

S.C.V.O.

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2025**

Charity number: 1071514

Company number: 03570517

**Feltons
Chartered Accountants**

**Birmingham
B1 3JR**

S.C.V.O.

(A company Limited by Guarantee)

Report and financial statements
Year ended 31 March 2025

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Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Claire Dale (Chair) Andrew Watson Geoffrey Foster (resigned 16 th June 2025) Jacques Matensi-Kubanza Jatinder Singh Basi (resigned 3 rd April 2024) Jon Grant Khatija Patel Laura Nott (resigned 17 th July 2025) Luke Tyler (resigned 27 th March 2025) Mohammed Loan Paulette Suban (appointed 26 th September 2024) Rachel McFee (resigned 30 th July 2025) Victoria Breakwell (appointed 26 th September 2024)	
Key management personnel	Mark Davis - Chief Executive Officer Stuart Ashmore - Deputy Chief Executive Officer Sajida Carr - Director of Operations and Development Parminder Dosanjh - Creative Director	
Principal office and Solicitors	109S Castlemill Burnt Tree Tipton West Midlands DY4 7UF	
Charity number	1071514	
Company registration number	03570517	
Independent auditor	Feltons 8 Sovereign Court 8 Graham Street Birmingham B1 3JR	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc. 65 Capehill Smethwick B66 4SF	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave Kent ME19 4JQ

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Report of the trustees
Year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Our purposes and activities

The purposes of the charity are:

- For SCVO and the voluntary sector to have a major influence on the development and implementation of key local strategies.
- To strengthen SCVO's role in existing strategic partnerships and to be proactive in developing new ones.
- To provide an effective voice for the voluntary and community sector at local, regional and national levels.
- To support and provide high quality, accessible organisational development services to Sandwell's voluntary and community sector through appropriate mechanisms.
- To develop the appropriate mechanisms to create an effective funding facility for the sector.
- To diversify SCVO's funding arrangements through an effective funding strategy.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

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

- bring together local voluntary and community groups to promote and develop the effectiveness of local voluntary action.
- raise the quality of, and provide a wide range of services, information, advice and support to the voluntary and community sector.
- act as a channel for local groups to voice their opinions on local, regional and national issues and policy.
- raise the quality of and provide a wide range of services, information, advice and support to the voluntary and community sector.
- identify real needs and develop services/ initiatives to meet these needs.
- actively support the development of new and emerging groups and organisations.
- contribute to bringing about positive change in Sandwell to achieve sustainable economic regeneration.

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SCVO's core activities can be broadly classified as Capacity Building: the provision of management and development support for voluntary organisations, committees and groups; and Strategic Engagement activities which facilitate engagement between local groups and various statutory bodies.

Putting the above strategies into action we have 5 major areas of activity which are outlined below:

1 - Strategic Representation & Network Development

Representation and Partnership Working:

SCVO brings together networks of organisations with common interests and represents their views on strategic partnerships. During 2024/25, this work included activities across the whole spectrum of strategic fora including numerous meetings held with elected members, Cabinet Members and local senior officers, as well as formal partnership boards such as the Safer Sandwell Partnership, the Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board, the Sandwell Health and Care Partnership Board and the Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board. SCVO also undertook to facilitate intra-sector meetings which built bonds and developed partnership links between local groups.

VCS Forums:

Funding received from Sandwell MBC for the period 2024/25 enabled SCVO to maintain and develop strategic forums in key thematic areas where the voluntary sector has important strategic and delivery contributions to make. The funding also made provision for the development of closer working ties between sector organisations and commissioners, including conversations on service design.

There were two distinct elements to this funding:

1. VCS Health and Social Care Forum – A bi-monthly forum which brings together voluntary sector providers of health and social care services with key partners in strategic dialogue.
2. VCS Children and Young Peoples' Forum – A bi-monthly forum which brings together voluntary sector providers of support to children, young people and families with key partners in strategic dialogue.

VCS Briefings:

Provision of engagement events bringing together voluntary sector providers and relevant commissioners, statutory and health partners focusing on significant changes and developments in Sandwell.

Sandwell Early Help Partnership:

SCVO continued to build and co-ordinate the Sandwell Early Help Partnership, bringing together universal providers to deliver early interventions to children, young people and families. Partners are drawn from a range of organisations and sectors including schools, health settings, voluntary and community organisations, Sandwell Police, Sandwell Council Children's Services, and Sandwell Children's Trust. The Partnership creates opportunities to build relationships, confidence and strengthen networks between support providers through members' events, conferences and local meetings.

The Partnership also facilitates the promotion of local services and activities to the general public through face-to-face activity and the Sandwell Family Life website. During this year, development and promotion of the Sandwell Early Help website, launched in early 2022, continued. This website provides practitioners and volunteers with information, resources, training opportunities and access to a portal listing targeted support services for children and families.

2 - Sector Development

General Development Support:

This work includes providing organisations with information on Charity and Company Law and Governance, supporting the start-up of community groups, helping with the development of policies and procedures, facilitating project and business planning processes, and assisting with work towards quality assurance.

Fundraising Support:

Services include one-to-one support helping voluntary sector organisations to identify funders, trusts and grant-making bodies, supporting in the preparation of funding applications, assisting in development of fundraising strategies and with long-term sustainability. The team also produces a bi-weekly Funding Digest as well as providing a range of funding workshops and training events including regular 'Meet the Funder' events. SCVO continues to proactively engage a number of important grant funders with a view to growing knowledge of funding opportunities and increasing the amount of external funding secured by Sandwell organisations.

Volunteering and Community Participation:

SCVO continued to develop a broad offer of support around volunteering for local organisations during 2024/25, entailing a number of distinct activities. These included: promotion and growth of the 'Let's Go...' website, advertising more than 300 local volunteering opportunities during this year; convening of the quarterly Sandwell Volunteer Managers' Network for building partnerships, offering peer support and sharing experiences; provision of information, guidance and training for organisations on volunteering best practice; and regular social media coverage to advocate and promote to local residents and businesses the value of getting involved in their community. During Volunteers' Week in June we linked with the national Big Help Out theme and organised a 'Bring A Tin' event, collecting a total of 1105 items which we distributed to local foodbanks. We also facilitated public litter picks in parks, and initiated a Christmas Day event, run by volunteers in conjunction with the new Midlands Metropolitan University Hospital, for people spending the festive season alone.

Get-IT Together:

A 2-year project, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, to support community organisations to better develop their digital skills and embed digital practices into their day-to-day delivery, plans and projects to enable their local communities (and individuals therein) to thrive.

Two key thematic areas focus on building a peer-led support network for Sandwell VCSE organisations to share knowledge and skills, and providing guidance on digital services to enhance service delivery and visibility through app and software recommendations and digital profile reviews.

SCVO+:

During 2024/25, SCVO continued to deliver ad hoc services for local organisations requiring more intensive and bespoke support on a chargeable basis. The principal areas of support were chargeable consultancy services, the convening of briefing and training events, and utilisation of SCVO meeting rooms and website on a paid-for basis.

3 - Information and Communication

Information Services:

SCVO's regular email bulletins are vital tools through which the sector can be kept abreast of news, information, legislative changes, strategic and policy developments and capacity-building opportunities in the local, regional and national arenas. SCVO has five websites:

- SCVO's corporate website - www.scvo.info - this provides information on SCVO news and services.
- The Route2wellbeing portal - www.route2wellbeing.info - this established website, delivered through a long-term partnership with local health commissioners, provides health professionals, local community and voluntary groups and the general public with information about support services in proximity to their own location.
- The Sandwell Family Life portal - www.sandwellfamilylife.info - is a website providing information to children, young people and family practitioners as well as the general public on activities and support near where they live or work. This website is a key tool to support the work of the Sandwell Early Help Partnership.
- The Sandwell Early Help portal – www.sandwellearlyhelp.info – is an information and resource hub for practitioners and all those working to support children, young people and families in Sandwell. It includes a searchable directory of referral-only targeted support services available in Sandwell, complementing the range of universal activities open to all families which are found on the Sandwell Family Life website.
- The Let's Go website – www.letsgosandwell.info - provides a borough-wide platform for local voluntary organisations and other public service bodies to showcase and advertise their opportunities by which residents and volunteer their time and play a more active role within the community.

4 - Grant-giving

Vision 2030 Grant Programme:

During 2024/25, SCVO received funding from Sandwell Council to deliver a small grants programme for the voluntary sector, which aimed to fund community activity contributing to the ambitions contained within the borough's 'Vision 2030'.

The programme had two priorities: Building Social Connections (focusing on tackling loneliness) and Healthy Lives (promoting/supporting healthy living). Grants were made up to a total of £5,000 with this funding available to organisations for up to a 2-year period.

Additional to the main grant priorities, extra funds were secured and/ or distributed during this year to expand the Vision 2030 programme through further focused strands of activity:

- Food Pantry Development Grants – small grants to enable VCS organisations to support the Sandwell Food Pantry Development Plan.
- Community Mental Health – small grants that focus on the area of promoting positive community mental health.
- Welcoming Spaces – small grants to support the provision of a network of community 'welcoming spaces', accessible to all members of the community all year round.
- Sports Activities – small grants to create new community-based sports opportunities for Sandwell residents, support their transition from healthy lifestyle activities to regular sports, increase volunteer involvement in sports delivery, and provide pathways for volunteers to become qualified coaches.

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- LGBTQ+ Health Challenge Fund – small grants to support groups aiming to improve physical and mental health, healthcare access, and social connections leading to better health outcomes for the LGBTQ+ community in Sandwell.

Cadent Centres for Warmth:

Funded by Cadent Gas, and working with NAVCA (the national membership body for local VCS umbrella organisations), SCVO is offering a package of support including training, some equipment to distribute and a modest amount of grant funding to voluntary and community organisations who are assisting local residents with a range of information and practical offers in respect of cost-of-living challenges and keeping warm during colder weather, for example, being part of the 'Sandwell Welcoming Spaces' campaign and/or the 'Places of Welcome' network.

Sandwell Emotional Wellbeing Grant Programme:

In recognition of the adverse impact that the Covid pandemic had on children and young people in the borough, in early 2021 Sandwell Council invited SCVO to lead on a grant programme to resource local youth charities to provide emotional wellbeing support to affected young people. Utilising £1million of Covid Recovery funds, SCVO launched this grant programme in May 2021. Through 2021/22, a wide range of support was delivered by local youth-focused voluntary organisations, including one-to-one mentoring, drop-in sessions, school-based support and counselling. The aims of the programme were as follows:

- To make available to all school aged children in Sandwell support that enables them to address challenges with their emotional well-being and mental health, and to develop personal strategies that build confidence and resilience.
- To target those children and young people who are identified as requiring additional support or access to specialist services where such support is currently not provided.
- To provide support for children and young people identified as being impacted by domestic abuse, including family support where possible.
- To deliver immediate support in light of an expected surge in demand from May 2021 and to scale up, develop, test and refine the model during.

This programme continued to be delivered through 2022/23, and was then extended with the investment of a further £490,000 of funding enabling a 'Phase 2' of the programme to begin in January 2023. At the beginning of 2024 a final 'Phase 3' of the programme began, with additional funds of £450,000 available for an activity period up to June 2025. As Phase 3 and the programme as a whole neared its end in March 2025, Covid Recovery funds had enabled over 4,000 Sandwell young people to be supported with their emotional wellbeing by 42 projects delivered by 16 charities and community organisations in Sandwell.

Building Community Resilience in Sandwell:

During 2024/25, SCVO continued to work with national funder the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to deliver a programme of support for Sandwell's communities. This entailed a range of resident engagement activities delivered through local community anchor organisations, working alongside a devolved grants programme for Sandwell that focused on new ways of building capability and confidence amongst the most vulnerable and marginalised in our local communities and on growing community resilience.

5 - Project Hosting

Creative People and Places:

The Arts Council's Creative People and Places (CPP) programme aims to help more people to experience and be inspired by the arts, irrespective of where they live or their social, educational or financial circumstances.

This funding focuses investment in parts of the country where people's involvement in the arts is significantly below the national average, with the aim of increasing the likelihood of participation. This investment will encourage long-term collaborations between local communities and arts organisations, museums, libraries and other partners such as local authorities and the private sector. It aims to empower them to experiment with new and radically different approaches and to develop inspiring, sustainable arts programmes that will engage audiences in those communities. In May 2014, Black Country Together CIC was successful in securing £2million of Creative People and Places funding to deliver the programme across the areas of Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. SCVO were asked by Black Country Together CIC to lead this work, and since September 2014, have hosted a team to work across the three boroughs, as well as supporting engagement with local communities, through our core staff, to develop new arts and cultural initiatives in Sandwell.

The initial funding was followed by successful bids for a second and then third phase of funding, plus expansion of Creative Black Country activity into Dudley, delivery of which began in November 2019. Following a strategic review and re-focusing of the shape and priorities of the Creative Black Country team in early 2021, Black Country Together CIC were successful in securing National Portfolio Organisation CPP funding in December 2021. This funding will ensure Creative Black Country continues to deliver and develop its community-based activities for a further three years from April 2022.

Big Local Grace Mary to Lion Farm:

The Grace Mary to Lion Farm (GM2LF) Big Local area is within the borough of Sandwell in the West Midlands. It covers 5 separate natural neighbourhoods, crossing the boundary of three council wards and two parliamentary constituencies. Within this area, the 'Big Local' lottery fund, in dialogue with local VCS organisations and residents, has committed a £1 million investment in the area. The area's 'Big Plan' reflects the needs and aspirations of local residents in using the funding to bring about lasting change within the community over a 10-year period (which is due to 'spend out' by June 2025).

Since 2014/15, SCVO has taken on the role of accountable body for the GM2LF partnership as the 'Local Trusted Organisation', which it continues to perform as the activities within the Big Local Plan are delivered and head towards 'close out'. This role entails liaison with Local Trust (the funding awarding body) on behalf of GM2LF, financial management of funds and support of the Partnership Board.

Sandwell Cultural Compact:

In November 2024, SCVO were invited to take on the hosting for an interim manager for the emerging Sandwell Cultural Compact. The Sandwell Cultural Compact is a local partnership initiative that will work strategically to develop cross-sector relationships, support the cultural ecology and create a sustainable infrastructure for arts and culture in the borough of Sandwell.

Utilising Arts Council funding, SCVO hosted a Compact Manager to work with local arts and cultural organisations, artists and freelancers, education providers, business leaders and Sandwell Council to scope, bring together, establish and develop a Sandwell Cultural Compact with a clear set of aims and priorities for the coming years.

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Achievements and Performance

SCVO produced 49 e-bulletins to keep the VCS informed of local, regional and national policy, events and information of relevance to their development and activities.

SCVO ran numerous workshops and training events, including topics such as Introduction to Fundraising, Volunteers and the Law, Introduction to Business Plans, Diversifying Income and four 'meet the funder' sessions benefitting over 130 participants in total.

A range of face-to-face and virtual network meetings brought people together around key issues and themes:

- VCS Children and Young People Forum meetings.
- VCS Health and Social Care Forum meetings.
- Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum.
- Briefing events, forums and workshops focused on a wide range of topics including the SHAPE Forum, the children's services Star Practice Model and the Integrated Front Door, the Sandwell Community Offer for vulnerable adults, partnership working with the Integrated Care Board, engagement with Adult Social Care and CQC, the opening of the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, Children's safeguarding and awareness of Working Together 2023, and the review of Sandwell youth service provision.

In addition to this, SCVO:

- Supported over 220 groups/organisations with general development support – including fundraising, governance, planning, financial management, networking and quality standards.
- Helped secure over £1.6million worth of external funding for Sandwell voluntary organisations.
- Delivered the 'Vision 2030' grants programme encouraging local community organisations to deliver activities that offer improved wellbeing and social connections for residents. Activity spanned the themes of mental health support, investment in food pantries, financial support for sports clubs and community groups, investment in local community LGBTQ+ groups to improve health outcomes and access to services, and 'welcoming spaces' for those residents who were impacted significantly by the continuing cost of living crisis in autumn/ winter 2024.
- Distributed a total of over £800,000 locally to the voluntary sector through grant awards to over 100 organisations.
- Continued delivery of our partnership with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation focusing on improving community resilience in Sandwell through the 'BOUNCE' community engagement programme and the 'EPIC' community grants initiative.
- Continued to develop the Emotional Wellbeing Grant Programme to fund support which helps young people manage their emotional and mental health following the Covid pandemic

Financial review

The financial results of SCVO are detailed in the following pages. It is considered that the finances are sound and well established. The principal funding source is from grants. All expenditure of this income is planned to fulfil the objectives and strategies of the charity. During the year ended 31 March 2025, total resources expended were £1,561,110 (2024 – £1,883,109) and the surplus of income over expenditure was £647 (2024 – £35,008) which included depreciation of £374 (2024 – £656).

Investment powers and policy

The trustees having regard to liquidity requirements of the charity and to the reserves policy as described in the trustees' report have operated a policy of keeping available funds in an interest-bearing

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deposit account with CAF, a 95 day notice account with Redwood Bank and high interest accounts with Cambridge and Counties Bank, Nationwide and United Trust Bank.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Board of Directors have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Board believes that the charity should hold financial reserves because it is entirely dependent for its income upon short and medium-term grants from a limited number of funding bodies. These grants are inevitably subject to fluctuation and delay. The charity requires protection against these uncertainties, and the ability to continue operating despite gaps in funding income. An "Emergency Operating Reserve" provides a safeguard for the charity's service commitment. It is the intention of SCVO's Board to maintain the long-term sustainability of SCVO by holding sufficient financial reserves to ensure that:

- The organisation can demonstrate resilience during periods of unforeseen difficulty, for example, due to unexpected demands on its funds.
- Unforeseen day-to-day operational costs such as employing staff to cover long-term sickness absence can be met.
- Funds are available to maintain staff during a gap between the end of one funding stream and the beginning of another.
- Planned commitments that cannot be met by future income alone, for example major asset purchase or match-funding requirements, can be met.

Cash flow for the organisation can be maintained where funding regimes fail to provide cash in advance of expenditure. This policy operates under the assumption that the requirements of SCVO's Finance Policy are fully adhered to and that a proportion of reserves be maintained in a readily realisable form. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle and the reserve figure is recognised as a dynamic function of a set of changing financial commitments. Accordingly, the reserve level is maintained using the following formula:

- Staffing costs - 6 months salaries plus redundancy costs for staff within the senior management team; 3 months salaries plus redundancy costs for all other staff.
- Premises and Business Support - 6 months of budgeted overheads of indirect costs (excluding staffing).
- Contracted Expenditure - full provision to be made for the remaining value of existing contractual commitments.
- Contingencies - to cover depreciation and renewal of key assets, and operational contingencies such as staff cover, eg for maternity or long-term sickness.

The Board of Trustees continue to work hard to ensure the business plan for the organisation drives the organisation forward in terms of fulfilling its aims and objectives. The Board hold the belief that it is vital to meet the outcomes proposed in the business plan and therefore recognises the need for some of the remaining reserves to be used to meet any shortfalls arising from this process. The prudent investment of some of the organisation's reserves in future years will ensure that SCVO is a dynamic and vibrant organisation empowered to support its diverse membership in Sandwell, providing greater capacity for strategic engagement activity that is not currently funded.

Plans for future periods

Strategy Statement

As a local charity committed to the best deal for Sandwell residents, SCVO works across our voluntary and community sector (VCS) to help charitable organisations develop support that makes people's lives

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better, offers practical help for those in times of greatest need, and enhances people's prospects for the future.

SCVO brings a local VCS membership together and works with our strategic partners and our sector to create an environment where residents and communities have the confidence, capability and support to respond as local needs emerge.

SCVO promotes ways of accessing this support for all, including how organisations can work better together, and champions the potential of our sector to develop effective home-grown responses to some of Sandwell's local challenges.

Strategic Aims

1. A strong and responsive Voluntary and Community Sector - Working with VCS providers to develop a sector offer which is as inclusive, effective and environmentally sustainable as possible.
2. Enabling access to support for all Sandwell residents - Increasing access to services and activities which help residents to make the best of life.
3. Making the most of what Sandwell has - Transforming the quality of life and wellbeing of Sandwell communities by supporting them to use their strengths and assets including people, places, skills and knowledge, resources and diversity.
4. A Clear Voice - Grounding partner engagement and strategic decision-making in everyday reality.
5. SCVO Fit for the Future - Building a robust, financially sustainable and stable SCVO.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

SCVO is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 14th July 2009 and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. There are currently 354 members, each of whom agrees to contribute £1.00 in the event of the charity winding up. Membership is open to community groups and not-for-profit organisations active within the borough of Sandwell, and individuals who support SCVO's mission and aims.

Appointment of trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the Chair of the Trustees is elected annually by the Trustees of the charitable organisation following the Annual General Meeting. There are up to 16 Trustees, 10 of whom are elected by the AGM. The existing Trustees have the power to co-opt up to 6 additional trustees to fill vacancies. Co-opted Trustees may serve for a period as determined by the Board up to three years.

All Members are circulated with invitations to nominate trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring Trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. When considering co-opting trustees, the Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law and the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and are informed of the content of the Memorandum and

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Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and the recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction, they meet key employees and other Trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meetings are held bi-monthly and there are sub-committees which meet either bi-monthly or as and when required to cover governance matters in greater detail.

A Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and other related activities.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a client or supplier must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

The charity has a close relationship with sub-regional and regional CVSs through joint collaboration establishing strategies and long-term aims for the benefit of the voluntary and community sectors within the Borough. Funding is provided by various sources for the capacity building of the VCS and to aid sector sustainability.

SCVO is affiliated to the following: National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO).

SCVO are one of four members managing Black Country Together CIO, an associated company which is joint-owned with Dudley Council for Voluntary Services, One Walsall and Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action. Black Country Together CIO is a charity established to enable the Voluntary and Community Sector in the sub-region to access funding opportunities across borough boundaries that might otherwise be out of reach for them.

Pay policy for senior staff

The Board of Directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team together comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and operating the organisation on a day-to-day basis. No director received remuneration in the year and details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 18 to the accounts.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management policy which comprises:

- Periodic review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the review.
- The implementation of procedures designed to mitigate or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Internal control risk is the risk of financial mismanagement and possible fraudulent activity. These risks are minimised in SCVO with the operation of robust financial controls, policies and procedures to safeguard the charity's assets and this is supplemented with an effective credit control system to preserve cash flow. The major external financial risk to SCVO continues to be financial sustainability

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particularly in the prevailing economic climate. A key element in the management of short-term funding risk in the charity is a reviewed Reserves Policy with a designated operating reserve in SCVO. Continued development of the Strategic Plan allows for the diversification of funding and activities.

Banking arrangements with Lloyds Bank Plc, CAF Bank and a Nationwide account continue to be reviewed to ensure the safe management of funds and levels of service. There is a 5-year fixed rate bond account with Cambridge and Counties Bank. Hard core funds are deposited in a CAF Gold Bank Account, United Trust Bank 180 Day Account, Redwood Bank 95 Day Account and in a 30 Day Platinum Account.

Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks in terms of adopting procedures to ensure legislative compliance with health and safety of staff, clients and visitors, employment law and equal opportunities. In common with other organisations SCVO has a high level of dependency on the specialism of key staff and there is a risk of replacing those key members should they decide to leave or through illness. Skills development in terms of shared knowledge throughout the workforce and SCVO's links with external consultants mitigate some degree of this risk.

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Report of the trustees
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Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

By order of the board of trustees,



.....
Claire Dale
Chair

25 September 2025

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of
S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of S.C.V.O. (A Company Limited by Guarantee) for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements :

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of
S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
(continued)**

Other information (continued)

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities statement (set out on page 13), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of
S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
(continued)**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

- We reviewed the company's control and risk management procedures and planned our work based on our assessment of those controls and procedures;
- This review included an assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to errors, fraud and management override of controls for all material areas in the financial statements;
- We made enquiries of management and the company's lawyers regarding any actual or potential litigation and/or claims;
- Financial statements disclosures were reviewed and checked for compliance with applicable laws;
- Detailed testing was conducted on balances and transactions including unusual items and those of individual significance to the financial statements;
- Data analytics were used in order to identify unusual or significant trends;
- Communications with management and those charged with governance regarding relevant matters was undertaken throughout the audit and on completion.

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

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

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of
S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
(continued)**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



David W Farnsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor

8 Sovereign Court

8 Graham Street

Birmingham B1 3JR

9 October 2025

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income						
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>						
Income from charitable activities		270,032	-	1,248,023	1,518,055	1,878,251
<i>Income from trading activities:</i>						
Rental income and room hire		350	-	-	350	499
Investment income	2	43,352	-	-	43,352	39,367
Total income		313,734	-	1,248,023	1,561,757	1,918,117
Expenditure						
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Operational and support costs	3	259,853	-	1,301,257	1,561,110	1,883,109
Total expenditure		259,853	-	1,301,257	1,561,110	1,883,109
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		53,881	-	(53,234)	647	35,008
Gross transfers between funds	12	(118,615)	65,381	53,234	-	-
Net movement in funds		(64,734)	65,381	-	647	35,008
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	12	148,062	347,637	-	495,699	460,691
Total funds carried forward		83,328	413,018	-	496,346	495,699

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the Statement of Financial Activities.

S.C.V.O.**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)****Company number : 03570517****Charity number : 1071514****Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025**

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		217		591
Current assets					
Debtors	9	194,638		110,222	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,059,400</u>		<u>1,802,719</u>	
		1,254,038		1,912,941	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>757,909</u>		<u>1,417,833</u>	
Net current assets			496,129		495,108
Net assets			<u>496,346</u>		<u>495,699</u>
Funds of the charity :					
Restricted funds					
General fund	12		-		-
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	12	83,328		148,062	
Designated funds	12	<u>413,018</u>		<u>347,637</u>	
			496,346		495,699
Total funds			<u>496,346</u>		<u>495,699</u>

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

The notes on pages 21 to 30 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 25 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by :



Claire Dale (Chair)

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of cash flows
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flow from operating activities	15	(786,671)	24,989
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest received	2	43,352	39,367
Net cash flow from investing activities		<u>43,352</u>	<u>39,367</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>(743,319)</u>	<u>64,356</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024		1,802,719	1,738,363
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025		<u>1,059,400</u>	<u>1,802,719</u>

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

S.C.V.O. is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The company's registered number and registered office can be found on the reference and administrative details page.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

b) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for a period of 12 months from the date of authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

- **Grants receivable**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income from grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance condition have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

- **Donated services and gifts in kind**

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

c) Income recognition (continued)

- **Gifts in kind**
Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.
- **Interest receivable**
Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.
- **Other income**
Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- **Costs of generating funds**
These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.
- **Charitable activities**
These are costs incurred in activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- **Governance costs**
These include the costs attributable to the trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including independent examination, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

e) Fund accounting

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

f) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 4.

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

1. Accounting policies (continued)

g) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	- 25% per annum on a straight line basis
Office equipment	- 25% per annum on a straight line basis

h) Debtors

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

i) Cash at bank and in hand

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

j) Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

k) Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

l) Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

m) Pension benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

n) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

There are no critical accounting estimates or areas of judgement.

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

2. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Deposit account interest	43,352	-	43,352	39,367
	<u>43,352</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,352</u>	<u>39,367</u>

3. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Strategic representation £	Development services £	Commercial activities £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Operational and support costs					
Staff costs	358,946	57,820	32,795	449,561	430,130
Project costs	-	1,021,778	-	1,021,778	1,358,464
Support costs (see note 4)	35,726	44,227	3,190	83,143	87,225
Governance costs (see note 4)	6,628	-	-	6,628	7,290
	<u>401,300</u>	<u>1,123,825</u>	<u>35,985</u>	<u>1,561,110</u>	<u>1,883,109</u>

Total expenditure on charitable activities was £1,561,110 (2024 - £1,883,109) of which £259,853 (2024 - £275,430) was unrestricted and £1,301,257 (2024 - £1,607,679) was restricted.

4. Analysis of support and governance costs

	General support £	Governance function £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Training and recruitment	594	-	594	1,491
Insurance	2,451	-	2,451	2,746
General office costs	59,126	-	59,126	57,346
Accountancy services	13,171	-	13,171	12,888
Legal and other professional	4,152	-	4,152	8,527
Bank charges	102	-	102	102
Auditor's remuneration	-	4,980	4,980	4,920
Other support costs	3,547	1,648	5,195	6,495
	<u>83,143</u>	<u>6,628</u>	<u>89,771</u>	<u>94,515</u>

The allocation of general support costs is based upon Strategic, Development and Commercial income as a percentage of total income received. Governance costs are specific costs attributable to the charity.

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

5. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	374	656
Operating lease rentals		
Premises	27,918	28,000
Auditor's remuneration	<u>4,980</u>	<u>4,920</u>

6. Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2024 - £nil) and neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2024 - £nil).

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Director of Operations & Development and Creative Director. The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel was £210,127 (2024 - £207,074).

7. Analysis of staff costs and numbers

Staff costs :

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Wages and salaries	392,159	375,868
Social security costs	33,972	32,135
Pension costs	<u>23,430</u>	<u>22,127</u>
	<u>449,561</u>	<u>430,130</u>

No employees received total employee benefits of more than £60,000.

Staff numbers :

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

	2025 Number	2025 FTE	2024 Number	2024 FTE
Charitable activities	13	10	13	10
Management	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	14,698	74,824	89,522
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	14,698	74,233	88,931
Charge for the year	-	374	374
At 31 March 2025	14,698	74,607	89,305
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	-	217	217
At 31 March 2024	-	591	591

9. Debtors

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Debtors from operations	66,002	63,972
Prepayments and accrued income	7,734	11,423
Other debtors	120,902	34,827
	<u>194,638</u>	<u>110,222</u>

10. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Creditors from operations	17,944	44,495
Accruals and deferred income	706,529	1,339,630
GM2LF Big Local	31,411	31,866
Other creditors	2,025	1,842
	<u>757,909</u>	<u>1,417,833</u>

The amount of £31,411 (2024 - £31,866) is for funds held on behalf of GM2LF Big Local. The Grace Mary to Lion Farm (GM2LF) Big Local is one of 150 community-led groups throughout England and Wales who have been granted £1million to be spent over 10 years. Big Local is being run by Local Trust, which is working with over £200m from the Big Lottery Fund and a range of partners, providing expert advice and support for residents. SCVO fulfils the role of 'LTO' (Locally Trusted Organisation) for the GM2LF Big Local Partnership. The amount held on behalf of GM2LF at 31 March 2025 is shown as part of the restricted fund in note 13.

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

10. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	1,328,233	1,480,398
Resources deferred in the year	219,150	763,254
Amounts released from previous years	(849,151)	(915,419)
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	<u>698,232</u>	<u>1,328,233</u>

At the balance sheet date the charity was holding funds received in advance for services due to be delivered after the year end.

11. Commitments under operating leases/licence agreements

At 31 March 2025, the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases/licence agreements :

	Land and buildings	
	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Within one year	24,763	28,000
Within two to five years inclusive	60,278	-
	<u>85,041</u>	<u>28,000</u>

12. Analysis of funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds					
General fund	<u>-</u>	<u>1,248,023</u>	<u>(1,301,257)</u>	<u>53,234</u>	<u>-</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	148,062	313,734	(259,853)	(118,615)	83,328
Designated fund (1)	255,000	-	-	90,000	345,000
Designated fund (2)	92,637	-	-	(24,619)	68,018
	<u>495,699</u>	<u>313,734</u>	<u>(259,853)</u>	<u>(53,234)</u>	<u>496,346</u>
Total funds	<u>495,699</u>	<u>1,561,757</u>	<u>(1,561,110)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496,346</u>

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

12. Analysis of funds (continued)

Name of fund	Description, nature and purpose of fund
Restricted general fund	Money given to the charity where the donor requires that a grant or donation be spent for a specific project.
Unrestricted general fund	The free reserves of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.
Designated fund (1)	The Emergency Operating Reserve is to safeguard the charity's service commitment as detailed in the Reserves Policy included in the Report of the Trustees. The Trustees decided at their annual review to increase this reserve to £345,000.
Designated fund (2)	Unrestricted income for which the trustees had formerly designated to be used towards the operating costs of the charity in 2025/26.

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2025
are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	217	-	217
Current assets	1,222,627	31,411	1,254,038
Current liabilities	(726,498)	(31,411)	(757,909)
Total net assets	496,346	-	496,346

14. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments at either 31 March 2025 or at 31 March 2024.

15. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Net income for the year	647	35,008
Depreciation	374	656
Interest receivable	(43,352)	(39,367)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(84,416)	154,729
Decrease in creditors	(659,924)	(126,037)
Net cash flow from operating activities	(786,671)	24,989

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

16. Pension commitments

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the company to the scheme and amounted to £23,430 (2024 - £22,127). There were no outstanding contributions at the end of the financial year (2024 - £nil).

17. Related party transactions

The following related party transactions took place during the period :

Black Country Together CIC

A community interest company in which the charity owns 25% by way of guarantee

Services recharged to related party during the year
Amount due from related party at year end

2025	2024
£	£
64,897	66,700
53,337	46,500

Krunch UK

Jon Grant (trustee) is an employee (CEO) of Krunch UK and Laura Nott (trustee, resigned 17 July 2025) is also a trustee

Grants paid to related party during the year

2025	2024
£	£
77,444	77,667

African Speaking French Community Support

Jacques Matensi-Kubanza (trustee) is a trustee (chairman) of African Speaking French Community Support

Grants paid to related party during the year
Amounts due to related party at year end

2025	2024
£	£
15,945	21,500
800	-

Ideal for All Limited

Khatija Patel (trustee) is an employee (CEO) of Ideal for All Limited

Grants paid to related party during the year

2025	2024
£	£
6,143	30,874

Black Country YMCA

Luke Tyler (trustee, resigned 27 March 2025) is an employee (Head of Health and Wellbeing Services) of Black Country YMCA

Grants paid to related party during the year

2025	2024
£	£
238	3,000

S.C.V.O.
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

17. Related party transactions (continued)

Sandwell Young Carers

Geoff Foster (trustee, resigned 16 June 2025) is a trustee of Sandwell Young Carers

Grants paid to related party during the year

2025 £	2024 £
39,971	43,614

Sandwell Churches Link

Jon Grant (trustee) is a trustee of Sandwell Churches Link

Grants paid to related party during the year

2025 £	2024 £
1,400	-

Breakthru CIC

Victoria Breakwell (trustee, appointed 26 September 2024) is a director of Breakthru CIC

Grants paid to related party during the year

2025 £	2024 £
2,000	-

Communities in Sync Limited

Claire Dale (Chair), Khatija Patel (trustee) and Mark Davis (CEO) are directors of Communities in Sync Limited

Income received from related party during the year
Amounts due from related party at year end

2025 £	2024 £
1,070	-
450	-