

Company Registration No. 3320011 (England and Wales)  
Charity No. 1060910



(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

# Report of the Trustees

for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025

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## **CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### ***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.

Donald Nordberg (Co-opted March 2025)    Chair  
 Aimie Cole  
 Jeffrey Hart  
 Robert Watt  
 Harry Turner (Co-opted Sept 2025)

Simon Wraw (resigned Nov 2024)  
 Steve Penson (resigned Nov 2024)  
 Phil Longdin (resigned Jan 2025)  
 Rebecca Savory Fuller (resigned June 2025)  
 Christopher Spackman (resigned June 2025)

### ***Chief Executive***

Alex Picot

### ***Senior Managers***

Camilla Payne	Finance Manager
Paul Seaman	Programme Manager

## CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Charity Registration Number:	1060910
Company Registration Number:	3320011
VAT Registration Number:	936 6666 78
Company Secretary:	Alex Picot
Principal Address and Registered Office:	The Little Keep Barrack Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 1SQ
Telephone Number:	01305 250921
Website:	<a href="http://www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk">www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk</a>

### ***Professional Advisors***

Independent Examiner:	Miss J A Richardson FCA FCCA DChA 32 Award Road Wimborne Dorset BH21 7NT
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank plc 49 South Street Dorchester Dorset DT1 1DW  CCLA Investment Management Ltd COIF Charities Funds 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ



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## **Report of the Trustees for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

Change is afoot across our sector – and at Dorset Community Action. While this report focuses on the financial year ended 31 March 2025, we operate in the present, where a grant-based approach to charity funding faces particular challenges. Strained local government finances across the sector are driving DCA and organisations like ours to become nimbler and look for innovative ways to deliver services to our beneficiaries and secure new sources of funding to do so. Our development efforts in the current year have involved emphasising three work streams – community employment, affordable housing, and wellbeing – areas of need where we are working to reduce our reliance on government funding.

As this report details, we are proud of the work we have done in collaboration with Employ My Ability, supporting young people with disabilities to develop skills and work experience and prepare to live fulfilling adult lives. We see scope to widen and deepen such programmes in coming years, as well as similar work we do with adults and young people not in education, employment, or training. New development efforts in housing and wellbeing await clarifications from central government about a) how it plans to extend its housing ambitions into rural areas and small towns and villages, which face different needs and challenges than larger population centres; and b) what changes will arise from the reorganisation of health and social care in the re-conception of Integrated Care Boards, in our region as well as across England.

Our board of trustees has also undergone considerable change. We appointed a new chair, Donald Nordberg, at the very end of the year under review, and we saw the departure of five trustees and recruitment of one other trustee, Harry Turner. Working with the management team, the board intends to pilot DCA through the next phase of its work in supporting communities across Dorset.

Now to the formalities:

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This report is also the Directors' Report, required by Section 415 of the Companies Act 2006. The legal and administrative information set out on pages 1 and 2 forms part of this report.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

In considering its future strategy, aims and objectives the Trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit.

### **Our purposes and activities**

It is the mission of Dorset Community Action to encourage and support communities in Dorset into taking action that improves people's lives, particularly of those most disadvantaged. Our organisation is independent and committed to providing high quality information, advice, networking and support

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services to community and voluntary organisations of all shapes and sizes. It is our long-term goal to play a significant part in creating strong and sustainable communities across Dorset.

### ***Charitable Objects***

The objects of Dorset Community Action, as stated in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are as follows:

1. To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the public, principally but not exclusively in the local government area of Dorset and its environs (hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) and, in particular, build the capacity of third sector organisations and communities and provide them with the necessary support, information and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose.
2. To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

### ***Our Principles***

Work delivered by Dorset Community Action is based on these fundamental principles that are at the heart of the organisation’s ethos:

- **Local need at the heart of Community Action** – services are provided where a local need is clearly identified.
- **Inclusion of those most disadvantaged** – services will always be delivered in a way that actively involves those people and groups who are most often excluded.
- **Empowerment of local people and groups** – services will always be delivered in a way that empowers local people and groups to develop their own solutions.
- **Independence to challenge for good** – services will be independent of the public sector enabling advocacy on behalf of local people and groups.
- **Partnership as a positive way forward** – services will always be developed in partnership with local people and groups, and alongside other providers where this best meets the needs identified.



## ***What we achieved in 2024/25***

### **1. VCSE Sector Consultancy and Support Services – providing support, information & service to local third sector organisations.**

#### **1.1 ACRE**



DCA is a member of the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) network, England's largest grouping of rural community support charities. ACRE and its 38 county-based member organisations, work together to advocate on behalf of rural communities, and support a wide range of community-led initiatives using nationally established good practice. During the year, DCA continued to collect evidence on the challenges our rural communities face, reporting quarterly to ACRE / DEFRA to advocate on their behalf, and to influence national policy.

#### **1.2 Membership**

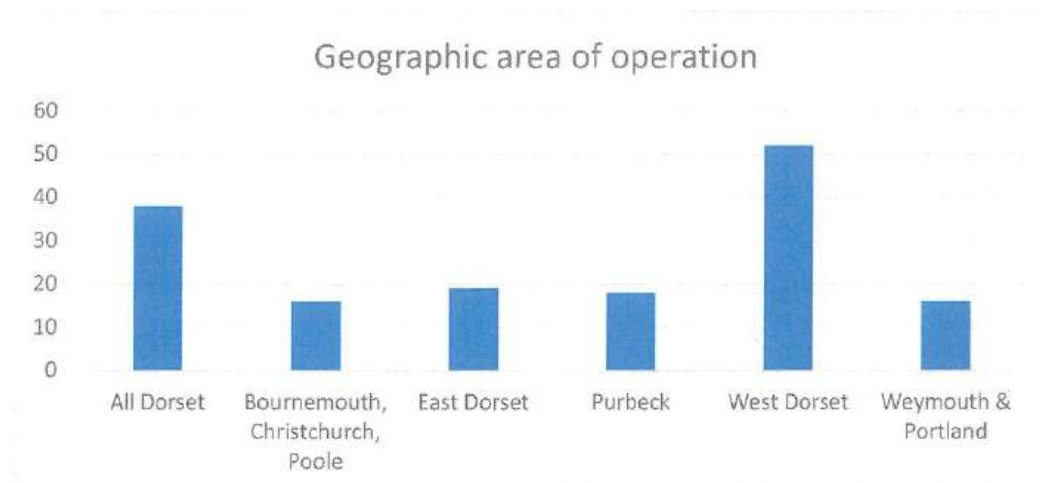
We sent 22 electronic bulletins to our 113 members, each bulletin including funding alerts and sector-specific news. We also sent out 10 e-alerts to our wider 2,424 subscribers. The E bulletin and E Alerts had open rates of 59.7% and 46.9% respectively. Newsletter/email open rate industry average = 19%.

#### **1.3 Consultancy**

During 2024/25, Dorset Community Action actively supported **159 organisations** (through phone calls and email support, signposting, online surgeries, advice and organisational health checks, covering:

- Project Management (e.g. evidence of need)
- Recruiting Trustees (e.g. skills auditing)
- Getting & Managing Money (e.g. bid writing advice)
- Managing Communications (e.g. using social media)
- Governance & Trustee Skills (e.g. legal structures, roles and responsibilities)

The geographic area of operation of VCSE groups we supported is given below:



- This year we delivered 11 public training courses, 10 bespoke training courses, three online networking sessions and three events reaching around 200 people.

Topics included:

- The “must have” policies – GDPR, Reserves policy, Safeguarding
  - Planning for the longer term
  - Managing a tight budget in difficult circumstances
  - Recruiting trustees
  - Financial systems and accounts
  - Becoming a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- We sent bi-monthly, specialist newsletters for our community spaces, to more than 700 people, giving information, advice & guidance.
- We put on 3 events during the year:
  1. Village Halls event (September 2024). More than 60 people attended the in-person event in West Moors.
  2. Becoming Sustainable (November 2024) event delivered online for 30 people.
  3. Thriving Community Spaces event (March 2025), an in-person event attended by more than 60 people.



**2. Community Employment** – supporting young people across Dorset overcome barriers to employment, education and training. Whether it's through hands-on paid work in garden maintenance, nationally accredited horticulture qualifications, or one-to-one life coaching for those at risk of becoming NEET, our programmes unlock potential, build confidence, and change lives.

### 2.1 NOCN (National Open College Network) Level 1 Award Horticulture

DCA worked with partner Employ My Ability on a 12-month National Citizenship Service (NCS) project, transforming an overgrown courtyard garden (Moreton Walled Gardens) into a thriving growing space. The transformation of the garden, horticulture training, and our social / community action NCS projects supported 36 SEND students, resulting in 3 students achieving a NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Horticulture. Students reported enhanced wellbeing through:

- Improved social connection & purpose: helping combat feelings of isolation and loneliness, which are risk factors for mental health problems.
- Physical activity resulting in overall physical health.
- Improved Mental Health outcomes.

To date, we have put 34 people through the NOCN Level 1 Horticulture award. Of these learners, two have gone onto horticulture jobs, two are now studying Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) level 2, two are using the qualification in their current workplace (care homes), and eight now volunteer in a horticulture / gardening setting.

### 2.2 Dorset Community Action – Supported Employment



Young people with a SEND diagnosis are often overlooked in the workplace, with around 5% of all people with a learning disability currently employed according to the British Association of Supported



Employment (BASE). A lack of employment opportunities across Dorset continues to be a major hurdle for SEND students accessing the job market for the first time.

In response DCA with partner Employ My Ability launched a supported employment pilot, allowing participants to gain hands-on experience in providing garden maintenance services. 'GreenCare' offers various gardening services to the public such as grass cutting, border and shrub maintenance, planting, garden waste collection and disposal. During the year, three participants successfully completing private garden maintenance jobs for older and vulnerable individuals.

### **2.3 BCP NEET Prevention Programme**

Funded by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, we delivered NEET prevention programmes, targeting Year 10–11 pupils with risk indicators, including persistent absenteeism, exclusions, EHCP/SEN, or care experience. We offer personalised 1-2-1 development coaching, focusing on emotional literacy, re-engagement with education, employment skills, and alternative pathways. The programme runs across the academic year, into the autumn term, supporting transition into post-16 destinations.

For the 2024/25 Cohort – of 10 referrals who engaged:

- Average coaching session attendance – 71%
- 100% had a September guarantee.
- 80% started at a destination in Sept 25.

### **3. Community Spaces, Housing & Rural Infrastructure** – Across rural Dorset, we work alongside local people, volunteers, and community groups to protect and strengthen the social fabric of village life.

#### **3.1 Rural Housing Enabling (RHE)**

We started delivery of our Rural Housing Enabling (RHE) programme. The purpose of the RHE programme is “To boost the supply of new rural affordable housing by providing access to a service that supports landowners and communities identify sites, work with housing associations and local authorities to deliver high quality homes that meet local housing need through small scale schemes.” This will be delivered in villages and smaller rural communities (less than 3000 population) through:

1. bringing forward rural exception sites, and first homes exception sites.
2. supporting 100% affordable housing schemes.
3. small S106 market led schemes

During the year we supported local parish councils and community housing groups to deliver housing needs surveys and initial identification of sites suitable for small scale rural housing development.

#### **3.2 Sustainable Community Spaces**

1) With the support of Dorset Council grant funding, we delivered a programme of support to village halls and other community spaces across Dorset. We had more than 500 interactions with community spaces including emails, phone calls, meetings and interviews. We concentrated on business development offering:

- a) Networking meetings attended by more than 20 people, including October 2024 on community spaces as hubs and January 2025 looking at food insecurity
- b) A bi-monthly Village Halls Newsletter which went out in October 2024, December 2024 and February 2025. This covered topics such as income generation & gifts in kind, insurance and security issues such as key safes, good governance, reporting to the Charity Commission and annual accounts.
- c) Business development advice and information via a 45-minute meeting and follow-up resources, on any topic of the Village Hall's choice. We undertook around 10 of these during the contract.
- d) Support for community spaces to prepare for the ACRE Hallmark process including launching an online resource
- e) We held a conference called Thriving Communities attended by more than 60 people. This included talks from funders, presentations on measuring impact and fuel insecurity. It challenged attendees to think about things differently and looked at community business models.
- f) We undertook a piece of research around Warm Spaces, what works for these projects, how they are funded and what factors make them sustainable.

The legacy of the project was a free community spaces offer until March 2026.

#### **3.3 Hallmark Village Hall Project**

The ACRE Hallmark quality standard (Levels 1-3) is a robust system for helping Village Halls to ensure that they have all their systems and paperwork up to standard. These standards help Village Halls to feel confident and demonstrate externally that they are a well-run resource. During the year, we completed 35 Hallmark Assessments with 16 Halls.



## 4. Wellbeing – community led support for health & wellbeing.

### 4.1 NHS Dorset

During the year DCA supported consultation on the NHS 10-year plan consultation, running six sessions with Wimborne Community Centre users, and SEND young people in support of NHS England's 10-year plan consultation providing insights into views on the use of new technology etc in the delivery of new healthcare models. DCA also support promotion of local NHS Dorset Campaigns including Pharmacy First Campaign; Act FAST – Stroke; Every Mind Matters; Aged 40+ NHS Health Checks, and Quit Smoking.

### 4.2 Wimborne Health & Well Being Hub



DCA's Wimborne Community Centre is a hub for a range of health and social services, providing the community with affordable venue hire for regular classes, meetings, events or training sessions. With the cost-of-living crisis, we noticed an increased need to support increasing low income community members in food poverty, and set out to develop our offer to provide a community fridge and other support services.

We trialled a small fridge for 6 months, donating items like tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and herbs. This trial was very successful, and we received a new large upright/display fridge donated to us by Innovate, to help us grow our project to become sustainable. A diverse number of people supported from low income, mental health, crisis, addiction, elderly, lonely, families with children. We now have a new Project Co-Ordinator and 8 volunteers supporting pick-ups of local supermarket donations and cooking healthy meals in our commercial kitchen. During the year:

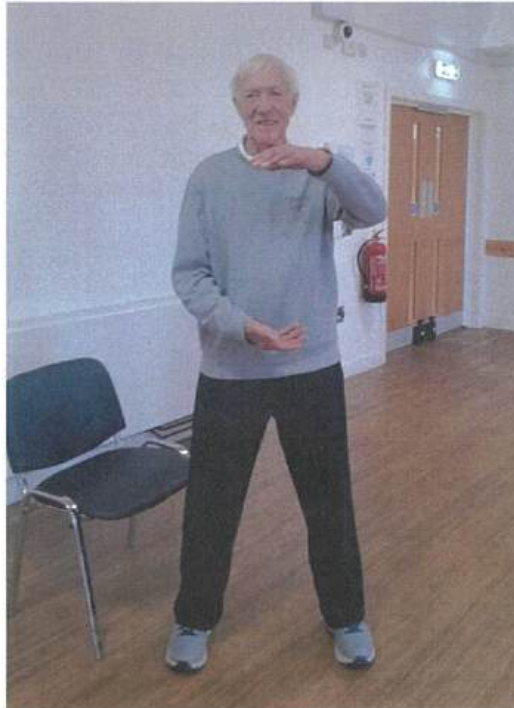
- We support an average of 278 people per month, up from 120 per month.
- The equivalent of 3252 meals has been collected from local supermarkets

### 4.3 Ferndown Family Hub, Health & Well Being Workshops

This project is for women and men aged 18 years+. We identify people who might benefit through conversations with PCN social prescribing teams, NHS Health Visitors, Steps to Wellbeing and other



organisations who have highlighted a lack of support for working aged people. Many people require more direct mental health / well-being support before they can progress into other support.



Working with Ferndown Centre Family Hub, we delivered our first 12-week self-care and wellbeing course designed to improve a person's wellbeing and empower them to continue their self-esteem and wellbeing journey beyond the programme. The group of 8 people have been referred by social prescribers from the Barcellos Family Practice, Ferndown. The course follows the five pathways to wellbeing and five pathways of nature connection. Sessions have included mindfulness activities like nature sketching, breathing exercises, and meditation. Feedback is received at the end of each session and has been very positive, with participants using what they have learnt in their day to day lives. 75% of participants felt improvement in one or more of these outcomes as a result of their attendance on the project. Longer term, we would aim for the pressure on PCN social prescription teams to be reduced as participants come off their long-term caseloads (often up to 12 months).

#### 4.4 Energy Outreach Project

As Regional Lead for this year's Energy Outreach Project, we trained 349 frontline workers. We delivered this training to 10 organisations from the VCSE, Health & Social Care Sectors e.g. carers, social prescribers, alcohol and substance misuse support workers, village hall staff and volunteers of village halls etc. We partnered with PramaCare, a Home Care charity dedicated to providing services to older people who wish to remain at home, to train their staff and volunteers to better support Prama's beneficiaries. Outcomes for beneficiaries included:

- Improved comfort and warmth at home
- Reduced health risks associated with cold, damp, and poor-quality housing, such as respiratory issues, joint pain, and mental health challenges.
- Increased energy efficiency and reduced energy bills

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### ***Governing Document***

Dorset Community Action is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 1997. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member of the charity and there are currently 113 members (203 in 2024), each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

### ***Organisation***

Dorset Community Action is a Rural Community Council (RCC) and a member of the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) network. It has a Board of Trustees of up to fifteen members. Trustees may co-opt up to five persons who are willing to be Trustees, including one non-voting member nominated by Dorset Council.

Dorset Community Action aims to recruit a diverse range of Trustees in order to retain a balanced Board, representative of the community. New procedures introduced in 2012 ensure that all candidates for Trusteeship offer relevant skills and knowledge to the Board. In the case of elected Trustees, all nominees are requested to attend an informal meeting with the Chair of the Trustees, observe a Board meeting and can meet with senior staff before making a decision on whether to join. All Trustees are required to sign a declaration of eligibility and a conflict of interest form. Dorset Community Action maintains a register, which lists, for each Board member, any business or personal interests, which could conflict with Dorset Community Action's interests. Entries are reviewed annually, and the register is available for inspection. On appointment, Trustees are provided with documents including a copy of the Governing Document of the Charity and copies of the last audited accounts and Board minutes.

Trustees of Dorset Community Action:

- Decide the overall policy and direction of Dorset Community Action work;
- Ensure that the organisation is run in compliance with its Governing Document, Charity Law and Company Law;
- Ensure that funds received by Dorset Community Action are properly managed and accounted for;
- Act as the formal employer of the staff, and approve all HR policies;
- Support and guide Senior Managers as appropriate;
- Understand, promote and safeguard the good name and ethos of Dorset Community Action;
- Monitor the performance of the organisation in meeting its objectives;
- Represent Dorset Community Action at external meetings.

The Board of Trustees meet every quarter, though the Board can arrange additional meetings to ensure that their duties are fulfilled. A Finance and General Purpose Committee was established by the Board in September 2016, renamed as Finance and Operations Committee in 2020, to maintain an overview of, and to provide advice to it, regarding the financial and administrative affairs for the charity. This Committee also meets on a quarterly basis with additional meetings held when necessary. A Chief



Executive is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity, and implement the strategies agreed by the Board. The Chair and Chief Executive meet and communicate regularly.

All Trustees give their time freely and none of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. See note 12 for travel expenses paid to Trustees in 2024/25. In the current year no related party transactions were reported.

The charity is a founder member of ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), which is the national network of RCCs, and a full member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA). Through these networks, Dorset Community Action influences the development of national policy and practice.

Across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole, Dorset Community Action participates in many partnerships within the voluntary and statutory sectors, wherever that benefits communities or voluntary organisations.

### ***Staff and Premises***

Dorset Community Actions registered office is at the Little Keep in Dorchester. DCA also runs and manages Wimborne Community Centre in Wimborne town centre, where we have a small office. The total number of paid employees as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 was 6 full-time and 8 part-time.

Pay scales for all staff are set on a similar level to other RCCs across the country and benchmarked against the NJC pay scales.

### ***Investment Policy***

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest. The investment strategy is set by the Trustees to take account of the demands for funds. The current policy is to invest surplus cash funds for short periods as cash deposits with major banking institutions.

### ***Reserves Policy***

The reserves of the charity are those that are freely available to be spent in pursuing the charity's objects. The free reserves of the charity at the year-end were:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Total reserves	277,702	267,162
Less: Restricted funds	(59,681)	(70,654)
Free reserves	<u>218,021</u>	<u>196,508</u>

This represents 8 months of operating cost expenditure (2024: 7 months).

The Trustees consider that the charity needs to maintain free reserves at a minimum of 6 months of operating cost expenditure based on 100% of unrestricted fund expenditure plus 50% of restricted salary expenditure to provide the organisation with adequate financial stability and the means for it to



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meet its charitable objectives and commitments, and as a contingency cushion against fluctuations of income. Trustees will continue to keep this under annual review.

### ***Going Concern***

The Trustees have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis and consider this basis is appropriate for twelve months from the date of signing the financial statements.

### ***Risk Management***

The Trustees have a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

- The trustees review the principal risks at each meeting of the Board and we review the organisation's risk register annually.
- the establishment of policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review.
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major risk for the charity. Key elements in the management of financial risk are regular monitoring of current funding contracts, early identification of any problems with delivery of outcomes, and regular communication with funders.

Attention has also been focussed on future funding and ensuring that DCA chooses the right direction and strategy to match a changing operating environment by the creation of a strategic plan which includes involvement from staff, trustees and stakeholders.

### ***Grant Making***

All the funds administered in grants by the charity are governed by procedures and limits laid down and agreed in advance between the charity and those partners funding the grant schemes.

Representatives of partners always play an active role in the decision-making. The charity will not pay any grants in advance of receipts of funds of partners without the funder's permission.

### ***Financial Review***

The results for the year and the financial position of the charity are shown in the attached financial statements.

In summary, the Charity's total income for the year was £665,640 (2024 - £561,167) of which £523,320 related to restricted project income (2024 - £435,899). Total expenditure for the year was £655,100 (2024 - £562,303) of which £534,293 related to restricted project expenditure (2024 - £377,525).

The net movement in unrestricted funds for the year was a surplus of £21,513 (2024 – deficit £59,510) resulting from a £21,553 surplus on general reserves and a small deficit of £40 on the designated fund, Wimborne Community Centre. In the 2024 financial year, Trustees agreed to allocate unrestricted reserves to fund new development work. This investment resulted in the reported deficit for 2024, but did secure new funding for 2025, which has driven the surplus for this year. The carried forward balance on unrestricted funds of £218,021 (2024 - £196,508) forms the general reserves of the charity.

The net movement in restricted funds was a deficit of £10,973 (2024 – surplus of £58,373). The carried forward balance on restricted funds was a surplus of £59,681 (2024 – surplus £70,654).

### ***Use of volunteers***

We have been supported in delivering our charitable activities over the last year by 13 volunteers. 12 of these people help at Wimborne Community Centre and 1 supports our Rural Housing work.

### ***Plans for Future Periods***

The risks that the organisation now faces are without doubt the most challenging in the last ten years, and remain unchanged:

- Increasingly constrained external funding environment
- Staffing recruitment and staff capacity / expertise being retained
- Achieving financial stability to allow time to reposition DCA into new markets e.g. the private sector, and to scale up trading activity.

During the year we were supported by the Cranfield Trust to review our strategic plan. As a result, this year the DCA Board invested charity reserves into development time to support this wider strategy, with a focus on our employment and enterprise support programmes, for which we know there is an ever-present need. Going forward we will be focussing on:

- Developing new partnerships with organisations sharing our values in how we support people, and where there are opportunities for expansion e.g. Garden Maintenance Team, and Seed2Plate.
- Developing our marketing activity.
- Rebalancing of senior management time towards income generation work e.g. consultancy.



## **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

The charity Trustees (who are also the directors of Dorset Community Action for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102").

Company law requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements we are required to: -

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

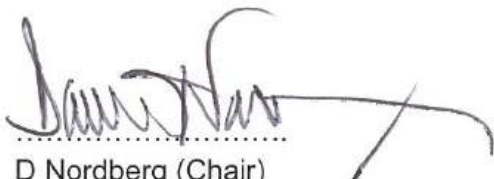
The Trustees are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. We are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

### ***Small Company Provisions***

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by



D Nordberg (Chair)  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2025



## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dorset Community Action

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dorset Community Action ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Miss JA Richardson FCA FCCA DChA

Date 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

				2025	2024
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	716	-	716	901
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable activities	4	109,497	456,351	565,848	535,924
Other trading activities	5	25,931	66,969	92,900	18,538
Investment income	6	<u>6,176</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,176</u>	<u>5,804</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<u>142,321</u>	<u>523,320</u>	<u>665,640</u>	<u>561,167</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	7	1,250	-	1,250	625
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable activities	8	<u>119,557</u>	<u>534,293</u>	<u>653,850</u>	<u>561,678</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<u>120,807</u>	<u>534,293</u>	<u>655,100</u>	<u>562,303</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		21,513	(10,973)	10,540	(1,136)
Transfers between funds	18	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		21,513	(10,973)	10,540	(1,136)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		196,508	70,654	267,162	268,298
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>218,021</u></u>	<u><u>59,681</u></u>	<u><u>277,702</u></u>	<u><u>267,162</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Balance Sheet 31 March 2025**  
**Registered Company Number 03320011**

				2025	2024
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	15	4,375	-	4,375	5,625
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	16	20,416	13,813	34,228	35,197
Cash at bank		234,708	47,966	282,674	265,378
		<u>255,124</u>	<u>61,779</u>	<u>316,902</u>	<u>300,575</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>41,478</u>	<u>2,098</u>	<u>43,575</u>	<u>39,038</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>213,646</u>	<u>59,681</u>	<u>273,327</u>	<u>261,537</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		218,021	59,681	277,702	267,162
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>218,021</u>	<u>59,681</u>	<u>277,702</u>	<u>267,162</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	18				
Unrestricted funds				218,021	196,508
Restricted funds				59,681	70,654
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>277,702</u>	<u>267,162</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

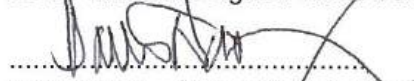
The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 13th November 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
D Nordberg - Chair of Trustees

The notes form part of these financial statements



## Cash Flow Statement For Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations	1	11,120	(5,764)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		11,120	(5,764)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest received		6,176	5,804
Purchase of fixed asset additions		-	(6,250)
Net cash provided by investing activities		6,176	(446)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		17,296	(6,209)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>		265,378	271,587
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		282,674	265,378

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Cash Flow Statement  
For Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**1 RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM  
OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)</b>	10,540	(1,136)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	1,250	625
Interest received	(6,176)	(5,804)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	969	17,963
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	4,537	(17,411)
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operations</b>	<u>11,120</u>	<u>(5,764)</u>

**2 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	At 1.4.24 £	Cash Flow £	At 31.3.25 £
<b>Net Cash</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>265,378</u>	<u>17,296</u>	<u>282,674</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>265,378</u>	<u>17,296</u>	<u>282,674</u>



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

### 1 LEGAL FORM

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and with no share capital and incorporated in England and Wales. The guarantors are the members whose liability in the event of a winding up is limited to £1 each. There were 113 members at the balance sheet date (2024: 203 members). The registered office can be found on page 2 of these financial statements.

### 2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### **Preparation of the account on a going concern basis**

The charity reported incoming resources of £665,640 and net expenditure of £655,100 leading to net income in the year of £10,540. The Trustees are of the view that the improvement to operational efficiencies and review of the business strategy for the organisation have secured the immediate future for the charity for the next 12 months and as such the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

#### **Incoming resources**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Donated assets are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis based on the estimated value of the assets to the charity.

Funding received is included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives, but included in the restricted funds where the grant is specific to a particular project. Income is deferred only where the donor has specified that the right to consideration is dependent on performance in a future period.

#### **Interest receivable**

Interest of 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.

#### **Debtors**

Funding Receivable and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

#### **Cash**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar

#### **Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Resources expended (continued)**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

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

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is conveyed to the recipient, except in cases where the offer is conditional and the condition remains in the control of the charity. Grants offered subject to such conditions which have not been met at the year-end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

**Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has the 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.

**Operating Leases**

The charity classifies the lease of printing and copier equipment as operating leases: the title to the equipment remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

**Governance costs**

Governance costs are allocated to restricted fund projects in accordance with amounts agreed with funding providers. These costs are shown as reallocation of internal expenses.

**Allocation and apportionment of costs**

Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Intangible fixed assets**

All assets with a cost in excess of £2,000 are capitalised.

**Tangible fixed assets**

All assets with a cost in excess of £2,000 are capitalised with the exception as noted below.

Project specific equipment purchases are mostly funded directly by the fund provider at the start of the project and are not capitalised as the items may be returned to the fund provider or given to the project.

Fixed assets are depreciated to residual value over their estimated useful economic life in equal annual instalments at the following rates:

Motor Vehicles	20% straight line
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**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.



## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Fund accounting

##### *Restricted funds*

Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. With the agreement of the fund provider, restricted funds can roll forward brought forward balances for use as income in the next financial year. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

##### *Designated funds*

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

##### *Unrestricted funds*

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees and which have not been designated for other purposes.

#### **Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

#### **Financial instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and 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 measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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 discounts due.

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 provision are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### 3 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations	716	901
Legacies	-	-
	716	901

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income from Wimborne Community Centre (WCC)	102,690	100,025
Grants	463,158	435,899
	<u>565,848</u>	<u>535,924</u>

**5 INCOME FROM TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Consultancy and training	79,750	13,715
Other trading income	11,526	3,239
Membership and advertisement	1,624	1,584
	<u>92,900</u>	<u>18,538</u>

**6 INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest receivable	6,176	5,804
	<u>6,176</u>	<u>5,804</u>

**7 EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other trading activities		
Depreciation and amortisation	1,250	625
	<u>1,250</u>	<u>625</u>

**8 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2025 Total funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total funds £</b>
<b>Employee Costs:</b>				
Salaries	40,265	339,183	379,448	355,237
Payroll charges	188	2,498	2,686	2,560
Recruitment	-	-	-	638
Training and conference costs	127	2,717	2,844	1,554
<b>Premises related expenses</b>	33,096	3,729	36,825	34,537
<b>Transport related expenses</b>	253	9,871	10,124	7,328
<b>Supplies and services</b>	16,377	176,295	192,672	129,159
<b>VAT paid to HMRC</b>	7,800	-	7,800	8,897
<b>Governance costs:</b>				
Salaries	16,168	-	16,168	17,318
Other costs	5,283	-	5,283	4,450
<b>Total</b>	<u>119,557</u>	<u>534,293</u>	<u>653,850</u>	<u>561,678</u>



**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**9 GRANTS PAYABLE**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Charitable Activities	78,470	40,861

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
NEST Weymouth CIC	8,000	8,000
Ridgeway Football Club	10,250	10,250
Littlemoor Community Youth Club	450	5,849
St Francis of Assisi Littlemoor PCC	17,470	1,374
Houseworks Dorset Ltd	19,500	10,550
Yoga with Caroline	2,600	2,600
Bincombe Valley PTFA	11,850	-
Nicola Derrick Exercise Class	5,280	-
Sasha Fancy Sewing Class	3,070	-
Other grants below £2000	-	2,238
	<b>78,470</b>	<b>40,861</b>

**10 SUPPORT COSTS**

	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	2,750	2,533	5,283

**11 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
Independent examiner fees	2,100	2,100
Accounts preparation fee	650	650
Depreciation and amortisation	1,250	625

**12 TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There was no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year to 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Trustees' expenses**

During the year no Trustees received reimbursed travel and conference expenses (2024:£nil). The charity has paid premiums of £399 (2024: £399) to provide £2 million of indemnity insurance for the Trustees.

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**13 STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	352,459	330,829
Social security costs	24,111	21,843
Other pension costs	19,047	19,884
	<u>395,617</u>	<u>372,556</u>

The average monthly headcount for staff was 15 (2024: 15) and the average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year is stated in the split given below.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Operational	9	10
Management and administering the charity	2	2
	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The key management personnel comprises of the Chief Executive and three Senior Managers.

The total salary paid to key management personnel was £145,686 (2024: £172,450).



Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

14 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	901	-	901	312
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable activities	6	100,025	435,899	535,924	556,374
Other trading activities	4	18,538	-	18,538	22,651
Investment income	5	5,804	-	5,804	1,441
<b>TOTAL</b>		<u>125,268</u>	<u>435,899</u>	<u>561,167</u>	<u>580,778</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	7	625	-	625	470
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable activities	8	<u>255,376</u>	<u>306,302</u>	<u>561,678</u>	<u>606,386</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<u>256,001</u>	<u>306,302</u>	<u>562,303</u>	<u>606,856</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		(130,733)	129,597	(1,136)	(26,078)
Transfers between funds	18	<u>71,224</u>	<u>(71,224)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(59,509)	58,373	(1,136)	(26,078)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>256,017</u>	<u>12,281</u>	<u>268,298</u>	<u>294,376</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>196,508</u>	<u>70,654</u>	<u>267,162</u>	<u>268,298</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**15 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures and Fittings £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 April 2024	17,476	6,250	23,726
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>17,476</u>	<u>6,250</u>	<u>23,726</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 April 2024	17,476	625	18,101
Charge for year	-	1,250	1,250
At 31 March 2025	<u>17,476</u>	<u>1,875</u>	<u>19,351</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>4,375</u>	<u>4,375</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>5,625</u>	<u>5,625</u>

**16 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2025 £	2024 £
Funding receivable	11,916	15,952
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>22,312</u>	<u>19,245</u>
	<u>34,228</u>	<u>35,197</u>

**17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2025 £	2024 £
Social security and other taxes	6,382	6,643
VAT	3,471	14,890
Other creditors	12,843	14,157
Accruals and deferred income	<u>20,879</u>	<u>3,348</u>
	<u>43,575</u>	<u>39,038</u>



**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	AT 1.4.24	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	158,305	21,553	-	179,858
WCC	26,203	(40)	-	26,163
Dilapidation Fund	12,000	-	-	12,000
	<u>196,508</u>	<u>21,513</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>218,021</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Abri	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
ACRE	-	-	-	-
BCP NEET Prevention	-	10,365	-	10,365
BCP NEET Challenge	5,000	(1,667)	-	3,333
BCP Training	-	-	-	-
BESN	-	-	-	-
BESN Champion	-	-	-	-
Big4Littlemoor - Big Local	15,310	(885)	-	14,426
NHS Dorset Clinical	-	-	-	-
Commissioning group	-	-	-	-
Building Better Opportunities	-	-	-	-
Co-op Hubbub	-	4,158	-	4,158
DC Community Spaces	-	-	-	-
DCF Wellbeing and Mental Health	-	2,917	-	2,917
Digital Inclusion Capability	171	(171)	-	-
EMA Supported Employment	-	-	-	-
National Garden Scheme	1,999	(1,999)	-	-
NCS Groundworks	-	-	-	-
NCS Training	-	-	-	-
Prison Project	4,900	-	-	4,900
Rural Housing Enabler	8,216	(8,216)	-	-
RHS Florish	-	-	-	-
Serious Violence Duty	-	-	-	-
Consultation	-	-	-	-
SGN Safe & Warm	-	-	-	-
Talbot Village Trust	-	-	-	-
Trusted Voices	-	-	-	-
Seed2Plate Combined Fund	32,058	(12,475)	-	19,583
	<u>70,654</u>	<u>(10,973)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,681</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>267,162</u>	<u>10,540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>277,702</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	32,822	11,269	21,553
WCC	109,498	109,538	(40)
Dilapidation Fund	-	-	-
	<u>142,320</u>	<u>120,807</u>	<u>21,513</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Abri	-	3,000	(3,000)
ACRE	41,255	41,255	-
BCP NEET Prevention	71,412	61,047	10,365
BCP NEET Challenge	-	1,667	(1,667)
BCP Training	5,557	5,557	-
BESN	12,976	12,976	-
BESN Champion	-	-	-
Big4Littlemoor - Big Local	185,231	186,115	(885)
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning group	36,057	36,057	-
Building Better Opportunities	-	-	-
Co-op Hubbub	5,000	842	4,158
DC Community Spaces	30,000	30,000	-
DCF Wellbeing and Mental Health	5,000	2,083	2,917
Digital Inclusion Capability	2,400	2,571	(171)
EMA Supported Employment	6,000	6,000	-
National Garden Scheme	-	1,999	(1,999)
NCS Groundworks	10,080	10,080	-
NCS Training	14,043	14,043	-
Prison Project	-	-	-
Rural Housing Enabler	49,262	57,478	(8,216)
RHS Flourish	-	-	-
Serious Violence Duty Consultation	-	-	-
SGN Safe & Warm	5,566	5,566	-
Talbot Village Trust	18,481	18,481	-
Trusted Voices	20,000	20,000	-
Seed2Plate Combined Fund	5,000	17,475	(12,475)
	<u>523,320</u>	<u>534,292</u>	<u>(10,973)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>665,640</u>	<u>655,099</u>	<u>10,540</u>



**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	217,943	(141,357)	81,719	158,305
WCC	26,074			
		10,623	(10,495)	26,202
Dilapidation Fund	12,000	-	-	12,000
	<u>256,017</u>	<u>(130,734)</u>	<u>71,224</u>	<u>196,507</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Abri	4,920	381	(2,300)	3,000
ACRE	-	12,203	(12,203)	-
Anton Jergens	5,000	(3,521)	(1,479)	-
BCP Food Poverty	-	1,445	(1,445)	-
BCP NEET Prevention	-	2,608	(2,608)	-
BCP NEET Challenge	-	5,000	-	5,000
BCP Training	-	556	(556)	-
BESN	-	3,825	(3,825)	-
BESN Champion	-	776	(776)	-
Big4Littlemoor - Big Local	212	33,578	(18,479)	15,310
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning group	-	10,592	(10,592)	-
Building Better Opportunities	2,149	(11,949)	9,800	-
Digital Inclusion Capability	-	1,179	(1,008)	171
National Garden Scheme	-	1,999	-	1,999
NCS Groundworks	-	284	(284)	-
NCS Training	-	5,450	(5,450)	-
Prison Project	-	6,972	(2,072)	4,900
Rural Housing Enabler	-	14,116	(5,900)	8,216
RHS Florish	-	4,129	(4,129)	-
Serious Violence Duty Consultation	-	4,439	(4,439)	-
Talbot Village Trust	-	(4,241)	4,241	-
Trusted Voices	-	5,759	(5,759)	-
Seed2Plate Combined Fund	-	34,018	(1,960)	32,058
	<u>12,281</u>	<u>129,598</u>	<u>(71,224)</u>	<u>70,654</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>268,298</u>	<u>(1,136)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>267,161</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

Comparative net movement in funds (for the year ended 31 March 2024), included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	25,243	166,601	(141,357)
WCC	100,025	89,401	10,624
	<u>125,268</u>	<u>256,002</u>	<u>(130,733)</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Abri	5,769	5,388	381
ACRE	41,255	29,052	12,203
Anton Jergens	-	3,521	(3,521)
BCP Food Poverty	5,500	4,055	1,445
BCP NEET Prevention	8,222	5,614	2,608
BCP NEET Challenge	5,000	-	5,000
BCP Training	1,943	1,387	556
BESN	12,976	9,151	3,825
BESN Champion	2,625	1,849	776
Big4Littlemoor - Big Local	130,474	96,897	33,578
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning group	36,057	25,465	10,592
Building Better Opportunities	32,305	44,253	(11,949)
Digital Inclusion Capability	3,600	2,421	1,179
National Garden Scheme	3,247	1,249	1,999
NCS Groundworks	4,947	4,662	284
NCS Training	12,797	7,347	5,450
Prison Project	11,900	4,928	6,972
Rural Housing Enabler	26,969	12,853	14,116
RHS Florish	15,500	11,371	4,129
Serious Violence Duty Consultation	11,900	7,461	4,439
Talbot Village Trust	1,519	5,760	(4,241)
Trusted Voices	20,000	14,241	5,759
Seed2Plate Combined Fund	41,394	7,377	34,018
	<u>435,899</u>	<u>306,302</u>	<u>129,598</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>561,168</u>	<u>562,303</u>	<u>(1,136)</u>



**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	217,943	(119,804)	81,719	179,858
WCC	26,074	10,583	(10,495)	26,162
Dilapidation Fund	12,000	-	-	12,000
	<u>256,017</u>	<u>(109,221)</u>	<u>71,224</u>	<u>218,021</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Abri	4,920	(2,619)	(2,300)	-
ACRE	-	12,203	(12,203)	-
Anton Jergens	5,000	(3,521)	(1,479)	-
BCP Food Poverty	-	1,445	(1,445)	-
BCP NEET Prevention	-	12,973	(2,608)	10,365
BCP NEET Challenge	-	3,333	-	3,333
BCP Training	-	556	(556)	-
BESN	-	3,825	(3,825)	-
BESN Champion	-	776	(776)	-
Big4Littlemoor - Big Local	212	32,693	(18,479)	14,426
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning	-	10,592	(10,592)	-
Building Better Opportunities	2,149	(11,949)	9,800	-
Co-op Hubbub	-	4,158	-	4,158
DC Community Spaces	-	-	-	-
DCF Wellbeing and Mental Health	-	2,917	-	2,917
Digital Inclusion Capability	-	1,008	(1,008)	-
EMA Supported Employment	-	-	-	-
National Garden Scheme	-	-	-	-
NCS Groundworks	-	284	(284)	-
NCS Training	-	5,450	(5,450)	-
Prison Project	-	6,972	(2,072)	4,900
Rural Housing Enabler	-	5,900	(5,900)	-
RHS Florish	-	4,129	(4,129)	-
Serious Violence Duty Consultation	-	4,439	(4,439)	-
SGN Safe & Warm	-	-	-	-
Talbot Village Trust	-	(4,241)	4,241	-
Trusted Voices	-	5,759	(5,759)	-
Seed2Plate Combined Fund	-	21,543	(1,960)	19,583
	<u>12,281</u>	<u>118,625</u>	<u>(71,224)</u>	<u>59,681</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>268,297</u>	<u>9,404</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>277,702</u>

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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

**PURPOSES OF DESIGNATED FUNDS**

**Wimborne Community Centre (WCC) Formerly Community Learning and Resource Centre (CLaRC)**

Relates to a centre for adult and community learning in Wimborne and related income and expenditure.

**Dilapidation Fund**

Funds set aside to cover restoration of the leased office space to its original condition at the end of the lease term. The lease is due to end in 2028 with breaks granted every 5 years.

**PURPOSES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS**

**Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)**

Grant received from ACRE resulting from DEFRA's Grant Aid Investment Programme, to deliver local strategic support to rural communities enabling them to take action, to share learning on sustainable funding models and to provide access to local intelligence.

**Building Better Opportunities - Supporting Enterprise in Dorset**

DCA was successful in securing the Stage 2 bid of the Building Better Opportunities — Supporting Enterprise in Dorset funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund. The grant was given to enable target participants to overcome barriers to employment through accessible, community based support as a stepping stone into enterprise, leading to increased confidence and long- term life changes.

**Big Energy Saving Network (BESN)**

To provide assisted action to vulnerable consumers, to help them save money on their energy costs through outreach sessions, and to deliver an energy saving training programme to front line workers who have regular contact with vulnerable customers.

**BESN Champion**

This project offered direct support to vulnerable consumers (local residents) to reduce their energy bills and save energy.

**NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group**

Grant from CCG to provide advice, training and consultancy support for the benefit of community groups, charities and social enterprises in Dorset.

**Big Local Funding - Big4Littlemoor**

DCA is providing the role of a Locally Trusted Organisation to the Big4Littlemoor Partnership to support them with strategic leadership and implementation of their Big Local Plan. A grant was awarded to the partnership by the Lottery Fund which is administered by the Local Trust.



## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

#### PURPOSES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

##### **Trusted Voices**

To engage with Dorset's voluntary and community groups to support the COVID19 Trusted Voices contacts to best communicate the key messages as identified by the Dorset Health Protection Board and to report any issues identified by the community in relation to reducing COVID 19 community transmission.

##### **Abri**

A grant received from Abri given to the Big4Littlemoor project to re-invigorate a disused garden, helping to unlock the potential of the Littlemoor community.

##### **DC Community Space Sustainability**

This project built on the Talbot Village Trust grant to allow us to support and work with a wider cohort of community spaces including community centres, social enterprises and faith spaces. Covering key subjects such as policies & procedures, trustee recruitment, training and support, roles and responsibilities of trustees, policies and procedures, safeguarding and income generation amongst others.

##### **DCF Wellbeing & Mental Health**

Delivering 12 week workshops to improve a participant's wellbeing and empower them to continue their self-esteem journey beyond the programme. Following the 5 pathways to wellbeing and the 5 pathways to nature connection, sessions are structured and supportive, combining mindfulness activities, meditation, group coaching, creative activities, nature-based learning, and practical skills such as wildlife gardening, mindful photography and journaling. Each participant will build a personal wellbeing plan to guide their journey beyond the programme.

##### **Anton Jergens**

A grant to employ a self employment and community enterprise coach to support long term unemployed people back into work, working mainly in urban deprived wards within Dorset, Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch.

##### **Co-op Hubbub**

Wimborne Community Centre provides a Community Lounge, Fridge and Kitchen. Collecting and redistribute food to Prevent Food Waste and support those in need. Offering a safe warm space, reduce food waste and encourage community involvement. Currently supporting 200+ customers per week.

##### **Seed2Plate Combined Fund**

This combined fund collates grants from numerous funders that contribute to our Seed to Plate programme. This includes funding from BCP Council for £5,000 to deliver Team Challenge workshops; £2000 from CLA Charitable Trust & £15,000 from Ferndown Community Centre to deliver a project in Ferndown. There is also £3500 from the D'Oyle Carte Foundation and £7500 from the Oliver Ford Foundation. A project in Wimborne was funded by £3358 from Sainsburys.



**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

**PURPOSES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)**

**SGN Safe & Warm**

Supporting individuals and households with energy support and advice including, benefits eligibility checks, 1-2-1 Personalised energy advice, support to access debt advice, accessing fuel vouchers and energy schemes and/or energy efficiency improvements e.g. Warm Home Discount, ECO funding.

**EMA Supported Employment**

Funding through Employ My Ability has enabled the piloting and launch of the GreenCare gardening service. Supporting SEND young people / adults and people with mental health issues access the world of work through on site training, volunteering and paid employment in gardening and horticulture. The team are supported by a coach on all jobs.

**BCP Food Poverty**

A grant received from the BCP Food & Warmth Support Fund to deliver a series of cost-of-living related skills workshops working through Somerford Primary School, Somerford Family Hub and Christchurch Community Partnership affiliated groups, providing a range of cooking & food skills and household energy advice workshops.

**BCP NEET Prevention**

A contract funded by BCP Council to provide a NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) prevention programme of 121 Coaching and emotional literacy training and support for years 10 and 11 students.

**BCP NEET challenge**

A contract funded by BCP Council to provide a series of social action community based Team Challenge workshops specifically aimed at young people at risk of being classified as NEET and asylum seeking young people.

**Digital Inclusion Capability**

A capability grant from the Good Things Foundation - Fix the Digital Divide, to offer access to & support for IT at Wimborne Community Centre.

**National Garden Scheme**

A grant to fund gardening materials to create a growing and sensory community garden

**NCS Groundworks**

Social and community action Team Challenges & training support for young people 16 / 17 and those in care or with mental health or learning disabilities up to the age of 24. Funded by NCS via Groundworks.

**NCS Training**

Social and community action Team Challenges & training support for young people with mental health or learning disabilities up to the age of 24. Funded by NCS.

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**18 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

**PURPOSES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)**

**Prison Project**

Funding from Dorset Council to undertake research work.

**RHS Flourish**

A community training grant received for the Seed2Plate project to engage volunteers to repurpose plots of land to grow fresh fruit and vegetables, whilst gaining skills and qualifications through the National Open College Network (NOCN). The project is the only level 1 NOCN in Horticulture currently delivered in Dorset.

**Rural Housing Enabler**

Funding from ACRE aimed at boosting the supply of new rural affordable housing by providing access to a service that supports landowners and communities identify sites, work with housing associations and local authorities to deliver high quality homes that meet local housing need through small scale schemes.

**Serious Violence Duty Consultation**

Funding from Dorset Council (HM Govt funding) to undertake research work on the causes and impacts of serious violence, with both perpetrators and victims of violence.

**Talbot Village Trust**

A partnership with the Dorset Village Hall Association. 75% funding was secured from Talbot Village Trust alongside 25% from DCA reserves to support Village Halls through the Hallmark

**Transfers between funds**

Transfers between funds have been used where Dorset Community Action have used core resources to fulfil the restriction on the fund.

**19 LEASING AGREEMENTS**

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	16,022	16,022
Between one and five years	43,550	59,573
In more than five years	-	-
	59,572	75,595



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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**20 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party disclosures for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor the year ended 31 March 2024.

**21 PENSIONS**

**Defined Benefit**

The charity operated a defined benefit pension scheme for some longer serving employees of Dorset Community Action but the scheme was closed to new entrants and new employees. The Dorset County Council pension scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme administered for the benefit of Local Authorities and other bodies and is managed in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997. Dorset Community Action ceased participation in the Fund on 11 August 2023 when the last active member left service. All assets and liabilities as at 11 August 2023 fell back to Dorset Council at that date and no exit payment was required to be paid by Dorset Community Action. As a ceasing Employer, Dorset Community Action has no further obligations to the Fund under Regulation 64 and the Rates and Adjustments Certificate dated 31 March 2023 has been revised to this effect.

**Defined Contribution**

The charitable company operates two defined contribution pension schemes for its employees, one being with Dorset Council which is now closed to new employees, and the other with Aviva. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Dorset Community Action pays a contribution of 6% into the Aviva scheme and acts as an agent in collecting and paying over employee pension contributions. DCA's staging date for auto-enrolment was 1st May 2017 and those qualifying staff not already in the Aviva Scheme were enrolled into the scheme with DCA paying 6% employers contribution. The employer contributions made for the accounting period are treated as an expense and were £19,047 (2024: £19,565).

**22 COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Dorset Community Action is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.