

# OSWESTRY COMMUNITY ACTION

England & Wales · Charity number 1063319

## Details

|                |                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other names    | OSWESTRY AND DISTRICT HELPMATES, OSWESTRY AND DISTRICT HELPMATES LIMITED, DIAL-A-RIDE, HELPMATES, OSCIP, SHOPMOBILITY, VOLUNTEER BUREAU |
| Status         | Registered                                                                                                                              |
| Legal form     | Charitable company                                                                                                                      |
| Company number | <a href="#">03390138</a>                                                                                                                |
| Registered     | 1997-07-07                                                                                                                              |
| Register       | <a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>                                                                                 |

## Contact

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Oswestry  
SY11 1RB

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**Website** [www.qube-oca.org.uk](http://www.qube-oca.org.uk)

## Activities

**Objects:** (I) THE RELIEF OF THOSE PERSONS IN THE BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY, SHROPSHIRE; THE COUNTY OF SHROPSHIRE, THE COUNTY OF POWYS AND WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH. IN PARTICULAR THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE ELDERLY, INFIRM AND THOSE WHO HAVE PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL DISABILITIES IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORT SYSTEMS AND THE PROVISION OF CARE SERVICES. (II) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NEEDS OF SICK AND DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE AND FOR THOSE VOLUNTEERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CARE BY THE PROVISION OF TRAINING.

**Activities:** Oswestry Community Action operates in Oswestry and the surrounding area. It acts to help those individuals in the community in need through its 6 main service areas of:Community TransportVolunteeringArtsCareShopmobilityIT and Learning

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY MONTGOMERYSHIRE, WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH, NORTH SHROPSHIRE
- Denbighshire
- Powys
- Shropshire
- Wrexham

## Finances

| Period end | Income   | Expenditure | Assets   | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £737,887 | £703,986    | £463,712 | 14        |
| 2024-03-31 | £757,236 | £663,422    | £429,810 | 13        |
| 2023-03-31 | £820,421 | £899,361    | £335,996 | 15        |
| 2022-03-31 | £719,961 | £715,013    | £414,936 | 15        |
| 2021-03-31 | £571,825 | £510,038    | £409,988 | 15        |

## Trustees

| Name                 | Role  | Appointed  |
|----------------------|-------|------------|
| Heather Noble        | Chair | 2017-05-10 |
| Charles Brotherton   |       | 2022-12-02 |
| Hilary Margaret Rees |       | 2025-06-30 |
| John Duffus          |       | 2024-07-01 |
| Richard Amos         |       | 2022-02-03 |
| Stephen Drinnan      |       | 2025-04-01 |
| Stephen Wilcox       |       | 2025-04-01 |



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# Accounts

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**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03390138**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1063319**

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial  
Statements for the Year  
Ended 31 March 2025  
For Oswestry Community Action**

**Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF**

## Oswestry Community Action

### Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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# Oswestry Community Action

## Chairman's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### Report from the Chair of Trustees

As we reflect on the twelve months to April 2025, it's clear that Oswestry Community Action (Qube) continues to be a vital, responsive, and creative force in our community—adapting to challenges, deepening partnerships, and expanding our reach across Oswestry and beyond.

Financially the sector remains stretched and money ever harder to come by. We have started to test the water in terms of fund raising and response has been positive particularly at Christmas. We are learning as we go with this initiative but hope to build on those small wins as we progress.

This year saw continued engagement across our core programmes. From arts and wellbeing to transport and volunteering. We welcomed new participants, forged new collaborations, and continued to deliver high-quality, inclusive experiences that reflect the diverse needs of our community.

**Arts & Creativity:** Our exhibitions, workshops, and outreach projects brought colour and connection local residents and in particular new initiatives with younger members of our community. . We're proud to have supported emerging artists and hosted events that celebrated local talent and heritage.

**Health & Wellbeing:** Our social prescribing work and wellbeing activities provided essential support to those facing isolation, mental health challenges, and long-term conditions. Feedback from participants continues to affirm the life-changing impact of these services. Our work with Lingen Davies Cancer Support also continues.

**Community Transport:** Demand for our transport services remained strong, with our dedicated team of drivers and volunteers ensuring that mobility and independence remain accessible to all.

**Volunteering & Support:** We've seen a rise in volunteer engagement, with new roles created and more people stepping forward to contribute their time and skills. Our volunteer celebration events were a reminder of the generosity that fuels Oswestry Community Action (Qube).

### Governance and Strategy

As Chair, I've been privileged to work alongside a committed Board of Trustees and a passionate staff team. This year, we undertook a strategic review to ensure our governance remains robust and future-focused. We've strengthened our policies, refreshed our vision, and continue laying the groundwork for new initiatives that will we hope will come on board in 2026 and beyond.

We also welcomed new trustees and said farewell to long-standing members whose contributions have shaped Qube's journey. I thank each of them for their wisdom, time, and unwavering belief in our mission.

### Looking Ahead

The year ahead will be challenging but also holds exciting possibilities. We're exploring new funding streams, expanding our digital capabilities, and deepening our commitment to inclusion and accessibility. As always, our work will be guided by the voices of those we serve—listening, learning, and adapting with

empathy and creativity.

With further focus on recruiting new trustees we hope to strengthen the board with additional skills which will stand us in good stead for future challenges and obstacles that we may face.

Heather Noble, Chair

Oswestry Community Action, (Qube)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Noble". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'H'.

## **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Registered Company number 03390138

Registered Charity number 1063319

#### **Registered office**

Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1RB

#### **Trustees**

Heather Noble – Chair

Richard Amos

Charles Brotherton

John Duffus

Stephen Drinnan (joined April 2025)

Stephen Wilcox (joined April 2025)

Hilary Rees (joined June 2025)

#### **Company Secretary and Chief Officer**

Kim Wootton

#### **Independent Examiner**

Mike Griffiths & Partners

The Yew Tree Inn

High Street

Gresford

Wrexham

LL12 8RF

#### **Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank

PO Box 250 Delf House

Southway,

Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

# **1. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

## **a) Governing document**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 20th June 1997, and amended on 12th March 2002.

## **b) Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

Trustees are recruited by personal approach from another Trustee or staff member, or by advertising. Those interested in becoming a Trustee are then asked to apply in writing, matching their skills and experience against a job description. The applicants are assessed by the Trustees and those suitable are invited to an interview with the Chair. The successful applicants are nominated to the Board and given a full induction to the organisation which includes ensuring they are aware of the responsibilities of being a Trustee and all the role entails. The recruited Trustees then participate in service activities across the organisation to learn first-hand how they operate, meet our users and experience what it is like to be a customer of Oswestry Community Action (Qube). They are introduced to staff and volunteers to learn their roles and given past Board papers to read including forecast budgets, cash flow and annual accounts to help them understand the current issues and financial position of the organisation.

The Board holds an Strategic review meeting each year in order to discuss the strategic objectives, policies and procedures of Oswestry Community Action (Qube) and to ensure they continue to meet our charitable objects and are operating within the scope and ethos of the Memorandum and Articles.

## **c) Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The organisation has a risk register which is reviewed at each Finance and Risk Committee meeting and key elements drawn to the Trustee Board. The risk register is subject to an annual Board review.

## **d) Objectives and aims of Oswestry Community Action**

During the year, the Board of Trustees has reviewed its strategic objectives and aims. Work is now underway to create a three year strategic plan which will provide a focus for the charity.

Our vision is - **Empowering local and rural communities to live their best lives.**

All activities align with Oswestry Community Action (Qube)'s vision namely Community Transport, Wellbeing and Independence, Volunteering and Community Development, Arts and Creative Health, Social Prescribing, Shopmobility and Learning.

## **e) Significant activities**

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and consider public benefit to be at the heart of the activities of the Charity. A summary of the significant activities of the charity is given below under the headings.

**Community Transport and Shopmobility** - accessible door to door transport and scooter and wheelchair hire;

**Volunteer Centre** - supportive volunteer brokerage service and infrastructure support for voluntary community sector (VCS) organisations;

**Arts** – A contemporary gallery with a full arts programme of exhibitions, workshops and project. The arts has been proven to help individuals express themselves more freely, improve mental health, and interpersonal relationships;

**Wellbeing and Independence** - provides friendship opportunities and support to people who are socially isolated;

**Social Prescribing Community Development** – county wide project includes Community Connectors Networks, peer support and signing up VCS services as Social Prescribing Interventions;

**Room Hire for the community** – two rooms available for external hire; and

**Learning** – digital skills programme to help people in our community get online and energy awareness support.

## **2. OSWESTRY COMMUNITY ACTION 2024/25 SERVICES ACTIVITIES**

### **a) Transport and shopmobility**

#### **i. Dial A Ride**

At Oswestry Community Action (Qube) we provide community transport (CT) services to reduce loneliness, isolation, prevent exclusion and address the needs of our rural communities. Our members do not have access to a vehicle (often due to affordability issues), 'traditional' bus services are reducing with service frequency falling by 50.2% since 2015 and many passengers do not have friends or family to rely on. CT provides a safety net for those that fall through the gaps. We operate demand responsive, door to door, transport services for individuals from Monday to Friday. Journeys enable access to health appointments including hospital and GP appointments, dentists, opticians etc. that without CT wouldn't be possible. We also run trips to supermarkets, hairdressers, local social and activity groups.

Dial A Ride has a membership of over 930 (718 last year) and it continues to increase. Oswestry Community Action (Qube) Transport has undertaken 5,991 journeys – 15.8% of these were for health, 13.3% for shopping and 40.9% for social visits.

The current fleet remains at four minibuses and three smaller specialist cars (owned by Qube) – all the vehicles are fully accessible. We were delighted to be awarded a grant from the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations, which enabled us to purchase an electric vehicle. This investment has already made a significant impact, as the vehicle has been in active use throughout the current financial year. It has not only supported our day-to-day operations but has also contributed to our commitment to reducing our environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices within our community.

Dial A Ride has 23 volunteers, 4 new volunteers have joined during the year and 4 have left us.

## **ii. Community Cars**

Community Cars are used for longer journeys and provide an essential service to our members. In particular, we transport individuals to medical appointments that otherwise they would find difficult to attend.

## **iii. Trips**

During the period we have used our Dial a Ride service to transport to various locations, including Lake Vyrnwy, Powys Castle, Barmouth, Heulwen Trust Canal Boat, Welshpool and Llanfair Railway, Theatre Severn Shrewsbury, Attingham Park Home Farm Shrewsbury and the Exotic Zoo, Telford.

## **iv. School contracts and B82**

The B82 bus route from Lake Vyrnwy to Oswestry funded through Powys Council continues to be provided.

The Shropshire Council X25995 Kinnerley to Oswestry, X211304 Knockin to Oswestry and X62129 Ellesmere to Walford school routes were undertaken during the year.

## **v. Oswestry Community Action (Qube) Shopmobility**

Oswestry Community Action (Qube) has two scooters, which have been hired 146 times and six wheelchairs, three self-propelled and three pushed. They were hired 42 times, mostly for a day during this period. They are an essential service to improve accessibility for individuals that would otherwise find it difficult to visit the town.

## **b) Volunteering**

The volunteer brokerage service is run through Oswestry Community Action (Qube) in conjunction with Community Resource and serves a wide range of VSC organisations by putting them in contact with members of the public looking for volunteering roles. Organisations can register their volunteering opportunities which are approved and then advertised on the Vol Plus website. Once a volunteering enquiry has been raised, initial interview and screening takes place to match the potential volunteer to the most appropriate role (s). Once a decision is made on a specific role a referral takes place, and a volunteer starts a placement which involves quarterly reviews to ensure an enjoyable and productive volunteer experience.

In the period covered in this report, Oswestry Community Action (Qube) employed a volunteer coordinator (with particular focus on volunteer roles at Qube) based at Qube and another based at Community Resource (with a wider remit of placements within Oswestry Community Action (Qube) and also other organisations registered. Roles were advertised on Vol Plus, the charity organisations' websites and, where the role was exclusively a Qube opportunity, on our website.

There were 194 registrations in this period; 15 were registered on the Volunteer Centre and 179 were registered on Vol Plus portal off Oswestry Community Action (Qube)'s website.

Of the 194 registrations 132 were female whilst only 50 were male and the highest number (66) of volunteers were in the 26 - 49 years age range whilst retirement age people in the age range over 65 were much lower with 21 registrations. One reason for this might be the raised pension age. We have seen an increase in requests for volunteering in the younger age groups during university and college holidays and this period also shows increased activity around Christmas and Easter and summer holidays. The majority of registrations came from applicants without a disability with 31 registrations from people with a physical disabilities and 12 with a mental health disability. This would be dependent on the nature

of the volunteering role and how physically demanding it would be but also perhaps is reflective of accessibility issues. The increased prevalence in mental health in society means some people are out of work for some-time and could see volunteering as a good way to refresh skills and build confidence in readiness for a return to paid work. 35 of the 194 were unemployed which relates to the opportunity for vocational training within a volunteer setting. There have been productive collaborations with job centres across Shropshire to place clients in volunteering roles.

When asked why they considered volunteering, most people (93) said they were looking to give something back, 87 wanted community involvement and 75 wanted to make new friends and meet new people. 42 wanted to gain vocational experience from the volunteering role. Since the isolation of COVID and the increased awareness of the importance of social interaction and community, more people are looking to volunteering as a way to make interpersonal connections and get out of their houses and make a meaningful contribution.

Oswestry Community Action (Qube) had nine active volunteering roles during this period:

- Social group helper;
- Passenger support helper;
- DAR driver;
- Community car drivers;
- Telephone Befriender;
- Digital Skills champion;
- Nordic Walking Helper;
- Cancer champions; and
- Blood Pressure Champions.

There were 67 enquiries for the above roles and 18 were placed following interview and a taster session. 37 were not placed in a volunteering role due to health conditions, finding employment, role not suitable or a change in personal circumstances.

### **c) Social prescribing and health inequalities**

Oswestry Community Action (Qube) has continued to deliver community engagement for Social Prescribing across the county. Working in partnership with Community Resource, four Community Engagement Officers (CEOs) have worked with each of the Shropshire Primary Care Networks.

The team has developed effective partnerships between the Healthy Lives Advisors, who see those with a social prescription, and refer to local services, GP practices and other areas of health.

The Community Connectors' network is a key part of the role and this peer support network continues to build and goes from strength to strength. Meetings are held both in person and virtually in each area across the county and this blended approach means that larger organisations such as SATH and the Mental Health Team can attend.

The virtual Community Connector Information bulletins have continued to develop with over 730 members (615 last year) now receiving fortnightly updates from organisations around the county. Small groups see these updates as a useful way to raise awareness of their work too.

Peer support has been a particular focus during the year with groups being set up to help and encourage people who share similar experiences, offering mutual understanding, empathy, and

practical support outside of traditional professional services.

This project creates links with community organisations which grow stronger each year with consistency, regular meetings and chances to discuss gaps in provision in increasing detail.

#### **d) Wellbeing**

Funded through the National Lottery Community Fund and the Shropshire Wellbeing and Independence Partnership, our wellbeing and befriending offerings are designed to reduce loneliness and isolation within our local community and encourage independence amongst our members.

##### **i. Tuesday & Thursday Social Groups**

We run two regular social groups that meet every Tuesday and Thursday, with members signing up in advance to join these groups. The sessions have been well attended during the past year and we have seen interest in these groups remain high. For some of our more isolated members, these sessions can be the only chance they will get to chat and socialise and therefore it is important to us to offer a friendly and open environment for all. Due to accessible transport being a challenge in the local area, we have continued to work closely with our transport colleague to support the running of these sessions.

Some of the recent activities have included of the year –

- Day trip on the narrowboats along the canal in Welshpool
- Trip to the Cambrian Heritage Railway
- Summer Picnic & Games
- Seated Dance
- Barclays Bank – Scam Awareness
- An introduction to reflexology
- Hector's Greyhound Rescue
- Midlands Air Ambulance
- Local crime author - Dave Andrews
- Games sessions with a local boardgame expert
- Information sessions from Marches Energy, Oswestry Library & Sight Loss Shropshire

##### **ii. Thursday Lunch Club**

During the summer of 2024, we launched a weekly lunch club in partnership with OsNosh, a local food provider whose aim is to create sustainable meals within the local community. The club runs every Thursday and we have had a regular attendance of around 25 to 30 people each week with our members enjoying a two-course, home cooked meal with refreshments. In addition, there is access to a shared produce table where people are able to take donated items from local food suppliers to use at home. The lunch club runs directly after one of our social group sessions meaning that members are able to easily access this service and we continue to market this to the wider public too.

##### **iii. Befriending Group**

We have regularly organised smaller befriending group sessions for those members who may struggle with confidence and could find our larger groups overwhelming. The idea of these sessions is for individuals to meet in a smaller group to connect with others and we usually invite between 4 and 8 people to each session with the coordinator using this time to facilitate conversations between the members. We often receive referrals for local people who are experiencing isolation and loneliness and therefore we use this group to introduce people to our services with the view that they will then progress to our larger social group or lunch club. On occasion, we have invited established social group members along to these sessions so they can get to know these individuals and provide some peer support should they wish to try out the weekly social groups.

#### **iv. Telephone Befriending**

We offer a telephone befriending service for people who may find it difficult to leave their home and through this offering, we are able to provide a weekly call with one of our trusted volunteers. We have made several successful matches in recent months and we are pleased to be able to offer this service to those members whose circumstances have changed which has resulted in them no longer being able to attend our in-person groups. The project lead continues to work closely with our volunteer coordinator to ensure that the process is straightforward for both the recipient and volunteer, and matches are made based on similar interests and hobbies when possible.

#### **v. Newsletter**

A quarterly newsletter with information about local activities and events, as well as recipes, quizzes and puzzles is handed out to our group members and posted to the homes of people using our other wellbeing services.

#### **vi. Wellbeing Support**

A significant aspect of the coordinator role are the wellbeing phone calls that they undertake every week. Our aim is to make regular contact with all members, in particular those who are unable to attend our in-person services due to poor health or mobility issues. We also regularly communicate with family members and support workers (where appropriate and with consent) as this helps to ensure that the information and support is effectively communicated.

In addition to this, we celebrate all members birthdays either by sending a card to their home address or arranging a cake at the weekly groups. We also send cards to any of our members who are unwell or in hospital.

#### **vii. Home Visits**

Our coordinators will organise home or hospital visits as and when is appropriate and this year, we have continued to support members who have had periods of poor health as well as those who have suffered a bereavement by organising regular visits.

As part of the National Community Lottery funding, we have launched –

#### **viii. My Money Matters**

We partnered with the Shropshire Citizens Advice in 2023 to have one of their trained advisors offering free and impartial advice to the local community, in and around Oswestry. The advisor holds weekly sessions at Oswestry Community Action (Qube) and people are able to self-refer for financial advice and support via face-to-face appointments or over the telephone.

There has been a pause in this service since January due to the previous advisor leaving their role, however, since the service restarted in July, we have received over 40 requests for appointments.

#### **ix. Nordic Walking**

We have continued our Nordic walking sessions over the past 12 months and have been able to run three courses, each of which comprised of 8 weekly sessions. The activity is led by a local Nordic walking professional with the support of a Oswestry Community Action (Qube) volunteer, and we provided the poles for members to use. We have 10 places on each course with spaces being free of charge and we have seen demand for these places continue to grow. The group enjoy a warm drink together at a local

coffee shop after each session and this provides the group the opportunity to create friendships and connections with one another.

#### **x. Mental Health support**

The Mental Health VCS Support Project was designed to enhance the capacity of the volunteer and community sector in Shropshire to identify, manage, and respond to mental health challenges. A key component of the project was the strong collaboration with the Shropshire Mental Health Forum, a partnership that will continue beyond the completion of the project to ensure sustained impact.

During the project:

- 16 training sessions were delivered, focusing on early identification of trauma, burnout, and stress, as well as equipping staff, volunteers, and community members with strategies to support mental health and prevent suicide.
- 229 delegates successfully attended, demonstrating strong engagement across the sector.
- In addition, six Trauma Risk Management (TRIM) sessions were facilitated, offering targeted support to volunteers and staff who had experienced or managed traumatic situations.

This initiative has significantly strengthened local networks, improved awareness, and developed practical skills to support mental health resilience across Shropshire's community and voluntary sector.

#### **xi. Partnership with Designs in Mind for Suicide Prevention in Men in Shropshire**

We have been working in partnership with Designs in Mind to address the critical issue of suicide prevention among men in Shropshire. This collaboration aimed to provide practical support within community settings, reduce stigma around mental health, and improve access to resources for those at risk.

We are recruiting 10 Mental Health Community Champions to support Designs in Mind sessions and to raise awareness in the local communities. Among them are individuals from minority ethnic groups and Armed Forces veterans, bringing valuable lived experience to the project.

This partnership between Oswestry Community Action (Qube) and Designs in Mind demonstrates the effectiveness of community-driven approaches to suicide prevention. By recruiting and empowering local champions, the project has created a sustainable network of mental health advocates who continue to raise awareness and offer support across Shropshire.

#### **xii. Energy Saving Project – North Shropshire**

In February 2025, Oswestry Community Action launched an Energy Saving Project in North Shropshire in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust. The project aims to provide residents with practical advice and support on reducing energy consumption, lowering bills, and promoting sustainable living practices.

Although the project is still in its early stages, we have made encouraging progress toward our targets. To date, the team has:

- Attended three events, including Community Connectors meetings.
- Provided energy-saving advice to DWP service users, helping them adopt simple measures that can make a real difference at home.

The project continues to build strong community connections and raise awareness about energy efficiency across the region. Further outreach activities, volunteer engagement, and information sessions are planned in the coming months to expand our reach and impact.

### **xiii. Blood pressure project**

The Blood Pressure Project, launched officially in August 2023. The aim is to bring blood pressure testing in the community to marginalised groups who face barriers to engaging with primary care services (language, rurality, economic deprivation among others). In the second year, the target demographic was extended to encompass inclusion groups such as:

- military veterans;
- refugees;
- people with learning difficulties and Autism;
- sex workers;
- People living with substance abuse;
- rough sleepers;
- travelling community;
- domestic abuse victims; and
- physically disabled people.

It is our most recent objective to forge links with organisations currently engaging with these groups where the specialised skill-set needed to approach a conversation about health with these groups are already in place. We have worked with refugees at The Zone in Market Drayton and the RESET team who health check rough sleepers around the county. It is noted by Mike Parry at Shropshire Council, that reaching the current inclusion groups is more difficult in Shropshire than in Telford & Wrekin because it is not an urban location.

We continue to recruit volunteer blood pressure champions from various communities around Shropshire to meet the requirements of a countywide project. To date, over 60 people have been trained.

At present, there are between 30 and 45 regular popups held each month in a range of locations in market towns and small villages in all 5 PCNs around Shropshire. New venues are constantly sought and the core team are very involved in actively seeking out new opportunities in their local areas and forging good links with the community. We are working with Shropshire Council to help establish the Community & Family Hubs in the five market towns and in Ludlow have trained staff at the hub there. Footfall, at popups generally, can be low due to several factors (time of day, very rural locations, trying not to test the same people every time). The volunteers and the operational group members acknowledge this challenge and still think that the project makes a significant difference in these communities.

When a member of the public is identified as having a high blood pressure reading (over 140/90), the volunteer signposts them for further monitoring at their GP surgery and we have also introduced a new pathway, signposting to community pharmacies for ambulatory monitoring. The relationship with community pharmacies has been challenging, but the volunteers are reporting that they have started to be recognised as credible by the pharmacy staff and are improving the relationship. The project branding, designed by Oswestry Community Action (Qube) at the start, has facilitated this and is helping to make the project visible and well-known in the communities it serves.

Retention of volunteers is a priority for the coordinator. The current cohort of volunteers mostly come from a medical background and so have a vested interest in the success of the project. A bi-monthly newsletter, a WhatsApp group and coffee-catch ups (in person and virtual) are a means to draw the

volunteers together as a team and aid retention. Reasons for leaving the project are largely personal and positive feedback has been given by volunteers who have stepped down.

Public perception of the project continues to be very positive and volunteers are engaging in conversations Making Every Conversation Count and are able to use their local knowledge and the trust they have built to sign-post onto other services, like smoking cessation. Volunteers find this rewarding and motivating.

Over 1,500 BPs have now been taken. Around 20% of these are in the high range and are signposted for further medical intervention.

#### **xiv. Cancer Champions**

The Cancer Champion project has continued to grow and develop this year. The number of people who have attended Cancer Champion awareness sessions has now increased to 497 and is expected to reach 500 at the beginning of September 2025. 313 of these have attended training in Shropshire.

This year, as the number of Champions has increased, a larger proportion of time has been dedicated to providing ongoing support to Cancer Champions. This has been achieved in a number of different ways. There have been Coffee Catch ups organised in various locations across Shropshire including Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Ludlow. Cancer Champions in Ludlow now meet on a more regular basis in the south of the county to make a real difference in their area. The catch ups provide a perfect opportunity for Champions to share news ideas, resources and keep up to date with project developments. A monthly newsletter has been designed and distributed to all Cancer Champions sharing the latest news, research studies and project updates. Cancer Champions are also able to contact each other through a WhatsApp group.

The Cancer Champion project focuses on reaching people who experience health inequalities and looks at ways to make a real difference to these groups of people and supporting organisations. This year in Shropshire there has been a particular focus on prisoners, adults with learning disabilities and the farming community.

All new Health and Wellbeing Champions at HMP Stoke Heath have attended Cancer Champion training sessions with regular catch ups organised with the prisoners to support them in their role.

In order to provide adults with learning disabilities the support they need in spotting early signs and symptoms of cancer and to best support them with cancer screening, we began a consultation process with staff and families at Working Together Ludlow, and the Breast and Bowel Screening Health Improvement Practitioners at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust. We have designed a series of workshops to begin this year and then to be rolled out across other organisations working with adults with learning disabilities and health conditions in Shropshire.

We have also provided Cancer Champion training for the Shropshire Rural Support volunteers who provide vital support for the farming community with information on early signs and symptoms of cancer and cancer screening being made available at all livestock markets across Shropshire.

#### **d) Art**

Oswestry Community Action (Qube) is a diverse and contemporary art venue in our community. Our ongoing goal is to provide a warm and nurturing creative space which can be enjoyed by everyone. The main ways that we do this are; offering a gallery space with regularly changing exhibitions, courses and workshops led by talented artists, art events, and community projects. Our exhibition programme showcases work from some of the best local artists, as well as offering a space for emerging artists. We provide opportunities to artists and encourage their development - through exhibitions, selling in our cabinets, or sharing their skills in workshops. We also work with other institutions in the community to

provide projects - a particular focus has been engaging young people to ensure the future of Oswestry Community Action (Qube) and art in the local area.

### **i. Exhibitions**

The programme of exhibitions at Oswestry Community Action (Qube) showcase work from local and national artists, both established and emerging, as well as community exhibitions and the results of project work.

The aim for our exhibition space is to show high quality, contemporary work in our rural town, allowing local people access to the types of art that they might not typically see. It is part of our ongoing arts strategy that we introduce different materials and media to the gallery, beyond the historical trend for 2d painting and photography.

We are also actively supporting women artists, people of colour, members of the LGBTQ+ community and people with disabilities as a way for groups who are generally underrepresented in the arts to be seen more widely.

In total there were seven exhibitions in 2024/25, with work by over 100 artists.

We started the year with a solo exhibition from the 2023 People's Choice Open winner Nichola Ethelston. We then moved onto the 2024 Arts Open, the theme was "Show Your Colours", and the exhibition featured forty artists and just under eighty artworks.

We ran our second "One Gallery, Four Exhibitions", where the gallery space was split between five artists. Each artist rented a wall in the gallery (two shared a space).

The idea behind this exhibition is that it is a perfect opportunity for up-coming artists to share their work, or established artists to show new collections at a reasonable price. The artists were encouraged to sell work during the exhibition. The exhibition was very successful and will be part of the annual programme again in the autumn of 2025.

In collaboration with the Social Prescribing team, we ran a group exhibition in the Autumn, with submissions from the Wildlife Trust, Designs in Mind, Get Out Get Arty, and around fifteen artists. The purpose of the exhibition was to demonstrate the importance of art and creativity to both physical and mental health and wellbeing, and for the benefit of our Social Prescribing team, we offered visitors the opportunity to express their opinions in the form of post-it notes.

The Christmas gift exhibition featured work from twenty-five artists, some that we had exhibited before but lots of new artists thanks to a successful uptake of our marketing on social media. The offering was very varied and we felt that there was 'something for everyone'.

The jewel of the 2024/25 exhibition programme was "Archipelago", an exhibition by Wrexham-based artists Louise Evans (Felt Mistress) and Jonathan Edwards. Their work, commissioned by the Finnish Institute of London and inspired by Moomin creator Tove Jansson, gave us an exhibition of soft sculpture and illustration which we were able to use successfully to promote the gallery in the press, including on Radio Shropshire. We had high visitor numbers, good social media interaction, and tied in events, competitions, workshops, school visits and a display of the work by young people inspired by the exhibition. The artists have given us positive feedback and are keen to work with us again in the future.

We rounded out the year with an exhibition from two local artists that make up The Landing Project called "The Fields", an Arts Council funded project focussed on farming, ecology, sustainability and art. This featured a 'pod' made from raw wool that could be entered, with an interactive soundscape.

We utilised the wall in our warm space for a photography exhibition from LGBT group SAND (Safe Aging, No Discrimination) during Oswestry Pride. The Wave Project featured photographs of older members of

the community sharing their experiences of being gay in Shropshire.

As always, artists are encouraged to sell their work during exhibitions, or use the available cabinet space/browser racks, helping us to bring additional value to the exhibitions.

## **ii. Cabinets and sales**

Oswestry Community Action (Qube) continues to have a dedicated space used all year round by local artists and craft-makers to sell their work. The work in the cabinets is carefully chosen, prioritising quality but also considering varied price points.

The commission rates for exhibition sales remained at 25% (plus VAT on that commission).

In April we provided cabinet space in the gallery to local Ukrainian refugees, marking the second anniversary of the invasion. We exhibited some of their traditional beadwork and textiles, and gave the artists the opportunity to thank the people of Oswestry for making them welcome. They also ran free drop-in workshops which were well attended.

In May we started offering one of our cabinets as a rentable exhibition/selling opportunity. This led to the exhibition of ceramics, textile and needle felt over a three-month period.

In December we introduced a Youth Cabinet, in conjunction with SYA, Oswestry Youth Forum and Oswestry Town Council. The Council have paid for the use of the cabinet over twelve months, providing an opportunity for young people to sell their artwork and crafts, and get a taste of running a small business.

## **iii. Workshops, Courses and Projects**

Over the year there were approximately 30 individual courses/workshops at Oswestry Community Action (Qube).

This included our two regular Art History blocks (eight sessions each) all completely sold out with a regular core of attendees of approximately 65 per week. We have arranged to run gallery trips starting in the summer of 2025 and a social art group "Let's Talk About Art" as additional elements of our art history offering.

Our ongoing weekly Paintable groups have continued with artist Joseph Schneider, as well as U3A and social art groups. Our life drawing sessions take place monthly dependant on numbers.

As in previous years, the focus has mainly been on one-off workshops, as attempts at longer courses have generally been unsuccessful – feedback has been that the cost of living prevents up-front booking fees. In line with our evolving strategy for exhibitions we have varied the offering of workshops to include textiles, ceramics, wellbeing and guided art workshops for professionals in education, all of which have proved popular. We hosted a ceramic portrait sculpture session (with live model) and local artist George Triggs, the winner of our 2024 Arts Open, which was fully booked.

We have had some success with several longer courses through funded projects for young people. This included our "Get Crafty with Words" literacy project, where our young artists created characters, illustrated and wrote stories over six months culminating in an event at Booka bookshop where our budding authors read their stories out-loud to gathered friends and family. We also branched out beyond Oswestry Community Action (Qube) into local schools for a project tied in with Oswestry In Bloom, visiting several groups to make work inspired by nature, including a digital element where groups of young people used iPad's to take photographs of the local surroundings to inspire or incorporate into their artwork. We hosted a colouring competition and held an exhibition on our balcony gallery space, and hosted an art workshop on Oswestry's "Green Day".

We took Oswestry Community Action (Qube) Arts beyond Oswestry to Market Drayton and Wem for

our Vibrant Shropshire “Get Arty with Nature” project, led by local artist Nichola Ethelston. Wem was fully booked with people from all ages and backgrounds, and we are hoping that this group will continue, albeit with a small booking fee.

We worked with the Cultural Consortium ART-efact project in summer 2024 to host two artists in residence, running free workshops on collage/fold out books and radio production, which were well attended. As part of the Love Oswestry Festival (run by the cultural consortium) we were able to provide a funded workshop with Louise Evans (Felt Mistress) making felt monsters which was very popular – Louise has kindly given us access to her templates and artwork to allow us to run these sessions again in the future.

Our Sketchbook Club for young people continues to be popular, with every session fully booked. The increase in confidence of our regular attendees is very pleasing! We have had several sessions taking place in the gallery, as well as visits from school groups, giving the young people the opportunity to draw from life and interact with the artists themselves. Our funding from the Rotary Club of Oswestry saw us through to July, this allowed us to invite six local artists to run workshops at our Sketchbook Club and was a huge success, with every session fully booked. As part of the grant application, we also held an exhibition of the work produced on our balcony gallery, a source of pride for our young artists!

We have been working with Shropshire Council and SYA to provide free school holiday workshops for young people aged 11-16, which have continued to be well attended. We have offered a variety of workshops, including drawing in the Anime style, artist inspired Zine Making, Halloween themed crafts, nature collage and textiles.

During the first ever Oswestry Pride we invited three artists from the LGBTQ+ community to run workshops for us, including learning to use a drop-spindle (yarn spinning), poetry and knitting. While these workshops were sadly under attended, we still feel it is important to offer opportunities to members of the community and will do so again in the future.

#### **iv. On-going strategy for Oswestry Community Action (Qube) Arts**

The direction of progress of Qube Arts is positive, there are now solid foundations for future-proofing the art department in terms of numbers of people accessing our offering, particularly our youth provision. It has been a priority to diversify our offering and provide something different to the people of Oswestry and beyond.

While the financial situation of Qube Arts has improved, there is still work to be done. Grants as a source of income have been very useful, allowing us to offer the quality of courses that we aspire to without the heavy cost to our customers, taking into consideration the general cost of living issues.

### **e) Learning**

#### **i. Digital skills programme**

This year, Oswestry Community Action (Qube) has continued to deliver digital skills support in partnership with Shropshire County Council, helping local residents build confidence online. The programme is open to anyone over the age of 18 who feels digitally excluded, but the main demographic we see are people aged 60 and above.

In total, 14 learners successfully completed the programme this year. While this number is lower than last year, the project remains an important lifeline for those who do attend. Attendance has been noticeably affected by seasonal factors: during the summer months many of our learners take on caring responsibilities for grandchildren, while in the winter we see more cancellations due to poor weather and health challenges.

Despite these challenges, those who have taken part have made meaningful progress. Learners have gained confidence in using smartphones, tablets, and computers for everyday needs such as online shopping, booking GP appointments, and staying in touch with family. For many, these small steps towards digital independence make a significant difference to their daily lives.

"I recently completed the digital skills programme at the Qube in Oswestry which was held by Billie Morris. I found the course enormously helpful in not only improving my digital skills but also in giving me the confidence to use different types of media."

"Billie was an excellent teacher, being enormously patient and very clear in her instruction whilst at the same time making the lessons stimulating and fun. She helped me learn my way around the functions of my computer, teaching me how to make the most of Word and to arrange my files in the appropriate way. She helped me to better organise my emails, download Apps, rearrange photographs, and transfer them between phone and laptop. Most importantly she explained the ways to protect my cyber security to avoid being scammed.

I cannot recommend the course highly enough and my only regret is that it was for such a limited time."

The project continues to demonstrate that even when numbers fluctuate, the individual impact is both immediate and long-lasting. For many of our learners—most commonly in their 60s, 70s, and 80s—gaining digital skills not only reduces isolation but also supports independence, resilience, and confidence in an increasingly online world.

### **3. OSWESTRY COMMUNITY ACTION (QUBE)'S STRATEGIC WORK**

Oswestry Community Action, trading as Qube in its role as a community anchor organisation continues to be a bridge between the voluntary sector and the public sector and during 2024/25 represented the sector at the Shropshire Voluntary Sector Assembly, the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership, The Community Transport Consortium, Social Prescribing and the Shropshire Cultural Consortium.

Qube considers it important that we are able to use our experience of working with our communities to represent them at a strategic level and influence policy for future development.

### **4. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

#### **i. Reserves Policy**

##### **General Reserve**

The Trustees are aware of their responsibilities to the beneficiaries of the services and the needs of the community and therefore aim for unrestricted (General) reserves which equate to 3 months of all service expenditure, to enable the maintenance of services when grants are difficult to obtain. This requires £167,000 in unrestricted reserves based on the 2025 Budget. The total of all unrestricted reserves is £173,000.

##### **Designated Reserves**

##### **Vehicle Replacement Reserve**

This reserve is earmarked for the funds to replace the minibuses at the end of their useful lives. OCA was successful in obtaining a grant from Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations to purchase an electric

minibus; replacing an older minibus. This enables the funds in the designated fund to be transferred back to the General Fund.

### **Development Reserve**

This fund is to enable the charity to pursue funding opportunities that require some match funding or other support.

### **Restricted Reserves**

In addition to the General Reserve, there are a number of Restricted Reserves where funding has been provided to Oswestry Community Action (OCA) for specific purposes. This policy outlines each of those Reserves.

### **Arts Fund/Reserve**

OCA receives specific funding for arts based activities and these are credited to the Arts Fund.

### **Property Fund/Reserve**

OCA received a substantial grant towards the provision and adaptation of a property that would be suitable for OCA to provide its services, especially an arts gallery and rooms for arts workshops. This Fund/Reserve exists to enable the charity to have premises from which to provide services.

### **Social Prescribing Fund/Reserve**

OCA receives specific funding from Shropshire Council to provide this service. The funds are credited to a separate Fund/Reserve.

### **Transport Fund/Reserve**

OCA receives specific funding from Shropshire Council to provide the Community Cars service. This funding can only be used for this service and is maintained in a separate Transport Fund/Reserve.

### **Volunteering Fund/Reserve**

OCA receives specific funding from Community Resource for this service and the funds are credited to a specific Fund/Reserve.

### **Wellbeing Fund/Reserve**

OCA received a substantial grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to support the wellbeing and befriending services. These funds are credited to a separate Fund/Reserve.

## **ii. Significant events**

Pressure on budgets have presented challenges for Oswestry Community Action (Qube) during the year. The services provided by Qube are essential, however, operational costs have increased with little or no rise in funding and grants are more competitive to secure. This has introduced greater financial demands and in response Qube has focused on effectively managing expenditure whilst maximising opportunities to generate income.

## **iii. Looking to the Future**

Oswestry Community Action (Qube) is determined to ensure that it continues to support those most in need and make a positive difference to people's lives. The Trustees, staff and volunteers are all committed to helping Qube thrive and evolve.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small Companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Mrs H Noble, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Noble', is written over the printed name.

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 21-34.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its the 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 Company'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 the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 that in any material respect:

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 requirements 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 2019 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

James Denton

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd

The Yew Tree Inn,

High Street,

Gresford, Wrexham, LL12 8RF

**Oswestry Community Action**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

|                                                      |       |                       | 31.03.25              | 31.03.24              |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                      |       | Unrestricted Funds    | Restricted Funds      | Total funds           |
|                                                      | Notes | £                     | £                     | £                     |
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                            |       |                       |                       |                       |
| <b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>       |       |                       |                       |                       |
| Voluntary income                                     |       | 151,409               | 7,164                 | 158,573               |
| Investment income                                    | 2     | 10,693                | -                     | 10,693                |
|                                                      |       | <u>152,102</u>        | <u>7,164</u>          | <u>169,266</u>        |
| <b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b> |       |                       |                       |                       |
| Art                                                  |       | 600                   | 17,931                | 18,531                |
| Wellbeing Services (Formerly Care)                   |       | -                     | 364,826               | 364,826               |
| Transport & Shopmobility                             |       | 1,581                 | 138,122               | 139,703               |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                     | 24,637                | 24,637                |
| Shopmobility (Now with Transport)                    |       | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 20,925                | -                     | 20,925                |
| Big Local                                            |       | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | -                     | -                     | 5,305                 |
|                                                      |       | <u>23,106</u>         | <u>545,516</u>        | <u>568,622</u>        |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                      |       | <b><u>185,208</u></b> | <b><u>552,680</u></b> | <b><u>737,888</u></b> |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                            |       |                       |                       |                       |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                         |       |                       |                       |                       |
| Art                                                  |       | 8,371                 | 36,388                | 44,759                |
| Wellbeing Services (Formerly Care)                   |       | 50,121                | 378,614               | 428,735               |
| Transport & Shopmobility                             |       | 53,714                | 135,444               | 189,158               |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                     | 37,525                | 37,525                |
| Shopmobility (now with Transport)                    |       | -                     | -                     | -                     |
| Core Qube                                            |       | -                     | -                     | 94,400                |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | -                     | -                     | 4,875                 |
|                                                      |       | <u>112,206</u>        | <u>587,971</u>        | <u>700,177</u>        |
| <b>Governance costs</b>                              |       | -                     | 3,809                 | 3,809                 |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>                      |       | <b><u>112,206</u></b> | <b><u>591,780</u></b> | <b><u>703,986</u></b> |
| <b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>             |       | <b>73,002</b>         | <b>(39,100)</b>       | <b>33,902</b>         |

**RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS**

|                                    |                |                |                |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total funds brought forward        | 124,329        | 305,481        | 429,810        | 335,996        |
| Transfers of funds                 | (25,022)       | 25,022         | -              | -              |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b> | <b>172,308</b> | <b>291,404</b> | <b>463,712</b> | <b>429,810</b> |

# Oswestry Community Action

## Balance Sheet At 31 March 2025

|                                                  | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 31.3.25<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 31.3.24<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                              |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Tangible assets                                  | 6     | 1,634                      | 66,244                   | 67,878                         | 52,298                         |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Stocks                                           |       | 300                        | -                        | 300                            | 300                            |
| Debtors                                          | 7     | 13,682                     | 43,785                   | 57,467                         | 127,152                        |
| Cash at Bank                                     |       | 172,975                    | 207,382                  | 380,357                        | 294,217                        |
|                                                  |       | 186,957                    | 251,167                  | 438,124                        | 421,669                        |
| <b>CREDITORS</b>                                 |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Amounts falling due<br>within one year           | 8     | (16,283)                   | (26,007)                 | (42,290)                       | (44,157)                       |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                        |       | 170,674                    | 225,160                  | 395,834                        | 377,512                        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT<br/>LIABILITIES</b> |       | 172,308                    | 291,404                  | 463,712                        | 429,810                        |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                |       | 172,308                    | 291,404                  | 463,712                        | 429,810                        |
| <b>FUNDS</b>                                     | 9     |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Unrestricted funds                               |       |                            |                          | 172,308                        | 124,329                        |
| Restricted funds                                 |       |                            |                          | 291,404                        | 305,481                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>                               |       |                            |                          | 463,712                        | 429,810                        |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 March 2025**

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

1. The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006;
2. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs H Noble – Chair

Date: 09/12/25

Registered Company Number: 03390138

# **Oswestry Community Action**

## **Statement of Cash Flows**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

|                                                                                           | <b>2025</b>            | <b>2024</b>            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                                                           | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>               |
| <b>Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities</b> |                        |                        |
| Net movements in funds                                                                    | 33,902                 | 93,814                 |
| Add back net depreciation charge                                                          | 26,019                 | 47,367                 |
| Loss on sale of Assets                                                                    | -                      | -                      |
| Deduct Investment income shown in investing activities                                    | (10,693)               | (4,969)                |
| Decrease (increase) in debtors                                                            | 69,686                 | (42,012)               |
| Increase (decrease) in creditors                                                          | (1,867)                | (141,747)              |
| <b>Cash used in operating activities</b>                                                  | <b><u>117,047</u></b>  | <b><u>(47,547)</u></b> |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                                               |                        |                        |
| Investment income                                                                         | 10,693                 | 4,969                  |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                                                         | (41,600)               | 0                      |
| Disposals of tangible fixed assets                                                        | 0                      | 0                      |
| <b>Cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>                                    | <b><u>(30,907)</u></b> | <b><u>4,969</u></b>    |
| increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year                              | 86,140                 | (42,578)               |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year                                    | 294,217                | 336,795                |
| <b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>                             | <b><u>380,357</u></b>  | <b><u>294,217</u></b>  |

|                                        | <b>01-Apr-24</b> | <b>Cash flows</b> | <b>31-Mar-25</b> |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Analysis of changes in Net Debt</b> |                  |                   |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents              | 294,217          | 86,140            | 380,357          |

## **Oswestry Community Action**

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

#### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

##### **Resources expended**

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

##### **Allocation and apportionment of costs**

Wages not directly allocated to an activity are apportioned pro rata between unrestricted and restricted funds based on fund income; this method of allocation also applies to unallocated vehicle running expenses and volunteer expenses.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Land and buildings       | - 4% on cost                              |
| Plant and machinery, etc | - 25% on cost and 25% on reducing balance |

##### **Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

##### **Taxation**

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

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

#### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operational leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

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

Oswestry Community Action operates a defined contribution pension scheme through The Peoples Pension for its staff. The pension charge in the accounts represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

## **2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

|                          | 31.3.25<br>£  | 31.3.24<br>£ |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Deposit account interest | 10,693        | 4,969        |
|                          | <u>10,693</u> | <u>4,969</u> |

## **3. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES**

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

|                                      | 31.3.25<br>£  | 31.3.24<br>£  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Depreciation – owned assets          | 26,019        | 47,367        |
| Governance – Assurance services      | 1,909         | 11,744        |
| Governance – Independent examination | 1,900         | 1,900         |
|                                      | <u>29,828</u> | <u>61,011</u> |

## **4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**5. STAFF COSTS**

|                                          | 31.3.25        | 31.3.24        |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                          | £              | £              |
| Wages and salaries (Incl. Employers N.I) | 354,234        | 324,154        |
| Social Security costs                    | 16,276         | 17,072         |
| Other pension costs                      | 4,940          | 5,567          |
|                                          | <u>375,450</u> | <u>346,793</u> |

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

|                     | 31.3.25     | 31.3.24     |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Qube Art            | 0.6         | 0.6         |
| Qube Wellbeing      | 5.0         | 5.0         |
| Qube Volunteering   | 0.6         | 0.6         |
| Qube Transport      | 3.5         | 2.5         |
| Qube Administration | 3.5         | 3.5         |
| Qube Learning       | 0.8         | 0.8         |
|                     | <u>14.0</u> | <u>13.0</u> |

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

Key personnel remuneration in the year amounted to £45,000.

Trustees' expenses totalling £185.19 were paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 and £34.40 expenses for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**6.TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

|                              | Land and Buildings |                 | Plant and Machinery including Vehicles |                 | Totals            |                 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                              | Unrestricted<br>£  | Restricted<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>£                      | Restricted<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ |
| <b>COST</b>                  |                    |                 |                                        |                 |                   |                 |
| At 1 April 2024              | -                  | 508,424         | 57,262                                 | 233,947         | 57,261            | 742,371         |
| Additions                    | -                  | -               | -                                      | 41,600          | -                 | 41,600          |
| Disposals                    | -                  | -               | -                                      | -               | -                 | -               |
| At 31 March 2025             | -                  | 508,424         | 57,262                                 | 275,547         | 57,261            | 783,971         |
| <b>DEPRECIATION</b>          |                    |                 |                                        |                 |                   |                 |
| At 1 April 2024              | -                  | 475,785         | 54,645                                 | 216,905         | 54,645            | 692,690         |
| Charge for year on disposals | -                  | 20,335          | 982                                    | 4,702           | 982               | 25,037          |
| At 31 March 2025             | -                  | 496,120         | 55,627                                 | 221,607         | 55,627            | 717,727         |
| <b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>        |                    |                 |                                        |                 |                   |                 |
| At 31 March 2025             | -                  | 12,304          | 1,634                                  | 53,940          | 1,634             | 66,244          |
| At 31 March 2024             | -                  | 32,639          | 2,617                                  | 17,042          | 2,617             | 49,681          |

**Land and Buildings.** The lease on the current building ends August 2026. The depreciation charge will reduce the NBV to nil at this point.

## Oswestry Community Action

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

#### 7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

|               | 31.3.25      | 31.3.24       |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|               | £            | £             |
| Trade Debtors | 50,331       | 112,102       |
| Other Debtors | 7,135        | 15,050        |
|               | <hr/> 57,466 | <hr/> 127,152 |

The decrease in Debtors relates to grant income we are expecting to receive.

#### 8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

|                              | 31.3.25      | 31.3.24      |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                              | £            | £            |
| Trade creditors              | 28,850       | 42,688       |
| Taxation and social security | -            | -            |
| Accruals and deferred income | 13,440       | 1,469        |
|                              | <hr/> 42,290 | <hr/> 44,157 |

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

|                                          | b/f            | Income         | Expenditure      | Movement      | Transfers       | Balance c/f    | Fixed Assets  | Cash           | Debtors       | Stock      | Creditors       | Balance c/f    |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                          | £              | £              | £                | £             | £               | £              | £             | £              | £             | £          | £               | £              |
| <b>General</b>                           | 50,329         | 187,040        | (106,618)        | 80,422        | 17,557          | 148,308        | 1,634         | 148,975        | 13,682        | 300        | (16,283)        | 148,308        |
| <b>Designated</b>                        |                |                |                  |               |                 |                |               |                |               |            |                 |                |
| Transport                                | 50,000         |                |                  |               | (50,000)        | -              | -             | -              | -             | -          | -               | -              |
| Development                              | 24,000         |                |                  |               |                 | 24,000         |               | 24,000         |               |            |                 | 24,000         |
| Total Designated                         | 74,000         | -              | -                | -             | (50,000)        | 24,000         |               | 24,000         |               |            |                 | 24,000         |
| <b>Total Unrestricted and designated</b> | <b>124,329</b> | <b>187,040</b> | <b>(106,618)</b> | <b>80,422</b> | <b>(32,443)</b> | <b>172,308</b> | <b>1,634</b>  | <b>172,975</b> | <b>13,682</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>(16,283)</b> | <b>172,308</b> |
| <b>Restricted</b>                        |                |                |                  |               |                 |                |               |                |               |            |                 |                |
| Art                                      | 11,571         | 19,057         | (24,851)         | (5,794)       | 7,217           | 12,994         | -             | 12,994         | -             | -          | -               | 12,994         |
| Wellbeing                                | 95,934         | 217,211        | (223,796)        | (6,585)       | (2,373)         | 86,976         |               | 74,422         | 17,096        |            | (4,542)         | 86,976         |
| Social Prescribing                       | 20,214         | 146,597        | (158,627)        | (12,030)      | 10,484          | 18,668         |               | 26,557         | 13,478        |            | (21,366)        | 18,668         |
| Transport & Shopmobility                 | 15,331         | 143,344        | (152,569)        | (9,224)       | 7,352           | 13,459         | 53,940        | (43,897)       | 3,487         |            | (72)            | 13,459         |
| Volunteering                             | 5,525          | 24,637         | (37,525)         | (12,888)      | 9,763           | 2,400          |               | (7,296)        | 9,723         |            | (27)            | 2,400          |
| Property Fund                            | 156,906        | -              | -                | -             | -               | 156,906        | 12,304        | 144,602        |               |            |                 | 156,906        |
| Total Restricted                         | 305,481        | 550,847        | (597,368)        | (46,521)      | 32,443          | 291,404        | 66,244        | 207,382        | 43,784        | -          | (26,007)        | 291,404        |
| <b>All Reserves</b>                      | <b>429,810</b> | <b>737,887</b> | <b>(703,986)</b> | <b>33,901</b> | <b>-</b>        | <b>463,712</b> | <b>67,878</b> | <b>380,357</b> | <b>57,466</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>(42,290)</b> | <b>463,712</b> |

## 9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

The undesignated general fund represents various types of income received and expended in accordance with the charitable objectives of the charity. The details of the various service areas are given in the Report of the Trustees attached to these accounts. The fund balance is for replacement of information technology equipment and to enable the charity to have a structured shutdown period should Oswestry Community Action need to cease operating.

The fixed assets of the restricted funds are mainly represented by the leasehold property granted to the charity, value at year end was £12,304 and the motor vehicles & Equipment, net book value at year end was £53,940.

The balance of restricted funds represents the residue of the various grants and donations that enable the charity to continue and that remained unspent as at the year end

## 10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Kim Wootton, Chief Officer is a Director of the Shropshire Community Transport Consortium which is made up of seven likeminded partners. Contributions of £7,798 were received in the financial year.

## 11. DEFERRED INCOME

|                                                       | 2025  | 2024      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
|                                                       | £     | £         |
| Total deferred income at start of year                | 78    | 154,363   |
| Amounts received in year                              | 7,456 | -         |
| Amounts credited to statement of financial activities | -     | (154,285) |
| Total deferred income at end of year                  | 7,534 | 78        |

The deferred income shown in 2025 has been deferred at the year-end in order to reflect the expected future costs to complete the relevant projects. All income received in the year to 31 March 2025 was credited to the 2025 Accounts in line with the Accounting requirements of the Charities SORP.

## 12. GOING CONCERN

The Trustees assess the risks identified as presenting the greatest challenges to the charity. These include, but are not limited to increased competition to secure funding, reduced availability of grants, contracts not offered with annual uplifts and the continued inflationary growth across the UK

leading to additional costs. A detailed analysis of income and expenditure is reviewed by the Board as part of this exercise.

The Board receive the annual Budget for review in January and for approval in March. In support, the Board determine resilience and mitigation plans for the strategic risks. These measures provide the assurance that the Board can confidently consider the charity a going concern in the medium term.

The Board confirms that the charity is viable as a going concern

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

|                                                          | 31.3.25<br>£   | 31.3.24<br>£   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                |                |                |
| <b>Voluntary income</b>                                  |                |                |
| Donations                                                | 10,469         | 29,117         |
| <b>Investment income</b>                                 |                |                |
| Deposit account interest                                 | 10,693         | 4,969          |
|                                                          | <hr/> 10,693   | <hr/> 4,969    |
| <b>Incoming resources from<br/>charitable activities</b> |                |                |
| Rents received                                           | 5,979          | 3,634          |
| Sale of exhibits                                         | 16,648         | 31,888         |
| Fares                                                    | 70,587         | 69,146         |
| Project management                                       | 54,583         |                |
| Other Income                                             | 306            | 4,380          |
| Grants                                                   | 568,622        | 614,102        |
|                                                          | <hr/> 716,725  | <hr/> 723,150  |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                          | <b>737,887</b> | <b>757,236</b> |

## RESOURCES EXPENDED

### Charitable activities

|                                 |               |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Wages                           | 370,510       | 341,226       |
| Pensions                        | 4,940         | 5,567         |
| Advertising and promotion       | 9,330         | 2,570         |
| Exhibitions and events          | 24,266        | 12,048        |
| Project costs                   | 24,900        | 30,671        |
| Subscriptions                   | 5,988         | 5,309         |
| Volunteer expenses              | 12,995        | 1,603         |
| Staff expenses                  | 9,499         | 7,219         |
| Refreshments                    | 634           | 1,305         |
| Vehicle running costs           | 38,068        | 40,534        |
| Professional fees               | 6,965         | 10,684        |
| Consultancy                     | 16,581        | 30            |
| Rent, rates and water           | 10,773        | 5,669         |
| Insurance                       | 3,382         | 2,910         |
| Light and heat                  | 15,190        | 9,698         |
| Telephone                       | 6,436         | 3,501         |
| Printing postage and stationery | 4,595         | 3,386         |
| Repairs and renewals            | 9,011         | 12,977        |
| Bank charges                    | 791           | 839           |
| Sundry expenses                 | 2,117         | 4,954         |
| Computer and website            | 4,525         | 7,455         |
| Other expenditure               | 947           | -             |
| Partner payments                | 90,058        | 90,415        |
| Depreciation                    | 26,019        | 47,373        |
| Bad debt                        | 1,657         | 1,836         |
| (Profit)/Loss on disposal       | -             | -             |
|                                 | <hr/> 700,177 | <hr/> 649,778 |

### Governance costs

|                         |             |              |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Assurance services      | 1,909       | 11,744       |
| Independent Examination | 1,900       | 1,900        |
|                         | <hr/> 3,809 | <hr/> 13,644 |

### Total resources expended

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| <hr/> 703,986 | <hr/> 663,422 |
|---------------|---------------|

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# Accounts

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**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03390138**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1063319**

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial  
Statements for the Year  
Ended 31 March 2024  
For Oswestry Community Action**

**Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF**

*Mike Griffiths*

*25/11/24*

## **Oswestry Community Action**

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# **Oswestry Community Action**

## **Chairman's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

### **Report from the Chair of Trustees**

2023/24 has been a busy and often challenging year for Qube as we continued to consolidate the organisations activities.

Under Kim Wootton's management the team has developed significantly and we are in a much better position to work smarter as we progress. A lot of work has been done around improved governance and in trying to secure our position through a phase of continued financial restraints.

In addition Kim has been attending some fully funded training delivered by Heritage Compass Strategy Support and it is expected that this will help us significantly in defining and developing our longer term strategy and fundraising journey. We have held several strategy days during the year to agree our annual business plan and work is underway to finalise our three year strategy.

Our risk register and Finance Committee have benefitted from rigorous and extensive expertise and input from my fellow trustee Charles Brotherton who continues to scrutinise and monitor risk and highlight these to the rest of the Board. We are very grateful for his contribution.

A lot of our time has been focused on the need for new premises pending the end of our current lease in 2026 and we have been and will continue to explore options to not only secure our future but adapt to the needs of our community and the future financial climate.

Partnership working continues to be a significant priority and we have built and continue to build strong relationships with other organisations across the county and into Wales.

We have also seen the resignation of two of our valuable Trustees. Len Graham who had been with us for a significant period of time and Sylvia Dyke who was my Vice Chair for a number of years. We continue to promote Qube and to seek suitable Trustees with the skills and experience we need to take the charity forward.

2024/25 will see us focusing on the future of Qube, finding a new premises and considering how we need to adapt our services to be both efficient, relevant and sustainable ensuring we remain as the much needed resource within our community.



Heather Noble, Chair

Oswestry Community Action, Qube

## **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Registered Company number 03390138

Registered Charity number 1063319

#### **Registered office**

Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1RB

#### **Trustees**

Heather Noble – Chair

Sylvia Dyke – Vice Chair (resigned March 2024)

Janet Byatt

Leonard Graham (resigned December 2023)

Richard Amos

Charles Brotherton

John Duffus (joined July 2024)

#### **Company Secretary and Chief Officer**

Kim Wootton

#### **Independent Examiner**

Mike Griffiths & Partners

The Yew Tree Inn

High Street

Gresford

Wrexham

LL12 8RF

#### **Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank

PO Box 250 Delf House

Southway,

Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing document**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 20th June 1997, and amended on 12th March 2002.

### **Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

Trustees are recruited by personal approach from another Trustee or staff member, or by advertising. Those interested in becoming a Trustee are then asked to apply in writing, matching their skills and experience against a job description. The applicants are assessed by the Trustees and those suitable are invited to an interview with the Chair. The successful applicants are nominated to the Board and given a full induction to the organisation which includes ensuring they are aware of the responsibilities of being a Trustee and all the role entails. The recruited Trustees then participate in service activities across the organisation to learn first-hand how they operate, meet our users and experience what it is like to be a customer of Qube. They are introduced to staff and volunteers to learn their roles and given past Board papers to read including forecast budgets, cash flow and annual accounts to help them understand the current issues and financial position of the organisation.

The Board holds an Strategic review meeting each year in order to discuss the strategic objectives, policies and procedures of Qube and to ensure they continue to meet our charitable objects and are operating within the scope and ethos of the Memorandum and Articles.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The organisation has a risk register which is reviewed at each Finance and Risk Committee meeting and key elements drawn to the Trustee Board. The risk register is subject to an annual Board review.

### **Objectives and aims of Oswestry Community Action**

During the year, the Board of Trustees has reviewed its strategic objectives and aims, with a business plan for 2024/25 being approved. Work is now underway to extend this to a three year strategic plan which will provide a focus for the charity.

As part of these discussions the Qube vision has been updated to -

### **Empowering local and rural communities to live their best lives.**

All activities align with Qube's vision namely Community Transport, Wellbeing and Independence, Volunteering and Community Development, Arts and Creative Health, Social Prescribing, Shopmobility and Learning.

### **Significant activities**

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and consider public benefit to be at the heart of the activities of the Charity. A summary of the significant activities of the charity is given below under the headings. The detail of the activities for 2023/24 follows the summary.

**Community Transport and Shopmobility** - accessible door to door transport and scooter and wheelchair hire;

**Volunteer Centre** - supportive volunteer brokerage service and infrastructure support for voluntary community sector (VCS) organisations;

**Arts** – A contemporary gallery with a full arts programme of exhibitions, workshops and projects;

**Wellbeing and Independence** - provides friendship opportunities and support to people who are socially isolated;

**Social Prescribing Community Development** – county wide project includes Community Connectors Networks, Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Directory of services and signing up VCS services as Social Prescribing Interventions;

**Room Hire for the community** – two rooms available for external hire; and

**Learning** – digital skills programme to help people in our community get online.

## **QUBE'S ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

Charitable activities 2023-2024

In Qube's over 30-year history it has achieved many milestones, including –

### **Arts:**

- Qube has showcased the work of thousands of artists from the around the world.
- Over 350 exhibitions have been held over Qube's lifetime.
- Approximately 200,000 people have visited Qube's gallery.

### **Dial a Ride:**

- Dial a Ride has had over 10,000 members.
- 2,500 people have generously volunteered with Dial a Ride, helping us maintain this service.
- A combined total of over 1,000,000 miles have been travelled over the history of Dial a Ride's service.

### **Volunteering:**

Around 6,000 volunteering roles have been posted to organisations.

### **Care:**

Over 1,000 people have visited and taken part in Qube's social groups.

## **Qube 2023/24 Services Activities**

### **QUBE TRANSPORT**

#### **Dial A Ride**

At Qube we provide community transport (CT) services to reduce loneliness, isolation, prevent exclusion and address the needs of our rural communities. Our members do not have access to a vehicle (often due to affordability issues), 'traditional' bus services are reducing with service frequency falling by 50.2% since 2010 and many passengers do not have friends or family to rely on. CT provides a safety net for those that fall through the gaps. We operate demand responsive, door to door, transport services for individuals from Monday to Friday. Journeys enable access to health appointments including hospital and GP appointments, dentists, opticians etc. that without CT wouldn't be possible. We also run trips to supermarkets, hairdressers, local social and activity groups.

During 2023, the Shropshire Community Transport Consortium commissioned an Impact Report to raise awareness of CT and its social value. Qube is one of seven partners that make up the Consortium. The report draws on analysis of a number of data sources including consultation with key stakeholders, data captured, online surveys with stakeholder organisations and passengers and use of a bespoke tool for calculating social value to illustrate the impact CT services have on those using them and the wider community. It is clear from the report that CT in Shropshire generates a wide range of benefits for those facing mobility problems in the county, including many who are vulnerable and/or socially or geographically isolated.

Use of the social value tool has enabled many of these benefits to be quantified and valued. Collectively, this demonstrates a benefit cost ratio for CT across Shropshire in 2022/23 of at least 5.09:1. This is equivalent to the CT services generating benefits worth £5.09p for every £1 spent on delivering them, indicating very high value for money (as defined by the UK Department for Transport in their WebTAG transport appraisal guidance).

Dial A Ride has a membership of over 718 and it continues to increase. Qube Transport has undertaken 5,731 journeys – 19.7% of these were for health, 26.3% for shopping and 30.2% for social visits.

The hot meal delivery service has continued in partnership with Osnosh. Osnosh cook up to 45 meals per week and provide grocery bags. The meals are then delivered to those who need them by Dial A Ride volunteers.

The current fleet remains at four minibuses and two smaller specialist cars (owned by Qube) and ten cars (owned by Volunteer drivers) – all the vehicles are fully accessible.

Dial A Ride has 27 volunteers, 7 new volunteers have joined during the year and 2 have left us.

#### **Community Cars**

Community Cars are used for longer journeys and provide an essential service to our members. In particular, we transport individuals to medical appointments that otherwise they would find difficult to attend.

## **Trips**

During the period we have used our Dial a Ride service to transport to various locations, including Lake Vyrnwy, Powys Castle, Barmouth, Heulwen Trust Canal Boat and Exotic Zoo, Telford.

## **School contracts and B82**

The B82 bus route from Lake Vyrnwy to Oswestry funded through Powys Council continues to be provided.

The Shropshire Council ZS2030 Shrewsbury to Oswestry school route started during the period.

## **Qube Shopmobility**

Qube has two scooters, which have been hired 98 times and six wheelchairs, three self-propelled and three pushed. They were hired 30 times, mostly for weeks during this period. They are an essential service to improve accessibility for individuals that would otherwise find it difficult to visit the town.

## **QUBE VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

Qube Volunteer Centre (VC) continues to gain funding from Shropshire Council to provide infrastructure support and volunteer brokerage. This is a partnership project delivered with Community Resource and is a recognition of the importance of the VCS in supporting our communities. Shropshire Council recognised the need for a strong, sustainable and supported VCS sector and that provision of infrastructure support is crucial for this to be maintained. The funding from Shropshire Council was part of a much larger package of support for the sector commissioned through the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership.

The Infrastructure Project has also been working closely with Social Prescribing Community Development, which is led by Qube. This provides the opportunity for cross referral to both services and provides a much more comprehensive service of support for the VCS Sector.

In addition, a Volunteer Coordinator role was added to the Qube team structure in July 2023. The purpose being to specifically recruit and support volunteers into Qube. These volunteer roles include driving and passenger support in transport services; wellbeing social groups, befriending and Nordic walking, and digital skills delivery.

Roles have been advertised on Qube's volunteer centre web page, social media, community connectors network, in local outlets in the town such as Library, Town Hall, Council notice boards, supermarkets and surrounding villages. As well as Qube's own notice boards, vehicles and word of mouth.

The registration process is conducted in a robust manner and matching the volunteer to a suitable role is carefully considered. Once placed, reviews are conducted after the first six months in the role and then annually.

In the period, 14 volunteers have been recruited to join Qube.

## **SOCIAL PRESCRIBING AND HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

### **Social prescribing**

Qube has continued to deliver community development for Social Prescribing across the county. Working in partnership with Community Resource, four Community Development Officers (CDOs) have worked with each of the Shropshire Primary Care Networks.

Since then the service has developed effective partnerships between the Healthy Lives Advisors, who see those with a social prescription, and refer to local services, GP practices and other areas of health.

The Shropshire Directory of Services has been a particular focus with over 600 organisations signed up as new interventions using the quality assurance framework. The CDOs also identify gaps in provision and work with partners to find a solution, including securing funding.

The Community Connectors' network is a key part of the role and this peer support network continues to build and goes from strength to strength. Meetings are held both in person and virtually in each area across the county and this blended approach means that larger organisations such as SATH and the Mental Health Team can attend.

The virtual Community Connector Information bulletins have continued to develop with over 600 members now receiving fortnightly updates from organisations around the county. Small groups see these updates as a useful way to raise awareness of their work too.

This project creates links with community organisations which grow stronger each year with consistency, regular meetings and chances to discuss gaps in provision in increasing detail.

## **WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE SERVICES**

Funded through the Shropshire Wellbeing and Independence Partnership and the National Community Lottery Fund, our wellbeing and befriending services aim to reduce isolation within the local community and promote independence.

### **Tuesday & Thursday Social Groups**

Members sign up to join the weekly social groups, which are held every Tuesday and Thursday. These sessions continue to be well-attended by our regular group members and for some of the people we support, this is the only time they are able to get out of the house and socialise with others. Due to issues with accessible transport in the surrounding areas, we work closely with our Dial a Ride colleagues to support the running of these groups.

Some of the recent activities have included –

- Day trip to the Heritage Railway
- Summer Party with John the Music Man
- The Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir
- Arthritis Awareness – information talk from Community Resource
- Happiness Coach – talk about mindfulness and guided meditation
- Tai Chi - movement session with local Tai Chi Master
- Green Day Celebration with Oswestry in Bloom
- Drumming with Rick Wilson
- Belly Dancing – talk and demonstration
- Derwen College - gardening presentation and planting demonstration
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue - informative talk from the local Prevention Officer

## **Befriending**

### **Befriending Group**

Qube offers face to face meetings in smaller groups, usually with about 4 or 5 people, where we arrange to meet up for a coffee and chat. The purpose of this group is to offer people the opportunity to socialise and make some new friends in a more intimate setting.

### **Telephone Befriending**

We offer a telephone befriending service for people who may find it difficult to get out and about so they can enjoy chatting with someone over the phone, all from the comfort of their home. One of our team will match the recipient with one of our friendly befriending volunteers to arrange a weekly telephone chat together.

## **Wellbeing Services**

### **Newsletter**

A bi-monthly newsletter with information about local events and services and how to keep well, as well as recipes, quizzes and puzzles is posted to the homes of more than 100 people.

### **Wellbeing calls**

The coordinators aim to make regular contact with members who are unable to attend our other wellbeing services and also reach out to family members (where appropriate and with consent). In recent months, we have noticed more members joining with memory loss and as a result, these wellbeing calls are becoming a larger part of our wellbeing delivery. In addition to this, we ensure that we celebrate all members birthdays either by sending a card to their home address or arranging a cake at the weekly groups. We also send cards to any of our members who are unwell or in hospital.

### **Home Visits**

Our coordinators will organise home visits as and when is appropriate and this year, we have been supporting several members who have been unwell or suffering a bereavement by making regular visits to them at home.

As part of the National Community Lottery funding, we have launched -

### **My Money Matters**

We have partnered with the local Citizens Advice service to have one of their trained advisors offering free, impartial advice to the local community. They hold weekly clinics within the Qube building and people are able to self-refer for financial advice and support. Since launching in January 2024, we have processed 80+ referrals and we have been encouraging members to sign for this service. Our statistics for the last quarter show that the service helped 55 clients with a potential income gain of over £100k.

### **Mental Health support**

The project aims to engage with VCS organisations and source and facilitate a programme of Mental Health support and training across the county that will enable their respective workforces to recognise possible stress and burn-out in themselves and others and to develop as teams and as professionals.

To date 47 organisations have expressed an interest in becoming a partner of the wider Mental Health Alliance and 85 delegates have attended mental health training courses. Six Trauma Resilience

Management sessions have taken place which is used in the early identification of the symptoms of stress.

One attendee commented -

***“Thank you again for organising the recent training. I found it very useful. Only to let you know that recently I was on the way with my family and I saw a person near the bridge. Many cars passed him, but I asked my husband to stop and pull over. I went to speak with him, just because I was concerned about his safety. I am not sure if I would have done it 4-5 weeks ago. Maybe I would have been just like those people who passed him. But I feel like that training gave me more confidence to react and not be afraid to stop and speak”.***

### **Blood pressure project**

The blood pressure project launched officially in August 2023 with a popup at Qube attended by 12 people. The aim was to bring blood pressure testing in the community to marginalised groups who faced barriers to engaging with primary care services (language, rurality, economic deprivation among others).

Throughout the first six months of the project volunteer blood pressure champions were recruited from various communities around Shropshire. To date 50 people have been trained. At present, there are between 20 and 30 regular popups held each month in a range of locations in market towns and small villages in all 5 PCNs around Shropshire. New venues are constantly sought.

The popups are staffed by the volunteer blood pressure champions. Data collected in June 2024 showed that over 650 blood pressures had been taken. When a member of the public is identified as having a high blood pressure reading (over 140/90) the volunteer signposts them for further monitoring at their GP surgery.

Retention of volunteers has been challenging. There are currently 30 volunteers. A bi-monthly newsletter, a WhatsApp group and coffee-catch ups are a means to draw the volunteers together as a team and aid retention. Reasons for leaving the project are largely personal and positive feedback has been given by volunteers who have stepped down.

We have had very positive feedback from the public. Volunteers find this rewarding and motivating and BBC Radio Shropshire interviewed one of the volunteers at a popup in Wem. Several people have claimed that the service has really improved their health outcomes by flagging up high blood pressure they were not aware of and would not have brought to the attention of their doctor.

### **Cancer Champions**

It has been a busy year for the Cancer Champions project. There are now 305 Cancer Champions in total across Shropshire and Telford with 211 of these in Shropshire.

23 Cancer Champion training sessions have been delivered across the county since last September 2023. People trained include: RJAH Armed Forces Support Volunteers, hairdressers, nurses and student nurses, carers, Carers Support Team Shropshire, disability advisors, Health and Social Care Students at Shrewsbury College, Healthwatch, serving military personnel, people with lived experience of cancer, Cancer Care Coordinators, prison officers, food share staff, Radfield Care Staff, Shrewsbury Ark, Police trainer etc. Furthermore, 17 prisoners who are Health and Wellbeing Champions within HMP Stoke Heath have also been trained.

As the project has expanded, supporting our Cancer Champions has become increasingly important. Coffee catch ups have been organised on a monthly basis across Shropshire in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Ludlow and they were very well attended. They provide an opportunity to give an update on the project, share resources, provide peer support, discuss latest research and any current advances in screening and

collate feedback for the NHS. Cancer Champions within Stoke Heath prison have also been supported with regular coffee catch ups organised within the prison.

## **QUBE ARTS**

Qube is a diverse and contemporary art venue in our community. Our goal is to provide a warm and nurturing creative space which can be enjoyed by everyone. The main ways that we do this are; offering a gallery space with regularly changing exhibitions, courses and workshops led by talented artists, art events, and community projects. Our exhibition programme showcases work from some of the best local artists, as well as offering a space for emerging artists. We provide opportunities to artists and encourage their development - through exhibitions, selling in our cabinets, or sharing their skills in workshops. We also work with other institutions in the community to provide projects - a particular focus has been engaging young people to ensure the future of Qube and art in the local area.

### **Exhibitions**

The programme of exhibitions at Qube showcase work from local and national artists, both established and emerging, as well as community exhibitions and the results of project work.

The aim for our exhibition space is to show high quality, contemporary work in our rural town, allowing local people access to the types of art that they might not typically see. It is part of our ongoing arts strategy that we introduce different materials and media to the gallery, beyond the historical trend for 2d painting and photography. Our Process exhibition in 2023 featured twenty different artists, and included textiles, metalwork, ceramics, printmaking, jewellery, sculpture and glass. We had several school groups visiting the exhibition, allowing the young people to see the options available for a future in art. We are also actively supporting women artists, people of colour, members of the LGBTQ+ community and people with disabilities as a way for groups who are generally underrepresented in the arts to be seen more widely.

In total there were seven exhibitions in 2023/24, with work by over 130 artists. We had two solo exhibitions, which were from past People's Choice Open winners, and five group exhibitions, including the 2023 Arts Open and the Christmas gift exhibition.

We trialled a new exhibition idea in October 2023, called "One Gallery, Three Exhibitions", where the gallery space was split between two solo artists and a collective of five MA student ceramicists from Wrexham University. Each artist could effectively rent a wall in the gallery, perfect for up-coming artists to share their work, or established artists to show new collections. The exhibition was very successful and will be part of the annual programme in the future.

Artists are encouraged to sell their work during exhibitions, or use the available cabinet space/browser racks.

### **Cabinets and sales**

Qube continues to have a dedicated space used all year round by local artists and craft-makers to sell their work. The work in the cabinets is carefully chosen, prioritising quality but also considering price.

The commission rates for exhibition sales remained at 25% (plus VAT on that commission), over the year there have been £9,686 worth of gallery and cabinet sales, and commission.

### **Workshops, Courses and Projects**

Over the year there were approximately 40 individual courses/workshops at Qube.

This included our two regular Art History blocks (eight sessions each) plus a single art history session on textiles and a special three-part course on Women in the Arts, all completely sold out, as well as our ongoing Paintable group.

Qube has a solid core of participants in Art History and Paintable, with approximately 60 per week for Art History and 20 per week to Paintable.

In line with our evolving strategy for exhibitions we have also varied the offering of workshops to include more textiles, ceramics and glass art, which has proved popular.

During the year the focus has mainly been on one-off workshops, as attempts at longer courses have generally been unsuccessful – feedback has been that the cost of living prevents up-front booking fees.

We worked with the Cultural Consortium ART-eFact project in summer 2023 to host two artists in residence, running free workshops which were well attended, this will continue in 2024.

Qube started working with Shropshire Council and SYA to provide free school holiday workshops for young people aged 11-16, which were well attended. We had feedback from the mother of a twelve-year-old boy

***"It was lovely and he is so proud of his work! I love that he has a thing, a place where he feels safe. I really love how you and the Qube nourish him and his love of art. Thank you for arranging it, we are both inspired to enter your Open exhibition!"***

## **LEARNING**

### **Digital skills programme**

In conjunction with Shropshire Council, Qube has helped 25 learners complete the Learn My Way programme set up by the Good Thing's Foundation. The learner demographic ranges from people in their 50's to those who are 80+, all of which are at various stages of digital isolation.

One of the first learners to complete the course within a total of 8 hours, was an older gentleman. He has been retired for many years and is now a full time carer for his wife, who has various health conditions, and his son who has complex learning difficulties and lives in assisted living accommodations. He had retired before technology became common in the workplace, and so was never properly taught how to use it. However, in recent years with both his wife and son's failing health and his own worries concerning his age – he wanted to find ways to make life easier. He was very skeptical when it came to the internet, especially using it on a smart phone but also realised that it could be used to help with many different tasks – specifically ordering the weekly shop. In the time I spent with him we set up a new smartphone, helped him choose a suitable tariff, helped him with everyday smartphone use, link his new phone to his laptop and smart TV and install various useful apps such as one for time keeping – which helped him keep track of medications and the Tesco app. Both of which he now confidently uses to help both himself and his family. He was able to set up a weekly shopping for himself and his son to be sent directly to their individual homes.

***"Before coming to the Qube I had lost touch and confidence with all things digital. I am now able to shop on line for my family, especially my stepson who is disabled and lives on his own. I sincerely hope this course continues to help elderly and people needing digital skills like myself".***

## **QUBE'S STRATEGIC WORK**

Qube in its role as a community anchor organisation continues to be a bridge between the voluntary sector and the public sector and during 2023/24 represented the sector at the Shropshire Voluntary Sector Assembly, the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership, The Community Transport Consortium, Social Prescribing and the Shropshire Cultural Consortium.

Qube considers it important that we are able to use our experience of working with our communities to represent them at a strategic level and influence policy for future development.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees are aware of their responsibilities to the beneficiaries of the services and needs of the community and, therefore, aim for unrestricted reserves which equate to six months of core operating expenditure to enable the maintenance of services when grants are difficult to obtain. This requires £50,000 of unrestricted reserves.

At the 31 March 2024 the unrestricted undesignated reserves totalled £124, 329 (excluding fixed assets), therefore, Trustees are able to designate c£74,000 for other purposes.

The Trustees have sought to establish a reserve to allow for the replacement of equipment and vehicles in line with the Replacement Vehicle Policy. The vehicles are largely funded from Restricted Reserves but not exclusively and, therefore, £50,000 is transferred to a designated Vehicle Replacement Reserve.

A further £24,000 is transferred to a Development Reserve to enable the Charity to explore new opportunities ahead of receiving grant funding.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Significant events**

Pressure on budgets have presented challenges for Qube during the year. The services provided by Qube are essential, however, operational costs have increased with little or no rise in funding and grants are more competitive to secure. This has introduced greater financial demands and in response Qube has focused on effectively managing expenditure whilst maximising opportunities to generate income.

### **Looking to the Future**

Qube is determined to ensure that it continues to support those most in need and make a positive difference to people's lives. The Trustees, staff and volunteers are all committed to helping Qube thrive and evolve.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small Companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Mrs H Noble, Chair



15 October 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report  
to the Trustees of Oswestry Community Action**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages sixteen to twenty-six.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its the 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 Company'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 the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 that in any material respect:

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 requirements 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 2019 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

James Denton

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd

The Yew Tree Inn,

High Street,

Gresford, Wrexham, LL12 8RF

**Oswestry Community Action**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

|                                                      |       |                         | 31.03.24              | 31.03.23         |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|                                                      | Notes | Unrestricted Funds<br>£ | Restricted Funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>£ |
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                            |       |                         |                       |                  |
| <b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>       |       |                         |                       |                  |
| Voluntary income                                     |       | 3,508                   | 25,609                | 29,117           |
| Investment income                                    | 2     | 4,969                   | -                     | 4,969            |
| <b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b> |       |                         |                       |                  |
| Art                                                  |       | 29,960                  | 5,400                 | 35,360           |
| Wellbeing Services (Formerly Care)                   |       | -                       | 495,666               | 495,666          |
| Transport & Shopmobility                             |       | 82,886                  | 51,605                | 134,491          |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                       | 34,662                | 34,662           |
| Shopmobility (Now with Transport)                    |       | -                       | -                     | -                |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 7,179                   | 10,487                | 17,666           |
| Big Local                                            |       | -                       | -                     | -                |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | 5,305                   | -                     | 5,305            |
|                                                      |       | 125,330                 | 597,820               | 723,150          |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                      |       | <b>133,807</b>          | <b>623,429</b>        | <b>757,236</b>   |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                            |       |                         |                       |                  |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                         |       |                         |                       |                  |
| Art                                                  |       | 39,628                  | 3,160                 | 42,788           |
| Wellbeing Services (Formerly Care)                   |       | 63                      | 317,809               | 317,872          |
| Transport & Shopmobility                             |       | -                       | 152,318               | 152,318          |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                       | 37,525                | 37,525           |
| Shopmobility (now with Transport)                    |       | -                       | -                     | -                |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 11,459                  | 82,941                | 94,400           |
| Big Local                                            |       | -                       | -                     | -                |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | 4,875                   | -                     | 4,875            |
|                                                      |       | 56,025                  | 593,753               | 649,778          |
| <b>Governance costs</b>                              |       | -                       | 13,644                | 13,644           |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>                      |       | <b>56,025</b>           | <b>607,397</b>        | <b>663,422</b>   |
| <b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>             |       | <b>77,782</b>           | <b>16,032</b>         | <b>93,814</b>    |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>                       |       |                         |                       |                  |
| Total funds brought forward                          |       | 46,547                  | 289,449               | 335,996          |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>                   |       | <b>124,329</b>          | <b>305,481</b>        | <b>429,810</b>   |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Balance Sheet  
At 31 March 2024**

|                                                  | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 31.3.24<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 31.3.23<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                              |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Tangible assets                                  | 6     | 2,617                      | 49,681                   | 52,298                         | 99,665                         |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Stocks                                           |       | 300                        | -                        | 300                            | 300                            |
| Debtors                                          | 7     | -                          | 127,152                  | 127,152                        | 85,140                         |
| Cash at Bank                                     |       | 100,078                    | 194,139                  | 294,217                        | 336,795                        |
|                                                  |       | 100,378                    | 321,291                  | 421,669                        | 422,235                        |
| <b>CREDITORS</b>                                 |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Amounts falling due<br>within one year           | 8     | -                          | (44,157)                 | (44,157)                       | (185,904)                      |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                        |       | 100,378                    | 277,134                  | 377,512                        | 236,331                        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT<br/>LIABILITIES</b> |       | 102,995                    | 326,815                  | 429,810                        | 335,996                        |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                |       | 102,995                    | 326,815                  | 429,810                        | 335,996                        |
| <b>FUNDS</b>                                     | 9     |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Unrestricted funds                               |       |                            |                          | 124,329                        | 46,547                         |
| Restricted funds                                 |       |                            |                          | 305,481                        | 289,449                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>                               |       |                            |                          | 429,810                        | 335,996                        |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 March 2024**

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

1. The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006;
2. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 7 October 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs H Noble – Chair

Date: 15 October 2024

Registered Company Number: 03390138

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

|                                                                                           | <b>2024</b>       | <b>2023</b>      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                                                                           | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>         |
| <b>Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities</b> |                   |                  |
| Net movements in funds                                                                    | 93,814            | (78,940)         |
| Add back net depreciation charge                                                          | 47,367            | 29,119           |
| Loss on sale of Assets                                                                    | -                 | -                |
| Deduct Investment income shown in investing activities                                    | (4,969)           | (8,580)          |
| Decrease (increase) in debtors                                                            | (42,012)          | 30,473           |
| Increase (decrease) in creditors                                                          | (141,747)         | (110,017)        |
| <b>Cash used in operating activities</b>                                                  | <b>(47,547)</b>   | <b>(137,945)</b> |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                                               |                   |                  |
| Investment income                                                                         | 4,969             | 8,580            |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                                                         | 0                 | (4,283)          |
| Disposals of tangible fixed assets                                                        | 0                 | 4,304            |
| <b>Cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>                                    | <b>4,969</b>      | <b>8,601</b>     |
| increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year                              | (42,578)          | (129,344)        |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year                                    | 336,795           | 466,139          |
| <b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>                             | <b>294,217</b>    | <b>336,795</b>   |
|                                                                                           | <b>Cash flows</b> |                  |
| <b>Analysis of changes in Net Debt</b>                                                    | <b>01-Apr-23</b>  | <b>31-Mar-24</b> |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                                 | 336,795           | (42,578)         |
|                                                                                           |                   | 294,217          |

## **Oswestry Community Action**

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

#### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

##### **Resources expended**

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

##### **Allocation and apportionment of costs**

Wages not directly allocated to an activity are apportioned pro rata between unrestricted and restricted funds based on fund income; this method of allocation also applies to unallocated vehicle running expenses and volunteer expenses.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Land and buildings       | - 4% on cost                              |
| Plant and machinery, etc | - 25% on cost and 25% on reducing balance |

##### **Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

##### **Taxation**

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

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

##### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operations leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

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

Oswestry Community Action operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its staff. The pension charge in the accounts represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

|                          | 31.3.24<br>£ | 31.3.23<br>£ |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Deposit account interest | 4,969        | 3,053        |
|                          | <u>4,969</u> | <u>3,053</u> |

**3. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES**

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

|                                      | 31.3.24<br>£  | 31.3.23<br>£  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Depreciation – owned assets          | 27,036        | 29,119        |
| Governance – Assurance services      | 11,744        | 7,155         |
| Governance – Independent examination | 1,900         | 1,750         |
|                                      | <u>40,680</u> | <u>38,024</u> |

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Trustees Expenses**

Trustees' expenses totalling £34.40 were paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 and no expenses for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**5. STAFF COSTS**

|                                          | 31.3.24<br>£   | 31.3.23<br>£   |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages and salaries (Incl. Employers N.I) | 324,154        | 309,128        |
| Social Security costs                    | 17,072         | 16,104         |
| Other pension costs                      | 5,567          | 5,978          |
|                                          | <u>346,793</u> | <u>331,210</u> |

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

|                     | 31.3.24     | 31.3.23   |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Qube Art            | 0.6         | 2         |
| Qube Wellbeing      | 5.0         | 4         |
| Qube Volunteering   | 0.6         | 2         |
| Qube Transport      | 2.5         | 3         |
| Qube Administration | 3.5         | 1         |
| Big Local           | 0.0         | 2         |
| Qube Learning       | 0.8         | 1         |
|                     | <u>13.0</u> | <u>15</u> |

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.  
Key personnel remuneration in the year amounted to £42,472.

| <b>6.TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b> |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
|                                | <b>Land and Buildings</b> |                     | <b>Plant and Machinery including Vehicles</b> |                     | <b>Totals</b>     |                     |
|                                | <b>Restricted</b>         | <b>Unrestricted</b> | <b>Restricted</b>                             | <b>Unrestricted</b> | <b>Restricted</b> | <b>Unrestricted</b> |
|                                | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>            | <b>£</b>                                      | <b>£</b>            | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>            |
| <b>COST</b>                    |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
| At 1 April 2023                | 508,424                   |                     | 233,947                                       | 57,262              | 742,371           | 57,262              |
| Additions                      | -                         |                     | -                                             |                     |                   | -                   |
| Disposals                      | -                         |                     | -                                             |                     |                   | -                   |
|                                |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
| At 31 March 2024               | 508,424                   |                     | 233,947                                       | 57,262              | 742,371           | 57,262              |
|                                |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
| <b>DEPRECIATION</b>            |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
| At 1 April 2023                | 435,111                   |                     | 211,218                                       | 53,639              | 646,329           | 53,639              |
| Charge for year                | 40,674                    |                     | 5,687                                         | 1,006               | 46,361            | 1,006               |
| on disposals                   | -                         |                     | -                                             |                     |                   | -                   |
|                                |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
| At 31 March 2024               | 475,785                   |                     | 216,905                                       | 54,645              | 692,690           | 54,645              |
|                                |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
| <b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>          |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
| At 31 March 2024               | 32,639                    |                     | 17,042                                        | 2,617               | 49,681            | 2,617               |
|                                |                           |                     |                                               |                     |                   |                     |
| At 31 March 2023               | 73,313                    |                     | 22,729                                        | 3,623               | 96,042            | 3,623               |

**Land and Buildings.** The lease on the current building ends August 2026. The depreciation charge will reduce the NBV to nil at this point

**Oswestry Community Action**

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

**7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

|               | 31.3.24       | 31.3.23      |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|               | £             | £            |
| Trade Debtors | 112,102       | 79,526       |
| Other Debtors | 15,050        | 5,614        |
|               | <hr/> 127,152 | <hr/> 85,140 |

The increase in Debtors relates to grant income we are expecting to receive.

**8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

|                              | 31.3.24      | 31.3.23       |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                              | £            | £             |
| Trade creditors              | 42,688       | 15,452        |
| Taxation and social security | -            | -             |
| Accruals and deferred income | 1,469        | 170,452       |
|                              | <hr/> 44,157 | <hr/> 185,904 |

See Section 11 regarding deferred income changes

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

|                           | At 1.4.23     | Net movement in funds | At 31.3.24    |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                           | £             | £                     | £             |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |               |                       |               |
| Undesignated funds        | 46,547        | 77,782                | 124,329       |
|                           | 46,547        | 77,782                | 124,329       |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>   |               |                       |               |
| Restricted                | 289,449       | 16,032                | 305,481       |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <hr/> 335,996 | <hr/> 93,814          | <hr/> 429,810 |

## Oswestry Community Action

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

#### 9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

|                           | Incoming<br>Resources<br>£ | Resources<br>expended<br>£ | Movement in<br>funds<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                            |                            |                           |
| Undesignated fund         | 133,807                    | 56,025                     | 77,782                    |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>   |                            |                            |                           |
| Restricted                | 623,429                    | 607,397                    | 16,032                    |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <b>757,236</b>             | <b>663,422</b>             | <b>93,814</b>             |

The undesignated fund represents various types of income received and expended in accordance with the charitable objectives of the charity. The details of the various service areas are given in the Report of the Trustees attached to these accounts. The fund balance is for replacement of information technology equipment and to enable the charity to have a structured shutdown period should Oswestry Community Action need to cease operating.

The Restricted funds are mainly represented by the leasehold property granted to the charity, value at year end was £32,640 and the motor vehicles & Equipment, net book value at year end was £17,041. The balance of restricted funds represents the residue of the various grants and donations that enable the charity to continue and that remained unspent as at the year end.

#### 10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Kim Wootton, Chief Officer is a Director of the Shropshire Community Transport Consortium which is made up of seven likeminded partners. The Trustees are satisfied there is no conflict of interest.

#### 11. DEFERRED INCOME

|                                                       | 2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total deferred income at start of year                | 154,363   | 234,792   |
| Amounts received in year                              | -         | 258,470   |
| Amounts credited to statement of financial activities | (154,285) | (338,899) |
| Total deferred income at end of year                  | 78        | 154,363   |

The deferred income shown in 2023 has been deferred at the year-end in order to reflect the expected future costs to complete the relevant projects. All income received in the year to 31 March 2024 was credited to the 2024 Accounts in line with the Accounting requirements of the Charities SORP.

## **12. GOING CONCERN**

The Trustees assess the risks identified as presenting the greatest challenges to the charity. These include, but are not limited to increased competition to secure funding, reduced availability of grants, contracts not offered with annual uplifts and the continued inflationary growth across the UK leading to additional costs. A detailed analysis of income and expenditure is reviewed by the Board as part of this exercise.

The Board receive the annual Budget for review in January and for approval in March. In support, the Board determine resilience and mitigation plans for the strategic risks. These measures provide the assurance that the Board can confidently consider the charity a going concern in the medium term.

The Board confirms that the charity is viable as a going concern.

**Oswestry Community Action****Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

|                                                          | 31.3.24<br>£   | 31.3.23<br>£   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                |                |                |
| <b>Voluntary income</b>                                  |                |                |
| Donations                                                | 29,117         | 6,958          |
| <b>Investment income</b>                                 |                |                |
| Deposit account interest                                 | 4,969          | 3,053          |
|                                                          | <u>4,969</u>   | <u>3,053</u>   |
| <b>Incoming resources from<br/>charitable activities</b> |                |                |
| Rents received                                           | 3,634          | 5,527          |
| Sale of exhibits                                         | 31,888         | 33,026         |
| Fares                                                    | 69,146         | 65,009         |
| Other Income                                             | 4,380          | 20,347         |
| Grants                                                   | 614,102        | 686,501        |
|                                                          | <u>723,150</u> | <u>810,410</u> |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                          | <b>757,236</b> | <b>820,421</b> |

**RESOURCES EXPENDED**

|                                       |                |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Charitable activities</b>          |                |                |
| Wages                                 | 341,226        | 325,232        |
| Pensions                              | 5,567          | 5,978          |
| Advertising and promotion             | 2,570          | 2,749          |
| Exhibitions and events                | 12,048         | 12,591         |
| Project costs                         | 30,671         | 78,617         |
| Subscriptions                         | 5,309          | 5,306          |
| Volunteer expenses                    | 1,603          | 4,477          |
| Staff expenses                        | 7,219          | 19,215         |
| Refreshments                          | 1,305          | 622            |
| Vehicle running costs                 | 40,534         | 53,786         |
| Big Grant Scheme                      | -              | 155,983        |
| Wednesday shopping service            | -              | -              |
| Professional fees                     | 10,684         | 29,930         |
| Consultancy                           | 30             | 4,716          |
| Rent, rates and water                 | 5,669          | 4,700          |
| Insurance                             | 2,910          | 2,533          |
| Light and heat                        | 9,698          | 11,859         |
| Telephone                             | 3,501          | 5,498          |
| Printing postage and stationery       | 3,386          | 4,631          |
| Repairs and renewals                  | 12,977         | 16,815         |
| Bank charges                          | 839            | 855            |
| Sundry expenses                       | 4,954          | 2,886          |
| Computer and website                  | 7,455          | 12,026         |
| Other expenditure                     |                | 13,674         |
| Partner payments                      | 90,415         | 86,658         |
| Depreciation of long leasehold        | 40,674         | 20,337         |
| Depreciation of fixtures and fittings | 999            | 1,160          |
| Depreciation of motor vehicles        | 5,700          | 7,622          |
| Bad debt                              | 1,836          | -              |
| (Profit)/Loss on disposal             | -              | -              |
|                                       | <b>649,778</b> | <b>890,456</b> |
| <b>Governance costs</b>               |                |                |
| Assurance services                    | 11,744         | 7,155          |
| Independent Examination               | 1,900          | 1,750          |
|                                       | <b>13,644</b>  | <b>8,905</b>   |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>       | <b>663,422</b> | <b>899,361</b> |



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# Accounts

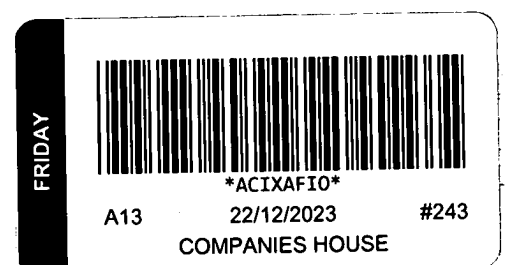
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**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03390138**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1063319**

Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial  
Statements for the Year  
Ended 31 March 2023  
For Oswestry Community Action

Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF



**Oswestry Community Action**

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

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## **Oswestry Community Action**

### **Chairman's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

#### **Report from the Chair of Trustees**

2022/23 has been a milestone year for Qube in many ways. Whilst achieving a significant 30 year anniversary which we were honoured to celebrate with the King's representative in Shropshire we also said farewell to our incredible Chief Officer Laurel Roberts who has served Qube and our community tirelessly during her time with us.

Laurel shaped our reputation and raised our profile significantly in recent years and left the Charity in very good standing amongst partner organisations and local politicians and Trustees are delighted to have appointed Kim Wootton as her replacement. Kim brings with her a wealth of skills and experience which will enhance the way we operate and help position the organisation for the future.

The year has, like for so many other charities, brought challenges in terms of funding and we continually have to work harder for every pound coming into the business. The loss of our schools contracts in transport was a blow but we will seek out opportunities to utilise the capacity this now gives us with our fleet. As a board we will continue to keep a close reign on spending and monitor reserves closely.

In other areas we have to recognise the impact our volunteer bureau is having within other local charities and in providing purpose for those people who want to give something back to their community.

We also saw the end of the 3 Parishes Big Local initiative for which Qube was the lead organisation, holding funds on behalf of the project funder. It is this type of additional support that keeps us at the heart of Oswestry and the wider county and we will continue to offer this support as we evolve in the future.

During the economic downturn Qube has an ever increasing part to play, not only as part of the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership, but in serving the community. We need to adapt and strengthen our offering in line with need and it is this that will continue to be our focus into the new financial year.



Heather Noble, Chair  
Oswestry Community Action, Qube

## **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Trustees have adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Registered Company number 03390138

Registered Charity number 1063319

### **Registered office**

Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1RB

### **Trustees**

Heather Noble – Chair

Sylvia Dyke – Vice Chair

Davina Fairweather (resigned December 2022)

Janet Byatt

Leonard Graham

Richard Amos

Charles Brotherton (appointed December 2022)

### **Company Secretary and Chief Officer**

Laurel Roberts (resigned March 2023)

Kim Wootton (appointed April 2023)

### **Independent Examiner**

Mike Griffiths & Partners

The Yew Tree Inn

High Street

Gresford

Wrexham

LL12 8RF

### **Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank

PO Box 250 Delf House

Southway

Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 20th June 1997, and amended on 12th March 2002.

### **Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

Trustees are recruited by personal approach from another Trustee or staff member, or by advertising. Those interested in becoming a Trustee are then asked to apply in writing, matching their skills and experience against a job description. The applicants are assessed by the Trustees and those suitable are invited to an interview with the Chair. The successful applicants are nominated to the Board and given a full induction to the organisation which includes ensuring they are aware of the responsibilities of being a Trustee and all the role entails. The recruited Trustees then participate in service activities across the organisation to learn first-hand how they operate, meet our users and experience what it is like to be a customer of Qube. They are introduced to staff and volunteers to learn their roles and given past Board papers to read including forecast budgets, cash flow and annual accounts to help them understand the current issues and financial position of the organisation.

The Board holds an Organisational Review meeting each year in order to review the strategic objectives, policies and procedures of Qube and to ensure they continue to meet our charitable objects and are operating within the scope and ethos of the Memorandum and Articles. This meeting also reviews staff pay including salary increases for the coming year.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The organisation has a risk register which was thoroughly reviewed and updated in October 2022. The risk register is reviewed at each Finance and Risk Committee meeting and key elements drawn to the Trustee Board. The risk register is subject to an annual Board review.

### **Objectives and aims of Oswestry Community Action**

To improve the quality of life for those in the communities of Shropshire and Welsh Borderlands, within the main service areas of Community Transport, Well-being and Independence, Volunteering and Community Development, Arts and Creative Health, Social Prescribing, Shopmobility, Learning and other associated activities.

### **Significant activities**

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and consider public benefit to be at the heart of the activities of the Charity. A summary of the significant activities of the charity is given below under the headings. The detail of the activities for 2022/23 follows the summary.

**Community Transport** - accessible door to door transport ;

**Volunteer Centre** - supportive volunteer brokerage service and infrastructure support for voluntary community sector (VCS) organisations;

**Arts** – A contemporary gallery with a full arts programme of exhibitions, workshops and projects;

**Shopmobility** – scooter and wheelchair hire;

**Well-being and Independence** - Provides friendship opportunities and support to people who are socially isolated;

**Social Prescribing Community Development** – County wide project includes Community Connectors Networks, VCS Directory of services and signing up VCS services as Social Prescribing Interventions;

**Room Hire for the community** – two rooms available for external hire; and

**Three Parishes Big Local** – Qube was the Locally Trusted Organisation for the Big Lottery funded 'Three Parishes Big Local' project. This project came to an end in December 2022

### **QUBE'S ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

Charitable activities 2022-2023

#### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations**

In 2022, Qube celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of events. This included an exhibition telling the story of Qube and how it has supported the local community over the past three decades. A celebratory evening was held in November 2022, at which the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner addressed assembled guests on the achievements of the organisation over the years.

Originally called Helpmates, it began its much-needed Dial-a-Ride service and Volunteer Bureau in 1992 and has continued to grow ever since. A lack of creative provision in care homes was also identified early on and a small grant was raised to train staff and volunteers to provide creative activities in care homes around the county. This led to further community-based projects, creative opportunities, befriending and social groups being developed.

It is through services and projects like these that Qube has continued to have a life changing impact on members of the community.

One Qube member said: "It has given me a reason to come out of my home. I've made new friends and it has enabled me to join other groups. It has been a life-saver!". Another added: "I wonder where I would be without Qube. They help me here, support me and care so much. I am totally blind and coming here is the best day of my week".

In 1996, Helpmates changed its' name to Oswestry Community Action (known as Qube) and became a registered charity. Since then Qube continued to grow all its services in response to the need of local communities. Dial-a-Ride has supported over 10,000 people, transporting them over 2 million miles since it began. The social groups have provided wellbeing support to over 1,000 people and the Volunteer Bureau has posted more than 6,000 roles for local organisations. The gallery has shown work by such International artists as Picasso, Matisse, Paolozzi and many more never before seen in Shropshire, as well as local artists and community exhibitions.

Qube prides itself on being accessible and inclusive for all, regardless of age and ability, welcoming people from all walks of life.

In Qube's 30-year history it has achieved many milestones, including –

**Arts:**

- Qube has showcased the work of thousands of artists from the around the world.
- Over 350 exhibitions have been held over Qube's lifetime.
- Approximately 200,000 people have visited Qube's gallery.

**Dial-a-Ride:**

- Dial-a-Ride has had over 10,000 members.
- 2,500 people have generously volunteered with Dial-a-Ride, helping us maintain this service.
- A combined total of over 1,000,000 miles have been travelled over the history of Dial-a-Ride's service.

**Volunteering:**

Around 6,000 volunteering roles have been posted to organisations.

**Care:**

Over 1,000 people have visited and taken part in Qube's social group fun.

## **Chief Officer retirement**

In March 2023, Laurel Roberts, Qube's Chief Officer retired after 15 years' service. Laurel's passion, enthusiasm and commitment has enabled Qube to go from strength to strength and help more people. The Trustees, staff and volunteers wish to thank Laurel and hope her retirement is full of happiness and exciting adventures.

## **Qube 2022/23 Services Activities**

### **QUBE TRANSPORT**

#### **Dial A Ride**

Dial A Ride has a membership of over 500 and it continues to increase. In the last year most journeys have been for a social purpose, including shopping and visiting family and friends. Post COVID, the number of medical journeys is also rising.

Qube Transport has undertaken 5,878 journeys – 13% of these were for health, 25% for shopping and 52% for social visits.

The hot meal delivery service continues in partnership with Osnosh. Osnosh cook 40 meals per week and provide grocery bags. The meals are then delivered to those who need them by Dial A Ride volunteers.

The current fleet remains at five buses (owned by Qube) and eight cars (owned by Volunteer drivers) – all the vehicles are fully accessible.

Dial A Ride has 36 volunteers. Five new volunteers have joined during the year and 18 have left us. The net reduction in volunteers has created challenges in maintaining the service and an ongoing recruitment campaign is in place.

#### **Community Cars**

Community Cars are used for longer journeys and provide an essential service to our members. In particular, we transport individuals to medical appointments that otherwise they would find difficult to attend.

#### **Trips**

During the period Vyrnwy Nursing home used our Dial-a-ride service to transport their residents to the following locations;

- Welshpool airport;
- Lake Vyrnwy;
- Powis Castle;
- Barmouth;
- Heulwen Trust Canal Boat;
- Charlies Stores; and
- Theatre Severn.

### **School contracts and B82**

These are services provided on behalf of Shropshire County Council.

During December 2022, Qube ceased to provide transport for Shropshire Council to Bryn Offa School in Pant and Bicton, on ending of the contract.

The B82 bus route from Lake Vyrnwy to Oswestry funded through Powys Council continues to be provided.

### **QUBE SHOPMOBILITY**

Qube has three scooters and four wheelchairs available for hire. Scooter hires for the year totaled 54 and wheelchair hires were 33. This is an essential service to improve accessibility for individuals that would otherwise find it difficult to visit the town.

### **QUBE VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

Qube Volunteer Centre (VC) continues to gain funding from Shropshire Council to provide *infrastructure support and volunteer brokerage*. This is a partnership project delivered with Community Resource and is a recognition of the importance of the voluntary community sector (VCS) in supporting our communities. Shropshire Council recognised the need for a strong, sustainable and supported VCS sector and that provision of infrastructure support is crucial for this to be maintained. The funding from Shropshire Council was part of a much larger package of support for the sector commissioned through the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership.

The Infrastructure Project has also been working closely with Social Prescribing Community Development, which is led by Qube. This provides the opportunity for cross referral to both services and provides a much more comprehensive service of support for the VCS Sector.

During 2022/23 the VC received 453 enquiries about volunteering with 105 people referred to other organisations. 205 people registered as volunteers.

Qube VC worked with 24 organisations to advertise 165 volunteering opportunities on our Shropshire Volunteering Directory; a searchable directory which is part of Qube's website.

### **Building Better Opportunities**

Building Better Opportunities (BBO) ended at the start of 2023 and was funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund. The project led by Landau, was a partnership of 12 organisations across Shropshire working with people who are long-term unemployed and economically inactive. The project aimed to help people develop their skills and get into employment. Qube VC offered one to one volunteering support as a partner on the project.

### **SOCIAL PRESCRIBING**

During October 2021 Qube won the tender to deliver community development for Social Prescribing across the county. Working in partnership with Hands Together Ludlow and Community Resource, Community Development Officers (CDOs) were recruited to work with each of the Shropshire four Primary Care Networks.

Since then the service has developed effective partnerships between the Healthy Lives Advisors, who see those with a social prescription, and refer to local services, GP practices and other areas of health.

The Shropshire Directory of Services has been a particular focus with over 500 organisations signed up as new interventions using the quality assurance framework. The CDOs also identify gaps in provision and work with partners to find a solution, including securing funding.

The Community Connectors' network is a key part of the role and this peer support network continues to build and goes from strength to strength. Meetings are held both in person and virtually in each area across the county and this blended approach means that larger organisations such as SATH and the Mental Health Team can attend.

The virtual Community Connector Information bulletins have continued to develop with nearly 600 members now receiving weekly updates from organisations around the county. Small groups see these updates as a useful way to raise awareness of their work too.

This project creates links with community organisations which grow stronger each year with consistency, regular meetings and chances to discuss gaps in provision in increasing detail. This has been helped by working closely with the Infrastructure Support Team and we plan to continue to evolve the offering in 2023.

## **WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE SERVICES**

### **Tuesday and Thursday Club Social Groups and Befriending Services**

Funded through the Shropshire Well-being and Independence Partnership and the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Qube's Well-being and Independence services aim to reduce isolation in the community.

Members sign up to join weekly social groups, held on a Tuesday and Thursday. Activities have included –

- Getting to know you session - members participated by writing a random fact about themselves, putting it in the hat and others take a guess who it may be about. This generated much conversation and laughter, which proved to be a good ice breaker.
- Informative talk by a volunteer from the Cambrian Heritage Railway, giving lots of history and facts.
- Day trip to Derwen College – we were treated to a talk in the orangery, had a walk in the walled garden and students served tea and cake. There was an opportunity for members to browse the garden centre and vintage shop.
- Men's Shed – talk about the community work and promotion of their services, plus a Q&A.
- British Sign Language - practical and fun session with lots of opportunity to practice, many of our members are hard of hearing or deaf and this was a great introduction to British Sign Language.
- Oswestry Town Museum – a talk including lots of exhibits to pass around, including the Guinness world record collection of ear trumpets.
- The Music Man with his keyboard, singalong and birthday celebrations.

A bi-monthly newsletter with information about local events and services and how to keep well, as well as recipes, quizzes and puzzles is posted to the homes of more than 100 people.

### **Telephone Be-friending**

Once people were able to come back to social groups demand for the telephone befriending service has reduced although some telephone relationships have continued.

## **Qube ARTS**

Qube Arts provides a full and diverse, year-round programme of quality projects, exhibitions, events and workshops. Qube Arts provides opportunities for artists and creative practitioners to sell and promote their works and for anyone to share their work with others. Through outreach projects Qube uses arts and creativity as a tool to engage individuals and communities, many of whom will not have engaged with Qube's activities otherwise.

### **Exhibitions**

Qube's exhibitions aim to bring new art to the area and act as a platform for local and emerging artists to display and sell their work. Working with other galleries and organisations in the town, the exhibitions help to put Oswestry on the map as a culturally attractive place to visit.

Qube has three gallery spaces with a programme of exhibitions by local, national and international artists, heritage displays, community exhibitions and project work.

In total there were 10 exhibitions in 2022/23, with work by 80 artists. Artists are welcome to offer their work for sale during exhibitions and sell accompanying merchandise.

### **Cabinets and sales**

Qube continues to have a dedicated space used all year round by local artists and craftmakers to sell their work. Work on display ranges from cards and prints to ceramics, jewellery, glass and woodwork.

The commission rates for exhibition sales remained at 25% (plus VAT on that commission) for this year and over the year there have been £6,633 worth of gallery and cabinet sales.

### **Workshops and Courses**

Over the year there were approximately 45 individual courses/workshops at Qube.

We have a solid core group of participants in Art History and Paintable, with approximately 40 per week for Art History and 24 per week to Paintable. Life drawing is variable, but averages seven per session, with two sessions a month. These groups have evolved into strong social groups as well as learning opportunities.

During the year the focus has mainly been on one-off workshops, as attempts at longer courses have generally been unsuccessful – feedback has been that the cost of living prevents up-front booking fees.

Qube has varied the offering of workshops to include more textiles and glass art, which has proved popular.

### **Marketing**

Qube engages with new and existing audiences through a range of marketing activities online and in print. A regular monthly email and social media posts continue to share news and updates across all areas of Qube.

### **THREE PARISHES BIG LOCAL**

Qube acted as the Accountable body for the Big Local project area of St Martins, Gobowen and Weston Rhyn otherwise known as the Three Parishes Area. Instigated by Big Lottery and now managed by a Partnership of local residents, Big Local supported activities and investment which will make a significant difference to that area over a 10-year period. The programme ended in December 2022.

### **QUBE'S STRATEGIC WORK**

Qube in its role as a community anchor organisation continues to be a bridge between the voluntary sector and the public sector and during 2022/23 represented the sector at the Shropshire Voluntary Sector Assembly, the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership, The Community Transport Consortium, Social Prescribing and the Shropshire Cultural Consortium.

Qube considers it important that we are able to use our experience of working with our communities to represent them at a strategic level and influence policy for future development.

Up to her retirement, Laurel Roberts was Chair of the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) and throughout this year SIP has been developing the partnership to become a vehicle for collaborative working within the VCS and with our public sector partners. The aim is to develop SIP so that it is ready to work with public and health sectors as fits with their strategic aims.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves policy**

It is the policy of the charity to aim for unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to six months operating expenditure.

The Trustees are aware of their responsibilities to the beneficiaries of the service and needs of the community and, therefore, may use unrestricted reserves to maintain services when grants are difficult to obtain. These unrestricted reserves may also be used to allow for the replacement of equipment and vehicles, within the Replacement Vehicles Policy..

At the year end the unrestricted undesignated reserves totalled £46,547 when fixed assets are excluded. The Trustees are aware that this level of reserves is below the six months of operating expenditure and will develop a plan on how to achieve the desired level of reserves.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Significant events**

The cost of living and pressure on budgets have presented challenges for Qube during the year. The services provided by Qube are essential, however, operational costs have increased with little rise in funding. This has introduced greater financial demands and in response Qube seeks to adapt and be agile in its ways of working.

### **Looking to the Future**

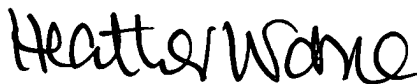
During the year Qube has reflected on his 30-year history and celebrated its successes and achievements. Looking ahead, Qube enters a period of change with its Chief Officer retiring, which can be unsettling to both the team and people in the community being supported.

As always, the Trustees, staff and volunteers will come together to ensure that Qube continues to support those most in need and make a positive difference to people's lives.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small Companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Mrs H Noble, Chair



13 December 2023

**Independent Examiner's Report  
to the Trustees of Oswestry Community Action**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on pages Eighteen to twenty-six.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its the 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 Company'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 the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 that in any material respect:

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 requirements 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 2019 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



James Denton  
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants  
Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF

13 December 2023

## Oswestry Community Action

### Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

|                                                      | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 31.3.23<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 31.3.22<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| <b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>       |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Voluntary income                                     |       | 3,022                      | 3,936                    | 6,958                          | 5,087                          |
| Investment income                                    | 2     | 3,053                      | -                        | 3,053                          | 1,256                          |
| <b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b> |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Art                                                  |       | 25,621                     | 13,090                   | 38,711                         | 123,654                        |
| Wellbeing Services (Formerly Care)                   |       | -                          | 244,265                  | 244,265                        | 125,319                        |
| Transport                                            |       | 1,534                      | 162,529                  | 164,063                        | 178,315                        |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                          | 61,332                   | 61,332                         | 44,715                         |
| Shopmobility                                         |       | 1,504                      | 10,081                   | 11,585                         | 9,289                          |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 30,843                     | 11,296                   | 42,139                         | 56,109                         |
| Big Local                                            |       | -                          | 240,921                  | 240,921                        | 173,195                        |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | 7,394                      | -                        | 7,394                          | 3,022                          |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                      |       | <b>72,971</b>              | <b>747,450</b>           | <b>820,421</b>                 | <b>719,961</b>                 |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                         |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Art                                                  |       | 67,722                     | 4,812                    | 72,534                         | 131,714                        |
| Wellbeing Services (Formerly Care)                   |       | -                          | 233,887                  | 233,887                        | 125,319                        |
| Transport                                            |       | 441                        | 170,247                  | 170,688                        | 151,334                        |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                          | 82,869                   | 82,869                         | 46,320                         |
| Shopmobility                                         |       | -                          | 5,213                    | 5,213                          | 847                            |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 77,943                     | 9,501                    | 87,444                         | 82,684                         |
| Big Local                                            |       | -                          | 240,921                  | 240,921                        | 173,195                        |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | 5,805                      | -                        | 5,805                          | 3,600                          |
| <b>Governance costs</b>                              |       |                            |                          |                                | -                              |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>                      |       | <b>151,911</b>             | <b>747,450</b>           | <b>899,361</b>                 | <b>715,013</b>                 |
| <b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>             |       | <b>(78,940)</b>            | <b>-</b>                 | <b>(78,940)</b>                | <b>4,948</b>                   |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>                       |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Total funds brought forward                          |       | 125,487                    | 289,449                  | 414,936                        | 409,988                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>                   |       | <b>46,547</b>              | <b>289,449</b>           | <b>335,996</b>                 | <b>414,936</b>                 |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Balance Sheet  
At 31 March 2023**

|                                              | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 31.3.23<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 31.3.22<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                          |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Tangible assets                              | 6     | 3,591                      | 96,074                   | 99,665                         | 128,805                        |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                        |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Stocks                                       |       | 300                        | -                        | 300                            | 300                            |
| Debtors                                      | 7     | -                          | 85,140                   | 85,140                         | 115,613                        |
| Cash at Bank                                 |       | 42,656                     | 294,139                  | 336,795                        | 466,139                        |
|                                              |       | 42,956                     | 379,279                  | 422,235                        | 582,052                        |
| <b>CREDITORS</b>                             |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Amounts falling due within one year          | 8     | -                          | (185,904)                | (185,904)                      | (295,921)                      |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                    |       | 42,956                     | 193,375                  | 236,331                        | 286,131                        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |       | 46,547                     | 289,449                  | 335,996                        | 414,936                        |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                            |       | 46,547                     | 289,449                  | 335,996                        | 414,936                        |
| <b>FUNDS</b>                                 |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Unrestricted funds                           | 9     |                            |                          | 46,547                         | 125,487                        |
| Restricted funds                             |       |                            |                          | 289,449                        | 289,449                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>                           |       |                            |                          | 335,996                        | 414,936                        |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 March 2023**

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

1. The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006;
2. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 11 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hattie Noble', is written over a horizontal line.

Mrs H Noble – Chair

Date: 13 December 2023

Registered Company Number: 03390138

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

|                                                                                           |                  | <b>2023</b>             | <b>2022</b>           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                                                           |                  | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>              |
| <b>Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities</b> |                  |                         |                       |
| Net movements in funds                                                                    |                  | (78,940)                | 4,948                 |
| Add back net depreciation charge                                                          |                  | 29,119                  | 32,055                |
| Loss on sale of Assets                                                                    |                  | -                       | -                     |
| Deduct Investment income shown in investing activities                                    |                  | (8,580)                 | (5,905)               |
| Decrease (increase) in debtors                                                            |                  | 30,473                  | (106,576)             |
| Increase (decrease) in creditors                                                          |                  | (110,017)               | 99,145                |
| <b>Cash used in operating activities</b>                                                  |                  | <b><u>(137,945)</u></b> | <b><u>23,667</u></b>  |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                                               |                  |                         |                       |
| Investment income                                                                         |                  | 8,580                   | 5,905                 |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                                                         |                  | (4,283)                 | -                     |
| Disposals of tangible fixed assets                                                        |                  | 4,304                   | -                     |
| <b>Cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>                                    |                  | <b><u>8,601</u></b>     | <b><u>5,905</u></b>   |
| increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents<br>in the year                           |                  | (129,344)               | 29,572                |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of<br>the year                                 |                  | 466,139                 | 436,567               |
| <b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of<br/>the year</b>                         |                  | <b><u>336,795</u></b>   | <b><u>466,139</u></b> |
|                                                                                           |                  | <b>Cash<br/>flows</b>   |                       |
|                                                                                           | <b>01-Apr-22</b> |                         | <b>31-Mar-23</b>      |
| <b>Analysis of changes in Net Debt</b>                                                    |                  |                         |                       |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                                 | 466,139          | (129,344)               | 336,795               |
| <b>Borrowings</b>                                                                         |                  |                         |                       |
| Debt due within one year                                                                  | (51,203)         | 50,404                  | (799)                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                              | <b>414,936</b>   | <b><u>(78,940)</u></b>  | <b><u>335,996</u></b> |

## **Oswestry Community Action**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

#### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

##### **Resources expended**

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

##### **Allocation and apportionment of costs**

Wages not directly allocated to an activity are apportioned pro rata between unrestricted and restricted funds based on fund income; this method of allocation also applies to unallocated vehicle running expenses and volunteer expenses.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Land and buildings       | - 4% on cost                              |
| Plant and machinery, etc | - 25% on cost and 25% on reducing balance |

##### **Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

##### **Taxation**

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

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

##### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operations leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

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

Oswestry Community Action operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its staff. The pension charge in the accounts represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

|                          | 31.3.23      | 31.3.22      |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                          | £            | £            |
| Deposit account interest | 3,053        | 1,256        |
|                          | <u>3,053</u> | <u>1,256</u> |

**3. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES**

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

|                                      | 31.3.23       | 31.3.22       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                      | £             | £             |
| Depreciation – owned assets          | 29,119        | 32,055        |
| Governance – Assurance services      | 7,155         | 1,635         |
| Governance – Independent examination | 1,750         | 1,750         |
|                                      | <u>38,024</u> | <u>35,440</u> |

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

**Trustees Expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023, nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

**Oswestry Community Action****Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023****5. STAFF COSTS**

|                                          | 31.3.23        | 31.3.22        |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                          | £              | £              |
| Wages and salaries (Incl. Employers N.I) | 309,128        | 284,179        |
| Social Security costs                    | 16,104         | 15,377         |
| Other pension costs                      | 5,978          | 3,016          |
|                                          | <u>331,210</u> | <u>302,572</u> |

**The average monthly number of full time employees during the year was as follows**

|                     | 31.3.23   | 31.3.22   |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Qube Art            | 2         | 2         |
| Qube Care           | 4         | 3         |
| Qube Volunteering   | 2         | 3         |
| Qube Transport      | 3         | 4         |
| Qube Administration | 1         | -         |
| Big Local           | 2         | 2         |
| IT Learning         | 1         | 1         |
|                     | <u>15</u> | <u>15</u> |

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

Key personnel remuneration in the year amounted to £41,866.

**6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

|                       | Land and Buildings | Plant and Machinery<br>including Vehicles | Totals         |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                       | £                  | £                                         | £              |
| <b>COST</b>           |                    |                                           |                |
| At 1 April 2022       | 508,424            | 311,111                                   | 819,535        |
| Additions             | -                  | 4,283                                     | 4,283          |
| Disposals             | -                  | 24,185                                    | 24,185         |
| At 31 March 2023      | <u>508,424</u>     | <u>291,209</u>                            | <u>799,633</u> |
| <b>DEPRECIATION</b>   |                    |                                           |                |
| At 1 April 2022       | 414,774            | 275,956                                   | 690,730        |
| Charge for year       | 20,337             | 8,782                                     | 29,119         |
| On disposals          | -                  | 19,881                                    | 19,881         |
| At 31 March 2023      | <u>435,111</u>     | <u>264,857</u>                            | <u>699,968</u> |
| <b>NET BOOK VALUE</b> |                    |                                           |                |
| At 31 March 2023      | <u>73,313</u>      | <u>26,352</u>                             | <u>99,665</u>  |
| At 31 March 2022      | <u>93,650</u>      | <u>35,155</u>                             | <u>128,805</u> |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

|               | 31.3.23       | 31.3.22        |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|               | £             | £              |
| Trade Debtors | 79,526        | 113,217        |
| Other Debtors | 5,614         | 2,396          |
|               | <u>85,140</u> | <u>115,613</u> |

**8. CREDITORS:  
AMOUNTS  
FALLING DUE  
WITHIN ONE  
YEAR**

|                                 | 31.3.23        | 31.3.22        |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | £              | £              |
| Trade creditors                 | 15,452         | 21,595         |
| Taxation and<br>social security | -              | -              |
| Accruals and<br>deferred income | 170,452        | 274,326        |
|                                 | <u>185,904</u> | <u>295,921</u> |

**9. MOVEMENT  
IN FUNDS**

|                               | At 1.4.22<br>£ | Net movement in funds<br>£ | At 31.3.23<br>£ |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds</b> |                |                            |                 |
| Undesignated<br>funds         | 125,487        | (78,940)                   | 46,547          |
|                               | <u>125,487</u> | <u>(78,940)</u>            | <u>46,547</u>   |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>       |                |                            |                 |
| Restricted                    | 289,449        | -                          | 289,449         |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>            | <u>414,936</u> | <u>(78,940)</u>            | <u>335,996</u>  |

## Oswestry Community Action

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

#### 9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

|                           | Incoming<br>Resources<br>£ | Resources<br>expended<br>£ | Movement in<br>funds<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                            |                            |                           |
| Undesignated fund         | 72,971                     | (151,911)                  | (78,940)                  |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>   |                            |                            |                           |
| Restricted                | 747,450                    | (747,450)                  | -                         |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <b>820,421</b>             | <b>(899,361)</b>           | <b>(78,940)</b>           |

The undesignated fund is for anticipated capital expenditure on the building, replacement of information technology equipment and to enable the charity to have a structured shutdown period should Oswestry Community Action need to cease operating.

It also represents various types of income received and expended in accordance with the charitable objectives of the charity. The details of the various service areas are given in the Report of the Trustees attached to these accounts.

The Restricted funds are mainly represented by the leasehold property granted to the charity, value at year end was £73,314 and the motor vehicles & Equipment, net book value at year end was £26,351. The balance of restricted funds represents the residue of the various grants and donations that enable the charity to continue and that remained unspent as at the year end.

#### 10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

#### 11. DEFERRED INCOME

|                                                       | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total deferred income at start of year                | 234,792   | 179,429   |
| Amounts received in year                              | 258,470   | 490,882   |
| Amounts credited to statement of financial activities | (338,899) | (435,519) |
| Total deferred income at end of year                  | 154,363   | 234,792   |

The deferred income shown has been deferred at the year-end in order to reflect the expected future costs to complete the relevant projects.

#### 12. GOING CONCERN

No material uncertainties currently exist.

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

|                                                      | 31.3.23<br>£  | 31.3.22<br>£  |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                            |               |               |
| <b>Voluntary income</b>                              |               |               |
| Donations                                            | 6,958         | 5,087         |
| <b>Investment income</b>                             |               |               |
| Rents received                                       | 5,527         | 3,839         |
| Deposit account interest                             | 3,053         | 1,256         |
|                                                      | <hr/> 8,580   | <hr/> 5,095   |
| <b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b> |               |               |
| Sale of exhibits                                     | 33,026        | 43,061        |
| Fares                                                | 65,009        | 51,440        |
| Other Income                                         | 20,347        | 25,364        |
| Grants                                               | 686,501       | 589,914       |
|                                                      | <hr/> 804,883 | <hr/> 709,779 |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                      | 820,421       | 719,961       |

**RESOURCES EXPENDED****Charitable activities**

|                                       |         |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Wages                                 | 325,232 | 299,556 |
| Pensions                              | 5,978   | 3,016   |
| Advertising and promotion             | 2,749   | 3,945   |
| Exhibitions and events                | 12,591  | 15,198  |
| Project costs                         | 78,617  | 80,381  |
| Subscriptions                         | 5,306   | 4,818   |
| Volunteer expenses                    | 4,477   | 3,828   |
| Staff expenses                        | 19,215  | 2,445   |
| Refreshments                          | 622     | 392     |
| Vehicle running costs                 | 53,786  | 40,697  |
| Big Grant Scheme                      | 155,983 | 48,713  |
| Wednesday shopping service            | -       | 417     |
| Professional fees                     | 29,930  | 57,268  |
| Consultancy                           | 4,716   | 18,972  |
| Rent, rates and water                 | 4,700   | 3,461   |
| Insurance                             | 2,533   | 2,500   |
| Light and heat                        | 11,859  | 4,276   |
| Telephone                             | 5,498   | 5,629   |
| Printing postage and stationery       | 4,631   | 5,335   |
| Repairs and renewals                  | 16,815  | 16,793  |
| Bank charges                          | 855     | 1,000   |
| Sundry expenses                       | 2,886   | 2,879   |
| Computer and website                  | 12,026  | 9,099   |
| Other expenditure                     | 13,674  | 16,177  |
| Partner payments                      | 86,658  | 32,644  |
| Depreciation of long leasehold        | 20,337  | 20,337  |
| Depreciation of fixtures and fittings | 1,160   | 120     |
| Depreciation of motor vehicles        | 7,622   | 11,598  |
| Bad debt                              | -       | 134     |
| (Profit)/Loss on disposal             | -       | -       |
|                                       | 890,456 | 711,628 |

**Governance costs**

|             |       |       |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| Accountancy | 8,905 | 3,385 |
|-------------|-------|-------|

**Total resources expended**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 899,361 | 715,013 |
|---------|---------|

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# Accounts

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**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03390138**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1063319**

Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial  
Statements for the Year  
Ended 31 March 2022  
For Oswestry Community Action

Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF

Oswestry Community Action

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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## **Oswestry Community Action**

### **Chairman's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

#### **Report from the Chair of Trustees**

The 2021/22 financial year started with us still in the depths of the pandemic and working hard to deliver services in very difficult circumstances.

We continued to support our members in their own homes with activity packs and newsletters to keep them in touch with the wider world and look forward to being able to take our social groups back to normal capacity and frequency as time moves on.

Money, as ever was very much on our minds and whilst funding was still available it has been primarily for short term projects and every pound has been harder to secure despite there being no let-up in need.

As with many other sectors staffing has been a huge challenge post pandemic and finding suitable candidates for new roles and/or to fill posts that have fallen vacant has been time consuming and slow particularly as we find ourselves involved in more and more projects.

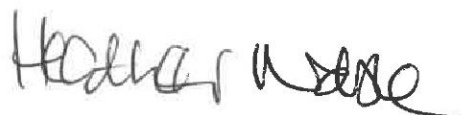
It is pleasing to see Qube being used as a trusted partner in the delivery of additional community support services but with a growing workforce and the continued need for social distancing we have been struggling for space to accommodate everyone.

We have invested in ways to help our staff work more flexibly and from home during this period but we hope to be able to bring everyone back into the workplace as soon as possible.

We have continued work on the future strategic vision for Qube although it can prove difficult to anticipate the future needs when everything is in such flux at present. We have utilised available support from external agencies to help us review our digital engagement strategy to maximise awareness and support with the wider world. We have developed a new website in order to make communication easier and more accessible for those who are isolated whilst building capacity to use social media for raising awareness of our work.

The final accounts reflect some of the challenges we have faced this year and we will need to keep a close watch on funding streams and expenditure in the next financial year.

Heather Noble, Chair, Oswestry Community Action, Qube



## **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Registered Company number 03390138

Registered Charity number 1063319

#### **Registered office**

Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1RB

#### **Trustees**

Heather Noble – Chair

Sylvia Dyke – Vice Chair

Davina Fairweather

Janet Byatt

Leonard Graham

Richard Amos

#### **Company Secretary and Chief Officer**

Laurel Roberts

#### **Independent examiner**

Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd

The Yew Tree Inn

High Street

Gresford

Wrexham

LL12 8RF

#### **Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank

PO Box 250 Delf House

Southway

Skelmersdale

WN8 6WT

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 20th June 1997, and amended on 12th March 2002.

### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Trustees are recruited by personal approach from another trustee or staff member, or by advertising. Those interested in becoming a trustee are then asked to apply in writing, matching their skills and experience against a job description. The applicants are assessed by the trustees and those suitable are invited to an interview with the Chair. The successful applicants are nominated to the Board and given a full induction to the organisation which includes ensuring they are aware of the responsibilities of being a trustee and all the role entails. The recruited trustees then participate in service activities across the organisation to learn first-hand how they operate, meet our users and experience what it is like to be a customer of Qube. They are introduced to staff and volunteers to learn their roles and given past Board papers to read including forecast budgets, cash flow and annual accounts to help them understand the current issues and financial position of the organisation.

The Board holds an Organisational Review meeting each year in order to review the strategic objectives, policies and procedures of Qube and to ensure they continue to meet our charitable objects and are operating within the scope and ethos of the Memorandum and Articles. This meeting also reviews staff pay including salary increases for the coming year.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The organisation has a risk register which is reviewed at each meeting.

### **Objectives and aims of Oswestry Community Action**

To improve the quality of life for those in the communities of Shropshire and Welsh Borderlands, within the main service areas of Community Transport, Well-being and Independence, Volunteering and Community Development, Arts and Creative Health, Social Prescribing, Shopmobility, Learning and other associated activities.

### **Significant activities**

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and consider public benefit to be at the heart of the activities of the Charity. A summary of the significant activities of the charity is given below under the headings. The detail of the activities for 2021/22 follows the summary.

**Community Transport** - accessible door to door transport

**Volunteer Centre** - supportive volunteer brokerage service and infrastructure support for VCS organisations.

**Arts** – A contemporary gallery with a full arts programme of exhibitions, workshops and projects

**Shopmobility** – scooter and wheelchair hire

**Well-being and Independence** - Provides friendship opportunities and support to people who are socially isolated.

**Social Prescribing Community Development** – County wide project includes Community Connectors Networks, VCS Directory of services and signing up VCS services as Social Prescribing Interventions

**Room Hire for the community**

**Three Parishes Big Local** – Qube is the Locally Trusted Organisation for the Big Lottery funded 'Three Parishes Big Local' project

## **QUBE'S ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

Charitable activities 2021-2022

### **Covid Pandemic**

After a year of lockdowns and uncertainty, 2021/22 was a year of recovery and coming together again. The challenges brought by the pandemic were significant but whilst recovery brought wonderful moments of reunion with colleagues, volunteers and members, it also brought its own difficulties to overcome. As Covid continued the main priority was that people felt safe to come back and be at Qube and new procedures were implemented to ensure this. One member said *"Qube is the only place I feel safe to come out too"*

Other challenges also came in staff who have been with Qube for a long time moving on to new opportunities. Recruitment nationally has been difficult with a lack of appropriate candidates and Qube had several vacancies which continued well into 2022. This has caused a lot of issues with capacity as we try to cope with the aftermath of the pandemic.

Fortunately, Qube is now overcoming these issues and although Covid is still with us currently we are able to resume services and bring our members back to the building.

### **Qube 2021/22 Services Activities**

#### **QUBE TRANSPORT**

Despite the ongoing pandemic and restrictions placed on the population transport remained operating for the whole year – if vastly reduced.

Dial A Ride has a membership of 297. This is an increase from last year as people did not renew during Covid. However, since coming out of lockdowns membership has gradually increased we have had more new members especially for medical trips.

Qube Transport has carried a total of 4516 passengers on 6562 journeys – 17.6% of these were for health and 35.7% for shopping. Health journeys had a reduction initially as hospitals and GP's were only offering face to face appointments for urgent cases but this is picking up again now and journey numbers are gradually increasing again.

The shopping service partnership with Morrisons continued where they provided a doorstep delivery to our members who were shielding or unable to access online supermarket shopping. As people get out again there has been a reduction in the amount of people accessing this service but it still remains a lifeline for some. We have made 215 shopping deliveries.

The hot meal delivery service, More Than Meals On Wheels, continues in partnership with Osnosh. Osnosh cook 40 meals per week and provide grocery bags. The meals are then delivered to those who need them by Dial A Ride volunteers.

The current fleet remains at 5 buses and 2 cars – all the vehicles are fully accessible. We have not renewed any of the fleet as the vehicles have been under utilised during Covid.

Dial A Ride has 28 volunteers. 5 new volunteers have joined during the year and 2 have left us. Fortunately, we have not felt the effects of a lack of volunteers too much as services have not returned to pre-pandemic delivery.

### **Community Cars**

We were lucky to recruit two more car drivers which made 6 volunteers driving their own cars. Community Cars are used for longer journeys so this was a great help as hospitals began to schedule appointments again. The volunteers provide an outstanding service to our members and without them many people would not be able to access their health appointments.

### **Trips**

Vyrnwy Nursing Home has managed to reinstate their trips for their residents and we have taken them to Heulwen Trust canal boat in Welshpool, The British Ironworks and Lake Vyrnwy Hotel.

### **School contracts and B82**

Qube continues to provide transport for Shropshire Council to Bryn Offa School in Pant and Bicton. Bryn Offa has 8 children and Bicton 4. All revenue earned from these contracts goes to support the charitable aims of Qube Transport.

Continues the B82 bus route from Lake Vyrnwy to Oswestry funded thorough Powys Council.

### **QUBE SHOPMOBILITY**

Shopmobility has had a slow year as people were reluctant to come out. Qube has 4 scooters and 5 wheelchairs. Scooter hires for the year totaled 298 which has more than doubled from last year and wheelchair hires were 445 which is nearly four times as many as the year before. This reflects other Shopmobilities in the area closing or greatly reducing their services.

### **QUBE VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

Qube Volunteer Centre (VC) gained funding from Shropshire Council to provide infrastructure support and volunteer brokerage. This is a partnership project delivered with Community Resource and is a recognition of the importance of the VCS in supporting communities during the pandemic. Shropshire Council recognised the need for a strong, sustainable and supported VCS sector and that provision of infrastructure support is crucial for this to be maintained. The funding from Shropshire Council was part of a much larger package of support for the sector commissioned through the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership.

Qube employed Eden Ihle-Vance as Volunteering and Infrastructure Support Officer for the Infrastructure Support project. Her role is to provide advice and guidance for organisations about a range of issues they may be facing such as volunteer management, governance, policies and more. She has also been supporting the army of volunteers signed up by Community Resource for the Covid Vaccination programme; ensuring that as the programme eases the volunteers have new opportunities to go to.

The Infrastructure Project has also been working closely with Social Prescribing Community Development, which is led by Qube. This provides the opportunity for cross referral to both services and provides a much more comprehensive service of support for the VCS Sector.

During 2021/22 the VC received 259 enquiries about volunteering with 110 people referred to other organisations. 131 people registered as volunteers. These figures are an increase on the year before and may be higher as this year we were unable to follow up on volunteer enquiries to see how many referrals to other organisations were taken up.

Qube VC worked with 161 organisations to advertise 406 volunteering opportunities on our Shropshire Volunteering Directory; a searchable directory which is part of Qube's website.

### **Building Better Opportunities**

Building Better Opportunities (BBO) is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund. The project led by Landau, is a partnership of 12 organisations across Shropshire working with people who are long-term unemployed and economically inactive.

The project aims to help people develop their skills and get into employment. Qube VC is offering one to one volunteering support as a partner on the project.

Since its beginning 203 participants have engaged with the BBO programme at Qube. Of these 30 participants have successfully moved into employment or education and training.

### **SOCIAL PRESCRIBING**

During October 21 Qube won the tender to deliver community development for Social Prescribing across the county. Working in partnership with Hands Together Ludlow and Community Resource Community Development Officers (CDOs) were recruited to work with each of the Shropshire 4 Primary Care Networks. Since then the service has been developing fast with greater communication between the Healthy Lives Advisors, who see those with a social prescription, and refer to local services, GP practices and other areas of health.

The CDOs continue to develop the Shropshire Directory of Services, sign up new interventions using the quality assurance framework and identify gaps in provision.

The Community Connectors' network is a key part of the role and this peer support network goes from strength to strength. Meetings are held both in person and virtually in each area across the county and this blended approach means that larger organisations such as SATH and the Mental Health Team can attend.

The virtual Community Connector Information bulletins have continued to develop with 684 members now receiving weekly updates from organisations around the county. Healthwatch, Shropshire Council and other large organisations now see these updates as a useful way to get information out to the voluntary sector in good time.

Small groups see these updates as a useful way to raise awareness of their work too. We have new members such as The Rural Art Hub and Shropshire Paddlesports playing an active role in our online and in person communities.

This project creates links with community organisations which grow stronger each year with consistency, regular meetings and chances to discuss gaps in provision in increasing detail. This has been helped by working closely with the Infrastructure Support Team and we plan to continue to grow this in 2022.

### **WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE SERVICES**

#### **Tuesday and Thursday Club Social Groups and Befriending Services**

Funded through the Shropshire Well-being and Independence Partnership and the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Qube's Well-being and Independence services aim to reduce isolation in the community. This service has faced particular challenges as a result of the Covid pandemic. Many of our members were desperate to return and have that social interaction with others again but others were still understandably fearful of being out and about and mixing with others.

To mitigate this as much as possible we made the social groups invitation only as apposed to our usual just drop in. This kept the numbers attending within government guidelines and helped some of the less confident members feel safer. However some of our more isolated members felt they wanted to come every week so as soon as the guidelines allowed we relaxed the invitation only stipulation and since then have been having an average of 25 attending on Tuesdays and 20 on Thursdays. We also have 8 volunteers who kindly provide support for the members at the groups.

There have been 91 social groups held this year and the activities have ranged from seated hip-hop sessions, singing farmers, local history talks, and staying healthy sessions, as well as creating their own memory boxes and participating in a fabulous photo shoot (complete with mocktails) the results of which is being exhibited in the Qube upper gallery.

The members have also enjoyed trips out to the Cambrian Railway, Oswestry Town Museum, Nant Mawr Visitor Centre and Oswestry Cemetery where they had an interesting session identifying wild flowers with a representative from The God's Acre organisation.

We have not continued the Qube Activities at Home activity packs since social groups have restarted, but we now send out a bi-monthly newsletter with information about local events and services and how to keep well, as well as recipes, quizzes and puzzles. This newsletter is posted to the homes of more than 100 people.

### **Telephone Be-friending**

Once people were able to come back to social groups demand for the telephone befriending service has reduced although some telephone relationships have continued.

## **QUBE ARTS**

Qube Arts provides a full and diverse, year round programme of quality projects, exhibitions, events and workshops. Although the pandemic and economic pressures have meant people are still cautious about participating in events and activities, the programme for 2021/22 has brought in new audiences, identified local emerging artists and inspired many others to get creative. Qube Arts provides opportunities for artists and creative practitioners to sell and promote their works and for anyone to share their work with others. Through outreach projects Qube uses arts and creativity as a tool to engage individuals and communities, many of whom will not have engaged with Qube's activities otherwise.

### **Exhibitions**

Qube's exhibitions aim to bring new art to the area and act as a platform for local and emerging artists to display and sell their work. Working with other galleries and organisations in the town, the exhibitions help to put Oswestry on the map as a culturally attractive place to visit.

Qube has three gallery spaces with a programme of exhibitions by local, national and international artists, heritage displays, community exhibitions and project work.

In total there were 15 exhibitions in 2021/22, with work by 170 artists. There were also over 250 further artists continuing to exhibit on the website in one of our online exhibitions. Artists are welcome to offer their work for sale during exhibitions and sell accompanying merchandise. The commission rates for exhibition sales increased to 25% (plus VAT on that commission) for this year and over the year there have been £6866.30 worth of gallery sales.

#### **Main Gallery exhibitions:**

13 May to 12 June 2021 - Colin Singleton (Arts Open People's Choice winner 2020)

14 to 28 June 2021 – Work in Progress project exhibition and drop-in meetups

1 July to 25 August 2021 – Qube Arts Open, 'Shape and Colour'

27 August to 29 September – Pushing the Boundaries, 7 printmakers and an enameller

1 to 30 October – Mosses and Marshlands, Andrew Howe (UK) & Kim V Goldsmith (Australia)

2 November to 23 December – Christmas Arts and Crafts exhibition

15 January to 14 February – Michelle Woodward (Arts Open People's Choice winner 2021)

18 February to 28 March – Qube Photography Competition, 'Identity'

31 March to 2 May – Sylvia Stead, textile and mixed media artist.

#### **Balcony Gallery:**

September 2021 – Pushing the Boundaries, workshop participants

October 2021 – Lisa Lochhead

March 2022 – Colin Rose

#### **Alcove Gallery:**

August 2021 - Steve Jones

September 2021 - Joanna Dale & Stefanie Gundlach

March 2022 – Gill Crozier & Janie McLeod

#### **Cabinets and sales**

Qube continues to have a dedicated space used all year round by local artists and craftmakers to sell their work. Work on display ranges from cards and prints to ceramics, jewellery, glass and woodwork. Thanks to funding from the Arts Council recovery fund, this space has been developed with new display equipment this year, allowing for better presentation and additional space for artists and makers. Shop sales have been affected by the pandemic and economic struggles over the past year. Sales figures for the year are £1570.97.

#### **Qube Outreach Projects**

Funded projects continue to be an important part of the Qube Arts programme. Funding comes from a variety of sources including, Arts Council, The Community Foundation for Staffordshire, Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council. Qube Arts also continues to work with Heritage Compass and Audience Agency.

#### Oswestry Youth Music Collective

Qube's **Oswestry Youth Music Collective project** was funded by 'Youth Music', to provide creative music opportunities for young people in Oswestry and the surrounding area. Participants had the opportunity to develop their musical skills and build confidence through a variety of experimental music activities based on their own interests, and across a range of genres, to include: jamming and

improvisation, vocal, percussion and guitar workshops, song-writing and recording, stage-craft and performance. The project provided the space and support for young people to work creatively together, developing a musical style as part of a collective group.

The project was suspended initially due to the pandemic but was able to start in September 2021. Working in partnership with musician James Hicklin and Matthew Shepherd and also Hermon Chapel, a core group of 8 young people were able to develop their musical skills and experience. The group performed a final gig at the end of the project at Hermon Chapel.

#### Work in Progress

In 2020 Qube launched a new creative social group for women in Oswestry and North Shropshire thanks to funding support from the Tampon Tax Community Fund, run by The Community Foundation for Staffordshire. The yearlong project called 'Work in Progress' offered two free monthly meetups at Qube for women, over the age of 18, who wanted to take some time out, be creative and make new friends, in a safe non-judgmental space for women to get together and be creative. The sessions are overseen by Gemma Manning who is a well-established jewellery designer/maker and owner of Gemmipop Designs based in Oswestry. The project had to be suspended after two sessions because of the pandemic but lead artist, Gemma, continued engaging with participants online. A two-week artist in residence, exhibition and daily drop in sessions was organised for June 2021. Those who had stayed involved in the project throughout brought in work to display in the gallery to inspire others to have a go, with Gemma's encouragement. An online exhibition and booklet of all the work were also created.

#### Good things to do at home

Qube teamed up with Taking Part and Shropshire Council to create imaginative, fun and creative activities for people who would normally attend Day Care Services to do at home during lockdown and beyond. Resources were commissioned especially for the 'Good things to do at home' project by creative practitioners from across the country. These activities were also added to the Qube website to make them accessible to all.

Once daycentres were allowed to reopen to their members workshops were held at Albert Road and Abbots Wood with creative practitioners, Emily Wilkinson, Joseph Schneider and Emma and Jon from Seeds of Sound. Additional workshops are planned.

#### Holiday workshops

Qube received funding from Shropshire Youth Association and Oswestry Town Council to hold arts and crafts activities during the school holidays. A series of 6 painting and craft workshops were held with local artist Claire Somerville.

#### HAF Holiday activities

Qube received funding from the government Holiday activities and food programme (HAF) to provide provisions for young people on Free School Meals during the holidays. Four workshops were set for the Easter holidays at venues in and around Oswestry, with further events planned for Summer 2022. Each session is required to have at least an hour of physical activity, a healthy hot meal with nutritional information and an enrichment activity (arts and crafts).

#### **Workshops and Courses**

At the start of the 2021/22 year it became clear that online courses and workshops were no longer of interest to our audience. Three online workshops were held around filmmaking, in response to

successful workshops earlier in the year. However, these new workshops led by String Media attracted low numbers.

In September 2021 we restarted our workshop and course programme on a smaller scale to gauge interest. Initial printmaking workshops running alongside the Pushing the Boundaries exhibition proved to be quite popular. The workshops were Introduction to Printmaking, Lino printing, Monoprinting and Collage, Family Kite making, Drypoint and Creative Artists Books.

Qube's regular courses, PaintAble, Art History, Tai Chi and Untutored Life Drawing, restarted with many previous participants returning. All have attracted new audiences too. Life Drawing increased to two sessions a month in the new year due to the popularity. Many of the group now use this session for social interaction.

New courses were also introduced over the year. Amy from Rustic and Wild led a series of silversmithing courses. There was also wreath making at Christmas and spring, Introduction to Watercolour with Joseph Schneider and a Yoga course with Emily Wilkinson.

There have been 48 workshops and courses over the year with a total of 349 participants.

### **Partnerships**

Qube continues to work with and seek out new partners to deliver projects and expand our audience. Over the past 12 months we worked with local independent creative practitioners and social care workers. We have also worked closely with Piece of String Media, Media Active, Taking Part, Shropshire Council and Adult Services, The Audience Agency, Cause 4, Shropshire Youth Association, The New Saints FC Foundation, OsNosh, Hermon Chapel and Oswestry Town Council.

### **Volunteers**

Qube is committed to offering opportunities to those looking to develop professional skills in the arts. Volunteering roles within Qube Arts vary from research, marketing, IT support, teaching and administrative support. We also offer work experience placements to local school pupils, gap year students and to those working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award or Welsh Baccalaureate.

### **Marketing**

Qube engages with new and existing audiences through a range of marketing activities online and in print. A regular monthly email and social media posts continue to share news and updates across all areas of Qube. The new website has proved much more efficient than the previous one. New content is added regularly and website page views have increased by 37%. Print marketing is also produced and distributed in the form of twice-yearly booklets, leaflets and posters.

The figures on our online platforms for the year are:

**Mailchimp signups:** 835

**Facebook followers:** 2104

**Twitter followers:** 2132

**Instagram followers:** 1379

**Social Media Posts:** 1517

**Total website views:** 88197

## **THREE PARISHES BIG LOCAL**

Qube acts as the Accountable body for the Big Local project area of St Martins, Gobowen and Weston Rhyn otherwise known as the Three Parishes Area. Instigated by Big Lottery and now managed by a Partnership of local residents, Big Local supports activities and investment which will make a significant difference to that area over a 10-year period. 2021-2022 saw the end of the seventh year, and the first half of the eighth year, of programme delivery. The programme will end in December 2022, so a lot of the decisions made in this time scale were focused on areas that hadn't received much of the funds to date, spending the money and leaving a legacy.

Key events during the time period are:

- 13 Community chest grants were awarded, totalling £6,317.99. These grants included equipment for first aid training and funding for Jubilee events.
- 12 Business grants were awarded, mainly £500 each, with an exceptional grant of £3,500 for St Martins Unlimited. This funded phase 1 of a business / enterprise project in St Martins with Paul Newman.
- £67,745.19 was awarded through the Big Grants scheme to 10 different projects including continued support for TNS running youth clubs and HAF activities in the Three Villages and £20,000 to fund a project manager for the St Martins Sports Development.
- The Happiness Club – positive mental health and wellbeing programme was offered to all schools in the Three Parishes. One school declined. It was successfully delivered in Weston Rhyn, St Martins Primary and for years 7 & 8 in St Martins Secondary school – the students who missed transition due to covid.
- A series of Health and wellbeing sessions continued with Community Resource across the three villages.
- Thirzah Deacon and OsNosh visited a range of community groups to share what OsNosh do and speak to group members about the support they would benefit from. Development of the Eat Well for Less Programme continued as a result of the research, to be delivered later on in 2022.
- A decision was made by the partnership to finish My Money Matters at the end of 2022 and a closure plan was developed. This project has brought more than £1mil into the area through maximising people's income by ensuring they can make savings and claim benefits they are entitled to.

#### **QUBES STRATEGIC WORK**

Qube in its role as a community anchor organisation continues to be a bridge between the voluntary sector and the public sector and during 2021/22 represented the sector at the Shropshire Voluntary Sector Assembly, the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership, The Community Transport Consortium, Social Prescribing and the Shropshire Cultural Consortium.

Qube considers it important that we are able to use our experience of working with our communities to represent them at a strategic level and influence policy for future development.

Laurel Roberts is Chair of the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) and throughout this year SIP has been developing the partnership to become a vehicle for collaborative working within the VCS and with our public sector partners. This has resulted in the introduction of new SIP partners and almost £1mil investment in VCS sector support from Shropshire

Council. This covers the Infrastructure Support project, Social Prescribing, Mental Health VCS support, Hot Meals, Food Poverty Alliance and grant giving. The aim is to develop SIP so that it is ready to work with public and health sectors as fits with their strategic aims.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves policy**

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to six months operating expenditure. The Trustees are also aware of their responsibilities to the service users and the needs of the community and therefore may use unrestricted reserves to maintain services when grants are difficult to obtain and to allow for the replacement of equipment and vehicles, at a level appropriate to the age profile of these assets.

At the year end the unrestricted undesignated reserves totalled £125,487 when fixed assets are excluded. The trustees are aware that this is beneath the policy stated above but are acting to address this.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Significant events**

This financial year has continued to be significantly affected by the Covid pandemic. The nature of the services provided by Qube and the age and vulnerability of the people who access them meant that we had to be cautious and introduce services at the pace of our members. This has meant reduced income for this financial year.

### **Looking to the Future**

The Covid pandemic has had a significant effect on all Qubes services and finances. In 2022 we expect the challenges to continue with world and domestic events having a profound effect on peoples lives and livelihoods. The cost of living crisis, especially the cost of fuel, rising inflation and possible recession and return to austerity will make the next few years difficult with reduced funding and rising demand. Qube has responded well to crisis as proved by its response to the pandemic but it will need to continue to be flexible, listen to its members and to find innovative ways to meet their needs.

This year has been difficult but also brought joy. The hard work of the Trustees, staff and vounteers has meant that many people in the community have received support during an extraordinary year.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small Companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Noble'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs H Noble, Chair

14 November 2022

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022 set out on pages Eighteen to twenty-six.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its the 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 Company'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 the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 that in any material respect:

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 requirements 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 2019 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.

James Denton  
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants  
Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF

14 November 2022

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**At 31 March 2022**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 477;

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 13 October 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Noble', is written over a faint horizontal line.

Mrs H Noble – Chair

Date: 14 November 2022

Registered Company Number: 03390138

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**For the year ended 31 March 2022**

|                                                                                           |                  | <b>2022</b>       | <b>2021</b>      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                                                                           |                  | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>         |
| <b>Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities</b> |                  |                   |                  |
| Net movements in funds                                                                    |                  | 4,948             | 61,787           |
| Add back net depreciation charge                                                          |                  | 32,055            | 35,961           |
| Loss on sale of Assets                                                                    |                  | -                 | -2,857           |
| Deduct Investment income shown in investing activities                                    |                  | -5,905            | -1,318           |
| Decrease (increase) in debtors                                                            |                  | -106,576          | 13,030           |
| Increase (decrease) in creditors                                                          |                  | -99,145           | 108,284          |
| <b>Cash used in operating activities</b>                                                  |                  | <b>23,667</b>     | <b>214,887</b>   |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                                               |                  |                   |                  |
| Investment income                                                                         |                  | 5,905             | 1,318            |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                                                         |                  | -                 | -20,995          |
| Disposals of tangible fixed assets                                                        |                  | -                 | 3,500            |
| <b>Cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>                                    |                  | <b>5,905</b>      | <b>-16,177</b>   |
| increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year                              |                  | 29,572            | 198,710          |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year                                    |                  | 436,567           | 237,857          |
| <b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>                             |                  | <b>466,139</b>    | <b>436,567</b>   |
|                                                                                           |                  | <b>Cash flows</b> |                  |
|                                                                                           | <b>01-Apr-21</b> |                   | <b>31-Mar-22</b> |
| <b>Analysis of changes in Net Debt</b>                                                    |                  |                   |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                                 | 436,567          | 29,572            | 466,139          |
| <b>Borrowings</b>                                                                         |                  |                   |                  |
| Debt due within one year                                                                  | -26,579          | -24,624           | -51,203          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                              | <b>409,988</b>   | <b>4,948</b>      | <b>414,936</b>   |

## Oswestry Community Action

### Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

|                                                      | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 31.3.22<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 31.3.21<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| <b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>       |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Voluntary income                                     |       | 1,152                      | 3,935                    | 5,087                          | 8,407                          |
| Investment income                                    | 2     | 5,095                      | -                        | 5,095                          | 1,318                          |
| <b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b> |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Art                                                  |       | 26,625                     | 97,029                   | 123,654                        | 135,238                        |
| Care                                                 |       | -                          | 125,319                  | 125,319                        | 74,326                         |
| Transport                                            |       | 667                        | 177,648                  | 178,315                        | 156,016                        |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                          | 44,715                   | 44,715                         | 19,598                         |
| Shopmobility                                         |       | 2,289                      | 7,000                    | 9,289                          | 7,553                          |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 15,421                     | 36,849                   | 52,270                         | 57,889                         |
| Big Local                                            |       | -                          | 173,195                  | 173,195                        | 111,480                        |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | 3,022                      | -                        | 3,022                          | -                              |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                      |       | <b>54,271</b>              | <b>665,690</b>           | <b>719,961</b>                 | <b>571,825</b>                 |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                         |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Art                                                  |       | 34,685                     | 97,029                   | 131,714                        | 128,793                        |
| Care                                                 |       | -                          | 125,319                  | 125,319                        | 74,326                         |
| Transport                                            |       | 352                        | 150,982                  | 151,334                        | 108,679                        |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                          | 46,320                   | 46,320                         | 31,934                         |
| Shopmobility                                         |       | -                          | 847                      | 847                            | 7,000                          |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 134                        | 82,550                   | 82,684                         | 44,371                         |
| Big Local                                            |       |                            | 173,195                  | 173,195                        | 111,480                        |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | 3,600                      | -                        | 3,600                          | -                              |
| <b>Governance costs</b>                              |       |                            |                          |                                | <b>3,455</b>                   |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>                      |       | <b>38,771</b>              | <b>676,242</b>           | <b>715,013</b>                 | <b>510,038</b>                 |
| <b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>             |       | <b>15,500</b>              | <b>(10,551)</b>          | <b>4,948</b>                   | <b>61,787</b>                  |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>                       |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Total funds brought forward                          |       | 109,987                    | 300,001                  | 409,988                        | 348,201                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>                   |       | <b>125,487</b>             | <b>289,449</b>           | <b>414,936</b>                 | <b>409,988</b>                 |

# Oswestry Community Action

## Balance Sheet

At 31 March 2022

|                                                          | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 31.3.22<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 31.3.21<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>FIXED<br/>ASSETS</b>                                  |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Tangible assets                                          | 6     | 506                        | 128,299                  | 128,805                        | 160,858                        |
| <b>CURRENT<br/>ASSETS</b>                                |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Stocks                                                   |       | 300                        | -                        | 300                            | 300                            |
| Debtors                                                  | 7     | -                          | 115,613                  | 115,613                        | 9,039                          |
| Cash at Bank                                             |       | 124,681                    | 341,458                  | 466,139                        | 436,567                        |
|                                                          |       | 124,981                    | 457,071                  | 582,052                        | 445,906                        |
| <b>CREDITORS</b>                                         |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Amounts falling due within one year                      | 8     | -                          | (295,921)                | (295,921)                      | (196,776)                      |
| <b>NET<br/>CURRENT<br/>ASSETS</b>                        |       | 124,981                    | 161,150                  | 286,131                        | 249,130                        |
| <b>TOTAL<br/>ASSETS LESS<br/>CURRENT<br/>LIABILITIES</b> |       | 125,487                    | 289,449                  | 414,936                        | 409,988                        |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                        |       | 125,487                    | 289,449                  | 414,936                        | 409,988                        |
| <b>FUNDS</b>                                             | 9     |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Unrestricted funds                                       |       |                            |                          | 125,487                        | 109,987                        |
| Restricted funds                                         |       |                            |                          | 289,449                        | 300,001                        |
| <b>TOTAL<br/>FUNDS</b>                                   |       |                            |                          | 414,936                        | 409,988                        |

## **Oswestry Community Action**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

#### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principle accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

##### **Resources expended**

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

##### **Allocation and apportionment of costs**

Wages not directly allocated to an activity are apportioned pro rata between unrestricted and restricted funds based on fund income; this method of allocation also applies to unallocated vehicle running expenses and volunteer expenses.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Land and buildings       | - 4% on cost                              |
| Plant and machinery, etc | - 25% on cost and 25% on reducing balance |

##### **Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

##### **Taxation**

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

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

##### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operations leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

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

Oswestry Community Action participates in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme for its staff. As a result it is not possible or appropriate to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme, which are attributable to Oswestry Community Action. Where the scheme has a deficit this would only crystallise as a liability to the charity if there cease to be any staff members registered for the scheme. Contributions to the scheme are recognised as they become due.

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

|                          | 31.3.22      | 31.3.21      |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                          | £            | £            |
| Rents received           | 3,839        | 264          |
| Deposit account interest | 1,256        | 1,054        |
|                          | <u>5,095</u> | <u>1,318</u> |

**3. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES**

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

|                                      | 31.3.22       | 31.3.21       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                      | £             | £             |
| Depreciation – owned assets          | 32,055        | 35,961        |
| Governance – Assurance services      | 1,635         | 2,055         |
| Governance – Independent examination | 1,750         | 1,400         |
|                                      | <u>35,440</u> | <u>39,416</u> |

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

**Trustees Expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022, nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

## Oswestry Community Action

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

#### 5. STAFF COSTS

|                                          | 31.3.22        | 31.3.21        |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                          | £              | £              |
| Wages and salaries (Incl. Employers N.I) | 284,179        | 225,876        |
| Social Security costs                    | 15,377         | 16,589         |
| Other pension costs                      | 3,016          | 4,553          |
|                                          | <u>302,572</u> | <u>247,018</u> |

#### The average monthly number of full time employees during the year was as follows

|                     | 31.3.22   | 31.3.21   |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Qube Art            | 2         | 2         |
| Qube Care           | 3         | 3         |
| Qube Volunteering   | 3         | 3         |
| Qube Transport      | 4         | 4         |
| Qube Administration | -         | -         |
| Big Local           | 2         | 2         |
| IT Learning         | 1         | 1         |
|                     | <u>15</u> | <u>15</u> |

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

Trustee and key personnel remuneration in the year amounted to £40,273.

#### 6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

|                       | Land and Buildings | Plant and machinery<br>etc | Totals         |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
|                       | £                  | £                          | £              |
| <b>COST</b>           |                    |                            |                |
| At 1 April 2021       | 508,424            | 311,111                    | 819,535        |
| Additions             | -                  |                            |                |
| Disposals             | -                  |                            |                |
| At 31 March 2022      | <u>508,424</u>     | <u>311,111</u>             | <u>819,534</u> |
| <b>DEPRECIATION</b>   |                    |                            |                |
| At 1 April 2021       | 394,437            | 264,238                    | 658,675        |
| Charge for year       | 20,337             | 11,718                     | 32,055         |
| On disposals          | -                  |                            |                |
| At 31 March 2022      | <u>414,774</u>     | <u>275,956</u>             | <u>690,730</u> |
| <b>NET BOOK VALUE</b> |                    |                            |                |
| At 31 March 2022      | <u>93,650</u>      | <u>35,155</u>              | <u>128,805</u> |
| At 31 March 2021      | 113,987            | 46,871                     | 160,858        |

Oswestry Community Action

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

**7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

|               | 31.3.22        | 31.3.21      |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
|               | £              | £            |
| Trade Debtors | 113,217        | (2,844)      |
| Other Debtors | 2,396          | 11,883       |
|               | <u>115,613</u> | <u>9,039</u> |

**8. CREDITORS:  
AMOUNTS  
FALLING DUE  
WITHIN ONE  
YEAR**

|                                 | 31.3.22        | 31.3.21        |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | £              | £              |
| Trade creditors                 | 21,595         | 3,312          |
| Taxation and<br>social security | -              | -              |
| Accruals and<br>deferred income | 274,326        | 193,464        |
|                                 | <u>295,921</u> | <u>196,776</u> |

**9. MOVEMENT  
IN FUNDS**

|                               | At 1.4.21<br>£ | Net movement in funds<br>£ | At 31.3.22<br>£ |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds</b> |                |                            |                 |
| Undesignated<br>funds         | 109,987        | 15,500                     | 125,487         |
|                               | <u>109,987</u> | <u>15,500</u>              | <u>125,487</u>  |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>       |                |                            |                 |
| Restricted                    | 300,001        | (10,552)                   | 289,449         |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>            | <u>409,988</u> | <u>4,948</u>               | <u>414,936</u>  |

## Oswestry Community Action

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

#### 9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

|                           | Incoming<br>Resources<br>£ | Resources<br>expended<br>£ | Movement in<br>funds<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                            |                            |                           |
| Undesignated fund         | 54,271                     | (38,771)                   | 15,500                    |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>   |                            |                            |                           |
| Restricted                | 665,690                    | (676,242)                  | (10,552)                  |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <b>719,961</b>             | <b>(715,013)</b>           | <b>4,948</b>              |

The undesignated fund is for anticipated capital expenditure on the building, replacement of information technology equipment and to enable the charity to have a graceful shutdown period should Oswestry Community Action need to cease operating.

It also represents various types of income received and expended in accordance with the charitable objectives of the charity. The details of the various service areas are given in the Report of the Trustees attached to these accounts.

The Restricted funds are mainly represented by the leasehold property donated to the charity, value at year end was £93,651 and the motor vehicles, net book value at year end was £34,795. The balance of restricted funds represents the residue of the various grants and donations that enable the charity to continue and that remained unspent as at the year end.

#### 10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

#### 11. DEFERRED INCOME

|                                                       | 2022<br>£ | 2021<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total deferred income at start of year                | 179,429   | 63,325    |
| Amounts received in year                              | 490,882   | 597,241   |
| Amounts credited to statement of financial activities | (435,519) | (481,137) |
| Total deferred income at end of year                  | 234,792   | 179,429   |

The deferred income shown has been deferred at the year end in order to reflect the expected future costs to complete the relevant projects.

#### 12. GOING CONCERN

No material uncertainties currently exist.

**Oswestry Community Action****Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

|                                                      | 31.3.22<br>£ | 31.3.21<br>£ |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                            |              |              |
| <b>Voluntary income</b>                              |              |              |
| Donations                                            | 5,087        | 8,407        |
| <b>Investment income</b>                             |              |              |
| Rents received                                       | 3,839        | 264          |
| Deposit account interest                             | 1,256        | 1,054        |
|                                                      | 5,095        | 1,318        |
| <b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b> |              |              |
| Sale of exhibits                                     | 43,061       | 9,014        |
| Fares                                                | 51,440       | 33,963       |
| Other Income                                         | 25,364       | 28,718       |
| Grants                                               | 589,914      | 490,405      |
|                                                      | 709,779      | 562,100      |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                      | 719,961      | 571,825      |

**RESOURCES EXPENDED****Charitable activities**

|                                       |              |               |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Wages                                 | 299,556      | 242,465       |
| Pensions                              | 3,016        | 4,553         |
| Advertising and promotion             | 3,945        | 6,040         |
| Exhibitions and events                | 15,198       | 5,302         |
| Project costs                         | 80,381       | 45,463        |
| Subscriptions                         | 4,818        | 2,491         |
| Volunteer expenses                    | 3,828        | 2,084         |
| Staff expenses                        | 2,445        | 787           |
| Refreshments                          | 392          | 338           |
| Vehicle running costs                 | 40,697       | 26,042        |
| Big Grant Scheme                      | 48,713       | 17,288        |
| Wednesday shopping service            | 417          | 3,929         |
| Professional fees                     | 57,268       | 26,725        |
| Consultancy                           | 18,972       | 5,358         |
| Rent, rates and water                 | 3,461        | 4,136         |
| Insurance                             | 2,500        | 2,965         |
| Light and heat                        | 4,276        | 4,191         |
| Telephone                             | 5,629        | 9,038         |
| Printing postage and stationery       | 5,335        | 5,117         |
| Repairs and renewals                  | 16,793       | 20,943        |
| Bank charges                          | 1,000        | 499           |
| Sundry expenses                       | 2,879        | 1,197         |
| Computer and website                  | 9,099        | 9,063         |
| Other expenditure                     | 16,177       | 27,465        |
| Partner payments                      | 32,644       | -             |
| Depreciation of long leasehold        | 20,337       | 20,337        |
| Depreciation of fixtures and fittings | 120          | 160           |
| Depreciation of motor vehicles        | 11,598       | 15,464        |
| Bad debt                              | 134          |               |
| (Profit)/Loss on disposal             | -            | (2,857)       |
|                                       | 711,628      | 506,583       |
| <b>Governance costs</b>               |              |               |
| Accountancy                           | 3,385        | 3,455         |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>       | 715,013      | 510,038       |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>       | <b>4,950</b> | <b>61,787</b> |

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

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# Accounts

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**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03390138**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1063319**

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial  
Statements for the Year  
Ended 31 March 2021  
For Oswestry Community Action**

**Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF**

**Oswestry Community Action**

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

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## **Oswestry Community Action**

### **Chairman's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

#### **Report from the Chair of Trustees**

Financial year 2020/21 has generally speaking been a good year for Qube. We have continued to deliver significant and important services across our local community whilst responding to the needs of our members.

Again funding is harder to come by as more organisations are applying to funders however, we continue to be a credible and reliable proposition as we deliver value for money, increasingly creative solutions and ever more needed support and opportunities to members, volunteers and the wider community.

With the Buy Us a Bus scheme we made our first proper foray into fundraising which was much more successful than we had anticipated and we continue to build on this for the future.

The number of volunteering opportunities and volunteer hours continues to grow and it is our volunteers expertly managed and supported by our staff who allow us to make a difference.

The financial year ended with the arrival of the Covid 19 pandemic and of course, this had significant impact on our members many of whom were at high risk, were shielding or were isolated from friends and family. We worked quickly and effectively to adapt and deliver many of our core services and flexed where necessary to provide support safely and sensitively.

It became clear very early on the crisis that our work was not only needed but relied upon and appreciated by a great number of people including members, their families and local service providers. We were able to take a lead on many occasions as a trusted and knowledgeable source of information for existing and emerging support agencies.

We have made some key strategic investments in the Arts as we continue to build on our existing position as a gallery and source of access to arts and this will build to form a stronger platform for the future.

We continue to keep our eye on the future of the organisation and the needs of the wider community and with potential changes to the ownership of our current building we are exploring options in terms of future accommodation needs and opportunities.

We hope that further opportunities will emerge as we move away from the pandemic and begin to position ourselves for the future.

Heather Noble, Chair, Oswestry Community Action, Qube

**Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Registered Company number 03390138

Registered Charity number 1063319

**Registered office**

Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 1RB

**Trustees**

Heather Noble – Chair

Sylvia Dyke – Vice Chair

Davina Fairweather

Janet Byatt

Leonard Graham

**Company Secretary and Chief Officer**

Laurel Roberts

**Independent examiner**

Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd

The Yew Tree Inn

High Street

Gresford

Wrexham

LL12 8RF

**Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank

PO Box 250 Delf House

Southway

Skelmersdale

WN8 6WT

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 20th June 1997, and amended on 12th March 2002.

### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Trustees are recruited by personal approach by another trustee or staff member, or by advertising. Those interested in becoming a trustee are then asked to write, matching their skills and experience against a job description. The applicants are assessed by the trustees and those suitable are invited to an interview with the Chair. The successful applicants are nominated to the Board and given a full induction to the organisation which includes ensuring they are aware of the responsibilities of being a trustee and all the role entails. The recruited trustees then participate in service activities across the organisation to learn first-hand how they operate, meet our users and experience what it is like to be a customer of Qube. They are introduced to staff and volunteers to learn their roles and given past Board papers to read including forecast budgets, cash flow and annual accounts to help them understand the current issues and financial position of the organisation

The Board holds an Organisational Review meeting each year in order to review the strategic objectives, policies and procedures of Qube and to ensure they continue to meet our charitable objects and are operating within the scope and ethos of the Memorandum and Articles. This meeting also reviews staff pay including salary increases for the coming year

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

### **Objectives and aims of Oswestry Community Action**

To improve the quality of life for those in the communities of Shropshire and Welsh Borderlands, within the main service areas of community transport, prevention and wellbeing, volunteering, arts, Shopmobility, learning and other associated activities.

### **Significant activities**

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and consider public benefit to be at the heart of the activities of the Charity. A summary of the significant activities of the charity is given below under the headings. The detail of the activities for 2020/21 follows the summary.

**Community Transport** - accessible door to door transport

**Volunteer Centre** - supportive volunteer brokerage service.

**Arts** – A contemporary gallery with a full arts programme of exhibitions, workshops and projects

**Shopmobility** – scooter and wheelchair hire

**Well-being and Independence** - Provides friendship opportunities and support to people who are socially isolated.

**Room Hire**

**Three Parishes Big Local** – Qube is the Locally Trusted Organisation for the Big Lottery funded 'Three Parishes Big Local' project

## **QUBE'S ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

Charitable activities 2020-2021

### **Covid Pandemic**

At the start of the 2020-21 financial year we found ourselves in lockdown, with Qube closed and all staff working from home. The Covid pandemic meant that all Qube's services had to quickly change or temporarily close.

Fortunately, Qube was flexible enough to respond to the pandemic very well and moved swiftly to put support measures in place for our vulnerable members and our staff and volunteers. Qube's well established partnerships with Shropshire Council and the wider VCS sector meant that Qube was able to co-ordinate local community effort, keep people informed about what was happening and where to get help, and support people who were isolated and afraid.

We also found that as we all went into lockdown the usual networks and services which people had relied on also closed, such as Day Care, leaving many people completely unsupported and isolated. Qube has responded to this and provided essential services such as shopping and links to medical help and transport, hot meals, activities to keep people occupied at home, referrals to counselling and other support services, and a trusted and friendly volunteer to listen and provide support.

As a result of the pandemic the financial year of 2020-21 has been like no other, but Qube has risen to the challenge, forged new partnerships, created new projects and supported people in the local community; getting many vulnerable people through a very difficult year. Feedback from our members has been that Qube was the only organisation to stay in touch with them and to provide essential support and a link to the outside world.

The pandemic has meant that Qube has found new ways to engage the community such as on-line exhibitions and creative activities, telephone befriending, posting activity packs and our priority shopping partnership with Morrisons. Therefore, the following is not our usual reporting of activities but Qube's response to an exceptional year.

Qube's services for this year are as follows:

## **QUBE TRANSPORT**

Qube transport had to close during the first Covid lockdown from April to July 2020, but since then has been operating a reduced service providing essential journeys for medical transport or shopping. It became clear immediately that Qube transport could not operate once we went into lockdown. The age and vulnerability of our members meant that they needed to shield, as did many of our volunteers who we rely on to drive our vehicles. Therefore during April 2020 we established a partnership with Lakeside Transport, Ellesmere. From April to July Lakeside provided essential medical transport for our members, delivered PPE and medical equipment. Qube is very grateful for their support.

During this time Qube also set up a new service, in partnership with Osnosh, to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people. It became clear very quickly once the Day Care Centres had closed that some of our members were not able to cook for themselves and were not getting the hot meals they would have got at the Day Centre. Our partnership with Osnosh has meant that from October 2020 Qube volunteers has delivered hot and nutritious meals plus a grocery box to 40 people a week. This service has also reduced isolation for those receiving them as the volunteer drivers stop for a chat and to check they are all right.

At the start of the pandemic it was difficult to get shopping. Supermarket shelves were empty and as many of our older members are not on-line they could not access on-line shopping either. To enable our members to continue to shop during the pandemic Qube partnered with Morrisons, Oswestry. Our members called us with their shopping list and we passed it on to Morrisons who then provided a doorstep delivery service as a priority for our members. This service has been a lifeline to many and we have enabled more than 1100 deliveries.

Since the first lockdown Qube Transport has provided a reduced service. Membership for Dial a Ride currently stands at 237. A lot of members have not renewed their membership due to the uncertainty of Covid, but we have seen an increase in new members who wish to travel.

Qube Transport has carried a total of 3389 passengers on 6898 journeys – 28% of these were for health and 23% for shopping. All of this was determined by various lockdowns at certain times of the year. In January, when the vaccine programme began, we provided transport for Shropshire Council and Powys Council, taking patients to various vaccine centres for injections.

Qube's fleet is 5 buses and 2 cars – all the vehicles are fully accessible. In September 2020 we were able to buy a bus with the funds from the Buy us a Bus crowdfunding campaign, which had run from October 2019-January 2020. The total fund was finally a fantastic

£20500 with which we bought a Peugeot Boxer 17 seat minibus. Qube is very grateful to everyone who donated towards the campaign.

Many of our volunteers had to shield during Covid. At that time we had 28 volunteer drivers and assistants. We are grateful that some of our volunteers have continued to volunteer with us and we would not be able to deliver our transport services without them.

#### **Community Cars**

Two of our car drivers retired during the pandemic. Our current car driver pool of 4 have managed to undertake all the long-distance journeys and maintained a high level of service. They have also been very active during the vaccination programme.

#### **School contracts and B82**

Transport for Shropshire Council to Bryn Offa School in Pant and Bicton Primary School has continued throughout the year when the schools were open.

The B82 stopped operating from April – October. The Vyrnwy Hotel being closed affected the number of people wanting to use the service, but since re-opening the service has started to pick up again.

All revenue earned from these contracts goes to support the charitable aims of Qube Transport.

#### **QUBE SHOPMOBILITY**

Shopmobility has not been operational for most of the year. Qube has 4 scooters and 5 wheelchairs. Scooter hires for the year totaled 110 and wheelchair hires 183.

#### **QUBE VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

Qube Volunteer Centre (VC) brokerage had to move on-line during this financial year and although there was a lot of volunteering activity in response to the pandemic, much of this was informal and ad hoc. At the same time many organisations which use volunteers closed. This meant that we did not have organisations in which to place volunteers. Despite this, the volunteer centre moved to an on-line service and continued to support those preparing to volunteer with a range of issues from mental health support to training.

During 2020/21 the VC received 243 enquiries about volunteering with 104 people referred to other organisations. 68 people registered as volunteers. This figure may be higher as this year we were unable to follow up on volunteer enquiries to see how many referrals to other organisations were taken up.

The VC worked with 166 organisations to advertise their volunteering opportunities and support them with volunteer management.

### **Building Better Opportunities**

Building Better Opportunities (BBO) is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund. The project led by Landau, is a large partnership of over 20 organisations across Shropshire working with people who are long-term unemployed and economically inactive, to help them develop their skills and get back into employment. Qube VC is offering one to one volunteering support as a partner on the project.

During 2020/21, 55 participants have engaged with the BBO programme at Qube. Of these 6 participants have successfully moved into education/training and 24 have started volunteering.

### **SOCIAL PRESCRIBING**

Social prescribing has continued to develop across the county. Shropshire Council has been contracted by the Shropshire Primary Care Networks to develop Shropshire Social Prescribing and Qube is a main partner in its delivery. Qube employed Sara Lanyon as North Shropshire Social Prescribing Community Development Officer in January 2021. The role has concentrated on updating existing directory entries, contacting organisations to add to the directory and to support certain services in registering as Social Prescribing Interventions.

Sara has worked with local organisations and the Social Prescribing team to identify gaps in provision across north Shropshire and is supporting local groups with infrastructure advice and signposting.

The role has become a valuable part of social prescribing in Shropshire, providing much needed support for advisors who don't always have the time to find local services.

The Community Connectors' network is a key part of the role and has grown in strength, particularly during lockdown. The regular updates and online meetings have helped groups find funding, discover community partnerships and raised awareness of local initiatives at a time when normal services were severely disrupted. The network continues to have over 600 members, with a blended approach to meeting face to face and online later this year.

**Typical searches include:** volunteering opportunities for people with low mood, LGBTQ+ social groups and support, referrals into Qube's Social Groups, offline resources for socially isolated people (book clubs and Qube's activity packs) and opportunities for groups of people to improve strength and mobility.

**Typical infrastructure support includes:** creating risk assessments, finding funding, connecting organisations to share good practice, safeguarding and GDPR for non-clinical work.

## **WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE SERVICES**

### **Tuesday and Thursday Club Social Groups and Befriending Services**

Funded through the Shropshire Well-being and Independence Partnership and the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Qube's Well-being and Independence services aim to reduce isolation in the community. This service has faced particular challenges as a result of the Covid pandemic, with face to face meetings unable to be held, and our vulnerable members having to stay in their homes; the challenge was how to stay in touch, ensure our members got the essential services they needed and how to try to mitigate the increase in isolation many would inevitably feel.

### **Telephone Be-friending**

To do this Qube quickly developed new services as soon as it became apparent what was happening and within 3 weeks had a telephone befriending service up and running. 22 volunteers made 970 telephone calls to lonely and vulnerable members. These calls are weekly or more often and have proved to be a real life-line to many people and became a way in which we were able to monitor our members well-being. As a result of this more than 124 people received additional support as issues were identified. This included respite care for an older member who was caring for their spouse, who had dementia and whose condition was deteriorating, bereavement counselling, monitoring those home from hospital, referral to mental health services, hot meal deliveries and much more.

### **Activities at Home**

Qube social groups could not be held throughout the year due to Covid restrictions, although we were able to hold small gatherings in Oswestry Park during the warmer summer months. Therefore, instead of holding face to face groups, Qube has sent activity packs to its members once a fortnight. These packs include stories about people in the local community, updates from Qube, puzzles and quizzes, recipes and craft activities with materials. The packs have been very well received by our members and we understand, shared widely among their families and contacts.

Qube has also made audio recordings to send to members with sight loss, partnering with Oswestry Talking Newspaper. It became apparent that those with sight loss were particularly excluded from their communities, as usual support networks stopped operating. Feedback from our members with sight loss was that it was lovely to hear a familiar and trusted voice with news of what was happening with their friends from the groups and in the local community.

Qube's Well-being service now has over 60 members, varying in age from early 40s to mid-90s. As restrictions continue to ease, we aim to return to hosting our social groups at Qube with a planned schedule of activities, but will remain cautious over numbers attending, as we monitor the effects of social mixing in the wider community.

We've had some great feedback from the group over the last year, as COVID has caused the loneliest people to become even more isolated. All members receiving the postal activity packs have looked forward to their arrival and in combination with regular phone calls, have reported feeling less lonely and in many cases have described Qube as their lifeline.

It has been noticeable that the lockdowns have had a negative impact on the mobility of many of our members and that their ability to get out has become much more of a challenge. On the occasions where we have been able to host small meetings, those attending have been overjoyed to see other people and the short time out of their homes has really boosted their confidence.

### **QUBE ARTS**

Qube Arts provides a full and diverse, year-round programme of quality projects, exhibitions, events and workshops. Despite the pandemic, the programme for 2020/21 has brought in new audiences, identified local emerging artists and inspired many others to get creative. We provide opportunities for artists to develop skills, sell works and for anyone to share their work with others. Through our outreach projects we use arts and creativity as a tool to engage individuals and communities many of whom will not have engaged otherwise.

### **Exhibitions**

Qube's exhibitions aim to bring new art to the area and act as a platform for local and emerging artists to display and sell their work. Working with other galleries and organisations in the town, the exhibitions help to put Oswestry on the map as a culturally attractive place to visit.

Qube has three gallery spaces with a programme of exhibitions by local, national and international artists, heritage displays, community exhibitions and project work. During the last year we have had to suspend bookings on the Balcony and Alcove Gallery to enable social distancing but have instead hosted a series of popular online exhibitions.

In total there were 18 exhibitions in 2020/21, with work by 627 artists. Despite being closed to the public for 8 months, there were over 3000 visitors to the gallery. Artists are welcome to offer their work for sale during exhibitions and sell accompanying merchandise. Over the year there have been £7438 worth of gallery sales.

### **Main Gallery Exhibitions:**

7<sup>th</sup> August to 2nd October – Qube Arts Open 2020

26<sup>th</sup> October to 23<sup>rd</sup> December - Christmas Arts and Crafts exhibition

30<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> May – Society of Wood Engravers

#### **Online Exhibitions:**

Elements: Stefanie Gundlach & Joanna Dale

Creativity In Isolation

Qube Staff 2.6 Challenge

'Lines' Photography Competition

Filmmaking for Creative Practitioners

Umbrella

'Light' Photography Competition

Qube Arts Open 2020

Christmas Arts and Crafts Exhibition

Society of Wood Engravers

Qube Creative Groups

Good things to do at Home

Khalil Salem Bterram High School, Lebanon

Dave Andrews Poetry

David Bannister: Facing it

#### **Cabinets and sales**

Qube continues to have a dedicated space used all year round by local artists and craftsmakers to sell their work. Work on display ranges from cards and prints to ceramics, jewellery, glass and woodwork. This space will be developed with new display equipment in 2021.

#### **Qube Outreach Projects**

There have been three outreach projects during 2020/21.

##### Oswestry Youth Music Collective

Qube's brand-new music project Oswestry Youth Music Collective has been funded by 'Youth Music', to provide creative music opportunities for young people in Oswestry and the surrounding area.

Participants will have the opportunity to develop their musical skills and build confidence through a variety of experimental music activities based on their own interests, and across a range of genres, to include: jamming and improvisation, vocal, percussion and guitar workshops, song-writing and recording, stage-craft and performance. Importantly, the project provides the space and support for young people to work creatively together, developing a musical style as part of a collective group.

Suspended due to the pandemic. Due to start in July 2021.

### Work in Progress

In 2020 Qube launched a new creative social group for women in Oswestry and North Shropshire thanks to funding support from the Tampon Tax Community Fund, run by The Community Foundation for Staffordshire. The yearlong project called 'Work in Progress' offered two free monthly meetups at Qube for women, over the age of 18, who wanted to take some time out, be creative and make new friends, in a safe non-judgmental space for women to get together and be creative. The sessions are overseen by Gemma Manning who is a well-established jewellery designer/maker and owner of Gemmipop Designs based in Oswestry. The project had to be suspended after two sessions because of the pandemic but lead artist, Gemma, continued engaging with participants online. A two-week artist in residence, exhibition and daily drop in sessions are set for June 2021

### Good things to do at home

Qube teamed up with Taking Part and Shropshire Council to create imaginative, fun and creative activities for people, who would normally attend Day Care Services, to do at home during lockdown and beyond. Resources have been commissioned especially for the 'Good things to do at home' project by creative practitioners from across the country.

These activities have also been added to the Qube website to make them accessible to all.

### **Workshops and Courses**

Our regular courses programme had to be suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic and is expected to start again in September 2021. We were able to hold two online workshops via Zoom that were subsidised by Arts Council funding. These were attended by 21 people.

### **Arts Strategy**

Qube has taken this time to examine its model of working and has gained Arts Council England funding to research and develop new strategies to create a sustainable model for the future. To do this we are working with the Audience Agency and Cause4 and will begin implementing our new model during the next financial year.

### **Volunteers**

Qube is committed to offering opportunities to those looking to develop professional skills in the arts. Volunteering roles within Qube Arts vary from research, marketing, IT support, teaching and administrative support. We also offer work experience placements to local school pupils, gap year students and to those working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award or Welsh Baccalaureate.

Due to the pandemic, opportunities to volunteer in Qube Arts have been limited in 2020/2021. However, volunteers have been working remotely teaching online courses and

creating activities for people to do at home. In total, 3 volunteers have given over 150 hours of their time

### **Marketing**

Qube engages with new and existing audiences through a range of marketing activities online and in print. Over 2020/21 our marketing was developed significantly to maintain contact with our audiences throughout lockdowns, whilst the building was closed. A regular monthly email was set up with news and updates and a substantial amount of content, including online exhibitions and activities, were added online. As the Qube website began to be used for content it wasn't originally designed for, it was decided that a new site needed to be commissioned. This new site went live in July 2021. The figures on our online platforms for the year are:

**Mailchimp signups:** 869

**Facebook followers:** 1747

**Twitter followers:** 2066

**Instagram followers:** 1140

**Social Media Posts:** 1662

**Total website views:** 64390

### **THREE PARISHES BIG LOCAL**

Qube acts as the Accountable body for the Big Local project area of St Martins, Gobowen and Weston Rhyn otherwise known as the Three Parishes Area. Instigated by Big Lottery and now managed by a Partnership of local residents, Big Local supports activities and investment which will make a significant difference to that area over a 10 year period.

### **QUBES STRATEGIC WORK**

Qube in its role as a community anchor organisation continues to be a bridge between the voluntary sector and the public sector and during 2020/21 represented the sector at the Shropshire Voluntary Sector Assembly, the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership, The Community Transport Consortium, Social Prescribing and the Shropshire Cultural Consortium.

Qube considers it important that we are able to use our experience of working with our communities to represent them at a strategic level and influence policy for future development.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves policy**

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level which equates to six months operating expenditure. The Trustees are also aware of their responsibilities to the service users and the needs of the community and therefore may use unrestricted reserves to maintain services when grants are difficult to obtain and to allow for the replacement of equipment and vehicles, at a level appropriate to the age profile of these assets.

At the year end the unrestricted undesignated reserves totalled £109,987. The trustees are aware that this is beneath the policy stated above but are acting to address this.

### **Significant events**

This financial year was significantly affected by the Covid pandemic. The nature of the services provided by Qube and the age and vulnerability of the people who access them meant that we took an early decision to close services to protect people. This included the social groups and some aspects of our Dial a Ride operations as well as the courses programme, both an earned income revenue stream. This means that we experienced a significant loss of earned income throughout the financial year which is continuing.

However Qube has been able to access Covid emergency funding throughout this time which has mitigated the loss of earned income and grant funding on hold. But, the pandemic has also meant our usual grant applications were also on hold and therefore we expect that funding will be a real issue as the country recovers.

### **Looking to the Future**

The Covid pandemic has had a significant effect on all Qubes services and finances. It is as yet unknown what the funding climate will be as the country recovers. Qube has responded well to the crisis and changed services to meet the needs of the community. This has primarily meant moving from a model of providing services which people access to a model of delivery which responds to people's individual needs. This model is more bespoke where we anticipated less need for transport services and social groups and more need for helping people within their homes. To meet this we established new services and found innovative ways in which to deliver existing services.

We are very proud of Qube's response to the pandemic. The hard work of the Trustees, staff and volunteers has meant that many people in the community have received support during an extraordinary year.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small Companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Noble', written in a cursive style.

Mrs H Noble, Chair

31 August 2021

**Independent Examiner's Report  
to the Trustees of Oswestry Community Action**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages Sixteen to twenty-six.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its the 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 Company'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 the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 that in any material respect:

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 requirements 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 2019 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.



James Denton  
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants  
Mike Griffiths & Partners Ltd  
The Yew Tree Inn  
High Street  
Gresford  
Wrexham  
LL12 8RF

31 August 2021

## Oswestry Community Action

### Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

|                                                      | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 31.3.21<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 31.3.20<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| <b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>       |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Voluntary income                                     |       | 3,158                      | 5,249                    | 8,407                          | 12,173                         |
| Investment income                                    | 2     | 1,318                      | -                        | 1,318                          | 7,441                          |
| <b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b> |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Art                                                  |       | 18,953                     | 116,285                  | 135,238                        | 58,665                         |
| Care                                                 |       | -                          | 74,326                   | 74,326                         | 153,073                        |
| Transport                                            |       | 16,927                     | 139,089                  | 156,016                        | 172,885                        |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                          | 19,598                   | 19,598                         | 27,675                         |
| Shopmobility                                         |       | 553                        | 7,000                    | 7,553                          | 9,270                          |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 57,889                     | -                        | 57,889                         | 19,735                         |
| Big Local                                            |       | -                          | 111,480                  | 111,480                        | 150,490                        |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | -                          | -                        | -                              | 11,297                         |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                      |       | <b>98,798</b>              | <b>473,027</b>           | <b>571,825</b>                 | <b>622,704</b>                 |
| <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| <b>Charitable activities</b>                         |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Art                                                  |       | 13,484                     | 115,309                  | 128,793                        | 90,633                         |
| Care                                                 |       | -                          | 74,326                   | 74,326                         | 146,211                        |
| Transport                                            |       | 7,617                      | 101,062                  | 108,679                        | 168,127                        |
| Volunteering                                         |       | -                          | 31,934                   | 31,934                         | 37,290                         |
| Shopmobility                                         |       | -                          | 7,000                    | 7,000                          | 12,135                         |
| Core Qube                                            |       | 44,371                     | -                        | 44,371                         | 52,363                         |
| Big Local                                            |       | -                          | 111,480                  | 111,480                        | 150,490                        |
| Qube Learning                                        |       | -                          | -                        | -                              | 28,099                         |
| <b>Governance costs</b>                              |       | <b>-</b>                   | <b>3,455</b>             | <b>3,455</b>                   | <b>2,800</b>                   |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>                      |       | <b>65,472</b>              | <b>444,566</b>           | <b>510,038</b>                 | <b>688,148</b>                 |
| <b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>             |       | <b>33,326</b>              | <b>28,461</b>            | <b>61,787</b>                  | <b>(65,444)</b>                |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>                       |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Total funds brought forward                          |       | 76,661                     | 271,540                  | 348,201                        | 413,645                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>                   |       | <b>109,987</b>             | <b>300,001</b>           | <b>409,988</b>                 | <b>348,201</b>                 |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Balance Sheet  
At 31 March 2021**

|                                                          | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 31.3.21<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 31.3.20<br>Total<br>Funds<br>£ |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>FIXED<br/>ASSETS</b>                                  |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Tangible assets                                          | 6     | 674                        | 160,184                  | 160,858                        | 176,468                        |
| <b>CURRENT<br/>ASSETS</b>                                |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Stocks                                                   |       | 300                        | -                        | 300                            | 300                            |
| Debtors                                                  | 7     | -                          | 9,039                    | 9,039                          | 22,069                         |
| Cash at Bank                                             |       | 109,013                    | 327,554                  | 436,567                        | 237,857                        |
|                                                          |       | 109,313                    | 336,593                  | 445,906                        | 260,226                        |
| <b>CREDITORS</b>                                         |       |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Amounts falling due within one year                      | 8     | -                          | (196,776)                | (196,776)                      | (88,493)                       |
| <b>NET<br/>CURRENT<br/>ASSETS</b>                        |       | 109,313                    | 139,817                  | 249,130                        | 171,733                        |
| <b>TOTAL<br/>ASSETS LESS<br/>CURRENT<br/>LIABILITIES</b> |       | 109,987                    | 300,001                  | 409,988                        | 348,201                        |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                        |       | 109,987                    | 300,001                  | 409,988                        | 348,201                        |
| <b>FUNDS</b>                                             | 9     |                            |                          |                                |                                |
| Unrestricted funds                                       |       |                            |                          | 109,987                        | 76,661                         |
| Restricted funds                                         |       |                            |                          | 300,001                        | 271,540                        |
| <b>TOTAL<br/>FUNDS</b>                                   |       |                            |                          | 409,988                        | 348,201                        |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Balance Sheet - continued  
At 31 March 2021**

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

1. The members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476;
2. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 31 August 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs H Noble – Chair

Date: 31 August 2021

Registered Company Number: 03390138

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

|                                                                                           |                  | <b>2021</b>       | <b>2020</b>      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                                                                           |                  | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>         |
| <b>Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities</b> |                  |                   |                  |
| Net movements in funds                                                                    |                  | 61,787            | -65,444          |
| Add back net depreciation charge                                                          |                  | 35,961            | 34,385           |
| Loss on sale of Assets                                                                    |                  | -2,857            | 458              |
| Deduct Investment income shown in investing activities                                    |                  | -1,318            | -7,441           |
| Decrease (increase) in debtors                                                            |                  | 13,030            | 727              |
| Increase (decrease) in creditors                                                          |                  | 108,284           | 124,212          |
| <b>Cash used in operating activities</b>                                                  |                  | <b>214,887</b>    | <b>161,527</b>   |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                                               |                  |                   |                  |
| Investment income                                                                         |                  | 1,318             | 7,441            |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                                                         |                  | -20,995           | -23,990          |
| Disposals of tangible fixed assets                                                        |                  | 3,500             | 1,400            |
| <b>Cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>                                    |                  | <b>-16,177</b>    | <b>-15,149</b>   |
| increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year                              |                  | 198,710           | -176,676         |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year                                    |                  | 237,857           | 414,533          |
| <b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>                             |                  | <b>436,567</b>    | <b>237,857</b>   |
|                                                                                           |                  | <b>Cash flows</b> |                  |
| <b>Analysis of changes in Net Debt</b>                                                    | <b>01-Apr-20</b> |                   | <b>31-Mar-21</b> |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                                 | 237,857          | 198,710           | 436,567          |
| <b>Borrowings</b>                                                                         |                  |                   |                  |
| Debt due within one year                                                                  | 110,344          | -136,923          | -26,579          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                              | <b>348,201</b>   | <b>61,787</b>     | <b>409,988</b>   |

## **Oswestry Community Action**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES** **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principle accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### **Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

#### **Resources expended**

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

#### **Allocation and apportionment of costs**

Wages not directly allocated to an activity are apportioned pro rata between unrestricted and restricted funds based on fund income; this method of allocation also applies to unallocated vehicle running expenses and volunteer expenses.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Land and buildings       | - 4% on cost                              |
| Plant and machinery, etc | - 25% on cost and 25% on reducing balance |

#### **Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

#### **Taxation**

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

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

#### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operations leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

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

Oswestry Community Action participates in a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme for its staff. As a result it is not possible or appropriate to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme, which are attributable to Oswestry Community Action. Where the scheme has a deficit this would only crystallise as a liability to the charity if there cease to be any staff members registered for the scheme. Contributions to the scheme are recognised as they become due.

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

|                          | 31.3.21      | 31.3.20      |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                          | £            | £            |
| Rents received           | 264          | 4,926        |
| Deposit account interest | 1,054        | 2,515        |
|                          | <u>1,318</u> | <u>7,441</u> |

**3. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES**

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

|                                      | 31.3.21       | 31.3.20       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                      | £             | £             |
| Depreciation – owned assets          | 35,961        | 34,385        |
| Governance – Assurance services      | 2,055         | 1,400         |
| Governance – Independent examination | 1,400         | 1,400         |
|                                      | <u>39,416</u> | <u>37,185</u> |

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

**Trustees Expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021, nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

# Oswestry Community Action

## Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 5. STAFF COSTS

|                                           | 31.3.21        | 31.3.20        |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                           | £              | £              |
| Wages and salaries (Incl. Employers N.I.) | 242,465        | 295,729        |
| Other pension costs                       | 4,553          | 5,776          |
|                                           | <u>247,018</u> | <u>301,505</u> |

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

|                     | 31.3.21   | 31.3.20   |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Qube Art            | 2         | 2         |
| Qube Care           | 3         | 3         |
| Qube Volunteering   | 3         | 3         |
| Qube Transport      | 4         | 4         |
| Qube Administration | -         | -         |
| Big Local           | 2         | 2         |
| IT Learning         | 1         | 1         |
|                     | <u>15</u> | <u>15</u> |

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

Trustee and key personnel remuneration in the year amounted to £39,875.

### 6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

|                       | Land and Buildings | Plant and machinery etc | Totals         |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
|                       | £                  | £                       | £              |
| <b>COST</b>           |                    |                         |                |
| At 1 April 2020       | 508,424            | 293,115                 | 801,539        |
| Additions             | -                  | 20,995                  | 20,995         |
| Disposals             | -                  | (3,000)                 | (3,000)        |
| At 31 March 2021      | <u>508,424</u>     | <u>311,110</u>          | <u>819,534</u> |
| <b>DEPRECIATION</b>   |                    |                         |                |
| At 1 April 2020       | 374,100            | 250,971                 | 625,071        |
| Charge for year       | 20,337             | 15,624                  | 35,961         |
| On disposals          | -                  | (2,357)                 | (2,357)        |
| At 31 March 2021      | <u>394,437</u>     | <u>264,238</u>          | <u>658,675</u> |
| <b>NET BOOK VALUE</b> |                    |                         |                |
| At 31 March 2021      | <u>113,987</u>     | <u>46,872</u>           | <u>160,859</u> |
| At 31 March 2020      | <u>134,324</u>     | <u>42,144</u>           | <u>176,468</u> |

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

**7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

|               | 31.3.21      | 31.3.20       |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|               | £            | £             |
| Trade Debtors | (2,844)      | 13,419        |
| Other Debtors | 11,883       | 8,650         |
|               | <u>9,039</u> | <u>22,069</u> |

**8. CREDITORS:  
AMOUNTS  
FALLING DUE  
WITHIN ONE  
YEAR**

|                              | 31.3.21        | 31.3.20       |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                              | £              | £             |
| Trade creditors              | 3,312          | 9,338         |
| Taxation and social security | -              | 6,608         |
| Accruals and deferred income | 193,464        | 72,547        |
|                              | <u>196,776</u> | <u>88,493</u> |

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

|                           | At 1.4.20<br>£ | Net movement in funds<br>£ | At 31.3.21<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                |                            |                 |
| Undesignated funds        | 76,661         | 33,326                     | 109,987         |
|                           | <u>76,661</u>  | <u>33,326</u>              | <u>109,987</u>  |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>   |                |                            |                 |
| Restricted                | 271,540        | 28,461                     | 300,001         |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <u>348,201</u> | <u>61,787</u>              | <u>409,988</u>  |

## Oswestry Community Action

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### 9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

|                           | Incoming<br>Resources<br>£ | Resources<br>expended<br>£ | Movement in<br>funds<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                            |                            |                           |
| Undesignated fund         | 98,798                     | (65,472)                   | 33,326                    |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>   |                            |                            |                           |
| Restricted                | 473,027                    | (444,566)                  | 28,461                    |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>        | <b>571,825</b>             | <b>(510,038)</b>           | <b>61,787</b>             |

The undesignated fund is for anticipated capital expenditure on the building, replacement of information technology equipment and to enable the charity to have a graceful shutdown period should Oswestry Community Action need to cease operating.

It also represents various types of income received and expended in accordance with the charitable objectives of the charity. The details of the various service areas are given in the Report of the Trustees attached to these accounts.

The Restricted funds are mainly represented by the leasehold property donated to the charity, value at year end was £113,988 and the motor vehicles, net book value at year end was £46,197. The balance of restricted funds represents the residue of the various grants and donations that enable the charity to continue and that remained unspent as at the year end.

#### 10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

#### 11. DEFERRED INCOME

|                                                       | 2021<br>£ | 2020<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total deferred income at start of year                | 63,325    | 182,355   |
| Amounts received in year                              | 597,241   | 272,192   |
| Amounts credited to statement of financial activities | (481,137) | (391,222) |
| Total deferred income at end of year                  | 179,429   | 63,325    |

The deferred income shown has been deferred at the year end in order to reflect the expected future costs to complete the relevant projects.

**Oswestry Community Action**

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

|                                                      | 31.3.21<br>£   | 31.3.20<br>£   |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                            |                |                |
| <b>Voluntary income</b>                              |                |                |
| Donations                                            | 8,407          | 12,173         |
| <b>Investment income</b>                             |                |                |
| Rents received                                       | 264            | 4,926          |
| Deposit account interest                             | 1,054          | 2,515          |
|                                                      | <u>1,318</u>   | <u>7,441</u>   |
| <b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b> |                |                |
| Sale of exhibits                                     | 9,014          | 45,615         |
| Fares                                                | 33,963         | 89,421         |
| Other Income                                         | 28,718         | 21,359         |
| Grants                                               | 490,405        | 446,695        |
|                                                      | <u>562,100</u> | <u>603,090</u> |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                      | <b>571,825</b> | <b>622,704</b> |

**RESOURCES EXPENDED**

|                                       |               |                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Charitable activities</b>          |               |                 |
| Wages                                 | 242,465       | 295,729         |
| Pensions                              | 4,553         | 5,776           |
| Advertising and promotion             | 6,040         | 5,134           |
| Exhibitions and events                | 5,302         | 17,702          |
| Project costs                         | 45,463        | 48,576          |
| Subscriptions                         | 2,491         | 3,299           |
| Volunteer expenses                    | 2,084         | 7,121           |
| Staff expenses                        | 787           | 3,422           |
| Refreshments                          | 338           | 774             |
| Vehicle running costs                 | 26,042        | 63,707          |
| Big Grant Scheme                      | 17,288        | 30,762          |
| Wednesday shopping service            | 3,929         | 10,680          |
| Professional fees                     | 26,725        | 83,913          |
| Consultancy                           | 5,358         | 1,417           |
| Rent, rates and water                 | 4,136         | 3,786           |
| Insurance                             | 2,965         | 3,034           |
| Light and heat                        | 4,191         | 5,269           |
| Telephone                             | 9,038         | 2,946           |
| Printing postage and stationery       | 5,117         | 4,875           |
| Repairs and renewals                  | 20,943        | 17,383          |
| Bank charges                          | 499           | 1,143           |
| Sundry expenses                       | 1,197         | 530             |
| Computer and website                  | 9,063         | 7,555           |
| Other expenditure                     | 27,465        | 21,609          |
| Partner payments                      | -             | 4,363           |
| Depreciation of long leasehold        | 20,337        | 20,337          |
| Depreciation of fixtures and fittings | 160           | 213             |
| Depreciation of motor vehicles        | 15,464        | 13,835          |
| (Profit)/Loss on disposal             | (2,857)       | 458             |
|                                       | 506,583       | 685,348         |
| <b>Governance costs</b>               |               |                 |
| Accountancy                           | 3,455         | 2,800           |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>       | 510,038       | 688,148         |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>       | <b>61,787</b> | <b>(65,444)</b> |

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements