropriate A and E attendances and admissions from individuals identified as frequent attenders. Through a strength-based person centred and solution focused approach, working closely with individuals, the project aims to help address the underlying causes for presenting at A and E.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- The service worked intensively with 82 people throughout the year, to reduce A&E attendances and hospital admissions.
- Representation is provided at the national High Intensity Users Support Group, to receive updates on relevant strategies and expertise from HIU leads across the country.
- The most common support needs identified by clients are; one-to-one communication, empowering clients to build confidence and self-esteem, support to develop a social network, and, improving overall confidence and self-esteem.
- This year the service worked with relevant stakeholders to set up a weekly alcohol MDT to better support those attending A&E due to alcohol misuse.
- Over 95% of patients completing an evaluation of the service rated the service as excellent and felt it met their needs.
- The service was nominated and shortlisted as a finalist at the HSJ Awards, in the category of ‘Best non-for-profit organisation working in partnership with the NHS’.

Crisis Cafés

The service offers out of hours support to anyone experiencing a mental health crisis in Sefton. Drop-in sessions operate between the hours or 5pm – 11pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to give adults aged 18+ a place of safety as an alternative to attending A&E. One to one support and a social space with refreshments are offered in order to help reduce distress and better manage crisis situations. Support is also provided via phone, zoom or email if needed. During the year we opened our 2nd Crisis Cafe provision based in Crosby, which operate alongside the Café based in Southport.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- An additional site in Crosby opened in April 2022. Since opening average attendance was approximately 10 people per evening. The Southport site currently average attendances per evening was eight attendees. A total of 298 people attended the Crisis Café's since they opened.
- Since April 2022, Southport site had 98 new registrations and 1,449 recorded visits. Out of these visits 179 where crisis attendance, 191 where post crisis attendance and 829 where to maintain wellbeing during a difficult time.
- Crosby has had 83 new registrations and 841 recorded visits. Out of these visits 67 where in crisis, 84 in post crisis and 575 where to maintain wellbeing during a difficult time.
- Across the full year telephone support was provided on 486 occasions, which equates to approximately 1,504 minutes, approx. 25 hrs of phone support in total across both sites.
- The most commonly reported reason stated for interacting with the service is to maintain wellbeing during a difficult time, although crisis, and post crisis attendances steadily rose throughout the year.
- Worked in partnership with Parenting 2000 who provide a full time Peer Support Worker assigned to the Crisis Café project, one in Crosby and one in Southport. These provide additional support to service users who may require it.
- In conjunction with Sefton Partnership, created six case study videos which received various local press coverage and a television interview with Mairead Smyth for BBC North West Politics Show, which aired on 13.01.23.

Community Cancer Navigators

Community Cancer Navigators offer support to identify needs or concerns through a holistic needs assessment and navigation for people living with or affected by cancer across all settings.

The Navigators help people living with cancer identify physical, practical, financial and emotional concerns and assist them to contact the most appropriate person or service to help meet those needs. I.e. If physical concerns are identified, the Navigator will support the person to contact the appropriate service such as a GP or Clinical Nurse Specialist. In other cases, with consent, the Navigator may provide onward referral on the patient's behalf, to the relevant service or professional such as with Adult Social Care, Occupational Therapy or Clinical Phycology. The Navigators provide emotional support and as an accessible community service to ensure that people living with or affected by cancer get the right support at the right time.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- 381 cases were referred to the project between April 2022 and March 2023.
- Referrals were predominantly received from Aintree Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS's), Primary Care professionals such as District Nurses and GPs and Self-Referral.
- During this reporting period Navigators were successful in supporting individuals to access £34,785 in Macmillan grants and with the completion of 378 applications for benefits and other grants. In Attendance Allowance alone, this is an annual financial gain for people in Sefton living with cancer of £262,909.40.
- The Navigators now have allocated GP Practices which have posters and leaflets promoting the service.
- During this reporting period the Navigators have developed plans to pilot of a new patient led cancer support group for people with any type of cancer in South Sefton. The pilot of the "Navigating cancer Together" support group was scheduled to begin on during April 2023.

Hospital Discharge Service

The service accepts referrals from health and social care professionals as well as self-referral for any resident of Sefton aged 18+ who have little or no support at home. The Hospital Discharge Service aims to provide free practical common-sense support for up to six weeks for Sefton residents after discharge from a hospital or similar health setting.

The service provides a range of support including ensuring patients have basic provisions in their home such as shopping, heating, support to access assistive technology and basic risk assessments to ensure accommodation is appropriate and suitable to meet needs. The HDS Team also provide support to maximise income through signposting and ensuring benefits and specialist debt management is available and provide onward signposting and referral where needed.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- 366 cases were referred to the project between April 2022 and March 2023.
- Supported clients to achieve 1,540 goals/tasks.
- Support has been wide and varied including - providing essential shopping, emotional support, assistance to complete benefit applications, referral to Adult Social Care, Occupational Therapy and Continence Teams, referral for urgent safeguarding and empowering patients to build their confidence and self-esteem.
- Signposted 902 times to over 30 services including - housing, care providers, shopping delivery services, Adult Social Care, cleaners, home care and Welfare Rights Advisors.
- The team provided 569 home visits and 1267 welfare telephone calls
- The team completed Trusted Assessor Level 3 training and will be able to provide assessment for low level equipment and aids in the coming year.
- The team now provide both an additional hospital admission avoidance service.
- The team supported with the completion of 98 applications for grants and benefits. In Attendance Allowance alone this is an annual financial gain for people in Sefton of £218,233.60.

Healthwatch

Sefton CVS employs the management teams to deliver both Sefton and Knowsley Healthwatch reporting to their boards. Each produces public annual reports. Healthwatch functions operate in each borough in England and were established to act as a consumer champion for health and social care.

Children, Young People and Family Interventions

The Children, Young People and Family Lead facilitates the development of a coordinated, strategic approach to local services, seeking to embed best practice to deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families with a focus on multi-agency working and the incorporation of integrated processes.

Every Child Matters Forum facilitates VCF representation enabling the sector to provide service solutions to the needs and priorities identified locally and nationally. 430 members participate in forums, policy briefing and receive information bulletins. There are additional sub groups including the Thrive Network, The Education and Mental Health Network and Perinatal Community of Practice enable members to focus on these priority areas of work and develop partnership approaches where possible.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Facilitated 4 meetings of Every Child Matters Forum and supported the VCF sector's engagement in a range of themes which included: Participation and Engagement, Families, Safeguarding.
- The ECM Forum had 931 Twitter followers at the end of March 2023.
- **The THRIVE Network** brings together organisations in Sefton who are keen to support children and young people using the THRIVE model, which was featured in Sefton's Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The meeting is chaired by Sefton CVS Children, Young People and Families Lead and has good attendance from a range of partners, including;: Sefton Early Help, Acting Angels, SWAN, Sefton SEN & Inclusion, Samaritans, Parenting 2000, Sefton Young Advisors, Place 2 Be, RASA Merseyside, Forefield Infants School, Sefton Carers Centre, We are with you, Merseycare, Larkfield Primary School, Sefton Local Offer, Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHST), Deyes High School, Sefton Children's Social Care, Roy Evans Foundation, Sefton Parent Carer Forum, Linaker Primary School, Active Sefton, KOOTH.
- **Education and Mental Health Network** provides an opportunity for local schools to share good practice, partner agencies to share information about their offer, and an update from Mental Health Support Teams in Schools. Guests speakers for 22/23 have included: Savio High School, Crosby High School, Meols Cop High School, Springwell School, Christ the King School, SEAS, Roberts Music, KOOTH, Samaritans, Thrive Network, Advanced Solutions, MYA SPACE, and Sefton Carer's Centre.
- **Perinatal Community of Practice m**eetings take place quarterly and provide partners across Sefton working with families with children age 0 – 2 years an opportunity to share good practice and what is on offer in Sefton.

- **First Five Festival** Co-ordinated by Sefton CVS, in partnership with The Foundation Years Trust we held a festival event in Sefton as part of a Liverpool City Region Festival. Five family events took place in Sefton in June hosted by Homestart, Parenting 2000, Feelgood Factory and Venus, during which research was undertaken and a report produced and shared with the Foundation Years Trust.
- **Sefton Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group** this is a new group established this year following an action from the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. Partners include; Sefton CVS, Sefton MBC (Engagement, Youth Justice, Early Help, Social Care, SEND, Inclusion, Public Health) Mersey Care, Education, Career Connect. Bringing together youth voice and engagement in Sefton.
- Coordinated referrals for Southport and Birkdale Provident Society Trust grants for vulnerable families with 187 referrals being actioned through the year.
- Provided DBS checks for local VCF sector staff and volunteers processing 181 disclosures for 29 separate organisations.
- Coordination of the Sefton Emotional Achievement Service (SEAS), a partnership of charities working collaboratively to deliver bespoke emotional wellbeing support to children, young people, families and schools.
- Coordination of Buddy Up, a mentoring and befriending project for young people (13-18) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; reducing their social isolation, increasing their confidence and preparing them for a more independent adulthood. 64 young people accessed 2157 hours of activities.
- Coordination of Buddy Up+@Alchemy is a social club for young adults aged 18 to 25 who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; reducing their social isolation, improving emotional health and wellbeing and increasing independence. 44 young adults' access 3,050 hours' worth of social opportunities.

Sefton Young Advisors

11 Sefton Young Advisors aged 15 – 22 are employed to show community leaders and decision makers how to engage young people in community life. They help organisations 'youth proof' their practices, policies, strategies and commissioning. They engage directly with other young people to get them involved. Sefton Young Advisors have gained national and local recognition through awards and commendations for their work.

Sefton Young Advisors have representation at Healthwatch Sefton Steering Group, Sefton's Children and Young People's Board, Sefton's Education and Mental Health Network, Every Child Matters Forum, The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, The Youth Providers Network, The Thrive Network and the former Experience and Patient Engagement Group.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Provided feedback on Sefton's Climate Change Strategy.
- Supported the production of Covid-19 Vaccine promotion videos.
- Contributed to Sefton's Economic Strategy Consultation.
- Attended the Health Watch Patient Participation Group and offered views from a young person's perspective.
- Met with Edge Hill University to help with design and language on a leaflet for children and young people.
- Consultation with the Happy 'n' Healthy hub to help decide a name and logo for the service.
- Attended the Sefton Parent Carer Forum event – Local Offer Live at Aintree Race Course.
- Designed, delivered and provided feedback on consultation work for Sefton's drug and alcohol service and fed this back to the 0-19 service.
- Created a Young People's Mental Health Survey for the Sefton Emotional Health Partnership.
- Met with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to discuss their 'Future of Work' consultation.
- Attended the Climate Change Conference at Salford University.
- Worked on the Merseyside Hope Hack and attended the event at Liverpool University.
- SYMBOL (Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders) Meetings planned and facilitated by Sefton Young Advisors took place in July and October. Themes were: Climate Change, Mental and Physical Wellbeing, Poverty and Inequality, Community Safety, Racism and Division.

Unemployment Interventions

Building Better Opportunities Include-IT Mersey Digital Inclusion Project

Sefton CVS, in collaboration with VOLA Consortium deliver the Include-IT Mersey Digital Inclusion Project across the Liverpool City Region. It is part of the Building Better Opportunities programme, co-financed by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund, which funds projects that tackle poverty and promote social inclusion.

Key activity undertaken in 2022/23 included:

- Delivery of the ESF/ Lottery funded phase of the project concluded in March 2023. Continued delivery will seamlessly evolve to UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding for an extended two-year period, from 1st April 2023, for which the delivery partnership has secured a further £879,000. A three-month transition period, April to June 2023, will allow for completion of final ESF/ Lottery contract closure processes, with the new UKSPF-funded phase mobilised alongside.
- By 31st March 2023, over its six-year duration, the project supported 2,109 digitally excluded, adult learners to develop basic digital skills and get online, exceeding contractual recruitment targets by 3%. The majority of those engaged were older learners, aged 50+, with high proportions of people with recognised barriers to inclusion and progression in learning and work, for example, people with learning difficulties, disabilities or long-term health conditions, workless households and those with low levels of basic skills and/or educational attainment.
- In terms of onward progression, 53% of learners progressed to a positive destination of work, further training, or active job-search. Contractual progression targets for the city region as a whole were exceeded by 15% (137 individuals) cumulatively. In addition, a further 55 training progression outcomes were also achieved that couldn't be formally counted as an ESF result due to funding technicalities/ rules.
- 225 Digital Champion volunteers also supported delivery of the project, the majority of whom were involved in running digital drop-ins across the city region, with some supporting tutors to deliver courses. 26 of these are known to have moved into employment whilst volunteering.
- The project hosted a memorable showcase event on 10th March at Liverpool's historic Maritime Museum. The event invited learners, volunteer Digital Champions, local dignitaries – including Sefton CVS President, Mark Blundell, Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside and Patron, Colonel Martin, the LCR Combined Authority and other local stakeholders, who all joined in celebrating the many successes of the project over the last six years.
- A comprehensive, independent evaluation of the project is complete and the final report will be published on the project website in June 2023.

The input of volunteers and donations in kind

14 volunteers have supported the Trustee Board and role of Patron this year. A further 261 volunteers have engaged through Sefton CVS projects and initiatives.

Disclosure of Trustees Remunerations Notes to the accounts

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or related entity.

Disclosure of Trustees Expenses

Trustees were reimbursed travel costs to attend meetings on behalf of the charity totalling £nil

Review of Finances

Use of assets

The Trustees consider the value of assets to be fairly stated.

Balance sheet in the light of future plans

The Trustees consider that the balance sheet is strong enough to fulfil the short-term plans of the core activities and that of the managed projects.

The extent of dependence of particular donors

Sefton CVS has, wherever possible, diversified its funding sources for the development of specific projects. The core services are highly dependent upon the continued support of Sefton MBC with their contribution of £478,315 (2022: £478,315).

Availability of assets

The current assets are available for the general purposes of Sefton CVS although some of its funding is restricted to specific core services and deferred income for services to be delivered in discrete and managed projects.

Fixed assets

The fixed assets of the company and major changes therein during the period are recorded in the notes to the accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr D Roscoe
Mrs E Barnett (Chair)
Mr S J Sharman (Resigned 14 October 2022)
Mr P P Cummins
Dr M Homfrey
Ms P Lappin
Mr D McGregor
Mr M Sonne (Treasurer & Vice Chair)
Ms V Elson
Venerable P Spiers
Mr B Thomas
Ms N Speed
Mr R Mathew

Sefton MBC Representatives non-voting:

Councillor John Pugh	Sefton MBC
Councillor Janet Grace (resigned October 2022)	Sefton MBC
Councillor Judy Hardman (from November 2022)	Sefton MBC
Councillor Dave Robinson	Sefton MBC

Patrons The Worshipful the Mayor of Sefton Colonel Martin G C Amlôt OBE, OStJ DL FRSA

President The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside Mr Mark Blundell

Company Secretary and Chief Executive Angela White (Carter) OBE FRSA

Chair of the Board of Directors Elizabeth Barnett

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that BWM be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Small company provisions

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....
Mr M Sonne (Treasurer & Vice Chair)
Trustee

.....
Mrs A White (Carter), OBE FRSA
Company Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Date: 20th September 2023

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 judgements and 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; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. 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 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's 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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within 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 the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose 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 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in 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 company through discussions with directors and other management
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence
- identified laws and regulations 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 company'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 to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

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 non-compliance. 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 is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://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 members, 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 charitable company's members 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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Louise Casey ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of BWM

16 October 2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Tempest
Suite 5.1
12 Tithebarn Street
Liverpool
L2 2DT

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	548,477	3,523	552,000	579,272
Charitable activities	**4**	88,471	3,816,687	3,905,158	4,098,795
Investment income	**5**	13,334	-	13,334	8,195
Other incoming resources	**6**	-	23,951	23,951	-
Total income		650,282	3,844,161	4,494,443	4,686,262
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**7**	7,033	-	7,033	11,049
Charitable activities	**8**	632,326	4,079,016	4,711,342	4,210,582
Total resources expended		639,359	4,079,016	4,718,375	4,221,631
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**16**	(49,474)	-	(49,474)	17,570
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(38,551)	(234,855)	(273,406)	482,201
Gross transfers between funds		34,694	(34,694)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(3,857)	(269,549)	(273,406)	482,201
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		764,927	1,320,057	2,084,984	1,602,783
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		761,070	1,050,508	1,811,578	2,084,984

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	**3**	579,272	-	579,272
Charitable activities	**4**	102,949	3,995,846	4,098,795
Investment income	**5**	8,195	-	8,195
Total income		690,416	3,995,846	4,686,262
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	**7**	11,049	-	11,049
Charitable activities	**8**	664,694	3,545,888	4,210,582
Total resources expended		675,743	3,545,888	4,221,631
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**16**	17,570	-	17,570
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		32,243	449,958	482,201
Gross transfers between funds		(5,236)	5,236	-
Net movement in funds		27,007	455,194	482,201
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		737,920	864,863	1,602,783
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		764,927	1,320,057	2,084,984

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

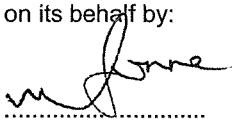
The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		14,555		17,555
Investments	**15**		561,877		609,324
			576,432		626,879
Current assets					
Debtors	**19**	473,261		539,657	
Cash at bank and in hand		969,438		1,098,655	
		1,442,699		1,638,312	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**20**	(207,553)		(180,207)	
Net current assets			1,235,146		1,458,105
Total assets less current liabilities			1,811,578		2,084,984
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**25**		1,050,508		1,320,057
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	**26**	542,058		487,690	
General unrestricted funds		219,012		277,237	
			761,070		764,927
			1,811,578		2,084,984

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 20th September 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:



Mr M Sonne (Treasurer & Vice Chair)
Trustee

Company registration number 02832920

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**28**		(140,524)		205,344
Investing activities					
Cash movement on investment portfolio		(2,027)		589	
Investment income received		13,334		8,195	
Net cash generated from investing activities			11,307		8,784
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(129,217)		214,128
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			1,098,655		884,527
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			969,438		1,098,655

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 3rd Floor, North Wing, Burlington House, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 0LG.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association , the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (“FRS 102”) and the Charities SORP "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).

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are 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 cost 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 Trustees' Annual Report.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, and contract income is included in income when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
- When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in income until the preconditions for use have been met.
- When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in restricted funds when receivable.

Voluntary income includes discretionary grants for projects, goods and services where no service agreement or contract exists.

Other grants, which have particular service requirements and which are provided in accordance with a contract or service level agreement are included in the Statement of Financial Activities under the heading Charitable Activities.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Management and governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost, including any incidental costs of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold improvements	over the period of the lease
Office equipment	33.3% per annum on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

1.13 Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds are restricted to agreed transfers to cover restricted fund deficits, or where other transfers have been agreed by the trustees or with donor organisations.

1.14 Group accounts

The charity has two wholly owned subsidiaries, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and Communities are People Limited.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board. Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

Communities are People Limited is currently dormant and consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements.

1.15 Taxation

The charity benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from income and from receipts under Gift Aid.

The charity is not able to recover Value Added Tax and expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities 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 current and future periods.

Support costs are allocated against the projects of the charity on a percentage basis reflecting time spent in the appropriate areas.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Unrestricted funds	
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	-	3,523	3,523	6,539
Grants receivable for core activities	548,477	-	548,477	572,733
	548,477	3,523	552,000	579,272
Grants receivable for core activities				
Sefton MBC	478,315	-	478,315	478,315
NHS South Sefton CCG	28,422	-	28,422	27,978
NHS Southport & Ormskirk CCG	22,390	-	22,390	22,090
Sefton MBC - Health and Social Co-ordinator	14,850	-	14,850	14,850
Sefton MBC - VRP funding for Early Help pilot	-	-	-	25,000
Sefton MBC - Youth Voice Worker	4,500	-	4,500	4,500
Sefton 4 Good - Ukranian Fund	-	1,844	1,844	-
Sefton 4 Good	-	1,535	1,535	-
Other	-	144	144	-
	548,477	3,523	552,000	572,733

4 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grant income	1,599,407	48,000	383,612	706,060	224,946	2,962,025	2,742,417
Grant monies to be redistributed	726,162	-	128,500	-	-	854,662	1,253,429
Other income	88,471	-	-	-	-	88,471	102,949
	2,414,040	48,000	512,112	706,060	224,946	3,905,158	4,098,795
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	88,471	-	-	-	-	88,471	102,949
Restricted funds	2,325,569	48,000	512,112	706,060	224,946	3,816,687	3,995,846
	2,414,040	48,000	512,112	706,060	224,946	3,905,158	4,098,795

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant income

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	254,308	-	90,273	-	-	344,581	436,401
NHS South Sefton CCG	215,370	27,000	38,607	-	-	280,977	622,791
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	65,115	21,000	140,415	-	-	226,530	244,121
The Big Lottery	-	-	10,000	706,060	93,692	809,752	795,535
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	16,575	16,575	39,000
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000	80,000
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,883
Southport & Formby PCN	223,219	-	-	-	-	223,219	22,000
South Sefton PCN	562,391	-	-	-	-	562,391	-
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	277,104	-	-	-	-	277,104	-
Other	1,900	-	104,317	-	74,679	180,896	472,686
	1,599,407	48,000	383,612	706,060	224,946	2,962,025	2,742,417

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant monies to be redistributed

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	726,162	-	67,500	-	-	793,662	1,064,896
NHS South Sefton CCG	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,125
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,000
The Big Lottery	-	-	36,000	-	-	36,000	-
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southport & Formby PCN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Sefton PCN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	25,000	-	-	25,000	45,408
	726,162	-	128,500	-	-	854,662	1,253,429

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grant income	1,366,367	38,000	274,111	674,043	289,896	100,000	2,742,417
Grant monies to be redistributed	824,396	10,000	419,033	-	-	-	1,253,429
Other income	102,949	-	-	-	-	-	102,949
	2,293,712	48,000	693,144	674,043	289,896	100,000	4,098,795
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	102,949	-	-	-	-	-	102,949
Restricted funds	2,190,763	48,000	693,144	674,043	289,896	100,000	3,995,846
	2,293,712	48,000	693,144	674,043	289,896	100,000	4,098,795

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant income

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2022
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	214,604	-	121,797	-	-	100,000	436,401
NHS South Sefton CCG	562,184	22,000	38,607	-	-	-	622,791
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	194,906	16,000	33,215	-	-	-	244,121
The Big Lottery	-	-	27,800	674,043	93,692	-	795,535
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	39,000	-	39,000
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	80,000
BBC Children in Need	-	-	29,883	-	-	-	29,883
Merseyside police	-	-	-	-	22,000	-	22,000
Other	394,673	-	22,809	-	55,204	-	472,686
	1,366,367	38,000	274,111	674,043	289,896	100,000	2,742,417

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant monies to be redistributed

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2022
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	755,396	-	309,500	-	-	-	1,064,896
NHS South Sefton CCG	40,000	5,000	64,125	-	-	-	109,125
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	29,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	34,000
The Big Lottery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southport & Formby PCN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Sefton PCN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mersey Care NHS Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	(45,408)	-	-	-	45,408
	824,396	10,000	419,033	-	-	-	1,253,429

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Income from listed investments	10,585	7,424
Interest receivable	2,749	771
	13,334	8,195

6 Other incoming resources

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Other income	23,951	-

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Investment management	7,033	11,049
	7,033	11,049

8 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	1,122,658	22,245	314,709	167,020	200,154	-	1,826,786	1,540,778
Activities undertaken directly	283,075	28,404	31,313	521,715	4,713	-	869,220	733,908
	1,405,733	50,649	346,022	688,735	204,867	-	2,696,006	2,274,686
Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	842,825	-	202,346	-	-	-	1,045,171	1,049,365
Share of support costs (see note10)	325,519	11,762	168,453	187,348	130,780	777	824,639	753,550
Share of governance costs (see note 10)	57,445	2,076	29,727	33,062	23,079	137	145,526	132,981
	2,631,522	64,487	746,548	909,145	358,726	914	4,711,342	4,210,582
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds	245,486	27,259	120,157	145,585	93,285	554	632,326	664,694
Restricted funds	2,386,036	37,228	626,391	763,560	265,441	360	4,079,016	3,545,888
	2,631,522	64,487	746,548	909,145	358,726	914	4,711,342	4,210,582

8 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	840,072	21,855	292,973	168,035	210,988	6,855	1,540,778
Activities undertaken directly	162,538	36,044	34,041	491,371	9,118	796	733,908
	1,002,610	57,899	327,014	659,406	220,106	7,651	2,274,686
Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	734,493	10,000	230,146	-	-	74,726	1,049,365
Share of support costs (see note10)	350,619	1,930	114,754	135,306	119,076	31,865	753,550
Share of governance costs (see note 10)	61,875	341	20,251	23,877	21,014	5,623	132,981
	2,149,597	70,170	692,165	818,589	360,196	119,865	4,210,582
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	308,144	17,740	96,957	114,321	100,609	26,923	664,694
Restricted funds	1,841,453	52,430	595,208	704,268	259,587	92,942	3,545,888
	2,149,597	70,170	692,165	818,589	360,196	119,865	4,210,582

9 Grants payable

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:						
Brighter Living	142,983	-	3,508	-	-	146,491
Netherton Feelgood Factory	197,260	563	550	-	-	198,373
Citizens Advice Sefton	167,004	-	-	-	-	167,004
Onward Homes	178,171	-	500	-	-	178,671
St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre	3,167	-	18,500	-	-	21,667
Sefton Carers Centre	38,060	-	2,000	-	-	40,060
Parenting 2000	2,356	563	8,500	-	-	11,419
Independence Initiative	5,298		10,914	-	-	16,212
Light for Life Sefton	-	-	-	-	-	-
Venus	-	-	-	-	-	-
Compassionacts	2,500	-	27,450	-	-	29,950
Home - Start Southport & Formby	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants between £4,000 and £10,000	45,199	1,124	65,525	-	-	111,848
Other grants less than £4,000	60,827	(2,750)	64,900	-	-	122,977
	842,825	(500)	202,347	-	-	1,044,672

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, Sefton4Good is described in the Trustees' report.

Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when the grant is formally accepted by the receiving organisation. Any undistributed balances at the year end are included in the restricted fund balances for the appropriate theme.

9 Grants payable **(Continued)**

Prior year

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:						
Brighter Living	129,099	-	18,510	-	28,226	175,835
Netherton Feelgood Factory	173,150	-	-	-	-	173,150
Citizens Advice Sefton	167,004	-	-	-	-	167,004
Onward Homes	166,976	-	-	-	-	166,976
St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre	-	-	11,200	-	32,000	43,200
Sefton Carers Centre	35,460	2,000	-	-	-	37,460
Parenting 2000	15,700	-	16,500	-	-	32,200
Swan Women's Centre	12,200	2,000	8,000	-	-	22,200
Light for Life Sefton	-	-	4,000	-	10,000	14,000
Venus	7,200	-	6,680	-	-	13,880
Compassionacts	-	-	13,800	-	-	13,800
Home - Start Southport & Formby	9,700	-	1,250	-	-	10,950
Other grants between £4,000 and £10,000	14,529	4,000	73,178	-	4,500	96,206
Other grants less than £4,000	3,475	2,000	77,028	-	-	82,503
	734,493	10,000	230,146	-	74,726	1,049,365

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, Sefton4Good is described in the Trustees' report.

Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when the grant is formally accepted by the receiving organisation. Any undistributed balances at the year end are included in the restricted fund balances for the appropriate theme.

10 Support and governance costs

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	141,697	88,082	95,741	57,445	382,965
Children, Young People and Families	5,120	3,183	3,460	2,076	13,839
Community Development Program	73,327	45,581	49,545	29,727	198,180
Digital Inclusion	81,552	50,694	55,103	33,062	220,411
Criminal Justice Program	56,928	35,388	38,465	23,079	153,860
Covid-19 Projects	338	210	229	137	914
	358,962	223,138	242,543	145,526	970,169

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	152,622	94,873	103,123	61,875	412,493
Children, Young People and Families	840	522	568	341	2,271
Community Development Program	49,952	31,051	33,751	20,251	135,005
Digital Inclusion	51,833	32,221	35,023	21,014	140,091
Criminal Justice Program	58,898	36,612	39,796	23,877	159,183
Covid-19 Projects	13,871	8,622	9,372	5,623	37,488
	328,016	203,901	221,633	132,981	886,531

11 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Fees payable to the charity's auditors:	2023	2022
	£	£
Audit of the charity's annual accounts	8,415	8,197
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	1,785	1,677

12 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Employees (excluding seconded and Sefton Healthwatch staff)	94	94

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	2,019,592	1,743,994
Social security costs	240,040	200,250
Other pension costs	188,251	171,192
	2,447,883	2,115,436

Included within payroll costs are redundancy and similar payments of £nil (2022: £1,294).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,000 to £69,999	1	1

Contributions totalling £4,080 (2022: £3,964) were made to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000

13 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of the trustees were reimbursed for expenses (2022: None).

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	20,472	16,642	37,114
At 31 March 2023	20,472	16,642	37,114
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2022	5,733	13,826	19,559
Depreciation charged in the year	819	2,181	3,000
At 31 March 2023	6,552	16,007	22,559
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2023	13,920	635	14,555
At 31 March 2022	14,739	2,816	17,555

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2022	605,477	3,847	609,324
Valuation changes	(49,474)	-	(49,474)
Cash movement	-	2,027	2,027
At 31 March 2023	556,003	5,874	561,877
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2023	556,003	5,874	561,877
At 31 March 2022	605,477	3,847	609,324

16 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	(49,474)	17,570

17 Subsidiaries

Market value at 1 April 2021 and at 31 March 2022 is £nil

Historical cost:
At 1 April 2022 and at 31 March 2023 is £nil

Communities are People Limited
The subsidiary, Communities are People Limited is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 06157031. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is wholly owned by the charity, is currently dormant and has £1 ordinary share capital.

The subsidiary has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited
The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 08453782. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is limited by guarantee, the charity is the sole subscriber and the amount guaranteed is £1.

The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, was formed on 20 March 2013 and its objects are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) the operation of a Local Healthwatch organisation in Sefton with the aim of gathering people's views on, and experiences of, the health and social care system and becoming a consumer champion for both publicly funded health and social care.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board.

The activities are controlled by and reported in the accounts of Healthwatch Sefton Limited, the subsidiary company.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Funding	170,609	165,392
Expenditure	(153,263)	(150,503)
Movement in year	17,346	14,889
Balance brought forward	14,889	-
Balance carried forward	32,235	14,889

The investment has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced for 2023 as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

18 Financial instruments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	1,419,967	1,621,987
Instruments measured at fair value through SOFA	556,003	605,477
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	152,198	127,982

19 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	441,678	518,780
Other debtors	2,976	705
Prepayments and accrued income	28,607	20,172
	473,261	539,657

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	55,355	52,225
Trade creditors	34,195	22,174
Other creditors	90,024	84,763
Accruals and deferred income	27,979	21,045
	207,553	180,207

21 Funds held as agent

Sefton CVS holds funds for its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, of £60,055 (2022: £42,709), in a bank account operated by Sefton CVS. The amount payable to its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and an equivalent amount of the bank balance are excluded from these accounts.

22 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

Contributions totalling £21,356 (2022: £17,569) were payable to the fund at the year end and are included in creditors.

The charge to the SoFA in respect of defined contribution schemes was £188,251 (2022: £171,192)

23 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	60,000	52,500
Between two and five years	45,000	105,000
	105,000	157,500

24 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	252,306	261,597

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year (2022: None).

No guarantees were given or received.

There were no other disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

25 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	188,294	2,190,763	(1,841,453)	5,768	543,372	2,325,569	(2,386,036)	(9,706)	473,199
Children, Young People and Families	51,067	48,000	(52,430)	(6,000)	40,637	48,000	(37,228)	(500)	50,909
Community Development Programs	237,065	693,145	(595,208)	5,468	340,470	515,635	(626,391)	88,034	317,748
Digital Inclusion	81,789	674,043	(704,268)	-	51,563	730,011	(763,560)	-	18,014
Criminal Justice Programs	213,732	289,896	(259,587)	-	244,041	224,946	(265,441)	(12,908)	190,638
Covid-19	92,916	100,000	(92,942)	-	99,974	-	(360)	(99,614)	-
	864,863	3,995,847	(3,545,888)	5,236	1,320,057	3,844,161	(4,079,016)	(34,694)	1,050,508

25 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing encompasses a variety of funds that represents the various projects coordinated and facilitated by Sefton CVS which aim to develop the local VCF sector's response to both local and national health priorities. This covers areas such as Reablement, health promotion and sexual health awareness.

Health and Wellbeing key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG, Merseyside Care NHS Foundation Trust, Southport and Formby PCN and Bootle, Crosby & Maghull PCN.

Children, Young People and Families

Children, Young People and Families projects centre on the development of a co-ordinated and strategic approach to local services, that seeks to embed best practice and deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families, with a focus on multi-agency working and integrated processes.

Children, Young People and Families key funders include NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG.

Community Development Programs

The main aim of Community Development Programs is to support local people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery in Sefton. This covers a variety of initiatives from the provision of financial services (via the Community Accountancy Service) to the management and coordination of a shopping service for older people in North Sefton.

Community Development Programs key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG, NHS South Sefton CCG, Big Lottery Fund and Children in Need.

25 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Digital Inclusion

Digital Inclusion mainly covers projects managed by the VOLA Learning Consortium. VOLA supports the Merseyside Voluntary and Social Enterprise in relation to learning, skills and employment support.

Digital Inclusion's key funders include Big Lottery Fund.

Criminal Justice programs

Sefton CVS work closely with local prisons including HMP Liverpool and HMP Hindley to promote voluntary, community and faith sector activity and opportunities to offenders and their families. From providing voluntary offender mentoring services to allowing access to information, advice and support for offenders, Sefton CVS is one of the leading organisations in prison and offender engagement.

Criminal Justice programs key funders include Big Lottery Fund, HM Prison Service, John Armitage Foundation, Achieve Northwest and Merseyside Police.

Covid 19

This fund represents a range of projects in response to the global pandemic this included the provision of shopping services, distributing PPE equipment and providing support to Sefton MBC in their co-ordinated response. The key funders include Sefton MBC.

The Trustees' Annual Report includes further detail in respect of these funds.

Information regarding individual funds and grants is shown in note 4.

Transfers

The trustees have reviewed the restrictions on funding, where available, and have concluded that any restrictions have been discharged.

26 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Redundancy Contingency Fund	200,000	-	-	(1,293)	198,707	-	-	50,000	248,707
Southport Refurbishment Fund	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
IT Replacement Fund	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	10,000	20,000
Fixed Asset Fund	20,555	-	-	-	20,555	-	-	(6,000)	14,555
Business Transition Fund	11,055	-	-	-	11,055	-	-	-	11,055
HWOP Development Fund	121,883	648	(11,903)	13,745	124,373	752	(13,302)	5,000	116,823
ECM Development Fund	75,769	30,630	(27,268)	(580)	78,551	953	(25,902)	12,908	66,510
Collaboration Development Fund	10,147	-	-	-	10,147	-	(41)	-	10,106
Website Development Fund	4,302	-	-	-	4,302	-	-	-	4,302
Burlington House Accommodation Fund	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	20,000	40,000
	443,711	31,278	(39,171)	51,872	487,690	1,705	(39,245)	91,908	542,058

26 Designated funds **(Continued)**

The Redundancy Contingency Fund is designated to provide for the employee redundancy costs likely to be incurred should the charity cease to operate.

The Fixed Asset Fund represents the ring fencing of assets which are not available as part of the general liquid reserves of the charity.

The Business Transition Fund represents monies set aside to enable the charity to respond positively to the changing funding landscape.

The following development funds represent monies ring fenced by the Trustees to develop the local VCF sector's response to local and national issues.

- Health Well Being and Older Persons Development Funds
- Every Child Matters Development Funds
- Collaboration Development Funds

The Website Development Fund has been created by SCVS trustees in recognition of the need to maintain the charity website.

The Southport Renovation Fund has been established to undertake a program of renovations at All Souls Community Centre, Southport, Norwood Road, Southport PR8 6HQ.

The IT Replacement fund represents monies set aside to enable the Charity to replace the significant investment made in IT as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, at the end of the current investments life cycle.

The Burlington House Accommodation Fund has been established to meet the terms of the current lease and restore the office at Burlington House back to their original state at the end of the tenure.

27 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023	**Designated funds 2023**	**Restricted funds 2023**	**Total 2023**	Unrestricted funds 2022	Designated funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	-	14,555	-	14,555	-	17,555	-	17,555
Investments	34,374	527,503	-	561,877	139,189	470,135	-	609,324
Current assets/(liabilities)	184,638	-	1,050,508	1,235,146	138,048	-	1,320,057	1,458,105
	219,012	542,058	1,050,508	1,811,578	277,237	487,690	1,320,057	2,084,984

28	Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
	(Deficit)/surpus for the year	(273,406)	482,201
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(13,334)	(8,195)
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	49,474	(17,570)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,000	3,000
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	66,396	(274,702)
	Increase in creditors	27,346	20,610
	Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(140,524)	205,344

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1024546

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1024546

Company Registration No. 02832920 (England and Wales)

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

AMENDED ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Sefton CVS

Supporting Local Communities

FRIDAY

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A08 27/10/2023 #92

COMPANIES HOUSE

The financial statements have been amended to reflect a change in the Responsible Individual approving the Audit Report.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr D Roscoe Mrs E Barnett Mr S J Sharman Mr P P Cummins Dr M Homfrey Ms P Lappin Mr D McGregor Mr M Sonne Ms V Elson Venerable P Spiers Mr B Thomas Ms N Speed Mr R Mathew	 (Appointed 20 October 2021)
Chair of the Board of Trustees	Mrs E Barnett	
Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne	
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne	
Advisors to the board from Sefton MBC	Councillor J Pugh Councillor J Grace Councillor D Robinson	
Patrons	The Worshipful Mayor of Sefton Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE OStJ DL FRSA	
President	Mr M Blundell, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside	
Chief Executive	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA	
Secretary	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA	
Charity number	1024546	
Company number	02832920	
Registered office	3rd Floor, North Wing Burlington House Crosby Road North Waterloo Liverpool L22 0LG	
Auditor	BWM Tempest Suite 5.1 12 Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2DT	

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Bankers	HSBC Bank PLC 197 Stanley Road Bootle Merseyside L20 3DX
Solicitors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL
Principal Insurers	Edwards Insurance Brokers 1 Rotten Row Barns 1957 Warwick Road Knowle Solihull B93 0DX
Investment advisors	Rathbones Port of Liverpool Building Pier Head L3 1BW

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Charity

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service, is constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital. The company is registered in England and Wales, No 2832920. The principal governing document is the company Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners, No 1024546. Sefton CVS was founded in 1974 as an unincorporated charity and became a charitable company in 1993.

The principal address and registered office of the company is the Suite 3B, 3rd Floor, Burlington House Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, Merseyside L22 0LG.

The Trustees report for 2021/22 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act, 2016 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice and the charity's governing document.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects, as described in the CVS Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:
To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

- The advancement of education;
- The advancement of health;
- The prevention and relief of poverty;
- The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

To promote and organise cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission
To promote and assist voluntary, community and faith sector activity.

Vision
A vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector that encourages and supports independent resilience and sustainable communities.

Mission, Vision and Values (continued)

Values
The CVS guiding principles:

- Put Sefton people, places and organisations at the heart of what we do.
- Be open and fair in our transactions.
- Take responsibility and be accountable for our actions.
- Promote equality, diversity and cohesion through our activities.
- Support the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Seek solutions, not problems.
- Be prepared to listen and learn.
- Operating ethically, honestly and with the highest standards of integrity.

Sefton CVS has six overarching activities:

- Providing support services to the voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector.
- Promoting partnerships within the sector and between the voluntary sector and other sectors.
- Providing a channel through which the sector is represented.
- Developing new ideas, strategies and organisations.
- Supporting and developing volunteering opportunities.
- Promoting equality of opportunity and access and promoting the value of diversity

CVS as a Strategic Partner

Sefton CVS is involved as a key agency in strategic partnerships and interventions addressing local priorities through the work of the key partnership Boards, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Board. CVS is also recognised as a key non-statutory partner with Sefton Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board which was established during the year.

CVS works closely with Sefton Council and its Departments, the Clinical Commissioning Groups in South Sefton and Southport and Formby, the Primary Care Networks (PCN's) and thematic planning groups supporting local commissioning priorities. Sefton CVS is also a partner in developing initiatives and sector engagement in the City Region with VS6 and within the North West working with Voluntary Sector North West.

During 21/22 CVS continued to engage with the Council and CCG task groups established to tackle the pandemic, whilst also adapting to the 'new normal' environment created in response to Covid-19 restrictions easing. Key activity included:

- Continued to support and contribute to task groups established in response to the pandemic, including; Outbreak Management Board, Community and Vulnerable People's Cell, Covid-19 Mass Vaccination Strategy Group.
- Provided continuation of the Covid-19 response for residents arising from Sefton Council call centre referrals, actions to support interventions relating to vaccine hesitancy and vaccination volunteers.
- Continued involvement in the ongoing work streams relating to community resilience, transformation, integration and advocating the vital role that both the funded and unfunded sector undertakes in providing services and support to Sefton residents in addressing the priorities of statutory partners.
- Reinstated in person activities and services for projects which had moved to remote working, in response to the easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.
- Facilitated sector networks and forums, involving both groups and individuals, as a consultation and engagement conduit, participating in public policy and developing and shaping local services.

CVS as a Strategic Partner (continued)

- Participated in a range of Sefton Council work programmes including the Health and Wellbeing Board and emerging Integrated Care Programme Development Group.
- CVS is also engaged in the work of the Consultation and Engagement Panel, Community Safety Partnership, Sefton Leadership Collaborative Multi-Agency Group and Sefton Adult Forum.
- In relation to children, young people and families, the Corporate Parenting Board, SEND Improvement Board, Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board, Youth Offending Service Management Board, Early Help Partnership Board, Emotional Health and Well-Being Board, and Sexual Health Partnership
- CVS is engaged in the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Sefton Adults Safeguarding Board, representation is provided at the appropriate sub-groups.
- Continued involvement as Chair in the multi-agency Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Partnership (WRAP) and significant contribution to the development of the Child Poverty Strategy.
- Continued engagement in the process to establish a new ICP Place Based Partnership for Sefton as part of the wider reshaping of health system. Support was offered throughout the year to inform the development of a PBP Dashboard and local indicators which reflect VCF sector contribution towards local priorities. The Sefton VCF: At the frontline of Innovation document was launched during March 2022. Funds were received from NHS Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups to progress recommendations in the document, with oversight from the VCF Advisory Group.
- Delivery of MECC (Making Every Contact Count) training to the wider workforce, inclusive of Elected Members, Council staff, GP's, DWP and the VCF sector.
- Facilitated participation and engagement mechanisms with equalities groups, Young Advisers, SYMBOL and the Youth Cabinet as conduits to our public sector partners.
- Supported VCF organisations and enterprises to manage change, reshape services to meet need and demand through business and financial planning support and customised interventions to individual groups.
- Facilitated the New Realities Steering Group and led a refresh of the overarching New Realities vision document, which was launched during the year.
- Provided VCF representation and advice to the NHS Shaping Care Together programme.
- Responded to requests to support multi-agency work in response to the humanitarian crisis emerging in the Ukraine. CVS supported VCF sector provision to establish a welcome centre and our online fundraising platform was used to accept financial donations from members of the public. Support was also provided to a newly formed partnership to plan Ukraine reception into homes within the borough.
- Introduced a new Customer Relationship Management tool, Civi CRM, to improve our reporting processes.
- Leadership was provided to Sefton's Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Group. Significant areas of work CVS supported throughout the year included work to produce a Child Poverty Strategy and manifesto for the borough, and, efforts to increase food programmes locally.
- The CEO participated as a member of the Sefton Lieutenancy Panel with the Deputy Lieutenant's of Merseyside covering Sefton providing advice and updates on the local VCF sector.
- Implementation and coordination of VCF sector services delivering under 'Living Well Sefton', an integrated wellness service commissioned by Public Health, including additional signposting activities that were offered in response to the pandemic.
- In partnership with VOLA, CVS continued to deliver a programme of digital inclusion interventions through a Liverpool City Region collaborative of RSL's and VCFSE organisations funded through the National Lottery Community Fund "Building Better Opportunities programme" and the LCR ESF Investment Priority 1.4: Active inclusion.
- The Sefton CVS Annual Conference 2021 "Climate Action in Sefton", was held virtually on 2 December 2021. The focus of the event was to consider how the sector could inspire change for a sustainable future in our communities. Guest speakers included; Steve Rotherham, Metro Mayor Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Cllr Paulette Lappin, Sefton Council Lead on Climate Change, Charles Sainsbury, Energy and Sustainability Manager for the Eden Project, and Dwayne Johnson, Chief Executive of Sefton Council. Delegates participated in a variety of workshops which focused on; nature and the environment, climate change and saving money, climate change from a funder's perspective and tree planting in Sefton. Delegates were encouraged to make a Pledge for 2022 which demonstrated their organisations commitment to tackling climate change. In total there were 61 representatives from 58 organisations.

CVS as a Strategic Partner (continued)

- An active member of the Greater Merseyside VS6 which is a focal point for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) infrastructure / support providers to debate, influence and shape policy at the Liverpool City Region (LCR) level. VS6 provides public and private sector partners working at the City Region spatial level, a formal point of contact to engage with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, through the infrastructure / support providers. The CEO of Sefton CVS acts as the Third Sector Representative on the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Board (LEP).
- Participated in the work plans initiated by VS6 which included participating in policy work to develop BAME infrastructure support across the region and developing a new VS6 Race Equality Reference Group which held its inaugural meeting during the year. In addition, £500,000 of investment was secured for the VCF sector through the Chrysalis Fund via the LCR Combined Authority to be delivered in partnership with the Community Foundation for Merseyside.
- Supported the delivery of activities for the Liverpool City Region Dementia Friendly Advisory Group, to raise awareness of dementia and services and support available to people it affects.
- Sefton CVS is affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), National Association of Community and Voluntary Action, (NAVCA) Social Value UK, Children England, Charity Finance Group, Institute of Certified Bookkeepers and Locality.
- CVS works in partnership with the other 4 district CVS's in Merseyside as part of a sub regional network. This year we coordinated VCF engagement in the development of regional NHS structures to ensure appropriate representation and involvement of the VCF sector and local communities. .
- Sefton CVS, through the CEO acted as the Merseyside Local Liaison Lead to the NAVCA Emergency Response linking into the National Emergency Response Partnership.

Locality Working
Sefton CVS is aligned to Sefton Council's locality based working model strategically and operationally, and adopts a locality approach when working with Sefton's communities.

Community Development Interventions

Organisation Development and Capacity Building
CVS deliver comprehensive organisation development and capacity building services in localities to support people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery by:

- Supporting local people to set up and develop robust, sustainable and high impact groups, associations, organisations and social enterprises.
- By supporting established local community organisations and social enterprises to improve their effectiveness, reach and social impact.
- By bringing people together to network, share knowledge, operate creatively and collaborate more effectively and extensively.
- Supporting organisations to realign their services and access funding during the pandemic

Groups can access support in charity or social/community enterprise start up; acquiring/ managing community assets; governance and leadership; achieving quality standards; social impact; project development and organisational growth; identifying and applying for funding; business planning; developing policies; skills development; accountancy services and payroll, disclosure and barring umbrella service, volunteering having a voice in local decision making.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- 974 intensive cases of capacity building and customised support were provided to 317 groups. 28% of the groups worked with had an annual income between £10K and £100K and 46% had an annual income under £10K.
- The majority of support provided by CVS has been for services that have a focus on the following themes of work: Adult Health and Wellbeing (14%), Community Safety & Vulnerable People (16%), and Children, Young People & Families (19%). Sports/Recreation/Arts and Culture (25%) and Environment (11%).

Key activity undertaken In 2021/22 (continued) included:

- Groups who deliver services across the full geographical area of the borough accessed support from CVS, however the service demand is consistently greatest amongst those delivering services in the South of the borough (29%).
- Hosted 11 'Meet the Funder' events, connecting 110 attendees with local, regional and national funders.
- Held a 'Better Bid Writing Workshop' which sought to improve the bid writing skills of 11 attendees.
- Developed and launched an online Business Recovery Toolkit, funded via the National Lottery, aimed at helping VCF sector organisations adversely affected by Covid-19.

Funding Advice and Information

The Funding Advice and Information function provides bespoke information and interventions to enable VCFSE sector organisations to access funding opportunities and support them to become more financial sustainable and build organisations' capacity to prepare strong proposals to charitable trusts, funders and commissioners.

The Localities Team work closely with local and national charitable trusts and grant makers to ensure that their criteria is widely understood and available to potential applicants through one to one advice sessions, Meet the Funder surgeries, the MFIP portal and customised mailings. CVS also brief local funders and charitable trusts as to local demands and impacts, which assists them having an increased understanding of needs on the ground.

The service provides detailed support in developing proposals to bid status, assistance in compiling evidence and data, final submission and bespoke advice in monitoring and managing the grants once awarded. It also provides a bid review service, which improves the quality of applications and the ability of the applicant for future submissions. CVS also provides a bespoke bid reading service on request.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Identifying funds and resources to support COVID response and supported the local VCFSE sector to secure just over £1.89m in known funding applications through bespoke advice and support.
- A further £195K worth of bids were awaiting funding decisions at the end of March 2022.
- Sefton CVS also administer Merseyside Funding Information Portal (MFIP) website on behalf of the VCF infrastructure bodies in the Liverpool City Region. During 2021/22 MFIP has attracted 104,000+ views from over 25,000 unique visitors to the website.
- Sefton CVS provides a bespoke service to organisations making submissions to the Big Lottery Programmes, specifically Reaching Communities and Awards for All. Throughout the year, we supported groups to apply for £787,889 from the Reaching Communities Fund. Bespoke support was also provided to groups applying to the Burbo Bank Extension Fund which awarded a total of £121,000 to local VCF organisations.
- Remote funding surgeries were facilitated for National Lottery Community Fund, Heritage Fund and Together Our Planet Fund, Merseyside Waste Recycling Authority, Sefton Platinum Jubilee Fund, Arts Council England, PH Holt Community Foundation, Canal and River Trust and Burbo Bank Community Fund. Connecting 110 attendees with local, regional and national funders.
- Participated in the work of the Merseyside Charitable Trusts Group and the Merseyside Funders Advice Network

Community Accountancy

The Community Accountancy Service provides a range of services including payroll management, bookkeeping, preparing annual accounts, budgets and forecasts, as well as offering advice and guidance in areas such as VAT and Gift Aid. The Team provide training to staff and trustees either on a one-to-one basis or in group sessions and offer support to VCF sector groups in financial crisis.

CVS have provided advice and supporting to groups applying for the Job Retention Scheme Programme and those intending to furlough staff and giving assistance in making the applications. The service also supported organisations that extended their financial reporting due to the pandemic.

Key Activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Provided accountancy services to 100 groups; 57% of groups had incomes under £100k.
- Annual accounts prepared for 56 groups.
- Independent Examinations carried out for 12 groups.
- Provided Payroll Bureau Service to 30 groups and Pensions Service to 16 groups
- Contracted to undertake bookkeeping for 23 groups.
- 1 group was supported with VAT return

SEFTON4GOOD

Sefton4Good supports philanthropy and local giving, primarily through an online presence. The project encourages local people and organisations to donate their time, skills, money or resources to support Sefton-based good causes.

There are a range of options through which donors can donate (payroll giving, Just Giving through Virgin Money and text giving). Local good causes also have the opportunity to maximise their fundraising by channelling it through Sefton 4 Good, who can claim gift aid on their behalf. Sefton 4 Good works with the Private Sector, the Public Sector, the Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector and the general public to empower them to support the good causes on their doorstep.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Raising online donations for Covid-19 Response work, through which, grants were issued to South Sefton Foodbank, Compassion Acts, Brighter Living Partnership and Formby Football Club, to support food and meal provisions across the Borough.
- Through the Liverpool City Region network, collated, stored and distributed 16,500 pieces of PPE items to 13 organisations.
- Launched the 'Sefton Afghan Appeal' in partnership with Sefton Council. Received support from Southport Links Rotary to organise donated items. Online fundraising for this appeal ceased in March 2022, with nearly £6,000 raised in fundraising. Afghan families arriving in Sefton were issued with a number of donated items and vouchers following the appeal's efforts.
- Sefton CVS continued to provide PPE to local VCF organisations on request. This included hand gels, face masks, face shields, gloves and aprons.
- During March, preparation began to launch the 'Sefton Ukraine Welcome Appeal', which was planned to go live early in April 2022.
- Funds raised from the annual Sefton CVS Christmas Jumper Day were donated to Sefton4Good.

Training and Skills

The Training and Skills Programme builds the skills and knowledge of individuals from the VCF sector workforce, thereby strengthening the capability and competence of organisations to sustain and grow by:

- Providing capacity building to community based organisations to ensure they are legally compliant and working to good practice.
- Ensuring a professional and up-to-date workforce within the VCF sector.
- Ensuring organisations are fit for purpose / tender / commission ready.
- Developing opportunities and supporting health and wellbeing.

Training and Skills (continued)

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- A total of 1,432 individuals have benefitted from formal training opportunities provided via Sefton CVS.
- Delivered 32 training opportunities via ZOOM to 273 individuals.
- Provided accredited online safeguarding training to 223 individuals.
- 394 individuals achieved accreditation through courses facilitated by CVS – This included e-learning packages Child Protection, Vulnerable Adults, Equality & Diversity and Level 2 Health & Safety.
- 55 Individuals completed Mental Health First Aid Accredited 2-day courses.
- 22 different training courses / masterclasses were delivered including training courses accredited by organisations such as Edu Care e-learning programmes and Mental Health First Aid England.
- Training courses/Master Classes delivered face to face, via ZOOM and Online training courses have included: MOM's Volunteer Mentoring Training, Safeguarding Policy & Procedures and Boundaries and safeguarding briefing sessions, Mental Health Loneliness and Asset based Approaches, The Thrive Model, Dementia Friends, CHAMPS Suicide Awareness Training, Volunteer, recruitment and Induction Training, Graded Care Profile 2 NSPCC Accredited Neglect tool, Hate Crime Awareness Training, Cultural Competency Training, 2-day Accredited Mental Health First Aid Training, Equality & Diversity, Safeguarding a Conversation Focused, Motivating & Retaining Volunteers, MECC Level 1 Training and the 4 Online Edu Care Accredited training.

Volunteering and Citizenship

The Sefton Volunteer Centre supports volunteers and the organisations that recruit volunteers by providing a brokerage service that matches local people to organisations with volunteering opportunities.

The Centre also provides bespoke support to organisations deploying volunteers including good practice guides, policies and procedures, training and developing new initiatives deploying volunteers. The Centre links with national and regional agencies in policy work relating to volunteering and is accredited through the Volunteer Quality Assurance scheme.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/2022 included:

- Hosted two Volunteer Forum meetings, 18 organisations participated. The focus of support was in response to resuming volunteering roles and activities beyond the Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions.
- 207 volunteering opportunities advertised via the Volunteer Centre website from 410 organisations at 31 March 2022.
- Provided bespoke support to 31 organisations during 2021/2022, the main areas of support were relating to; volunteer management (29%), volunteer recognition/celebration (35%) and training (6%).
- Introduced a new CRM system 'Team Kinetic' to promote volunteering opportunities and record activity, in step with other Volunteer Centres within the Liverpool City Region.
- To mark Volunteers Week, an online volunteer celebration event was held on 7 June, recognising the impact of Volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic, attended by Councillor Clare Louise Carragher (the Mayor of Sefton) and the High Sheriff of Merseyside Nigel Lanceley. A pre-recorded video from Councillor Trish Hardy was shared, to thank Sefton's volunteers who provided key support in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Assisted 'Guide Dog Volunteers' event to promote volunteering and issue award certificates.
- 498 online volunteer thank you certificates were issued to volunteers, who collectively produced 69,459 hours of volunteering, which equates to an economic contribution to Sefton of £919,512 (when using an average Sefton wage of £13.17, calculated using information provided in the Sefton Economic Report March 2017.
- Successfully recruited two new members of staff, a Volunteer Centre Coordinator and a Volunteer Development Officer commenced in post during Q4 of this reporting year.

Southport Community Centre

Southport Community Centre in Norwood, Southport, works closely with the Brighter Living Partnership to provide access to VCF support across North Sefton. Whereas the centre welcomed over 6,000 visitors and users in 2019/20, the centre remained closed to the public throughout the year due to the pandemic.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Reopened to members of the public and community groups Q2, in line with national Covid-19 guidance and bespoke risk assessments in place.
- Information Technology needs assessment undertaken for the building, resulting in enhanced IT and Internet Connectivity being provided throughout the building. Further, Information Communication Technology facilities available to members of the public was greatly improved via the enhancement of an IT Suite.
- The Centre was able to remain as a community resource to respond to Covid-19 efforts locally.
- Improvement maintenance, on-going safety checks and general maintenance continued to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the risk schedule.

Information and Communication

Sefton CVS manage the 'Here for You' online directory of approximately 3,000 services offered by 1,000 VCF sector organisations, attracting 5,000+ visitors during the year.

Since launching the new and improved platform in 2020, Sefton CVS continued to routinely update and review directory records and add newly-established voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector organisations as well as the services and support they provide to Sefton residents. Where applicable, the Here For You directory also includes direct links to the organisation's website, social media pages (Facebook and Twitter), and Companies House and Charity Commission pages.

The Here For You Directory has also assisted with the introduction of Sefton CVS's CiviCRM Customer Relationship Management tool, allowing staff members to utilise the platform to record activities and interventions with organisations.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- The CVS website link hosted a dedicated area focused on COVID-19 including local Council Contact information, COVID-19 volunteering, information and advice for local groups including funding, COVID-19 public information and awareness and information.
- Since launching the dedicated COVID-19 awareness web page in March 2020, Sefton CVS have attracted over 22,000 views from visitors accessing a wide range of local, regional and national information. The page was closed in March 2022.
- In March 2022 Sefton CVS launched their new look website after working with Agent Marketing on its redevelopment.
- Shared 150+ separate website articles on seftoncvs.org.uk, including events, activities, job vacancies, policy updates and consultations. This garnered 71,600 views and 38,000 unique visits.
- 64 separate Sefton CVS email Updates, including information about funding opportunities, national/ regional news and policy, training and development opportunities sent to approximately 820 subscribers per update.
- Twitter '@SeftonCVS' has a total of 5,350 followers on its main account (as of 31st March 2022), which shows an increase in followers of 337 during the 12-month period. The '@SeftonCVS' account posted 395 Tweets during April 2021 - March 2022, gaining 250,000 impressions and over 97,000 profile views.
- Sefton CVS Facebook Page (facebook.com/SeftonCVS) has a total of 1,326 'Likes' and 1,372 'Followers'
- Sefton CVS currently manages over 22 additional social media accounts (Twitter & Facebook) for various projects and initiatives, which provide a total number of approximately 22,000+ followers
- Sefton CVS acted as a consultation and information conduit on a wide range of strategic and operational consultations, ongoing promotion of stakeholder engagement activities from partners including South Sefton CCG and Southport & Formby CCG, regional health consultations including the Health & Social Care Strategy for Cheshire & Merseyside, LGA's Future of Adult Social Care Green Paper and most recently the Integrated Care Partnership consultation in partnership with South Sefton CCG and Southport & Formby CCG.

Sefton Equalities

Sefton Equalities Team works with partners to reduce inequalities in the borough by supporting and enabling partners to meet their requirements under the Equalities Act 2010 legislation. It provides a conduit through which Sefton's protected groups gain access to and participate in decision making, consultation and engagement.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Adopted the Combined Authorities Race Equality Strategy and initiated development of a subsequent action plan.
- Equality and Diversity training delivered to Sefton CVS staff and teams from two external organisations.
- Equalities Steering Group met to ensure implementation of the Navajo Action Plan and prepare for the Navajo Charter Mark reassessment. Notification received during Spring 2022 that Sefton CVS would retain the Charter Mark.
- Two sessions of Cultural Competency Training delivered to staff teams at NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Supported In-Trust and Equal Voice Networks to keep in touch virtually during the year, in response to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Participated in Sefton Hate Crime Joint Action Group meetings, providing advice and support to progress common areas of work.
- Hosted regular asylum seeker surgeries with NHS GPs at Thornton and Netherton Health Centres. Migrant surgeries were held in the North of the borough.
- Continued to support 'Show Racism the Red Card' initiative and attended the inaugural North West Show Racism the Red Card event.
- Developed a new relationship with Liverpool Pride, to support work with Sefton's LGBTQ+ community.
- Delivered training in response to new Hate Crime reporting which was introduced in Sefton during the year.

BAME CDW Project (Black, Asian and Minority, Ethnic Community Development Worker)

- This project provides intensive one to one support to vulnerable members of Sefton's BAME Communities experiencing mental health conditions. 2,064 interventions have been delivered for 495 BME / Migrants from 10 different nationalities. The three priority presenting issues were mental health, legal issues and safeguarding. This is consistent with the priority issues for 2020 / 2021.
- The service worked with a total of 143 new clients during the year. Most referrals into the service came via NHS organisations.
- Work was undertaken with York Associates regarding the delivery of train the trainer for BAME communities around engagement and social inclusion.
- The service supported PC24 GP and NHS walk in centre staff regarding the vaccination programme and BAME resident.
- Participated in multi-agency work to support the registration of over 127 asylum seekers in Southport.
- The service provided support to Ukraine and Russian clients in response to the conflict which started during February 2022.

Criminal Justice Interventions

The aim of this work is to provide strategic leadership within the VCF sector and be a conduit to partners and interpret policy relating to the criminal justice system, community safety and Reducing Reoffending, working with key partners within Merseyside Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, HM Prison Service and Sefton Council.

Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project

CVS delivers an offender mentoring project working closely with HMP Liverpool. This project provides mentoring befriending support to offender's pre and post release from HMP Liverpool by enabling offenders to resettle positively back into the community. A comprehensive tailored service is provided and assists offenders in overcoming barriers with the objective to reduce reoffending significantly and its impact on the wider community.

Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project (continued)

In 2020/21 the project was funded by a range of agencies and charitable trusts including the National Lottery Fund, Merseyside Police (Violence Reduction Partnership), John Armitage Charitable Trust and Achieve North West Connect, Virtual Resettlement board HMP Liverpool. The project has secured extended funding from the National Lottery Fund until 2026.

Key activity undertaken during 2021/22 included:

HMP Liverpool Mentoring Project

- The project continued to adapt how it delivered activities throughout the year, in response to Covid-19 restrictions. As new Covid-19 waves and variants were identified throughout the year, in person visits to the prison were halted and telephone sessions instigated.
- 162 ex-offenders were matched with a Volunteer Mentor.
- The project has recruited and trained 72 Volunteer Mentors.
- The service has provided over 10,000 hours of support to offenders during Covid-19 lockdowns.
- The Reducing Reoffending Rate for 2021/2022 remained the same. 17% of offenders who engaged with the project returned to prison which is less than half of the national average of 44% MOJ statistics April 17.

Other related activity:

- Throughout the year, the project coordinated Pathway for Assisting Life model (PAL) training to volunteers, which encourages a greater awareness around suicide intervention.
- Attended employability events at Liverpool University, which attracted current Law, Social Science and other students attracted to work within the criminal justice system.
- Regularly attend HMP Liverpool Partnership Meetings, Integrated Offender Management meetings and local Resettlement Boards.

HMP Liverpool Liaison Work

Sefton CVS's Partnership Liaison Officer works within HMP Liverpool to broker relationships with a diverse range of VCF and enterprise sector organisations which provide the foundation for the offender's resettlement journey.

Sefton CVS co-ordinates applications and referrals to a range of partnership services and facilitates the delivery of interventions.

This approach blends a range of creative and innovative VCF sector services with existing statutory support and enables a more holistic and collaborative approach to supporting offenders to move on with their lives into their local community.

Sefton CVS also works strategically within the prison with offender pathway leads and key staff to support and develop VCFSE partnership work and local interventions with the aim of reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

HMP Liverpool

- Supported the Prisons Covid-19 Recovery Plan by inputting into risk assessments and adapting activities in step with national and prison specific requirements. Supported the re-introduction of social activities into the establishment, such as football and support groups.
- In partnership with Liverpool City Council, launched a 'Nurturing Programme' which worked with male prisoners who had children aged between 0-18 years old. The programme consisted of a 10-week course, during which attendees reflected on their own upbringing to prevent the reoccurrence of adverse childhood experienced for their children and, more broadly, reduce intergenerational offending.
- Facilitated and Coordinated four offender participant forums throughout the year, these were; Disabilities Forum, LGBTQ+ Forum, BAME Forum and Care Leaver and Care Experienced Prisoner Forum. The Forums.

HMP Liverpool (continued)

- Introduced Everton in the Community Diabetes Prevention Project into HMP Liverpool via key health and clinical leads. The project aims to combat a worrying regional trend with research showing the rates of people suffering from diabetes on the incline, by offering a 12-week intervention, targeting cohorts of men who were assessed as 'Pre-diabetic'.
- Through partnership liaison work, a funding bid was successful in securing £12,000, to create a therapeutic environment within the prison setting. Procurement to fund the new initiative commenced in January 2022 and works commenced during March 2022.

Health and Wellbeing Interventions

CVS coordinates and facilitates the development of the VCF sector in Sefton around local and national health and wellbeing priorities. CVS facilitates sector engagement with key partners and commissioners with the view to developing responsive solutions to the identified health and wellbeing priorities in the borough. The Health and Social Care Forum is coordinated through this work and 160 VCF organisations participate as members.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/2022 included:

- Facilitated five meetings of the Health and Social Forum with VCF provider organisations and coordinated the sectors engagement in the following agendas: Integrated Care System developments, VCF NHS Transformation narratives, developments of the Health and Social Care Partnership and place level and Sefton Council's Day Opportunities Transformation.
- Sefton In Mind hosted seven meetings throughout the year, to progress the following areas of work; VCF involvement in local mental health transformation work, the launch of a specific 'Mental Health Directory' of services for Sefton and to award a number of small grants throughout the year.
- Strategic engagement continues through the Adult Forum and through this informs the Sefton Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Held a joint meeting with Every Child Matters Forum to inform and enable VCF sector engagement in Integrated Care Partnership development work.
- Supported Dementia Friends work by preparing a video to be shared as part of Dementia Action Week and delivered Dementia Friends training.
- Provided strategic representation and participation into the Suicide Prevention Partnership.
- This year saw the introduction of two new services; an Enhanced Care at Home Social Prescribing Link Workers service, and, new 'Crisis Café' provision, provided a safe place for people to go to maintain and/or improve their mental wellbeing.

Strand by Me

- Strand by Me is a community signposting and health shop in the Strand. It provides residents with a pop-up shop where partners undertake events and advertise services changing on a weekly basis; health checks, signposting and drop-ins. This facility reopened during the year, following the recruitment of a dedicated Manager to oversee day-to-day operations. Members of the public have accessed a raft of information, advice and signposting. Focused sessions were held on the following topics; Covid-19, healthy lifestyles and affordable warmth.

Living Well Sefton

Sefton CVS has coordinated the Living Well Sefton Programme funded through Public Health to contribute towards the reduction of health inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups and those living in our most deprived communities in Sefton. The LWS service is a partnership between Sefton CVS, May Logan Centre, Netherton Feelgood Factory, Brighter Living Partnership, Citizens Advice Sefton, Sefton Carers' Centre, SmokeFree Sefton and Active Lifestyles, in addition to 20+ Living Well Sefton Neighbourhood Partners.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/2022:

- 4,803 clients interacted with the service, 1,581 of these were new clients.
- 91% of clients completed either a Universal Consultation or a brief intervention.
- Delivered 11 training sessions to a range of VCF sector organisations throughout the year, content covered; Making Every Contact Count, Weigh Forward Train the Trainer and Citizens Advice.
- The number of interventions through the 0300-number totalled 336.
- The Communities Champions Fund was administered which made 51 awards made in the summer of 2021 that amounted to £99,618 Grants were awarded to 20 North Sefton, 8 Central Sefton, 15 South Sefton groups and projects as well as 8 projects with a boroughwide reach.
- Working in partnership with Sefton CCG's, additional capacity was leveraged for bereavement counselling services, this was in response to an ongoing identified need via our service. Insight work was collected and evaluation data compiled to continue the enhancement of this offer throughout the year.
- The service continued to offer signposting support to residents referred via Sefton Council's Contact Centre in response to Covid-19. Support was offered to residents who were required to shield and others who needed support with activities such as; shopping, collecting medication and social contact. During the year, residents were provided with signposting support via this route.
- 347 referrals made into the Community Connectors service during 2021/2022. This has included offering people signposting information for support with their shopping, prescriptions, telephone befriending, financial advice and assistance, carers advice, long-term condition support and foodbank needs.
- The service provided 1,656 wellbeing calls to clients throughout the year.
- As Covid-19 restrictions eased, the service established and attended a variety of community groups and sessions throughout the year, focused on improving the health and wellbeing of local residents.

Social Prescribing Service:

- The Social Prescribing Team has developed into a team of 18 workers across Sefton, four Senior Social Prescribing Link Workers and 14 Social Prescribing Link Workers. The service works closely with local Primary Care Networks to improve the wellbeing of isolated and vulnerable people in the community, by supporting access to targeted and universal provision.
- Received 1,199 referrals
- Built partnerships with new NHS teams operating across the borough, particularly Enhanced Care at Home Care Co-ordinators and Trainee Associate Psychological Practitioners. Regular meetings have been set-up and both teams have participated in shadowing opportunities.
- South Sefton staff have established links with the Mental Health Hub will provided an opportunity to meet local mental health leads and discuss referral pathways for mental health support. This resulted in the creation of structured communication pathway for referrals from the mental health team with regular update meetings.
- Supported a pilot initiative with Concept House to introduce a new way of working with homeless people and those without access to phones and technology.
- Following an analysis of clients across the Seaforth and Litherland area, an easy read document to help support clients with learning difficulties was produced.
- Produced reports which identified gaps in service provision to Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups. This resulted in additional funding being made available to spot purchase bereavement counselling services in response to identified need.
- Contributed to a yearlong project with NHS England/Improvement and the Professional Records Standards Body to help produce a minimum data standard for social prescribers. The team was invited to present on the subject at the Digital Health Care Show to be held in May 2022.

Reablement Service

The Reablement service provides person-centred rehabilitative support to service users to enable them to return to full independence, including interventions for timely and safe discharge from hospital and assessed needs to avoid unnecessary dependence upon more acute, long term services. The services are delivered through South Sefton Health and Wellbeing Trainers and a High Intensity User service.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Health and Wellbeing Trainers received 694 referrals into their service.
- 6,483 interventions were delivered by the team of Health Trainers.
- The most prevalent areas clients receive support remains; social inclusion, closely followed by confidence building. Obtaining suitable accommodation, finances and health also highly amongst the goals worked on with our clients.
- Clients have set a total of 1,067 personal goals were set over the course of the year. 692 (64%) of these goals have been met through the support of Health Trainers.
- Health & Wellbeing Trainers have continued to work with clients to address a wide range of complex issues with support from the Integrated Care Team of professionals.

High Intensity User Service

This project is a pilot initiative funded by the CCG aims to reduce inappropriate A and E attendances and admissions from individuals identified as frequent attenders. Through a strength-based person centered and solution focused approach, working closely with individuals, the project aims to help address the underlying causes for presenting at A and E.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- The service worked intensively with 38 people throughout the year, to reduce A&E attendances and hospital admissions.
- Service is represented and participates in the national High Intensity Users Support Group, to receive updates on relevant strategies and expertise from HIU leads across the country.
- The most common support needs identified by clients are: one-to-one communication, empowering clients to build confidence and self-esteem, support to develop a social network, and, improving overall confidence and self-esteem.
- The service has been working in partnership with GPs, Community Connectors, Adult Social Care and Care Home, to arrange multi-disciplinary team meetings to create effective care plans and maximise outcomes for the client, focusing particularly upon hospital discharge and short-term respite care.
- Over 95% of patients completing an evaluation of the service rated the service as excellent and felt it met their needs.

Crisis Cafés

During the year we opened our Crisis Café provision, based in Southport, the service offers out of hours support to anyone experiencing a mental health crisis in Sefton. The service offers drop-in sessions between the hours of 5pm – 11pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to give adults aged 18+ a place of safety as an alternative to attending A&E. One to one support and a social space with refreshments are offered in order to help reduce distress and better manage crisis situations. Support is also provided via phone, zoom or email.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Since opening in July 2021, the service has recorded 188 visits, approximately half of those people were experiencing a mental health crisis and approximately half attended post crisis in order to maintain wellbeing.
- Telephone support was provided to 118 people.
- The most commonly reported reason stated for interacting with the service is to maintain wellbeing during a time of crisis.
- Preparatory work was undertaken to establish a further Crisis Café, based in Crosby, which was due to open during April/May 2022.

Community Cancer Navigators

Community Cancer Navigators offer holistic care assessments, identification of needs or concerns, care planning and navigation for people living with cancer across all settings.

The Navigators support people affected by cancer to contact the most appropriate person to address physical concerns that an identified patient may have and can help refer, signpost or contact the relevant service or professional with consent, on the patients' behalf, such as with Adult Social Care, Occupational Therapy, CNS Team, GP or Clinical Phycology.

Key Activities 2021/22

- 271 cases were referred to the project between April 2021 and March 2022.
- Referrals are predominantly coming from Aintree Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS's), Aintree Virtual Wellbeing Team Lead Nurse, GP's, Self-referral and CVS Signposting Team.
- During this reporting period, Navigators were successful in supporting individuals to access £11,200 in Macmillan grants.
- During this reporting period Navigators supported 111 individuals to apply for essential benefits.
- The service adopted the local EMIS system during the year, enabling the team to receive managed referrals from GPs through use of an ICT referral form.

Hospital Discharge Service

The Hospital Discharge Service (HDS) started in July 2020. The service accepts referrals from health and social care professionals as well as self referral for any resident of Sefton aged 18+ who have little or no support at home. The Hospital Discharge Service aims to provide free practical common-sense support for up to six weeks for Sefton residents after discharge from a hospital setting.

The service provides a range of support including ensuring patients have basic provisions in their home, support to access assistive technology and basic risk assessments to ensure accommodation is appropriate and suitable to meet needs. The HDS Team also support to maximise income through signposting and ensuring benefits and specialist debt management is available and provides onward signposting and referral, where needed.

Key Activities 2021/22

- 137 cases were referred to the project between April 2021 and March 2022.
- Supported patients referred to the service to achieve 587 goals/tasks.
- Support has been wide and varied including - providing essential shopping, emotional support, assistance to complete benefit applications, referral to Adult social Care, OT's and continence teams, referral for urgent safeguarding and empowering patients to build their confidence and self-esteem.
- Signposted to other services 587 times to over 20 services including - housing, care providers, shopping delivery services, Macmillan Cancer Support, addiction services and NHS Services.

Healthwatch

Sefton CVS employs the management teams to deliver both Sefton and Knowsley Healthwatch reporting to their boards. Each produces public annual reports. Healthwatch functions operate in each borough in England and were established to act as a consumer champion for heath and social care.

Children, Young People and Family Interventions

The Children, Young People and Family Lead facilitates the development of a coordinated, strategic approach to local services, seeking to embed best practice to deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families with a focus on multi-agency working and the incorporation of integrated processes.

The Every Child Matters Forum facilitates VCF representation enabling the sector to provide service solutions to the needs and priorities identified locally and nationally. 428 members participate in forums and policy and receive information bulletins. Additional sub groups including the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Network and Children with Additional Needs (CWAN) Network enable members to focus on these priority areas of work and develop partnership approaches, where possible.

Children, Young People and Family Interventions (continued)

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Facilitated 5 meetings of Every Child Matters Forum and supported the VCF sector's engagement in a range of themes which included: Sefton's Early Help Assessment Launch, the Children and Young People's Board, Children and Young People's Plan, Sefton's Local Strategy, detached youth work, child on parent violence, child poverty, and how to increase MMR immunisation rates.
- The ECM Forum had 928 Twitter followers at the end of March 2022.
- Following the previous year's review of Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Network, the network was replaced during the year by the 'THRIVE' network. The new network brings together organisations in Sefton who are keen to support children and young people using the THRIVE model, which was featured in Sefton's Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Members had the opportunity to apply for small grants and accessed free training to support the implementation of Thrive.
- CVS provide representation on a range of strategic and task groups linked to Safeguarding, Children with Additional Needs, Early Help, Social Care and Schools Recover and Emotional Health and Wellbeing. Leadership and facilitation of sub networks is also provided.
- Active involvement in the Local Safeguarding Children's Board structures and work streams of the Executive Board, Training, Policy, Early Help, Mental Health Support Teams and Sefton's Model of Practice.
- Train the trainer completed for Graded Care Profile 2 (Neglect Tool) – part of delivery team across the partnership for training programme.
- CVS coordinated referrals for Southport and Birkdale Provident Society Trust grants for vulnerable families with 163 referrals being actioned through the year.
- Facilitation of the Children with Additional Needs (CWAN) network supporting VCF Sector organisations to provide support for children, young people and their families and engage services with local strategies and policy development. The network did not formally meet throughout the year due to Covid-19 and staff absences. However, the network has remained in touch and information shared electronically.
- Coordination of the Sefton Emotional Achievement Service (SEAS), a partnership of charities working collaboratively to deliver bespoke emotional wellbeing support to children, young people, families and schools.
- Ongoing support to Sefton's Early Help Level 2 Pilot – a partnership between Sefton MBC, Venus and Parenting 2000. CVS has provided specific input into planning to avoid risk and to reduce the number of inappropriate referrals to the service.
- Provided DBS checks for local VCF sector staff and volunteers processing 172 disclosures for 20 separate organisations.
- Coordination of Buddy Up, a mentoring and befriending project for young people (13-18) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; reducing their social isolation, increasing their confidence and preparing them for a more independent adulthood. 47 young people accessed 1,540 hours of support, either virtually or in person, in response to the easing and implementation of Covid-19 restrictions. The project saw a retraction in the number of volunteers it gains support from and so delivered activities aimed at increasing the number of volunteers.

Grants Administration

Throughout the year, we secured and administered a range of grants for a variety of funders:

- Heritage Lottery Grants - £28,045 was awarded to 18 organisations to get a wider range of people involved in heritage and to identify and better explain heritage to help local people and organisations.
- Sefton In Mind 18 – 25 years, in partnership with Sefton Public Health Team and Sefton CCGs - £114,000 was awarded to 10 organisations to deliver activities focused on improving the mental health and wellbeing for Sefton residents aged 18 – 25 years old.
- Winter Access Grants, in partnership with Sefton CCG's, - £66,924 was awarded to 21 organisations to deliver projects which aimed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Sefton residents.
- Winter Clothing, In partnership with Sefton Council - £48,000 was administered via nine VCF sector organisations to reach 480 recipients to provide winter clothing and essentials.
- Perinatal Grants, in partnership with Cheshire and Merseyside Women and Children's Partnership and Sefton CCGs - £38,000 was awarded to five VCF organisations to support women and their families who had recently given birth.

Grant Administration (continued)

- During Q4, promotional and preparatory work was undertaken to launch a new community grants scheme, the Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund was promoted to local groups to apply for up to £1,500, to enable local community groups to participate and deliver social and community activities as part of the Jubilee celebrations.

Sefton Young Advisors

14 Sefton Young Advisors aged 15 – 23 are employed to show community leaders and decision makers how to engage young people in community life. They help organisations 'youth proof' their practices, policies, strategies and commissioning. They engage directly with other young people to get them involved. Sefton Young Advisers have gained national and local recognition through awards and commendations for their work.

Sefton Young Advisors have representation at Healthwatch Sefton Steering Group, Sefton's Children and Young People's Board, Sefton's Education and Mental Health Group, Every Child Matters Forum, The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, The Youth Providers Network, THRIVE network and Experience and Patient Engagement Group.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Throughout the year, YAs designed and delivered 11 consultations, provided representation at 22 board/ strategic meetings and delivered 6 training/workshop sessions.
- Worked with Sefton's Public Health Team to create a child friendly version of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Supported the Violence Reduction Partnership to gather the views of substance misuse and mental health from young people across Sefton. 182 responses were received and a report created to summarise the findings.
- All newly recruited young advisors completed their core training from the Young Advisors National Charity.
- Hosted a virtual discussion, on behalf of Lord Bird MBE, around the Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill.
- Created a video portraying mental health, in the video YAs voiced the words of young people in Sefton talking about their experiences with mental health services.
- The project received two national awards, Isabella Heeley, won the national YA of the Year award and the team was awarded 'Community Project of the Year' from Sefton Council.
- SYMBOL (Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders) Meetings planned and facilitated by Sefton Young Advisors took place in July and November. Themes were: Climate Change, Sefton Council's Youth Offer, mental health services for young people and online community wellbeing.

Unemployment Interventions

Building Better Opportunities Include-IT Mersey Digital Inclusion Project

Sefton CVS, in collaboration with VOLA Consortium deliver the Include-IT Mersey Digital Inclusion Project across the Liverpool City Region. It is part of the Building Better Opportunities programme, co-financed by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund, which funds projects that tackle poverty and promote social inclusion. Funding for the project was due to cease in December 2021, as a result of sustained good performance, the National Lottery confirmed a further investment of £1,185,586 to enable the projects extension to June 2023.

Key activity undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- 1,157 unemployed or economically inactive people from across the city region have accessed training to support them in developing digital skills. This includes 144 Sefton residents.
- 180 volunteer Digital Champions (volunteers) have been recruited to date, throughout the duration of the project. 27 of these Digital Champions have progressed into employment.
- In total 153 leavers have progressed to employment, 352 to further training/education and 148 of those who weren't looking for work on starting with the project moving into active job search.

The input of volunteers and donations in kind

15 volunteers have supported the Trustee Board and role of President and Patron this year. A further 89 volunteers have engaged through Sefton CVS projects and initiatives, meaning the total people volunteering to support Sefton CVS is 104.

Review of Finances

Use of assets

The Trustees consider the value of assets to be fairly stated.

Balance sheet in the light of future plans

The Trustees consider that the balance sheet is strong enough to fulfil the short-term plans of the core activities and that of the managed projects.

The extent of dependence of particular donors

Sefton CVS has, wherever possible, diversified its funding sources for the development of specific projects. The core services are highly dependent upon the continued support of Sefton MBC with their contribution of £478,315 (2021: £478,315).

Availability of assets

The current assets are available for the general purposes of Sefton CVS although some of its funding is restricted to specific core services and deferred income for services to be delivered in discrete and managed projects.

Fixed assets

The fixed assets of the company and major changes therein during the period are recorded in the notes to the accounts.

Reserves

The Trustees have determined the reserve levels of the charity giving consideration to the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trustees have concluded that, to allow the charity to be managed efficiently and to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve equivalent to approximately four months of all core expenditure should be maintained.

Therefore the General Reserve has been set as £277,237

There has been a review of designated funds in the light of forecast activity for the year ahead, and these are included in note 25

Sefton CVS Investment Policy

Rathbones act as Investment Managers and manage a portfolio investment of £500,000 in line with the ethical investment intentions of Sefton CVS. This portfolio performance is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure a satisfactory return that can contribute to the furtherance of the objectives of the Charity. Some funds are still held on a short-term investment basis with HSBC, which enables the charity to have access to the funds to ensure liquidity. The cash deposits have yielded £8,195 in earned income during the year.

The Trustees regularly review the performance of these funds with consideration to the investment of the organisation's reserves and an investment strategy in line with the organisations ethical and environmental values.

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Quality Assurance

Sefton CVS hold the following quality assurance marks and training accreditations:

- NAVCA Quality Award
- Volunteer Centre Quality Assurance.
- Navajo (LGBTIQ friendly) Charter Mark
- Workplace Wellbeing Charter
- Disability Confident Employer
- Open Awards Approved Centre
- Recognised Centre Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
- Recognised Centre for Mental Health First Aid

Structure, governance and management

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr D Roscoe
Mrs E Barnett
Mr S J Sharman
Mr P P Cummins
Dr M Homfrey
Ms P Lappin
Mr D McGregor
Mr M Sonne
Ms V Elson
Venerable P Spiers
Mr B Thomas
Ms N Speed
Mr R Mathew (Appointed 20 October 2021)

Trustees are co-opted by the board to ensure the right mix of skills and experience. On election, each new trustee receives an induction pack including The Good Trustee Guide and key organisational policies and documents. All trustees attend an induction meeting, which includes the opportunity to meet key staff.

The Board of Directors as Trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation, establishing policy and overseeing the governance of the charity. The Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The Trustees continued to give primary consideration to staff safety, infection control and service delivery abiding by Government guidelines as the impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic continued into the financial year. Staff have continued to operate a hybrid model of working with staff teams working in bubbles in the charity's buildings, again following public health guidance.

In discussions with funders, where appropriate, operations were moved to the delivery of COVID 19 interventions with partners in the Council, CCG and with VCF sector organisations. All contracts and grants were reviewed and operations have continued and adapted accordingly during the pandemic.

Governance and sub-committee meetings have been held digitally through the 21/22 financial year. The sub committees of CVS, which include the Corporate Management Group and Finance Group, met with actions reported back to each Board meeting.

The NHS Data Protection and Security Toolkit relating to Information Governance was updated for 2021.

The CVS Strategic Plan on a page was updated to 2025.

The Board continued its commitment to work towards the Climate Change Strategy adopted by Sefton Council. It received updates from the internal staff group who produced an action plan supported by the Climate Change Board Champion. The first CVS carbon footprint was presented to the Board in July 2021

The CVS launched its new website developed by Agent Marketing.

The HR system was updated and Breathe HR was introduced in 2021/22.

EBS Law act as CVS's external Human Resource advisers. WRM are CVS's external Health and Safety advisers. Brabners continue to act as our specialist advisers on charity governance and law.

Sefton CVS AGM 2021

The 28th Annual General Meeting as a charitable company was held electronically on 20th October 2021, where the accounts and annual report were adopted. BWM were appointed as Auditors for the following year. Three Trustees were reappointed: Val Elson, David McGregor and Dr Mike Homfrey. Romils Mathew was appointed as a new Trustee.

Appointment of Officers

At the Board meeting in November 2021, the following officers were appointed Elizabeth Barnett as Chair and Mark Sonne as Treasurer and Vice Chair.

President of Sefton CVS

Mr Mark Blundell, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, continued to act as President of Sefton CVS and attended the AGM 2021.

Patrons

Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE FRSA DL and the office of the Mayor of Sefton continued as Patrons providing unstinting support to the organisation during the year.

Use of Buildings

CVS has a 6 year lease with Bruntwood Properties at Burlington House, from which the charity headquarters operate, which was renewed in December 2018.

CVS manage Southport Community Centre in a partnership with the Parochial Church Council of St Simon and St Jude's. CVS and Brighter Living Partnership hold a joint lease until 2039 with the Diocesan Board of Finance.

CVS has a licence to operate a pop up community health shop in The Bootle Strand. The licence is currently held over as the Strand has since transferred to Sefton Council. The shop remained closed during the pandemic and reopened in the summer of 2021.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that BWM be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

Small company provisions

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Elizabeth Barnett Date: Wednesday 21st September 2022
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Mark Sonne Date: Wednesday 21st September 2022
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees

Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA Date: Wednesday 21st September 2022
Company Secretary to the Board of Trustees

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees, who are also the directors of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 judgements and 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; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. 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, 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's 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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within 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 the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose 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 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in 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 company through discussions with directors and other management
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence
- identified laws and regulations 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 company'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 to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

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 non-compliance. 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 is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://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 members, 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 charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

BWM

Louise Casey ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of BWM

25 September 2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Tempest
Suite 5.1
12 Tithebarn Street
Liverpool
L2 2DT

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	579,272	-	579,272	577,495
Charitable activities	4	102,949	3,995,846	4,098,795	3,558,683
Investment income	5	8,195	-	8,195	7,839
Total income		690,416	3,995,846	4,686,262	4,144,017
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	11,049	-	11,049	5,730
Charitable activities	7	664,694	3,545,888	4,210,582	3,682,208
Total resources expended		675,743	3,545,888	4,221,631	3,687,938
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	17,570	-	17,570	137,093
Net incoming resources before transfers		32,243	449,958	482,201	593,172
Gross transfers between funds		(5,236)	5,236	-	-
Net movement in funds		27,007	455,194	482,201	593,172
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		737,920	864,863	1,602,783	1,009,611
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		764,927	1,320,057	2,084,984	1,602,783

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	563,442	14,053	577,495
Charitable activities	4	75,906	3,482,777	3,558,683
Investment income	5	7,839	-	7,839
Total income		647,187	3,496,830	4,144,017
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	6	5,730	-	5,730
Charitable activities	7	611,127	3,071,081	3,682,208
Total resources expended		616,857	3,071,081	3,687,938
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	137,093	-	137,093
Net incoming resources before transfers		167,423	425,749	593,172
Gross transfers between funds		15,821	(15,821)	-
Net movement in funds		183,244	409,928	593,172
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		554,676	454,935	1,009,611
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		737,920	864,863	1,602,783

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		17,555		20,555
Investments	**15**		609,324		592,343
			626,879		612,898
Current assets					
Debtors	**18**	539,657		264,955	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,098,655		884,527	
		1,638,312		1,149,482	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	(180,207)		(159,597)	
Net current assets			1,458,105		989,885
Total assets less current liabilities			2,084,984		1,602,783
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**24**		1,320,057		864,863
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	**25**	487,690		443,711	
General unrestricted funds		277,237		294,209	
			764,927		737,920
			2,084,984		1,602,783

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 21/09/2022 and are signed on its behalf by:

Mrs E Barnett
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Mr M Sonne
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees

Company Registration No. 02832920

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**27**		205,344		627,211
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(4,500)	
Purchase of investments		-		(48,161)	
Proceeds on disposal of investments		589		47,609	
Investment income received		8,195		7,839	
Net cash generated from investing activities			8,784		2,787
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			214,128		629,998
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			884,527		254,529
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,098,655		884,527

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 3rd Floor, North Wing, Burlington House, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 0LG.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are 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 cost 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 Trustees' Annual Report.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, and contract income is included in income when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
- When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in income until the preconditions for use have been met.
- When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in restricted funds when receivable.

Voluntary income includes discretionary grants for projects, goods and services where no service agreement or contract exists.

Other grants, which have particular service requirements and which are provided in accordance with a contract or service level agreement are included in the Statement of Financial Activities under the heading Charitable Activities.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Management and governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost, including any incidental costs of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold improvements	over the period of the lease
Office equipment	33.3% per annum on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

1.13 Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds are restricted to agreed transfers to cover restricted fund deficits, or where other transfers have been agreed by the trustees or with donor organisations.

1.14 Group accounts

The charity has two wholly owned subsidiaries, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and Communities are People Limited.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board. Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

Communities are People Limited is currently dormant and consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements.

1.15 Taxation

The charity benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from income and from receipts under Gift Aid.

The charity is not able to recover Value Added Tax and expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities 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 current and future periods.

Support costs are allocated against the projects of the charity on a percentage basis reflecting time spent in the appropriate areas.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	6,539	-	14,053	14,053
Grants receivable for core activities	572,733	563,442	-	563,442
	579,272	563,442	14,053	577,495
Grants receivable for core activities				
Sefton MBC	478,315	478,315	-	478,315
NHS South Sefton CCG	27,978	28,057	-	28,057
NHS Southport & Ormskirk CCG	22,090	22,079	-	22,079
Sefton MBC - Health and Social Co-ordinator	14,850	14,822	-	14,822
Sefton MBC - VRP funding for Early Help pilot	25,000	15,000	-	15,000
Sefton MBC - Youth Voice Worker	4,500	4,500	-	4,500
Other	-	669	-	669
	572,733	563,442	-	563,442

4 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2022	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grant income	1,366,367	38,000	274,111	674,043	289,896	100,000	2,742,417	2,393,326
Grant monies to be redistributed	824,396	10,000	419,033	-	-	-	1,253,429	1,103,504
Other income	102,949	-	-	-	-	-	102,949	61,853
	2,293,712	48,000	693,144	674,043	289,896	100,000	4,098,795	3,558,683
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds	102,949	-	-	-	-	-	102,949	75,906
Restricted funds	2,190,763	48,000	693,144	674,043	289,896	100,000	3,995,846	3,482,777
	2,293,712	48,000	693,144	674,043	289,896	100,000	4,098,795	3,558,683

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant income

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2022	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	214,604	-	121,797	-	-	100,000	436,401	318,794
NHS South Sefton CCG	562,184	22,000	38,607	-	-	-	622,791	463,701
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	194,906	16,000	33,215	-	-	-	244,121	256,560
The Big Lottery	-	-	27,800	674,043	93,692	-	795,535	913,214
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	39,000	-	39,000	42,362
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	80,000	30,000
BBC Children in Need	-	-	29,883	-	-	-	29,883	49,805
Merseyside Police	-	-	-	-	22,000	-	22,000	50,000
MacMillan Org	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147,950
Liverpool CVS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Other	394,673	-	22,809	-	55,204	-	472,686	117,940
	1,366,367	38,000	274,111	674,043	289,896	100,000	2,742,417	2,393,326

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant monies to be redistributed

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2022	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	755,396	-	309,500	-	-	-	1,064,896	1,050,840
NHS South Sefton CCG	40,000	5,000	64,125	-	-	-	109,125	-
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	29,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	34,000	-
The Big Lottery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MacMillan Org	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liverpool CVS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,665
Other	-	-	45,408	-	-	-	45,408	19,999
	824,396	10,000	419,033	-	-	-	1,253,429	1,103,504

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grant income	937,237	53,000	350,080	663,267	279,779	109,963	2,393,326
Grant monies to be redistributed	774,839	-	-	-	118,665	210,000	1,103,504
Other income	61,853	-	-	-	-	-	61,853
	1,773,929	53,000	350,080	663,267	398,444	319,963	3,558,683
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	75,906	-	-	-	-	-	75,906
Restricted funds	1,698,023	53,000	350,080	663,267	398,444	319,963	3,482,777
	1,773,929	53,000	350,080	663,267	398,444	319,963	3,558,683

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant income

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2021
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	174,482	-	144,312	-	-	-	318,794
NHS South Sefton CCG	398,590	27,000	38,111	-	-	-	463,701
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	205,568	21,000	29,992	-	-	-	256,560
The Big Lottery	-	-	27,800	655,146	144,753	85,515	913,214
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	42,362	-	42,362
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000
BBC Children in Need	-	-	49,805	-	-	-	49,805
Merseyside Police	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
MacMillan Org	147,950	-	-	-	-	-	147,950
Liverpool CVS	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Other	10,647	5,000	60,060	8,121	12,664	21,448	117,940
	937,237	53,000	350,080	663,267	279,779	109,963	2,393,326

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Grant monies to be redistributed

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2021
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	754,840	-	-	-	86,000	210,000	1,050,840
NHS South Sefton CCG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Big Lottery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merseyside Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MacMillan Org	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liverpool CVS	-	-	-	-	32,665	-	32,665
Other	19,999	-	-	-	-	-	19,999
	774,839	-	-	-	118,665	210,000	1,103,504

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2021
	£	£
Income from listed investments	7,424	6,923
Interest receivable	771	916
	8,195	7,839

6 Raising funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Investment management	11,049	5,730
	11,049	5,730

7 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total 2022	Total 2021
	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £	£	£
Staff costs	840,072	21,855	292,973	168,035	210,988	6,855	1,540,778	1,330,094
Activities undertaken directly	162,538	36,044	34,041	491,371	9,118	796	733,908	872,514
	1,002,610	57,899	327,014	659,406	220,106	7,651	2,274,686	2,202,608
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	734,493	10,000	230,146	-	-	74,726	1,049,365	917,677
Share of support costs (see note)	350,619	1,930	114,754	135,306	119,076	31,865	753,550	477,635
Share of governance costs (see note)	61,875	341	20,251	23,877	21,014	5,623	132,981	84,288
	2,149,597	70,170	692,165	818,589	360,196	119,865	4,210,582	3,682,208
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds	308,144	17,740	96,957	114,321	100,609	26,923	664,694	611,127
Restricted funds	1,841,453	52,430	595,208	704,268	259,587	92,942	3,545,888	3,071,081
	2,149,597	70,170	692,165	818,589	360,196	119,865	4,210,582	3,682,208

7 **Charitable activities** **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Digital Inclusion	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	638,817	12,570	227,377	179,841	199,764	71,725	1,330,094
Activities undertaken directly	181,097	26,058	102,270	439,291	74,012	49,786	872,514
	819,914	38,628	329,647	619,132	273,776	121,511	2,202,608
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	703,605	-	3,311	-	94,115	116,646	917,677
Share of support costs (see note)	240,956	3,024	26,905	118,345	54,263	34,142	477,635
Share of governance costs (see note)	42,521	534	4,748	20,884	9,576	6,025	84,288
	1,806,996	42,186	364,611	758,361	431,730	278,324	3,682,208
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	257,706	22,740	84,492	104,559	82,829	58,801	611,127
Restricted funds	1,549,290	19,446	280,119	653,802	348,901	219,523	3,071,081
	1,806,996	42,186	364,611	758,361	431,730	278,324	3,682,208

8 Grants payable

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:						
Brighter Living	129,099	-	18,510	-	28,226	175,835
Netherton Feelgood Factory	173,150	-	-	-	-	173,150
Citizens Advice Sefton	167,004	-	-	-	-	167,004
Onward Homes	166,976	-	-	-	-	166,976
St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre	-	-	11,200	-	32,000	43,200
Sefton Carers Centre	35,460	2,000	-	-	-	37,460
Parenting 2000	15,700	-	16,500	-	-	32,200
Swan Women's Centre	12,200	2,000	8,000	-	-	22,200
Light for Life Sefton	-	-	4,000	-	10,000	14,000
Venus	7,200	-	6,680	-	-	13,880
Compassionacts	-	-	13,800	-	-	13,800
Home - Start Southport & Formby	9,700	-	1,250	-	-	10,950
Other grants between £10,000 and £4,000	14,529	4,000	73,178	-	4,500	96,206
Other grants less than £4,000	3,475	2,000	77,028	-	-	82,503
	734,493	10,000	230,146	-	74,726	1,049,365

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, with other programmes for Violence Reduction Youth Fund and Sefton4Good as described in the Trustees' report.

Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when the grant is formally accepted by the receiving organisation. Any undistributed balances at the year end are included in the restricted fund balances for the appropriate theme.

8 **Grants payable** **(Continued)**

Prior year

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:						
Brighter Living	82,972	-	-	-	-	82,972
Netherton Feelgood Factory	156,872	-	-	-	-	156,872
Citizens Advice Sefton	97,419	-	-	-	-	97,419
Onward Homes	85,736	-	-	-	-	85,736
Sefton Carers Centre	20,395	-	-	-	-	20,395
Conquer Life	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
Netherton Park	18,257	-	-	-	-	18,257
Parenting 2000	13,850	-	-	-	-	13,850
Other grants between £10,000 and £4,000	95,523	-	-	-	-	95,523
Other grants less than £4,000	112,581	-	3,311	94,115	116,646	326,653
	703,605	-	3,311	94,115	116,646	917,677

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, with other programmes for Violence Reduction Youth Fund and Sefton4Good as described in the Trustees' report.

Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when the grant is formally accepted by the receiving organisation. Any undistributed balances at the year end are included in the restricted fund balances for the appropriate theme.

9 Support and governance costs

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	152,622	94,873	103,123	61,875	412,493
Children, Young People and Families	840	522	568	341	2,271
Community Development Program	49,952	31,051	33,751	20,251	135,005
Digital Inclusion	51,833	32,221	35,023	21,014	140,091
Criminal Justice Program	58,898	36,612	39,796	23,877	159,183
Covid-19 Projects	13,871	8,622	9,372	5,623	37,488
	328,016	203,901	221,633	132,981	886,531

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	104,886	65,200	70,869	42,521	283,476
Children, Young People and Families	1,316	818	890	534	3,558
Community Development Program	11,712	7,280	7,913	4,748	31,653
Digital Inclusion	51,515	32,023	34,807	20,884	139,229
Criminal Justice Program	23,621	14,683	15,960	9,576	63,840
Covid-19 Projects	14,862	9,238	10,042	6,025	40,167
	207,912	129,242	140,481	84,288	561,923

10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	17,570	128,384
Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	-	8,709
	17,570	137,093

11 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Fees payable to the charity's auditors:	**2022**	**2021**
	£	**£**
Audit of the charity's annual accounts	8,197	7,700
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	1,677	1,660

12 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022	**2021**
	Number	**Number**
Employees (excluding seconded and Sefton Healthwatch staff)	94	96

Employment costs	**2022**	**2021**
	£	**£**
Wages and salaries	1,743,994	1,523,410
Social security costs	200,250	170,226
Other pension costs	171,192	174,096
	2,115,436	1,867,732

Included within payroll costs are redundancy and similar payments of £1,294 (2021: £3,728).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2022	**2021**
	Number	**Number**
£60,000 to £69,999	1	1

Contributions totalling £3,964 (2021: £3,925) were made to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of employees whose emoluments exceed £60,000.

13 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of the trustees were reimbursed for expenses (2021: 1 was reimbursed £4).

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	20,472	16,642	37,114
At 31 March 2022	20,472	16,642	37,114
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2021	4,914	11,645	16,559
Depreciation charged in the year	819	2,181	3,000
At 31 March 2022	5,733	13,826	19,559
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2022	14,739	2,816	17,555
At 31 March 2021	15,558	4,997	20,555

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2021	587,907	4,436	592,343
Valuation changes	17,570	-	17,570
Cash movement	-	(589)	(589)
At 31 March 2022	605,477	3,847	609,324
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2022	605,477	3,847	609,324
At 31 March 2021	587,907	4,436	592,343

16 Subsidiaries

Market value at 1 April 2021 and at 31 March 2022 is £nil

Historical cost:
At 1 April 2021 and at 31 March 2022 is £nil

Communities are People Limited
The subsidiary, Communities are People Limited is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 06157031. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is wholly owned by the charity, is currently dormant and has £1 ordinary share capital.

The subsidiary has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited
The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 08453782. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is limited by guarantee, the charity is the sole subscriber and the amount guaranteed is £1.

The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, was formed on 20 March 2013 and its objects are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) the operation of a Local Healthwatch organisation in Sefton with the aim of gathering people's views on, and experiences of, the health and social care system and becoming a consumer champion for both publicly funded health and social care.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board.

The activities are controlled by and reported in the accounts of Healthwatch Sefton Limited, the subsidiary company.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Funding	165,392	164,631
Expenditure	(150,503)	(164,631)
Movement in year	14,889	-
Balance brought forward	-	-
Balance carried forward	14,889	-

The investment has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022 and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced for 2022 as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

17 Financial instruments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	1,621,987	1,088,530
Instruments measured at fair value through SOFA	605,477	587,907
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	127,982	111,307

18 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	518,780	199,567
Other debtors	705	-
Prepayments and accrued income	20,172	65,388
	539,657	264,955

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	52,225	48,290
Trade creditors	22,174	13,229
Other creditors	84,763	87,211
Accruals and deferred income	21,045	10,867
	180,207	159,597

20 Funds held as agent

The charitable company holds funds as agent totalling £Nil (2021: £1,638), in a bank account operated by the charitable company, which is payable to third parties.

The amount payable to third parties and an equivalent amount of the bank balance are excluded from these accounts.

Funder	Balance at 1 April 2021	Received	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Pay it forward	1,638	-	(1,638)	-
	1,638	-	(1,638)	-

Sefton CVS holds funds for its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, of £42,709 (2021: £27,820), in a bank account operated by Sefton CVS. The amount payable to its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and an equivalent amount of the bank balance are excluded from these accounts.

21 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

Contributions totalling £17,569 (2021: £16,689) were payable to the fund at the year end and are included in creditors.

The charge to the SoFA in respect of defined contribution schemes was £171,192 (2021: £174,096)

22 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	52,500	50,000
Between two and five years	105,000	157,500
	157,500	207,500

23 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2022 £	2021 £
Aggregate compensation	261,597	275,662

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year (2021: None).

No guarantees were given or received.

There were no other disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

24 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	26,672	1,712,076	(1,549,290)	(1,164)	188,294	2,190,763	(1,841,453)	5,768	543,372
Children, Young People and Families	17,513	53,000	(19,446)	-	51,067	48,000	(52,430)	(6,000)	40,637
Community Development Programs	167,894	350,080	(280,119)	(790)	237,065	693,144	(595,208)	5,468	340,469
Digital Inclusion	72,324	663,267	(653,802)	-	81,789	289,896	(259,587)	-	112,098
Criminal Justice Programs	170,532	398,444	(348,901)	(6,343)	213,732	674,043	(704,268)	-	183,507
Covid-19	-	319,963	(219,523)	(7,524)	92,916	100,000	(92,942)	-	99,974
	454,935	3,496,830	(3,071,081)	(15,821)	864,863	3,995,846	(3,545,888)	5,236	1,320,057

24 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing encompasses a variety of funds that represents the various projects coordinated and facilitated by Sefton CVS which aim to develop the local VCF sector's response to both local and national health priorities. This covers areas such as Reablement, health promotion and sexual health awareness.

Health and Wellbeing key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG, Merseyside Care NHS Foundation Trust, Southport and Formby PCN and Bootle, Crosby & Maghull PCN.

Children, Young People and Families

Children, Young People and Families projects centre on the development of a co-ordinated and strategic approach to local services, that seeks to embed best practice and deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families, with a focus on multi-agency working and integrated processes.

Children, Young People and Families key funders include NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG.

Community Development Programs

The main aim of Community Development Programs is to support local people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery in Sefton. This covers a variety of initiatives from the provision of financial services (via the Community Accountancy Service) to the management and coordination of a shopping service for older people in North Sefton.

Community Development Programs key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG, NHS South Sefton CCG, Big Lottery Fund and Children in Need.

24 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Digital Inclusion

Digital Inclusion mainly covers projects managed by the VOLA Learning Consortium. VOLA supports the Merseyside Voluntary and Social Enterprise in relation to learning, skills and employment support.

Digital Inclusion's key funders include Big Lottery Fund.

Criminal Justice programs

Sefton CVS work closely with local prisons including HMP Liverpool and HMP Risley to promote voluntary, community and faith sector activity and opportunities to offenders and their families. From providing voluntary offender mentoring services to allowing access to information, advice and support for offenders, Sefton CVS is one of the leading organisations in prison and offender engagement.

Criminal Justice programs key funders include Big Lottery Fund, HM Prison Service, John Armitage Foundation, Achieve Northwest and Merseyside Police.

Covid 19

This fund represents a range of projects in response to the global pandemic this included the provision of shopping services, distributing PPE equipment and providing support to Sefton MBC in their co-ordinated response. The key funders include Sefton MBC.

The Trustees' Annual Report includes further detail in respect of these funds.

Information regarding individual funds and grants is shown in note 4.

Transfers

The trustees have reviewed the restrictions on funding, where available, and have concluded that any restrictions have been discharged.

25 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Redundancy Contingency Fund	137,125	-	-	62,875	200,000	-	-	(1,293)	198,707
Southport Refurbishment Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
IT Replacement Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Fixed Asset Fund	20,090	-	-	465	20,555	-	-	-	20,555
Business Transition Fund	11,055	-	-	-	11,055	-	-	-	11,055
HWOP Development Fund	133,223	117	(11,457)	-	121,883	648	(11,903)	13,745	124,373
ECM Development Fund	86,949	15,363	(26,543)	-	75,769	30,630	(27,268)	(580)	78,551
Collaboration Development Fund	11,447	-	(1,300)	-	10,147	-	-	-	10,147
Website Development Fund	-	9,502	(16,200)	11,000	4,302	-	-	-	4,302
Burlington House Accommodation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
	399,889	24,982	(55,500)	74,340	443,711	31,278	(39,171)	51,872	487,690

25 Designated funds **(Continued)**

The Redundancy Contingency Fund is designated to provide for the employee redundancy costs likely to be incurred should the charity cease to operate.

The Fixed Asset Fund represents the ring fencing of assets which are not available as part of the general liquid reserves of the charity.

The Business Transition Fund represents monies set aside to enable the charity to respond positively to the changing funding landscape.

The following development funds represent monies ring fenced by the Trustees to develop the local VCF sector's response to local and national issues.

- Health Well Being and Older Persons Development Funds
- Every Child Matters Development Funds
- Collaboration Development Funds

The Website Development Fund has been created by SCVS trustees in recognition of the need to update the charity website. This project is estimated to be completed by 30 June 2022.

The Southport Renovation Fund has been established to undertake a program of renovations at All Souls Community Centre, Southport, Norwood Road, Southport PR8 6HQ.

The IT Replacement fund represents monies set aside to enable the Charity to replace the significant investment made in IT as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, at the end of the current investments life cycle.

The Burlington House Accommodation Fund has been established to meet the terms of the current lease and restore the office at Burlington House back to their original state at the end of the tenure.

26 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Designated funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted funds 2021	Designated funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	-	17,555	-	17,555	-	20,555	-	20,555
Investments	139,189	470,135	-	609,324	169,187	423,156	-	592,343
Current assets/(liabilities)	138,048	-	1,320,057	1,458,105	125,022	-	864,863	989,885
	277,237	487,690	1,320,057	2,084,984	294,209	443,711	864,863	1,602,783

27	**Cash generated from operations**	**2022**	**2021**
		£	**£**
	Surplus for the year	482,201	593,172
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in SOFA	(8,195)	(7,839)
	Gain on disposal of investments	-	(8,709)
	Fair value gains on investments	(17,570)	(128,384)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,000	4,240
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(274,702)	177,175
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	20,610	(2,444)
	Cash generated from operations	205,344	627,211

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1024546

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1024546

Company Registration No. 02832920 (England and Wales)

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Sefton CVS

Supporting Local Communities

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr D Roscoe Mrs E Barnett Mr S J Sharman Mr P P Cummins Dr M J Homfray Ms P Lappin Mr D McGregor Mr M Sonne Ms V Elson Venerable P Spiers Mr B Thomas Ms Nichola Speed	 (Appointed 18 November 2020)
Chair of the Board of Trustees	Mrs E Barnett	
Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne	
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees	Mr M Sonne	
Advisors to the board from Sefton MBC	Councillor D Pullin Councillor J Grace Councillor D Robinson	
Patrons	The Worshipful Mayor of Sefton Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE OStJ DL FRSA	
President	Mr M Blundell, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside	
Chief Executive	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA	
Secretary	Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA	
Charity number	1024546	
Company number	02832920	
Registered office	3rd Floor, North Wing Burlington House Crosby Road North Waterloo Liverpool L22 0LG	
Auditor	BWM Castle Chambers 43 Castle Street Liverpool L2 9SH	

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Bankers	HSBC Bank PLC 197 Stanley Road Bootle Merseyside L20 3DX
Solicitors	Brabners LLP Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool L2 3YL
Principal Insurers	Edwards Insurance Brokers 1 Rotten Row Barns 1957 Warwick Road Knowle Solihull B93 0DX
Investment advisors	Rathbones Port of Liverpool Building Pier Head L3 1BW

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Charity

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service, is constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital. The company is registered in England and Wales, No 2832920. The principal governing document is the company Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners, No 1024546. Sefton CVS was founded in 1974 as an unincorporated charity and became a charitable company in 1993.

The principal address and registered office of the company is the Suite 3B, 3rd Floor, Burlington House Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, Merseyside L22 0LG.

The Trustees report for 2020/21 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act, 2016 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice and the charity's governing document.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects, as described in the CVS Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:
To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

The advancement of education;
- The advancement of health;
- The prevention and relief of poverty;
- The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

To promote and organise cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the Borough of Sefton and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission
To promote and assist voluntary, community and faith sector activity.

Vision
A vibrant voluntary, community and faith sector that encourages and supports independent resilience and sustainable communities.

Mission, Vision and Values (continued)

Values
The CVS guiding principles:

- Put Sefton people, places and organisations at the heart of what we do.
- Be open and fair in our transactions.
- Take responsibility and be accountable for our actions.
- Promote equality, diversity and cohesion through our activities.
- Support the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Seek solutions, not problems.
- Be prepared to listen and learn.
- Operating ethically, honestly and with the highest standards of integrity.

Sefton CVS has six overarching activities:

- Providing support services to the voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector.
- Promoting partnerships within the sector and between the voluntary sector and other sectors.
- Providing a channel through which the sector is represented.
- Developing new ideas, strategies and organisations.
- Supporting and developing volunteering opportunities.
- Promoting equality of opportunity and access and promoting the value of diversity

CVS as a Strategic Partner

Sefton CVS is involved as a key agency in strategic partnerships and interventions addressing local priorities through the work of the key partnership Boards, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Board. CVS is also recognised as a key non-statutory partner with Sefton Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

CVS works closely with Sefton Council and its Departments, the Clinical Commissioning Groups in South Sefton and Southport and Formby, the Primary Care Networks (PCN's) and thematic planning groups supporting local commissioning priorities. Sefton CVS is also a partner in developing initiatives and sector engagement in the City Region with VS6 and within the North West working with Voluntary Sector North West.

Much of Sefton's CVS strategic involvements both locally and regionally during 20/21 was influenced by the prioritisation on the delivery of interventions in response to the emerging pandemic, working closely with Sefton Council and the CCG's.

- CVS acted as the triage point for community response from Sefton Council's Contact Centre and activated volunteer support to be deployed on both local COVID support and at the borough's vaccination centres.
- Actively engaged in the priority groups established to respond to COVID 19 including the pandemic forums, Communities and Vulnerable People; Children; Care Homes; and the Outbreak Management Group and Sefton COVID 19 Mass Vaccination Strategic Group.
- Administered VCF sector COVID funds of £200,000 on behalf of Sefton Council to support front line delivery informed by local intelligence.
- Working with Sefton Council, the CCG's and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust, CVS were given access to the booking process for the sector. CVS identified and coordinated 36 frontline VCF organisation's who took up vaccinations. 209 frontline staff and volunteers were able to be vaccinated through this approach.
- Involvement in the ongoing work streams relating to community resilience, transformation, integration and advocating the vital role that both the funded and unfunded sector undertakes in providing services and support to Sefton residents in addressing the priorities of statutory partners.
- Collaborative leadership activity working with Sefton Council to identify joint solutions to local priorities.
- Facilitated sector networks and forums electronically involving both groups and individuals, as a consultation and engagement conduit, participating in public policy and developing and shaping local services.
- Dissemination of a local VCF sector survey assessing the impact of COVID 19 and future recovery planning. A final report has been written and published.

CVS as a Strategic Partner (continued)

- Participated in a range of Sefton Council work programmes including the Health and Wellbeing Board and emerging Integrated Care System.
- CVS is also engaged in the work of the Consultation and Engagement Panel, Community Safety Partnership, Sefton Leadership Collaborative Multi-Agency Group and Sefton Adult Forum,
- In relation to children, young people and families, the Corporate Parenting Board, SEND Improvement Board, Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board, Youth Offending Service Management Board, Early Help Partnership Board, Emotional Health and Well-Being Board, and Sexual Health Partnership
- CVS is engaged in the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Merseyside Safeguarding Board (till July 2021) and Sefton Adults Safeguarding Board.
- CVS acted as a member of the Bootle Task Group considering the economic planning for the Bootle Town Centre in partnership with the LEP.
- Continued involvement as Chair in the multi-agency Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Partnership (WRAP).
- Engaged in the development and work plans emerging from the Sefton Provider Alliance and facilitated the VCF Advisory Group and development work on Transformation.
- Delivery of MECC (Making Every Contact Count) training to the wider workforce, inclusive of Elected Members, Council staff, GP's, DWP and the VCF sector.
- Facilitated participation and engagement mechanisms with equalities groups, Young Advisers, SYMBOL and the Youth Cabinet as conduits to our public sector partners.
- Ongoing support of the work of the Sefton Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans in Sefton.
- Supported VCF organisations and enterprises to manage change, reshape services to meet need and demand through business and financial planning support and customised interventions to individual groups.
- Facilitated the New Realities Steering Group, action plan and awareness raising. Promoted nominations for the New Realities Award at Sefton Star awards.
- Supported a joint investment programme as a part of the Merseyside Violence Reduction Programme with Sefton Council.
- Facilitated and further developed sector consortia including area based consortia around adult mental health and children and young people's emotional wellbeing.
- Facilitated engagement in the Shaping Care Together consultation including a joint Every Child Matters and Health and Social Care Listening Event where 18 organisations were represented.
- The CEO participated as a member of the Sefton Lieutenancy Panel with the Deputy Lieutenant's of Merseyside covering Sefton providing advice and updates on the local VCF sector and COVID 19.
- Implementation and coordination of VCF sector services delivering under 'Living Well Sefton', an integrated wellness service commissioned by Public Health, including this year, services delivered through the collaboration responding to the pandemic, such as shopping, befriending and support with prescriptions.
- In partnership with VOLA, CVS continued to deliver a programme of digital inclusion interventions through a Liverpool City Region collaborative of RSL's and VCFSE organisations funded through the National Lottery Community Fund "Building Better Opportunities programme" and the LCR ESF Investment Priority 1.4: Active inclusion.
- The Sefton CVS Annual Conference 2020 "Rising to the Challenge: Maintaining Resilience & Supporting our Communities", took place on 11th November 2020 online. The focus of the event was recognising the mobilisation and response of VCF organisations in Sefton during the pandemic, considering what works and share learning. How the sector can work towards being sustainable and resilient in an uncertain world was also explored. Guest speakers included Cllr. Trish Hardy, Cabinet Member for Communities, Sefton Council and Dwayne Johnson, Chief Executive of Sefton Council. Presentations were delivered by Social Value UK, the Red Cross and the National Lottery, as well as a "Face the Funder" panel discussion. In total there were 100 attendees participating.

CVS as a Strategic Partner (continued)

- An active member of the Greater Merseyside VS6 which is a focal point for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) infrastructure / support providers to debate, influence and shape policy at the Liverpool City Region (LCR) level. VS6 provides public and private sector partners working at the City Region spatial level, a formal point of contact to engage with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, through the infrastructure / support providers. The CEO of Sefton CVS acts as the Third Sector Representative on the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Board (LEP).
- Participated in the work plans initiated by VS6 including facilitating 6 VCF sector assemblies covering the themes of Children and Young people, Vulnerable Shielded and Carers, Mental Health and two events in relations to Equalities. Reports with recommendations and surveys to confirm the key priorities have been shared for all themes.
- Participated in the Liverpool City Region Dementia Friendly Advisory Group, planning dementia awareness activities for May 2021.
- Sefton CVS is affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), National Association of Community and Voluntary Action, (NAVCA) Social Value UK, Children England, Charity Finance Group, Institute of Certified Book keepers and Locality.
- CVS works in partnership with the other 4 district CVS's in Merseyside as part of a sub regional network. This year we coordinated actions in response to volunteering during the pandemic.
- Sefton CVS, through the CEO acted as the Merseyside Local Liaison Lead to the NAVCA Emergency Response linking into the National Emergency Response Partnership. Participated in weekly calls, pulse surveys and emergency planning exercises with representatives from British Red Cross and other Liaison Leads in the North Cell to escalate requests and disseminate information

Locality Working
Sefton CVS is aligned to Sefton Council's locality based working model strategically and operationally, and adopts a locality approach when working with Sefton's communities.

Community Development Interventions

Organisation Development and Capacity Building
CVS deliver comprehensive organisation development and capacity building services in localities to support people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery by:

- Supporting local people to set up and develop robust, sustainable and high impact groups, associations, organisations and social enterprises.
- By supporting established local community organisations and social enterprises to improve their effectiveness, reach and social impact.
- By bringing people together to network, share knowledge, operate creatively and collaborate more effectively and extensively.
- Supporting organisations to realign their services and access funding during the pandemic

Groups can access support in charity or social/community enterprise start up; acquiring/ managing community assets; governance and leadership; achieving quality standards; social impact; project development and organisational growth; identifying and applying for funding; business planning; developing policies; skills development; accountancy services and payroll, disclosure and barring umbrella service, volunteering having a voice in local decision making.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- 1,093 intensive cases of capacity building and customised support were provided to 277 groups. 54% of the groups worked with have an annual income between £10K and £100K and 36.5% have an annual income under £10K.
- The majority of support provided by CVS has been for services that have a focus on the following themes of work: Adult Health and Wellbeing (11%), Community Safety & Vulnerable People (14%), and Children, Young People & Families (21.5%). Sports/Recreation/Arts and Culture (20%) and Environment (10%) services also accessed support.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 (continued) included:

- Groups who deliver services across the full geographical area of the borough accessed support from CVS; however the service demand is consistently greatest amongst those delivering services in the South of the borough (33.5%).
- Supported 29 group representatives to increase bid writing skills via two dedicated training sessions.
- Held a Trustee Week training event – 'The Importance of a Balanced Board' for 12 group representatives.
- Undertook regular check in's with organisations to assist with capacity issues such as remote working, digital governance and business continuity during the pandemic.

Funding Advice and Information

The Funding Advice and Information function provides bespoke information and interventions to enable VCFSE sector organisations to access funding opportunities and support them to become more financial sustainable and build organisations' capacity to prepare strong proposals to charitable trusts, funders and commissioners.

The Localities Team work closely with local and national charitable trusts and grant makers to ensure that their criteria is widely understood and available to potential applicants through one to one advice sessions, Meet the Funder surgeries, the MFIP portal and customised mailings. CVS also brief local funders and charitable trusts as to local demands and impacts, which assists them having an increased understanding of needs on the ground.

The service provides detailed support in developing proposals to bid status, assistance in compiling evidence and data, final submission and bespoke advice in monitoring and managing the grants once awarded. It also provides a bid review service, which improves the quality of applications and the ability of the applicant for future submissions. Due to the change to remote working, organisations have accessed support via telephone and virtually via zoom. As well as delivering specific courses on Funding Strategy and Business Planning, intensive bespoke support is available providing specific services to those organisations in crisis. CVS also provides a bespoke bid reading service on request.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- Identifying funds and resources to support COVID response and supported the local VCFSE sector to secure just over £3.1million in known funding applications through bespoke advice and support.
- A further £764K worth of bids were awaiting funding decisions at the end of March 2021.
- Sefton CVS also administer Merseyside Funding Information Portal (MFIP) website on behalf of the VCF infrastructure bodies in the Liverpool City Region. During 2020/21 MFIP has attracted 18,642 views from over 3,100 unique visitors to the website.
- Sefton CVS provides a bespoke service to organisations making submissions to the Big Lottery Programmes, specifically Reaching Communities, their COVID response funds and Awards for All. Supported groups to secure £976,545 from the Reaching Communities Fund and Awards for All. Bespoke support was also provided to groups applying to the Burbo Bank Extension Fund which awarded a total of £57,492 to local VCF organisations during 2020/21.
- Remote funding surgeries were facilitated for National Lottery Heritage Fund, the John Moores Foundation, WEA European Social Fund Community Grants, LCR Environment Fund and Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust. 115 organisations participated in the bespoke sessions.
- Acted as a panel member to the WEA ESF Fund and Burbo Bank Extension Fund.
- Participated in the work of the Merseyside Charitable Trusts Group and the Merseyside Funders Advice Network

Community Accountancy

The Community Accountancy Service provides a range of services including payroll management, bookkeeping, preparing annual accounts, budgets and forecasts, as well as offering advice and guidance in areas such as VAT and Gift Aid. The Team provide training to staff and trustees either on a one-to-one basis or in group sessions and offer support to VCF sector groups in financial crisis.

CVS have provided advice and supporting to groups applying for the Job Retention Scheme Programme and those intending to furlough staff and giving assistance in making the applications. The service also supported organisations that extended their financial reporting due to the pandemic.

Key Activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- Provided accountancy services to 83 groups; 64% of groups have incomes under £100k.
- Annual accounts prepared for 60 groups.
- Independent Examinations carried out for 37 groups.
- Provided Payroll Bureau Service to 22 groups.
- Contracted to undertake bookkeeping for 17 groups.
- Supported 16 groups to partly or fully furlough staff.
- 1 group was supported with VAT return

SEFTON4GOOD

Sefton4Good supports philanthropy and local giving, primarily through an online presence. The project encourages local people and organisations to donate their time, skills, money or resources to support Sefton-based good causes.

There are a range of options through which donors can donate (payroll giving, Just Giving through Virgin Money and text giving). Local good causes also have the opportunity to maximise their fundraising by channelling it through Sefton 4 Good, who can claim gift aid on their behalf. Sefton 4 Good works with the Private Sector, the Public Sector, the Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector and the general public to empower them to support the good causes on their doorstep.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- During the pandemic, Sefton4Good issued "Being a Good Neighbour" packs to local residents. This included good practice and guidance in relation to informal volunteering and being a 'good neighbour'
- Sefton4Good fundraising page in response to the pandemic raised over £5,000 in donations from local residents, businesses and organisations – with funds going on to support local good causes including local foodbanks
- Despite the pandemic, Jumpers 4 Good, an annual Christmas fundraising campaign took place on Friday 18th December 2020 with colleagues from Sefton CVS, Sefton Council, and South Sefton CCG taking part.
- 52,500 PPE items distributed to over 40 VCF organisations with donations made via Business in the Community and through the LCR.
- 50 laptops donated to VOLA as part of the digital inclusion programme via BITC and Jaguar Landrover

Training and Skills

The Training and Skills Programme builds the skills and knowledge of individuals from the VCF sector workforce, thereby strengthening the capability and competence of organisations to sustain and grow by:

- Providing capacity building to community based organisations to ensure they are legally compliant and working to good practice.
- Ensuring a professional and up-to-date workforce within the VCF sector.
- Ensuring organisations are fit for purpose / tender / commission ready.
- Developing opportunities and supporting health and wellbeing.

Training and Skills (continued)

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- A total of 546 individuals have benefitted from formal training opportunities provided via Sefton CVS.
- Delivered 9 training opportunities via Zoom to 273 individuals.
- Provided accredited online safeguarding training to 134 individuals.
- 209 individuals achieved accreditation through courses facilitated by CVS – This included e-learning packages Child Protection, Vulnerable Adults, Equality & Diversity and Level 2 Health & Safety.
- 13 different training courses / masterclasses were delivered including training courses accredited by organisations such as Edu care e-learning programmes.
- Training courses/Master Classes delivered via Zoom and Online training courses have included: Volunteer Induction Training, Make Every Contact Count COVID Recovery, Volunteers and the Law, Connect 5, MOM's Volunteer Induction Training, Better bid Writing workshop, motivating & retaining volunteers; Sefton model of practice.

Volunteering and Citizenship

The Sefton Volunteer Centre supports volunteers and the organisations that recruit volunteers by providing a brokerage service that matches local people to organisations with volunteering opportunities.

The Centre also provides bespoke support to organisations deploying volunteers including good practice guides, policies and procedures, training and developing new initiatives deploying volunteers. The Centre links with national and regional agencies in policy work relating to volunteering and is accredited through the Volunteer Quality Assurance scheme.

The Volunteer Centre was at the forefront of Calls for Action to encourage local residents to support community and social action in response to the pandemic.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/2021 included:

- In response to COVID-19 a volunteer call to action was launched in March 2020 with Sefton Council. The Volunteer Centre recruited a total of 1,226 volunteers, of which 432 were mobilised into action, following processing e.g. ID, DBS and matching volunteers to need. Volunteer roles included providing support with shopping, foodbanks and telephone support.
- A public call for vaccination volunteers was initiated to support the vaccination sits in Sefton and 283 volunteers came forward.
- 4,146 volunteer hours were delivered by volunteers deployed across four vaccination sites in Bootle, Maghull, Southport and Ainsdale representing a total social financial value of £54,602.82.
- Launched Street Champions in partnership with Sefton Council which deployed 126 volunteers into the role Street Champion across the borough, who offered support to residents with tasks such as posting letters, putting bins out and raising alerts for vulnerable people who may need additional support.
- 470 volunteering opportunities advertised via the Volunteer Centre website from 451 organisations at 31st March 2021.
- 315 non- COVID volunteer enquiries during 2020/2021.
- Volunteers Week took place on the first week of June 2020. Due to COVID restrictions, the usual celebrations could not take place. Instead, the Volunteer Centre Sefton took to their online platforms to celebrate the work of the volunteers over the previous year, as well as the volunteers who stepped forward to support the COVID response programme. This included a 'Cheers to Volunteers' video which included different charities across Sefton thanking volunteers for their support.
- 543 online volunteer recognition certificates were awarded during the year signed by The Mayor of Sefton, Cllr June Burns.
- Volunteer Centre Sefton set up a monthly online Volunteer Coordinator's Forum in June 2020 bringing together Volunteer Coordinator's across Sefton. The forums focused on relevant topics including World Mental Health Day, Trustee's Week, Volunteer's Week and also tailoring forums to Volunteer Coordinator's needs including, using zoom. The forums saw a total of 101 unique organisations.

Southport Community Centre

Southport Community Centre in Norwood, Southport, works closely with the Brighter Living Partnership to provide access to VCF support across North Sefton. Whereas the centre welcomed over 6,000 visitors and users, in 2019/20, the centre remained closed to the public throughout the year due to the pandemic.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- Improvement maintenance, on-going safety checks and general maintenance continued to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the risk schedule.
- Preparatory work was undertaken so that the centre was ready to open should regulations permit.
- Brighter Living Partnership used the centre as its HQ for its shopping delivery services to vulnerable residents, culminating in over 2,000 individual shops.
- During surge testing in the Norwood area, the centre was used by Public Health as a base from which staff could gain supplies and take rest breaks.
- The Community Centre Garden was used by some community members as a haven to escape to during lockdown easing. No formal services have been delivered in the garden but local residents have continued to use the facilities.

Information and Communication

Sefton CVS manage the 'Here for You' online directory of approximately 3,000 services offered by 1,000 VCF sector organisations, attracting 5,000+ visitors during the year.

Working in partnership with GMCVO, Sefton CVS developed and launched the new 'Here for You' Directory platform in spring 2020. The uplift in to the Directory has provided an opportunity to refresh and quality assure the entries.

This new directory platform offers an online referral process meaning website visitors can make direct referrals to VCF sector organisations and their services, and as part of the improved system Sefton CVS have undertaken a substantial review of the directory records. The new directory also offers information on useful contact numbers of Sefton residents as well as details of local NHS services, hosted separately to the wide range of VCF sector services available

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- The CVS website link has a dedicated area focused on COVID-19 including local Council Contact information, COVID-19 volunteering, information and advice for local groups including funding, COVID-19 public information and awareness and information.
- Since launching the dedicated COVID-19 awareness web page on Friday 27th March, Sefton CVS have attracted over 9,500 views from visitors accessing a wide range of local, regional and national information.
- Shared 200+ separate website articles on seftoncvs.org.uk, including events, activities, job vacancies, policy updates and consultations. This garnered 70,000 views and 36,000 unique visits.
- 63 separate Sefton CVS email Updates, including information about funding opportunities, national/ regional news and policy, training and development opportunities sent to approximately 1,300 subscribers per update. Totalling approximately 82,000 email interventions
- Twitter @SeftonCVS has a total of 5,013 followers on its main account (as of 31st March 2020), which shows an increase in followers of 240 during the 12 month period. The @SeftonCVS account posted 420 Tweets during April 2020 - March 2021, gaining 300,000 impressions and over 27,000 profile views.
- Sefton CVS Facebook Page (facebook.com/SeftonCVS) has a total of 1,200 'Likes' and 'Followers'
- Sefton CVS currently manages over 20 additional social media accounts (Twitter & Facebook) for various projects and initiatives, which provide a total number of approximately 20,000+ followers
- Sefton CVS acted as a consultation and information conduit on a wide range of strategic and operational consultations, ongoing promotion of stakeholder engagement activities from partners including South Sefton CCG and Southport & Formby CCG, regional health consultations including the Health & Social Care Strategy for Cheshire & Merseyside, LGA's Future of Adult Social Care Green Paper, Census engagement and most recently the Shaping Care Together consultation in partnership with Southport & Ormskirk NHS Trust and Southport & Formby CCG.

Sefton Equalities

Sefton Equalities Team works with partners to reduce inequalities in the borough by supporting and enabling partners to meet their requirements under the Equalities Act 2010 legislation. It provides a conduit through which Sefton's protected groups gain access to and participate in decision making, consultation and engagement.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- Equality and Diversity training for Sefton MBC was placed on hold due to COVID along with all other face to face training
- Equalities Steering Group met to ensure implementation of the Navajo Action Plan during 2020/2021.
- Facilitated networks for equality groups covering, Black & Minority Ethnicities, Sexual Orientation, Transgender and Faith.
- Participated in the Sefton Hate Crime MARAC. Sefton CVS is a third party hate crime reporting Centre. The service supported Merseyside Police/Chinese wellbeing in raising awareness of hate crime and encouraging reporting of hate crime due to racism towards the Chinese community around Covid19. The service further supported local schools in challenging inappropriate language with a bespoke training package to be rolled out across all Sefton schools.
- Assistance provided to local GPs with asylum seekers in South Sefton through PC24 NHS. Supporting the CCG/GPs services with the registration of 127 asylum seekers in Southport, which included providing COVID19 information in other languages and information for GPs on working with asylum seekers.
- Long term partner to and supporter of 'Show Racism the Red Card' including co-sponsoring and supporting the delivery of the national award ceremony which recognises pupil efforts to raise awareness in schools through the arts and media.

BAME CDW Project (Black, Asian and Minority, Ethnic Community Development Worker)

- This project provides intensive one to one support to vulnerable members of Sefton's BAME Communities experiencing mental health conditions. 1,959 interventions have been delivered for 766 BME / Migrants from 34 different nationalities. The three priority presenting issues were mental health, legal issues and safeguarding. This is consistent with the priority issues for 2019 / 2020.
- The service supported the CCG with circulating NHS shielding letter in other languages/formats across the city region as it had only been sent out in plain English.
- Worked with the Irish community to circulate information to partners around the risks to travellers from COVID.
- Supported the local authority/census in encouraging hard to reach BAME communities to engage with the census which was reported by the census as being a success.
- Supported the CCG through the Equal Voice (BAME) network in encouraging BAME take up of the vaccine, with reported near 100% take up of the vaccine in Sefton. Members of the BAME community assisted the CCG with the video messages encouraging the vaccination programme.
- The service was awarded the NAVCA 2020 award for its representation of BAME communities.

Criminal Justice Interventions

The aim of this work is to provide strategic leadership within the VCF sector and be a conduit to partners and interpret policy relating to the criminal justice system, community safety and Reducing Reoffending, working with key partners within Merseyside Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, HM Prison Service and Sefton Council.

Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project

CVS delivers an offender mentoring project working closely with HMP Liverpool. This project provides mentoring befriending support to offender's pre and post release from HMP Liverpool by enabling offenders to resettle positively back into the community. A comprehensive tailored service is provided and assists offenders in overcoming barriers with the objective to reduce reoffending significantly and its impact on the wider community.

Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project (continued)

In 2020/21 the project was funded by a range of agencies and charitable trusts including the National Lottery Fund, Merseyside Police (Violence Reduction Partnership), John Armitage Charitable Trust and Achieve North West Connect, Virtual Resettlement board HMP Liverpool. The project has secured extended funding from the National Lottery Fund until 2026.

Key activity undertaken during 2020/21 included:

HMP Liverpool Mentoring Project

- 212 offenders supported from HMP Liverpool and the community.
- 174 ex-offenders were matched with a Volunteer Mentor.
- The project has recruited and trained 42 Volunteer Mentors.
- The service provided over 5,500 hours of telephone support to offenders during COVID.
- The Reducing Reoffending Rate for 2019/2020 17% of offenders who engaged with the project returned to prison which is less than half of the national average of 44% MOJ statistics April 17.
- The project has adapted its ways of working during COVID to telephone mentoring and also virtual volunteer mentor training.

Other related activity:

- Provided representation to the Sefton Community Safety Partnership, MARSOC and Merseyside Reducing Reoffending Meeting, Sefton, Wirral, Liverpool and St Helen's Integrated Offender Management meetings, Priority and Prolific Offender meeting, Organised Crime and Gang Groups, Achieve North West Connect, HMP Liverpool Partnership meeting. Reducing Reoffending Sub Group.
- The project was awarded funding from the Violence Reduction Partnership from Merseyside Police to support ex offenders leaving custody and in the community by offering volunteer mentor support.
- The project was a finalist with the Howard League Prison Reform for project of the year.
- Attendance at Liverpool John Moores University Volunteer Fair

HMP Liverpool Liaison Work

Sefton CVS's Partnership Liaison Officer works within HMP Liverpool to broker relationships with a diverse range of VCF and enterprise sector organisations which provide the foundation for the offender's resettlement journey.

Sefton CVS co-ordinates applications and referrals to a range of partnership services and facilitates the delivery of interventions.

This approach blends a range of creative and innovative VCF sector services with existing statutory support and enables a more holistic and collaborative approach to supporting offenders to move on with their lives into their local community.

Sefton CVS also works strategically within the prison with offender pathway leads and key staff to support and develop VCFSE partnership work and local interventions with the aim of reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

HMP Liverpool

- The creation of '7 minute briefings' for all staff and volunteers who work within the custodial setting. The briefings work to capture the attention of the reader in order to get the best possible outcomes when working with some of the prison populations most vulnerable groups. Briefings were created for Care Leavers, Under 25's, Over 50's, prisoners with poor mental health in the month of April and disseminated across the HMP Liverpool intranet.

Achievements and performance
HMP Liverpool (continued)

- The Reducing Reoffending, Repeat Offenders research project has been ongoing and looks to improve recognition of the most prolific and problematic of offenders who services continue to see upon release but unfortunately commit further offences which result in an additional custodial sentence. The purpose of this is to look at improving service engagement methods in order to capture the attention of the repeat offender in order to effectively provide them with the support missing, or essential to reduce their risk in the community.
- Working in partnership with POP's and the Reducing Reoffending Team at HMP Liverpool, the projects has implemented the foundations for a new start-up scheme that looks to transfer images and artwork created by prisoners onto canvas tote bags and baby grows as a way of giving gifts to family members.
- The completion of quarterly position statements for HMP Liverpool. These position statements are a national team effort and are being under taken in prison establishments across the country, and the progress HMPPS are making towards the national objectives surrounding the strategy of support for care experienced prisoners. The report highlights areas of good practice across the country and is returned to the Regional Lead of Reducing reoffending for the North West.
- Supported the launch of a prison specific magazine tailored towards supporting people within the custodial setting and upon release. 'Beyond the Gate' publishing were signposted towards our Prison Partnership Liaison Officer who offered support to link in with local organisations who could be featured within their magazine.

Health and Wellbeing Interventions

CVS coordinates and facilitates the development of the VCF sector in Sefton around local and national health and wellbeing priorities. CVS facilitates sector engagement with key partners and commissioners with the view to developing responsive solutions to the identified health and wellbeing priorities in the borough. The Health and Social Care Forum is coordinated through this work and 160 VCF organisations participate as members.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/2021 included:

- Facilitated 10 meetings of the Health and Social Forum with VCF provider organisations and coordinated the sectors engagement in the following agendas: Responding to COVID-19. Mental Health and COVID-19, Access to PPE, Sefton's Market Position Statement, End of Life Strategy, and System transformation.
- Sefton In Mind relaunched in October 2020 and hosted 4 meetings, including a focus on staff wellbeing on Time to Talk Day 2021.
- Strategic engagement continues through the Adult Forum and through this informs the Sefton Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Facilitated a transformation workshop looking at the future relationship of the VCFSE sector and the newly emerging Health and Care System and developing Integrated Care System
- In partnership with VS6 we have facilitated the sectors engagement in the development of a number of reports reflecting the position of the sector on Merseyside culminating in the development of a VCF Manifesto for the Liverpool City region.
- Facilitated engagement into the Provider Alliance and work closely with South Sefton CCG, Southport and Formby CCG, Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, Aintree University Hospital Trust and Merseycare NHS Trust.
- During 2020 a number of new services developed including the High Intensity Users Service and Hospital Discharge Service

Strand by Me

- Strand by Me is a community signposting and health shop in the Strand. It provides residents with a pop up shop where partners undertake events and advertise services changing on a weekly basis; health checks, signposting and drop-ins. This facility has remained closed throughout the pandemic.

Living Well Sefton

Sefton CVS has coordinated the Living Well Sefton Programme funded through Public Health to contribute towards the reduction of health inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups and those living in our most deprived communities in Sefton. The LWS service is a partnership between Sefton CVS, May Logan Centre, Netherton Feelgood Factory, Brighter Living Partnership, Citizens Advice Sefton, Sefton Carers' Centre, SmokeFree Sefton and Active Lifestyles, in addition to 20+ Living Well Sefton Neighbourhood Partners.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/2021;

- 3,167 clients interacted with the service.
- 86% of clients completed a Universal Consultation.
- Developed eight online Making Every Contact Count training sessions which were delivered to 78 participants.
- The number of interventions through the 0300 number totalled 658
- Round 8 of the Community Resilience Grant was launched with £24,000 awarded to fund 14 projects to improve wellbeing across Sefton.
- Launched a further round of funding from the Neighbourhood Grants programme. Central neighbourhoods received a £20,000 grant to launch the 'Spring In Our Step' project to connect the community and increase physical activity.
- Through the Living Well Sefton service supported the Council Contact Centre triaging of COVID 19 referrals and coordinated and provided support to 1,252 residents who were advised to shield and/or were extremely clinically vulnerable. 632 of these residents were provided with shopping services and a total of 5,705 shops were completed across our partners.
- 1,615 residents who weren't required to shield, yet needed support, were signposted to various organisations and support services to assist with activities such as; shopping, collecting medication and social contact.
- 708 referrals made into the Community Connectors service during 2020/2021 which is more than double what it was for the previous year. This has included offering people signposting information for support with their shopping, prescriptions, telephone befriending, financial advice and assistance, carers advice, long-term condition support and foodbank needs.
- Provided telephone based support to clients to offers signposting, social contact and wellbeing checks.
- Developed zoom connection groups on line café conversation and geographic cuppa and a chat session to support social interaction and to meet new people.

Social Prescribing Service:

- The Social Prescribing Team has developed into a team of eleven workers across Sefton with over 1,100 referrals in 2020/21. The service works closely with local Primary Care Networks to improve the wellbeing of isolated and vulnerable people in the community, by supporting access to targeted and universal provision and assisted in the COVID 19 triage.

Reablement Service

The Reablement service provides person-centred rehabilitative support to service users to enable them to return to full independence, including interventions for timely and safe discharge from hospital and assessed needs to avoid unnecessary dependence upon more acute, long term services. The services are delivered through:

- South Sefton Health and Wellbeing Trainers
- Reablement Information and Signposting Service
- High Intensity User service

Reablement Service (continued)

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- Health and Wellbeing Trainers received 557 referrals into their service.
- 6,559 interventions were delivered by the team of Health Trainers
- Support provided included regular home visits, where national lockdown restrictions were not in place, ongoing focused support, welfare phone calls, as well as providing of tailored information and/or signposting into appropriate and available services.
- The most prevalent support area remains social inclusion, closely followed by confidence building. Accommodation, finances and health also featured highly.
- Clients have set a total of 1,362 personal goals over the course of the year. 995 (73%) of these goals have been met through the support of Health Trainers.
- Health & Wellbeing Trainers have dealt with a higher number of complex cases this year than usual. They also have participated and had the support from the Integrated Care Team of professionals.

High Intensity User Service

This project is a pilot initiative funded by the CCG aims to reduce inappropriate A and E attendances and admissions from individuals identified as frequent attenders. Through a strength based person centred and solution focused approach, working closely with individuals, the project aims to help address the underlying causes for presenting at A and E.
With agreement from the CCG from the end of March-September the project assisted with the pandemic community response work referred through the Council's Contact Centre.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- Between March – August 2020 the signposting service received 1,188 referrals. The highest priority need was food and prescription support.
- The team recruited 28 volunteers to support with providing welfare calls to those who were lonely and vulnerable.
- Set up a small pilot project called 'Uplift' which supported 8 families with gift cards towards their weekly shopping for a 5 week period, as well as providing gift cards towards new school uniforms and replacing a small faulty household item. These were families who were experiencing financial struggles due to COVID-19 and were not in touch with support services or organisations.
- In September 2020 the High Intensity User team resumed. Between September 2020- March 2021 the team supported 57 patients to reduce the number of A&E attendances and admissions by approximately 40%.

Community Cancer Navigators

Community Cancer Navigators offer holistic care assessments, identification of needs or concerns, care planning and navigation for people living with cancer across all settings.

The Sefton Macmillan Right By You project was successfully delivered throughout the pandemic until Macmillan funding ended on 30th November 2020. The project continued as the Community Cancer Navigator Service funded by Sefton CCG from 1st December 2021 to 31st May 2021. The Navigators continue to support people living with and/or affected by cancer across Sefton.

Key Activities 2020/21

- 407 cases were referred to the project between March 2019 and April 2020.
- Referrals are predominantly coming from Aintree Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS's), Aintree Virtual Wellbeing Team Lead Nurse, GP's, Self referral and CVS Signposting Team.
- During this reporting period Navigators were successful in supporting individuals to access £11,740.00 in Macmillan grants.
- During this reporting period Navigators supported 199 individuals to apply for essential benefits.

Key Activities 2020/21 (continued)

100% people who took part in the Healthwatch Sefton independent review of the Macmillan Navigator Service said the information and support provided by the Navigators helped them, their family or carer and would recommend the service.

Hospital Discharge Service

The Hospital Discharge Service (HDS) started in July 2020. The service accepts referrals from health and social care professionals as well as self referral for any resident of Sefton aged 18+ who have little or no support at home. The Hospital Discharge Service aims to provide free practical common-sense support for up to six weeks for Sefton residents after discharge from a hospital setting.

The service provides a range of support including ensuring patients have basic provisions in their home, support to access assistive technology and basic risk assessments to ensure accommodation is appropriate and suitable to meet needs. The HDS Team also support to maximise income through signposting and ensuring benefits and specialist debt management is available and provides onward signposting and referral where needed.

Key Activities 2020/21

- 63 cases have been referred to the project between July 2020 and March 2021.
- Supported patients referred to the service to achieve 247 goals/tasks.
- Support has been wide and varied including - providing essential shopping, emotional support through weekly calls from HDS staff or HDS volunteers, assistance to complete benefit applications, referral to Adult social Care, OT's and continence teams, referral for urgent safeguarding and the HDS Team have even fixed a piece of broken furniture for one person.
- Signposted to other services 163 times to over 20 services including - housing, care providers, shopping delivery services, Macmillan Cancer Support, addiction services and NHS Services.

Healthwatch

Sefton CVS employs the management teams to deliver both Sefton and Knowsley Healthwatch reporting to their boards. Each produces public annual reports. Healthwatch functions operate in each borough in England and were established to act as a consumer champion for heath and social care.

During the pandemic, CVS worked with Healthwatch Sefton, the local Pharmaceutical Committee and CCG colleagues, to establish a Prescriptions Service, linking volunteers to chemists and local residents, to pick up and deliver prescriptions. In total the prescription service received 271 referrals and 146 prescription pick ups and deliveries were completed.

Children, Young People and Family Interventions

The Children, Young People and Family Lead facilitates the development of a coordinated, strategic approach to local services, seeking to embed best practice to deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families with a focus on multi-agency working and the incorporation of integrated processes.

The Every Child Matters Forum facilitates VCF representation enabling the sector to provide service solutions to the needs and priorities identified locally and nationally. 425 members participate in forums and policy and receive information bulletins. Additional sub groups including the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Network and Children with Additional Needs (CWAN) Network enable members to focus on these priority areas of work and develop partnership approaches where possible.

Children, Young People and Family Interventions (continued)

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- Facilitated 7 meetings of the Every Child Matters Forum and supported the VCF sector's engagement in a range of themes which included: COVID Response – Sharing Good Practice and Resources, LSCB Training Offer, Back to School Support (CCG), World Mental Health Day, COVID Recovery Workshops, Thrive Model, Safeguarding Practice, Managing Allegations, Engaging Families in the Census and Good Practice in Engaging Children, Young People and Families in Lockdown.
- The ECM Forum had 891 Twitter followers at the end of March 2021.
- Reviewing the Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Network. Setting up new membership. Facilitating 3 Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Network Meetings.
- CVS provide representation on a range of strategic and task groups linked to Safeguarding, Children with Additional Needs, Early Help, Social Care and Schools Recover and Emotional Health and Wellbeing. Leadership and facilitation of sub networks is also provided.
- Active involvement in the Local Safeguarding Children's Board structures and work streams of the Executive Board, Training, Policy, Early Help, Mental Health Support Teams and Sefton's Model of Practice.
- Train the trainer completed for Graded Care Profile 2 (Neglect Tool) – part of delivery team across the partnership for training programme.
- CVS coordinated referrals for Southport and Birkdale Provident Society Trust grants for vulnerable families with 141 referrals being actioned through the year.
- Facilitation of the Children with Additional Needs (CWAN) network supporting VCF Sector organisations to provide support for children, young people and their families and engage services with local strategies and policy development.
- Coordination of the Sefton Emotional Achievement Service (SEAS), a partnership of charities working collaboratively to deliver bespoke emotional wellbeing support to children, young people, families and schools.
- Development of Thrive Network is in progress. SEAS are developing training for VCF members re Thrive Model.
- Co-ordination of Sefton's Early Help Level 2 Pilot – a partnership between, Sefton MBC, Venus and Parenting 2000. Offering lighter touch guided self help to families that would not usually access support. The pilot was successful and is to be continued if funding can be accessed.
- Provided DBS checks for local VCF sector staff and volunteers processing 181 disclosures for 59 separate organisations.
- Coordination of Buddy Up, a mentoring and befriending project for young people (13-18) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; reducing their social isolation, increasing their confidence and preparing them for a more independent adulthood. 39 young people accessed 1,546 hours of support which was adapted during the COVD-19 pandemic to support the emotional health and well being of its service users and volunteers. The project developed a strong youth voice offer which has shaped services, websites and information booklets, supporting the community on a wider scale.

Violence Reduction Partnership Youth Fund

The Merseyside Violence Partnership (VRP) allocated funding to each Local Authority to target specific areas of particularly high youth crime. Sefton CVS received £86,000 allocation for distribution across Sefton to CYP organisations to undertake interventions.

- £60,000 allocated to commissioned groups
- £10,000 allocated to non – commissioned community groups
- Adverse Childhood Experience Training (ACE) training delivery undertaken by Healthy Stadia. 5 sessions delivered with 100 participants engaged
- Continued to develop the VRP Communities of Practice, in North Sefton and South Sefton

Sefton Young Advisors

14 Sefton Young Advisors aged 15 – 23 are employed to show community leaders and decision makers how to engage young people in community life. They help organisations 'youth proof' their practices, policies, strategies and commissioning. They engage directly with other young people to get them involved. Sefton Young Advisers have gained national and local recognition through awards and commendations for their work.

Sefton Young Advisors have representation at Healthwatch Sefton Steering Group, Sefton's Children and Young People's Board, Sefton's Education and Mental Health Group, The Every Child Matters Forum, The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel and The Youth Providers Network.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- Worked with the Combined Authority regarding their Spatial Development Strategy. 80 Young people were consulted and a report was produced for the Combined Authority following consultation through focus groups and an on line survey.
- Co-ordinated a Pan Mersey Consultation with Young People regarding Violent Crime. Sefton co-ordinated an Executive Group of Young People from across the City Region. Focus groups took place virtually due to COVID 19. Reports were produced by Wirral, Liverpool and Sefton. Sefton Young Advisors also co-ordinated a joint report working with young people from the other areas.
- Consultation about Drugs and Mental Health held with Young People and their experience of drugs and alcohol during COVID 19. A film and survey was shared by Young Advisors and a report has been written with the findings.
- Assisted in Supporting Sefton's Early Help Partnership Board develop a Shadow Board for service user engagement within Early Help.
- Facilitated an event on 3 June 20 for The Metro Mayor – A Conversation on COVID 19.
- Completed Sefton Voices – a collage of video clips of young people in Sefton talking about the things that had been positive during COVID 19 and things they were looking forward to. This film was shown at the SYMBOL meeting in November 20.
- At the AGM of the National Young Advisors Charity – Sefton Young Advisors won 2 awards. Best Project with Lasting Impact 2020 and Special Recognition Award to Jo Lee for her services to Young Advisors.
- SYMBOL (Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders) Meetings planned and facilitated by Sefton Young Advisors took place in June, November and March. Themes were: June – Impact of COVID 19 on Young People, November – Improving Communication and Engagement with Young People and March – Education and COVID 19.
- Sefton Citizen's Advice consulted with Sefton Young Advisors about Communication with Young People at a Virtual Meeting.
- The Shining Stars Awards was cancelled due to COVID 19.

Unemployment Interventions

Building Better Opportunities Include-IT Mersey Digital Inclusion Project

Sefton CVS, in collaboration with VOLA Consortium deliver the Include-IT Mersey Digital Inclusion Project across the Liverpool City Region. It is part of the Building Better Opportunities programme, co-financed by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund, which funds projects that tackle poverty and promote social inclusion.

Key activity undertaken in 2020/21 included:

- 1,418 unemployed or economically inactive people from across the city region have accessed training to support them in developing digital skills. This includes 152 Sefton residents.
- 180 volunteer Digital Champions (volunteers) have been recruited to date, throughout the duration of the project. 27 of these Digital Champions have progressed into employment.
- In total 146 leavers have progressed to employment, 341 to further training/education and 137of those who weren't looking for work on starting with the project moving into active job search, giving a cumulative conversion rate of 50% positive progression.
- The project team was joint winner of the Team of the Year Award, along with one of the project tutors, who also won Advisor of the Year Award at the ERSA Employability Awards 2020.

The input of volunteers and donations in kind

12 volunteers have supported the Trustee Board and role of Patron this year. A further 191 volunteers have engaged through Sefton CVS projects and initiatives.

Review of Finances

Use of assets

The Trustees consider the value of assets to be fairly stated.

Balance sheet in the light of future plans

The Trustees consider that the balance sheet is strong enough to fulfil the short-term plans of the core activities and that of the managed projects.

The extent of dependence of particular donors

Sefton CVS has, wherever possible, diversified its funding sources for the development of specific projects. The core services are highly dependent upon the continued support of Sefton MBC with their contribution of £480,115 (2020: £478,315).

Availability of assets

The current assets are available for the general purposes of Sefton CVS although some of its funding is restricted to specific core services and deferred income for services to be delivered in discrete and managed projects.

Fixed assets

The fixed assets of the company and major changes therein during the period are recorded in the notes to the accounts.

Reserves

The Trustees have determined the reserve levels of the charity giving consideration to the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trustees have concluded that, to allow the charity to be managed efficiently and to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve equivalent to approximately four months of all core expenditure should be maintained.

Therefore the General Reserve has been set as £294,209

There has been a review of designated funds in the light of forecast activity for the year ahead, and these are included in note 25

Sefton CVS Investment Policy

Rathbones act as Investment Managers and manage a portfolio investment of £500,000 in line with the ethical investment intentions of Sefton CVS. This portfolio performance is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure a satisfactory return that can contribute to the furtherance of the objectives of the Charity. Some funds are still held on a short-term investment basis with HSBC, which enables the charity to have access to the funds to ensure liquidity. The cash deposit has yielded £7,839 in earned income during the year.

The Trustees regularly review the performance of these funds with consideration to the investment of the organisation's reserves and an investment strategy in line with the organisations ethical and environmental values.

The Trustees regularly review the performance of these funds with consideration to the investment of the organisation's reserves and an investment strategy in line with the organisations ethical and environmental values.

Quality Assurance

Sefton CVS hold the following quality assurance marks and training accreditations:

NAVCA Quality Award
Volunteer Centre Quality Assurance.
Navajo (LGBTIQ friendly) Charter Mark
Workplace Wellbeing Charter
Disability Confident Employer
Open Awards Approved Centre
Recognised Centre Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
Recognised Centre for Mental Health First Aid

Structure, governance and management

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr D Roscoe
Mrs E Barnett
Mr S J Sharman
Mr P P Cummins
Dr M J Homfray
Ms P Lappin
Mr D McGregor
Mr M Sonne
Ms V Elson
Venerable P Spiers
Mr B Thomas
Ms Nichola Speed (Appointed 18 November 2020)

Trustees are co-opted by the board to ensure the right mix of skills and experience. On election, each new trustee receives an induction pack including The Good Trustee Guide and key organisational policies and documents. All trustees attend an induction meeting, which includes the opportunity to meet key staff.

The Board of Directors as Trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation, establishing policy and overseeing the governance of the charity. The Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

At the onset of the COVID 19 Pandemic, the organisation enacted its business continuity plan and moved staff to remote working with a small skeleton staff remaining in the HQ. The Trustees gave due consideration to staff safety, infection control and service delivery abiding by Government guidelines.

In discussions with funders, where appropriate, operations were moved to the delivery of COVID 19 interventions with partners in the Council, CCG and with VCF sector organisations. All contracts and grants were reviewed and operations have continued.

This has enabled us to be well positioned to respond to the pandemic without significant impact on the finances of the charity and still able to successfully fulfil our obligations.

Governance and sub-committee meetings were held digitally in March 2020 and this has continued into the 20/21 financial year. The sub committees of CVS which include the Corporate Management Group and Finance Group met with actions reported back to each Board meeting.

The Information Governance framework was considered by the Information Governance Group and the IG Toolkit was updated.

The Finance Sub Committee reviewed the CVS financial procedures.

The Board continued its commitment to work towards the Climate Change Strategy adopted by Sefton Council. It received updates from the internal staff group who produced an action plan supported by the Climate Change Board Champion.

The Board committed to adopt the principles contained with the Liverpool City Region Race Equality Combined Authority statement. This work was taken forward by the staff Equality and Diversity Task Group reporting into the Board.

The organisation's business continuity plan was revised in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The charity's risk framework was also reviewed in light of the pandemic.

The Board agreed to commission Agent Marketing to develop a new website and undertake an organisation articulation strategy in preparation.

EBS Law act as CVS's external Human Resource advisers after a tender exercise in 2020. WRM are CVS's external Health and Safety advisers. Brabners, Chaffe Street continue as our specialist advisers on charity governance and law.

Sefton CVS AGM 2020

The 27th Annual General Meeting as a charitable company was held electronically on 14th October 2020, where the accounts and annual report were adopted. BWM were appointed as Auditors for the following year. 5 Trustees were reappointed: Mark Sonne, Paul Cummins, Paulette Lappin, Peter Spiers and Brian Thomas. Nicola Speed was appointed as a new Trustee.

Appointment of Officers

At the Board meeting in November 2020, David Roscoe stood down as Chair and the following officers were appointed Elizabeth Barnett as Chair and Mark Sonne as Treasurer and Vice Chair. The Board thanked David for his outstanding service as Chair.

President of Sefton CVS

The CVS were pleased to welcome Mr Mark Blundell, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, who attended his first AGM as President of Sefton CVS.

Patrons

Colonel Martin Amlôt OBE FRSA DL and the office of the Mayor of Sefton continued as Patrons providing unstinting support to the organisation during the year.

Use of Buildings

CVS has a 6 year lease with Bruntwood Properties at Burlington House, from which the charity headquarters operate, which was renewed in December 2018.

CVS manage Southport Community Centre in a partnership with the Parochial Church Council of St Simon and St Jude's. CVS and Brighter Living Partnership hold a joint lease until 2039 with the Diocesan Board of Finance.

CVS has a licence to operate a pop up community health shop in The Bootle Strand. The licence is currently held over as the Strand has since transferred to Sefton Council. The shop has remained closed during the pandemic and will reopen in the summer 2021.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that BWM be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

Small company provisions

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Elizabeth Barnett Date: Wednesday 29th September 2021
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Mark Sonne Date: Wednesday 29th September 2021
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees

Mrs A Carter (née White) OBE FRSA Date: Wednesday 29th September 2021
Company Secretary to the Board of Trustees

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees, who are also the directors of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service for the purpose 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 judgements and 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; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. 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 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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's 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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within 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 the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose 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 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in 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 company through discussions with directors and other management
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence
- identified laws and regulations 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 company'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 to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

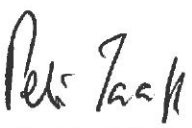
There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance 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 is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://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 members, 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 charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Peter Taaffe FCA CTA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of BWM

29 September 2021

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Castle Chambers
43 Castle Street
Liverpool
L2 9SH

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Current financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	563,442	14,053	577,495	549,175
Charitable activities	4	75,906	3,482,777	3,558,683	2,788,789
Investment income	5	7,839	-	7,839	10,860
Total income		647,187	3,496,830	4,144,017	3,348,824
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	5,730	-	5,730	8,017
Charitable activities	7	611,127	3,071,081	3,682,208	3,437,647
Total resources expended		616,857	3,071,081	3,687,938	3,445,664
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	137,093	-	137,093	(14,483)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		167,423	425,749	593,172	(111,323)
Gross transfers between funds		15,821	(15,821)	-	-
Net movement in funds		183,244	409,928	593,172	(111,323)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		554,676	454,935	1,009,611	1,120,934
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		737,920	864,863	1,602,783	1,009,611

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	549,175	-	549,175
Charitable activities	4	122,616	2,666,173	2,788,789
Investment income	5	10,860	-	10,860
Total income		682,651	2,666,173	3,348,824
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	6	8,017	-	8,017
Charitable activities	7	747,133	2,690,514	3,437,647
Total resources expended		755,150	2,690,514	3,445,664
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	(14,483)	-	(14,483)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(86,982)	(24,341)	(111,323)
Gross transfers between funds		(1,226)	1,226	-
Net movement in funds		(88,208)	(23,115)	(111,323)
Fund balances at 1 April 2019		642,884	478,050	1,120,934
Fund balances at 31 March 2020		554,676	454,935	1,009,611

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		20,555		20,297
Investments	**15**		592,343		454,696
			612,898		474,993
Current assets					
Debtors	**18**	264,955		442,130	
Cash at bank and in hand		884,527		254,529	
		1,149,482		696,659	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	(159,597)		(162,041)	
Net current assets			989,885		534,618
Total assets less current liabilities			1,602,783		1,009,611
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**24**		864,863		454,935
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	**25**	443,711		399,889	
General unrestricted funds		294,209		154,787	
			737,920		554,676
			1,602,783		1,009,611

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 29 September 2021 and are signed on its behalf by:

Mrs E Barnett
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Mr M Sonne
Treasurer to the Board of Trustees

Company Registration No. 02832920

SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	27		627,211		(318,800)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,500)		-	
Purchase of investments		(48,161)		-	
Proceeds on disposal of investments		47,609		97,811	
Investment income received		7,839		10,860	
Net cash generated from investing activities			2,787		108,671
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			629,998		(210,129)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			254,529		464,658
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			884,527		254,529

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 3rd Floor, North Wing, Burlington House, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 0LG.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are 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 cost 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 Trustees' Annual Report.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, and contract income is included in income when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
- When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in income until the preconditions for use have been met.
- When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in restricted funds when receivable.

Voluntary income includes discretionary grants for projects, goods and services where no service agreement or contract exists.

Other grants, which have particular service requirements and which are provided in accordance with a contract or service level agreement are included in the Statement of Financial Activities under the heading Charitable Activities.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Management and governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost, including any incidental costs of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold improvements	over the period of the lease
Office equipment	33.3% per annum on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

1.13 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.14 Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds are restricted to agreed transfers to cover restricted fund deficits, or where other transfers have been agreed by the trustees or with donor organisations.

1.15 Group accounts

The charity has two wholly owned subsidiaries, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and Communities are People Limited.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board. Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

Communities are People Limited is currently dormant and consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements.

1.16 Taxation

The charity benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from income and from receipts under Gift Aid.

The charity is not able to recover Value Added Tax and expenditure is recorded in the accounts inclusive of VAT.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities 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 current and future periods.

Support costs are allocated against the projects of the charity on a percentage basis reflecting time spent in the appropriate areas.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	-	14,053	14,053	20,004
Grants receivable for core activities	563,442	-	563,442	529,171
	563,442	14,053	577,495	549,175
Grants receivable for core activities				
Sefton MBC	478,315	-	478,315	479,790
NHS South Sefton CCG	28,057	-	28,057	27,654
NHS Southport & Ormskirk CCG	22,079	-	22,079	21,727
Sefton MBC - Health and Social Co-ordinator	14,822	-	14,822	-
Sefton MBC - VRP funding for Early Help pilot	15,000	-	15,000	-
Sefton MBC - Youth Voice Worker	4,500	-	4,500	-
Other	669	-	669	-
	563,442	-	563,442	529,171

4 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Unemploy-ment Initiatives	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2021	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Performance related grants	1,712,076	53,000	350,080	663,267	398,444	319,963	3,496,830	2,666,173
Other income	61,853	-	-	-	-	-	61,853	122,616
	1,773,929	53,000	350,080	663,267	398,444	319,963	3,558,683	2,788,789
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds	75,906	-	-	-	-	-	75,906	122,616
Restricted funds	1,698,023	53,000	350,080	663,267	398,444	319,963	3,482,777	2,666,173
	1,773,929	53,000	350,080	663,267	398,444	319,963	3,558,683	2,788,789

4 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

Performance related grants

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Unemploy-ment Initiatives	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid 19	Total 2021	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021		
Sefton MBC	929,322	-	144,312	-	86,000	210,000	1,369,634	1,041,289
NHS South Sefton CCG	398,590	27,000	38,111	-	-	-	463,701	244,321
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	205,568	21,000	29,992	-	-	-	256,560	74,697
The Big Lottery	-	-	27,800	655,146	144,753	85,515	913,214	946,449
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	-	42,362	-	42,362	37,449
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000	40,000
BBC Children in Need	-	-	49,805	-	-	-	49,805	27,891
Merseyside Police	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	47,862
MacMillan Org	147,950	-	-	-	-	-	147,950	44,361
Liverpool CVS	-	-	-	-	(32,665)	(3,000)	35,665	90,000
Other	30,646	5,000	60,060	8,121	12,664	21,448	137,939	71,854
	1,712,076	53,000	350,080	663,267	398,444	319,963	3,496,830	2,666,173

4 Charitable activities (Continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Health and Wellbeing	Community Development Programs	Unemploy-ment Initiatives	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Performance related grants	1,202,678	311,495	757,092	394,908	2,666,173
Other income	122,616	-	-	-	122,616
	1,325,294	311,495	757,092	394,908	2,788,789
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	122,616	-	-	-	122,616
Restricted funds	1,202,678	311,495	757,092	394,908	2,666,173
	1,325,294	311,495	757,092	394,908	2,788,789

Performance related grants

	Health and Wellbeing	Community Development Programs	Unemploy-ment Initiatives	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2020
	2020	2020	2020	2020	
	£	£	£	£	£
Sefton MBC	904,772	106,517	-	30,000	1,041,289
NHS South Sefton CCG	206,758	37,563	-	-	244,321
NHS Southport & Formby CCG	45,183	29,514	-	-	74,697
The Big Lottery	-	72,800	728,896	144,753	946,449
HM Prison Service	-	-	-	37,449	37,449
John Armitage Charitable Trust	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
BBC Children in Need	-	27,891	-	-	27,891
Merseyside Police	-	-	25,681	22,181	47,862
Achieve Northwest	-	-	-	30,525	30,525
Liverpool CVS	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
Other	45,965	37,210	2,515	-	85,690
	1,202,678	311,495	757,092	394,908	2,666,173

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Income from listed investments	6,923	8,575
Interest receivable	916	2,285
	7,839	10,860

6 Raising funds

	2021	**2020**
	£	**£**
Investment management	5,730	8,017
	5,730	8,017

7 Charitable activities

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Unemployment Initiatives	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total 2021	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	638,817	12,570	227,377	179,841	199,764	71,725	1,330,094	990,165
Activities undertaken directly	181,097	26,058	102,270	439,291	74,012	49,786	872,514	911,861
	819,914	38,628	329,647	619,132	273,776	121,511	2,202,608	1,902,026
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	703,605	-	3,311	-	94,115	116,646	917,677	817,458
Share of support costs (see note 9)	240,956	3,024	26,905	118,345	54,263	34,142	477,635	610,440
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	42,521	534	4,748	20,884	9,576	6,025	84,288	107,723
	1,806,996	42,186	364,611	758,361	431,730	278,324	3,682,208	3,437,647
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds	257,706	22,740	84,492	104,559	82,829	58,801	611,127	747,133
Restricted funds	1,549,290	19,446	280,119	653,802	348,901	219,523	3,071,081	2,690,514
	1,806,996	42,186	364,611	758,361	431,730	278,324	3,682,208	3,437,647

7 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Health and Wellbeing	Children, Young People and Families	Community Development Programs	Unemployment Initiatives	Criminal Justice Programs	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	359,282	11,112	229,484	177,175	213,112	990,165
Activities undertaken directly	149,571	9,591	86,252	594,622	71,825	911,861
	508,853	20,703	315,736	771,797	284,937	1,902,026
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	711,567	-	-	-	105,891	817,458
Share of support costs (see note 9)	158,827	38,157	79,838	223,335	110,283	610,440
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	28,028	6,733	14,089	39,444	19,429	107,723
	1,407,275	65,593	409,663	1,034,576	520,540	3,437,647
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	215,825	44,890	93,927	262,779	129,712	747,133
Restricted funds	1,191,450	20,703	315,736	771,797	390,828	2,690,514
	1,407,275	65,593	409,663	1,034,576	520,540	3,437,647

8 Grants payable

	Health and Wellbeing	Community Development Programs	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:					
Brighter Living	82,972	-	-	-	82,972
Netherton Feelgood Factory	156,872	-	-	-	156,872
Citizens Advice Sefton	97,419	-	-	-	97,419
Onward Homes	85,736	-	-	-	85,736
Sefton Carers Centre	20,395	-	-	-	20,395
Conquer Life	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Netherton Park	18,257	-	-	-	18,257
Parenting 2000	13,850	-	-	-	13,850
Other grants between £10,000 and £4,000	95,523	-	-	-	95,523
Other grants less than £4,000	112,581	3,311	94,115	116,646	326,653
	703,605	3,311	94,115	116,646	917,677

Prior year

	Health and Wellbeing	Community Development Programs	Criminal Justice Programs	Covid-19	Total
£	£	£	£	£	
Grants to institutions:					
Brighter Living	109,725	-	-	-	109,725
Feelgood factory	162,000	-	-	-	162,000
May Logan	146,976	-	-	-	146,976
CAB	167,004	-	-	-	167,004
Sefton Carers	34,956	-	-	-	34,956
Other grants less than £4,000	90,906	-	105,891	-	196,797
	711,567	-	105,891	-	817,458

The main grant programme is with Living Well Sefton, with other programmes for Violence Reduction Youth Fund and Sefton4Good as described in the Trustees' report.

9 Support and governance costs

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	104,886	65,200	70,869	42,521	283,476
Children, Young People and Families	1,316	818	890	534	3,558
Community Development Program	11,712	7,280	7,913	4,748	31,653
Unemployment Initiatives	51,515	32,023	34,807	20,884	139,229
Criminal Justice Program	23,621	14,683	15,960	9,576	63,840
Covid-19 Projects	14,862	9,238	10,042	6,025	40,167
	207,912	129,242	140,481	84,288	561,923

	Management	Finance	Admin	Governance	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	69,137	42,977	46,714	28,028	186,856
Children, Young People and Families	16,609	10,325	11,222	6,733	44,889
Community Development Program	34,753	21,603	23,482	14,089	93,927
Unemployment Initiatives	97,297	60,481	65,741	39,444	262,963
Criminal Justice Program	47,926	29,791	32,382	19,429	129,528
	265,722	165,177	179,541	107,723	718,163

10 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	128,384	(17,127)
Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	8,709	2,644
	137,093	(14,483)

11 Auditor's remuneration

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Fees payable to the charity's auditors:	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Audit of the charity's annual accounts	7,700	7,370
Non-audit services		
All other non-audit services	1,660	3,346

12 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021	**2020**
	Number	**Number**
Employees (excluding seconded and Sefton Healthwatch staff)	96	97

Employment costs	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Wages and salaries	1,523,410	1,497,869
Social security costs	170,226	155,167
Other pension costs	174,096	158,753
	1,867,732	1,811,789

Included within payroll costs are redundancy and similar payments of £3,728 (2020: £7,875).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2021	**2020**
	Number	**Number**
£60,000 to £69,999	1	1

Contributions totalling £3,925 (2020: £3,925) were made to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of employees whose emoluments exceed £60,000.

13 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but 1 trustee was reimbursed a total of £4 expenses (2020: 1 was reimbursed £62).

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	20,472	185,472	205,944
Additions	-	4,500	4,500
Disposals	-	(173,330)	(173,330)
At 31 March 2021	20,472	16,642	37,114
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2020	4,027	181,620	185,647
Depreciation charged in the year	887	3,355	4,242
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(173,330)	(173,330)
At 31 March 2021	4,914	11,645	16,559
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2021	15,558	4,997	20,555
At 31 March 2020	16,445	3,852	20,297

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2020	449,344	5,352	454,696
Additions	48,161	-	48,161
Valuation changes	128,386	-	128,386
Cash movement	-	(916)	(916)
Disposals	(37,984)	-	(37,984)
At 31 March 2021	587,907	4,436	592,343
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2021	587,907	4,436	592,343
At 31 March 2020	449,344	5,352	454,696

16 Subsidiaries

Market value at 1 April 2020 and at 31 March 2021 is £nil

Historical cost:
At 1 April 2020 and at 31 March 2021 is £nil

Communities are People Limited
The subsidiary, Communities are People Limited is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 06157031. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is wholly owned by the charity, is currently dormant and has £1 ordinary share capital.

The subsidiary has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited
The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, is a limited company registered in England and Wales, company number 08453782. The registered office is Burlington House, Suite 3B 3rd Floor, Crosby Road North, Merseyside, L22 0LG. The subsidiary is limited by guarantee, the charity is the sole subscriber and the amount guaranteed is £1.

The subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, was formed on 20 March 2013 and its objects are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) the operation of a Local Healthwatch organisation in Sefton with the aim of gathering people's views on, and experiences of, the health and social care system and becoming a consumer champion for both publicly funded health and social care.

Healthwatch Sefton Limited is commissioned by the local authority, Sefton MBC and operates under the control of its independent board.

The activities are controlled by and reported in the accounts of Healthwatch Sefton Limited, the subsidiary company.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Funding	164,631	183,704
Expenditure	(159,809)	(192,895)
Movement in year	4,822	(9,191)
Balance brought forward	22,998	32,189
Balance carried forward	27,820	22,998

The investment has been valued in the accounts at £nil as the trustees consider the value of the net assets to be immaterial at 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 and do not consider there to be any benefit in revaluing the investment.

Consolidated accounts are not produced for 2021 as these would not be materially different from the single entity financial statements and the control of the subsidiary is through its independent Board.

17 Financial instruments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	1,088,530	641,818
Instruments measured at fair value through SOFA	587,907	449,344
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	111,307	116,560

18 Debtors

	2021	2020
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	199,567	380,935
Other debtors	-	1,002
Prepayments and accrued income	65,388	60,193
	264,955	442,130

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	48,290	45,481
Trade creditors	13,229	-
Other creditors	87,211	94,553
Accruals and deferred income	10,867	22,007
	159,597	162,041

20 Funds held as agent

The charitable company holds funds as agent totalling £1,638 (2020: £4,638), in a bank account operated by the charitable company, which is payable to third parties.

The amount payable to third parties and an equivalent amount of the bank balance are excluded from these accounts.

Funder	Balance at 1 April 2020	Received	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Pay it forward	1,638	-	-	1,638
Liverpool CVS	3,000	-	(3,000)	-
	4,638	-	(3,000)	1,638

Sefton CVS holds funds for its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited, of £27,820 (2020: £22,998), in a bank account operated by Sefton CVS. The amount payable to its subsidiary, Healthwatch Sefton Limited and an equivalent amount of the bank balance are excluded from these accounts.

21 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

Contributions totalling £16,689 (2020: £15,504) were payable to the fund at the year end and are included in creditors.

The charge to the SoFA in respect of defined contribution schemes was £174,096 (2020: £158,753)

22 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	50,000	60,000
Between two and five years	157,500	207,500
	207,500	267,500

23 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2021 £	2020 £
Aggregate compensation	275,662	257,241

No remuneration was paid to any trustee during the year (2020: None).

No guarantees were given or received.

There were no other disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).

24 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Health and Wellbeing	66,525	1,202,678	(1,191,450)	(51,081)	26,672	1,712,076	(1,549,290)	(1,164)	188,294
Children, Young People and Families	38,216	-	(20,703)	-	17,513	53,000	(19,446)	-	51,067
Community Development Programs	81,584	311,495	(315,736)	90,551	167,894	350,080	(280,119)	(790)	237,065
Unemployment Initiatives	115,272	757,092	(771,797)	(28,243)	72,324	663,267	(653,802)	-	81,789
Criminal Justice Programs	176,453	394,908	(390,828)	(10,001)	170,532	398,444	(348,901)	(6,343)	213,732
Covid-19	-	-	-	-	-	319,963	(219,523)	(7,524)	92,916
	478,050	2,666,173	(2,690,514)	1,226	454,935	3,496,830	(3,071,081)	(15,821)	864,863

24 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing encompasses a variety of funds that represents the various projects coordinated and facilitated by Sefton CVS which aim to develop the local VCF sector's response to both local and national health priorities. This covers areas such as Reablement, health promotion and sexual health awareness.

Health and Wellbeing key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG and NHS South Sefton CCG.

Children, Young People and Families

Children, Young People and Families projects centre on the development of a co-ordinated and strategic approach to local services, that seeks to embed best practice and deliver quality outcomes for children, young people and families, with a focus on multi-agency working and integrated processes.

Children, Young People and Families key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG, NHS South Sefton CCG and Children In Need.

Community Development Programs

The main aim of Community Development Programs is to support local people and organisations to initiate, strengthen and renew social action and community led service delivery in Sefton. This covers a variety of initiatives from the provision of financial services (via the Community Accountancy Service) to the management and coordination of a shopping service for older people in North Sefton.

Community Development Programs key funders include Sefton MBC, NHS Southport & Formby CCG, NHS South Sefton CCG, Big Lottery Fund and HM Prison Service.

24 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Unemployment Initiatives

Unemployment Initiatives mainly covers projects managed by the VOLA Learning Consortium. VOLA supports the Merseyside Voluntary and Social Enterprise in relation to learning, skills and employment support.

Unemployment Initiatives key funders include National Lottery Community Fund, European Social Fund, Sefton MBC, NHS South Sefton CCG and the Skills Funding Agency.

Criminal Justice programs

Sefton CVS work closely with local prisons including HMP Liverpool and HMP Risley to promote voluntary, community and faith sector activity and opportunities to offenders and their families. From providing voluntary offender mentoring services to allowing access to information, advice and support for offenders, Sefton CVS is one of the leading organisations in prison and offender engagement.

Criminal Justice programs key funders include Sefton MBC, Big Lottery Fund, Steve Morgan Foundation, John Armitage Foundation and Achieve Northwest.

Covid 19

This fund represents a range of projects in response to the global pandemic this included the provision of shopping services, distributing PPE equipment and providing support to Sefton MBC in their co-ordinated response. The key funders include Sefton MBC, Steve Morgan and Big Lottery Fund.

The Trustees' Annual Report includes further detail in respect of these funds.

Information regarding individual funds and grants is shown in note 4.

Transfers

The trustees have reviewed the restrictions on funding, where available, and have concluded that any restrictions have been discharged.

25 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Redundancy Contingency Fund	145,000	-	-	(7,875)	137,125	-	-	62,875	200,000
Fixed Asset Fund	26,231	-	(6,141)	-	20,090	-	-	465	20,555
Business Transition Fund	14,555	-	-	(3,500)	11,055	-	-	-	11,055
HWOP Development Fund	89,860	50,977	(25,862)	18,248	133,223	117	(11,457)	-	121,883
ECM Development Fund	74,919	26,176	(14,146)	-	86,949	15,363	(26,543)	-	75,769
Collaboration Development Fund	17,973	-	(6,526)	-	11,447	-	(1,300)	-	10,147
Website Development Fund	-	-	-	-	-	9,502	(16,200)	11,000	4,302
	368,538	77,153	(52,675)	6,873	399,889	24,982	(55,500)	74,340	443,711

25 Designated funds **(Continued)**

The Redundancy Contingency Fund is designated to provide for the employee redundancy costs likely to be incurred should the charity cease to operate.

The Fixed Asset Fund represents the ring fencing of assets which are not available as part of the general liquid reserves of the charity.

The Business Transition Fund represents monies set aside to enable the charity to respond positively to the changing funding landscape.

The following development funds represent monies ring fenced by the Trustees to develop the local VCF sector's response to local and national issues.

- Health Well Being and Older Persons Development Funds
- Every Child Matters Development Funds
- Collaboration Development Funds

The Website Development Fund has been created by SCVS trustees in recognition of the need to update the charity website. This project is estimated to be completed by 31 March 2022

26 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Designated funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds 2020	Designated funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	-	20,555	-	20,555	-	20,297	-	20,297
Investments	169,187	423,156	-	592,343	75,104	379,592	-	454,696
Current assets/(liabilities)	125,022	-	864,863	989,885	79,683	-	454,935	534,618
	294,209	443,711	864,863	1,602,783	154,787	399,889	454,935	1,009,611

27	**Cash generated from operations**	**2021**	**2020**
		£	**£**
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	593,172	(111,323)
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in SOFA	(7,839)	(10,860)
	Gain on disposal of investments	(8,709)	(2,644)
	Fair value gains on investments	(128,384)	17,127
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	4,240	5,934
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	177,175	(241,799)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(2,444)	24,765
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	627,211	(318,800)