

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

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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	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
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>
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
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>
Total incoming resources		<u>185,208</u>	<u>552,680</u>	<u>737,888</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
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>
Governance costs		-	3,809	3,809
Total resources expended		<u>112,206</u>	<u>591,780</u>	<u>703,986</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		73,002	(39,100)	33,902

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

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

Oswestry Community Action

Balance Sheet At 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	1,634	66,244	67,878	52,298
CURRENT ASSETS					
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
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(16,283)	(26,007)	(42,290)	(44,157)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		170,674	225,160	395,834	377,512
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		172,308	291,404	463,712	429,810
NET ASSETS		172,308	291,404	463,712	429,810
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				172,308	124,329
Restricted funds				291,404	305,481
TOTAL FUNDS				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 17th 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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities		
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)
Cash used in operating activities	<u>117,047</u>	<u>(47,547)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Investment income	10,693	4,969
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(41,600)	0
Disposals of tangible fixed assets	0	0
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(30,907)</u>	<u>4,969</u>
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
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>380,357</u>	<u>294,217</u>

	01-Apr-24	Cash flows	31-Mar-25
Analysis of changes in Net Debt			
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 £	31.3.24 £
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 £	31.3.24 £
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 £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
COST						
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
DEPRECIATION						
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
NET BOOK VALUE						
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
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General	50,329	187,040	(106,618)	80,422	17,557	148,308	1,634	148,975	13,682	300	(16,283)	148,308
Designated												
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
Total Unrestricted and designated	124,329	187,040	(106,618)	80,422	(32,443)	172,308	1,634	172,975	13,682	300	(16,283)	172,308
Restricted												
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
All Reserves	429,810	737,887	(703,986)	33,901	-	463,712	67,878	380,357	57,466	300	(42,290)	463,712

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 £	31.3.24 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Donations	10,469	29,117
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	10,693	4,969
	<hr/> 10,693	<hr/> 4,969
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
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
Total incoming resources	737,887	757,236

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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