ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

England & Wales · Charity number 1043989

Details

Other names	A V O W
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02993429
Registered	1995-02-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Ty Avow 21 Egerton Street Wrexham LL11 1ND
Phone	01978312556
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Website	www.avow.org

Activities

Objects: The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community of Wrexham County Borough and its environs and, in particular, the advancement of education, the further of health, the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

Activities: Promote a range of support servicesIdentify views and represent them to decision makers Provide a Volunteer CentreProvide a funding service and range of training courses Establishment of effective partnerships Promote the voluntary sector in planning service developmentSupport for carers and individualsProvide a range of services and activities for the Community programmes

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Classification

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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WREXHAM MAELOR DISTRICT
- Throughout Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,070,350	£1,082,815	£910,074	27
2024-03-31	£989,980	£875,596	£922,540	34
2023-03-31	£938,966	£949,293	£808,155	34
2022-03-31	£1,298,150	£1,133,284	£818,482	34
2021-03-31	£1,149,421	£933,835	£653,617	36

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Helen Davies		2019-11-12
Jayne Unalkat		2025-10-14
Katie Macgregor		2025-10-14
Kevin Forbes		2022-03-23
Margaret Heaton		2019-11-11
Natasha Borton		2023-10-17
Olga Fahey		2024-10-18
Peter Howell		2022-05-11
SCOT OWEN		2019-11-12

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ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1043989

Accounts



AVOW

Cyngor Gwirfoddol Sirol Wrexham
Wrexham's County Voluntary Council

Trustee Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2025

Including Strategic Report

Charity number: 1043989
Company number: 2993429

Important Notice

This report is a combined Directors Report and Trustees Annual report. This report also contains the Annual Strategic Report as required by law.

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Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended are:

- To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in the area of Wrexham County Borough and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health, the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- Each year the Trustees review these objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect the aims of the organisation. In carrying out this review the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The strategies and activities employed to achieve the charity's objectives are:

- To provide and promote an accessible and relevant range of locally available support services to enhance development and effectiveness of voluntary/community action.
- To identify the views of local community groups and represent these views to decision makers e.g., Welsh Government (WG), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and local statutory bodies, and in ways which lead to effective outcomes and partnerships.
- To assist the development of locally determined and agreed initiatives, which meet the needs of the voluntary sector and enhance community participation.
- To develop and sustain an effective volunteering service.
- To encourage recruitment into charitable, voluntary and community services.
- To provide and promote accurate, current and relevant information.
- To provide and promote a funding advice service for voluntary organisations.
- To provide and promote a range of training courses to the local voluntary sector.
- To assist organisations to operate legally and efficiently.
- To facilitate/support the establishment of effective structured partnerships with the local authority and other agencies for the benefit of voluntary and community organisations.
- To identify issues of concern to voluntary and community organisations.
- To identify gaps in provision that can be met by new or existing voluntary organisations working in collaboration with statutory bodies.
- To promote the interests of the Third Sector in planning service development including community regeneration projects.
- To establish links with the corporate sector; and
- To promote the sector's role in Health and Social Care.

Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW)

AVOW is the County Voluntary Council (CVC) for Wrexham and is part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW). TSSW consists of the 19 CVCs in Wales as well as Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

The shared goal is to enable the Third Sector and volunteers across Wales to contribute fully to individual and community wellbeing, now and for the future.

The focus of work concentrates on four pillars of activity:

- Volunteering
- Good Governance
- Sustainable Funding
- Engagement and Influencing

Strategic Report

Introduction

This report includes the combined reports of the Trustees Annual Report and the Directors Report. This section, the Strategic Report, brings together the contents for 'Achievements and Performance', 'Financial Review' and 'Plans for Future Periods' (herein called 'Future Plans For AVOW'). It contains the information required by the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

Achievements and performance

AVOW 2024-25 Core Highlights

AVOW records all interactions, funding support, grants distribution, training and events on a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Our statistics are shared with Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) who in turn reports the overall finds to Welsh Government. AVOW's key performance indicators for 2023-24 are as follows:

o Funding obtained following support from AVOW	£979,339
o Funding awarded by AVOW	£12,617
o Organisations supported with direct advice	259
o Organisations supported with specialist advice	217
o Training participants	598
o Partnership Events	17
o Partnership event attendees	435
o Volunteers supported to enter volunteering	33
o Individuals placed into volunteering	68
o Total membership of AVOW	184
o AGM Attendance	60

Development Activities and Achievements: Core Services

AVOW's commitment to Welsh Government as the County Voluntary Council for Wrexham is to provide free advice and signposting around the four core pillars of; Good Governance, Sustainable Funding, Volunteering, and Engagement and Influencing.

Governance

AVOW provided guidance and referrals to organisations to help community groups of all sizes choose appropriate governance structures and ensure that they are operating legally and in line with regulator guidelines.

During this period, alongside Shaun Darlington the governance lead from Flintshire Local Voluntary Council, we held 41 in-person governance surgeries with 31 different organisations. We supported groups with a range of governance issues, including:

- Setting up or closing charities and CICs
- Developing policies and safeguarding procedures
- Managing land, property, banking, and finance matters

We also contributed feedback from Wrexham-based organisations through the WCVA Governance Practitioners Network and supported the development of the TSSW Safeguarding Toolkit.

A strong working relationship between our funding officer and governance lead has helped groups improve their governance, putting them in a better position to secure funding.

Thanks to increased capacity in governance support this year, and collaboration with FLVC, it has also helped us map available resources and services, improving our ability to signpost effectively. We now have a better understanding of the challenges facing groups in Wrexham. This insight will inform future networking opportunities, training, and tailored support.

Funding

During the year, AVOW supported community organisations with advice and guidance on funding. AVOW also supported organisations with funding applications. The AVOW Funding Facebook page provides funding news and updates to 457 followers.

AVOW continued its partnership with Cadwyn Clwyd to deliver WCBC's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Key Fund. This initiative was designed to support community and voluntary organisations whose projects did not meet the minimum threshold required for the main funding stream. The project is underway, with a total of £300,00 distributed to be distributed before December 2025. To support

delivery, AVOW's Funding Officer was seconded to the project for the equivalent of two days per week throughout.

AVOW also partnered with the Wrexham Community and Cultural Trust to deliver an SPF Key Fund with £100,000 dedicated to grants to promote art, heritage and culture in Wrexham.

The Wrexham Young Influencers (WYI) is a youth-led grant-making body, designed and delivered by young people, for young people aged 13–25. Through this initiative, young people take the lead in deciding how funding is allocated to projects that matter to them and their peers. In this year, a total of £9,571 was awarded to 13 youth-led initiatives. Funded projects included:

- Purchasing music equipment to upskill and engage young people.
- Supporting a campfire project.
- Providing resources for a youth club.
- Delivering dance sessions to support wellbeing and mental health.

In addition, WYI supported young people experiencing homelessness by purchasing essential items for those in temporary accommodation or without family support, as well as providing small gifts at Christmas.

During the year, AVOW continued our Making a Difference Grant, funded through income generated from the AVOW Community Lottery. The grant was open to all Wrexham community groups delivering projects valued up to £500 that could make a positive difference locally.

A total of £5,680 was distributed to 14 organisations. Projects supported included craft sessions, litter-picking equipment, a family support worker, music sessions, and woodland development initiatives.

Volunteering

Over the period, we've supported volunteering in Wrexham through a range of activities:

- Held over 70 one-to-one meetings (in person and by phone) to discuss volunteer opportunities, sharing information digitally and provided more intensive support where needed, including attending meetings with volunteer managers.
- Connected 5 corporate organisations with local organisations for volunteering opportunities and supported with their volunteering policies.

- Recruited and inducted 7 new in-house volunteers, while continuing to support existing volunteers at the AVOW Office, The Hub, and The Land through training and regular engagement. We also held a Christmas celebration to thank AVOW volunteers.
- Strengthened local partnerships, including co-delivering a Volunteer Managers' Network meeting with FLVC.
- Supported the Open University's *Get Ahead with Volunteering* online sessions.
- Supported the Inclusion Manager on an inclusive volunteering pilot, connecting St Christopher's School and Erddig, with plans to secure future funding.
- Increased our social media presence to promote volunteering.
- Attended events with key organisation, such as Probation, Maximus, DWP Youth Pathway, and Coleg Cambria to engage individuals in volunteering.
- Helped 17 new organisations join and use the Volunteering Wales platform.
- Provided guidance on volunteer recruitment, retention, management, and policy to volunteer involving organisations.

Engagement

AVOW is responsible for ensuring the Third Sector is appropriately represented on county and regional decision-making bodies. To this end, AVOW actively engages with Public Service organisations ensuring that the voice and views of the Third Sector are presented to strategic partnerships and considered within consultations. The Third Sector should always play a major part in the way that strategies and services can be developed as the champion of the community.

AVOW's Third Sector representation is widely varied. A sample of regularly attended boards and steering groups is listed below. Attendance and active participation ensure Third Sector is heard by the widest possible audience:

- Flintshire and Wrexham Public Service Board
- Wrexham Shared Prosperity Fund Steering Board
- Wrexham Neighborhoods Board (Formerly Town Board)
- Regional Partnership Board
- Wrexham Civic Leaders
- Wrexham Youth Justice Forum
- Regional Integration Fund Regional Management Group.

AVOW enjoys a strong relationship with our local authority, Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC). The Chief Officer has regular meetings with the WVBC Senior Leadership Team to discuss issues facing the sector as well as find synergies between Council and community led initiatives.

Marketing and Social Media

AVOW's Marketing and Media Manager and Engagement Team continue to improve the organisations reach into the local community, increasing awareness and contact with AVOW and its many projects.

The team has created connections into the community, meeting regularly to share best practices and explore new tools with their CVC counterparts, as well as forging networks with those working in local voluntary and community organisations.

The team took on the task of creating both print and virtual material for AVOW's new Community Agents. The project included branding, creating and producing posters, flyers and postcards, as well as setting up social media pages to enhance communication with clients across Wrexham. The team also provided training and support for the CA's on how to use their Social Media platforms and get the most out of the software and technology available for the programme.

The team put in special effort to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Volunteers' Week in June. Over 100 attendees at two events enjoyed entertainment from local artists and influencers who were celebrating the rich history of volunteering throughout Wrexham. This campaign saw videos of prominent Welsh/UK personalities including Doctor Cymraeg, Andy Hickie and Jason Willis sending videos of thanks.

The team actively work on clarifying our message, and iteratively improving our brand, and brand awareness, giving AVOW's brand sure footing. Our campaign to improve brand recognition and understanding have grown over the last year as shown in our touchpoint interactions.

Website

	1st April 2023/ 1st April 2024	1st April 2024 / 1st April 2025
Users	12K	15K
Average Engagement	1m 15s	57s
Organic Search	6999	8261

Direct Link	3453	4405

Facebook:

Note: *New Facebook tools, and algorithm change has adjusted the numbers from 2023-2024*

	AVOW Main Page (FY 1st April 23/ 1st April 24)	**AVOW Main Page (FY 1st April 24 / 1st April 25)**	**%Change**
Reach:	26,678	70,887	+165%
Content Interactions:	2,120	3,518	+66%
Visits:	8,334	15,489	+86.3%
Followers:	3800	3980	
New Followers (on previous Year)	270	264	-1.9%

Development Activities and Achievements: Health and Wellbeing Team

Health and Wellbeing Officer

The Third Sector Health and Wellbeing Development Officer (Health & Wellbeing Officer) involves high level engagement and partnership working, highlighting the value the third sector plays supporting the health and wellbeing of people across Wrexham Borough. In partnership with BCUHB, AVOW Health and Wellbeing team and our Community Agents, we have delivered health and wellbeing community events with the aim of bringing services directly to beneficiaries in the heart of communities. This makes accessing support more accessible, ensuring people can access services such as Stroke Prevention for blood pressure tests, Continence Team, Bone Health (formerly Falls Prevention), local pharmacies, Dementia pathways and a variety of third sector organisations. Occupational Therapists have been present at events to share information on living safely at home and giving excellent tips and tools to people. Moving forward, evidence will determine where the community health events will take place – where uptake is low and ill health is high to support future health outcomes.

We co-hosted quarterly health and wellbeing networks with FLVC with the aim of giving organisations the opportunity to share their projects via networking and as guest speakers. The number of attendees is increasing at each network as we continue to engage with more organisations, which then contributes to new AVOW memberships and collaborative working in communities. An example of this is, I visited Victim Support, St Asaph and from this meeting, connected the service with other CVCs, Wrexham social prescribers and community agents, sent invites to health and wellbeing networks which they have since attended, gave Victim Support flyers to hubs, community centres and groups to share the information and attended the AVOW Volunteer Celebration in 2025 to highlight the invaluable work volunteers bring to the service. The service also holds regular drop-in sessions at the Wellbeing Hub via an AVOW introduction.

We continue to meet with our funders BCUHB and other partners including Public Health Wales, WCBC, WCVA and Wrexham wide GP clusters to share updates on the third sector and strengthen connections between statutory services and voluntary organisations. An example of partnership working has been involved in promoting BCU PHW screening programme. Wrexham scores low in uptake of screening and since I gained this knowledge, I have met with PHW regularly to attend networks, work towards increasing screening uptake and share screening information with community agents, organisations and communities. I hope to receive data in the future to determine if engagement has increased in Wrexham due to this intervention.

Organisation feedback collected from community events:

'Excellent range of services present and great attendance'. (Gresford).

'Extremely happy with the event. Well attended and a great way to share information with others'. (Gresford).

'I have a full week's worth of referrals just from this event'. (Little Acton).

Wellbeing Hub Development Officer

In 2022 AVOW, with seed funding from WCBC, developed a Community Hub Development Officer role to reinvigorate underutilized community buildings to bring meaningful services to local citizens in their own communities. Due to the success of the pilot project at the Gwersyllt Resource Centre, AVOW solely funded this role in 24/25. As sustainable funding has not been found, the project will end early FY25/26.

The AVOW led Gwersyllt Community Support Hub continues to grow and offers beneficiaries support and information on a range of services, learning opportunities, activities and groups to support health and wellbeing. AVOW Hub volunteers have been instrumental in the continuation of Gwersyllt Hub delivery. The volunteers support weekly coffee mornings, community crafting and have also provided support to Acton Community Hub which opened in June 2024. We wanted to reach a wider audience and connect statutory and third sector organisations with other communities to support health and wellbeing and Acton hub was established.

Working in partnership with the Rainbow Foundation Community Agent, Acton Community Council and other partners, beneficiaries from Acton have participated in chair exercise and yoga, cooking, chi-me (a low-level form of Tai Chi that supports arthritis and other ailments), stress less sessions and much more. Community engagement has been high, including very successful hot light lunch sessions which we were able to provide thanks to WCBC warm space funding. On average 16 people attended the weekly sessions which ran over 10 weeks. With support from AVOW Hub volunteers, the sessions provided a safe space for people to socialise over a hot lunch and access information and knowledge on what else they could participate in. Several people who attended lived on their own and told us how much they enjoyed eating and talking to others, improving loneliness and isolation. As the sessions were so popular, Acton community council funded a further 10 weeks of hot light lunches which were only able to run with huge thanks to the continued support of Hub Volunteers.

Feedback from beneficiaries:

"It's great to get out of the house for volunteering – a great way to give back to the community, to meet other people and explore new places. And I get to enjoy the food too which is great!'.

'We are so grateful to be able to come and enjoy the food which is always lovely, made and presented and meet and chat with the friends we have made'.

'We have met people who live around the corner from us and didn't realise'.

Gwersyllt Community Hub continues to engage with the community and events and sessions in are always well attended. Hub volunteers have enjoyed taking responsibility for some drop-in sessions whereby beneficiaries can access a hot drink and information. One Hub volunteer has been a great asset with updating 'What's on' flyers and is a regular at the AVOW office and Gwersyllt hub. Community craft sessions are always well received with some amazing work on show! During a meeting with Wrexham University, it was suggested to me that the University could support a knowledge transfer voucher for health and wellbeing tutors to support AVOW with an exhibition to highlight the wonderful skills on show at the Hub. This led to a week long exhibition at Wrexham Library. Beneficiaries were able to showcase crafts, photography, crocheting (Gwersyllt community blanket was on display createdby attendees of the coffee morning) and many other objects. Mayor Beryl Blackmore was invited to attend and throughout the week, a high volume of people were able to visit the exhibition. An award was given by the University to AVOW in recognition of partnership working in the community.

Community Agents

In April 2024, AVOW was successful in securing the Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) Community Agents South consortium tender and subsequently being awarded with the Penycae, Gresford and Rossett Community Agent Contracts mid-year. The Community Agents project was developed in response to the recognised need that many people in our communities' struggle to access essential services that help maintain their wellbeing and quality of life. Community Agents work with people aged 50 and over in Wrexham, providing signposting, advice, and guidance to a wide range of information and services. The aim is to enable individuals to live healthier, happier, and more independent lives. The project also plays a vital role in bridging the gap between local communities, statutory services, and the voluntary sector.

AVOW currently supports 16 wards within Wrexham County Borough Council: Gresford, Ruabon, Penycae, Willington & Worthenbury, Bangor-On-Dee, Chirk, Rossett, Esclusham, Holt, Abenbury, Isycoed, Llangollen Rural, Marchwiel, Sesswick, Maelor South,

Since the launch of the Community Agents project, we have supported 171 individuals with signposting and advice, engaged with 122 local groups and attended 168 community events to promote the service and connect with residents. We expect these figures to grow in 2025/2026, as recruitment reaches full capacity and the project continues to expand.

Shopmobility & Accessibility

Shopmobility & Accessibility Manager heads up the Team at the AVOW Wrexham Shopmobility service and warm space. Based at Wrexham Bus Station, the service provides mobility scooters, boot scooters, wheelchairs, disability pushchairs and walkers, enabling people with mobility issues to access shops, services, and events in the city centre. In 2024/25 the service maintained its full five-day opening and supported bespoke opening hours for major events, whilst also continuing to offer ShopMobility as a community warm space open to anyone looking for a safe warm place to sit and rest, engage with others or seek information and signposting.

The Accessibility & Shopmobility Roadshow and attendance at Community and health and wellbeing events continue to be a popular means of sharing knowledge not only about the Shopmobility service but also the new RITA project. The roadshows offer the opportunity to learn about both the services available in Shopmobility and the RITA project while reducing, or even removing, hidden barriers such as language, location, and anxiety, that might prevent people from accessing the services. They also provide a platform to meet new demographics from across Wrexham, to learn and understand their accessibility concerns and needs, form relationships, and offer help and support.

The ShopMobility team has enhanced both its traditional marketing and its social and digital media promotion, ensuring greater awareness and uptake of the services on offer. As a result, the service welcomed 125 new members last year, with notable growth in day rentals for city centre visits and long-term hires supporting holidays, events, and overseas travel. Strengthened partnership with WCBC also enabled ShopMobility to expand its fleet with six new mobility scooters for use in the city centre and two new boot scooters to meet rising demand for long-term hire options. These improvements, alongside targeted promotional activity, have further increased the service's reach and impact.

AVOW received grant funding to run an accessibility scheme providing at-home support for people living with dementia and their unpaid carers, utilising a personalised tablet version of the RITA device. The Accessibility Officer has worked closely with Community Agents from both AVOW's workforce and partner agencies to secure referrals into the project, ensuring those most in need are supported. In addition, AVOW sits on the Dementia Friendly Wrexham Steering Group to ensure the project is widely promoted and accessible to all who require it. Work is also underway with the Wrexham Archives team based in Wrexham Library to introduce Wrexham-specific reminiscence materials into the RITA devices. These include photographic images, historic newspaper clippings and articles, maps, and Wrexham AFC memorabilia, enriching the therapeutic value of RITA.

Development Activities and Achievements: Special Projects

Wrexham Community Lottery

AVOW, in conjunction with Gatherwell, created and launched the lottery with over 40 local good causes on board in 2021. Ticket holders can win up to £25,000 as well as support a local cause who keep 50% of ticket sales.

2024/2025 saw a push with advertising, showing a small growth in ticket sales to 407 per week. The Lottery raised £9,280 over the reporting period for causes signed up to the lottery, and £1,856 for the AVOW Making a Difference Grant.

Development Activities and Achievements: Local Projects

Little Sunflowers Childcare Centre, Plas Madoc

AVOW Board of Trustees oversee the Little Sunflowers Childcare Centre (LSCC). The Centre offers childcare provision from age 2 to 4years of age through:

- Flying Start
- Rising 3's and 4's
- Early Education
- 30-hour childcare offer

Little Sunflowers have this year been successful in receiving a funding extension from Neumark Foundation to fund a breakfast club and a fun club to provide additional support to children and parents.

Breakfast club: This daily programme ensures all children have access to breakfast before starting the nursery lessons. The funding allows children with special dietary requirements to eat safely with their friends. Along with the food provided by the Neumark Foundation this programme also receives regular donations of cereal and cereal bars from Kellogg's in Wrexham.

Family Fun club: This drop-in group runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday and offers information and support on a range of parenting challenges while the participants enjoy arts and craft, and other fun activities. This group has been very popular with 25-30 attending every session. Thursday afternoons are reserved for private sessions for families who may require additional support.

Play and Community Development Team, Plas Madoc

The AVOW Play and Community Development Team is funded through the National Lottery Community Fund, Invest Local, Children in Need and Families First to work in Plas Madoc providing a service for children, parents, and adults of the community.

The team continued to use National Lottery Community Funds to develop a new model of integrated Play and Community Development work which building on existing high-quality Play and Youth provision and extending our reach into the wider community.

The Land, our junk playground, also offers volunteering opportunities for young people and adults within the Community - this scheme aims to increase levels of aspiration and improve the life chances of adults and also young people not in employment, education or training. We aim to work towards offering more formal access locally to dedicated programmes of support linked to training and education which can equip young people/adults who would otherwise be caught up in cycles of joblessness or self-limiting behaviour.

Other services for youth, families, and the wider community:

- Youth Activities: Playschemes/ Street Schemes, Street Football, Youth Club
- 1:1 work support for children with additional needs
- Parental Support Kettle Club, Breakfast & Brews, Crafty Brew
- The Pantry provides access to affordable food.
- Weekly drop-in meetings open to all community members.
- Thank me it's Friday: Mental health and wellbeing support group to reduce isolation.
- Over 50's: Social support and activities for older residents.
- Environmental Projects: Garden Gang and Plants Madoc
- Volunteer scheme

AVOW are fundholders for Plas Madoc Invest Local which funds WAPM who currently contribute towards the Play/Community Development Manager and a Community Development Officer for We are Plas Madoc. In 2024, AVOW supported local residents to bring to life a new community hub affectionately known as 'Homegrown' — a welcoming space that offers warmth, support, and opportunities for all. Entirely shaped and led by the community itself, Homegrown stands as a testament to collective vision and grassroots action. It's more than just a hub; it's a place built by the community, for the community.

In 2024, we continued to deliver events that celebrate local identity and strengthen community cohesion. Our summer gathering - known locally as Plastonbury - remains a cornerstone of the annual calendar, offering inclusive activities that bring together families, volunteers, and local organisations in a vibrant celebration of belonging and connection.

Plas Madoc's Bonfire and Fireworks event, drawing over 1,000 residents and reinstating community tradition.

Both events highlight the importance of shared celebration in fostering pride, participation, and a sense of connection across generations.

Financial Review

AVOW began the financial year with a predicted surplus of £1,635. However, due to additional in-year funding and strategic changes, this position improved significantly, resulting in a £81,062 surplus in unrestricted funds, as reflected in the accounts.

We are currently nearing the end of several 5-year grants from The National Lottery Community Fund, including funding for *The Land*. As these grants conclude, we are actively exploring alternative funding sources to ensure continuity.

Meanwhile, Little Sunflowers and Flying Start remain financially secure.

Additional funding received during the year includes:

- WCBC Community Agents
- Shared Prosperity Key Fund Scheme
- Cadwyn Clwyd- Shared Prosperity Key Funds joint management project
- WCBC Warm Space Initiative
- WCBC Our Nature
- ACL Training Funding

These contributions have further strengthened our financial position and supported the delivery of key community programmes.

We will continue to look to the future and plan financially to apply for addition funding sources in order to support the core function of AVOW but also to seek continuation funding for those projects that may be coming to the end of their funding period. We will continue to monitor our finances monthly with the help of detailed management reports, and also through quarterly Trustee Finance meetings. These meetings are a chance to debate, challenge and question any figures that are presented.

Ty AVOW has undergone major roof repair to the lean-to addition at the rear elevation. This was funded by the WCBC Town Regeneration Fund. Through this work, it was discovered the building requires major additional works as highlighted in the 2024 building survey. The Trustees determined that it was best to plan a full building renovation not only to repair problem areas but also to bring the building to modern standards with a goal of being as close to NetZero as possible by 2030. The unrestricted funds surplus noted in year has been designated to support the building works. This investment into the building will ensure we have a healthy working environment for staff, volunteers and Trustees but also a vibrant environment for tenants and possibly increase occupancy.

AVOW has been a committed Real Living Wage (RLW) employer since 2022 and in line with that commitment increased staff to a minimum of £12.60 per hour from 1st January 2025, with all other staff receiving an uplift of 5%. Inflation remains high and Trustees want to ensure we retain staff and reduce the burden of financial difficulties as best we can.

We have been fortunate during the year to manage our cash flow wisely and invest in multiple long-term fixed investments through Flagstone. Due to the continuous high interest rates in year, we have generated £20,903 in bank interest between our Flagstone accounts and our current accounts. We continue to aim to deposit 4/5 deposits under the FSCS level of £85,000 at one time, and which mature equally throughout the year.

Restricted reserves have decreased in year to a value of £290,557 while Unrestricted funds have increased during the year due to the additional projects and grants undertaken in the year. AVOW now have a very robust unrestricted balance of £619,517 at the 31st March 2025. These funds are broken down into designated building costs £253,435 Redundancy/Other costs £201,515. Leaving our general reserves at £164,566 and free reserves at £46,295. We will apply for match funding and/or capital grants to part fund building upgrades, however, have assigned additional restricted funding to ensure Ty Avow receives the necessary repairs and maintains its value as an asset.

The Trustees have reviewed AVOW's finances for the 2025/2026 financial year and approved a budget through to 31st March 2026, which initially projected a deficit of £19,235. However, shortly after April 2025, continuation funding was secured and additional grants were awarded, effectively reducing the deficit to zero.

We remain committed to building on this proactive approach to financial planning and decision-making. AVOW will continue to actively seek new project opportunities and funding streams to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding sources for AVOW remains the Infrastructure Core Grant from the Welsh Government - administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action.

There are other various grants and Service Level Agreements with Wrexham County Borough Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

WCBC Adventure Play Project – Holiday Funds
WCBC Flying Start
WCBC Early Education
WCBC Families First
WCBC Warm Spaces
WCBC Town Centre Grant
WCBC Community Agents
WCBC ACL Training
WCBC Our Nature
WCBC Children & Young People
WCBC Shared Prosperity Key Fund
BCUHB Health Facilitator

Other substantial funders are detailed below:

BCT Invest Local for Plas Madoc
Cadwyn Clwyd
Charity Commission
Children in Need
Gwersyllt Community Council
Lloyds Foundation
Neumark Foundation
Tesco
The National Lottery Community Funds
We Are Plas Madoc
Lloyds Foundation

Reserves Policy

During the year the Trustees agreed to AVOW's policy of having at least 3-6 months annual running costs, together with a cash flow provision and a redundancy contingency in reserve. Trustees have assigned £38K to contribute towards the funding to support Community Development posts (remains at

4-year level). In practice this means £162,231, representing 3-6 months running costs, designated funds and redundancy contingency. Trustees have also designated £253,435 for building works on the Ty AVOW building. Total designated reserves are £454,951 which is covered by the unrestricted reserve of £619,517 at 31st March 2025. Free reserves on 31st March 2025 amounted to £46,295 (31st March 2024 £97,260). The Trustees noted that the free reserves level at the year-end is an improvement again on last year's figures due to adapting and utilising our assets to create additional unrestricted reserves.

Investment Policy

AVOW's Memorandum and Articles of Association authorises the investment of monies of the Association not immediately required for its purpose, in or upon such investments, securities, or property as may be thought fit subject nevertheless to such conditions if any as may for the time being, be imposed or required by law.

In practice this has led to AVOW investing funding from its reserves with several banks to ensure that we do not exceed our limit of compensation cover to secure the funds within a single Bank Licence cover of £85,000. This investment decision has been reviewed regularly during the year and has been found to be the best available option for AVOW to ensure the level of risk in investing in a single source is reduced.

Future Plans for AVOW

AVOW's future plans are shaped by its commitment to enabling a stronger, more connected voluntary and community sector in Wrexham. Building on recent achievements, AVOW will continue to develop services that promote wellbeing, inclusion, and sustainability while responding to emerging needs and opportunities.

Providing a home base for Voluntary and Community Organisations

AVOW has begun a major renovation and extension project of our home, Ty Avow on Egerton Street in the heart of Wrexham. The building is in need of major renovation including an electrical grid upgrade, sewage line realignment and major roof repairs. With the expert help of volunteer John Edwards, AVOW is taking on a project not only to correct these issue but also to expand our available community space to allow local community and voluntary organizations access to affordable meeting space, after hours, in the city centre. This project will cost approximately £3.1 million and we hope to break ground in Spring 2026.

Strengthening community wellbeing

AVOW will continue to provide delivery of the Community Agents initiative in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council, coordinating support across 19 Community Councils in the South of the county. The programme focuses on improving wellbeing for residents aged 50+ through meaningful engagement, signposting and connections to local services. AVOW's Health and Wellbeing team will play a key role in ensuring these efforts are linked to wider community and statutory support networks.

Expanding health and accessibility initiatives

AVOW will continue to work closely with WCBC and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to embed third sector contributions within health and social care strategies. The Health and Wellbeing Facilitator, funded by BCUHB, will lead on expanding social prescribing initiatives and exploring the feasibility of establishing a new Health and Wellbeing Hub in Cefn Mawr.

In partnership with the Accessibility Officer, AVOW will also deliver a pilot project using RITA Lite devices to support residents with early onset dementia, funded by WCBC. This cross-cutting work aims to promote inclusive health outcomes by aligning assistive technology with person-centred support.

In parallel, AVOW will expand its accessibility and mobility services, including extended opening hours for the Wrexham Shopmobility scheme and the introduction of an Accessibility Roadshow. The aim is to reduce barriers and raise awareness of available services, particularly for people with visible and hidden disabilities. A wider network of partners and community groups will be brought together to support long-term accessibility improvements across the county.

Supporting young people and families

Youth and family support remains a priority. AVOW will continue to support the play and community development team based at The Land in Plas Madoc, delivering key programmes such as breakfast clubs and family fun activities. Future plans include further development of youth-led initiatives, including environmental projects, volunteer programmes and playschemes that empower young people to shape their communities.

Developing volunteering opportunities

AVOW will continue to champion volunteering across Wrexham, promoting inclusive opportunities through the Volunteering Wales platform and ongoing coordination of the Volunteer Manager Network. A new strand of work will introduce supported volunteering placements for individuals with additional needs, delivered collaboratively by the Volunteer Development Officer and Accessibility Officer. This inclusive approach reflects AVOW's commitment to widening participation and ensuring everyone can contribute meaningfully to community life.

Sustaining and growing organisational support

Work to strengthen governance support will continue through AVOW's partnership with Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC), providing specialist advice on legal structures, compliance and best practice. AVOW will also maintain its wider support for voluntary and community organisations, including funding advice, training and organisational development.

Enhancing communication and digital presence

AVOW will further invest in its digital and communications strategy to promote the work of local groups and share resources more effectively. This will include the use of video, podcasts and digital storytelling to engage a wider audience. The relaunch of AVOW's bilingual website and use of emerging social media platforms will support better visibility and community engagement.

Improving financial sustainability

Financial sustainability remains central to AVOW's strategic planning. A mixed-income approach is in place, with revenue generated through building rental, partnerships and external grants. Designated reserves are being invested in long-term building maintenance at Tŷ AVOW, safeguarding its role as a central community resource.

Expanding grant and lottery management

AVOW will continue to manage community grant programmes, including the Shared Prosperity Fund, and support small-scale projects with high community impact. Alongside this, development of the Wrexham Community Lottery will provide an additional fundraising tool for local organisations, with AVOW leading on its coordination and growth.

Reference and administrative details

Charity number: 1043989

Company number: 2993429

Principal Office: Tŷ Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, LL11 1ND

Auditors: WR Partners LLP, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT

Bankers: Nat West Bank Ltd, 33 Lord Street, Wrexham, LL11 1LS

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

		Appointed	Reappointed/Retired/Resigned
Peter Howell	Chair	2021	Reappointed 2024
Mervyn Dean		2015	Reappointed 2024 special measures
Wanjiku Mbugua		2015	Resigned 2025
David Thompson		2016	Reappointed 2022
Howard Davies		2017	Reappointed 2023
Margaret Heaton		2019	Reappointed 2022
Helen Davies		2020	Reappointed 2023

Scot Owen	Co-Vice Chair	2020	Reappointed 2023
Kevin Forbes	Co-Vice Chair	2021	Reappointed 2024
Natasha Borton		2023	
Shanone Towers		2023	
Kevin Roberts		2023	Resigned 2025
Olga Fahey		2024	

Chief Officer: Dawn Roberts-McCabe

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

AVOW is a Company Limited by Guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7th November 1994 (as amended in 2022). AVOW is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Membership is open to all voluntary and community organisations collectively known as the Third Sector and individuals acting for the benefit of the community either as volunteers or employees. The Governing Document is reviewed annually.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees, which can have no more than 20 and not less than 6 members, sets the strategic direction of the charity. The Board of Trustees meet quarterly and there is a standing Finance Committee. A Chief Officer is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity within a framework of delegated powers along with a team of managers.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The AVOW Board consists of no fewer than six and up to 20 volunteer Trustees who are also Directors of the Company serving for a three-year period. All trustees resign by rotation on a three yearly cycle. The Trustees may at any time co-opt any individual who is qualified to be appointed as a Truste to fill a vacancy in their number or as an additional Trustee, but such a co-opted Trustee holds office only until the next election of Trustees or until removed by the Trustees (whichever is earlier) or insert other restrictions.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Trustees are appointed by the Trustees annually. The Trustees have the power to appoint or co-opt further Trustees to fill vacancies following a thorough skills audit of existing Trustees.

Per the guidance in the Chairty Code of Ethics, in FY 2024-25, the Trustees found that there was no other Trustee available to take on the Chair of the Finance Committee, and reelected Mervyn Dean to a further one year term beyond the nine years stipulated in the governing document. A new Chair of the standing Finance Committee has been appointed in 2025. The Trustees are grateful to Mervyn Dean for supporting the organisation for an additional year.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction to brief them on legal obligations under charity and company law, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes as well as an overview of the recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate in house and external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role. All Trustees are required to undertake online training in Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Data Protection, PREVENT, Whistleblowing and Information Security. All Trustees have undergone a DBS check in line with the requirements of Care Inspectorate Wales as AVOW undertake regulated activity at Little Sunflowers Child Care in Plas Madoc.

Related Parties

AVOW collaborates with a wide range of partners at local, regional, and national levels. These include public bodies and other third sector organisations. The purpose of the collaboration includes development of new projects and services, to secure additional resources, or to represent the interests of the third sector. AVOW receives core funding from the Welsh Government (administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action, WCVA), through the National Infrastructure Agreement. The charity builds on this core funding by attracting support from a range of sources including Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and Cadwyn Clwyd. Where trustees have any links with related parties these are declared on a register and trustees are required to declare any potential conflict of interest at the start of each meeting where the Chair will take appropriate action.

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees, Chief Officer and Development Manager (Volunteer, Community, and Finance) as comprising the key management personnel of the charity. All the Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

Trustees are required to declare all relevant interests and withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

The Finance Committee meet annually to review the pay and remuneration of the senior management team. The review of all senior staff pay is referenced to the NJC negotiated pay scales but not fully adopted. Any proposed adjustments to the pay of the senior management team are confirmed by the Finance Committee.

Risk management

An organisational Risk Register has been produced and is reviewed by Trustees annually. This identifies organisational risks and the risk management strategies in place to mitigate those risks.

Specialist advisors, SafetyNest, are contracted to oversee all Health and Safety matters by assessing and advising on risk assessments to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, visitors, beneficiaries, and stakeholders and the Trustees consider the charity to be well positioned to manage.

AVOW contracts with external professional advisors on matters such as:

- Employment (renewed May 2025)
- Health & Safety (2024 for three years)
- Insurance (June 2025 for three years)
- Financial Auditing (next review January 2026)

Vision Statement

"Our vision is a Wrexham where individuals, communities, and voluntary organisations are fully supported, connected, and empowered to thrive. We envision a future where everyone has the opportunity to participate in shaping a fair, inclusive, and compassionate society--where voluntary action is recognised as a powerful force for positive change.

AVOW will continue to be a trusted partner at the heart of this transformation, driving collaboration, amplifying local voices, and championing the value of community-led initiatives across all areas of life in Wrexham. Creating a vibrant, inclusive Wrexham where communities are empowered, voices are heard, and voluntary action drives positive change for all."

Mission Statement

AVOW connects, supports, and empowers the voluntary and community sector in Wrexham to improve lives and strengthen communities. We champion collaboration, promote inclusion, and provide a voice

for local people and organisations to thrive and make a lasting impact.

Annual Trustee and Staff Awaydays are held to focus on key issues and identify challenges and opportunities; to ensure that core functions are in line with the aims and objectives.

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing such financial statements, the Board of Trustees follows best practice and;

- selects suitable accounting policies and applies them consistently.
- observes the methods and principles in the charities SORP.
- makes judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepares the financial statements on the "going concern" basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

Members of the Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees, who are Directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

WR Partners LLP, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT were appointed, following a tender process in December 2014, as the charitable company's auditors and have continued in that capacity until the end of the 2021/22 financial year. The tender process was completed in January 2022 and WR Partners were instructed to continue as Audit provider for a further 3 years.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2015 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Approval

This Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 26th September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Howell (Chair)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company'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 Auditors' 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder

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:

The audit team obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are those which relate to the reporting framework (The Charity SORP 2019), the relevant tax compliance regulations and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We understood how the charitable company complies with these frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We also reviewed board minutes to identify any recorded instances of irregularity or non-compliance that might have a material impact on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement including how fraud may occur by meeting with key management to understand where they considered there was a susceptibly to fraud. Based on our understanding our procedures involved enquiries of management and those charged with governance, manual journal entry testing, cashbook reviews for large and unusual items and the challenge of significant estimates used in preparing the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and society awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's 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 it's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



WR Partners
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
1Edison Court
Ellice Way
Wrexham Technology Park
Wrexham
LL13 7YT

Date: 26/11/2025

WR Partners are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	3	1,722	1,070	**2,792**	1,998
Investment Income-interest receivable		20,903	-	**20,903**	9,441
Income from charitable activities	4	373,044	673,611	**1,046,655**	978,541
Total income		395,669	674,681	**1,070,350**	989,980
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	5	470,510	612,305	**1,082,815**	875,596
Total expenditure		470,510	612,305	**1,082,815**	875,596
Net (expenditure)/income for the year before transfers	7	(74,841)	62,376	**-12,465**	114,383
Gross transfers between funds	8	155,903	(155,903)		-
Net movement in funds		**81,062**	**(93,527)**	**-12,465**	114,383
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	-	538,455	384,084	**922,539**	808,155
Total funds carried forward	14	619,517	290,557	**910,074**	922,539

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

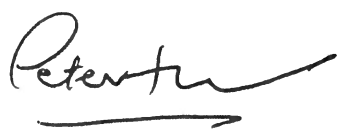
COMPANY NUMBER 2993429

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

		2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		**235,991**		219,469
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	**55,211**		84,965	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		**752,385**		776,644	
		807,596		861,609	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	**(133,513)**		(158,358)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**674,083**		703,070
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**910,074**		922,539
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13				-
NET ASSETS			**910,074**		922,539
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:					
Restricted funds	14		**290,557**		384,084
Unrestricted funds					
General reserves	14		**164,566**		193,170
Designated funds	14		**454,951**		345,285
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			**910,074**		922,539

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and their preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on the 26th September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Howell (Chairman)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movements in funds	(12,465)	115,732
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	36,798	31,867
Profit or loss in disposal of fixed assets		
Investment income - interest receivable		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	29,754	(67,167)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(25,027)	52,975
Deferred Grant		-
Net cash generated from operating activities	**29,060**	**133,407**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(53,318)	(22,549)
Net cash used in investing activities	**(53,318)**	**(22,549)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(24,258)	110,858
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	776,643	665,785
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	**752,385**	**776,643**
Cash and cash equivalents at the yearend comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	752,385	776,643
	752,385	**776,643**

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES: -

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements:

(a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (October 2019– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise statement in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have reviewed the current position for 2025/2026 and anticipate that they will fulfil the same service delivery in 2024/2025. Any cuts in income will have the appropriate decrease in expenses to safeguard the current level of unrestricted reserves.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statements of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of service provided by the volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, when related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over them, any condition associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

(e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

(f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charities work or for specific projects being undertaken.

Internal transfers between funds relate to management costs, support and administration charges applied to the projects and recharged back to unrestricted costs. These are a contribution towards management, support and administration costs of the charity as a whole.

(g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which supports AVOW and its activities.

(i) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Purchases of furniture and equipment are capitalised where they can be used for more than one year and cost over £500. Depreciation on fixed assets is calculated to write down their costs or valuation to their estimated residual value over the period of their economic lives at the following rates: -

Freehold property	-	2% straight line basis
Furniture and Fixtures	-	20% straight line basis
Computers and Equipment	-	33% straight line basis
Motor Vehicles	-	20% straight line basis

(j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discount due.

(k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term investments.

(l) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(m) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(n) Pensions

All employees are invited to join the Aegon pension's scheme with a non-contributory 7% contribution on gross salary. The pension is auto enrolment compliant and all those who had not joined the pension scheme as of November 2015 were automatically enrolled when necessary. The contributions made for the accounting period are treated as an expense and were £41,679 (2024: £35,147)

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. In the opinion of the Trustees there are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2 LEGAL STATUSES OF THE CHARITY

AVOW is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

3 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Membership Fees	1,466	-	1,466	1,408
Donations and Legacies (including Gift Aid)	256	1,070	1,325	590
	1,722	**1,070**	**2,792**	**£1,998**

Income from donation and legacies was £2,792 (2024: £1,998) of which £1,722 was unrestricted (2024: £1,797) and £1,070 was restricted (2024: £201).

4a INCOMING FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grants and Other Service Contract Income				
Wrexham County Borough Council				
Plas Madoc Flying Start	-	103,508	103,508	88,455
Early Education	-	4,430	4,430	8,750
Shopmobility	-	-	-	-
Adventure Play Grant	-	12,923	12,923	16,290
Families First	-	34,116	34,116	33,060
RRRS	-	-	-	250
Community Cohesion Grant	-	-	-	2,250
Ageing Well	-	-	-	22,727
Capital Digital Inclusion	-	-	-	72,449
Town Centre Grant	-	49,999	49,999	-
Community Agents	-	134,905	134,905	-
WCBC City of Culture Grant	-	-	-	-
WCBC Warm Spaces	-	1,692	1,692	-
WCBC ACL Training	-	7,500	7,500	-
WCBC Our Nature	-	6,260	6,260	-
WCBC Children & Young People	-	1,500	1,500	-
WCBC Shared Prosperity Key Fund	-	21,467	21,467	-

(Continued on next page)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
4a. **INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**				
BCUHB				
Health Facilitator	-	44,446	44,446	42,452
Partners In Care	-	-	-	-
GP Facilitator	-	-	-	-
Winter Pressures Grant	-	-	-	-
Poverty Research	-	-	-	-
IMPT	-	-	-	-
Wales Council for Voluntary Action				
Local Voluntary Scheme	220,194	-	220,194	200,754
Safeguarding	-	5,917	5,917	-
Child Poverty	-	-	-	-
Youth Led Grants	-	6,650	6,650	6,650
Comic Relief Grant	-	-	-	-
VSEF Grants	-	-	-	-
Welsh Government				
Winter Pressures Grant	-	-	-	-
Food Poverty	-	-	-	-
Community Transport Grant	-	-	-	-
Ann Duchess of Westminster	-	-	-	10,000
Lottery	-	95,009	95,009	92,646
Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	10,000
Children In Need	-	19,310	19,310	18,838
Charity Commission	-	957	957	30,000
AVOW MAD Grant	-	468	468	-
Plas Madoc Invest Local	-	78,174	78,174	78,174
BME- Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support	-	-	-	-
Cadwyn Clwyd	-	19,766	19,766	50,895
Community Learning Grant	-	-	-	-
We Are Plas Madoc	-	-	-	-
Tesco	-	330	330	990
Neumark Foundation	-	15,258	15,258	2,500
Wrexham University	-	-	-	-
Gwersyllt Community Council	-	780	780	-
Lloyds Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-
Neighbourly Fund	-	-	-	555
AVOW Loneliness & Isolation Fund	-	-	-	4,650
Asset Lock	-	-	-	16,211
Match Funding	-	-	-	13,231
		-		
Total Grants Receivable	**220,194**	**666,365**	**886,559**	**822,787**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
4b. INCOME EARNED FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES				
Rents and services	50,678	537	51,215	45,513
Photocopying and postage	72	-	72	157
Payroll services	76,995	-	76,995	78,304
Trips and events	-	-	-	-
Training courses	4,307	-	4,307	5,529
Community Lottery	1,995	717	2,712	2,923
LSCC Income	5,655	-	5,655	9,531
Shopmobility	12,381	-	12,381	5,982
Other income	767	5,992	6,759	7,816
	373,044	**673,611**	**1,046,655**	**978,541**

Income from charitable activities was £1,046,655 (2024: £978,541) of which £373,044 related to unrestricted reserves (2024: £354,953) and £673,611 restricted reserves (2024: £623,288).

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
5 ANALYSES OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:				
Grants Payable				
Youth Led Grants	-	9,571	9,571	7,659
MAD Grant	-	5,680	5,680	-
Glyndwr University	-	-	-	3,000
Asset Lock	-	2,656	2,656	-
WCBC loneliness & Isolation Grant	-	-	-	16,500
WCBC Food Poverty	-	-	-	(1,543)
Other Costs of Charitable Activity				
Bad Debts written off			-	-
Volunteer Match	-	-	-	13,231
Staff salaries & pensions	284,357	446,520	730,877	624,928
Staff travel	1,472	493	1,965	1,264
Staff training	5,172	1,934	7,106	6,142
Other staff costs	3,026	1,985	5,011	1,892
DBS Charges	269	695	964	482
Volunteer expenses & Training	367	605	972	445
Other Training	4,231	5,842	10,073	-
Consultancy	6,000	-	6,000	-
Depreciation	30,954	5,840	36,794	31,869
Telephone	1,207	1,973	3,180	1,181
Computer maintenance and expenses	22,523	7,486	30,040	23,039
Insurance	7,450	-	7,450	10,548
Heat and light	8,276	-	8,276	6,341
Water rates	566	-	566	498
Repairs and maintenance	51,029	50,405	101,434	24,385
Printing, postage & stationery	910	5,424	6,334	2,279
Projects and events	7,528	53,511	61,039	46,495
Project publicity and promotion costs	2,682	4,906	7,588	9,119
Sundry expenses	367	-	365	231
Bank charges	4,617	1	4,618	3,954
Subscriptions, books and publications	1,675	819	2,494	1,009
Research Project		-	-	-
Shopmobility	1,071	2,372	3,443	1,993
Van Expenses	-	3,587	3,587	2,062
Governance Costs				
Audit fees	12,346	-	12,346	9,866
Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES continued:

Legal and professional fees	11,005	-	11,005	12,401
AGM Expenses	1,357		1,357	3,575
Health & Safety	22	-	22	201
	470,510	**612,305**	**1,082,815**	**875,596**

Expenditure on charitable activities was £1,082,815 (2024: £875,596) of which £470,510 was unrestricted (2024: £428,693) and £612,305 was restricted (2024: £446,903)

6 ANALYSES OF OTHER COSTS	**Costs of Activities £**	**Support Costs £**	**Total 2025 £**	**Total 2024 £**
Bad Debts written off			-	-
Volunteer Match	-	-	-	13,231
Staff salaries & pensions	550,880	179,997	730,877	624,928
Staff travel	957	1,008	1,965	1,265
Staff training	1,994	11,112	13,106	6,142
Other staff costs	2,396	2,615	5,011	1,892
DBS Charges	741	223	964	482
Volunteer expenses & Training	692	280	972	445
Other training costs & Consultancy	10,073	-	10,073	8,780
Depreciation	5,840	30,954	36,794	31,869
Telephone	1,973	1,207	3,180	1,181
Computer maintenance and expenses	8,661	21,379	30,040	23,039
Insurance	-	7,450	7,450	10,548
Heat and light	-	8,276	8,276	6,341
Water rates	-	566	566	498
Repairs and maintenance	50,596	50,838	101,434	24,385
Printing, postage & stationery	5,457	877	6,334	2,279
Projects and events	58,913	2,126	61,039	46,495
Project publicity and promotion costs	4,924	2,664	7,588	9,120
Sundry expenses	-	367	367	231
Bank charges	783	3,835	4,618	3,954
Subscriptions, books and publications	1,453	1,041	2,494	1,009
Research Project	-	-	-	-
Shopmobility	3,443		3,443	1,993
Van Expenses	3,587	-	3,587	2,062

6. ANALYSES OF OTHER COSTS continued

Legal and professional fees	-	23,351	23,531	12,401
AGM Expenses	-	1,357	1,357	3,575
Health & Safety	-	22	22	201
	713,362	**351,546**	**1,064,908**	**849,978**

Expenditure on other costs was £1,064,908 of which £713,362 was cost of activities (2024: £549,027) and £351,546 was support costs (2024: £300,951).

	2025	2024
	£	£
7 NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	36,798	31,869
Auditors Remuneration	11,500	9,763

8 GROSS TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

This figure comprises internal recharges for services provided by AVOW to various restricted fund projects and contributions towards AVOW's management of the restricted projects, net of any overspends on restricted projects which have been covered by general funds. A more detailed breakdown is given under note 14 c).

9 TRUSTEES AND EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

a) Trustees:
No Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2024- Nil).
Travel expenses to the value of Nil (2024: Nil) were paid to 0 trustees (2024: Nil) during the year to attend meetings.
During the year a number of trustees donated their expenses to AVOW. All the transactions were conducted on an arm's length basis in support of the charity.

b) Employees:	2025 £	2024 £
Staff Costs:		
Salaries and Wages	644,638	552,151
Social Security Costs	44,560	37,630
Pension Costs	41,679	35,147
Redundancy Costs	-	-
	730,877	**622,305**

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2024 – nil).
The key management personnel of the charity are the Chief Officer and Development Manager for Volunteering, Community & Finance. Their employee benefits total £115,496 (2024: £105,126).

	2025	2024
The average number of employees was:	27	27
The average number employees FTE	18	18

10 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains failing within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Building £	Furniture & Fixtures £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
Opening balance 1 April 2024	292,108	153,317	51,214	117,597	614,236
Additions	-	-	31,477	21,841	53,318
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance 31 March 2025	292,108	153,317	82,691	139,438	667,554
DEPRECIATION					
Opening Balance 1 April 2023	147,514	148,731	49,249	49,271	394,765
Charge for the year	5,842	1,813	5,228	23,915	36,798
Disposals					
Closing Balance 31 March 2024	153,356	150,544	54,477	66,252	431,563
Net Book Value 31 March 2025	**138,752**	**2,773**	**28,214**	**66,252**	**235,991**
Net Book Value 31 March 2024	144,594	4,586	1,965	68,326	219,471

The freehold property referred to above is Ty Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, which is included in these financial statements at original cost less depreciation.

12 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	38,805	64,014
Prepayments	15,626	20,233
Accrued income	465	403
Accrued Gift Aid Tax	315	315
	55,211	**84,965**

	2025	2024
	£	£
13 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade Creditors	10,631	39,043
Accruals and Deferred Income	16,003	17,795
PAYE & NI Creditor	16,050	11,555
Payroll Creditor	90,829	90,145
	133,513	**158,538**

The creditor and bank balances include £96,219 in respect of the HMRC creditor for AVOW's payroll clients along with credits held on account.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

14 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS TO 31ST MARCH 2025

a) Summary of funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	538,455	384,084	922,539	808,155
Net Movement in Funds	81,062	(93,527)	(12,465)	114,384
Carried forward	**619,517**	**290,557**	**910,074**	**922,539**

b) Unrestricted Funds

	General Fund	Designated Funds: Running Costs and Redundancy Contingency	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	193,170	345,285	538,455	493,170
Income & Expenditure Account	(184,507)	109,666	(74,841)	(119,929)
Transfer from Restricted Funds	155,903		155,903	165,214
Carried forward	**164,566**	**454,951**	**619,517**	**538,455**

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

C) Restricted Funds

	1st April 2024	Incoming	Outgoing	Manage-ment	Internal charges/Overheads	Transfers from/to unrestricted	At 31st March 2025
Accessibility Projects Moondance	11,438	0	4,067	4,131	3,240	0	0
Acton Craft Event	0	500	21	0	0	0	479
Acton Warm Space	0	820	820	0	0	0	0
Ann Duchess of Westminster	154	0	0	0	0	0	154
BCT Adv Play & Dev officer Plan 2	10,408	60,546	65,250	4,287	5,944	0	-4,527
BCT Plan 2	20,649	17,628	9,013	743	0	0	28,521
Broughton Comm Asset Lock	11,304	0	2,656	0	0	0	8,648
Cadwyn Shared Prosperity	-135	19,766	12,882	4,750	1,999	0	0
Charity Commission	30,000	957	13	0	0	0	30,944
Community Agents	0	135,314	106,920	20,496	300	7,598	0
Community Transport	4,960	2,101	2,821	0	0	0	4,240
Core AVOW Safeguarding	0	5,917	5,917	0	0	0	0
Core Buildings	123,561	0	5,841	0	0	0	117,720
Gwersyllt Community Council	0	780	669	0	0	0	111
Gwersyllt Community Cohesion	2,250	0	2,189	0	0	0	61
Gwersyllt Community learning	0	7,500	0	0	0	0	7,500
Gwersyllt Craft	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Gwersyllt MAD Grant	0	468	0	0	0	0	468

Gwersyllt Our Nature	0	6,260	6,260	0	0	0	0
Gwersyllt Hub Loneliness & Isolation	627	0	627	0	0	0	0
H&SC Facilitator & Dev Officer	11,905	44,446	36,947	5,351	5,685	0	8,368
LSCC Lil Stars	0	4,430	881	434	0	0	3,115
LSCC Capital Grant	1,953	0	528	0	0	0	1,425
LSCC EYDCP	1,655	0	0	0	0	0	1,655
LSCC Flying Start	-3,372	103,508	80,731	9,000	7,088	0	3,317
LSCC Neumark	163	15,258	12,086	1,511	1,824	0	0
LSCC Plastonbury	0	923	882	0	0	0	41
LSCC RRRS Grant	861	0	575	0	0	0	286
Lloyds Foundation	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0
MAD Grant	1,544	729	6,180	0	0	-4,228	321
Play Barclaycard Football Fund	325	0	0	0	0	0	325
PM CIN	-2,241	19,310	13,200	-756	2,038	0	2,587
PM Drama Club	405	0	0	0	0	0	405
PM Families First	297	0	23	0	0	0	274
PM Families First 2	12,975	0	0	0	0	0	12,975
PM Families First Parent Carers	-492	9,999	0	3,306	3,108	0	3,093
PM Families First Parent Support	5,895	24,117	28,858	0	0	0	1,154
PM Play Donations	11,315	500	0	0	0	0	11,815
PM Play Lottery	-7	95,009	79,382	6,505	7,672	0	1,443
PM Play Neighbourly	855	0	0	0	0	0	855
PM WCBC Holiday/Summer of fun	183	0	0	0	0	0	183
PM Play Winter Pressures	239	0	0	0	0	0	239
PM WCBC City of Culture	4,000	0	3,387	0	0	0	613

PM WCBC holiday	7,648	0	1,314	0	0	0	6,334
PM WG Holiday Playworks	22,915	12,000	2,590	1,500	0	0	30,825
Penycae Warm Space	0	871	827	0	0	0	44
Shopmobility Loneliness & Isolation Grant	2,500	0	0	0	0	2,500	0
Shopmobility Lottery	254	0	0	0	0	0	254
Shopmobility Shared Prosperity	0	21,467	2,371	0	0	19,096	0
Shopmobility Tesco Blue Tokens	-307	330	0	0	0	0	23
Shopmobiliity Warm Space	-4	0	0	0	0	-4	0
Town Centre Grant	0	49,999	49,999	0	0	0	0
Youth led Grants	2,414	6,750	9,071	0	93	0	0
WCBC 3rd Sector Hub	6,291	537	16,933	4,800	3,864	0	-18,769
WCBC City of Culture	750	0	0	0	0	0	750
WCBC Food Poverty	1,543	0	0	0	0	0	1,543
WCBC Mobility & Digital Inclusion	72,449	0	34,117	6,000	0	11,610	20,722
WCBC Wrexham Town Board Senedd Yr Ifanc	0	1,500	757	150	40	0	553
WG Winter Pressures	-273	0	0	0	0	0	-273
Wrexham Business Group Asset Lock	4,228	0	0	0	0	4,228	0
Wrexham City Of Culture	0	3,388	3,688	0	0	0	-300
Rounding	2	3	1				4
Total	384,082	674,678	612,304	72,208	42,895	40,800	290,557

Management charges/Internal charges totalling £155,903 represent grant monies expended on services provided by AVOW during the year. Management transfers include contribution towards AVOW's administration according to the terms of the grant. Transfers from unrestricted funds represents any overspends which have been covered by general funds. The negative balances at the 31st of March 2025 are timing issues and will be carried forward to the 2025/2026 accounts.

All the grants listed above are held by AVOW and managed according to their contract restrictions. All restricted funds are used to provide services, assistance and advice to our members, service users and members of the public in the Wrexham area and further afield. All expenses are applied against the correlating income. The property grant relates to the grant AVOW received to purchase Ty Avow, depreciation is charged against the income on an annual basis. Further details of these projects can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fund Balances on 31st March 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	118,271	117,720	235,991	219,471
Net Current Assets	501,246	172,837	674,083	703,068
	619,517	**290,557**	**910,074**	**922,539**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fund Balances on 31st March 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	95,910	123,561	219,471	228,789
Net Current Assets	442,545	260,523	703,068	579,366
	538,455	**384,084**	**922,539**	**808,155**

16. OPERATING LEASES

At 31st March 2025, the charity had commitments to make sure minim leases payment under non-cancellable leases as follows:

2025	
No later than 1 year	£2,623
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	£5,903
Later than 5 years	-
	£8,526

17 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Scot Owen is Chair of the Board of Trustees at Treasure Chest, a childcare provider based at Park CP School. Treasure chests are clients of AVOW payroll services. Sales Transactions during the year totalled £1,279 (2024: £1,323). Scott also manages Xplore who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW and providers of services to The Land. Sales transactions £10 (2024: £298).

Peter Howell is a Councillor for Wrexham County Borough Council, a Community Councillor for Gwersyllt and a Committee member of Wrexham Athletics club who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW.

Shanone Towers is a Director of Litegreen who rent premises at Ty Avow. Rent charges for 2024/2025 was £7,895 £7,125 2024).

Mervyn Dean, David Thompson are both Trustees of Wrexham Miners Project who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW. Sales Transactions during the year totalled £20.

Kevin Roberts is a Community Councillor for Little Acton of which AVOW have benefited from donations totalling £500.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1043989

Accounts

AVOW

Cyngor Gwirfoddol Sirol Wrexham
Wrexham's County Voluntary Council

Trustee Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2024

Including Strategic Report

Charity number: 1043989
Company number: 2993429

Important Notice

This report is a combined Directors Report and Trustees Annual report. This report also contains the Annual Strategic Report as required by law.

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Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended are:

- To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in the area of Wrexham County Borough and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health, the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- Each year the Trustees review these objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect the aims of the organisation. In carrying out this review the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The strategies and activities employed to achieve the charity's objectives are:

- To provide and promote an accessible and relevant range of locally available support services to enhance development and effectiveness of voluntary/community action.
- To identify the views of local community groups and represent these views to decision makers e.g., Welsh Government (WG), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and local statutory bodies, and in ways which lead to effective outcomes and partnerships.
- To assist the development of locally determined and agreed initiatives, which meet the needs of the voluntary sector and enhance community participation.
- To develop and sustain an effective volunteering service.
- To encourage recruitment into charitable, voluntary and community services.
- To provide and promote accurate, current and relevant information.
- To provide and promote a funding advice service for voluntary organisations.
- To provide and promote a range of training courses to the local voluntary sector.
- To assist organisations to operate legally and efficiently.
- To facilitate/support the establishment of effective structured partnerships with the local authority and other agencies for the benefit of voluntary and community organisations.
- To identify issues of concern to voluntary and community organisations.
- To identify gaps in provision that can be met by new or existing voluntary organisations working in collaboration with statutory bodies.
- To promote the interests of the Third Sector in planning service development including community regeneration projects.
- To establish links with the corporate sector; and
- To promote the sector's role in Health and Social Care.

Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW)

AVOW is the County Voluntary Council (CVC) for Wrexham and is part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW). TSSW consists of the 19 CVCs in Wales as well as Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

The shared goal is to enable the Third Sector and volunteers across Wales to contribute fully to individual and community wellbeing, now and for the future.

The focus of work concentrates on four pillars of activity:

- Volunteering
- Good Governance
- Sustainable Funding
- Engagement and Influencing

Strategic Report

Introduction

This report includes the combined reports of the Trustees Annual Report and the Directors Report. This section, the Strategic Report, brings together the contents for 'Achievements and Performance', 'Financial Review' and 'Plans for Future Periods' (herein called 'Future Plans For AVOW'). It contains the information required by the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

Achievements and performance

AVOW 2023-24 Core Highlights

AVOW records all interactions, funding support, grants distribution, training and events on a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Our statistics are shared with Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) who in turn reports the overall finds to Welsh Government. AVOW's key performance indicators for 2023-24 are as follows:

○ Funding obtained following support from AVOW	£2,448,460
○ Funding awarded by AVOW	£465,716
○ Organisations supported with direct advice	365
○ Organisations supported with specialist advice	241
○ Training participants	235
○ Partnership Events	26
○ Partnership event attendees	522
○ Volunteers supported to enter volunteering	233
○ Individuals placed into volunteering	211
○ Total membership of AVOW	149
○ AGM Attendance	83

Development Activities and Achievements: Core Services

AVOW's commitment to Welsh Government as the County Voluntary Council for Wrexham is to provide free advice and signposting around the four core pillars of; Good Governance, Sustainable Funding, Volunteering, and Engagement and Influencing.

Governance

AVOW provides guidance and signposting to expert organisations for community groups of all sizes on the appropriate governing structures. For example, in Autumn 2023, AVOW supported the development of the Wrexham Community and Cultural Trust, with specific guidance on the structure of the governing document, policies and procedures. The Trust was developed through feedback from WCBC's unsuccessful bid to become UK City of Culture 2025. The event judges felt while Wrexham had a strong bid and placed in the top four cities in the country, they were edged out by Bradford due to a lack of a formalised organisation to manage the events. AVOW holds a seat on the interim board to offer guidance and support as they navigated first setting up a Company Limited by Guarantee – Non-Profit and then through the Registered Charity application with the Charities Commission.

Funding

AVOW supported 155 organisations with funding advice and increased interactions by 71% over the previous year. Meet the Funder, online events, were offered to improve knowledge around The National Heritage Lottery Fund, Postcode Lottery and Arts Council for Wales. The AVOW Funding Facebook page provides funding news/updates has 324 followers.

AVOW partnered with Cadwyn Clwyd to apply for funding from WCBC's Shared Prosperity Funds to offer a Key Fund to community and voluntary organisations whose projects did not meet the £250,000 threshold for the original funding stream. This fund was established to create a small and a large grant (£10,000/£50,000 respectively) for Wrexham based community organisations. To date, funding of £446,629 has been allocated to support 23 organisations throughout the borough of Wrexham. AVOW's Funding Officer was seconded to this project the equivalent of two days per week for the duration of the funding.

AVOW rebranded the WCVA Youth Led Grants Initiative as the Wrexham Young Influencers. Local youth aged 13 to 25 participated in the WYI which is a grant making body for young people by young people. A total of £7,660 was awarded to nine youth-led initiatives. Projects included establishment of a new youth club in a rural location, equipment for silent discos, a biodiverse accessible hotspot and holiday care packages for young people at risk of homelessness who were facing their first holiday season on their own.

Volunteering

This year a new Volunteering in Wales website was formally launched by TSSW and WCVA. AVOW played a key role in the development of this website and supported numerous organisations and volunteers through the registration process. AVOW added 72 organisations with active volunteering opportunities in Wrexham to the www.volunteering-wales.net website. AVOW assisted an additional 79 individual volunteers with the online registration process. AVOW's in person volunteer opportunities team recorded an additional 85 placements in the year.

Volunteer Manager Network Meetings are in person events to support local organisations with all aspects of volunteering from recruitment and retention to policies and procedures. A quarterly joint network meeting has been developed combining all AVOW networks (Volunteering, Health and Wellbeing, Social Justice) to encourage cross networking and sharing of best practices throughout the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations of Wrexham. This new format was very popular, reaching more than 100 registered participants. Statistics show that more than 400 individuals read the Volunteer Network newsletters which became bi-lingual in 2023.

To celebrate the annual Volunteers Week (1st to the 7th of June), AVOW arranged two volunteer recognition events; one for adult and one for youth volunteers. More than 100 people attended the two events at Ial Restaurant Coleg Cambria. WCBC Lord Mayor Andy Williams and High Sheriff Kate Hill Trevor present certificates to more than 75 volunteers assisted by the AVOW Chair Peter Howell. The event provided an opportunity for AVOW to thank volunteers for their valued contribution to the Wrexham Community with a special musical performance by local community group; Dynamic Signing Sensations.

Engagement

AVOW is responsible for ensuring the Third Sector is appropriately represented on county and regional decision-making bodies. To this end, AVOW actively engages with Public Service organisations ensuring that the voice and views of the Third Sector are presented to strategic partnerships and considered within consultations. The Third Sector should always play a major part in the way that strategies and services can be developed as the champion of the community.

AVOW's Third Sector representation is widely varied. A sample of regularly attended boards and steering groups is listed below. Most meetings during 2023/24 continued on digital platforms that have often resulted in higher attendance rates ensuring the Third Sector is heard by the widest possible audience:

- Wrexham Shared Prosperity Fund Steering Board
- Wrexham Town Board

- Wrexham and Flintshire Public Service Board
- Regional Partnership Board
- Wrexham Civic Leaders Board
- Wrexham Youth Justice Forum
- Regional Integration Fund Regional Management Group.

AVOW enjoys a strong relationship with our local authority, Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC). The Chief Officer has regular meetings with the WVBC Senior Leadership Team to discuss issues facing the sector as well as find synergies between Council and community led initiatives.

Marketing and Social Media

In October 2023, AVOW recruited a Marketing and Media Manager to improve the organisations reach into the local community with special regard to Welsh language standards.

AVOW has focused on creating a strategy to maximise relevant connection with our information, as well as ensuring AVOW has a presence on new and emerging social media platforms (Mastodon and Bluesky, for example) as the landscape continues to evolve. Facebook remains the primary focus, which also includes Instagram as the platforms are now connected. Accessible Wrexham Facebook page and given it a new lease of life.

In FY 23/24 AVOW launched a new bilingual website with improved accessibility and more relevant information for users, with an updated news page that is able to hold both press-releases and current articles.

Work has been done on improved branding and brand recognition, with improved logos for Shopmobility and the Community Hubs, as well as refreshing the colours on the main AVOW logo to match the new, vibrant colours of the website. AVOW produced new marketing materials and created a Team Uniform for Events and Activities.

Website: Avow.org (re-launched November 2023)
Users: 12K
Average Engagement: 1m
User Origin: Organic search (6999), or following a direct link (3435)

Facebook: AVOW Main Page (FY 23/24)
Reach: 97.3K
Content Interactions: 4.6K
Visits: 13.1K
Followers: 3.8K

Development Activities and Achievements: Health and Wellbeing Team

Health and Wellbeing Officer

The Third Sector Health and Wellbeing Development Officer (Health & Wellbeing Officer) is responsible for linking health and wellbeing organisations providing services in Wrexham with statutory services to ensure complete care for our citizens. The Health & Wellbeing Network (run jointly with FLVC) facilitates these organisations to network throughout the year.

AVOW created a Joint Network which included representatives from; the LGBTQI+ Network, the Children's and Young People Network (Wrexham specific), and Covid Food Poverty and Inequality Network Forum, linking poor health with poverty and inequalities in the Wrexham population (inverse care). This Joint Network meeting proved popular as it reduced the number of meetings on the calendar and increased co-production among the varied groups who may not normally come into contact with one another.

The Health and Wellbeing Officers from all six North Wales CVCs held two joint events in 2023/24. The first event was a Christmas end of the year Network attracting local and regional organisations. The second was held on the the 14th March at the Rhyl Rugby Club in Flintshire. Centre. The theme of the event was social prescribing best practices and highlighted the many innovations at work in North Wales. Over 80 participants attended. This conference was so popular that a waiting list had to be opened for guests.

The AVOW, WCBC, and BCUHB partnership makes up the Wrexham Wellbeing Hub Steering Group. The Steering Group has overseen the further development of the Wrexham Wellbeing Hub and the feasibility study into creating a Health and Wellbeing Hub in Cefn Mawr.

Wellbeing Hub Development Officer

In 2022 AVOW, with seed funding from WCBC, developed a Community Hub Development Officer role to reinvigorate underutilized community buildings to bring meaningful services to local citizens in their own communities. Due to the success of the pilot project at the Gwersyllt Resource Centre, AVOW continues to solely fund this role in 23/24. AVOW is actively seeking funding to continue this vital project.

The AVOW led Gwersyllt Community Support Hub continues to grow and offers beneficiaries support and information on a range of services, learning opportunities, activities and groups to support health and wellbeing. Over 3300 interactions have taken place in FY23/24; including exercise classes, cooking, digital inclusion, training and coffee mornings.

Complimentary to the daily activities, AVOW organized two health and wellbeing events featuring the local services provided by more than 30 partner agencies. These additional events brought over 180 community members to the Gwersyllt Hub to learn about the services. Robust partnership working has been fundamental to the success of the Hub so far with the hub Officer proactively trying to engage new organisations and beneficiaries to the Hub so that more people can access services and improve health and wellbeing.

Another essential part of the Hub's success has been through the growing number of Hub volunteers, increasing from 1 Hub volunteer in May 2023 to 8 volunteers. The volunteers have contributed enthusiasm, friendliness, support and dedication to the Hub which has seen them flourish within their role and as individuals which has been a pleasure to witness.

Shopmobility & Accessibility

In FY23/24 AVOW merged the roles of Accessibility Development Officer and Shopmobility Manager to create a more cohesive accessibility offering in Wrexham. The AVOW Wrexham Shopmobility service operates from Wrexham bus station hiring out scooters and wheelchairs to enable people with mobility issues the freedom to access shops and services. Accessible Wrexham is a signposting forum to encourage people with any physical or hidden disability to have access to Wrexham and all it has to offer.

Shopmobility service has grown from opening only two days (Monday & Thursday 10:00 – 16:00) to a full five days (Monday – Friday 10:00 – 16:00). Shopmobility is also introducing one Saturday opening per month and bespoke extended opening hours for special events such as St. David's Day and Holiday Markets.

AVOW received grant funding from The National Lottery, Tesco and the Ann Dutchess of Westminster Foundation. Through this funding AVOW has replaced the ageing and unreliable fleet of scooters with eight Pride ZT10 mobility Scooters, one Kymco Maxi XLS and four Pride Aluma lite boot scooters. We have also introduced four Excel Elise disability pushchairs designed for older children with additional needs; opening our service to a whole new demographic of members. Shopmobility has improved its social media & digital reach as well as producing traditional advertisement material which has led to a

huge increase in both new membership and both short- & long-term scooter rentals. WCBC has also partnered with AVOW to purchase mobility scooters that suit the needs of our growing clientele.

To create a truly Accessible Wrexham, AVOW is working to create a network of community groups, service providers, and well-being hubs within Wrexham, with the support of local businesses, to gain a working knowledge and understanding of the many different accessibility needs and requirements of the wide and varying demographics of Wrexham.

February 2024 saw the launch of the Accessibility & Shopmobility roadshow. The road shows offer the opportunity to learn about the services available in Shopmobility while reducing, or even removing, hidden barriers such as language, location, and anxiety, that might prevent people accessing the service. It also provides a platform to meet new demographics from across Wrexham, to learn and understand their accessibility concerns and needs, form relationships, and offer help and support.

Development Activities and Achievements: Special Projects

Wrexham Community Lottery

AVOW, in conjunction with Gatherwell, created and launched the lottery with over 40 local good causes on board in 2021. Ticket holders can win up to £25,000 as well as support a local cause who keep 50% of ticket sales. 2023/2024 was the full financial year of the project and AVOW, from their own ticket sales and a small % of overall ticket sales, have raised £2,708 in the reporting period. Local causes have raised £16,227 since the project started.

Development Activities and Achievements: Local Projects

Little Sunflowers Childcare Centre, Plas Madoc

AVOW Board of Trustees oversee the Little Sunflowers Childcare Centre (LSCC). The Centre offers childcare provision from age 2 to 4years of age through:

- Flying Start
- Rising 3's and 4's
- Early Education

- 30-hour childcare offer

Funded Early Education provided a grant of £250 through the Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards programme for raising standards in emotional, learning, and physical needs. LSCC purchased loose parts to enhance creative learning and develop the indoor/outdoor environment in line with the new curriculum.

Little Sunflowers have this year been successful in received £15,000 from Neumark Foundation to a breakfast club and a fun club to provide additional support to children and parents.

Breakfast club: This daily programme ensures all children have access to breakfast before starting the nursery lessons. The funding allows children with special dietary requirements to eat safely with their friends. Along with the food provided by the Neumark Foundation this programme also receives regular donations of cereal and cereal bars from Kellogg's in Wrexham.

Family Fun club: This drop-in group runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday and offers information and support on a range of parenting challenges while the participants enjoy arts and craft, and other fun activities. This group has been very popular with 25-30 attending every session. Thursday afternoons are reserved for private sessions for families who may require additional support.

Play and Community Development Team, Plas Madoc

The AVOW Play and Community Development Team is funded through Invest Local, Children in Need and Families First to work in Plas Madoc providing a service for children, parents and adults of the community. The team continued to use National Lottery Community Funds to develop a new model of integrated Play and Community Development work which building on existing high-quality Play and Youth provision and extending our reach into the wider community.

The Land, our junk playground, also offers volunteering opportunities for young people and adults within the Community - this scheme aims to increase levels of aspiration and improve the life chances of adults and also young people not in employment, education or training. We aim to work towards offering more formal access locally to dedicated programmes of support linked to training and education which can equip young people/adults who would otherwise be caught up in cycles of joblessness or self-limiting behaviour.

Other services for youth, families, and the wider community:

- Youth Activities: Playschemes/ Street Schemes, Street Football, Youth Club
- 1:1 work support for children with additional needs

- Parental Support Kettle Club, Breakfast & Brews, Crafty Brew
- The Pantry provides access to affordable food.
- Weekly drop-in meetings open to all community members.
- Over 50's: Social support and activities for older residents.
- Environmental Projects: Garden Gang and Plants Madoc
- Volunteer scheme

AVOW are fundholders for Plas Madoc Invest Local which funds WAPM who currently contribute towards the Play/Community Development Manager and a Community Development Officer for We are Plas Madoc.

Financial Review

AVOW started the financial year with a predicted surplus of £26k, due to additional funds received and strategic changes in year this has increased to a £45k surplus on unrestricted funds as shown in the accounts. We are currently midway through multiple 5-year grants from The National Lottery, Community Funds for The Land, Little Sunflowers and Flying start with WCBC and are financially secure. We received additional funds in year from The Lottery Community Fund, Anne Duchess of Westminster Fund and we were one of the first charities in Wales to benefit from the Charity Commission Revitalising Trusts scheme.

We will continue to look to the future and plan financially to apply for additional funding sources in order to support the core function of AVOW but also to seek continuation funding for those projects that may be coming to the end of their funding period. We will continue to monitor our finances monthly with the help of detailed management reports, and also through quarterly Trustee Finance meetings. These meetings are a chance to debate, challenge and question any figures that are presented.

The AVOW building continues to be well occupied and brings in additional funds to support AVOWs core functions. The building continues to need additional works as highlighted in the 2022 building survey and the unrestricted funds surplus noted in year has been designated to support the building works in future years. This investment into the building will ensure we have a healthy working environment for staff, volunteers and Trustees but also a vibrant environment for tenants and possibly increase occupancy.

AVOW continues to be a Real Living Wage (RLW) employer and increased staff to a minimum of £12 per hour from 1st January 2024, with all other staff receiving an uplift of the larger of 5% or £2,350 (pro rata).

Inflation was high during the year and Trustees want to ensure we retain staff and reduce the burden of financial difficulties as best we can.

We have been fortunate during the year to manage our cash flow wisely and invest in multiple long term fixed investments through Flagstone. Due to the continuous high interest rates in year, we have generated £9,441 in bank interest between our Flagstone accounts and our current accounts. We continue to aim to deposit 4/5 deposits under the FSCS level of £85,000 at one time, and which mature equally throughout the year.

Restricted reserves have increased in year to a value of £384,084. Unrestricted funds have also increased during the year due to the additional projects and grants undertaken in the year. AVOW now have a very robust unrestricted balance of £538,455 at the 31st March 2024. These funds are broken down into designated building costs £177,930, Redundancy/Other costs £167,354, Leaving our general reserves at £193,170 and free reserves at £69,609. We will apply for match funding and/or capital grants to part fund building upgrades, however, we have assigned the additional restricted funding to ensure Ty Avow receives the necessary repairs and maintains its value as an asset.

The Trustees have reviewed all finances for 2024/2025 and accepted a budget to 31st March 2025 that shows a small surplus of £1,635. This surplus has derived from the wise planning decisions, changes in the staffing structure, and additional project funding secured. We will continue to build on this pattern of decision making and actively seek new project opportunities to ensure the longevity of the organisation.

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding sources for AVOW remains the Infrastructure Core Grant from the Welsh Government - administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action.

There are other various grants and Service Level Agreements with Wrexham County Borough Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

WCBC Adventure Play Project – Holiday Funds
WCBC Flying Start
WCBC Early Education
WCBC City of Culture Grant
WCBC Warm Spaces
WCBC Shopmobility Funds
WCBC RRRS
WCBC EYDCP
WCBC Winter of Wellness
WCBC Food Poverty Grants
WCBC Sustainability & Isolation Grant

WCBC Community Cohesion Grant
WCBC Capital & Digital Inclusion Grant
BCUHB Health Facilitator

Other substantial funders are detailed below:

BCT Invest Local for Plas Madoc
Children in Need
The National Lottery Community Fund
Cadwyn Clwyd
We Are Plas Madoc
Moondance
Neumark Foundation
Anne Duchess of Westminster Fund
Tesco Grants
Charity Commission Revitalising Trusts

Reserves Policy

During the year the Trustees agreed to AVOW's policy of having at least 3-6 months annual running costs, together with a cash flow provision and a redundancy contingency in reserve. Trustees have assigned £38K to contribute towards the funding to support Volunteering and Community posts (remains at 4-year level). In practice this mean £137,354, representing 3-6 months running costs, designated funds and redundancy contingency. Trustees have also designated £207,931 for building works on the Ty AVOW building. Total designated reserves are £345,285 which is covered by the unrestricted reserve of £538,455 at 31st March 2024. Free reserves on 31st March 2023 amounted to £69,609 (31st March 2023 £63,765. The Trustees noted that the free reserves level at the year-end is an improvement again on last year's figures due to adapting and utilising our assets to create additional unrestricted reserves.

Investment Policy

AVOW's Memorandum and Articles of Association authorises the investment of monies of the Association not immediately required for its purpose, in or upon such investments, securities, or property as may be thought fit subject nevertheless to such conditions if any as may for the time being, be imposed or required by law.

In practice this has led to AVOW investing funding from its reserves with several banks to ensure that we do not exceed our limit of compensation cover to secure the funds within a single Bank Licence cover of £85,000. This investment decision has been reviewed regularly during the year and has been found to be the best available option for AVOW to ensure the level of risk in investing in a single source is reduced.

Future Plans for AVOW

AVOW is actively working to improve our reach to local community organisations throughout Wrexham. We have adopted the phrase, AVOW, your County Voluntary Council to highlight that our services are available to all. AVOW will use social media to not only highlight the good work being done by the organisation in Wrexham but also to highlight the work of the multitude of voluntary and community organisations which make Wrexham a great place to live. We now have the capability to create video content as well as podcasts to reach a wider audience. We will utilize moder technology to track and report on our social media reach.

AVOW is coming to the end of an internal reorganisation which has rightsized the team and created the conditions for improved support offerings to our member organisations and community clients. A joint Governance initiative with our counterparts at FLVC (Flintshire Local Voluntary Council), means that AVOW now has access to a governance expert for support on complicated matters.

In May 2024, AVOW won the tender to manage the WCBC South Consortia of Community Agents. AVOW will have a team of eight Community Agents providing support to 18 Community Councils. Community Agents support anyone aged 50+ to improve their health and wellbeing through meaningful engagement and signposting. The Community Agents will work together with our current Health and Wellbeing Team and Core Team to improve the reach of community and voluntary services throughout Wrexham County and encourage collaboration with our statutory services.

AVOW recognises the success of the Community Hub Development Officer role in reinvigorating community assets through connecting third sector and statutory services with local communities. The Community Hubs Officer has begun to work with Acton Community Council to bring more services to their community. We hope to offer support to more of Wrexham's Community Councils in reaching these vital services for their residents. We are actively seeking funding to continue this role, however, the challenges of funding sources for all third sector organisations are great at this time.

Reference and administrative details

Charity number: 1043989

Company number: 2993429

Principal Office: Tŷ Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, LL11 1ND

Auditors: WR Partners LLP, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT

Bankers: Nat West Bank Ltd, 33 Lord Street, Wrexham, LL11 1LS

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

		Appointed	Reappointed
Peter Howell	Chair	2021	
Barbara Roxburgh		2002	Retired 2023
Mervyn Dean		2015	2021
Wanjiku Mbugua		2015	2023
David Thompson		2016	2021
Howard Davies		2017	2023
Margaret Heaton		2019	

Helen Davies		2020	
Scot Owen	Co-Vice Chair	2020	
John Swarbrick		2020	Resigned 2023
Kevin Forbes	Co-Vice Chair	2021	
Natasha Borton		2023	
Shanone Towers		2023	
Kevin Roberts		2023	

Chief Officer: Dawn Roberts-McCabe

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

AVOW is a Company Limited by Guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7th November 1994 (as amended in 2022). AVOW is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Membership is open to all voluntary and community organisations collectively known as the Third Sector and individuals acting for the benefit of the community either as volunteers or employees. The Governing Document is reviewed annually.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees, which can have no more than 20 and not less than 6 members, sets the strategic direction of the charity. The Board of Trustees meet quarterly and there is a standing Finance Committee. A Chief Officer is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity within a framework of delegated powers along with a team of managers.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The AVOW Board consists of no fewer than six and up to 20 volunteer Trustees who are also Directors of the Company serving for a three-year period. All trustees resign by rotation on a three yearly cycle. The Trustees may at any time co-opt any individual who is qualified to be appointed as a Truste to fill a vacancy in their number or as an additional Trustee, but such a co-opted Trustee holds office only until the next election of Trustees or until removed by the Trustees (whichever is earlier) or insert other restrictions.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Trustees are appointed by the Trustees annually. The Trustees have the power to appoint or co-opt further Trustees to fill vacancies following a thorough skills audit of existing Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction to brief them on legal obligations under charity and company law, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes as well as

an overview of the recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate in house and external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role. All Trustees are required to undertake online training in Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Data Protection, PREVENT, Whistleblowing and Information Security. All Trustees have undergone a DBS check in line with the requirements of Care Inspectorate Wales as AVOW undertake regulated activity at Little Sunflowers Child Care in Plas Madoc.

Related Parties

AVOW collaborates with a wide range of partners at local, regional, and national levels. These include public bodies and other third sector organisations. The purpose of the collaboration includes development of new projects and services, to secure additional resources, or to represent the interests of the third sector. AVOW receives core funding from the Welsh Government (administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action, WCVA), through the National Infrastructure Agreement. The charity builds on this core funding by attracting support from a range of sources including Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and Cadwyn Clwyd. Where trustees have any links with related parties these are declared on a register and trustees are required to declare any potential conflict of interest at the start of each meeting where the Chair will take appropriate action.

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees, Chief Officer and Development Manager (Volunteer, Community, and Finance) as comprising the key management personnel of the charity. All the Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

Trustees are required to declare all relevant interests and withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

The Finance Committee meet annually to review the pay and remuneration of the senior management team. The review of all senior staff pay is referenced to the NJC negotiated pay scales but not fully adopted. Any proposed adjustments to the pay of the senior management team are confirmed by the Finance Committee.

Risk management

An organisational Risk Register has been produced and is reviewed by Trustees annually. This identifies organisational risks and the risk management strategies in place to mitigate those risks.

Specialist advisors are contracted to oversee all Health and Safety matters by assessing and advising on risk assessments to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, visitors, beneficiaries, and stakeholders and the Trustees consider the charity to be well positioned to manage.

AVOW contracts with external professional advisors on matters such as:

- Employment (renewed May 2022)
- Health & Safety (2024 for three years)
- Insurance (June 2023 for three years)
- Financial Auditing (next review January 2025)

Vision Statement

The AVOW Vision is the voluntary and community sectors achieving

their missions for the benefit of the community within the County Borough of Wrexham.

Mission Statement

To enable the voluntary and community sectors to achieve their missions for the benefit of the community within the County Borough of Wrexham, AVOW will:

- Support the development of individuals and organisations within the voluntary and community sectors.
- Establish and sustain good practice.
- Undertake the provision of services appropriate to the voluntary and community sectors.
- Consult, represent and champion the voluntary and community sectors locally and nationally.

Annual Trustee and Staff Awaydays are held to focus on key issues and identify challenges and opportunities; to ensure that core functions are in line with the aims and objectives.

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing such financial statements, the Board of Trustees follows best practice and;

- selects suitable accounting policies and applies them consistently.
- observes the methods and principles in the charities SORP.
- makes judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepares the financial statements on the "going concern" basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

Members of the Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees, who are Directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

WR Partners LLP, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT were appointed, following a tender process in December 2014, as the charitable company's auditors and have continued in that capacity until the end of the 2021/22 financial year. The tender process was completed in January 2022 and WR Partners were instructed to continue as Audit provider for a further 3 years.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2015 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Approval

This Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 3rd September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Howell (Chair)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company'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 Auditors' 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

• adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern

basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an 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:

The audit team obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are those which relate to the reporting framework (The Charity SORP 2019), the relevant tax compliance regulations and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We understood how the charitable company complies with these frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We also reviewed board minutes to identify any recorded instances of irregularity or non-compliance that might have a material impact on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement including how fraud may occur by meeting with key management to understand where they considered there was a susceptibly to fraud. Based on our understanding our procedures involved enquiries of management and those charged with governance, manual journal entry testing, cashbook reviews for large and unusual items and the challenge of significant estimates used in preparing the financial statements.

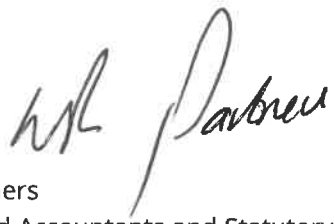
Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and society awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's 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 it's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



WR Partners
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
1Edison Court
Ellice Way
Wrexham Technology Park
Wrexham
LL13 7YT

Date: 16 October 2024

WR Partners are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	3	1,797	201	**1,998**	2,227
Investment Income-interest receivable		9,441	-	**9,441**	2,296
Income from charitable activities	4	354,953	623,588	**978,541**	934,443
Total income		366,191	623,789	**989,980**	938,966
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	5	428,693	446,903	**875,596**	949,293
Total expenditure		428,693	446,903	**875,596**	949,293
Net (expenditure)/income for the year before transfers	7	(62,502)	176,886	**114,383**	(10,327)
Gross transfers between funds	P	107,787	(107,787)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**45,285**	**69,099**	**114,383**	(10,327)
Reconciliation of funds:	-				
Total funds brought forward		493,170	314,985	**808,155**	818,482
Total funds carried forward	14	538,455	384,084	**922,539**	808,155

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		219,469		228,789
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	84,965		34,022	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		776,644		665,785	
		861,609		699,807	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(158,358)		(120,441)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			703,070		579,366
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			922,539		808,155
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13		-		-
NET ASSETS			922,539		808,155
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:					
Restricted funds	14		384,084		314,985
Unrestricted funds					
General reserves	14		193,170		193,170
Designated funds	14		345,285		300,000
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			922,539		808,155

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and their preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors 3rd September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Howell (Chairman)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movements in funds	115,732	(10,327)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	31,867	35,225
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(67,167)	187,504
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	52,975	(75,040)
Net cash generated from operating activities	**133,407**	**137,362**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(22,549)	(6,252)
Net cash used in investing activities	**(22,549)**	**(6,252)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	110,858	131,110
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	665,785	534,675
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	**776,643**	**665,785**
Cash and cash equivalents at the yearend comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	776,643	665,785
	776,643	**665,785**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES: -

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements:

(a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (October 2019– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have reviewed the current position for 2024/2025 and anticipate that they will fulfil the same service delivery in 2023/2024. Any cuts in income will have the appropriate decrease in expenses to safeguard the current level of unrestricted reserves.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statements of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of service provided by the volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, when related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over them, any condition associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

(e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

(f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charities work or for specific projects being undertaken.

Internal transfers between funds relate to management costs, support and administration charges applied to the projects and recharged back to unrestricted costs. These are a contribution towards management, support and administration costs of the charity as a whole.

(g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which supports AVOW and its activities.

(i) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Purchases of furniture and equipment are capitalised where they can be used for more than one year and cost over £500. Depreciation on fixed assets is calculated to write down their costs or valuation to their estimated residual value over the period of their economic lives at the following rates: -

Freehold property	-	2% straight line basis
Furniture and Fixtures	-	20% straight line basis
Computers and Equipment	-	33% straight line basis
Motor Vehicles	-	20% straight line basis

(j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discount due.

(k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term investments.

(l) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(m) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(n) Pensions

All employees are invited to join AVOWs workplace pension provided by The Peoples Pension with a non-contributory 7% contribution on gross salary. The pension is auto enrolment compliant and all those who had not joined the pension scheme as of November 2015 were automatically enrolled when necessary. The contributions made for the accounting period are treated as an expense and were £35,147 (2023: £34,605)

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimated and assumptions:

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. In the opinion of the Trustees there are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2 LEGAL STATUSES OF THE CHARITY

AVOW is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

3 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Membership Fees	1,408	-	1,408	1,105
Donations and Legacies (including Gift Aid)	389	201	590	1,122
	1,797	**201**	**£1,998**	**2,227**

Income from membership fees, donation and legacies was £1,998 (2023: £2,227) of which £1,797 was unrestricted (2023: £1,140) and £201 was restricted (2023: £1,087).

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4a	**INCOMING FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**				
	Grants and Other Service Contract Income				
	Wrexham County Borough Council				
	Plas Madoc Flying Start	-	88,455	88,455	81,762
	Early Education	-	8,750	8,750	15,150
	Shopmobility	-	-	-	10,000
	Adventure Play Grant	-	16,290	16,290	27,000
	Families First	-	33,060	33,060	29,343
	RRRS	-	250	250	2,367
	Community Cohesion Grant	-	2,250	2,250	-
	Ageing Well	-	22,727	22,727	72,000
	Capital Digital Inclusion	-	72,449	72,449	-
	Food Poverty Grants	-	-	-	20,000
	WCBC LSCC Childcare Funding	-	-	-	470
	WCBC EYDCP	-	-	-	1,500
	WCBC City of Culture Grant	-	-	-	12,500
	WCBC Warm Spaces	-	-	-	1,950

(Continued on next page)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4a. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
BCUHB				
Health Facilitator	-	42,452	42,452	42,452
Wales Council for Voluntary Action				
Local Voluntary Scheme	200,754	-	200,754	188,404
Child Poverty	-	-	-	2,000
Youth Led Grants	-	6,650	6,650	6,650
Other Funders				
Anne Duchess of Westminster	-	10,000	10,000	-
Lottery	-	92,646	92,646	90,287
Lottery Community Fund	-	10,000	10,000	-
Children In Need	-	18,838	18,838	22,511
Charity Commission	-	30,000	30,000	-
Moondance	-	-	-	35,000
Plas Madoc Invest Local	-	78,174	78,174	78,174
Cadwyn Clwyd	-	50,895	50,895	26,269
We Are Plas Madoc	-	-	-	1,866
Tesco	-	990	990	-
Neumark Foundation	-	2,500	2,500	-
Wrexham University	-	-	-	3,000
Gwersyllt Community Council	-	-	-	500
Barclaycard Community Football	-	-	-	500
Neighbourly Fund	-	555	555	1,000
AVOW Loneliness & Isolation Fund	-	4,660	4,660	5,000
Asset Lock	-	16,211	16,211	-
Match Funding	-	13,231	13,231	11,360
		-		
Total Grants Receivable	**200,754**	**622,033**	**822,787**	**789,015**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4b. INCOME EARNED FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES				
Rents and services	45,513	-	45,513	28,467
Photocopying and postage	200	(43)	157	73
Payroll services	78,304	-	78,304	76,629
Training courses	5,529	-	5,529	4,065
Community Lottery	2,025	898	2,923	3,708
LSCC Income	9,531	-	9,531	20,519
Shopmobility	5,982	-	5,982	5,727
Other income	7,115	700	7,816	6,240
	354,953	**623,288**	**978,541**	**934,443**

Income from charitable activities was £978,541 (2023: £934,443) of which £354,953 related to unrestricted reserves (2023: £341,124) and £623,288 restricted reserves (2023: £593,319).

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
5 ANALYSES OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:				
Grants Payable				
Youth Led Grants	-	7,659	7,659	8,150
MAD Grant	-	-	-	5,292
WG Food Poverty	-	-	-	1,065
Glyndwr University	-	3,000	3,000	
WCBC City of Culture	-	-		9,250
WCBC loneliness & Isolation	-	16,500	16,500	33,000
WCBC Food Poverty	-	(1,543)	(1,543)	20,000
Other Costs of Charitable Activity				
Volunteer Match	13,231	-	13,231	14,061
Staff salaries & pensions	274,336	350,592	624,928	622,305
Staff travel	798	466	1,264	891
Staff training	5,818	324	6,142	808
Other staff costs	1,892	-	1,892	6,764
DBS Charges	437	45	482	641
Volunteer expenses & Training	348	97	445	91
Depreciation	26,025	5,844	31,869	35,227
Telephone	971	210	1,181	1,671
Computer maintenance and expenses	23,019	20	23,039	19,812
Insurance	8,421	2,127	10,548	9,309
Heat and light	6,341	-	6,341	5,994
Water rates	498	-	498	432
Repairs and maintenance	23,106	1,279	24,385	21,696
Printing, postage & stationery	2,264	15	2,279	1,716
Projects and events	3,582	42,913	46,495	61,593
Project publicity and promotion costs	1,176	7,943	9,119	3,069
Sundry expenses	231	-	231	732
Bank charges	3,954	-	3,954	3,521
Subscriptions, books and publications	1,009	-	1,009	1,532
Research Project		-	-	5,000
Shopmobility	1,993		1,993	3,881
Van Expenses		2,062	2,062	561
Governance Costs				
Audit fees	9,866	-	9,866	10,356
Accountancy Fees	-	1,770	1,770	-
Legal and professional fees	,12,401	-	12,401	18,926
AGM Expenses	3,575	-	3,575	1,075
Health & Safety	201	-	201	56
	428,693	**446,903**	**875,596**	**949,293**

Expenditure on charitable activities was £875,596 (2003: £949,293) of which £428,693 was unrestricted (2023: £464,489) and £446,903 and restricted (2023: £484,804)

6 ANALYSES OF OTHER COSTS

	Costs of Activities £	Support Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Volunteer Match	-	13,231	13,231	14,061
Staff salaries & pensions	467,921	157,007	624,928	622,305
Staff travel	647	617	1,265	891
Staff training	434	5,708	6,142	808
Other staff costs	35	1,857	1,892	6,764
DBS Charges	45	437	482	641
Volunteer expenses & Training	225	219	445	91
Other training costs	8,730	50	8,780	20,816
Depreciation	5,844	26,025	31,869	35,227
Telephone	210	971	1,181	1,671
Computer maintenance and expenses	1,350	21,689	23,039	19,812
Insurance	2,127	8,421	10,548	9,309
Heat and light	-	6,341	6,341	5,994
Water rates	-	498	498	432
Repairs and maintenance	1,408	22,976	24,385	21,696
Printing, postage & stationery	150	2,129	2,279	1,716
Projects and events	44,885	1,610	46,495	61,593
Project publicity and promotion costs	8,131	989	9,120	3,069
Sundry expenses	31	198	231	732
Bank charges	543	3,412	3,954	3,521
Subscriptions, books and publications	486	523	1,009	1,532
Research Project	-	-	-	5,000
Shopmobility	1,993	-	1,993	3,881
Van Expenses	2,062	-	2,062	561
Legal and professional fees	-	12,401	12,401	18,926
AGM Expenses	-	3,575	3,575	1,075
Health & Safety	-	201	201	56
	549,027	**300,951**	**849,978**	**872,494**

Expenditure on other costs was £849,978 (2023: £872,494) of which £549,027 was cost of activities (2023: £524,153) and £300,951 was support costs (2023: £330,341).

	2024	2023
	£	£
7 NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	31,869	35,225
Auditors Remuneration	9,763	10,356

8GROSS TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

This figure comprises internal recharges for services provided by AVOW to various restricted fund projects and contributions towards AVOW's management of the restricted projects, net of any overspends on restricted projects which have been covered by general funds. A more detailed breakdown is given under note 14 c).

9TRUSTEES AND EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

a) Trustees:
No Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2023- Nil).
Travel expenses to the value of Nil (2023: Nil) were paid to 0 trustees (2023: Nil) during the year to attend meetings.
During the year a number of trustees donated their expenses to AVOW. All the transactions were conducted on an arm's length basis in support of the charity.

b) Employees:	2024 £	2023 £
Staff Costs:		
Salaries and Wages	552,151	543,294
Social Security Costs	37,630	35,810
Pension Costs	35,147	34,065
Redundancy Costs	-	9,136
	624,928	**622,305**

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2023 – nil).
The key management personnel of the charity are the Chief Officer and Development Manager for Volunteering, Community & Finance. Their employee benefits total £105,126 (2023: £73,937).

	2024	2023
The average number of employees was:	27	34
The average number employees FTE	18	24.5

10 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Building £	Furniture & Fixtures £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
Opening balance 1 April 2023	292,108	151,676	51,214	96,689	591,687
Additions	-	1,641	-	20,908	22,549
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance 31 March 2024	292,108	153,317	51,214	117,597	614,236
DEPRECIATION					
Opening Balance 1 April 2023	141,672	144,494	46,461	30,271	362,898
Charge for the year	5,842	4,237	2,788	19,000	31,867
Disposals					
Closing Balance 31 March 2024	147,514	148,731	49,249	49,271	394,765
Net Book Value 31 March 2024	**144,594**	**4,586**	**1,965**	**68,326**	**219,471**
Net Book Value 31 March 2023	150,436	7,182	4,753	66,418	228,789

The freehold property referred to above is Ty Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, which is included in these financial statements at original cost less depreciation.

12 DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	64,014	24,527
Prepayments	20,233	4,093
Accrued income	403	5,087
Accrued Gift Aid Tax	315	315
	84,965	**34,022**

	2024	2023
	£	£
13 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade Creditors	39,043	27,247
Accruals and Deferred Income	17,795	15,195
PAYE & NI Creditor	11,555	8,125
Payroll Creditor	90,145	69,874
	158,538	**120,441**

The creditor and bank balances include £106,439 in respect of the HMRC creditor for AVOW's payroll clients along with credits held on account.

14 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS TO 31ST MARCH 2024

a) Summary of funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	493,170	314,985	808,155	818,482
Net Movement in Funds	45,285	69,099	114,384	(10,327)
Carried forward	**538,455**	**384,084**	**922,539**	**808,155**

b) Unrestricted Funds

	General Fund	Designated Funds: Running Costs and Redundancy Contingency	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	193,170	300,000	493,170	466,767
Income & Expenditure Account	(165,214)	45,285	(119,929)	(119,929)
Transfer from Restricted Funds	165,214	-	165,214	146,332
Carried forward	**193,170**	**345,285**	**538,455**	**493,170**

The designated funds represent 6 months running costs, redundancy costs and funds to support the upgrade of the Ty Avow building.

c) Restricted Funds

	At 1st April 2023	Incoming	Outgoing	Management Transfer	Internal Charges/Overheads	Transfers from/ to Unrestricted Funds	At 31st March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accessibility Projects Moondance	35,000	0	19,897	2,070	1,595	0	11,438
Anne Duchess of Westminster Fund	0	10,000	0	0	0	9,846	154
BCT Adv Play & Dev officer Plan 2	10,548	63,853	54,840	4,171	4,982	0	10,408
BCT Development officer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BCT Plan 2	17,406	14,321	11,058	20	0	0	20,649
Broughton Comm Asset Lock	0	11,982	678	0	0	0	11,304
Cadwyn Clwyd	-8,457	43,856	35,442	0	-43	0	0
Cadwyn Shared Prosperity	0	20,228	13,578	2,035	4,750	0	-135
Charity Commission	0	30,000	0	0	0	0	30,000
Community Transport	4,960	0	0	0	0	0	4,960
Core Buildings	129,405	0	5,844	0	0	0	123,561
Glyndwr Art Grant	3,000	0	3,000	0	0	0	0
Gwersyllt Community Cohesion	0	2,250	0	0	0	0	2,250
Gwersyllt Hub Loneliness & Isolation	0	2,160	1,533	0	0	0	627
H&SC Facilitator & Dev Officer	10,730	42,452	30,442	5,195	5,640	0	11,905
LSCC Lil Stars	-1,745	8,750	2,753	1,000	3,252	0	0
LSCC Capital Grant	1,953	0	0	0	0	0	1,953
LSCC Community Foundation	1,710	0	1,710	0	0	0	0
LSCC EYDCP	1,655	0	0	0	0	0	1,655
LSCC Flying Start	-4,506	88,455	75,648	6,552	5,121	0	-3,372
LSCC Neumark	0	2,500	2,212	125	0	0	163

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	At 1st April 2023	Incoming	Outgoing	Management Transfer	Internal Charges/Overheads	Transfers from/ to Unrestricted Funds	At 31st March 2024
LSCC Play innovation	316	0	0	0	0	316	0
LSCC RRRS Grant	1,091	250	480	0	0	0	861
LSCC Steve Morgan	394	0	394	0	0	0	0
LSCC Summer of Fun	170	750	920	0	0	0	0
LSCC Winter of Wellness	579	0	579	0	0	0	0
MAD Grant	641	903	0	0	0	0	1,544
Play Barclaycard Football Fund	325	0	0	0	0	0	325
PM CIN	3,595	18,838	19,356	2,659	2,659	0	-2,241
PM Drama Club	405	0	0	0	0	0	405
PM Families First	3,601	0	0	1,750	1,554	0	297
PM Families First 2	12,975	0	0	0	0	0	12,975
PM Families First Parent Carers	0	9,999	9,017	737	737	0	-492
PM Families First Parent Support	0	23,060	15,483	591	1,091	0	5,895
PM Play Donations	12,090	1,340	2,115	0	0	0	11,315
PM Play Lottery	0	92,646	78,641	6,340	7,672	0	-7
PM Play Neighbourly	1,085	555	785	0	0	0	855
PM WCBC Holiday/Summer of fun	300	0	117	0	0	0	183
PM Play Winter Pressures	239	0	0	0	0	0	239
PM WCBC City of Culture	1,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	4,000
PM WCBC holiday	16,450	0	8,802	0	0	0	7,648
PM WG Holiday Playworks	11,740	12,000	825	0	0	0	22,915

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	At 1st April 2023	Incoming	Outgoing	Management Transfer	Internal Charges/Overheads	Transfers from/ to Unrestricted Funds	At 31st March 2024
Shopmobility Loneliness and Isolation	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	2,500
Shopmobility Lottery	0	10,000	1,196	0	0	8,550	254
Shopmobility Tesco Blue Tokens	0	990	0	0	0	1,297	-307
Shopmobiliity Warm Space	-4	0	0	0	0	0	-4
Social Media Training	3,653	0	3,653	0	0	0	0
Youth led Grants	4,073	6,650	7,659	650	0	0	2,414
VSEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WAPM Drama Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WAPM Youth Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WCBC 3rd Sector Hub	37,967	96	23,289	3,261	5,222	0	6,291
WBC Ageing Well	0	22,727	16,500	6,227	0	0	0
WCBC City of Culture	750	0	0	0	0	0	750
WCBC Food Poverty	0	0	-1,543	0	0	0	1,543
WCBC Funding & advice	162	0	0	0	0	162	0
WCBC Mobility & Digital Inclusion	0	72,449	0	0	0	0	72,449
WG Winter Pressures	-273	0	0	0	0	0	-273
Wrexham Business Group Asset Lock	0	4,228	0	0	0	0	4,228
Rounding	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	**314,985**	**623,788**	**446,903**	**43,383**	**44,232**	**20,171**	**384,084**

Management charges/Internal charges totalling £107,787 represent grant monies expended on services provided by AVOW during the year. Management transfers include contribution towards AVOW's administration according to the terms of the grant. Transfers from unrestricted funds represents any overspends which have been covered by general funds. The negative balances at the 31st of March 2024 are timing issues and will be carried forward to the 2024/2025 accounts.

All the grants listed above are held by AVOW and managed according to their contract restrictions. All restricted funds are used to provide services, assistance and advice to our members, service users and members of the public in the Wrexham area and further afield. All expenses are applied against the correlating income. The property grant relates to the grant AVOW received to purchase Ty Avow, depreciation is charged against the income on an annual basis. Further details of these projects can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fund Balances on 31st March 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	123,561	95,910	219,471	228,789
Net Current Assets	414,894	288,174	703,068	579,366
	538,455	**384,084**	**922,539**	**808,155**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fund Balances on 31st March 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	129,405	99,384	228,789	257,762
Net Current Assets	363,765	215,601	579,366	560,720
	493,170	**314,985**	**808,155**	**818,482**

16 OPERATING LEASES

At 31st March 2024, the charity had commitments to make future minimum leases payment under non-cancellable leases as Follow:

	2023
	£
Not later than 1 year	2,623
Later than 1 year and not later 5 Years	8,526
Later than 5 years	0
	11,149

17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Scot Owen is Chair of the Board of Trustees at Treasure Chest, a childcare provider based at Park CP School. Treasure chests are clients of AVOW payroll services. Sales Transactions during the year totalled £1,323 (2023: £1,300. Scott also manages Xplore who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW and providers of services to The Land. Sales transactions £298 (2023: £91).

Peter Howell is a Councillor for Wrexham County Borough Council, a Community Councillor for Gwersyllt and a Committee member of Wrexham Athletics club who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW.

Shanone Towers is a Directory of Litegreen who rent premises at Ty Avow. Rent charges in 2023/2024 was £7,125 (£3,375 2023)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1043989

Accounts

AVOW

Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Wrecsam

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2023

Charity number: 1043989

Company number: 2993429

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ASSOCAITION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st MARCH 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ending 31st March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Charity number:	1043989
Company number:	2993429
Principal Office:	Tŷ Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, LL11 1ND
Auditors:	WR Partners, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT
Bankers:	Nat West Bank Ltd, 33 Lord Street, Wrexham, LL11 1LS

Directors and Trustees
The Directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

		Appointed	Reappointed
Peter Howell	Chair	2021	2022
Barbara Roxburgh		2002	2022
Mervyn Dean		2015	2021
Wanjiku Mbugua		2015	2020
David Thompson		2016	2021
Mary Walker		2016	Resigned 2022
Howard Davies		2017	2020
Margaret Heaton		2019	2022
Helen Davies		2020	2022
Berni Durham-Jones		2020	Resigned 2022
Scot Owen	Co-Vice Chair	2020	2022
John Swarbrick		2020	
Kevin Forbes	Co-Vice Chair	2021	2022

Chief Officer: Dawn Roberts-McCabe

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

AVOW is a Company Limited by Guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7th November 1994 (as amended in 2022). AVOW is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Membership is open to all voluntary and community organisations collectively known as the Third Sector and individuals acting for the benefit of the community either as volunteers or employees. The Governing Document is reviewed annually.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees, which can have no more than 20 and not less than 6 members, sets the strategic direction of the charity. The Board of Trustees meet quarterly and there is a standing Finance Committee. A Chief Officer is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity within a framework of delegated powers along with a team of managers.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The AVOW Board consists of up to 20 volunteer Trustees who are also Directors of the Company serving for a three-year period. All trustees resign by rotation on a three yearly cycle. All member organisations are circulated with invitations to nominate Trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring Trustees and requesting nominations by the AGM, members then vote to appoint Trustees.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Trustees are appointed by the Trustees annually. The Trustees have the power to appoint or co-opt further Trustees to fill vacancies following a thorough skills audit of existing Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction to brief them on legal obligations under charity and company law, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes as well as an overview of the recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate in house and external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role. All Trustees are required to undertake online training in Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Data Protection, PREVENT, Whistleblowing and Information Security. All Trustees have undergone a DBS check in line with the requirements of Care Inspectorate Wales as AVOW undertake regulated activity at Little Sunflowers Child Care in Plas Madoc.

Related Parties

AVOW collaborates with a wide range of partners at local, regional, and national levels. These include public bodies and other third sector organisations. The purpose of the collaboration includes development of new projects and services, to secure additional resources, or to represent the interests of the third sector. AVOW receives core funding from the Welsh Government (administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action, WCVA), through the National Infrastructure Agreement. The charity builds on this core funding by attracting support from a range of sources including Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and Cadwyn Clwyd. Where trustees have any links with related parties these are declared on a register and trustees are required to declare any potential conflict of interest at the start of each meeting where the Chair will take appropriate action.

The Trustees consider the Chief Officer and Development Manager (Volunteer, Community, and Finance) as comprising the key management personnel of the charity. All the Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

Trustees are required to declare all relevant interests and withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff
The Finance Committee meets annually to review the pay and remuneration of the senior management team. The review of all senior staff pay is referenced to the NJC negotiated pay scales but not fully adopted. Any proposed adjustments to the pay of the senior management team are confirmed by the Finance Committee.

Risk management
An organisational Risk Register has been produced and is reviewed by Trustees annually. This identifies organisational risks and the risk management strategies in place to mitigate those risks.

Specialist advisors are contracted to oversee all Health and Safety matters by assessing and advising on risk assessments to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, visitors, beneficiaries, and stakeholders and the Trustees consider the charity to be well positioned to manage any potential risk.

AVOW contracts with external professional advisors on matters such as:

- Employment (renewed May 2022)
- Health & Safety (renewed April 2021 for three years)
- Insurance (next review date June 2025)
- Financial Auditing (next review January 2025)

Vision Statement

The AVOW Vision is the voluntary and community sectors achieving their missions for the benefit of the community within the County Borough of Wrexham.

Mission Statement

To enable the voluntary and community sectors to achieve their missions for the benefit of the community within the County Borough of Wrexham, AVOW will:

- **Support the development of individuals and organisations within the voluntary and community sectors.**
- **Establish and sustain good practice.**
- **Undertake the provision of services appropriate to the voluntary and community sectors.**
- **Consult, represent and champion the voluntary and community sectors locally and nationally.**

Annual Trustee and Staff Awaydays are held to focus on key issues and identify challenges and opportunities; to ensure that core functions are in line with the aims and objectives.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended is:

- To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in the area of Wrexham County Borough and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health, the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

- Each year the Trustees review these objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect the aims of the organisation. In carrying out this review the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The strategies and activities employed to achieve the charity's objectives are:

- To provide and promote an accessible and relevant range of locally available support services to enhance development and effectiveness of voluntary and community action.

- To identify the views of local voluntary and community groups and represent these views to decision makers e.g., Welsh Government (WG), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and local statutory bodies, and in ways which lead to effective outcomes and partnerships.

- To assist the development of locally determined and agreed initiatives, which meet the needs of the voluntary sector and enhance community participation.

- To develop and sustain an effective volunteering service.

- To encourage recruitment into charitable, voluntary and community services.

- To provide and promote accurate, current and relevant information.

- To provide and promote a funding advice service for voluntary organisations.

- To provide and promote a range of generic training courses to the local voluntary sector.

- To assist organisations to operate legally and efficiently.

- To facilitate and support the establishment of effective structured partnerships with the local authority and other agencies for the benefit of voluntary and community organisations.

- To identify issues of concern to voluntary and community organisations.

- To identify gaps in provision that can be met by new or existing voluntary organisations working in collaboration with statutory bodies.

- To promote the interests of the Third Sector in planning service development including community regeneration projects.

- To establish links with the corporate sector; and

- To promote the sector's role in Health and Social Care.

Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW)

AVOW is the County Voluntary Council (CVC) for Wrexham and is part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW). TSSW consists of the 19 CVCs in Wales as well as Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

The shared goal is to enable the Third Sector and volunteers across Wales to contribute fully to individual and community wellbeing, now and for the future.
The focus of work concentrates on four pillars of activity:

- Volunteering
- Good Governance
- Sustainable Funding
- Engagement and Influencing

Achievements and performance

AVOW 2022-23 Core Highlights

AVOW records all interactions, funding support, grants distribution, training and events on a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Our statistics are shared with Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) who in turn reports the overall finds to Welsh Government. AVOW's key performance indicators for 2022-23 are as follows:

Funding obtained following support from AVOW	£220,916
Funding awarded by AVOW	£76,757
Organisations supported with direct advice	223
Organisations supported with specialist advice	119
Training participants	592
Partnership Events	24
Partnership event attendees	471
Volunteers supported to enter volunteering	136
Individuals placed into volunteering	134
Total membership of AVOW	112

Engagement

AVOW is responsible for ensuring the Third Sector is appropriately represented on county and regional decision-making bodies. To this end, AVOW actively engages with Public Service organisations ensuring that the voice and views of the Third Sector are presented to strategic partnerships and considered within consultations. The Third Sector should always play a major part in the way that strategies and services can be developed as the champion of the community.

AVOW's Third Sector representation is widely varied. A sample of regularly attended boards and steering groups is listed below. Most meetings during 2022/23 continued on digital platforms that have often resulted in higher attendance rates ensuring the Third Sector is heard by the widest possible audience:

- Wrexham Public Service Board
- Wrexham and Flintshire Public Service Board
- Regional Partnership Board
- Wrexham Civic Leaders Board
- Wrexham Youth Justice Forum
- AVOW Children and Young People's Wellbeing Network
- ICAN Steering Group
- Local Implementation Teams (LiT) for Mental Health
- Regional Integration Fund Regional Management Group
- Wrexham Crown Buildings Wellbeing Hub Steering Committee
- Wrexham City of Culture 2025 Steering Committee

AVOW enjoys a strong relationship with our local authority, Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC). The Chief Officer has regular meetings with the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive Officer to discuss issues facing the Third Sector as well as find synergies between Council and Third Sector initiatives.

AVOW's social media presence is growing annually. The organisation is active on many popular social media platforms including Facebook, Linked-in, Twitter and Instagram. AVOW has also started a project to redevelop the www.avow.org website.

AVOW Development Officers provide a wide range of outreach support in the form of funding advice surgeries, support sessions, networking events and community training session online.

Development Activities and Achievements: Core Services

Community

As a supplement to our governance advice service, AVOW successfully tendered for two additional Cadwyn Clwyd Leader funded projects (with 30% in-kind match funding) to support community buildings. The 3Rs Project (Reset, Resume, Rebound) was designed to assist rural community buildings to reopen post COVID. Reset, ensured that building operators were more confident in providing a sustainable place/space for users and that those users had confidence using the space. The project then aimed to re-establish (Resume) previously well attended activities and to develop new and innovative activities. The Reshape element helped the building operators diversify income and ensure that community buildings are sustainable long into the future. AVOW provided a range of support to community organisations and community buildings as well as support to individuals seeking to establish new organisations. Support was provided on governance, funding, and more. Due to the success of the 3Rs Project (completed in August 2022), we were granted additional funding for a follow-on programme called the Resilience Project. This initiative supports community members and buildings with the provision of further training, governance advice and guidance as well as green energy advice and installation of defibrillators in the communities.

Funding

This financial year has seen AVOW distribute funding on behalf of WCBC and Welsh Government through grants for food poverty, loneliness and Isolation, City of Culture, and AVOW's own Make a

Difference Grant. The service has offered diverse advice, guidance and support to many organisations that were seeking and applying for funding. Funding amounts have varied from £1,000 to £1 million and ranged from capital to revenue and with some organisations, concentrating on larger projects, match funding was required and sought. Overall, there were 73 organisations supported with direct advice who were successful in attaining funding of a minimum of £220,916.43.

AVOW obtained £30,000 in funding from Moondance to create an Accessibility Development Officer role to enhance our shopmobility service and from various sources to provide winter 'Warm Spaces, in Little Sunflowers, The Land, Shopmobility and the Gwersyllt Hub.

The Funding Officer is also a member of the Multi Hub steering group; two grant panels and also the WCVA Sustainable Funding Network and the North Wales Funding Network.

In an effort to attract more young people age 14 to 25 to the WCVA Youth Led Grants programme, AVOW rebranded our programme as the Young Influencers and take on a Dragon's Den style theme, where the young people listen to the grant pitches from young people directly. The panel now meet every 3 weeks to discuss applications, learn about their community.

Through the Youth Led Grants funding the Young Influencers distributed £8,150. The grants ranged in value from £800 to £1,800 and were used for young people to develop and deliver projects that increase youth volunteering opportunities and benefit the wider community.

Volunteering

Following the relaxation of Covid measures the Volunteer Centre has adapted to the changing landscape of volunteering in Wrexham and beyond. Many organisations are working regionally and the need for volunteers has increased dramatically.

AVOW uses many resources to encourage active volunteering. The team have added 72 new volunteer voluntary organisations on the www.volunteering-wales.net website and an additional 79 individual volunteers. AVOW's own Volunteer Opportunities registration gained an additional 85 opportunities. The Community Resource Team enables volunteers and their families to help with many "One Off" opportunities arranged throughout the year. This year a new Volunteering in Wales Website has been Commissioned by WCVA. The tender was awarded to 3eV and is due for launch in July 2023.

Volunteer Manager Network Meetings are now in person events which are well attended. A quarterly joint network meeting has been developed combining all AVOW networks (Volunteering, Health and Wellbeing, Social Justice) reaching more than 100 third sector participants. Statistics show that more than 400 individuals read the network newsletters.

Volunteers Week is a national Event taking place 1-7th June. It is an opportunity to thank volunteers for their contribution throughout the year. The Volunteer Centre arranged an Event at Ty Pawb to present Certificates to volunteers and Network with organisations operating in Wrexham.

The Gofod 3 Event took place at the end of June 2023 and the Volunteer Centre helped to facilitate the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Presentation and was attended by 35 individuals.

Quarterly TSSW Volunteer Practitioner Network meetings provide Volunteer Centres throughout Wales the opportunity to share information, experiences and best practices.

Development Activities and Achievements: Health and Wellbeing Team

Health and Wellbeing Officer

The Third Sector Health and Wellbeing Development Officer is responsible for linking health and wellbeing organisations providing services in Wrexham with statutory services to ensure complete care for our citizens. The Health & Wellbeing Network (run jointly with FLVC) facilitates these organisations to network throughout the year. AVOW & FLVC also collaborate to produce the Daily Digest ebulletin sharing news and funding opportunities to be distributed to voluntary organisations and service users.

The AVOW Wellbeing Officer facilitates additional topic specific networks which link health and wellbeing organisations to end users including; the LGBTQI+ Network, the Children's and Young People Network (Wrexham specific), and Covid Food Poverty and Inequality Network Forum, linking poor health with poverty and inequalities in the Wrexham population (inverse care).

The AVOW, WCBC, and BCUHB partnership makes up the Wrexham Wellbeing Hub Steering Group. The Steering Group has overseen the development of the Crown Buildings in Wrexham into the Wrexham Wellbeing Hub in 2022. We are pleased to see many voluntary organisations utilising the Hubs facilities since the official opening in September 2022.

Ageing Well Development Officer

WCBC Ageing Well funds provided a full-time member of staff for the co-ordination and implementation of Wrexham as a World Health Organisation recognised age friendly community and to support the delivery of a grant scheme to tackle social isolation. This grant supported 9 organisations with £33,000 of monies to support a wide and diverse range of Loneliness and Isolation projects. Ranging from development of a Walking Football team to events using horse therapy to combat loneliness and mental health issues. WCBC absorbed the role internally when the position was vacated in December 2023.

Northwest Wrexham Wellbeing Hub

The Northwest Wrexham Wellbeing Hub opened in Gwersyllt during the year. The aim of this hub is to offer people a SPOA on a wide range of support to prevent them from needing access to statutory provision unnecessarily, to provide social and wellbeing interventions and to co-ordinate with public and voluntary organsiations to provide additional support and services to the community.

Since opening in November, 595 have accessed the service and 8 new activities were initiated support the community. These activities included a Warm Space, Come and Cook and Chair Yoga for over 75s.

Development Activities and Achievements: Special Projects

Shopmobility

The AVOW Wrexham Shopmobility service operates from Wrexham bus station hiring out scooters and wheelchairs to enable people with mobility issues the freedom to access shops and services. Since reopening after Covid it has been open for two days a week and simultaneously was also used as a Warm Space during winter, funded by WCBC. Shopmobility also received £10,000 from Wrexham County Borough Council as a one-off grant to help sustain the service. Shopmobility is not a self-sustainable project and AVOW is exploring multiple funding sources to ensure this vital service remains in Wrexham.

Wrexham Community Lottery
AVOW, in conjunction with Gatherwell, created and launched the lottery with over 40 local good causes on board in 2021. Ticket holders can win up to £25,000 as well as support a local cause who keep 50% of ticket sales. 2022/2023 was the full financial year of the project and AVOW, from their own ticket sales and a small % of overall ticket sales, have raised £3,708 in the reporting period. Local causes have raised £16,227 since the project started.

Development Activities and Achievements: Local Projects

Little Sunflowers Childcare Centre, Plas Madoc

The AVOW Board of Trustees oversees the Little Sunflowers Childcare Centre (LSCC). The Centre offers childcare provision from age 2 to 4 through:

- Flying Start
- Rising 3's and 4's
- Early Education
- 30-hour childcare offer

Funded Early Education provided a grant of £2,376 through the Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards programme for raising standards in emotional, learning, and physical needs. LSCC purchased loose parts to enhance creative learning and develop the indoor/outdoor environment in line with the new curriculum.

Additional Child Support

Funding from the Early Years Pupil Development Grant gave 15 families additional support to encourage parents direct participation in their child's mental wellbeing, physical development and active participation in developing their child's speech, language and communication skills.

Additional Family Support
Many families in Plas Madoc have been directly impacted by the post Covid cost of living crisis. Through grant funding from organisations including Moondance and WCBC's Loneliness and Isolation Fund, LSCC has offered additional financial and emotional support to the parents and guardians of the enrolled children.

Play and Community Development Team, Plas Madoc

The AVOW Play and Community Development Team is funded through Invest Local, Children in Need and Families First to work in Plas Madoc providing a service for children, parents and adults of the community. The team continued to use National Lottery Community Funds to develop a new model of integrated Play and Community Development work which builds on existing high-quality Play and Youth provision and extends our reach into the wider community.

The Land, our junk playground, also offers volunteering opportunities for young people and adults within the Community - this scheme aims to increase levels of aspiration and improve the life chances of adults and also young people not in employment, education or training. We aim to work towards

offering more formal access locally to dedicated programmes of support linked to training and education which can equip young people/adults who would otherwise be caught up in cycles of joblessness or self-limiting behaviour.

Other services for youth, families, and the wider community:

- Youth Activities: Playschemes/ Street Schemes, Street Football, Youth Club
- 1:1 work support for children with additional needs
- Parental Support Kettle Club, Breakfast & Brews, Crafty Brew
- The Pantry provides access to affordable food
- Weekly drop-in meetings open to all community members
- Over 50's: Social support and activities for older residents
- Environmental Projects: Garden Gang and Plants Madoc
- Volunteer scheme

AVOW are fundholders for Plas Madoc Invest Local which funds WAPM who currently contribute towards the Play/Community Development Manager and a Community Development Officer for We are Plas Madoc.

Community Car Scheme

In early 2022, AVOW took delivery of two electric vehicles – a Nissan Leaf and a Nissan e-NV200 which is wheelchair accessible, made possible through funding from the Community Transport Association. The vehicles have been transferred to We Are Plas Madoc (WAPM) who will run the project. The scheme will enable greater access to services such as GPs with a resulting improvement in personal health and wellbeing. Participants will be able to source cheaper food which will reduce food poverty and have access to events/outings reducing social isolation. Some anticipated journeys will enable people to access work opportunities that otherwise would be inaccessible due to limited transport in the more rural areas of South Wrexham. On going challenge to the programme is the installation of the electric charging points and recruitment of staff and volunteers to run the WAPM programme.

Financial Review

AVOW started in a financial year with a predicted deficit, due to sound financial management, strategic decisions and additional projects this has turned into a surplus. We will continue to forward plan and apply for new sources of funding to support the core function of AVOW. We are currently midway through multiple 5-year grants from The National Lottery, Community Funds for The Land, Little Sunflowers and Flying start with WCBC and are financially secure. We received additional funding sources to support Wrexham groups in relation to Food Poverty. The Winter Pressures funds have now come to an end, and we seek additional funding to support those most at need.

Two electric vehicles, purchased through Welsh Transport Authority grant funding in the previous financial year, were delivered in year and were transferred to We Are Plas Madoc for use in their Community Transport Scheme.

The AVOW building fully opened its doors to staff, licencees, organisations and members of the public in April 2022. Through the pandemic the unrestricted funds generated through licencees fees reduced due to work from home arrangements. We have been successful in attracting new tenants since reopening which secures additional, ongoing unrestricted funds. A full building report was completed in 2022 which highlighted the main areas of need. Trustees have designated funds in year to start the improvement process to ensure we can continue to have full occupancy during 2022/2023 and beyond.

We want to ensure we retain staff and reduce the burden of inflation difficulties as best we can. During the year AVOW became a Real Living Wage employer and provided a 5% uplift to staff at the start of the financial year. AVOW implemented the proposed pay increase a full two months earlier in February 2023.

The rise in inflation has meant that we were able to access good interest rate deposits through the newly opened (March 2023) Flagstone Account platform. We aim to deposit 4/5 deposits under the FSCS level of £85,000, which mature equally throughout the year.

Restricted reserves have been utilised during the year and now have the value of £314,985. Unrestricted funds have been boosted again during the year due to additional projects undertaken and grants provided in the year. AVOW now have a robust unrestricted balance of £493,170 at the 31st March 2023. However a portion of these funds have been reallocated to designated funds to support the building upgrades required from the survey totalling £300,000, leaving our general reserves still at £193,170. We will apply for match funding and/or capital grants to part fund building upgrades, however we have assigned the additional restricted funding to ensure Ty Avow receives the necessary repairs and maintains its value as an asset.

The Trustees have reviewed all finances for 2023/2024 and accepted a budget to 31st March 2024 that shows a surplus of £24,939. This surplus has derived from the wise planning decisions, changes in the staffing structure, and additional project funding secured. We will continue build on this pattern of decision making and actively seek new project opportunities to ensure the longevity of the organisation.

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding sources for AVOW remains the Infrastructure Core Grant from the Welsh Government - administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action – During the year we received an additional amount of funding in relation to Grants for Distribution to aid with Food Poverty.

There are other various grants and Service Level Agreements with Wrexham County Borough Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

WCBC Adventure Play Project – Holiday Funds
WCBC Flying Start
WCBC Early Education
WCBC City of Culture Grant
WCBC Warm Spaces
WCBC Shopmobility Funds
WCBC RRRS
WCBC EYDCP
WCBC Ageing Well
WCBC Winter of Wellness
WCBC Food Poverty Grants
WCBC Sustainability & Isolation Grant
BCUHB Health Facilitator

Other substantial funders are detailed below:

BCT Invest Local for Plas Madoc
Moondance
Children in Need
The National Lottery Community Fund
Cadwyn Clwyd

Glyndwr University Grant
We Are Plas Madoc

Reserves Policy
During the year the Trustees agreed to AVOW's policy of having at least 3-6 months annual running costs, together with a cash flow provision and a redundancy contingency in reserve. Trustees have assigned £38K to contribute towards the funding to support the Volunteering and Community posts (4 years remaining). In practice this mean £143,745, representing 3-6 months running costs, designated funds and redundancy contingency. Trustees have also designated £156,255 for building works on the Ty AVOW building. Total designated reserves are £300,000 which is covered by the unrestricted reserve of £493,170 at 31st March 2023. Free reserves on 31st March 2023 amounted to £63,763 (31st March 2022 £ 209,745). The Trustees noted that the free reserves have fallen due to the increase in designated funds.

Investment Policy
AVOW's Memorandum and Articles of Association authorises the investment of monies of the Association not immediately required for its purpose, in or upon such investments, securities, or property as may be thought fit subject nevertheless to such conditions if any as may for the time being, be imposed or required by law.

In practice this has led to AVOW investing funding from its reserves with several banks to ensure that we do not exceed our limit of compensation of £85,000 within one single banking licence. This investment decision has been reviewed regularly during the year and has been found to be the best available option for AVOW to ensure the level of risk in investing in a single source is reduced.

Future Plans for AVOW and the Third Sector

While 2022/23 was a year of reopening, rebuilding and restructuring, 2023/24 will see a relaunch of AVOW's core services as the County Voluntary Council for Wrexham. We have appointed a Core Services Client Manager to ensure all AVOW member organisations are receiving their full benefits and to identify any gaps in service. The manager will manage the workflow between the core Development Officers and additional services provided by the team ensuring complete care for our members. If our more than 100 member organisations feel greater satisfaction with our service, our membership will grow organically within our local community.

AVOWs social media presence will also be enhanced in 2022/23 with the launch of an update bi-lingual website, a multi-channel, multifaceted approach to communications including new video content to attract a wider audience. We hope that this fresh approach will help AVOW become the go to organisation for advice and signposting in Wrexham.

Our mission is to continually explore new funding streams that support not only AVOW but also our local community organisations. In a major piece of work for 22/23, AVOW partnered with Cadwyn Clwyd to apply for funding from WCBC's Shared Prosperity Funds to offer a Key Fund to community and voluntary organisations whose projects did not meet the £250,000 threshold for the original funding. This Key Fund will ensure that smaller groups are giving the same funding options as larger Third Sector organisations.

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing such financial statements, the Board of Trustees follows best practice and;

- selects suitable accounting policies and applies them consistently;
- observes the methods and principles in the charities SORP;
- makes judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepares the financial statements on the "going concern" basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

Members of the Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees, who are Directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.
In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

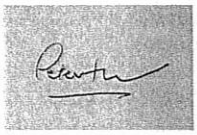
- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

WR Partners, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT were appointed, following a tender process in December 2014, as the charitable company's auditors and have continued in that capacity until the end of the 2021/22 financial year. A new tender process was completed in January 2022 and WR Partners were instructed to continue as Audit provider for a further 3 years.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2019 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18th July 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Howell (Chair)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company'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 Auditors' 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- The audit team obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the

charitable company and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework (FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011), the relevant tax compliance regulations, employment law, Health and Safety Regulations and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- We understood how the charitable company is complying with these frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We also reviewed board minutes to identify any recorded instances of irregularity or non compliance that might have a material impact on the financial statements.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with key management to understand where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud. Based on our understanding our procedures involved enquiries of management and those charged with governance, manual journal entry testing, cashbook reviews for large and unusual items and the challenge of significant accounting estimates used in preparing the financial statements
- Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WR Partners

WR Partners
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
1 Edison Court
Ellice Way
Wrexham Technology Park
Wrexham
LL13 7YT

Date: 14th September 2023

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	3	1,140	1,087	**2,227**	2,157
Investment Income-interest receivable		2,296	-	**2,296**	52
Income from charitable activities	4	341,124	593,319	**934,443**	1,295,941
Total income		344,560	594,406	**938,966**	1,298,150
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	5	464,489	484,804	**949,293**	1,133,284
Total expenditure		464,489	484,804	**949,293**	1,133,284
Net (expenditure)/income for the year before transfers	7	(119,929)	109,602	**(10,327)**	164,866
Gross transfers between funds	8	146,332	(146,332)	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**26,403**	**(36,730)**	**(10,327)**	164,866
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		466,767	351,715	**818,482**	653,616
Total funds carried forward	14	493,170	314,985	**808,155**	818,482

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

COMPANY NUMBER 2993429

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		228,789		257,762
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	34,022		221,526	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		665,785		534,675	
		699,807		756,201	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(120,441)		(195,481)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			579,366		560,720
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			808,155		818,482
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13				-
NET ASSETS			808,155		818,482
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:					
Restricted funds	14		314,985		351,715
Unrestricted funds					
General reserves	14		193,170		332,261
Designated funds	14		300,000		134,506
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			808,155		818,482

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and their preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors 18th July 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Peter Howell (Chairman)



ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movements in funds	(10,327)	164,866
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	35,225	22,157
Profit or loss in disposal of fixed assets		
Investment income - interest receivable		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	187,504	(173,114)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(75,040)	109,992
Deferred Grant		-
Net cash generated from operating activities	**137,362**	**123,901**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Investment income - interest receivable		-
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(6,252)	(85,938)
Net cash used in investing activities	**(6,252)**	**(85,937)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	131,110	37,963
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	534,675	496,712
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	**685,785**	**534,675**
Cash and cash equivalents at the yearend comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	665,785	534,675
	665,785	**534,675**

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES:-

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements:

(a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (October 2019– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise statement in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have reviewed the current position for 2022/2023 and anticipate that they will fulfil the same service delivery in 2023/2024. Any cuts in income for 2023/2024 will have the appropriate decrease in expenses to safeguard the current level of unrestricted reserves.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statements of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of service provided by the volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, when related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over them, any condition associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

(e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

(f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charities work or for specific projects being undertaken.

Internal transfers between funds relate to management costs, support and administration charges applied to the projects and recharged back to unrestricted costs. These are a contributions towards management, support and administration costs of the charity as a whole.

(g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which supports AVOW and its activities.

(i) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Purchases of furniture and equipment are capitalised where they can be used for more than one year and cost over £500. Depreciation on fixed assets is calculated to write down their costs or valuation to their estimated residual value over the period of their economic lives at the following rates:-

Freehold property	-	2% straight line basis
Furniture and Fixtures	-	20% straight line basis
Computers and Equipment	-	33% straight line basis
Motor Vehicles	-	20% straight line basis

(j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discount due.

(k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term investments.

(l) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(m) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(n) Pensions

All employees are invited to join the Aegon pension's scheme with a non-contributory 7% contribution on gross salary. The pension is auto enrolment compliant and all those who had not joined the pension scheme as of November 2015 were automatically enrolled when necessary. The contributions made for the accounting period are treated as an expense and were £34,065 (2022: £32,490)

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimated and assumptions:

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. In the opinion of the Trustees there are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

AVOW is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
3 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES				
Membership Fees	1,105	-	1,105	1,101
Donations and Legacies (including Gift Aid)	35	1,087	1,122	1,056
	£1,140	**1,087**	**£2,227**	**2,157**

Income from donation and legacies was £2,227 (2022: £1,056) of which £1,140 was unrestricted (2022: £315 and £1,087 was restricted (2022: £741).

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
4a INCOMING FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Grants and Other Service Contract Income				
Wrexham County Borough Council				
Plas Madoc Flying Start	-	81,762	81,762	60,693
WCBC Building Grants	-	-	-	
LSCC Cwtch Grant	-	-	-	
Early Education	-	15,150	15,150	20,352
Friends in Need Grant	-	-	-	-
Shopmobility	10,000	-	10,000	5000
Adventure Play Grant	-	27,000	27,000	63,992
Families First	-	29,343	29,343	16,369
RRRS	-	2,367	2,367	2,312
Winter of Wellness	-	-	-	667
Ageing Well Officer	-	72,000	72,000	47,727
North West Wrexham Wellbeing Hub	-	-	-	35,000
Food Poverty Grants	-	20,000	20,000	90,461
WCBC LSCC Childcare Funding		470	470	-
WCBC EYDCP		1,500	1,500	
Sustainability & Isolation Grant	-	-	-	10,000
WCBC City of Culture Grant	-	12,500	12,500	-
WCBC Warm Spaces	-	1,950	1,950	-

(Continued on next page)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
4a. **INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**				
BCUHB				
Health Facilitator	-	42,452	42,452	42,032
Partners In Care	-	-	-	-
GP Facilitator	-	-	-	-
Winter Pressures Grant	-	-	-	100,000
Poverty Research	-	-	-	4000
IMPT	-	-	-	2,500
Wales Council for Voluntary Action				
Local Voluntary Scheme	188,404	-	188,404	111,823
Volunteering Wales	-	-	-	52,500
Child Poverty	1,000	1,000	2,000	-
Youth Led Grants	-	6,650	6,650	6,650
Comic Relief Grant	-	-	-	2,826
VSEF Grants	-	-	-	-
Welsh Government				
Winter Pressures Grant	-	-	-	78,801
Food Poverty	-	-	-	91,448
Community Transport Grant	-	-	-	95,303
Broughton Community Council	-	-	-	-
Lottery	-	90,287	90,287	66,389
Rhos Community Council	-	-	-	1,500
Children In Need	-	22,511	22,511	14,914
Renew Wales	-	-	-	392
Moondance	-	35,000	35,000	-
Plas Madoc Invest Local	-	78,174	78,174	78,174
BME- Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support	-	-	-	-
Cadwyn Clwyd	-	26,269	26,269	16,483
Community Learning Grant	-	-	-	676
We Are Plas Madoc	-	1,866	1,866	7,035
Bowmed Ibisquis	-	-	-	2,500
Calon Funds	-	-	-	13,961
Wrexham University		3,000	3,000	-
Gwersyllt Community Council	-	500	500	-
Barclaycard Community Football	-	500	500	-
Neighbourly Fund	-	1,000	1,000	400
AVOW Loneliness & Isolation Fund	-	5,000	5,000	-
HMRC Job retention			-	3,425
Match Funding	-	11,360	11,360	7,111
		-		
Total Grants Receivable	**199,404**	**589,611**	**789,015**	**1,153,416**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
4b. INCOME EARNED FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES				
Rents and services	28,467	-	28,467	41,537
Photocopying and postage	73	-	73	-
Payroll services	76,629	-	76,629	72,716
Trips and events	-	-	-	442
Training courses	4,125	(60)	4,065	3,604
Community Lottery	2,472	1,236	3,708	794
LSCC Income	20,519	-	20,519	15,728
Shopmobility	5,727	-	5,727	3,917
Other income	3,708	2,532	6,240	3,787
	341,124	**593,319**	**934,443**	**1,295,941**

Income from charitable activities was £934,443 (2022: £1,295,941) of which £341,124 related to unrestricted reserves (2022: £313,688) and £593,319 restricted reserves (2022: 982,253).

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
5 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:				
Grants Payable				
Youth Led Grants	-	8,150	8,150	2,910
Friends in Need Befriending				3,242
VSEF Grant				1,850
VSEF Grant 2				21,705
MAD Grant		5,292	5,292	-
WG Food Poverty		1,065	1,065	116,712
BCUHB Winter Pressures				88,889
WG Winter Pressures				55,000
Calon Transfer of Funds	-	-	-	13,961
Bowmed Ibisquis	-	-	-	2,500
WCBC City of Culture		9,250	9,250	-
WCBC loneliness & Isolation Grant		33,000	33,000	-
WCBC Food Poverty		20,000	20,000	-
Other Costs of Charitable Activity				
Bad Debts written off			-	10,000
Volunteer Match	14,061	-	14,061	4,411
Staff salaries & pensions	314,602	307,703	622,305	561,658
Staff travel	434	457	891	263
Staff training	197	611	808	1,884
Other staff costs	5,276	1,488	6,764	7,552
DBS Charges	641	-	641	4,653
Volunteer expenses & Training	51	40	91	182
Other training costs	2,826	17,990	20,816	20,239
Depreciation	29,385	5,842	35,227	22,157
Telephone	1,461	210	1,671	4,070
Computer maintenance and expenses	19,182	630	19,812	19,714
Insurance	6,504	2,805	9,309	6,551
Heat and light	5,994		5,994	5,873
Water rates	432	-	432	336
Repairs and maintenance	19,661	2,035	21,696	16,147
Printing, postage & stationery	1,716	-	1,716	1,152
Projects and events	2,219	59,374	61,593	86,508
Project publicity and promotion costs	603	2,466	3,069	492
Sundry expenses	540	192	732	1,206
Bank charges	3,520	1	3,521	3,287
Subscriptions, books and publications	890	642	1,532	630
Research Project		5,000	5,000	15,000
Shopmobility	3,881		3,881	2,550
Van Expenses		561	561	866
Governance Costs				
Audit fees	10,356	-	10,356	9,090
Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	600

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES continued:

Legal and professional fees	18,926	-	18,926	19,434
AGM Expenses	1,075		1,075	
Health & Safety	56	-	56	10
	464,489	**484,804**	**949,293**	**1,133,284**

Expenditure on charitable activities was £949,293 2022: £1,133,284) of which £464,489 was unrestricted (2022: £420,531) and £484,804 was restricted (2022: £712,753)

	Costs of Activities	Support Costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
6 ANALYSIS OF OTHER COSTS				
Bad Debts written off			-	10,000
Volunteer Match	-	14,061	14,061	4,411
Staff salaries & pensions	430,345	191,960	622,305	561,658
Staff travel	653	238	891	263
Staff training	611	197	808	1,884
Other staff costs	2,991	3,773	6,764	7,552
DBS Charges	-	641	641	4,653
Volunteer expenses & Training	40	51	91	182
Other training costs	20,763	53	20,816	20,239
Depreciation	5,842	29,385	35,227	22,157
Telephone	210	1,461	1,671	4,070
Computer maintenance and expenses	1,417	18,395	19,812	19,714
Insurance	2,805	6,504	9,309	6,551
Heat and light	-	5,994	5,994	5,873
Water rates	-	432	432	336
Repairs and maintenance	2,483	19,213	21,696	16,147
Printing, postage & stationery	18	1,698	1,716	1,152
Projects and events	60,257	1,294	61,593	86,508
Project publicity and promotion costs	2,466	603	3,069	492
Sundry expenses	224	508	732	1,206
Bank charges	297	3,224	3,521	3,287
Subscriptions, books and publications	1,289	243	1,532	630
Research Project	5,000	-	5,000	15,000
Shopmobility	3,881		3,881	2,550
Van Expenses	561	-	561	866

Audit fees	-	10,356	10,356	9,090
Legal and professional fees	-	18,926	18,926	19,434
AGM Expenses	-	1,075	1,075	-
Health & Safety	-	56	56	10
	542,153	**330,341**	**872,494**	**826,515**

Expenditure on other costs was £872,494 of which £524,153 was cost of activities (2022: £524,652) and £330,341 was support costs (2022: £301,863).

	2023	2022
	£	£
7 NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	35,225	22,157
Auditors Remuneration	10,356	9,090

8 GROSS TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

This figure comprises internal recharges for services provided by AVOW to various restricted fund projects and contributions towards AVOW's management of the restricted projects, net of any overspends on restricted projects which have been covered by general funds. A more detailed breakdown is given under note 14 c).

9 TRUSTEES AND EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

a) Trustees:
No Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2022- Nil).
Travel expenses to the value of Nil (2022: Nil) were paid to 0 trustees (2022: Nil) during the year to attend meetings.
During the year a number of trustees donated their expenses to AVOW. All the transactions were conducted on an arm's length basis in support of the charity.

b) Employees:	**2023** £	2022 £
Staff Costs:		
Salaries and Wages	543,294	508,178
Social Security Costs	35,810	28,286
Pension Costs	34,065	32,490
Redundancy Costs	9,136	-
	622,305	**568,954**

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2021 – nil).
The key management personnel of the charity is the Chief Officer and from 1st November 2022 the Development Manager for Volunteering, Community & Finance. Their employee benefits total £73,937 (2022: £54,233).

	2023	2022
The average number of employees was:	34	34
The average number employees FTE	24.5	24.5

10 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains failing within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Building	Furniture & Fixtures	Computer Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Totals
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
Opening balance 1 April 2022	292,108	148,085	48,553	96,689	585,435
Additions	-	3,591	2,661	-	6,252
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance 31 March 2023	292,108	151,676	51,214	96,689	591,687
DEPRECIATION					
Opening Balance 1 April 2022	135,830	136,022	42,508	13,313	327,673
Charge for the year	5,842	8,472	3,953	16,958	35,225
Disposals					
Closing Balance 31 March 2023	141,672	144,494	46,461	30,271	362,898
Net Book Value 31 March 2023	**150,436**	**7,182**	**4,753**	**66,418**	**228,789**
Net Book Value 31 March 2022	156,278	12,063	6,045	83,376	257,762

The freehold property referred to above is Ty Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, which is included in these financial statements at original cost less depreciation.

12 DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade Debtors	24,527	204,661
Prepayments	4,093	15,608
Accrued income	5,087	942
Accrued Gift Aid Tax	315	315
	34,022	**221,526**

c) Restricted Funds

	At 1st April 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Manage-ment Transfer	Internal Charges/Overheads	Transfers from/ to Unrestricted Funds	At 31st March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accessibility Projects Moondance	0	35,000	0	0	0	0	35,000
BCT Adv Play & Dev officer Plan 2	17,506	60,546	59,197	3,447	4,860	0	10,548
BCT Development officer	-23	0	0	0	0	-23	0
BCT Plan 2	11,453	17,458	10,103	1,402	0	0	17,406
Moondance BME	9,545	0	0	0	0	9,545	0
Cadwyn Clwyd	0	13,149	21,544	0	62	0	-8,457
Cadwyn Community Buildings	0	24,480	24,352		102	26	0
Community Transport	9,661	0	4,701	0	0	0	4,960
Core Buildings	135,247	0	5,842	0	0	0	129,405
Glyndwr Art Grant	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000
Gwersyllt Warm Space	0	950	950	0	0	0	0
H&SC Facilitator & Dev Officer	3,012	42,452	24,515	5,044	5,175	0	10,730
Holocaust memorial	0	2,000	1,829	171	0	0	0
John Leece Jones Memorial	-1,115	0	0	0	0	-1,115	0
LSCC Lil Stars	1,246	15,150	13,531	1,800	2,810	0	-1,745
LSCC Capital Grant	2,078	0	125	0	0	0	1,953
LSCC Community Foundation	3,802	0	2,092	0	0	0	1,710
LSCC EYDCP	155	1,500	0	0	0	0	1,655
LSCC Flying Start	-7,304	81,762	57,761	7,000	14,203	0	-4,506

LSCC Avow loneliness & Isolation Grant	0	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0
LSCC Moondance	2,447		2,674	0	0	-227	0
LSCC Play innovation	316	0	0	0	0	0	316
LSCC RRRS Grant	205	2,367	1,481	0	0	0	1,091
LSCC Steve Morgan	394	0	0	0	0	0	394
LSCC Summer of Fun	0	470	300	0	0	0	170
LSCC Winter of Wellness	579	0	0	0	0	0	579
MAD Grant	4,374	1,602	5,335	0	0	0	641
Play Barclaycard Football Fund	0	500	175	0	0	0	325
PM BCT Adventure Play	21	0	0	0	0	21	0
PM Child Poverty Strategy	0	1,000	900	100	0	0	0
PM CIN	5,083	22,512	13,714	1,529	1,529	7,228	3,595
PM Drama Club	1,066	0	630	31	0	0	405
PM Families First	0	16,369	9,188	1,637	1,943	0	3,601
PM Families First 2	0	12,975	0	0	0	0	12,975
PM Play Donations	11,380	1,230	520	0	0	0	12,090
PM Play Lottery	2,795	90,227	86,403	6,175	7,672	-7,228	0
PM Play Neighbourly	260	1,190	365	0	0	0	1,085
PM WCBC Holiday/Summer of fun	2,185	0	4,460	0	0	-2,575	300
PM Play Winter Pressures	3,478	0	3,239	0	0	0	239
PM WCBC City of Culture	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000
PM WCBC holiday	11,134	15,000	7,109	0	0	2,575	16,450
PM WG Holiday Playworks	0	12,000	260	0	0	0	11,740
Social Media Training	4,550	0	0	0	0	897	3,653
Youth led Grants	6,364	6,650	8,291	650	0	0	4,073

VSEF	-24	0	0	0	0	-24	0
WAPM Drama Club	0	621	565	56	0	0	0
WAPM Youth Club	0	1,245	1,132	113	0	0	0
WCBC 3rd Sector Hub	35,000	500	15,638	4,368	4,921	-27394	37,967
WBC Ageing Well	47,727	72,000	39,937	4,267	4,855	70,668	0
WCBC City of Culture	0	11,500	9,250	1,500	0	0	750
WCBC Food Poverty	5,452	20,000	25600	0	0	-148	0
WCBC Funding & advice	7,750	0	-162	0	0	7,750	162
WG Food Poverty	3918	0	5,000	0	0	-1082	0
WG Winter Pressures	10,000	0	10,273	0	0	0	-273
Shopmobiliity Warm Space	0	1,000	988	0	16	0	-4
rounding	-2	1	-3	0	-2	1	5
Total	**351,715**	**594,406**	**484,804**	**39,290**	**48,147**	**58,895**	**314,985**

Management charges/Internal charges totalling £87,439 represent grant monies expended on services provided by AVOW during the year. Management transfers include contribution towards AVOW's administration according to the terms of the grant. Transfers from unrestricted funds represents any overspends which have been covered by general funds. The negative balances at the 31st March 2023 are timing issues and will be carried forward to the 2023/2024 accounts.

All the grants listed above are held by AVOW and managed according to their contract restrictions. All restricted funds are used to provide services, assistance and advice to our members, service users and members of the public in the Wrexham area and further afield. All expenses are applied against the correlating income. The property grant relates to the grant AVOW received to purchase Ty Avow, depreciation is charged against the income on an annual basis. Further details of these projects can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fund Balances at 31st March 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	129,405	99,384	228,789	257,762
Net Current Assets	363,765	215,601	579,366	560,720
	493,170	**314,985**	**808,155**	**818,482**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fund Balances at 31st March 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	122,515	135,246	257,762	193,981
Net Current Assets	344,251	216,469	560,720	459,635
	466,767	**351,715**	**818,482**	**653,616**

16 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Scot Owen is Chair of the Board of Trustees at Treasure Chest, a childcare provider based at Park CP School. Treasure chests are clients of AVOW payroll services. Sales Transactions during the year totalled £1,300 (2021: £1,355). Scott also manages Xplore who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW and providers of services to The Land. Sales transactions £91 (2022: £367).

Berni Durham-Jones (retired in year) is a trustee of Stepping Stones North Wales who are a payroll client of AVOW payroll service. At the yearend Stepping Stones have a credit balance of £nil (2022: £nil). Sales transactions through the year totalled £1,095 (2022: £556).

Peter Howell is a Councillor for Wrexham County Borough Council, a Community Councillor for Gwersyllt and a Committee member of Wrexham Athletics club who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1043989

Accounts

AVOW

Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Wrecsam

AVOW

(Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham)
(A Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2022

Charity number: 1043989

Company number: 2993429

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cefnogi Trydydd Sector Cymru
Third Sector Support Wales

Chwarae Teg
Agile Nation2
Exemplar Employer | Achieving Award

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Charity number:	1043989
Company number:	2993429
Principal Office:	Tŷ Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, LL11 1ND
Auditors:	WR Partners LLP, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT
Bankers:	Nat West Bank Ltd, 33 Lord Street, Wrexham, LL11 1LS

Directors and Trustees
The Directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

		Appointed	Reappointed
Stephen Perkins	Chair	2012	2021 (Resigned 2021)
Barbara Roxburgh		2002	2019
Mervyn Dean	Acting Chair	2015	2021
Wanjiku Mbugua		2015	2020
David Thompson	Acting Chair	2016	2021
Mary Walker	Acting Chair	2016	2021
Howard Davies		2017	2020
Margaret Heaton		2019	
Helen Davies		2020	
Berni Durham-Jones		2020	
Gary Jones		2020	Resigned 2022
Scot Owen		2020	
John Swarbrick		2020	
Peter Howell		2021	
Kevin Forbes		2021	

Chief Officer: John Gallanders (to 30th January 2022) / Dawn Roberts-McCabe (from 1st February 2022)

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document
AVOW is a Company Limited by Guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7th November 1994 (as amended). AVOW is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Membership is open to all voluntary and community organisations collectively known as the Third Sector and individuals acting for the benefit of the community either as volunteers or employees. A review of the governing Document will take place in the next financial year.

Appointment of Trustees
The AVOW Board consists of up to 20 volunteer Trustees who are also Directors of the Company serving for a three-year period. All Trustees resign by rotation on a three yearly cycle. All member organisations are circulated with invitations to nominate Trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring Trustees and requesting nominations by the AGM, members then vote to appoint Trustees.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee every year. The Trustees have the power to appoint or co-opt further Trustees to fill vacancies following a thorough skills audit of existing Trustees.

Trustee induction and training
New Trustees undergo an induction with a Trustee mentor to brief them on legal obligations under charity and company law, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes as well as the AVOW business plan and an overview of the recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction they meet key employees, members and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate in house and external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role. All Trustees are required to undertake online training in partnership with Coleg Cambria in Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Data Protection, PREVENT, Whistleblowing and Information Security. All Trustees have undergone a DBS check in the last three years in line with the requirements of Care Inspectorate Wales as AVOW undertake regulated activity at Little Sunflowers Child Care in Plas Madoc.

Organisation
The Board of Trustees, which can have no more than 20 and not less than 6 members, sets the strategic direction of the charity. The Executive Committee currently meets at least bi-monthly and there are committees covering Finance, Voluntary and Community Services and Business Support. A Chief Officer is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity within a framework of delegated powers along with a team of managers.

Related Party Transactions
Trustees of the charity were involved in related party transactions during the year as follows:

- David Thompson is a School Governor at Ysgol Rhiwabon and St. Christopher's School, Wrexham and also a Trustee of the Warehouse project – all of whom are a potential beneficiary of funds allocated by AVOW. In addition, David also works part time for the Local Authority Education.
- Wanjiku Mbugua is Acting Chief Executive of Bawso who are a potential beneficiary of AVOW and also a Trustee of WEN Wales and the Breakthrough Foundation.
- Berni Durham-Jones is the Chief Executive Officer for Stepping Stones North Wales for whom AVOW do the payroll.
- John Swarbrick is a Director of IGL Solutions.
- Scot Owen is Chair of the Board of Trustees at Treasure Chest, a childcare provider based at Park CP school, Wrexham. Treasure Chest are clients of AVOW payroll services. Scot is also the Centre Manager of North Wales Science Ltd which are a member of AVOW.

- Kevin Forbes is the Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator for Wrexham County Borough.
- Peter Howell is a Councillor with Wrexham County Borough Council and a Community Councillor with Gwersyllt Community Council. Peter is also a Committee Member of Wrexham Athletics Club.

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Chief Officer as comprising the key management personnel of the charity. All the Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

Trustees are required to declare all relevant interests and withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff
The Finance Committee meet annually to review the pay and remuneration of the senior management team. The review of all senior staff pay is referenced to the NJC negotiated pay scales but not fully adopted. Any proposed adjustments to the pay of the senior management team are confirmed by the Finance Committee.

Risk management
An organisational Risk Register has been produced and is reviewed by Trustees annually. This identifies organisational risks and the risk management strategies in place to mitigate those risks. The main risks identified are financial and the Covid pandemic.

In line with Covid legislation risk assessments were undertaken across the whole organisation to take into account the impact of Covid on the operational side of activities. Risk assessments have been revised on numerous occasions to react to the changing Government guidance and identification of issues through operational practice. Advice has been sought on several occasions from Hamilton Deed the specialist AVOW health and safety advisors. Tŷ Avow re-opened its doors to the public at the beginning of March 2022, however during the whole Covid period AVOW were able to operate its services due to investment in computer hardware and software.

Financial risk will always remain a high priority for AVOW, however AVOW have been fortunate to receive numerous grants from Welsh Government, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and Wrexham County Borough Council for Winter pressures and poverty which has helped keep the organisational financially stable. The grants are only a short-term fix and AVOW heavily relies on the core funding from Welsh Government (via WCVA) which is reviewed annually so longer-term funding and investment is always being sought after.

Specialist advisors are contracted to oversee all Health and Safety matters by assessing and advising on risk assessments to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, visitors, beneficiaries, and stakeholders and the Trustees consider the charity to be well positioned to manage.

AVOW contracts with external professional advisors on matters such as:

- Employment (renewed May 2021)
- Health & Safety (renewed April 2021 for three years)
- Insurance (next review date June 2022)
- Financial Auditing (renewed January 2022)

Vision Statement

The AVOW Vision is the voluntary and community sectors achieving their missions for the benefit of the community within the County

Borough of Wrexham.

Mission Statement

To enable the voluntary and community sectors to achieve their missions for the benefit of the community within the County Borough of Wrexham, AVOW will:

- **Support the development of individuals and organisations within the voluntary and community sectors.**
- **Establish and sustain good practice.**
- **Undertake the provision of services appropriate to the voluntary and community sectors.**
- **Consult, represent and champion the voluntary and community sectors locally and nationally.**

An annual Trustee and Managers Awayday is held which helps to focus on current key issues and looks towards the future to identify challenges and opportunities. This is the opportunity to ensure that core functions are in line with the aims and objectives.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended is:

- To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in the area of Wrexham County Borough and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health, the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

- Each year the Trustees review these objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect the aims of the organisation. In carrying out this review the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The strategies and activities employed to achieve the charity's objectives are:

- To provide and promote an accessible and relevant range of locally available support services to enhance development and effectiveness of voluntary and community action.

- To identify the views of local voluntary and community groups and represent these views to decision makers e.g., Welsh Government (WG), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and local statutory bodies, and in ways which lead to effective outcomes and partnerships.

- To assist the development of locally determined and agreed initiatives, which meet the needs of the voluntary sector and enhance community participation.

- To develop and sustain an effective volunteering service.

- To encourage recruitment into charitable, voluntary and community services.

- To provide and promote accurate, current and relevant information.

- To provide and promote a funding advice service for voluntary organisations.
- To provide and promote a range of generic training courses to the local voluntary sector.
- To assist organisations to operate legally and efficiently.
- To facilitate and support the establishment of effective structured partnerships with the local authority and other agencies for the benefit of voluntary and community organisations.
- To identify issues of concern to voluntary and community organisations.
- To identify gaps in provision that can be met by new or existing voluntary organisations working in collaboration with statutory bodies.
- To promote the interests of the Third Sector in planning service development including community regeneration projects.
- To establish links with the corporate sector; and
- To promote the sector's role in Health and Social Care.

Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW)

AVOW is part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW), the collaborative name given to the network of support organisations for the Third Sector in Wales. This consists of the 19 County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) in Wales as well as Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).
The shared goal is to enable the Third Sector and Volunteers across Wales to contribute fully to individual and community wellbeing, now and for the future.
The focus of work concentrates on four pillars of activity:

- Volunteering
- Good Governance
- Sustainable Funding
- Engagement and Influencing

AVOW, as the CVC for Wrexham County Borough, is committed to the development of a strong voluntary and community sector for the benefit of the people of Wrexham County Borough.

Grants distributed

Youth Led Grants Scheme
AVOW has administered a Youth Led Grant scheme funded by WG via WCVA for the benefit of young people's organisations during the year.

Through the Youth Led Grant Scheme, this year, AVOW has distributed £2,910 (original grant of £6,000) to three organisations in amounts varying between £600 and £1,210 for young people to develop and deliver projects that increase youth volunteering opportunities and benefit the wider community.
The three successful organisations were:

- Community Café Rhosllanerchrugog
- Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST)
- Emerge Community Arts

Befriending
A Friend In Need – In 2020/21, £12,000 was provided to supporting groups set up to help people that are isolated. This financial year the remaining funds of £3,804 were allocated.

Bowmed Ibisqus
This local organisation requested assistance in identifying suitable organisations and facilitating the grants from their Christmas Fund. AVOW distributed £2,500 on their behalf.

Due to Covid and the cost-of-living crisis, AVOW have received several grants to assist the voluntary and community sector of Wrexham County Borough in supporting their service users;

Winter Pressures
The Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Winter pressures fund provided funds to 12 organisations ranging from £2,300 to £10,000. This funding enables such projects as counselling, replacement wheelchairs, mental health support and a project to tackle fuel poverty.

In addition Welsh Government also had a Winter Pressures Fund which AVOW distributed to 12 organisations with 11 grants of £5,000 and one of £1,000.

Total allocated for Winter Pressures was £143,889.

Food Poverty
Both Welsh Government and Wrexham County Borough Council (with funding provided by Welsh Government) have provided funds to AVOW for distribution for Food Poverty. A total of 23 grants were distributed to organisations to assist in supporting people in poverty through the procurement of white goods and storage facilities as well as for projects such as lunch clubs, foodbanks and a community larder. In total AVOW distributed £116,712 and further funds will been disseminated in 2022/23.

Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund 2
Following on from funding received in the previous year to support organisations that deal with issues connected with Covid, an amount of £23,555 was administered on behalf of AVOW by CVSC (Conwy Voluntary Service Council).

Tŷ Avow – Licencees

Tŷ Avow is a major Resource Centre for the Third Sector in Wrexham County Borough.
The building is user friendly with ramped access, lift to first floor, meeting rooms and office accommodation available for hire. During Covid the building was mainly closed to the public but opened up in March 2022.

During the year organisations with office accommodation within Tŷ Avow (which are let on a licence to occupy basis) were:

Vision Support	Barnardo's
Agoriad	Friends of Wrexham Carers
Polish Integration Support centre (PISC)	Cloud 9 for life
Snap Cymru	St. Giles Trust

As a direct result of Covid three of the organisations above have given notice in the reporting period and vacated the premises – Agoriad, St. Giles Trust and Friends of Wrexham Carers.

Achievements and performance

AVOW's main achievements during the year include the following:

Information and Communication

- Following a change of personnel a whole review of both internal and external communications is being undertaken. Covid affected the way in which AVOW had to communicate and subsequently social media, emails and the website are now the main methods of communications to stakeholders. AVOW has also rebranded during the year.

- Due to the on-going restrictions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Volunteer Centre Drop-in sessions were suspended. However, the Volunteer Centre altered its approach to engaging volunteers and voluntary organisations by holding a series of events in strategic locations, venues, and interested stakeholders including The Wrexham Enterprise Hub, DWP Employability Fair at Tŷ Pawb, a week of presentations at Coleg Cambria and other health and wellbeing events across the county. The Volunteer Centre has engaged with approximately 500 potential volunteers at these events and engaged with nearly 100 voluntary and community organisations.

- AVOW records all interactions, funding support, grants distribution, training and events on a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system shared with the wider Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW). The TSSW key performance indicators are taken from this system for reporting to the Welsh Government.
    - Funding obtained following support from AVOW £739,937
    - Funding awarded by AVOW £272,953
    - Organisations supported with direct advice 145
    - Organisations supported with specialist advice 51
    - Digital Training participants 192
    - Face to face training courses 106
    - Partnership Events 28
        - Partnership event attendees 333
    - Volunteers supported to enter volunteering 56
    - Individuals placed into volunteering 109
    - Total membership of AVOW 110

- The Daily Digest is the ebulletin which is distributed a couple of times a week to the mailing list held by colleagues from FLVC (Flintshire Local Voluntary Council) and is jointly funded by AVOW /FLVC. The Digest provides members with current news and opportunities for consultation of other Third Sector organisations and their service users. It is also utilised by AVOW's networks. Feedback from the members include the usefulness of receiving information in between network meetings in this format, and for those unable to attend network meetings

- AVOW's presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow, enabling us to rapidly share information with an increasingly wider audience. The main statistic to measure social media engagement over Facebook is now page followers rather than page likes, in accordance with Facebook's updates to monitoring page/profile insights (as part of its newly introduced 'Meta Business Suite' system):
  - AVOW Facebook Followers: 3288 – 10.5% increase on previous year (2975 as of March 31st, 2021)
  - AVOW Facebook Page Visits: 4,010 - 112.5% increase on previous year total according to Meta Business Suite Insights
  - AVOW Twitter Followers: 3271 (2022) – 2.6% increase (3187 as of March 31st, 2021)
  - Overall Facebook post reach (2021 – 2022): 81,040 (40.4% increase on previous year total according to Meta Business Suite Insights)
  - Overall Twitter Impressions (2021 – 2022): 114,608

- Other departments within AVOW have their own Social Media accounts:
  - AVOW Voluntary & Community Team: Facebook page (formerly Wrexham Volunteer Centre) – 742 followers (696 previous year, 24.5% increase) / Twitter - @AVOWVCT (formerly @WrxVolCentre) – 1,397 followers (1,320 previous year, 5.8% increase)
  - 'Land Plasmadoc' Facebook personal profile – 1246 friends (1096 previous year, 13.7% increase) / 'The Land' Twitter (@PlasMadocPlay) – 710 followers (697 previous year, 1.9% increase)
  - 'Little Sunflowers Avow' Facebook personal profile – 463 Friends (446 previous year, 3.8% increase)
  - 'Funding With AVOW' Facebook public group – 291 members (246 previous year, 18.3% increase)

- The method for sharing information via LinkedIn has changed: While our LinkedIn 'personal' profile now has 635 connections (up from 545 the previous year, with a 16.5% increase), LinkedIn no longer allows the use of personal profiles for business purposes. As a result, posts we make through this account no longer show up in the algorithm, and so make very minimal impressions. Instead, we have now set up our AVOW LinkedIn business page, which has gathered 108 followers so far (all connections on the redundant AVOW personal profile have been invited to follow our new business page).

- The AVOW website continues to be an essential reference point for job vacancies, funding opportunities and general news updates. The website also serves as a great source of information to link with platforms where the length of posts is tightly limited (such as Twitter). The home page, jobs page and volunteering page continue to be the most popular pages with visitors. From the 1st of April 2021 to the 31st of March 2022:
  - The AVOW website received 24,217 visitors.
  - The website had 68,668 actions take place (internal modifications and edits).

  - The website raised its average visitor time spent to 3 minutes 42 seconds (an 11% increase on 3 minutes and 20 seconds at the end of the previous year).
  - The AVOW website lowered its bounce rate to 19% (from 28% at the end of the previous year): Lower bounce rates are a sign that you provided enough reasons for the user to not only stay on that first page but also click onto a second page.

- Once again, the majority of the year still saw activities and engagement in an online and digital format, although as Covid restrictions have eased towards the end of the year, there have been more opportunities to engage face-to-face. Digitally, AVOW became more adept at holding

meetings, networks and training sessions which increased contact with organisations based regionally and further afield.

- Events that took place on a face-to-face basis were closely monitored and limited, with risks being identified and precautions taken. Only events which allowed for staff to be outside, or in well ventilated areas were possible. Care for personal health was paramount.

- Regular digital meetings that have taken place throughout the year:
  - Health and Well-being Network meetings, Children and Young People Network meetings
  - Covid Food Poverty meetings
  - LGBTQI+ Network
  - Funding clinics, including National Lottery, Hafren Dyfwrdwy and our own Winter pressure and Covid Recovery networks

Representation, Consultation and Outreach support

As the Welsh Government's appointed County Voluntary Council for Wrexham, AVOW is responsible for ensuring the Third Sector is appropriately represented on county and regional decision-making bodies. To this end, AVOW actively engages with Public Service organisations ensuring that the voice and views of the Third Sector are presented to strategic partnerships and considered within consultations. The Third Sector should always play a major part in the way that strategies and services can be developed as the champion of the community.

AVOW is the only Third Sector Representative on the Wrexham Public Service Board (PSB) and shares a joint role on the Wrexham and Flintshire Public Service Board. The PSB focus is primarily on developing strategic programming that will shape the local Well Being Plan. During 2021/22 the Flintshire and Wrexham joint PSB focused on cross county recovery and resilience. AVOW's Chief Officer was vice chair of the subgroup looking to address Poverty and Inequalities for 2021/22. AVOW's role on the two PSBs was to ensure that The Third Sector was aware of any developments, strategies or programmes undertaken by the PSBs and to advocate for the PSBs to partner with Third Sector organisations where possible.

AVOW's Third Sector representation is widely varied. A sample of regularly attended boards and steering groups is listed below. All meetings during 2021/22 have continued on digital platforms that have often resulted in higher attendance rates ensuring the Third Sector is heard by the widest possible audience:

- Wrexham Public Service Board
- Wrexham and Flintshire Public Service Board
- Regional Partnership Board
- Wrexham Adult Community Learning (ACL) steering group.
- Wrexham Youth Justice Forum
- AVOW Children and Young People's Wellbeing Network
- East Area Plan Group for mental health services, under the Together for mental health strategy
- ICAN Steering Group
- Local Implementation Teams (LiT) for Mental Health
- GP and Patient Action group
- Sub Regional Transformation Partnership
- Integrated Care Fund Regional Management Group –the phase out of both ICF and transformation and establishing the new Regional Integration Fund
- Wrexham Crown Buildings Wellbeing Hub Steering Committee

AVOW facilitated a range of consultation events on local, national and UK wide proposals and plans to highlight changes in legislation. Consultations are carried out at Wellbeing Networks and in addition, the daily digest (daily e-bulletin) provides an opportunity for all recipients to consult on Welsh Government priorities.

AVOW enjoys a strong relationship with our local authority, Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC). The Chief Officer has regular meetings with the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive Officer to discuss issues facing the Third Sector as well as find synergies between Council and Third Sector initiatives.

AVOW is a partner in the Rural Development Programme and is working with Cadwyn Clwyd for the 2015 -2022 schemes covering Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire.

AVOW officers have provided a wide range of outreach support in the form of funding advice surgeries, support sessions, networking events and community training session online. Throughout Covid, and since lockdown ended, Third Sector organisations have continued to benefit from in-house bespoke support delivered by our officers.

Projects

Wrexham Volunteer Centre
Due to the continuation of Covid restrictions throughout the year, the Volunteer Centre has continued to communicate with potential volunteers and voluntary organisations digitally. Staff have had to learn new methods and systems, in order to best engage with both individuals and voluntary organisations.

Throughout this period, the Volunteer Centre has made continued use of the digital systems established in the last financial year. This includes 110 new volunteer registrations on the www.volunteering-wales.net website and an additional 93 opportunities registered. Alongside this system, the AVOW Volunteer Opportunities form on Microsoft 365 has garnered an additional 63 opportunities available throughout the County Borough.

This year the Volunteer Centre have placed 111 volunteers into volunteering roles with 56 individuals being supported into volunteering.

The Volunteer Centre has held 12 monthly Volunteer Managers Networks for the benefit of the Third Sector, with 180 participants across these network meetings, each network meeting has been accompanied by a Microsoft Sway newsletter that has been accessed by 900 readers throughout the year. As well as providing advice and support to voluntary and community organisations on 140 separate enquiries.

AVOW have forged partnerships with Llais-y-Goedwig, We Are Plas Madoc (WAPM), Town Square, Adult Community Learning Wales (ACLW), Wrexham Library, Glyndwr University, Coleg Cambria, DWP and WCBC and all have taken part in a variety of networks across the local, regional and national sector.

Wrexham Community Car Scheme
In early 2021, AVOW applied for, and were granted, funding from the Community Transport Association to pilot a Wrexham Community Car Scheme to operate in the South Wrexham area with two electric vehicles – a Nissan Leaf and a Nissan e-NV200 which is wheelchair accessible and vehicle chargers have been installed in Plas Madoc. Working in conjunction with We Are Plas Madoc and run by volunteers, the scheme will enable greater access to services such as GPs with a

resulting improvement in personal health and wellbeing. Participants will be able to source cheaper food which will reduce food poverty and have access to events/outings reducing social isolation. Some anticipated journeys will enable people to access work opportunities that otherwise would be inaccessible due to limited transport in the more rural areas of South Wrexham. Due to delays in vehicle manufacturing the scheme will not be fully operational until mid-2022.

Films
Through funding received from the WG Covid Recovery Fund at the end of the 2020-21 financial year, AVOW commissioned 2 films, one regarding Voluntary Groups in Wrexham and another generic one about AVOW.
Production was carried out by local charity Eternal Media, who were finally able to go out into the community to engage with volunteers, organisations and groups for the first film – 'Volunteers of Wrexham'. Eternal Media then spent several days filming AVOW staff at their studio in Borras, in Tŷ Avow and around Wrexham for the second film – We Are AVOW. Completion of the films, after many weeks of editing and perfecting, was at the very end of the financial year, and the premiere of the films was eagerly awaited for the beginning of the next fiscal year, to take place at the Volunteers Week Event in June.

Food Poverty
AVOW facilitated a network with Third Sector organisations that were tackling food poverty as well as the Local Authority and the Health Board to discuss how to prevent food poverty and the best use of resources to improve access to healthier options and more affordable products.
AVOW distributed a number of grants to organisations and facilitated training to ensure organisations were best able to support individuals in poverty such as food hygiene and first aid for mental health.

Calon FM
In order to support the winding up of Calon FM, AVOW provided extensive advice and facilitated the transfer of funds from Calon to the new identity, Wrexham Community Broadcasting.

Community Development at AVOW
Funded from Cadwyn Clwyd, of which AVOW provide AVOW 25% of match funding, this post provides a range of support to community organisations and community buildings as well as support to individuals seeking to establish new organisations. Support is provided on governance, funding, HR and Health and Safety.

- Post-Covid has seen a rise in enquiries surrounding sustainable funding for capital projects and opportunities. The introduction of Funding Cymru has enabled organisations to source funding and become more forward thinking in terms of their planning.
- The launch of Skills Networks/ Workshops has seen growth and development of individuals to assist in the running and organising of community groups and buildings.
- Forums have given members of community groups, building and councils a voice to raise concerns within the community as well as provide an opportunity to network with not only one another but also with members of AVOW and other third-party organisations.
- Funding Networks have given members of community groups and buildings information to become financially viable and sustainable following Covid as well as provided opportunities to network.
- The ability of being able to conduct 'field visits' has heightened the work as it showcases to the community that AVOW are willing to show support and become more forward facing as well as highlighting the incredible work that goes on within the community.

Shopmobility

The AVOW Wrexham Shopmobility service operates from Wrexham bus station hiring out scooters and wheelchairs to enable people with mobility issues the freedom to access shops and services. During the Covid lockdown periods the service was closed and only opened for two days a week when lockdown eased. Despite that there were 670 hires in the reporting period and 27 new members.
Shopmobility received £5,000 from Wrexham County Borough Council as a one off grant to help sustain the service.

Wellbeing Team
With the reduction in funding and contract funding the previous Health and Wellbeing Team has now been reduced to a single Third Sector Health and Wellbeing Development Officer. The core funding of the BCUHB role has not changed and there is the interface between Health and Social Care and the Third Sector. There are a considerable number of meetings and partnerships associated with this work area.

Links to the wider Third Sector are through the Health and Wellbeing Network (run jointly with FLVC), and the electronic Daily Digest funded jointly with FLVC.

Managed by AVOW are The Children's and Young People Network (Wrexham specific), Covid Food Poverty and Inequality Network Forum linking poor health with poverty and inequalities in the Wrexham population (inverse care) and the LGBTQI+ Network.

Engagement practitioners' forum (BCUHB) is a regular Forum meeting for linking Third Sector Organisations and their Projects to health teams.

Due to the structure of the Health Board, there are numerous links with colleagues in FLVC as both are in the Board's East Division. Partnerships around ICF (Integrated Care Fund), ICAN (Community Mental Health) and Transformation funding take up a considerable level of inputting as well as working locally with cluster groups and the Accelerated Cluster Development Group.

Partnership groups include PEHP - Wrexham Prevention and Early Help Partnership, HEFCW (Higher Education Funding Council for Wales) Social Prescribing Project Board Meetings (with Glyndwr University), WASP - Wrexham Autism Stakeholder Partnership Flintshire and Wrexham Poverty and Inequality Group Meeting (with DWP and Third Sector Organisations).

AVOW's Chief Officer is the North Wales representative on the statutory Regional Partnership Board and the Area Planning Board (substance misuse).

AVOW has been an active Partner of the Steering Group that is overseeing the development of the Crown Buildings in Wrexham into a Wellbeing Hub.

Aging Well and the North West Wrexham Wellbeing Hub
Funds of £82,727 have been received in this year from WCBC for both these projects which will be starting in 2022/23.
Aging Well funds will provide a full-time member of staff for the co-ordination and implementation of Wrexham as a World Health Organisation recognised age friendly community and to support the delivery of a grant scheme to tackle social isolation.
The Northwest Wrexham Wellbeing Hub Officer will develop a Third Sector community hub to promote wellbeing and engage with organisations to provide services in the hub to improve wellbeing.

Wrexham Community Lottery

In December 2021 the Wrexham Community Lottery had its first draw. AVOW, in conjunction with Gatherwell, created and launched the lottery with over 40 local good causes on board. People can win up to £25,000 as well as support a local cause who keep 50% of ticket sales. AVOW, from their own ticket sales and a small % of overall ticket sales, have raised £794 in the reporting period. Local causes have raised £3,554.

Little Sunflowers Plas Madoc
AVOW continues to manage many services in Plas Madoc:

- Flying Start
- Rising 3's and 4's
- Early Education

Family Support
Many Little Sunflowers families have found that post Covid 19 they have faced many difficulties and needed a lot of support, this has ranged from financial to emotional support. Staff remain committed to supporting and signposting when needed. With funding received from Moondance, support was given to families who have struggled to access other services/professionals due to everything now being online which has caused issues when applying for school places, uniform grants and accessing parent classes.

Funding received

- RRRS - Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards - this funding was received from Funded Early Education and had to be spent on raising standards in emotional, learning, and physical needs in line with our link teacher. Little Sunflowers used it to purchase loose parts and develop the room in preparation for the new curriculum.
- Winter of Wellness - to purchase staff /children's clothing for outdoor use and yoga equipment.
- Capital Funding from WCBC has provided:
  - a nappy changing room has been built in the ICC as staff were struggling when changing children on the floor. The toileting area has been completely revamped and is now clean and fit for purpose with overhead cupboards for storage.
  - a kitchen refurbishment giving extra cupboards and workspace.
  - a canopy that has been erected to the rear of the building so the outdoor space can be used in all weathers.

AVOW Play and Community Development Team
The AVOW Play and Community Development Team is funded through Invest Local, Children in Need and Families First to work in Plas Madoc providing a service for children, parents and adults of the community. As of July 2021, the team were awarded 5 years funding from the National Lottery Community Fund totaling £485,861 – the funding awarded is enabling us to help our community during these challenging times by developing a new model of integrated Play and Community Development work, building on existing high-quality Play and Youth provision and extending our reach into the wider community.

The Land is a junk playground serving children of Plas Madoc and beyond. Furnished with donated 'junk' The Land responds to children's natural curiosity generating new ideas and creativity. The space is always staffed by trained, experienced and devoted play workers who value working with children and know the importance of asset-based community development. We are aiming to play our part in establishing a resident-led, multi-layered approach to local engagement to support and encourage active engagement in community affairs, building community capacity and resilience in addressing local issues and service shortcomings. We recognise that local people are themselves a key asset in supporting and facilitating positive change within the community through their active involvement.

The Land also offers volunteering opportunities for young people and adults within the Community - this scheme aims to increase levels of aspiration and improve the life chances of adults and also young people not in employment, education or training. We aim to work towards offering more formal access locally to dedicated programmes of support linked to training and education which can equip young people/adults who would otherwise be caught up in cycles of joblessness or self-limiting behaviour.

Services for Youth, Families and the Wider Community:

- The Lounge Youth Club: Twice weekly provision designed by and for young people aged 11-18, to support them in the transition from Primary to High school. In early 2022, we were awarded capital funding to further develop this service and are working collaboratively with Plas Madoc Leisure Centre to create a youth hub that will further develop this provision and support for Young People.
- Playschemes: Open access play available during the school holidays, 10 weeks of the year offering children/young people aged 5 – 15 accessible play opportunities on the doorsteps, creating a playful community culture.
- 'PlassyLanders' Drama Club: Weekly drama class, with an annual Pantomime at Christmas. Open to all ages and providing an opportunity to learn to act, dance, sing and perform.
- Kettle Club: Weekly support group providing opportunities for parents to meet in an informal setting to discuss parenting challenges and provide signposting to services. Participants are encouraged to embrace the opportunity to volunteer at community events where they learn transferable skills from the Play team which can be used in the home with their children. We also offer one to one support sessions and access to outreach services.
- Daily parenting support: Consistent, long-term social support to whole families to achieve sustainable and positive outcomes in terms of social and economic well-being. This tailored service is available when parents need support the most. The service provides support in response to safeguarding / financial and food security / health and well-being / parenting and other key issues.
- Munch and Brunch: Weekly meeting open to all community members. This unique befriending time highlights activities in Plas Madoc and encourages discussion on future activities, events or improvements needed for a safe and happy community.
- Crafty Brew: Weekly social group which supports mental health and well-being and reduce isolation.

Other Services:

- Plas Telford – social support and activities for older residents.
- Street Champions – community volunteers who support communication and activities at a street level.
- Environmental Projects including Garden Gang and Plants Madoc which encourage people to engage with nature and improve green spaces within the Community.
- Volunteer scheme – volunteering opportunities within the community that aims to increase participation and develop skills.

AVOW are fundholders for Plas Madoc Invest Local which funds WAPM who currently contribute towards the Manager of the Play Team and a Community Development Officer for We are Plas Madoc.

Funding Advice Service

This financial year had many organisations seeking support and advice around funding opportunities available to them and AVOW distributed significant amounts of funding on behalf of WCBC, WG and BCUHB as well as smaller amounts from corporate donations. During the last 12 months the funding

advice service has been well utilised within the sector, more so in the current crisis. The service has offered advice, guidance and support to many organisations that were seeking and applying for funding.

Overall, there were 17 organisations supported with direct advice who were successful in attaining funding of £739,937.

The number of members on the 'Funding with AVOW' Facebook public group increased to 291 (from 246 the previous year), and the group has received 6,874 cumulative views from users within the last year. The group can be accessed at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/AVOWFunding

In the reporting year AVOW have arranged many sessions for organisations to meet funders through digital means, including the National Community Lottery, Hafren Dyfrdwy, and Community Foundation Wales. These funders have supported organisations to complete, refine and submit applications for grants distributed by them directly.

AVOW have helped many organisations to source grants and awards from other funders, offering search and sign posting services to match funding to their projects and the criteria of the grant givers, however have had less requests for assistance with bid writing and applications than in the past, but have given support to several groups who have made a decision to alter their charitable status for different reasons.

AVOW have continued to promote the funding database, Funding Wales https://funding.cymru/ and AVOW's Funding Facebook page which is regularly updated with information about new funding sources as they become available.

Support has been given mainly via Teams and Zoom and as lockdown restrictions lifted, in the community and in Tŷ Avow.

BME Project
Following a change of personnel, Moondance have now agreed to utilise the small remaining funds to continue to support BAME groups with funding and advice.

Employability and Sustainability

Research
With funds from Welsh Government for volunteer sustainability, research was conducted by Neighbourhood Economics to look at strategic issues in volunteering. The research looked at the services AVOW put in place during the pandemic and researched the need for strategic change in how volunteering is organised and supported on a multi-agency basis and produced an action plan for recovery from, and life beyond, coronavirus. The research was published in April 2021.

As part of the Food Poverty project, with funding from Welsh Government with an additional amount from BCUHB, the Wrexham Food Poverty Network, through AVOW, commissioned research from Dr Sarah Lloyd-Jones from People and Work. This was to look at community-based food related initiatives in Wrexham and their plans going forward. The aim was to inform the Network about what is happening around food-based community action, with a particular focus on food poverty. The research was about Third Sector and community provision, capturing what is currently being done; who uses these services and what is known about their impact on people; current and future demand; the effective governance of provision, including its sustainability; and how provision in

Wrexham compares with other areas, including highlighting gaps and good practice. The research will be published in 2022.

Events

Volunteers Week

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, Volunteers Week celebrations were once again held online. Councillor Ronnie Prince, Mayor of Wrexham, presented 22 certificates of thanks and achievement to nominated volunteers at a virtual 'Afternoon Tea' celebration shared with local organisations and hosted by the Volunteers Centre.

The Volunteer Centre also held a 5-day 'Thank you' campaign on social media that congratulated 31 organisations and tens of volunteers across the entire County Borough, with 3,566 engagements on social media.

Holocaust Memorial Day

In partnership with the Cohesion Teams at Wrexham County Borough Council, AVOW planned for a face-to-face event however this was prevented due to last minute Covid restrictions. A digital awareness campaign was run across all social media platforms in tandem with workshops on art, poetry and community consultations.

High Sherriff Awards

AVOW were pleased to assist with the local arrangements for the High Sheriff of Clwyd Community Awards 2022 by coordinating the nominations for Wrexham County Borough, in partnership with FLVC who were the CVC responsible for overall arrangements alongside the High Sheriff Officer.

Ukraine appeal

Late February 2022 AVOW supported the Polish Integration Support Centre (PISC) in the Ukraine appeal for volunteers and donated items to help Ukrainian refugees. AVOW utilised all available space in Tŷ Avow for donated goods and arranged for alternative spaces when the building was at capacity. In total 1631 volunteers were recruited to help in the sorting and dispatch of the donated items which saw over 67 lorries travel to Poland for displaced Ukrainians.

Quality

Following successful accreditation of Investors in People (IIP) in 2020 meant subsequent review meetings in the intervening years prior to the next assessment in 2023.
AVOW have also successfully achieved Cyber Security status for the third year running.

Financial Review

AVOW started in a financially strong position and this continued throughout the whole year. Good management, forward planning and application for new sources of funding meant that we had many additional funding streams brought in mid-year which has increased our unrestricted reserves and cemented our financial position further. Some of these additional funds were The National Lottery Community Fund for the Land and Grants for Distribution from WCBC, BCUHB and Welsh Government to support local organisation with Winter Pressures and Food Poverty Projects. During the year we also purchased two electric vehicles through the Community Transport Assocation Funds and Welsh Government, these cars have been added to the AVOW assets which have also contributed to the increase in unrestricted funds.

The AVOW building opened to the public again at the beginning of the financial year however, generated income from building activities such as photocopying, postage and room hire remain low

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The AVOW building opened to the public again at the beginning of the financial year however, generated income from building activities such as photocopying, postage and room hire remain low compared to pre covid times. We have also sadly lost more licensees during the year due to changes in working practices which has had a negative impact on our unrestricted funds. We are committed to ensuring that the Ty Avow office is fully occupied within 2022/2023.

During the start of the financial year, we were still reliant on the Government Job Retention Scheme within the Little Sunflowers and Shopmobililty projects which weren't publicity funded. Fortunately, this was only for a limited time and both settings were open fully for the majority of the financial year. As in previous years it has been difficult to access any business accounts/bonds/deposit accounts and interest rates have been exceptionally low and very little income has been generated. Now interest rates are increasing we are currently setting up a multi-platform deposit account to ensure we receive the best returns on all funds that we hold.

Restricted reserves have been utilised during the year, however due to additional grants being received in the year the restricted balance has increased to £351,715 on the 31st of March 2022. Unrestricted funds have been boosted again during the year due to additional projects undertaken and grants provided in the year. After many years of depleted unrestricted reserves, AVOW now have a very robust balance of £466,766 at the 31st March 2022. Trustees are continuing to looking into ways of using these unrestricted funds to invest in AVOWs future, the AVOW building and to grow and develop areas of working.

The Trustees have reviewed all finances for 2022/2023 and accepted a budget to 31st March 2023 that shows a deficit of -£67,397. The deficit is partly due to moving to the Real Living Wage as we want to ensure that staff are paid a meaningful wage. It is felt that the deficit will significantly reduce in year as additional funds/project are received and the hopeful increase in licencee's at the Ty Avow Buidling.

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding sources for AVOW remains the Infrastructure Core Grant from the Welsh Government - administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action – During the year we received an increased amount of funding in relation to Grants for Distribution to aid with Food Poverty and Winter Pressures projects.

There are other various grants and Service Level Agreements with Wrexham County Borough Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

WCBC Adventure Play Project- Families First funding
WCBC Flying Start
WCBC Early Education
WCBC Friends in Need Grant
WCBC Building Grants
WCBC Shopmobility Funds
WCBC RRRS
WCBC Winter of Wellness
WCBC Ageing Well
WCBC North West Wrexham Wellbeing Hub
WCBC Food Poverty Grants
WCBC Sustainability & Isolation Grant
BCUHB Health Facilitator
BCUHB Partners In Care
BCUHB GP Facilitator
BCUHB Winter Pressures
BCUHB Poverty Research
BCUHB IMPT

Other substantial funders are detailed below:

BCT Invest Local for Plas Madoc
Moondance
Children in Need
Welsh Government Food Poverty Grant
Welsh Government CTA Community Transport Grant
The National Lottery Community Fund
Cadwyn Clwyd
Community Learning
We Are Plas Madoc
Bowmed Ibisquis

Reserves Policy
During the year the Trustees have agreed to continue AVOW's policy of having at least one quarter of the annual running costs, together with a cash flow provision and a redundancy contingency in reserve. Trustees had designated £44k to contribute towards the funding of a new Volunteer and Community Manager post which will started in 2021/2022 and will be funded for 5 years. In practice this mean £134,506 representing one quarter's running costs, designated funds, and redundancy contingency. This amount is covered by the unrestricted reserve £466,766 held at 31st March 2022. Free reserves on 31st March 2022 amounted to £209,745 (31st March 2021 £ 154,018). The Trustees noted that the free reserves level at the year-end is an improvement again on last year's figures due to adapting and utilising our assets to create additional unrestricted reserves.

Investment Policy
AVOW's Memorandum and Articles of Association authorises the investment of monies of the Association not immediately required for its purpose, in or upon such investments, securities, or

with state-of-the-art Hybrid video conferencing so that those who are unable, or unwilling, to return to face-to-face meetings can be accommodated. The Tŷ Avow Wi-Fi has been expanded through the building as well offering high level connectivity throughout.

Team AVOW will be expanding with the introduction of three new, full-time, roles secured in 21/22. The Ageing Well and Northwest Health and Wellbeing Hub Officers are co-produced with Wrexham County Borough Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). The new full-time Funding and Grants Officer builds upon the previous Funding Advice Officer and will assist AVOW and local community groups with sustainable funding advice.

The Third Sector continued to benefit from considerable levels of support funding from the Government and Charitable funders as part of response and recovery packages that inevitably will see a reduction at some point in the future. However, the cost-of-living crisis and energy crisis may create new funding opportunities.

AVOW will always remain people focused and ensure that services are being delivered on an inclusive basis to anyone seeking support.

Welsh Government
There are two key issues regarding funding that causes pressure for the Sector - the first is the relatively short time for funding streams with three years becoming the norm but many being on annual cycles that do not permit effective planning and not in line with the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act that talks about generational changes. The other key issue is the last-minute slippage or expenditure that needs to be 'in year'. There are vast amounts of public sector funding that do not produce any effective change or support due to large amounts becoming available with only 'months' to deliver.

Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

Company law requires the Executive Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing such financial statements, the Executive Committee follows best practice and;

- selects suitable accounting policies and applies them consistently;
- observes the methods and principles in the charities SORP;
- makes judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepares the financial statements on the "going concern" basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Executive Committee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

Members of the Executive Committee

Members of the Executive Committee, who are Directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.
In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

WR Partners LLP, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT were appointed, following a tender process in December 2014, as the charitable company's auditors and have continued in that capacity until the end of the 2021/22 financial year. The tender process was completed in January 2022 and WR Partners were instructed to continue as Audit provider for a further 3 years.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2015 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Approved by the Executive Committee on 30th August 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Peter Howell (Chairman)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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, 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 Charities Act 2011

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company'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 Auditors' 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder

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:

The audit team obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are those which relate to the reporting framework (The Charity SORP 2019), the relevant tax compliance regulations and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We understood how the charitable company complies with these frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We also reviewed board minutes to identify any recorded instances of irregularity or non-compliance that might have a material impact on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement including how fraud may occur by meeting with key management to understand where they considered there was a susceptibly to fraud. Based on our understanding our procedures involved enquiries of management and those charged with governance, manual journal entry testing, cashbook reviews for large and unusual items and the challenge of significant estimates used in preparing the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

We reviewed the charitable company's regulatory environment to ensure we could conclude that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the charitable company and its environment and identify and instances of non-compliance. We also assessed the society's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures.

The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and society awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is

located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WR Partners

WR Partners

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Belmont House

Shrewsbury Business Park

Shrewsbury

Shropshire

SY2 6LG

Date: 20th September 2022

WR Partners are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds Restated 2021
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	3	1,416	741	2,157	16,941
Investment income-interest receivable		52	-	52	119
Income from charitable activities	4	313,688	982,253	1,295,941	1,132,361
Total income		315,156	982,994	1,298,150	1,149,421
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	5	420,531	712,753	1,133,284	933,835
Total expenditure		420,531	712,753	1,133,284	933,835
Net (expenditure)/income for the year before transfers	7	(105,375)	270,241	164,866	215,586
Gross transfers between funds	8	202,486	(202,486)	-	-
Net movement in funds		97,111	67,755	164,866	215,586
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		369,656	283,960	653,616	438,030
Total funds carried forward	14	466,767	351,715	818,482	653,616

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

COMPANY NUMBER 2993429

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

		2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		257,762		193,982
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	221,526		48,412	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		534,675		496,712	
		756,201		545,124	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(195,481)		(85,489)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			560,720		459,635
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			818,482		653,617
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13				-
NET ASSETS			818,482		653,617
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:					
Restricted funds	14		351,715		283,960
Unrestricted funds					
General reserves	14		332,261		206,911
Designated funds	14		134,506		162,746
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			818,482		653,617

The charity's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small Companies regime. The Trustees consider that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provision of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, an audit is required in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and their preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors 30th August 2022 .and signed on its behalf by:

Peter Howell (Chairman)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movements in funds	164,666	215,586
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	22,157	20,810
Profit or loss in disposal of fixed assets		-
Investment income - interest receivable		-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(173,114)	10,078
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	109,992	(33,464)
Deferred Grant		-
Net cash generated from operating activities	**123,901**	**213,010**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Investment income - interest receivable		-
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(85,938)	(11,477)
Net cash used in investing activities	**(85,937)**	**(11,477)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	37,963	201,533
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	496,712	295,176
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	**534,675**	**496,712**
Cash and cash equivalents at the yearend comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	534,675	496,712
	534,675	**496,712**

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES:-

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements:

(a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (October 2019– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise statement in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have reviewed the current position for 2021/2022 and anticipate that they will fulfil the same service delivery in 2022/2023. Any cuts in income for 2022/2023 will have the appropriate decrease in expenses to safeguard the current level of unrestricted reserves.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statements of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of service provided by the volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, when related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over them, any condition associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

(e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

(f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charities work or for specific projects being undertaken.

Internal transfers between funds relate to management costs, support and administration charges applied to the projects and recharged back to unrestricted costs. These are a contributions towards management, support and administration costs of the charity as a whole.

(g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which supports AVOW and its activities.

(i) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Purchases of furniture and equipment are capitalised where they can be used for more than one year and cost over £500. Depreciation on fixed assets is calculated to write down their costs or valuation to their estimated residual value over the period of their economic lives at the following rates:-

Freehold property	-	2% straight line basis
Furniture and Fixtures	-	20% straight line basis
Computers and Equipment	-	33% straight line basis
Motor Vehicles	-	20% straight line basis

(j) Operating Leases

The costs of operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account as they accrue.

(k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discount due.

(l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term investments.

(m) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(n) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) Pensions

All employees are invited to join the Aegon pension's scheme with a non-contributory 7% contribution on gross salary. The pension is auto enrolment compliant and all those who had not joined the pension scheme as of November 2015 were automatically enrolled when necessary. The contributions made for the accounting period are treated as an expense and were £32,490 (2021: £32,604)

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimated and assumptions:

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. In the opinion of the Trustees there are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

AVOW is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
3 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES				
Membership Fees	1,101	-	1,101	1,162
Donations and Legacies (Including Gift Aid)	315	741	1,056	15,779
	1,416	741	2,157	16,941

Income from donation and legacies was £1,056 (2021: £16,941) of which £315 was unrestricted (2021: £1,207 and £741 was restricted (2021: £15,734).

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
4a INCOMING FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Grants and Other Service Contract Income				
Wrexham County Borough Council				
Plas Madoc Flying Start	-	60,693	60,693	87,719
WCBC Building Grants	-	-	-	46,000
LSCC Cwtch Grant	-	-	-	7,178
Early Education	-	20,352	20,352	14,266
Friends In Need Grant	-	-	-	12,959
Shopmobility	5,000	-	5,000	-
Adventure Play Grant	-	63,992	63,992	24,824
Families First	-	16,369	16,369	15,892
RRRS	-	2,312	2,312	-
Winter of Wellness	-	667	667	-
Ageing Well Officer	-	47,727	47,727	-
North West Wrexham Wellbeing Hub	-	35,000	35,000	-
Food Poverty Grants	-	90,461	90,461	-
Sustainability & Isolation Grant	-	10,000	10,000	-

(Continued on next page)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
4a.	**INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**				
	BCUHB				
	Health Facilitator	-	42,032	42,032	41,208
	Partners in Care	-	-	-	32,500
	GP Facilitator	-	-	-	9,022
	Winter Pressures Grant	-	100,000	100,000	-
	Poverty Research	-	4,000	4,000	-
	IMPT	-	2,500	2,500	-
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action				
	Local Voluntary Scheme	111,823	-	111,823	101,809
	Volunteering Wales	52,500	-	52,500	48,116
	Covid Funds	-	-	-	134,862
	Youth Led Grants	-	6,650	6,650	6,650
	Comic Relief Grant	-	2,826	2,826	26,591
	VSEF Grants	-	-	-	45,997
	Welsh Government				
	Winter Pressures Grant	-	78,801	78,801	-
	Food Poverty	-	91,448	91,448	-
	Community Transport Grant	-	95,304	95,303	-
	CRT 51	-	-	-	68,300
	WG Entrepreneurship	-	-	-	71,580
	Broughton Community Council	-	-	-	-
	Lottery	-	66,389	66,389	-
	Rhos Community Council	-	1,500	1,500	6,000
	Children In Need	-	14,914	14,914	10,287
	Children In Need Booster	-	-	-	2,500
	Renew Wales	-	392	392	3,553
	Moondance		-	-	47,230
	Plas Madoc Invest Local	-	78,174	78,174	76,520
	BME- Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support	-	-	-	13,013
	Cadwyn Clwyd	-	16,483	16,483	-
	Community Learning Grant	-	676	676	-
	We Are Plas Madoc	-	7,035	7,035	2,625
	Bowmed Ibisquis	-	2,500	2,500	-
	Calon Funds	-	13,961	13,961	-
	Hydro Aluminium Grant		-	-	2,000
	Food For Life Get Together		-	-	1,000
	Steve Morgan Foundation		-	-	2,700
	Co-op Shopmobility Funds		-	-	500
	Neighbourly Fund	-	400	400	400
	Tesco Bags 4 Life	-		-	1,500
	Community Foundation	-		-	10,000
	HMRC Job retention scheme	3,425	-	3,425	20,788
	Match Funding	-	7,111	7,111	
			-		
Total Grants Receivable		172,748	980,668	1,153,416	996,089

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2021 £
4b. INCOME EARNED FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES				
Rents and services	41,537	-	41,537	56,207
Photocopying and postage	-	-	-	-
Payroll services	72,716	-	72,716	67,749
Trips and events	262	180	442	-
Training courses	3,604	-	3,604	2,590
Community Lottery	550	244	794	-
LSCC Income	15,728	-	15,728	4,238
Shopmobility	3,917	-	3,917	1,880
Other Income	2,626	1,161	3,787	3,608
Drama Club	-	-	-	-
	313,688	982,253	1,295,941	1,132,361

Income from charitable activities was £1,295,941 (2021: £1,132,361) of which £313,688 related to unrestricted reserves (2021: £493,789) and £982,253 restricted reserves (2021: £638,572).

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
5 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:				
Grants Payable				
Youth Led Grants		2,910	2,910	4,750
Flintshire Transformation Grant		-	-	2,461
Hydro Grant		-	-	2,000
WCVA Vsef Grant		-	-	24,000
Friends in Need Befriending		3,242	3,242	8,421
VSEF Grant		1,850	1,850	23,765
VSEF Grant 2		21,705	21,705	1,500
Marjorie Dykins		-	-	1,000
WG Food Poverty		116,712	116,712	-
BCUHB Winter Pressures		88,889	88,889	-
WG Winter Pressures		55,000	55,000	-
Calon Transfer of Funds		13,961	13,961	-
Bowmed Ibisquis		2,500	2,500	-
Other Costs of Charitable Activity				
Bad Debts written off	10,000	-	10,000	-
Volunteer Match	4,411	-	4,411	-
Staff salaries & pensions	282,290	279,368	561,658	568,593
Staff travel	242	21	263	585
Staff training	1,424	461	1,884	7,792
Other staff costs	6,251	1,301	7,552	8,827
DBS Charges	715	3,938	4,653	995
Volunteer expenses & Training	182	-	182	6,594
Other training costs	4,520	15,719	20,239	16,290
Depreciation	16,315	5,842	22,157	20,811
Telephone	3,641	429	4,070	1,014
Computer maintenance and expenses	18,959	755	19,714	14,127
Insurance	5,738	812	6,551	6,249
Heat and light	5,873	-	5,873	3,115
Water rates	336	-	336	110
Repairs and maintenance	15,172	975	16,147	16,066
Printing, postage & stationery	1,152		1,152	251
Projects and events	7,357	79,151	86,508	126,956
Project publicity and promotion costs	276	216	492	8,397
Sundry expenses	116	1,090	1,206	120
Bank charges	3,287	-	3,287	3,007
Subscriptions, books and publications	600	30	630	692
Research Project	-	15,000	15,000	12,000
Promotional Film	-	-	-	15,000
Shopmobility	2,550	-	2,550	709
Van Expenses	-	866	866	2,145
PELAC management Payment	-	-	-	6,000
Governance Costs				
Audit fees	9,090	-	9,090	5,040
Accountancy Fees	600	-	600	-

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES continued:

Legal and professional fees	19,434	-	19,434	12,438
AGM Expenses				-
Health & Safety	-	10	10	2,037
Trustee travel expenses				(22)
	420,631	**712,753**	**1,133,284**	**933,835**

Expenditure on charitable activities was £1,133,284 (2021: £933,835) of which £410,531 was unrestricted (2021: £384,253) and £712,753 was restricted (2020: £549,582)

		Costs of activities £	Support costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
6	**ANALYSIS OF OTHER COSTS**				
	Bad debt written off		10,000	10,000	-
	Volunteer Match	-	4,411	4,411	
	Staff salaries	383,546	178,112	561,658	568,593
	Staff travel	46	217	263	585
	Staff training	1,105	779	1,884	7,792
	Other staff costs	2,986	4,566	7,552	8,827
	DBS Charges	3,991	662	4,653	995
	Volunteer expenses	-	182	182	6,594
	Other training costs	16,169	4,070	20,239	16,290
	Depreciation	5,842	16,315	22,157	20,811
	Telephone	600	3,470	4,070	1,014
	Computer maintenance and expenses	1,602	18,112	19,714	14,127
	Insurance	813	5,738	6,551	6,249
	Heat and light	-	5,873	5,873	3,115
	Water rates	-	336	336	110
	Repairs and maintenance	975	15,172	16,147	16,066
	Printing, postage & stationery	218	934	1,152	251
	Projects and events	86,042	466	86,508	126,956
	Project publicity and promotion costs	297	195	492	8,397
	Sundry expenses	1,090	116	1,206	120
	Bank charges	314	2,973	3,287	3,007
	Subscriptions, books and publications	590	40	630	692
	Research Project	15,000	-	15,000	12,000
	Promotional Film	-	-	-	15,000
	Shopmobility	2,550	-	2,550	709
	PELAC Management payments	-	-	-	6,000
	Van Expenses	866		866	2,145

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Governance Costs

Audit fees	-	9,090	9,090	5,040
Non audit fees to auditor	-	600	600	-
Legal and professional fees	-	19,434	19,434	12,438
AGM Expenses	-	-	-	-
Health & Safety	10		10	2,037
Trustee travel expenses	-		-	(22)
	524,652	301,863	826,515	865,938

Expenditure on other costs was £816,515 (2021: £865,935) of which £524,652 was cost of activities (2021: £608,624) and £301,863 was support costs (2021: £257,916).

	2022 £	2021 £
7 NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	22,157	20,811
Auditors Remuneration	8,400	5,040

8GROSS TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

This figure comprises internal recharges for services provided by AVOW to various restricted fund projects and contributions towards AVOW's management of the restricted projects, net of any overspends on restricted projects which have been covered by general funds. A more detailed breakdown is given under note 14 c). The transfer of £84,789 from restricted to unrestricted funds relates to the purchase or two electric vehicles from Community Transport funds. There are no restricted on the vehicles and therefore moved to unrestricted assets.

9TRUSTEES AND EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

a) Trustees:
No Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2021- nil).
Travel expenses to the value of Nil (2021: Nil) were paid to 0 trustees (2021: 0) during the year to attend meetings.
During the year a number of trustees donated their expenses to AVOW. All the transactions were conducted on an arm's length basis in support of the charity.

b) Employees:	2022 £	2021 £
Staff Costs:		
Salaries and Wages	508,178	507,789
Social Security Costs	28,286	28,561
Pension Costs	32,490	32,604
Redundancy Costs	-	-
	568,954	568,954

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2020 – nil).
The key management personnel of the charity is the Chief Officer. Their employee benefits total £54,233 (2021: £51,263).

	2022	2021
The average number of employees was:	34	35.5
The average number employees FTE	24.5	23.5

10 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Building £	Furniture & Fixtures £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
Opening balance 1 April 2021	292,108	148,085	47,405	11,900	499,498
Additions	-	-	1,148	84,789	85,937
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance 31 March 2022	292,108	148,085	48,553	96,689	585,435
DEPRECIATION					
Opening Balance 1 April 2021	129,988	125,002	39,144	11,382	305,516
Charge for the year	5,842	11,020	3,364	1,931	22,157
Disposals					
Closing Balance 31 March 2022	135,830	136,022	42,508	13,313	327,673
Net Book Value 31 March 2022	156,278	12,063	6,045	83,376	257,762
Net Book Value 31 March 2021	162,120	23,083	8,261	518	193,982

The freehold property referred to above is Ty Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, which is included in these financial statements at original cost less depreciation.

12 DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade Debtors	204,661	38,589
Prepayments	15,608	8,698
Accrued income	942	810
Accrued Gift Aid Tax	315	315
	221,526	48,412

	2021	2021
	£	£
13 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade Creditors	18,244	29,224
Accruals and Deferred Income	104,853	5,113
PAYE & NI Creditor	8,375	8,332
Payroll Creditor	64,009	42,820
	195,481	85,489

The creditor and bank balances include £64,009 in respect of the HMRC creditor for AVOW's payroll clients along with credits held on account.

14 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS TO 31ST MARCH 2022

a) Summary of funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	369,656	283,960	653,616	438,030
Net Movement in Funds	97,111	67,755	164,866	215,586
Carried forward	**466,767**	**351,715**	**818,482**	**653,616**

b) Unrestricted Funds

	General Fund	Designated Funds: Running Costs and Redundancy Contingency	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	206,911	162,745	369,656	185,894
Income & Expenditure Account	(77,136)	(28,239)	(105,375)	110,862
Transfer from Restricted Funds	202,486	-	202,486	72,900
Carried forward	**332,261**	**134,506**	**466,767**	**369,656**

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

c) Restricted Funds

	At 1st April 2021	Incoming	Outgoing	Manage-ment Transfer	Internal Charges/Overheads	Transfers from/ to Unrestricted Funds	At 31st March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3D Printer Ysgol Clywedog	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
BCT Adv Play & Dev officer Plan 2	-	63,853	39,494	2,937	3,916	-	17,506
BCT Development officer	9,075	-	8,059	561	478	-	- 23
BCT Invest Local	2,105	-	2,105	-	-	-	-
BCT Plan 2	-	14,501	3,017	-	31	-	11,453
BCU Winter Presures	-	100,000	88,889	11,111	-	-	-
Bowmed Ibisquis	-	2,500	2,500	-	-	-	-
Calon	-	13,962	13,962	-	-	-	-
Carers Covid	2,851	-	-	-	-	- 2,851	-
Community Buildings	- 621	23,594	22,956	-	17	-	-
Community Learning Grant	-	676	676	-	-	-	-
Community Transport	-	95,303	853	-	-	- 84,789	9,661
Covid 19 AVOW donations	3,920	-	-	-	-	- 3,920	-
DTA	-	391	352	39	-	-	-
Friends In Need Grant	3,804	-	3,242	562	-	-	-
H&SC Community Survey	-	2,500	1,193	1,307	-	-	-
H&SC Facilitator & Dev Officer	- 2,871	42,032	26,169	4,961	5,019	-	3,012
John Leece Jones Memorial	-	691	1,806	-	-	-	- 1,115
LSCC Lil Stars	3,261	20,352	16,780	2,730	2,857	-	1,246
LSCC Capital Grant	2,078	-	-	-	-	-	2,078
LSCC Community Foundation	6,051	-	2,249	-	-	-	3,802
LSCC Flying Start	- 7,420	60,693	47,515	2,250	10,814		- 7,306

LSCC Moondance	7,800		4,645	708			2,447
LSCC Play innovation	316	-	-	-	-	-	316
LSCC RRRS Grant	-	2,312	1,591	-	-	- 516	205
LSCC Sustainability Grant	-	10,000	8,990	1,010	-	-	-
LSCC Tesco Bags	- 14		- 14				-
LSCC Winter of Wellness	-	667	88	-	-	-	579
MAD Grant	2,160	294	-	-	-	1,920	4,374
PM Play Moondance	9,644	-	7,643	1,136	865	-	-
Moondance BME	18,432	-	6,323	1,229	1,335	-	9,545
Play WCBC Capital/Container	-	11,000	11,000	-	-	-	-
PM BTC Adventure Play	33,174	-	30,019	1,522	1,612	-	21
PM CIN	513	14,914	8,019	1,147	1,178	-	5,083
PM CIN Booster	111		-	-	-	- 111	-
PM Community Council Playscheme	2,674	1,500		150	-	- 4,024	-
PM Donations	8,419	1,161	2,335	-	-	4,135	11,380
PM Drama Club	1,066	-	-	-	-	-	1,066
LSCC EE EYDCG Grant	155	-	-	-	-	-	155
PM Families First	-	16,369	12,471	1,955	1,943	-	-
PM Play Lottery	-	66,389	53,207	4,632	5,755	-	2,795
PM WCBC Holiday	-	12,000	866	-	-	-	11,134
PM Play WCBC Holiday Sessions	-	17,237	11,982	1,570	1,500	-	2,185
PM Play Winter Pressures	-	20,755	14,438	1,420	1,419	-	3,478
PM Play Neighbourly	-	400	140	-	-	-	260
PM Play WCBC activities	-	3,000	3,000				-
PM WCBC Kettle Club	517	-	517	-	-	-	-
PM Youth Club	- 25	-	-	-	-	25	-
Property Grant-Restated	141,089	-	5,842	-	-	-	135,247
Rhosddu Fun Day	326	-	326	-	-	-	-
Shopmobility Scooters	139					- 139	-

Shopmobility Tesco	60	-	-	-	-	- 60	-
Shopmpbility Co-op Grant	500	-	-	-	-	- 500	-
Social Media Training	6,000	-	1,450	-	-	-	4,550
LSCC Steve Morgan	731	-	337	-	-	-	394
Volunteer Centre Development	3,000	-	2,475		-	- 525	-
WCVA Comic Relief VSEF Grant	- 1,000	2,826	1,850		-	-	- 24
WCVA VSEF 2ND	20,497	-	21,705	-	-	1,208	-
WCVA Youth led Grants	3,226	6,650	3,010	502	-	-	6,364
WG Volunteering CRT	1,217	-	1,000	-	-	- 217	-
WAPM Drama Club	-	4,376	3,978	398			-
WCBC Youth/Football	-	2,659	2,417	242			-
WCBC 3rd Sector Hub	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000
WCBC Ageing Well	-	47,727	-	-	-	-	47,727
WCBC Food Poverty	-	90,461	68,259	9,000		- 7,750	5,452
WCBC Funding & Advice	-					7,750	7,750
WG Fod Poverty	-	95,448	78,232	9,000	4,298	-	3,918
WG Winter Pressures	-	78,801	61,795	7,006			10,000
Total	**283,960**	**982,994**	**712,753**	**69,085**	**43,037**	**- 90,364**	**351,715**

Management charges/Internal charges totalling £112,122 represent grant monies expended on services provided by AVOW during the year. Management transfers include contribution towards AVOW's administration according to the terms of the grant. Transfers from unrestricted funds represents any overspends which have been covered by general funds. The negative balances at the 31st March 2022 are timing issues and will be carried forwards to the 2022/2023 accounts.

All the grants listed above are held by AVOW and managed according to their contract restrictions. All restricted funds are used to provide services, assistance and advice to our members, service users and members of the public in the Wrexham area and further afield. All expenses are applied against the correlating income. The property grant relates to the grant AVOW received to purchase Ty Avow, depreciation is charged against the income on an annual basis. Further details of these projects can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

Transfers of unrestricted funds represents the transfer of £84,789 from restricted to unrestricted funds relates to the purchase or two electric vehicles from Community Transport funds. There are no restricted on the vehicles and therefore moved to unrestricted assets. The remaining balance of £5,575 is the movement of old restricted funds to more suitable streams of funding.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fund Balances at 31st March 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	122,516	135,246	257,762	193,981
Net Current Assets	344,251	216,469	560,720	459,635
Long term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
	466,767	**351,715**	**818,482**	**653,616**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Fund Balances at 31st March 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	52,892	141,089	193,981	203,317
Net Current Assets	316,764	142,871	459,635	234,713
Long term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
	369,656	**283,960**	**653,616**	**438,030**

16 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

David Thompson is a School Governor at Ysgol Rhiwabon and St. Christopher's School who are a potential beneficiary of funds allocated by AVOW. At the year-end Ysgol Rhiwabon and St.Christopher's School had a creditor balance of £Nil (2021: £Nil). He is also a trustee of the Warehouse project all of whom are a potential beneficiary of funds allocated by AVOW. In additional David also works part time for Local Authority Education.

Wanjiku Mbugua is a head of Regional Service at BAWSO who a potential beneficiary of services from AVOW. At the year-end BAWSO had a creditor balance of £Nil (2021: £Nil). Wanjiku is also a Trustee at the breakthrough Foundation.

John Swarbrick is a Director of IGL Solutions.

Scot Owen is Chair of the Board of Trustees at Treasure Chest, a childcare provider based at Park CP School. Treasure chests are clients of AVOW payroll services. Sales Transactions during the year totalled £1,355 (2021: £1,339) Scott is also a director for The Association for Science and Discovery centres (Techniquest) in Wrexham, Sales transactions £nil (2021: £nil). Scott also manages Xplore who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW and providers of services to The Land. Sales transactions £367.20 (2021:£nil).

Berni Durham-Jones is a trustee of Stepping Stones North Wales who are a potential beneficiary of services from AVOW and are a payroll client of AVOW payroll service. At the yearend Stepping stones have a credit balance of £nil (2021:£nil). Sales transactions through the year totalled £556 (2021: £444).

Stephen Perkins is a trustee of North East Wales Mind limited who are tenants at AVOW sales transactions totalling £1,173 (2021: £5,438). North East Wales Mind had a creditors balance of £nil (2021: £nil) Stephen is on the trustee of We Are Plas Madoc who AVOW are fund holders for. Sales transactions totalled £7,035 (2021: £nil) purchases totalled £10,000 (2021: £2,250). We are Plas Madoc had a creditors balance of £nil (2020: £nil)

Kevin Forbes is a Poppy Appeal Organiser who are potential beneficiaries of Avow.

Peter Howell is a Councillor for Wrexham County Borough Council, a Community Councillor for Gwersyllt and a Committee member of Wrexham Athletics club who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1043989

Accounts

AVOW
Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Wrecsam

AVOW

(Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham)

(A Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2021

Charity number: 1043989

Company number: 2993429

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS

Cefnogi Trydydd Sector Cymru
Third Sector Support Wales

Chwarae Teg
Agile Nation2
Exemplar Employer | Achieving Award

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ending 31st March 2021.

Reference and administrative details

Charity number:	1043989
Company number:	02993429
Principal Office:	Tŷ Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, LL11 1ND
Auditors:	WR Partners LLP, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT
Bankers:	Nat West Bank Ltd, 33 Lord Street, Wrexham, LL11 1LS

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

		Appointed	Reappointed
John Leece Jones (Deceased June 2021)	Chair from Aug 2012	2011	2020
Stephen Perkins	Vice Chair	2012	2018
Barbara Roxburgh		2002	2019
Mervyn Dean		2015	2018
Wanjiku Mbugua		2015	2020
David Thompson		2016	2018
Mary Walker		2016	2019
Howard Davies		2017	2020
Margaret Heaton		2019	
Helen Davies		2020	
Berni Durham-Jones		2020	
Gary Jones		2020	
Scot Owen		2020	
John Swarbrick		2020	

Chief Officer: John Gallanders

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Special tribute to John Leece Jones – Trustee March 2011 – June 2021

Tribute to John Leece Jones



20th December 1948 **1st June 2021**

It is with saddest that we report the death of John Leece Jones or John Leece as he was so affectionately known. John passed away doing one of the things he liked best which was volunteering for AVOW in a meeting when the tragic situation arose. John became a Trustee of the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (Avow) in March 2011 during which time he has been Company Secretary and Chair of most of its committees and as Avow Executive Chair has guided the organization through many developments from the days of Community First.

John always showed a personal pride and has been a tremendous asset to AVOW and will be sadly missed by all staff, volunteers and Trustees who knew him in various roles. His knowledge about Wrexham and voluntary organisations was first rate. His time and devotion to AVOW was always unstinting offering a cheery smile whenever he came to Ty AVOW and took many opportunities of singing the praises of Trustees, staff, and volunteers.

John was a local lad educated at Grove Park School for Boys, Wrexham, and Manchester University where he gained a Law degree.

John Leece Jones was a gentleman from the "old School" - warm hearted and much loved by all for his kindness, consideration, and supportive nature. He also embraced technology, as demonstrated with his much-used iPad and knowledge and more recently the willingness to accept Zoom as a new 'norm'.

John entered public service with Wrexham Rural District Council and then, following Local Government reorganization in 1974, he was appointed Principal Legal Officer with the new Wrexham Maelor Borough Council. John later moved into private legal practice with a family firm of local solicitors.

John was also a Governor of Coleg Cambria, Chair of Rofft CP, Governor Tanyfron CP, Trustee of Maes-y-Pant and Wrexham League of Friends as well as informal links with numerous other Third Sector organisations over the years including Chairman of Wrexham CAB, Gresford Community Council, Gresford Trust and TCC with their work on Town of Sanctuary. Previously he served for several years as a Non-Executive Director of the North East Wales Health Board, Midwifery Council, and other National appointments.

John Leece's devotion to public service was an example for all in the Third Sector and for public life in Wrexham and he will be fondly remembered for his valuable contribution to Wrexham and the wider community

John is survived by his wife Sali and son John (Jnr).

AVOW have opened a book of condolences for anyone to share a memory or leave a message that we will share with Sali, John (Jnr) and Family.

John Leece-Jones's Online Memorial & Obituary | Keeper (mykeeper.com)

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

AVOW is a Company Limited by Guarantee and registered in England and Wales. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7th November 1994 (as amended). AVOW is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Membership is open to all voluntary and community organisations collectively known as the Third Sector and individuals acting for the benefit of the community either as volunteers or employees.

Appointment of Trustees

The AVOW Board consists of up to 20 volunteer Trustees who are also Directors of the Company serving for a three year period. All trustees resign by rotation on a three yearly cycle. All member organisations are circulated with invitations to nominate Trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring Trustees and requesting nominations by the AGM, members then vote to appoint Trustees.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee every year. The Trustees have the power to appoint or co-opt further Trustees to fill vacancies following a thorough skills audit of the Board.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction with a Trustee mentor to brief them on: legal obligations under charity and company law, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making processes as well as the business plan and an overview of the recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction they meet key employees, members and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate in-house and external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role. All Trustees are required to undertake online training in partnership with Coleg Cambria in Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Data Protection, PREVENT, Whistleblowing and Information Security. All Trustees have undergone a DBS check in the last three years in line with the requirements of Care Inspectorate Wales as AVOW undertake regulated activity at Little Sunflowers Child Care in Plas Madoc.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees, which can have no more than 20 and not less than 6 members, sets the strategic direction of the charity. The Executive Committee currently meets at least bi-monthly and there are committees covering Finance, Personnel (both monthly) and Policy (bi monthly). A Chief Officer is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity within a framework of delegated powers along with a team of managers.

Related Party Transactions

Trustees of the charity were involved in related party transactions during the year as follows:

- John Leece Jones was a Governor of Coleg Cambria, which AVOW has contracted with for the online internal training courses and external training courses. John was also the Chair of the Govenors for The Rofft CP School and a Governor for Ysgol Tanyfron. Also, Director and secretary of Maes y Pant/Hollowfield Action Group Ltd, and a Trustee for Wrexham Hospital League of Friends
- David Thompson is a School Governor at Ysgol Rhiwabon and St. Christopher's School and also a Trustee of the Warehouse project – all of whom are a potential beneficiary of funds allocated by AVOW. In addition David also works part time for the Local Authority Education.

- Wanjiku Mbugua is head of Regional Service at BAWSO who a potential beneficiary of services from AVOW and a trustee at the Breakthrough Foundation.
- Stephen Perkins is a Trustee of We Are Plas Madoc who AVOW are fund holder for.
- Berni Durham-Jones is the Director of Services for Stepping Stones North Wales who received a £1,000 Covid grant as administered by AVOW.
- John Swarbrick is a Director of IGL Solutions.
- Scot Owen is Chair of the Board of Trustees at Treasure Chest, a childcare provider based at Park CP school. Treasure Chest are clients of AVOW payroll services. Scot is also a director for The Association for Science and Discovery centres (Techniquest) in Wrexham. Scott manages Xplore who are potential beneficiaries and providers of services to The Land o The Land

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Chief Officer as comprising the key management personnel of the charity. All the Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

Trustees are required to declare all relevant interest and withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff
The Finance Committee meets annually to review the pay and remuneration of the senior management team. The review of all senior staff pay is referenced to the NJC negotiated pay scales but not fully adopted. Any proposed adjustments to the pay of the senior management team are confirmed by the Finance Committee.

Risk management
The Trustees during 2021 changed their committee arrangements in view of Covid and online working with the Policy Committee agenda items being dealt with through the Executive meetings, new risk management assessments were undertaken across the whole organisation to take into account the impact of Covid on the operational side of our activities. Risk assessments have been revised on numerous occasions to react to the changing Government guidance and identification of issues through operational practice. Advice has been sought in numerous occasions from Hamilton deed the specialist AVOW H & S advisors.

Financial risk has remained a high priority however the various Covid support funds provided by Welsh Government have improved the overall financial stability of AVOW and enabled new investment into the staffing team. Whilst these grants are very welcome, they are a short term fix and like other Third Sector organisations we are faced with long term financial planning issues with many funding statements – Public and Charitable generally only being for three years and in some instances a single year. This has a significant impact on longer term planning and is a key priority in discussions with Welsh Government to look at ways of regularising various grant and contract funding into longer term commitments in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. End of year slippage funding is specifically high-risk issue as the 'in year' expenditure requirements often makes it impossible to meet deadlines and certainly achieve sustainable activity.

Delays in financial announcements from a December period in some cases to March are particularly difficult as it can mean staff being put on risk 'of redundancy' notice to comply with Employment Legislation only to find a funder coming through at the last minute.

Having reviewed financial and other risks, strategies were put in place for dealing with identified risks.

This has included on-going professional advice and support with regards to Financial Auditing. The Trustees have reviewed the current WR Partners Audit contract and retained them for the period 2021/22.

Specialist advisors are contracted to oversee all Health and Safety matters by assessing and advising on risk assessments to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, and stakeholders

AVOW contracts with external professional advisors on matters such as:

- Employment (renewed May 2021)
- Health & Safety (renewed April 2021 for three years)
- Insurance (next review date January 2022)
- Financial Auditing (due to be reviewed Sept 2021)
- IT Support

The Charity like the country, has been hugely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Trustees have assessed the potential impact on the future operations of the charity, considering its underlying financial resources and strength. They have taken proactive steps to manage the financial consequences to help ease the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak. The Trustees consider the charity to be well positioned to manage.

Vision Statement

The AVOW Vision is the voluntary and community sectors achieving their missions for the benefit of the community within the County Borough of Wrexham.

Mission Statement

To enable the voluntary and community sectors to achieve their missions for the benefit of the community within the County Borough of Wrexham, AVOW will:

- **Support the development of individuals and organisations within the voluntary and community sectors.**
- **Establish and sustain good practice.**
- **Undertake the provision of services appropriate to the voluntary and community sectors.**
- **Consult, represent and champion the voluntary and community sectors locally and nationally.**

An annual Trustee and Managers Awayday is held which helps to focus on current key issues and look towards the future to identify challenges and opportunities. This is the opportunity to ensure that core functions are in line with the aims and objectives.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended is:

- To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in the area of Wrexham County Borough and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health, the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

- Each year the Trustees review these objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect the aims of the organisation. In carrying out this review the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The strategies and activities employed to achieve the charity's objectives are:

- To provide and promote an accessible and relevant range of locally available support services to enhance development and effectiveness of voluntary and community action.

- To identify the views of local voluntary and community groups and represent these views to decision makers e.g., Welsh Government (WG), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and local statutory bodies, and in ways which lead to effective outcomes and partnerships.

- To assist the development of locally determined and agreed initiatives, which meet the needs of the voluntary sector and enhance community participation.

- To develop and sustain an effective volunteering service.

- To encourage recruitment into charitable, voluntary and community services.

- To provide and promote accurate, current and relevant information.

- To provide and promote a funding advice service for voluntary organisations.

- To provide and promote a range of generic training courses to the local voluntary sector.

- To assist organisations to operate legally and efficiently.

- To facilitate and support the establishment of effective structured partnerships with the local authority and other agencies for the benefit of voluntary and community organisations.

- To identify issues of concern to voluntary and community organisations.

- To identify gaps in provision that can be met by new or existing voluntary organisations working in collaboration with statutory bodies.
- To promote the interests of the third sector in planning service development including community regeneration projects.
- To establish links with the corporate sector; and
- To promote the sector's role in Health and Social Care.

AVOW, as the County Voluntary Council for Wrexham County Borough, is committed to the development of a strong voluntary and community sector for the benefit of the people of Wrexham County Borough.

Grants distributed

AVOW has administered a Youth Led Grant scheme funded by WG via WCVA for the benefit of young people's organisations during the year. It has its own Grants Panel with independent young people (14-25 yr old) as the lead decision makers. Applications are scored according to a pre-determined set of criteria which is applied consistently across all applications.

Through the Youth Led Grant Scheme, this year, AVOW has distributed £4,750 (original grant of £6,000) in amounts of up to £2,000 for young people to develop and deliver projects that increase youth volunteering opportunities and benefit the wider community. The youth led Grants Panel is where panel members discuss potential projects and make decisions on funding. The youth led approach has enabled much greater participation, and this year 5 projects have been successful in their applications:

- Community Café - Christmas Hamper project
- Coedpoeth Scout Group – Camping equipment
- Community Café - Community Christmas Event
- Community Café - Easter Project
- Family Friends - Laptop and tablet, Craft equipment
- YLG Panel - Panel Thank you gifts

A founder member of AVOW, Marjorie Dykins passed away in 2016 and her family generously asked AVOW to create a Memorial Fund in her name to be given to volunteers through an award scheme. AVOW have presented Awards for the last five years and announced the winners and commendations at a virtual meeting in February. The awards went to:

- Individual Anna Buckley – Polish Integration Support Centre
- Group Award Wrexham Prostrate Cancer Support Group

Both were awarded cheques for £500, and the runners up were presented with Highly Commended Certificates. This will be the final award made in the memory of Marjory Dykins and we thank the family on behalf of the voluntary sector in Wrexham.

Funding has been received at the end of the financial year to support organisations deal with issues connected with Covid in the form of a local small grants scheme of up to £1000 £25,000 was allocated from the Welsh Government to run the Voluntary Service Emergency Fund. The Comic Relief allocation of £24,000 was administered on behalf of AVOW by CVSC (Conwy Voluntary Service Council).

Hydro Aluminium also generously donated £2000 for allocation to local community organisations.

Befriending - A Friend in Need - £12,000 has been provided to supporting groups set up to help people that are isolated. Currently £8,421 has been distributed.

Tŷ Avow – Licencees

Tŷ Avow is a major Resource Centre for the Third Sector in Wrexham County Borough.
The building is user friendly with ramped access, lift to first floor, meeting rooms and office accommodation available for hire.

During the year organisations with office accommodation within Tŷ Avow (which are let on a licence to occupy basis) were:

Vision Support
Empower - be the change
Snap Cymru
St. Giles
Polish Integration Support centre (PISC)
Friends of Wrexham Carers
Barnardo's
Agoriad
Cloud 9 for life
JobSense
NEW Mind

During the year and as a direct result of Covid two of the organisations above have vacated the premises – Empower- be the change and JobSense.

Achievements and performance

AVOW's main achievements during the year include the following:

Information and communication

- Newsletters were not produced in 2020. E-bulletins were produced throughout the year for key announcements on behalf of AVOW or the wider Third Sector. Social media and direct emails are not the main communication method to stakeholders. All items of communication are also available to view on the AVOW web site (www.avow.org).

- The Volunteer Centre hosted 8 volunteer drop-in sessions online from April 2020 – March 2021. Each drop-in had up to 10 organisations where those looking to volunteer were able to find out about local opportunities and make the first step towards finding a placement.

- Following the introduction of a TSSW Customer relationship management (CRM) system, this is now the main system to record all level of interactions with stakeholders and the reporting of TSSW KPI's. These were as follows:

o Funding obtained following support from AVOW	£503,257
o Funding awarded by AVOW	£52,991
o Organisations supported with direct advice	133
o Organisations supported with specialist advice	29
o Digital Training participants	179
o Face to face training courses	0
o Partnership Events	42
· Partnership event attendees	688
o Volunteers supported to enter volunteering	43
o Individuals placed into volunteering	161
o Total membership of AVOW	113

- The Daily Digest is the ebulletin which is distributed most days to the mailing list held jointly with colleagues from FLVC (Flintshire Local Voluntary Council) jointly funded. The information provides members with current information and opportunities for consultation for other third sector organisations and their service users. It is also utilised by the Children and Young Persons Network as necessary. Feedback from the members include the usefulness of receiving information in between network meetings in this format.

- There has been a steady growth in numbers that follow AVOW on both Facebook and Twitter. This allows us to easily send out information to a larger audience. The number of people 'likes' on the AVOW Facebook page has increased by 11.5% in the year and now stands at 2,621 with followers on Facebook reaching 2,975 (from 2,304 in the previous year). Twitter has also increased to 3187 from 3,048 the previous year. Our overall post reach for these platforms over the last 12 months was Facebook: 222,757 and Twitter: 215,838. Other departments within AVOW have their own Social Media accounts:
  - Wrexham Volunteer Centre. Facebook – 596 likes (from 646 last year) / Twitter – 1,320 followers
  - Play Team. Facebook – 1096 likes / Twitter – 697 followers
  - LinkedIn connections have doubled year on year for the two year in existence – 545 connections
  - Wrexham Little Sunflowers. Facebook 446 likes
  - Funding With AVOW Facebook group – 246 members

- The AVOW website continues to be key promotional and information tool in our organization as it allows us to share and post news articles, events, jobs and any other relevant information. The home page, jobs page and volunteering page are the most popular. The website is securing itself as a hub for Third Sector and community organisations in the Wrexham area.

- Due to Covid we have been unable to take part on a number of the face to face engagement events. Our online activities and engagement have enabled continuing contact with the sector.

- With regards events specifically for those who use the various services of AVOW we have facilitated:
  - Virtual Volunteers Week
  - Virtual Volunteer Marketplace (formerly the Drop-In) (Monthly)
  - Training sessions for organisations on the Volunteering Wales Website
  - Volunteer Managers Network
  - High Sheriff of Clwyd Community Awards (virtual)
  - Holocaust Memorial Day (virtual)
  - MD Awards

Representation, Consultation and Outreach support

AVOW actively engages with Public Service organisations ensuring that the voice and views of the Third Sector are heard in various strategic partnerships and within consultations. The views from the Third Sector can play a major part in the way that strategies and services can be developed.

All meetings during 2020/21 have all moved to online platforms that have often resulted in higher attendance rates.

AVOW, through various network meetings and promotion of consultations, will ensure the Third Sector is made aware of the events and spaces that views are needed.

The engagement with the Public Service Board (PSB) is still ongoing with partners working around resilience and with work areas around the Well Being Plan- the basis of the PSB is to look at key issues and bring together the right people to break down any barriers. During 2020/21 joint working has taken place with Flintshire and Wrexham PSB working together to deal with recovery and resilience. Chief Officer is vice chair of the subgroup looking to address Poverty and Inequalities.

The three main priorities for the PSB still remain:

1. All people have opportunities to learn and develop throughout their lives
   - Achievement levels for children and young people are improved.
   - Appropriate support is available to enable people to access learning opportunities.

2. Children and young people are given a healthy start in life
   - Children and young people have positive mental health and access to services and/or support when they need it.
   - Parents and children and young people are able to make healthy choices
3. Environment
   - Matters to address issues of climate change

AVOW has also contributed to the following in the reporting period;

- Director of Social Services' Annual Report
- Partnership working with Wrexham Learning partnership group and Wrexham Adult Community learning (ACL) group
- AVOW runs a county specific Children and Young People's Wellbeing Network

- Involvement with the Local Implementation Team meetings, to look at the East Area Plan for mental health services, under the Together for mental health strategy
- Member of the ICAN Steering Group
- Outreach work with a GP and Patient Action group to discuss third sector involvement in their proposed new building, in order to strengthen their application.
- Sub regional Transformation Partnership
- ICF – regional management group
- Redevelopment of Crown Buildings into a Wellbeing Hub and resource for the Third Sector

AVOW facilitated a range of consultation events on local, national and UK wide proposals and plans to highlight changes in legislation. Consultations are carried out at Wellbeing Networks and in addition, the daily digest (daily e-bulletin) provides an opportunity for all recipients to consult on Welsh Government priorities.

The Third Sector is represented on the Public Service Board (PSB) by AVOW enabling representation along with other senior officers from across the key Public Service delivery agents. The PSB is made up of the Chief Executive and senior officers from Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), Glyndŵr University - Wrexham, Coleg Cambria, North Wales Police, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, National Public Health Service, Probation Service, Natural Resources Wales, DWP, WAST (Wales Ambulance Service) and a representative from the Welsh Government. AVOW's representative ensured that the views of the Third sector were represented across all of the relevant work areas. AVOW is represented on each of the three PDBs – Partnership Delivery Boards.

The Chief Officer has regular meetings with the Leader of WCBC to discuss issues affecting the Council and Third Sector.

AVOW is a partner in the Rural Development Programme and is working with Cadwyn Clwyd for the 2015 -2022 schemes covering Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire.

AVOW officers have provided a wide range of outreach support in local communities around Wrexham County Borough in the form of advice surgeries, support sessions, networking events and attendance at community events. Many Third Sector organisations have also benefitted from in-house bespoke support delivered by our officers.

AVOW is also represented at 28 strategic planning or working groups, as well as 21 regional Third Sector forums or networks with other CVC.

Projects

Wrexham Volunteer Centre

During the last 12 months, the Volunteer Centre has had to significantly change its operations, due to the Covid lockdown and home working for staff. Not being able to hold face to face meetings with potential volunteers, it has led to an almost complete change over to online and digital communications. Staff have had to learn new methods and systems, in order to best engage with both individuals and voluntary organisations.
Having made use of the www.volunteering-wales.net website, as well as other older systems, the Volunteer Centre have developed new ways of engagement, recruitment and communication using several new applications on Microsoft Office, all of which has enabled a better collaboration within

departments at AVOW. However, volunteer recruitment has almost entirely been related to the Avow Covid Response Team and more recently the Community Response Team. This project has included supporting an AVOW bid for WG funding to develop the Team using training, videos and a research project. There was a fantastic response from the community with nearly 1000 people coming forward to volunteer – in addition there was a huge level of informal Street Level volunteering.

This year the Volunteer Centre have placed 161 volunteers into volunteering roles with 43 individuals being supported into volunteering. However, due to the method of capturing the information, using both the CRM and Volunteering Wales platforms, and the many unregistered volunteering roles which arose during the pandemic, the figures are likely to be much higher in reality.
Recognition for volunteering remains a priority and the Volunteer Star Awards have this year been superseded by awards recognising Volunteers who have played an important part during the Covid pandemic across Wrexham County Borough.

Partnerships with Glyndwr University, Coleg Cambria, DWP and WCBC have all been put on hold due to Covid, but are looking to open back up again, with new and exciting prospects, in the coming months.

Community Development at AVOW
Community Development at AVOW provides a range of support to individuals seeking to establish new organisations or for those that already exist. Support is provided on governance, funding, HR and Health and Safety.

The introduction of the TSSW Knowledge Hub has enabled the development of a considerable number of new resources. The increased level of support online means that our direct support now is more bespoke to meet the needs of each individual enquiry.
A small amount of work has been undertaken through the Renew Wales programme.
Covid has seen several enquiries coming in from organisations needs specific support on what activities they are permitted to run.
The Community Buildings Network has operated with updates on current Welsh Government guidance being given approx. every six weeks.

Wrexham Carers Service
The association with the provision of support for carers has ceased at the end of March 2021 when the last contract for the GP and Hospital Carers Facilitator contracts came to an end. This has ended AVOW's eight-year support to carers in the County.
Both projects had considerable difficulty during the Covid period due to not being able to have face to face meetings, The staff became key members of the AVOW Tram Covid providing support through the AVOW Helpdesk.

Shopmobility
The AVOW Wrexham Shopmobility service operates in Wrexham bus station and there are over 200 members who regularly use the service enabling them freedom to access shops and services.
During Covid lockdown the service was closed and only opened when lockdown eased for two days a week. The provision will be opened more in line with any increased demand and subject to funding.

Wellbeing Team

With the reduction in funding and contract funding the previous Health and wellbeing Team has now been reduced to a single Health and Wellbeing Officer. The core funding of the BCUHB role have not

changed and there is the interface between Health and Social Care and the Third Sector. There are a considerable number of meetings and partnerships associated with this work area. Links to the wider Third Sector are through the Wellbeing Network (run jointly with FLVC), the Children's and Young People Forum (Wrexham specific) and the electronic Daily Digest funded jointly with FLVC.

Due to the structure of the Health Board, there are numerous links with colleagues in FLVC as we are both in the East Division. Partnerships around ICF, iCan and Transformation funding take up a considerable level of inputting.

AVOW CO is the North Wales representative on the statutory Regional Partnership Board and the Area Planning Board (substance misuse).

AVOW has been an active member of the Steering Group that is overseeing the development of the Crown Buildings into a Wellbeing Hub.

Little Sunflowers Plas Madoc

AVOW continues to manage many services in Plas Madoc:

- Flying Start am
- Flying Start pm
- Early Education
- Rising 4's
- Family Support

Little Sunflowers response to the COVID-19 crisis

Staff and management at Little Sunflowers Child Care have had to adapt and be flexible in their approach during these unprecedented times, working in line with National and Welsh Government guidelines, CIW regulations and the many day to day challenges being raised by the families residing in Plas Madoc.

Parents and the community

Staff have supported families by distributing activity bags - they have included chalks, paints, card, glue sticks, treats and a list of activity ideas to do in the safety of your own home. These were initially being delivered to families fortnightly and are now as and when requested. This was initiated due to feedback from families and parents having little or no resources at home and parents highlighting concerns that they were finding occupying their children difficult, therefore affecting both the parents and children's emotional and mental wellbeing.

Welfare checks

All families were receiving weekly welfare checks from their keyworkers by telephone, this highlighted the many issues they faced during lockdown and raised huge concerns including little or no support from other services. We signposted them to local charities and organisations, ie AVOW, 'We are Plas Madoc,' Food bank etc.

Little Sunflowers Facebook page

This is used as a support platform highlighting daily news regarding updates from national and Welsh Government, useful helplines, i.e. Domestic Violence, hospital etc. We also use this page to keep our families up to date with Nursery openings, closures, events etc. we now have additional Facebook pages due to COVID-19.

The Play Team

The AVOW Play Team is funded through Invest Local, Children in Need and Families First to work in Plas Madoc providing a service for children, parents and adults of the community. As of July 2021, the team will also receive funding from the National Lottery Community Fund which will support the development of an integrated Play and Community Development Team.

The Land is a junk playground serving children of Plas Madoc and beyond. Furnished with donated 'junk' The Land responds to children's natural curiosity generating new ideas and creativity. The space is always staffed by trained, experienced and devoted play workers who value working with children and asset-based community development. In addition to the Playworkers the team have also recently recruited a Community Development Officer who supports the work and priorities of the We are Plas Madoc Community group.

Pre Covid the AVOW Playwork team also provide playschemes and street play in other communities throughout Wrexham funded from Community Councils. These include Pant, Pentre Broughton and Brynteg.

Covid-19 has seen the team adapt services to ensure the children / young people and the wider community remains connected and supported while face to face activities are suspended. The team have made benches / planters/ greenhouses from reclaimed timber for local residents, delivered food packages / activity packs, held street bingo, online drama sessions /karaoke / quizzes / baking competitions. The project continues to provide many opportunities for people to be involved and volunteer.

The garden furniture has been particularly popular as it is unique and made with the recipient in mind – during such a difficult time having a place to sit outdoors is of upmost importance.

The team secured funding for the development of 'Kettle Club Hub' - a 32ft shipping container which will be used as a community hub. Plans include regular parent and family groups, 1:1 sessions, youth sessions with long term plans for a Community café.

Other services for children and young people include –

The Lounge - a newly developed Youth Club, currently funded 1 evening per week, 50 weeks of the year offering young people aged 11-18 positive activities/role models with supplementary outreach work.

Playschemes – open access play available during the holidays, 10 weeks of the year offering children/young people aged 5 – 15 accessible play opportunities on the doorsteps, creating a playful community culture.

'PlassyLanders' Drama Club – drama class running 1 evening per week, 50 weeks of the year with an annual Pantomime at Christmas. Open to all ages and providing an opportunity to learn to act, dance, sing and perform.

Kettle Club - a weekly support group at Plas Madoc providing opportunities for parents to meet in an informal setting to discuss issues and strategies for working with their children and provided with information regarding other agencies / support available. Participants are encouraged and embrace the opportunity to volunteer at Community Events and the Play Team have introduced activities for the parents to learn transferable skills which can be used in the home with their children. Kettle Club have recently established a new Facebook group called – Plassy Pebbles. Pebbles are designed and created by parents and distributed around the community for others to find.

Brunch and Munch – held weekly the group of community residents spend time with each other to find out what's on offer within the community - things they can get involved in and give residents a voice and discuss how they can make Plas Madoc a better place to live.

The team continue to work alongside local partners and other agencies strengthening relationships and broadening/deepening our community reach. It is increasingly clear that children, families and the wider community will need a combined support for many years to come given the growing impact of Covid on their mental health / wellbeing / relationships /finances etc to help build their resilience and capacity to survive and thrive.

In response to the long term impact of living with Covid the team intend to develop a new model of integrated Play/Community Development work, building on the delivery of high quality play/youth provision, extending the reach into the wider community.

Funding Advice Service

Over the last 12 months the funding advice service has been well utilised within the sector, especially more so in the current crisis. The service has offered advice, guidance and support to many organisations that were seeking and applying for funding. We have supplied several cases studies in support of applications to WCVA showing how much a difference funding has made to the community they serve.
Some examples.
Funding supported by AVOW £321,000
Funding Awarded by AVOW £57,476 This includes the earlier Emergency Grant and Comic Relief Grant that has enabled organisations to keep safe.
Befriending - A Friend in Need - £8,421 – Supported people that are isolated.
Hydro Aluminium - £2000
Organisations supported with direct advice 82
The number of members on the AVOW Funding Facebook page increased to 246 and 2490+ have accessed and liked the page making use of funding sources. The page can be accessed at.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/AVOWFunding
In the reporting year we have arranged many sessions for organisations to meet funders through digital means, non-less than the Lottery, who has attended monthly to hold workshops and surgeries on the last Thursday of each month.
We have continued with this partnership to provide funding workshops each month and offer advice, guidance, and training to strengthen and empower the sector in their funding aspirations and applications.
Other surgeries, workshops and information sessions held include.

- Heritage Lottery Fund

- Local Giving, practical support sessions
- Children in Need surgery
- Landfill Disposal Tax with WCVA
- BAME Community
- Community Buildings

Some examples of the many successes where we have supported various organisations include.

- Wrexham Youth and Play Partnership Legacy Fund received £109,000 to continue their service over the last twelve months. Also, they have received numerous other funding such as from the Waterloo Foundation and Moondance.
- Polish Integration Group £9,960.00 funding form the Lottery to support the Polish communities of Wrexham and £14,800 from Moondance to take up a larger room at Tŷ Avow to conduct an Advice Service.
- Rhos Community Café £9,600 to support the communities food delivery service to older people. This along with funding from the Voluntary Services Emergency Fund and A Friend in Need has supported the community through these uncertain times.

We have helped many other organisations to find out what grant-making trusts exist which help fund a group's particular needs. This alongside offering advice and guidance on how to fill in application forms, write letters, etc. Also, we have been able to offer reading draft applications towards improvement. We have supplied ideas on other ways of funding groups and helped them to develop their own sustainability and fundraising strategies. This has helped to make an organisation's plans become a reality and help secure funding when they have succeeded in getting a grant.
We have promoted access to the funding database. Funding Wales https://funding.cymru/ and AVOW's Funding Facebook page which is regularly updated.
Members have always been welcome to make an appointment to visit us on Teams and Zoom and when times are better, the office to help search for potential sources of funding.

BME Project

Funded by Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support and Moondance

In January 2021, the BME Skills Project hosted by AVOW and two other CVC's across Wales came to its third and final year. The partnership was formed by the Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST), the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW), Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC) and Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS). The Big Lottery Fund funded the project to offer bespoke, tailored, and custom orientated support for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community groups and organisations. The BME Skills Project supported small-size BME community groups and organisations to grow and flourish by creating access to available specialised services' advice, guidance, and experience of national, regional local organisations. That involved referring and signposting to other specialist organisations. The local BAME groups were supported with training, governance, and funding advice to prosper and build their network.

Before the pandemic, recruiting volunteers was crucial for the project; however, this support has been postponed. The BME Skills Project during the pandemic introduced a new project model to maintain support, and focus has been shifted from face-to-face work with the BAME volunteers towards direct and digital work with organisations and their needs. Relying on emails and social media sharing, the great sum of shared information increased. The project offered online internal and external meetings and training. A variety of new forms of support for organisations have been proposed.

In mid-January 2021, AVOW introduced the BAME Community Support Project to recognise the vital need for support areas to continue this kind of community work. Moondance Covid-19 Relief Fund

funds the twelve months project. The project aims to engage and support key minority groups within the Wrexham area. The project works closely with AVOW's Volunteers Centre by engaging, recruiting, and supporting volunteers from BAME backgrounds or for others wanting to engage with the BAME community, including students, graduates, and professionals. The project supports community groups by a holistic work approach. Groups can access the full range of services from AVOW, including training, networking forums, funding advice, volunteering support, payroll advice and contributing to local and national consultations.

This is a platform where organisations, groups and individuals will be encouraged to express their own identity and culture in their own unique way.

Employability and Sustainability

Promoting Entrepreneurship in Less Advantaged Areas (PELAC)

When the current Business Wales support service engages with individuals seeking to start up in business, it is usually at a stage when a clear business idea is already in place.
This 2 year Welsh Government funded project sought to offer support earlier in the process by encouraging entrepreneurial attitudes and helping individuals to explore what being self-employed will mean and overcome real and perceived barriers.
The Wexham pilot (Wrexham Enterprise Initiative) managed by AVOW and delivered in partnership with Neighbourhood Economics, was one of 5 across Wales researching different ways of working within less advantaged communities.
In each of the focus communities of Plas Madoc, Caia Park and the northern villages (Gwersyllt/Brymbo/Brynteg), we have worked alongside local 'host' groups to help us in co-designing our interventions and act as local champions to ensure our activities are inclusive and reflect local priorities.
When the lockdown was imposed in March 2020, we were just one year into the two-year project. In recognition of the challenges of engaging new clients with a 'virtual' online, rather than face to face service, and the uncertainties over the impact of Covid-19 on work/business life for new start-ups, with Welsh Government agreement we moved to supporting existing clients with a wide range of issues, at both a personal and community level. By the end of the project in March 2021 we had:

- actively supported 135 individuals interested in being self-employed or setting up in business
- 85 clients registered
- referred 70 clients through to Business Wales as 'pre-start support-ready'
- made 23 additional referrals to other organisations offering support for education, training and volunteering
- supported community enterprise initiatives, including those in response to Covid-19, within our host communities/wider Wrexham area – including support for local funding bids
- Developed 'Working Wrexham' – a stakeholder partnership seeking to make clearer the support available and enhance the client journey for local residents interested in setting up in business

Events

Volunteers Day

AVOW ran a virtual campaign to celebrate Volunteer Day and invited people to nominate volunteers that have been amazing during Covid.

Christmas Reception
Unfortunately cancelled this year.

Holocaust Memorial Day
A virtual ceremony took place with a number of attendees and speakers. A film clip of a poetry workshop facilitated by AVOW was shown at the event. This involved children from the Gypsy Traveller community.
Speakers included:

- Lesley Griffiths MS
- Simon Baynes MP
- The Rt Rev'd Peter M Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham
- Wanjiku Mbugua – BAWSO
- Mayor of Wrexham Cllr Rob Walsh

Quality
AVOW undertook a virtual assessment for the 6th Generation IIP programme in July 2020 which resulted in reaccreditation for another three years.
AVOW have also successfully achieved Cyber Security status for the second year running.

Financial Review

The global pandemic spanned the whole of this financial year but with good management, planning and foresight AVOW were able to apply for and were successful in gaining additional funds that were available during this unprecedented time. Because of this AVOW have moved into a strong financial position. Not only have these additional funds assisted AVOW financially, but they have assisted members and other community organisations in the form of grants, support and information services. It has also benefited local volunteers and individuals in the form of support, childcare, play, furlough advice and much more.

As the AVOW building has been closed for the full financial year, we have lost a small amount of generated income from building activities such as photocopying, postage and room hire. We have also sadly lost some licensees during the year due to changes in working practices, which will affect the unrestricted funds into 2021/2022. However, we will be looking to achieve full occupancy as soon as possible.

During the year we had to limit or cease both childcare services and the Shopmobility services due to Government restrictions. We continued to use the Government Job Retention Scheme for the projects that weren't publicly funded. When restrictions were lifted all services were resumed.

The interest rates on deposits are still exceptionally low and only produces a very small income which is an ongoing issue in respect to funds on deposit. AVOW were actively looking to for investment opportunities during the year however like many charities in these uncertain times were finding it hard to get a bond/charity account open with many providers not accepting new customers.

Restricted reserves have been utilised during the year, however due to addition grants being received in year the restricted balance has increased to £283,960 on the 31st of March 2021. Unrestricted funds have been boosted again during the year due to additional project undertaken and grants provided in the year. After many years of depleted unrestricted reserves, AVOW now have a

very robust balance of £369,656 at the 31st March 2021. Trustees are looking into ways of using these unrestricted funds to invest in AVOWs future and to grow and develop areas of working. In particular a proposal is being considered for the creation of a new Voluntary and Community Manager role.

The Trustees have reviewed all finances for 2021/2022 and accepted a budget to 31st March 2022 that shows a surplus of £34,762.

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding sources for AVOW remains the Infrastructure Core Grant from the Welsh Government - administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action – The amount of funding increased in 2020/2021 and there were additional funds made available to assist with the Covid pandemic.

There are other various grants and Service Level Agreements with Wrexham County Borough Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

WCBC Adventure Play Project- Families First funding
WCBC Flying Start
WCBC Early Education
WCBC Cwtch Grant
WCBC Friends in Need Grant
WCBC Building Grants
BCUHB Health Facilitator
BCUHB Partners In Care
BCUHB GP Facilitator

Other substantial funders are detailed below:

BCT Invest Local for Plas Madoc
Moondance
Children in Need
Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support-BME
Welsh Government Community Entrepreneurship
Welsh Government Community Response Funding
Steve Morgan
Community Foundation

Reserves Policy

During the year the Trustees have agreed to continue AVOW's policy of having at least one quarter of the annual running costs, together with a cash flow provision and a redundancy contingency in reserve. Trustees have also designated £44k to contribute towards the funding of a new Volunteer and Community Manager post which will start in 2021/2022 and will be funded for 5 years. In practice this means £151,746 representing one quarter's running costs, designated funds, and redundancy contingency. This amount is covered by the unrestricted reserve £369,656 held at 31st March 2021. Free reserves on 31st March 2021 amounted to £154,018 (31st March 2020 £ 24,259). The Trustees noted that the free reserves level at the year-end is an improvement again on last year's figures due to adapting and utilising our assets to create additional unrestricted reserves.

Investment Policy
AVOW's Memorandum and Articles of Association authorises the investment of monies of the Association not immediately required for its purpose, in or upon such investments, securities, or property as may be thought fit subject nevertheless to such conditions if any as may for the time being, be imposed or required by law.

In practice this has led to AVOW investing funding from its reserves with several banks to ensure that we do not exceed our limit of compensation cover to secure the funds within a single Bank Licence cover of £85,000. This investment decision has been reviewed regularly during the year and has been found to be the best available option for AVOW to ensure the level of risk in investing in a single source is reduced.

Future Plans for AVOW and the Third Sector

AVOW as well as Third Sector organisations have had to change the way that we work to meet the demands of the sector organisations. The challenges have been significant with the closure of the office and a move from face-to-face activities to online only. The adaptation during the year has been successful and when the return to the office is permitted, we will establish a blended form of hybrid working. Home working on a split basis will become a normal form of working which can create a more flexible approach. Face to face meetings that used to occur on a regional or national level could become the exception with most permanently moving onto online Zoom/Teams working. A crucial element of home-based working is to factor in opportunities to have some contact time with colleagues to reduce social isolation and mental health pressures.

There are still some issues with connectivity and different platforms for meetings using a variety of functionality that are being improved all the time to ensure the normalisation of digital meetings as everyone becomes more aware of extra features.

The Third Sector has been behind the curve with digital and data advancements, but as more online resources and materials becomes available there could be a more significant use of 'Big Data".

Whilst many organisations have traditionally operated in a face-to-face environment the adaption to an online service provision mixed with face to face will present significant challenges. By the very nature of the types of activities undertaken there will still be in person activities taking place but within a far more controlled environment.

The Sector has been fortunate with considerable levels of support funding from the Government and Charitable funders as part of response and recovery packages that inevitably will see a reduction at some point in the future. Organisations seeking funding will need to embed a far more robust performance monitoring system in place. The systems will need to address issues such as Social Return on Investment and overall performance to have a robust basis on why funders should consider funding initiatives.

One of the key elements that has changed for AVOW is the closure of Tŷ AVOW during the lockdown restrictions that has had an impact on all the organisations that either have offices or regular casual bookings. We are hoping that there will be a full reopening in the next couple of months with new systems in place to keep everyone safe with full occupancy.

AVOW will always remain people focused and ensure that services are being delivered on an inclusive basis to anyone seeking support.

Welsh Government

There are two key issues regarding funding that causes pressure for the Sector - the first is the relatively short time for funding streams with three years becoming the norm but many being on annual cycles that do not permit effective planning and not in line with the principles of the Wellbeing if Future Generations Act that talks about generational changes. The other key issue is the last-minute slippage or expenditure that needs to be 'in year'. There are vast amounts of public sector funding that do not produce any effective change or support due to large amounts becoming available with only 'months' to deliver.

Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

Company law requires the Executive Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing such financial statements, the Executive Committee follows best practice and;

- selects suitable accounting policies and applies them consistently.
- observes the methods and principles in the charities SORP.
- makes judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepares the financial statements on the "going concern" basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Executive Committee is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

Members of the Executive Committee

Members of the Executive Committee, who are Directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

WR Partners LLP, 1 Edison Court, Ellice Way, Wrexham Technology Park, Wrexham, LL13 7YT were appointed, following a tender process in December 2014, as the charitable company's auditors

and have continued in that capacity until the end of the 2020/21 financial year. The tender process will be undertaken again late 2021.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2015 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Approved by the Executive Committee on 27th July 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Stephen Perkins (Chairman)

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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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:

- We reviewed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement and identified the principal risks, implementing a series of testing procedures to provide us with sufficient comfort to issue our opinion.

- We reviewed the Charity's regulatory environment to ensure we could conclude that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the Charity and its environment and identify any instances of non-compliance.

- We also assessed the Charity's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures.

- The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and Charity awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WR Partners

WR Partners
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

Date: 23rd August 2021

WR Partners are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds Restated 2020
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	3	1,207	15,734	**16,941**	11,125
Investment Income-interest receivable		119	-	**119**	575
Income from charitable activities	4	493,789	638,572	**1,132,361**	856,964
Total income		495,115	654,306	**1,149,421**	868,664
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	5	384,253	549,582	**933,835**	820,071
Total expenditure		384,253	549,582	**933,835**	820,071
Net (expenditure)/income for the year before transfers	7	110,862	104,724	**215,586**	48,593
Gross transfers between funds	8	72,900	(72,900)	-	-
Net movement in funds		**183,762**	**31,824**	**215,586**	48,593
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	-	185,894	252,136	**438,030**	389,437
Total funds carried forward	14	369,656	283,960	**653,616**	438,030

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

COMPANY NUMBER 2993429

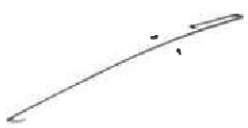
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

		2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		**193,982**		203,317
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	**48,412**		58,490	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		**496,712**		295,176	
		545,124		353,666	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	**(85,489)**		(118,953)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**459,635**		234,713
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**653,617**		438,030
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	13				-
NET ASSETS			**653,617**		438,030
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:					
Restricted funds	14		**283,960**		252,136
Unrestricted funds					
General reserves	14		**206,911**		80,645
Designated funds	14		**162,746**		105,249
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			**653,617**		438,030

The charity's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small Companies regime. The Trustees consider that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provision of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, an audit is required in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and their preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 27th July 2021 .and signed on its behalf by:



Stephen Perkins (Chairman)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movements in funds	215,586	48,593
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	20,810	15,963
Profit or loss in disposal of fixed assets		-
Investment income - interest receivable		(575)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	10,078	34,197
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(33,464)	31,810
Deferred Grant		-
Net cash generated from operating activities	**213,010**	**129,988**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Investment income - interest receivable		575
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(11,477)	(29,131)
Net cash used in investing activities	**(11,477)**	**28,556**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	201,533	101,432
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	295,176	193,744
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	**496,712**	**295,176**
Cash and cash equivalents at the yearend comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	496,712	295,176
	496,712	**295,176**

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES:-

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements:

(a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (October 2019– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise statement in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have reviewed the current position for 2020/2021 and anticipate that they will fulfil the same service delivery in 2021/2022. Any cuts in income for 2021/2022 will have the appropriate decrease in expenses to safeguard the current level of unrestricted reserves.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statements of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of service provided by the volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.
- Incoming resources from grants, when related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over them, any condition associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in the expenditure in the period of receipt.

(e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

(f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charities work or for specific projects being undertaken.

Internal transfers between funds relate to management costs, support and administration charges applied to the projects and recharged back to unrestricted costs. These are a contributions towards management, support and administration costs of the charity as a whole.

(g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

(h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which supports AVOW and its activities.

(i) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Purchases of furniture and equipment are capitalised where they can be used for more than one year and cost over £500. Depreciation on fixed assets is calculated to write down their costs or valuation to their estimated residual value over the period of their economic lives at the following rates:-

Freehold property	-	2% straight line basis
Furniture and Fixtures	-	20% straight line basis
Computers and Equipment	-	33% straight line basis
Motor Vehicles	-	20% straight line basis

(j) Operating Leases

The costs of operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account as they accrue.

(k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discount due.

(l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term investments.

(m) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(n) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(o) Pensions

All employees are invited to join the Aegon pension's scheme with a non-contributory 7% contribution on gross salary. The pension is auto enrolment compliant and all those who had not joined the pension scheme as of November 2015 were automatically enrolled when necessary. The contributions made for the accounting period are treated as an expense and were £32,604 (2020: £30,580)

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimated and assumptions:

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

2 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

AVOW is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
3 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES				
Membership Fees	1,162	-	1,162	1,110
Donations (including Gift Aid)	45	15,734	15,779	10,015
	1,207	**15,734**	**16,941**	**11,125**

Income from donation and legacies was £16,941 (2020: £11,125) of which £1,207 was unrestricted (2020: £6,114) and £15,734 was restricted (2020: £5,011).

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
4a INCOMING FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Grants and Other Service Contract Income				
Wrexham County Borough Council				
Plas Madoc Flying Start	-	87,719	87,719	63,018
WCBC Building Grants	46,000		46,000	-
LSCC Cwtch Grant	7,178		7,178	-
Early Education	-	14,266	14,266	9,120
Friends in Need Grant	-	12,959	12,959	-
Shopmobility	-		-	5,000
Adventure Play Grant	-	24,824	24,824	5,604
Families First	-	15,892	15,892	24,392
Covid 19 Volunteer fund	-	-	-	2,000
LSCC Capital Grant	-	-	-	3,256

(Continued on next page)

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN WREXHAM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
4a. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
BCUHB				
Health Facilitator	-	41,208	41,208	41,208
Partners In Care	-	32,500	32,500	32,500
GP Facilitator	-	9,022	9,022	14,000
Carers	-	-	-	1,612
Wales Council for Voluntary Action				
Local Voluntary Scheme	101,809	-	101,809	100,432
Volunteering Wales	48,116	-	48,116	48,116
Covid Funds	134,862	-	134,862	-
Youth Led Grants	-	6,650	6,650	11,650
Comic Relief Grant		26,591	26,591	
VSEF Grants		45,997	45,997	-
Broughton Community Council	-	-	-	14,158
Rhos Community Council	-	6,000	6,000	6,000
Children In Need	-	10,287	10,287	13,521
Children In Need Booster		2,500	2,500	-
Renew Wales	-	3,553	3,553	6,371
Moondance		47,230	47,230	-
Plas Madoc Invest Local	-	76,520	76,520	143,607
BME- Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support	-	13,013	13,013	17,350
Flintshire Grant	-	-	-	5,000
PACT	-	-	-	500
We Are Plas Madoc	2,625	-	2,625	5,134
Hydro Aluminium Grant		2,000	2,000	-
Food For Life Get Together		1,000	1,000	-
Steve Morgan Foundation		2,700	2,700	-
Co-op Shopmobility Funds		500	500	-
Welsh Government Community Entrepreneurship	-	71,580	71,580	79,575
Welsh Government CRT 51	-	68,300	68,300	2,150
Neighbourly Fund	-	400	400	-
Wrexham Youth & Play Partnership Legacy Funding	-	-	-	10,000
Tesco Bags 4 Life	-	1,500	1,500	-
Community Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	
HMRC Job retention scheme	16,927	3,861	20,788	105
Total Grants Receivable	**357,517**	**638,572**	**996,089**	**665,510**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
4b. INCOME EARNED FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES				
Rents and services	56,207	-	56,207	63,990
Photocopying and postage	-	-	-	1,098
Payroll services	67,749	-	67,749	71,104
Trips and events	-	-	-	1,168
Training courses	2,590	-	2,590	5,474
Café income	-	-	-	-
LSCC Income	4,238	-	4,238	35,821
Shopmobility	1,880	-	1,880	8,768
Other income	3,608	-	3,608	3,670
Drama Club	-	-	-	361
	493,789	**638,572**	**1,132,361**	**856,964**

Income from charitable activities was £1,132,361 (2020: £856,964 of which £493,789 related to unrestricted reserves (2019: £345,516) and £638,572 restricted reserves (2019: £511,448).

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	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
5 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:				
Grants Payable				
Youth Led Grants	-	4,750	4,750	8,735
Flintshire Transformation Grant	-	2,461	2,461	2,500
Hydro Grant	-	2,000	2,000	-
WCVA Vsef Grant	-	24,000	24,000	-
Friends in Need Befriending Grant		8,421	8,421	-
Ruabon Community Grant	-	-	-	17,695
VSEF Grant	-	23,765	23,765	1,000
VSEF Grant 2		1,500	1,500	-
Marjorie Dykins	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other Costs of Charitable Activity				
Grant repayment	-	-	-	219
Staff salaries & pensions	292,287	276,306	568,593	551,075
Staff travel	105	480	585	6,924
Staff training	2,612	5,180	7,792	2,190
Other staff costs	7,590	1,237	8,827	2,637
DBS Charges	995	-	995	-
Volunteer expenses & Training	709	5,885	6,594	1,367
Other training costs	-	16,290	16,290	2,879
Depreciation	14,969	5,842	20,811	15,963
Telephone	528	486	1,014	3,642
Computer maintenance and expenses	14,041	86	14,127	12,076
Insurance	4,965	1,284	6,249	4,682
Heat and light	3,115	-	3,115	6,270
Water rates	110	-	110	552
Repairs and maintenance	15,592	474	16,066	14,055
Printing, postage & stationery	251	-	251	5,969
Projects and events	3,524	123,432	126,956	110,896
Project publicity and promotion costs	(66)	8,463	8,397	10,100
Sundry expenses	120		120	120
Bank charges	3,005	2	3,007	3,840
Subscriptions, books and publications	692		692	650
Research Project	-	12,000	12,000	-
Promotional Film	-	15,000	15,000	-
Shopmobility	709		709	2,568
Van Expenses	-	2,145	2,145	2,165
Quality	-		-	3,000
PELAC management Payment	-	6,000	6,000	8,737
Governance Costs				
Audit fees	5,040	-	5,040	4,680

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES continued:

Legal and professional fees	12,438	-	12,438	11,186
AGM Expenses	-	-	-	502
Health & Safety	944	1,093	2,037	37
Trustee travel expenses	(22)	-	(22)	160
	384,253	**549,582**	**933,835**	**820,071**

Expenditure on charitable activities was £933,385 (2020: £820,071) of which £384,253 was unrestricted (2020: £385,497 and £549,582 was restricted (2020: £434,574)

6 ANALYSIS OF OTHER COSTS	Costs of activities £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Grant repayment	-	-	-	219
Staff salaries	393,265	175,328	568,593	551,075
Staff travel	531	54	585	6,924
Staff training	6,680	1,112	7,792	2,190
Other staff costs	3,667	5,160	8,827	2,637
DBS Charges	-	995	995	-
Volunteer expenses	6,548	46	6,594	1,367
Other training costs	16,290	-	16,290	2,879
Depreciation	5,842	14,969	20,811	15,963
Telephone	918	96	1,014	3,642
Computer maintenance and expenses	1,182	12,945	14,127	12,076
Insurance	1,284	4,965	6,249	4,682
Heat and light	-	3,115	3,115	6,270
Water rates	-	110	110	552
Repairs and maintenance	630	15,436	16,066	14,055
Printing, postage & stationery	71	180	251	5,969
Projects and events	125,243	1,713	126,956	110,896
Project publicity and promotion costs	8,397		8,397	10,100
Sundry expenses	(91)	211	120	120
Bank charges	469	2,538	3,007	3,840
Subscriptions, books and publications	371	321	692	650
Research Project	12,000	-	12,000	-
Promotional Film	15,000	-	15,000	-
Shopmobility	709	-	709	2,568
PELAC Management payments	6,000	-	6,000	8,737
Van Expenses	2,145		2,145	2,165
Quality	-	-	-	3,000

Governance Costs

Audit fees	-	5,040	5,040	4,680
Non audit fees to auditor	-	-	-	-
Legal and professional fees	-	12,438	12,438	11,186
AGM Expenses	-	-	-	502
Health & Safety	1,473	564	2,037	37
Trustee travel expenses	-	(22)	(22)	160
	608,624	**257,314**	**865,938**	**789,141**

Expenditure on other costs was £865,938 (2020: £789,141) of which £608,624 was cost of activities (2020: £531,225) and £257,314 was support costs (2020: £257,916).

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	2021	2020
	£	£
7 NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	20,811	15,963
Auditors Remuneration	5,040	4,680

8GROSS TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

This figure comprises internal recharges for services provided by AVOW to various restricted fund projects and contributions towards AVOW's management of the restricted projects, net of any overspends on restricted projects which have been covered by general funds. A more detailed breakdown is given under note 14 c).

9TRUSTEES AND EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

a) Trustees:
No Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2020- nil).
Travel expenses to the value of Nil (2020: £160) were paid to 0 trustees (2020: 6) during the year to attend meetings.
During the year a number of trustees donated their expenses to AVOW. All the transactions were conducted on an arm's length basis in support of the charity.

b) Employees:	2021 £	2020 £
Staff Costs:		
Salaries and Wages	507,789	491,263
Social Security Costs	28,561	26,232
Pension Costs	32,604	30,580
Redundancy Costs		-
	568,954	**548,075**

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2020 – nil).
The key management personnel of the charity is the Chief Officer. Their employee benefits total £51,263 (2020: £49,857).

	2021	2020
The average number of employees was:	35.5	34.8
The average number employees FTE	23.5	24

10 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains failing within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Building £	Furniture & Fixtures £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Totals £
COST					
Opening balance 1 April 2020	292,109	145,878	38,135	11,900	488,022
Additions	-	2,207	9,270	-	11,477
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance 31 March 2021	292,109	148,085	47,405	11,900	499,499
DEPRECIATION					
Opening Balance 1 April 2020	124,146	114,488	37,046	9,026	284,706
Charge for the year	5,842	10,514	2,098	2,356	20,810
Disposals					
Closing Balance 31 March 2021	129,988	125,002	39,144	11,382	305,516
Net Book Value 31 March 2021	**162,121**	**23,083**	**8,261**	**518**	**193,983**
Net Book Value 31 March 2020	167,963	31,390	1,090	2,874	203,317

The freehold property referred to above is Ty Avow, 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham, which is included in these financial statements at original cost less depreciation.

12 DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade Debtors	38,589	49,641
Prepayments	8,698	5,926
Accrued income	810	2,608
Accrued Gift Aid Tax	315	315
	48,412	**58,490**

	2021	2020
	£	£
13 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade Creditors	29,224	19,913
Accruals and Deferred Income	5,113	9,010
PAYE & NI Creditor	8,332	7,616
Payroll Creditor	42,820	82,414
	85,489	**118,953**

The creditor and bank balances include £42,820 in respect of the HMRC creditor for AVOW's payroll clients along with credits held on account.

14 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS TO 31ST MARCH 2021

a) Summary of funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	185,894	252,136	438,030	389,437
Net Movement in Funds	183,762	31,824	215,586	48,593
Carried forward	**369,656**	**283,960**	**653,616**	**438,030**

b) Unrestricted Funds

	General Fund	Designated Funds: Running Costs and Redundancy Contingency	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	80,645	105,249	185,894	130,946
Income & Expenditure Account	53,366	57,496	110,862	(33,292)
Transfer from Restricted Funds	72,900	-	72,900	88,240
Carried forward	**206,911**	**162,745**	**369,656**	**185,894**

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c) Restricted Funds

	At 1st April 2020	Incoming	Outgoing	Manage-ment Transfer	Internal Charges/ O'heads	Transfers from/ to Unrestrict'd Funds	At 31st March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3D Printer Ysgol Clywedog		13,993	12,993	-	-	-	1,000
Autism Grant	-		-			-	-
BCT Invest Local	15,579	(80)	13,394	-	-	-	2,105
BCT Development officer	9,428	26,141	23,030	1,870	1,594	-	9,075
BME	419	13,012	8,457	1,872	3,103	-	-
Carers Covid	1,642	-	-	-	-	1,209	2,851
Carers Fundraising	369	-	-	-	-	(369)	-
Carers GP	-	9,022	6,377	2,056	589	-	-
Carers Partners In Care	1,682	32,500	26,232	5,876	2,074	-	-
Carers Therapies	640	-	-	-	-	(640)	-
Carers Trust	200	-	-	-	-	(200)	-
Community Entrepreneurship	390	71,580	71,580	390	-	-	-
Community Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	(621)	(621)
Covid 19 AVOW donations	2,300	1,620	-	-	-	-	3,920
DTA	-	3,553	3,198	355	-	-	-
Flintshire Grant	2,500	-	2,461	39	-	-	-
Friends In Need Grant	-	12,959	8,421	734	-		3,804
H&SC Facilitator & Dev Officer	-	41,208	31,163	4,961	7,955	-	(2,871)
Hate Crime			600	-	1,550	2,150	-
Hydro Aluminium	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-
LSCC Community Foundation		10,000	3,949	-	-	-	6,051
LSCC Fruit Grant	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
LSCC Tesco Bag Funds	-	1,000	1,014		-	-	(14)
MAD Grant	2,039	121	-	-	-	-	2,160
Marjorie Dykins Award	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-
Moondance BME	-	20,900	1,848		-	(620)	18,432
Moondance LSCC	-	7,800	-	-	-	-	7,800
Moondance Adventure Play	-	18,530	8,886	-	-	-	9,644
Parent Carers Community Choice	796	-	309	-	-	(487)	-
PM BTC Adventure Play	54,137	54,320	65,892	5,762	3,629	-	33,174
PM BTC Invest Local	5,149	-	5,149	-	-	-	-
PM Additional Play Funds	1,574	-	-	-	-	(1,574)	-
PM CIN	703	10,287	9,297	1,180	-	-	513
PM CIN Booster	-	2,500	2,389	-	-	-	111
PM EE EYDCG Grant	-	155	-	-	-	-	155
PM Drama Club	3,048	-	1,982	-	-	-	1,066
PM Flying Start	(13,887)	87,719	72,479	8,772	-	-	(7,419)
PM Families First	-	15,892	13,985	1,907	-	-	-
PM Land Community Choice	713	335	-	-	-	(1,048)	-
Postcode Lottery	110	-	-	-	-	(110)	-
PM Lil Stars	(7,632)	14,111	3,218	-	-	-	3,261
PM LSCC Capital Grant	2,166	-	88	-	-	-	2,078
PM Play Hunger Project	244	-	-	-	-	(244)	-

	At 1st April 2020	Incoming	Outgoing	Manage-ment Transfer	Internal Charges/ O'heads	Transfers from/ to Unrestrict'd Funds	At 31st March 2021
PM Play Capital Grant	-	1,500	1,342	-	-	(158)	-
PM Play Neighbourly	-	400	400	-	-	-	-
PM Play Sufficiency	-	6,000	6,000	-	-	-	-
PM Community Council Playscheme	7,179	6,000	5,143	996	4,366	-	2,674
PM WCBC Kettle Club	-	2,000	1,483	-	-	-	517
PM WCBC Summer Activities	-	14,989	12,418	1,500	1,071	-	-
PM Youth Club	-	-	25	-	-	-	(25)
PM Donations	3,047	-	452	-	-	5,824	8,419
PM Youth Club	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PM Play Gwirvol	112	-	-	-	-	(112)	-
PM LSCC Innovation Grant	316	-	-	-	-	-	316
PM Play POCA	2,211	-	186	-	-	(2,025)	-
Rhosddu Fun Day	324	-	-	-	-	2	326
Shopmobility Scooter Grant WCBC	5,820	-	-	-	-	(5,681)	139
Shopmobility Tesco Bags	-	500	440	-	-	-	60
Shopmpbility Co-op Grant		500	-	-	-	-	500
Social Media Training	-	-	-	-		6,000	6,000
Steve Morgan LSCC	-	2,700	1,969	-	-	-	731
WCVA Youth led Grants	1,826	6,650	4,763	487	-	-	3,226
WCVA Comic Relief VSEF Grant	-	26,591	24,765		2,826	-	(1,000)
WCVA VSEF 2ND	-	20,997	500	-	-	-	20,497
WG Volunteering CRT	-	68,300	57,462		-	(9,621)	1,217
Volunteer Centre Development	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
VSEF	(1,000)	25,000	24,000	-	-	-	-
Tea & Toast Community Choice	66	-	-	-	-	(66)	-
Property Grant-Restated	146,931	-	5,842	-	-	-	141,089
Total	**252,136**	654,305	549,581	38,757	28,757	5,391	**283,960**

Management charges/Internal charges totalling £72,900 represent grant monies expended on services provided by AVOW during the year. Management transfers include contribution towards AVOW's administration according to the terms of the grant. Transfers from unrestricted funds represents any overspends which have been covered by general funds. The negative balances at the 31st March 2021 are timing issues and will be carried forwards to the 2020/2021 accounts.

All the grants listed above are held by AVOW and managed according to their contract restrictions. All restricted funds are used to provide services, assistance and advice to our members, service users and members of the public in the Wrexham area and further afield. All expenses are applied against the correlating income. The property grant relates to the grant AVOW received to purchase Ty Avow, depreciation is charged against the income on an annual basis. Further details of these projects can be found in the Trustees Annual Report.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Fund Balances at 31st March 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	52,892	141,089	193,981	203,317
Net Current Assets	316,764	142,871	459,635	234,713
Long term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
	369,656	**283,960**	**653,616**	**438,030**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Fund Balances at 31st March 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible Fixed Assets	56,386	146,931	203,317	190,147
Net Current Assets	129,508	105,205	234,713	199,290
Long term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
	185,894	**252,136**	**438,030**	**416,570**

16 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

John Leece Jones (Trustee) was a Governor of Coleg Cambria, which AVOW has contracted with during the year for training courses totalling £1,500 (2020: £Nil). At the year-end Coleg Cambria had a creditor balance of £Nil (2020: £Nil). John Leece-Jones was also Chair of the Governors for The Rofft CP School and a Governor for Ysgol Tanyfron. He was also a Director of Maes y Pant/Hollowfield Action Group Ltd and a Trustee of Wrexham hospital league of Friends. All of which are potential beneficiaries of services from AVOW. At the year end all had a credit balance of £nil (2020: £nil).

David Thompson is a School Governor at Ysgol Rhiwabon and St. Christopher's School who are a potential beneficiary of funds allocated by AVOW. At the year-end Ysgol Rhiwabon and St.Christopher's School had a creditor balance of £Nil (2020: £Nil). He is also a trustee of the Warehouse project all of whom are a potential beneficiary of funds allocated by AVOW. In additional David also works part time for Local Authority Education.

Wanjiku Mbugua is a head of Regional Service at BAWSO who a potential beneficiary of services from AVOW. At the year-end BAWSO had a creditor balance of £Nil (2020: £Nil). Wanjiku is also a Trustee at the breakthrough Foundation.

John Swarbrick is a Director of IGL Solutions.

Scot Owen is Chair of the Board of Trustees at Treasure Chest, a childcare provider based at Park CP School. Treasure chests are clients of AVOW payroll services. Sales Transactions during the year totalled £1,339 (2020: £1,758) Scott is also a director for The Association for Science and Discovery centres (Techniquest) in Wrexham, Sales transactions 2021 £nil (2020: £35). Scott also manages Xplore who are potential beneficiaries of AVOW and providers of services to The Land.

Berni Durham-Jones is a trustee of Stepping Stones North Wales who are a potential beneficiary of services from AVOW. At the yearend Stepping stones have a credit balance of £nil (2020:£nil). Sales transactions through the year totalled £444 (2020: £27).

Stephen Perkins is a trustee of North East Wales Mind limited who are tenants at AVOW sales transactions totalling £5,438 (2020: £7,307). North East Wales Mind had a creditors balance of £nil (2020: £268) Stephen is on the trustee of We Are Plas Madoc who AVOW are fund holders for. Sales transactions totalled £nil (2020: £704) purchases totalled £2,250 (2020: £3,000). We are Plas Madoc had a creditors balance of £nil (2020: £654)