

VOLUNTARY SECTOR NORTH WEST

England & Wales · Charity number 1081654

Details

Other names	VSNW
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03988903
Registered	2000-07-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Vsnw St Thomas Centre Ardwick Green North Manchester M12 6FZ
Phone	01612769300
Email	info@vsnw.org.uk
Website	www.vsnw.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 3 (A) (B) (C) FROM MEMORANDUM

Activities: To work together to enable the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to positively shape the future of the North West

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND (LANCASHIRE, CHESHIRE, GREATER MANCHESTER, CUMBRIA, MERSEYSIDE)
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,214,629	£1,132,959	£646,555	12
2024-03-31	£1,328,240	£1,192,595	£564,885	12
2023-03-31	£600,178	£603,080	£429,240	11
2022-03-31	£434,740	£389,448	-	-
2021-03-31	£380,080	£339,290	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sally Yeoman	Chair	2019-02-12
Ben Whalley		2025-09-16
Circle Lai Yuen Steele		2021-02-12
Duncan Craig		2025-02-18
Gill Bainbridge		2020-11-12
Jeremy Garth Hodgkinson		2023-03-17
Margaret Young Cheshire		2021-08-20
Yakub Patel		2023-04-20

Accounts

Company number: 3988903

Charity Number: 1081654

Voluntary Sector North West

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Voluntary Sector North West
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Company number 3988903

Charity number 1081654

Registered office and operational address VSNW, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North,
Manchester. M12 6FZ

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Sally Yeoman	Chair
Gill Bainbridge	Treasurer
Circle Steele	
Margaret Cheshire	
Yakub Patel	
Jeremy Hodgkinson	
Duncan Craig	(appointed 18 th February 2025)
Ben Whalley	(appointed 16 th September 2025)

Key management	Warren Escadale	Chief Executive
personnel	Yen Siang Tan	Operations Director

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Unity Trust Bank
PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

Charity Bank
Fosse House, 182 High Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1BE

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Manchester, M4 6JG

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Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") were updated on 26 September 2000. They are: To promote such purposes as are charitable according to the law of England and Wales for the benefit of the public in the North West of England by:

- (a) Providing a channel of information between voluntary organisations and local and central government agencies or other organisations in the region.
- (b) Providing a network of communication for voluntary organisations and agencies in the region.
- (c) Bringing together representatives from voluntary organisations, statutory authorities and other agencies in the region to identify the funding and policy needs of voluntary organisations.

The area of benefit, the North West of England is defined as the ceremonial counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Merseyside.

Ensuring our work delivers our object & aims

The Trustee Board of VSNW reviews the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year to ensure activities remain focused on our stated purposes. The trustees established in consultation with member organisations, a strategic plan for 2022-2025. The following four strategic aims were established:

- Increase **connectivity** within the sector
- Enable **influence** for the sector
- Demonstrate the **value** of VSNW and the sector as a whole
- Build an effective **voice** for the North West VCFSE sector

Underpinning this is our annual delivery plan, high level KPIs, and work to ensure VSNW is a well governed and financially sound organisation. This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The Charity's principal activities and target beneficiaries are outlined below. All charitable activities are carried out to advance public benefit in line with Voluntary Sector North West's (VSNW) charitable objectives.

During the year, we continued to deliver on VSNW's mission, strategic aims, and the priorities set for 2022-2025. This ensured that our efforts remained aligned with the needs of the North West's voluntary and community sector while reflecting the broader priorities of the region.

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Core Activities

The North West is a diverse region, consisting of five sub-regions (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire) with a mixture of economic success and areas of marginalisation. Through our members and networks, we maintain connections with over 50,000 organisations and groups working across the region's communities. VSNW's work is centred around three core elements:

- Supporting the sector's role in social and economic impact: We focus on developing effective economic strategies that deliver meaningful outcomes for communities.
- Championing the sector's involvement in key areas of health and social care: This includes influencing the future direction of City Regions, Combined Authorities, and the NHS's Integrated Care Systems, to ensure the sector's voice is heard.
- Providing general support for the sector: Acting as a bridge between national policy and local implementation, we aim to be a system leader and drive positive change, guided by the membership, networks, and relationships that are fundamental to VSNW's work.

This work ensures that we remain at the forefront of supporting the voluntary sector in driving social and economic progress across the North West.

The report illustrates our performance in delivering VSNW's strategic priorities and our high-level metrics.

Strategic priority: Increase connectivity within the VCFSE Sector

Our vision is: ***"Through the strengths of the VCFSE sector, put communities in charge of driving change."*** To fulfil this vision, we continue to foster and support healthy, connected partnerships that bring value to the sector in each sub-region. By leveraging local networks and relationships, we focus on maximising positive impact. Supporting strong partnerships across the North West's VCFSE sector remains at the core of our operating model.

In 2024/25, VSNW provided support to VCFSE partnerships in Cheshire and Warrington, Liverpool City Region, Lancashire, and Greater Manchester. In Cumbria, where Cumbria CVS leads this work, we complemented their efforts by building connections and offering alternative support.

In **Liverpool City Region (LCR)**, VSNW, through Laura Tilston (Research and Policy Manager), Emma Newman (Communications Officer), Yoaby Tsang (Events, Admin and Membership Officer) and Niamh Shaw (Office Co-ordinator), provides support to the VS6 Partnership, which is connected to the 11,500 groups operating across the City Region and champions VCFSE-led models of delivery to address social, economic and health inequalities.

During the year, VS6 developed VCFSE networks to tackle child poverty, housing and homelessness, and influencing the development of public service innovation work with the Combined Authority. We also supported VS6 in the launch of their "Beyond Innovation" campaign which seeks to foster lasting, durable change in the VCFSE sector by prioritising sustainability and stability rather than perpetual innovation, to develop a balance between innovative ideas and proven methods. VS6 has driven work on tackling racial inequalities with the VCFSE sector in LCR, with VS6 and VSNW supporting One Knowsley's CEO Racheal Jones to continue to build the Phoenix Way Cheshire and Merseyside Ethnic Communities Network, which now includes over 115 groups.

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In **Greater Manchester**, VSNW, through the work of Anna Cooper (Greater Manchester Programme Manager), Cassandra Banks (Partnerships Officer), Lucy North (Communications Officer), Ayisatu Emore (GM=EqAI Partnership Coordinator) and John Hannen (Work and Skills Lead), continues to provide secretariat support to the Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group. Our Chief Executive, Warren Escadale, serves as the Chair.

The Leadership Group connects with and supports collaboration across a wide range of VCFSE networks, representing diverse communities such as Black, Asian, and minority ethnic groups, older people, young people, LGBTQ+, disability, faith communities, carers, mental health advocates, sports organisations, refugees and women. This partnership model includes 10GM, GMCVO (until their closure on 27th November 2025), local infrastructure organisations, social enterprises, and VCFSE service providers including the groundbreaking GM Alternative Provider Collaborative. The Leadership Group has a direct mailing list of over 1,500 sector leaders and, collectively, through infrastructure bodies and equalities networks, the group is linked to 17,400 plus VCFSE organisations and groups working for Greater Manchester's communities.

In **Cheshire and Warrington**, Warren Escadale, Lyn Cooke (Cheshire & Merseyside Programme Manager), Alison Cullen (CWIP's lead for health and care work), Yoaby Tsang and Niamh Shaw have been key parts of our support for the Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP) which links to 8,000 local VCFSE organisations.

CWIP is preparing the sector for devolution in Cheshire and Warrington, with work progressing on a co-designed VCFSE manifesto ahead of the new Combined Authority starting in 2026, with the sector being seen as an essential partner. CWIP also launched a single portal Volunteering Hub in March 2025, giving people easy access to a wide range of opportunities across the area, whilst providing a shared space for volunteer-involving organisations.

Through VS6, CWIP and the **Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) VCFSE Health and Care Leaders Group (HCLG)** we have looked to link the sector into a rapidly change health and care environment, supporting mechanisms and connections for sector voice and accountability. The HCLG connects to local infrastructure, equalities networks, thematic VCFSE networks and VCFSE providers across Cheshire and Merseyside.

A central part of this work are the roles that five external VCFSE leads play, alongside their day-jobs, in building connections and influence for the sector in C&M: Ellen Loudon, Vice-Chair of the Health & Care Partnership, Dave Packwood, C&M VCFSE Children & Young People Network Manager; Racheal Jones, Merseyside Health & Care Lead (VS6); Alison Cullen, Cheshire and Warrington Health & Care Lead (CWIP), and Jan Campbell, Social Prescribing and Primary Care Lead. This team works closely with Dave Sweeney, Associate Director of Sustainability and Partnerships, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside.

In **Lancashire**, we connect to two partnerships: firstly, working in support of the VCFSE Lancashire & South Cumbria Alliance; secondly, following our development work on the Locally Organised Communities Across Lancashire (LOCAL) VCFSE Manifesto, the movement being created behind this headed by the Lancashire Association of CVS. Through this work we look to connect with as many of the 10,000 local groups as possible.

Fiona Chow (Database and Admin Officer) ensures we maintain a robust stakeholder contact list that includes VCFSE chief executives and senior staff from across the region. Through our **improved communications work**, we circulate a range of bulletins, including updates from GM VCFSE Leadership, VS6 Partnership, C&M Health Care Leadership Group and GM Cancer Champions. In 2024, Emma Newman (Communications Officer) launched VSNW's quarterly newsletter, *VSNW Regional*

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Round-up, which provides members with updates on key projects, events and opportunities to get involved in VSNW's work.

VSNW website upgrade: Emma Newman led this work with the support of Frankie McIntosh (Senior Research Engagement Coordinator) and Niamh Shaw (Office Co-ordinator). The website is designed to make it easier to explore our work, access resources, and better keep the sector connected. This represents one of many elements of operational improvement instigated and implemented by Yen Siang Tan (Operations Director) who also manages our Lottery-funded *Policy & Influencing Team* which has contributed to communications through a series of blogs, think pieces and briefings reflecting on national policy announcements and highlighting key information relevant to the VCFSE sector.

As of 31st March 2025, VSNW has **201 members**: 134 full members and 67 associate members. In 2024-25, VSNW supported **22 strategic VCFSE networks and 148 network meetings**, roundtables, workshops, conferences and other events, engaging over 1,500 different North West VCFSE leaders to ensure we have a vibrant, influential and connected North West VCFSE sector. Thanks to Yen Tan and Yoaby Tsang (Events, Admin and Membership Officer), we continue to see VSNW's membership and our support offer grow.

Going forward the VSNW continues to invest in internal capacity from reserves to ensure we can reach across the North West, and engage larger numbers of VCFSE leaders and organisations.

Strategic priority: Enable influence and be an effective voice for the sector

VSNW continues to support sub-regional partnerships to develop and deliver their **collective, sector-led strategies, manifestos and implementation plans** across the North West. This includes: VS6's VCFSE Manifesto for Liverpool City Region 2024-28; Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group's Manifesto and Greater Manchester Accord; Cheshire & Warrington VCFSE Sector Devolution Manifesto; Lancashire LOCAL Manifesto, while sharing learning with Cumbria CVS as their Strategic Authority takes shape, following significant local government reorganisation already. At our series of Metro-Mayor hustings, held with just under two hundred sector leaders, Steve Rotheram and Andy Burnham signed their respective VCFSE manifesto, and confirmed their continued commitment to working with us as a sector and as a partner.

From April 2022 to March 2025, our work – *with and via partners* – to influence and demonstrate the value of the VCFSE sector has secured £34.3 million of investment into the sector. This includes **£15.9 million investment in the VCFSE sector in 2024/25**, significantly exceeding our Board's KPI of £5 million. This investment has strengthened the sector's contribution across a range of priority areas, including skills and employment, health and social care, community research, tackling poverty, community-led economic development and wellbeing and prevention.

Campaigning has been a big part of 2024/25. Through our work and our partnerships, we have been able to champion the **VCFSE role in essential, community-centred delivery** and look to be an effective voice for the sector: supporting people out of hospital to stay healthy and home, championing community ownership, advancing food strategies beyond foodbanks, provision of warm hubs, tackling digital exclusion, supporting the sector role in the criminal justice system, ensuring the sector role in the skills and employment pipeline, influencing public sector commissioning, procurement and fair funding for groups, supporting sector workforce initiatives, championing new partnerships with NHS Providers through place-partnerships (e.g. across Merseyside) and the Alternative Provider Collaboration (Greater Manchester), advancing the sector role in mental health and wellbeing,

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supporting volunteering and access to volunteering, building large-scale grass-roots and sector-led initiatives around cancer prevention and other health conditions, championing VCFSE partnerships with primary care including and beyond social prescribing, developing VCFSE children and young people services and models, pushing for VCFSE good employment models, sector role in and needs around net zero, sector intelligence and models of coproduction, sector access to data and research, sector role in tackling homelessness, in local regeneration and in creating welcoming communities for refugees and asylum seekers.

The Beyond Innovation campaign was launched by the VS6 partnership to tackle perceptions that public services must always innovate to be successful which can create a perpetual cycle of innovation, and instead focus on lasting, durable change where innovation and adaptation is needed and appropriate, and not for innovations sake. To balance the need for innovation and building upon what works, a series of blogs to showcase the sector's innate innovative working, as well as several events to understand the sector's role and best practice in particular areas of work. So far, these events have included an assembly in collaboration with YMCA on Housing and Homelessness, and an assembly in collaboration with CHAMPS and Youth Focus NW on Child Poverty.

The award-winning **Bee Seen, Get Screened** campaign, part of VSNW's Answer Cancer work, asks employers to pledge to allow paid time off, or flexible working, for staff to attend NHS Cancer Screening appointments. As of 31st March 2025, over 143,190 employees in Greater Manchester (one in ten working people) can take time off work, with their employer's support, to attend cancer screenings.

The **Cheshire & Merseyside VCFSE Health and Care transformation programme** is delivered in partnership with the C&M Health and Care Leaders Group, VS6 and CWIP. It is led by a small core team made up of VCFSE leaders, and co-ordinated by Lyn Cooke, C&M Programme Manager. The programme aims to embed VCFSE voice and delivery in health and care across Cheshire and Merseyside. Highlights from 2024/25 include: the sector was represented in over 200 system meetings in 2024/25, actively influencing decisions in boards, forums and working groups; championed better use of social value in procurement to strengthen the VCFSE sector and build a "Social Value Economy"; increasing the sector's role in hospital discharge and readmission prevention; development of a longer-term, place-based partnership model to improve community mental health services, with genuine co-design at its core; improving neurodivergent delivery of services for children and young people and an award-winning VCFSE cancer prevention programme in partnership with the Cancer Alliance (Community Care Initiative of the Year 2024, Health Service Journal Awards).

In Greater Manchester, 10GM and the Leadership Group have helped to create **Live Well**, a partnership between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), NHS Greater Manchester, and the VCFSE sector to shift power and decision-making to communities and build on VCFSE strength and expertise.

We are supporting the sector's role in the **Greater Manchester Trailblazer**, which aims to strengthen local collaboration, test innovative approaches to supporting economically inactive people into work, and contribute to longer term system reform across work, health and skills.

Following the publication of the government's English Devolution White Paper published in December 2024, VSNW and Network for Europe published an analysis outlining how new Strategic Authorities will work. **Devolution and the new strategic authorities** will potentially be an important change in sector relationships in Lancashire, Cumbria and Cheshire & Warrington. We have also been working closely with infrastructure partnerships in Lancashire and Cheshire & Warrington to develop their devolution asks for the VCFSE sector to influence the emerging strategic authorities. Our work supporting our partners at CWIP in helping them identify core priorities in Cheshire and Warrington has

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led to the development of the new Cheshire & Warrington **VCFSE Manifesto**, which complements previous work developing the Local Lancashire VCFSE Manifesto.

Through the GM Leadership Group's strategic advice roles, the sector is seen as a core partner and is well placed to champion the sector's role in **Greater Manchester's Integrated Single Settlement** devolution deal.

Office for Public Service Innovation (OPSI) is the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's (LCRCA) vehicle for designing and delivering innovative solutions to break the cycle of entrenched deprivation to improve life chances and enhance community cohesion. Through this programme, the VCFSE sector via VS6 is helping to shape the design of the City Region's integrated settlement ask of central government.

VSNW has led the Cheshire and Merseyside Research Engagement Network (REN) programme to increase **VCFSE awareness, involvement, and capacity in health and care research** projects. We have launched a range of resources to support awareness and participation, including a new online platform – BRIDGE Research Network – to build connections between researchers, academics and VCFSE sector at scale.

Other examples of work to champion the voice of communities in research include:

- Phoenix Way, which brings together 115 black led and racially minoritised groups, has developed a dedicated research network, with academic research partnerships in progress.
- Mary Seacole House trained nearly 30 research champions from over 11 countries in languages including Persian, Arabic, Urdu, Hindi to secure wider, more inclusive participation in 'Research for Future' and 'Be Part of Research'.
- Most recently, we have launched a pilot with health economists from Lancashire's two universities to increase skills in evaluation techniques supporting VCFSE organisations to better demonstrate the impact of their work.

VSNW, following the closure of GMCVO, has been an interim host for GM=EqAl since January 2025. Through a member network of VCFSE equalities organisations and equalities champions, GM=EqAl continues to provide expert and lived experience insight, including publishing a set of clear principles and guidance around remuneration for the voice of lived experience. This work aims to counter tokenistic engagement and power imbalances by ensuring that lived experience is valued equally in policymaking. GM=EqAl led a process to develop a collection of best practice, information and resources on equitable involvement and fair remuneration for those with lived experience taking part in the co-production of policy. GM=EqAl and VSNW are asking public sector bodies to adopt the **Lived Experience Framework**, embed inclusion in policy design, and structured payment processes through a socialisation and implementation plan. The aim is to embed community-led policymaking in Greater Manchester.

Increases to the employer's national insurance contribution (NIC) outlined in the 2024 budget added to other financial pressures on the sector, including systemic and historical issues with commissioning processes. This led to widespread **NIC campaigns supported by VSNW** and a **Sector Instability Campaign in Greater Manchester**. We saw a range of responses, including commitments, letters and discussions of support from local councils, NHS partners, and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) which highlighted commissioner's desires to work more closely with our sector to improve support and care for Greater Manchester residents.

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Nationally, we have good links to NHS England's voluntary sector team. Over the past eight years, we have successfully lobbied for a VCSE Partnership programme, aligned with the NHS's 42 Integrated Care Systems (ICS), and modelled on our work in Greater Manchester. This has led to the establishment of VCSE Partnerships or Alliances across all ICS areas in England, including all four areas in the North West: Cheshire & Merseyside, Lancashire and South Cumbria, Greater Manchester, North East and North Cumbria. This development has led to the formation of **Alliance42**, a national network of local VCSE Alliances with links to over 400,000 local VCFSE groups across England.

Strategic Priority: Demonstrate the value of VSNW and the sector as a whole

In 2024 we launched the first **VSNW Funding and Commissioning Awards**, shining a light on the commissioners and funders who go the extra mile to recognise the value and values of our sector. The awards help VSNW collate information and case studies on good funding and commissioning. This informs our North West Lottery project work to implement Fair Funding Principles, develop a North West Commissioning Review Panel and a Co-Design and Co-Production Framework.

In November 2024 we published **Towards a Social Value Economy** with partners at NHS C&M in 2024. The report sets out recommendations for all system partners to make the shift towards a social value economy, to realise the transformative potential of the Public Services Act 2012. In 2024 NHS C&M ICB published an overview of their Social Value reporting for 2022-2024, produced by Social Value Portal, including measurements of spending with the VCFSE sector as recommended by our report.

Following the publication of the GM Commissioning Framework in 2019, and the development of the GMCA **Fair Funding Protocol** in 2023, NHS GM commissioners and VCFSE colleagues recognised the need for a more practical tool which would help to embed key elements of the Framework, with the aims of addressing inconsistent practice and addressing risks to sustainability in the Sector.

At a North West level, our Policy and Influencing Team have developed a set of **Fair Funding Principles** for managing contracts with the VCFSE sector across the North West and will launch a regional Fair Funding Campaign.

Demonstrating the impact of the VCFSE sector in population health through prevention demonstrator programmes like the **Greater Manchester Answer Cancer Programme**. This once pilot programme, which has now been running for 7 years, demonstrates the sector's ingenuity in driving prevention. Using campaign tools, training and grants, over 250 actively involved community organisations, and thousands of community champions, have taken part and delivered meaningful engagement in their community.

The contributions of the VSNW team, Yen Siang Tan (Operations Director), Jacqui Naraynsingh (VSNW Project Coordinator), Fiona Chow (Database and Admin Officer) and Yoaby Tsang (Events, Admin and Membership Officer) have been instrumental in the programme's success, delivered in partnership with Salford CVS (Programme Lead), BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements.

Key outcomes from the Answer Cancer programme for 2024/25 include:

- 313 people signed up to be an Answer Cancer Champion, with a total number of 1,876 champions. This is a more than 80% increase on the previous year.
- Of these, 188 individual Champions reported holding 8,767 direct conversations about cancer and cancer screening.
- 22% of people committed to taking up their screening invitation as a direct result of talking to a Champion.

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- 43 new organisations signed up as Organisational Champions, with a total number 340.
- 45 of these Champions spoke to 16,918 employees and service users.

Additionally, **Answer Cancer Champion Rona Barbour** won the *Greater Manchester Health and Care Volunteer Champion Award 2024*. The awards attracted c.700 nominations from 140 organisations.

VSNW teams have supported our regional infrastructure partnerships to draft **impact reports** showcasing the work of the VCFSE sector and VCFSE partnerships. These include:

- [Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE Health and Care Transformation Programme Progress Report \(2024/25\)](#)
- [Cheshire and Merseyside ICS Research Engagement Network \(REN\) Development Programme Impact Report \(2024\)](#)
- [VS6 Impact Report – \(2020/24\)](#)
- [Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord Impact Report \(2024/25\)](#)

Priority: Effective NW VCFSE Leadership Organisation

The Board works to ensure that VSNW is a fit-for-purpose organisation with the capacity to connect, influence, and drive positive change in the sector. Our organisational development has progressed steadily, increasing from 12 to 15 staff roles as of March 2025.

Our development supports new projects, including the VCFSE Sector influencing the Future of the North West, funded by the National Lottery, and the ICS Research Engagement Network Development Programme, broadening our reach and influence.

Income generation is strong, with funding secured for projects in Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Merseyside until 2026. Four-year funding was secured from the Lottery to deliver the *VCFSE Sector influencing the Future of the North West* project, which offers opportunities and capacity to do more across the North West, the North and nationally. Yen Siang Tan, Operations Director, working with the Chief Executive, Board and colleagues, continues to play a key role in VSNW's operations and ongoing development. In terms of leadership, the Board continues to work effectively in guiding and supporting VSNW's strategic direction.

Plans for the Future

Whilst we continue to deliver against our 2022-2025 strategic plan, we are currently in the process of developing our new strategic plan for 2026-2030. The plan builds upon our work so far with 5 areas of focus with equalities as a golden thread throughout:

1. **Every Subregion Connected and Influential**
2. **A Stronger Voice for the Sector**
3. **The VCFSE Sector *Championed and Celebrated***
4. **A Thriving, Supported VCFSE Workforce**
5. **A Resilient, Sustainable VCFSE Ecosystem**

We have been building the groundwork for the delivery of our North West Lottery Programme over the past 18 months, and 2025/26 will see the fruits of this labour with projects such as the Fair Funding Campaign, North West Commissioning Panel and Centre of Excellence for VCFSE-led Health Creation being launched. Our new VSNW website will also be ready and will help us deliver against our Lottery

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programme providing clear updates and easy to find resources for members and the wider VCFSE sector to support our work.

We will also see the launch of the BRIDGE Research Network Platform, in collaboration with NHS England and NIHR, which will improve VCFSE and community access and inclusion in health research.

As devolution is fast-tracked nationally, we will continue to support our sub-regional infrastructure partnerships to advocate on behalf of the VCFSE sector as investment and decision-making powers are gradually decentralised.

Financial review

The charity held reserves of £646,555 at the year end (2024: £564,885) of which £45,706 (2024: £74,511) were restricted and £179,643 (2024: £107,036) designated leaving a general reserve of £421,206 (2024: £383,338). VSNW is in a reasonable financial position at this point. A review of our financial position is conducted quarterly by the Resources Group and is then considered by the Trustee Board. This review is ongoing.

The reserves include a designated contingency to support funding sustainability. This provides the charity with the ability to continue delivering key projects and services during periods when existing funding ends or while awaiting confirmation or receipt of new funding. We are conscious that core capacity is dependent on a time-limited Lottery investment and that going forward, VSNW's board will develop a 5 year sustainability plan.

Reserves policy

The VSNW reserves policy is to maintain sufficient levels of reserves to ensure the delivery of existing programmes of work or their orderly transfer to alternative providers should a shortfall in income occur.

The reserves level reflects approximately three months of project staff costs, six months of core staff costs, and an allowance for redundancy payments, requiring a minimum reserve of £260,835.

The general reserve is currently above this level; however, given the short-term funding environment and reliance on project-based income, reserves will be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain appropriate.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 April 2000 and registered as a charity on 19 February 1998.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2025 was 128 full members. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 10 to the accounts.

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Trustee selection methods

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association half the members of the Trustee Board elected to serve must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Both business and strategic skills are required on the Trustee Board and the Board has made a firm commitment to appoint trustees with strong strategic connections to the VCSE sector in each subregion whilst also being sensitive to inclusion and diversity. An annual skills audit is conducted to identify any skills gaps.

Trustees are appointed via an electoral process at the Annual General Meeting elections. Other Trustees can be co-opted by the Trustee Board throughout the year, in accordance with the constitution. The Trustee Board meets every quarter.

Induction and training of trustees

New Trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive where the current financial position and the governing framework are presented, and the obligations of Board members and future plans and objectives are outlined. The NCVO booklet Trustees and Trustees Members National Occupational Standards is given to all new trustees.

Organisational structure

VSNW has a Trustee Board of up to 12 members who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. As at 31st March 2025 the Board has six members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

VSNW's decision making process rests with the Trustee Board. Decisions regarding implementation of the charity's work and staff supervision are delegated to the Chief Executive, who has one-to-ones with the Chair.

Sub groups are established and agreed by the Trustees to meet between Trustee Board meetings to address any issues that require immediate attention and report any actions for agreement to the full Trustee Board.

The Board delegates day-to-day management of the charity to the Chief Executive, Warren Escadale. The Board takes advice from VSNW staff, in particular the Chief Executive and the Operations Director, Yen Siang Tan, and are informed by their relationships with VSNW's subregional VCFSE partnerships and their own VCFSE organisations, networks and partnerships operating in VSNW's area of benefit, North West England.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, VSNW is guided by local, regional and national policy. Sub regional partnerships ensure engagement with thematic, geographic and specialist VCSE infrastructure and provides VSNW with a wide reach into the VCSE sector across the region.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

A subgroup of the board reviews remuneration with advice from our HR consultant, using comparable pay rates within and beyond the sector, including equivalent relationships.

Risk management

The Trustee Board conducts a risk analysis with its budget at outset each year. There is a Risk Register and Policy in place and the register is reviewed on a regular basis. Procedures are implemented internally

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

to ensure proper authorisation for all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure Health and Safety compliance. These are currently under review for future improvement.

Fundraising

VSNW did not conduct public fundraising activities in 2024/25.

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Voluntary Sector North West for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

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.

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Ltd were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 27/11/2025 and signed on their behalf by

Sally Yeoman (Chair)

Gill Bainbridge (Treasurer)

Independent auditor's report
to the members of Voluntary Sector North West

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voluntary Sector North West (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. 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 trustees are responsible for the 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. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial

Independent auditor's report
to the members of Voluntary Sector North West

statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions 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 (incorporating the directors' 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 returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- 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' Annual 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 15, 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.

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

Independent auditor's report
to the members of Voluntary Sector North West

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:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- enquiry of the charity's staff, management and those charged with governance to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

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 is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

Christy Yun Hing Lau FCCA DChA CTA
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
Slade & Cooper Limited
Statutory Auditors
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG
Date: 22/12/2025

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	465	-	465	-
Charitable activities:	4	646,436	562,252	1,208,688	1,328,240
Investments		5,476	-	5,476	-
Total income		652,377	562,252	1,214,629	1,328,240
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:	5	541,902	591,057	1,132,959	1,192,595
Total expenditure		541,902	591,057	1,132,959	1,192,595
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		110,475	(28,805)	81,670	135,645
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	8	110,475	(28,805)	81,670	135,645
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		110,475	(28,805)	81,670	135,645
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		490,374	74,511	564,885	429,240
Total funds carried forward		600,849	45,706	646,555	564,885

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Voluntary Sector North West
Company number 3988903
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	184	843
Total fixed assets		184	843
Current assets			
Debtors	14	14,710	18,782
Cash at bank and in hand	15	881,770	658,852
Total current assets		896,480	677,634
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	16	(250,109)	(113,592)
Net current assets		646,371	564,042
Total assets less current liabilities		646,555	564,885
Net assets		646,555	564,885
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	18	45,706	74,511
Unrestricted income funds	19	600,849	490,374
Total charity funds		646,555	564,885

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 21 to 36 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 27/11/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Sally Yeoman (Chair)

Gill Bainbridge (Treasurer)

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	21	217,442	383,709
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Dividends, interest, and rents from investments		5,476	-
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		5,476	-
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		222,918	383,709
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		658,852	275,143
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		881,770	658,852

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Voluntary Sector North West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Voluntary Sector North West

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

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

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

e 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.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of 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 charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

h Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures & fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3, 4 or 5 years

Voluntary Sector North West

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

i Debtors

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

j Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash balances and deposits held on short-term and fixed-term accounts that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash, and which the charity holds for treasury and liquidity management rather than investment purposes. Fixed-term deposit accounts with longer original maturities are included within cash where the funds are not held for long-term investment and the charity intends to use them in the short to medium term.

k Creditors and provisions

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

l Financial instruments

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

m Pensions

Employees of the charity are opted into a Pension Scheme (defined contribution 'money purchase' schemes) with an employer's contribution. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 9.

There were outstanding contributions of £4,498 (2024: £2,745) at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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 registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donated services	465	-
Total	465	-

All donations and legacies income is unrestricted.

Voluntary Sector North West

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

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
NHS England			
VCFSE Transformation Programme (Cheshire & Merseyside)	-	238,758	238,758
VCFSE Change Engagement Workshops	-	7,080	7,080
C&M Research	-	73,500	73,500
ICB Engagement Strategy	10,000	-	10,000
Salford CVS			
(GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	101,557	101,557
VS6 (Reaching Community Fund)	-	23,650	23,650
GMCA (Accord)	630,209	-	630,209
National Lottery	-	117,707	117,707
Sefton CVS	5,500	-	5,500
NAVCA	727	-	727
Total	646,436	562,252	1,208,688
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	15,120	15,120
NHS England			
VCFSE Transformation Programme (Cheshire & Merseyside)	-	438,758	438,758
C&M Research	-	56,461	56,461
Salford CVS			
(GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	101,001	101,001
VS6 (Reaching Community Fund)	-	123,303	123,303
GMCA (Accord)	526,826	-	526,826
National Lottery	-	57,991	57,991
Burnley Pendle & Rossendale			
CVS (400 Voices)	4,280	-	4,280
Community Futures	4,500	-	4,500
Total	535,606	792,634	1,328,240

Voluntary Sector North West

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

5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	490,940	426,657
Other Staff costs	2,784	4,794
Administration	31,279	18,282
Accommodation	10,876	10,831
Associates/Sub-contractors	162,710	163,486
Conferences & events	19,408	9,965
Other project costs	63,164	29,981
Grants to institutions (see note 7)	324,235	495,024
Depreciation	659	938
Bad debt	-	10,000
Governance costs (see note 6)	26,904	22,637
	1,132,959	1,192,595
	2025 £	2024 £
Restricted expenditure	591,057	726,963
Unrestricted expenditure	541,902	465,632
	1,132,959	1,192,595

Voluntary Sector North West

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

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2025 £
Auditor fees	Governance	4,020	4,020
Professional fees	Governance	21,547	21,547
AGM and trustee costs	Governance	1,337	1,337
		26,904	26,904
		26,904	26,904
Previous reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2024 £
Auditor fees	Governance	3,816	3,816
Professional fees	Governance	18,391	18,391
AGM and trustee costs	Governance	430	430
		22,637	22,637
		22,637	22,637

7 Grants to institutions

Analysis of total grants paid:

	2025 £	2024 £
10GM	213,113	202,965
Action Together	25,875	-
Cheshire West Voluntary Action	-	20,000
Community & Voluntary Services Cheshire East	-	20,000
GMCVO	88,247	112,059
Halton & St Helens VCA	-	40,000
Liverpool Charity & Voluntary Services	-	20,000
Macc	11,000	-
One Knowsley	1,000	20,000
Sefton CVS	1,000	20,000
Warrington Voluntary Action	-	20,000
Wirral CVS	*	20,000
Other local community organisations	4,000	-
	324,235	495,024
	324,235	495,024

* The £20,000 negative expenditure reflects the reversal of a grant commitment recognised in the prior year, as Wirral CVS decided not to proceed with the award.

Voluntary Sector North West

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

8 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	659	938
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	10,876	10,831
Auditor's fees:		
Accountancy	1,250	1,180
Audit	2,100	2,000
Bookkeeping	-	1,100
Payroll bureau	-	394
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	424,402	378,975
Social security costs	37,365	21,833
Pension costs	29,173	25,849
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>490,940</u>	<u>426,657</u>

One employee has employee benefits within the £60,000 – £70,000 band during the year. (2024: None).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 12 (2024: 12).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 13 (2024: 11).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Chief Executive and the Operations Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £128,495 (2024: £122,531).

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

10 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2024: Nil).

Three (2024: one) members of the board of trustees received travel and subsistence expenses of £143 during the year (2024: £18).

GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project

In December 2018 VSNW worked in partnership with Salford CVS, BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements to secure a contract with NHS England (on behalf of GM Health and Social Care Partnership) in response to an OJEU tender to deliver the GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project. Salford CVS were the named lead provider within this partnership, on behalf of 10GM. The contract was awarded to this VCSE partnership (now known as Answer Cancer), with Salford CVS as the accountable body. Delivery commenced in the year 2019/20 and during 2024/25 Salford CVS made payments of £127,862 to VSNW (2024: £101,001) in relation to delivery of this project (as per the partnership's revised budget submission). Please note that our new Trustee, Ben Whalley (appointed 16th September 2025), is also the Chair of Salford CVS.

Cheshire and Merseyside NHS VCFSE Transformation Programme

This programme aims to drive better VCFSE integration and partnership with health and social care at system, local authority-level ('Place'), and health neighbourhood. Accordingly, the programme included £180,000 to support better Place-VCFSE partnership working. In 2024, £20,000 was allocated for each of the nine Places (or boroughs) in Cheshire and Merseyside. The fund was open to VCFSE Strategic Place lead organisations, who had to complete an application form proposing how they would develop local sector-wide working relationships across their Place. Each proposal had to be signed and endorsed by their NHS Place Director and then reviewed by a cross-sector Cheshire and Merseyside panel. As part of this process, Halton and St Helens VCA, the VCFSE Strategic Place lead organisation for both Halton and St Helens was awarded funding to develop improved sector-wide Place-VCFSE partnerships. The Principles of Good Grant Making (Directory of Social Change) were followed throughout the process which included a number of additional checks and balances to ensure accountability. It should be noted that the Chair of VSNW, Sally Yeoman, is the Chief Executive of Halton and St Helens VCA.

GM Accord

The GM VCFSE Accord is a collaboration agreement between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), NHS Greater Manchester, and the Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector, represented by the GM VCFSE Leadership Group. Its purpose is to strengthen partnerships between these sectors to improve outcomes for the communities in Greater Manchester. It should be noted that Duncan Craig, the newly appointed Trustee of VSNW, is also the Chief Executive of We Are Survivors, which has been the recipient of a small grant from the GM Accord project on behalf of the Victims and Justice workstream.

Voluntary Sector North West

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

11 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (via Liverpool CCG)	329,338	495,219
GMCA	630,209	526,826
	<u>959,547</u>	<u>1,022,045</u>

See note 18 for restricted funds carried forward. Conditions attached are to complete the project, which we expect to do in the forthcoming financial years.

12 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

13 Fixed assets: tangible assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	500	5,772	6,272
Disposals	-	-	-
	<u>500</u>	<u>5,772</u>	<u>6,272</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>500</u>	<u>5,772</u>	<u>6,272</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	500	4,929	5,429
Charge for the year	-	659	659
	<u>500</u>	<u>5,588</u>	<u>6,088</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>500</u>	<u>5,588</u>	<u>6,088</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	-	184	184
	<u>-</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>184</u>
At 31 March 2024	-	843	843
	<u>-</u>	<u>843</u>	<u>843</u>

Voluntary Sector North West

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

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Grants and fees receivable	-	15,000
Bad debt provision	-	(10,000)
Prepayments and accrued income	14,710	13,782
	14,710	18,782

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed-term deposit accounts	185,000	100,000
Deposit accounts	85,435	-
Cash at bank and on hand	611,335	558,852
	881,770	658,852

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,218	7,456
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	7,100	5,714
Other creditors and accruals	18,122	59,800
Funds repayable to funder *	200,000	-
Deferred income (see note 17)	21,502	37,250
Taxation and social security costs	2,167	3,372
	250,109	113,592

* £200,000 of unspent funding relating to the C&M NHS Transformation Programme has been recognised as a creditor at the year end. During the year, the funder revised its position on the non-committed element of the 2024/25 programme (£180,000) and asked that this amount not be spent. In addition, Wirral CVS decided not to proceed with the £20,000 onward grant awarded in 2023/24 as part of this programme (see note 7). The full £200,000 is therefore expected to be returned to the funder in due course.

17 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred grant brought forward	37,250	-
Grant received	12,902	37,250
Released to income from charitable activities	(28,650)	-
Deferred grant carried forward	21,502	37,250

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

18 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
GMCSE Answer Cancer	629	101,557	(96,900)	-	5,286
VCFSE Transformation Programme	8,040	238,758	(225,199)	-	21,599
VCFSE Change Engagement Workshops	-	7,080	(7,080)	-	-
C&M Research	30,056	73,500	(99,223)	-	4,333
VS6	18,149	23,650	(41,799)	-	-
National Lottery	17,637	117,707	(120,856)	-	14,488
Total	74,511	562,252	(591,057)	-	45,706
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	15,120	(15,120)	-	-
GMCSE Answer Cancer	-	101,001	(100,372)	-	629
VCFSE Transformation Programme	-	438,758	(430,718)	-	8,040
C&M Research	-	56,461	(26,405)	-	30,056
VS6	8,840	123,303	(113,994)	-	18,149
National Lottery	-	57,991	(40,354)	-	17,637
Total	8,840	792,634	(726,963)	-	74,511

Voluntary Sector North West

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

18 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
GMCSE Answer Cancer	Subcontracted from Salford CVS delivery of the GM Cancer Screening Engagement service
VCFSE Transformation Programme	To support the VCFSE role in the transformation of health and care across Cheshire and Merseyside
C&M Research	To support VCFSE sector to engage in health and care research, funded via C&M NHS
VS6	Reaching Communities Lottery Funds held on behalf of the VS6 Partnership in order to support the VCFSE role in shaping the future of Liverpool City Region
National Lottery	Four year funding from the National Lottery Communities Fund to enable the "VCFSE Sector to influence the Future of the North West" project
Social Prescribing Network NW	Funding from National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), via Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, to support VCSE role in Social Prescribing in North West England

Voluntary Sector North West

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

19 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2025 £
General fund	383,338	22,168	65,159	(49,459)	421,206
Designated Funds:					
GM Accord	44,453	630,209	(593,565)	-	81,097
Organisational Development	62,583	-	(13,496)	49,459	98,546
	490,374	652,377	(541,902)	-	600,849
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2024 £
General fund	408,430	8,780	28,711	(62,583)	383,338
Designated Funds:					
GM Accord	11,970	526,826	(494,343)	-	44,453
Organisational Development	-	-	-	62,583	62,583
	420,400	535,606	(465,632)	-	490,374

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

19 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds (cont.)

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Designated Funds:	
GM Accord	The GM VCFSE Accord is a collaboration agreement between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), NHS Greater Manchester, and the Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector, represented by the GM VCFSE Leadership Group. Its purpose is to strengthen partnerships between these sectors to improve outcomes for the communities in Greater Manchester.
Organisational Development	Funding designated by VSNW's Board for future development and sustainability and to support delivery, in line with our priorities, across the North West and the five subregions

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	184	-	-	184
Net current assets/(liabilities)	421,022	179,643	45,706	646,371
Total	421,206	179,643	45,706	646,555
<i>Previous reporting period</i>	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Designated funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	<i>843</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>843</i>
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	<i>445,078</i>	<i>44,453</i>	<i>74,511</i>	<i>564,042</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>445,921</i>	<i>107,036</i>	<i>74,511</i>	<i>564,885</i>

Voluntary Sector North West

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

21 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	81,670	135,645
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	659	938
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(5,476)	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	4,072	199,978
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	136,517	47,148
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating	217,442	383,709

Voluntary Sector North West

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

22 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:				
Charitable activities:	535,606	792,634	1,328,240	600,178
Total income	535,606	792,634	1,328,240	600,178
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities:	465,632	726,963	1,192,595	603,080
Total expenditure	465,632	726,963	1,192,595	603,080
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments	69,974	65,671	135,645	(2,902)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	69,974	65,671	135,645	(2,902)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	69,974	65,671	135,645	(2,902)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	420,400	8,840	429,240	432,142
Total funds carried forward	490,374	74,511	564,885	429,240

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Accounts

Company number: 3988903

Charity Number: 1081654

Voluntary Sector North West

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Voluntary Sector North West
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Company number 3988903

Charity number 1081654

Registered office and operational address 3rd Floor Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street, Manchester, M4 5JW

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Sally Yeoman	Chair
Alison Page	Chair (resigned 1 June 2023)
Gill Bainbridge	Treasurer
Circle Steele	
Margaret Cheshire	
Yakub Patel	(appointed 20 April 2023)
Jeremy Hodgkinson	(appointed 17 May 2023)

Key management	Warren Escadale	Chief Executive
personnel	Yen Siang Tan	Operations Director

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Unity Trust Bank
PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Manchester, M4 6JG

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") were updated on 26 September 2000. They are: To promote such purposes as are charitable according to the law of England and Wales for the benefit of the public in the North West of England by:

- (a) Providing a channel of information between voluntary organisations and local and central government agencies or other organisations in the region.
- (b) Providing a network of communication for voluntary organisations and agencies in the region.
- (c) Bringing together representatives from voluntary organisations, statutory authorities and other agencies in the region to identify the funding and policy needs of voluntary organisations.

The area of benefit, the North West of England is defined as the ceremonial counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Merseyside.

Ensuring our work delivers our object & aims

The Trustee Board of VSNW reviews the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year to ensure activities remain focused on our stated purposes. The trustees established in consultation with member organisations, a strategic plan for 2022-2025. The following four strategic aims were established:

- Increase **connectivity** within the sector
- Enable **influence** for the sector
- Demonstrate the **value** of VSNW and the sector as a whole
- Build an effective **voice** for the North West VCFSE sector

Underpinning this is our annual delivery plan, high level KPIs, and work to ensure VSNW is a well governed and financially sound organisation. This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The Trustees have referred to the

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guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The Charity's principal activities and target beneficiaries are outlined below. All charitable activities are carried out to advance public benefit in line with Voluntary Sector North West's (VSNW) charitable objectives.

During the year, we continued to deliver on VSNW's mission, strategic aims, and the priorities set for 2022-2025. This ensured that our efforts remained aligned with the needs of the North West's voluntary and community sector while reflecting the broader priorities of the region.

Core Activities

The North West is a diverse region, consisting of five sub-regions (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire) with a mixture of economic success and areas of marginalisation. Through our members and networks, we maintain connections with over 50,000 organisations and groups working across the region's communities. VSNW's work is centred around three core elements:

- Supporting the sector's role in social and economic impact: We focus on developing effective economic strategies that deliver meaningful outcomes for communities.
- Championing the sector's involvement in key areas of health and social care: This includes influencing the future direction of City Regions, Combined Authorities, and the NHS's Integrated Care Systems, to ensure the sector's voice is heard.
- Providing general support for the sector: Acting as a bridge between national policy and local implementation, we aim to be a system leader and drive positive change, guided by the membership, networks, and relationships that are fundamental to VSNW's work.

This work ensures that we remain at the forefront of supporting the voluntary sector in driving social and economic progress across the North West.

The report illustrates our performance in delivering VSNW's strategic priorities and our high-level metrics.

Strategic priority: Increase connectivity within the VCFSE sector

Our vision is: **"Through the strengths of the VCFSE sector, put communities in charge of driving change."** To fulfil this vision, we continue to foster and support healthy, connected partnerships that bring value to the sector in each sub-region. By leveraging local networks and relationships, we focus on maximising positive impact. Supporting strong partnerships across the North West's VCFSE sector remains at the core of our operating model.

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In 2023/24, VSNW provided formal support to VCFSE partnerships in Cheshire and Warrington, Liverpool City Region, Lancashire, and Greater Manchester. In Cumbria, where Cumbria CVS leads this work, we complemented their efforts by building connections and offering alternative support.

In **Liverpool City Region (LCR)**, VSNW, through Laura Tilston (Research and Policy Manager), Francesca McIntosh (Research and Communications Co-ordinator) and Yoaby Tsang (Events, Admin and Membership Officer), provides support to the VS6 Partnership. VS6, through the 2021/24 VCFSE Manifesto developed, delivered in partnership and connected to the 11,500 groups operating across the City Region, continued to champion VCFSE-led models of delivery to address social, economic and health inequalities.

During the year, VS6 developed VCFSE networks to tackle food poverty, support digital inclusion, mental wellbeing and VCFSE-models of wealth creation. Building on work to champion race equality, and through the leadership of One Knowsley's CEO Racheal Jones, VS6 and VSNW supported the beginnings of the new *Cheshire and Merseyside Ethnic Communities Network* which now has over a 100 member organisations. The region now has three ethnic community networks up and running across Lancashire & South Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Merseyside. A further major achievement in Liverpool City Region, was the launch of The LCR Volunteering Hub which provides a single front door for volunteers and organisations looking to recruit and manage volunteers in the City Region.

In **Lancashire**, we connect to two partnerships: firstly, working in support of the VCFSE Lancashire & South Cumbria Alliance; secondly, following our development work on the Locally Organised Communities Across Lancashire (LOCAL) VCFSE Manifesto, the movement being created behind this headed by the Lancashire Association of CVS. Through this work we look to connect with as many of the 10,000 local groups as possible.

In **Greater Manchester (GM)**, VSNW through the work of Anna Cooper (Greater Manchester Programme Manager), Kassandra Banks (Partnerships Officer) and Tom Jackson (Communications Officer), VSNW continues to provide secretariat support to the Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group. Our Chief Executive, Warren Escadale, currently serves as the chair.

The Leadership Group connects with and supports collaboration across a wide range of VCFSE networks, representing diverse communities such as Black, Asian, and minority ethnic groups, older people, young people, LGBTQ+, disability, faith communities, carers, mental health advocates, sports organisations, refugees and women. This partnership model includes key partners like 10GM and GMCVO, social enterprises, and VCFSE service providers, such as the groundbreaking Alternative Provider Collaborative. The Leadership Group has a direct mailing list of over 1,500 sector leaders and, collectively, through infrastructure bodies and equalities networks, the group is linked to the 17,000 plus VCFSE organisations and groups working for Greater Manchester's communities.

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Warren Escadale, Alison Cullen (CWIP's lead for health and care work) and Yoaby Tsang have been key parts of our support for the **Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP)** and links to the 8,000 local VCFSE organisations.

Through VS6, CWIP and the **Cheshire and Merseyside VCFSE Health and Care Leaders Group (HCLG)** we have looked to link the sector into a rapidly change health and care environment, supporting mechanisms and connections for sector voice and accountability. Now in its second year, the HCLG works closely with 60 plus sector connected leaders from across Cheshire and Merseyside, ensuring the voice of infrastructure, equalities organisations and providers.

We maintain a robust stakeholder contact list, which includes VCFSE Chief Executives and senior staff from across the region. These stakeholders receive a range of bulletins, such as those from VSNW, GM VCFSE Leadership, VS6 Partnership, Social Prescribing, and GM Cancer Champions.

VSNW managed 128 events, network meetings, roundtables, and workshops with 695 different North West VCFSE leaders and supported 17 strategic VCFSE networks in 2023-24. This level of engagement marks significant activity in line with the Board's ambitious KPI to engage 1,000 different VCFSE leaders.

As of 31st March 2024, VSNW membership includes 190 members, consisting of 128 full members and 62 associate members.

Going forward the organisation continues to invest in internal capacity from reserves in order to ensure we can reach across the North West, and engage larger numbers of VCFSE leaders and organisations..

Strategic priorities: Enable influence and be an effective voice for the sector

Through consultation, task and finish groups, workshops, and surveys, we have helped to develop **collective, sector-led strategies and implementation plans** across the North West. These include manifestos and delivery plans for the sector in Liverpool City Region (VCFSE Manifesto 24/28), Lancashire (LOCAL Manifesto), Cheshire and Warrington (setting core priorities) and Greater Manchester (VCFSE Manifesto 24/28). At our series of Metro-Mayor hustings, held with just under 200 sector leaders, Steve Rotheram and Andy Burnham signed their respective VCFSE manifesto, and confirmed their continued commitment to working with us as a sector and as a partner.

Over the last two years, our influencing and demonstration of the sector's value, has resulted in **£18.4m investment into the sector**, this includes £7.1m in 2023/24 against a board KPI of £5m. This investment supports the sector's role in skills and employment, health and social care, tackling poverty, community-led economic development, and wellbeing and prevention. While we feel this is a notable achievement, we recognise that our work, alongside our partners, has driven far greater investment into the local sector than any single VCFSE organisation could accomplish independently. In terms of impact, one element of this

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investment (LCR Cares, £400k), benefited at least 15,000 people in terms of digital inclusion, wellbeing support, and community wealth-building. This work was made possible with the help of over 500 volunteers.

Through our work and our partnerships, we have been able to **champion the VCFSE role in essential, community-centred delivery** and look to be an effective voice for the sector: supporting people out of hospital to stay healthy and home, championing community ownership, advancing food strategies beyond foodbanks, provision of warm hubs, tackling digital exclusion, supporting the sector role in the criminal justice system, ensuring the sector role in the skills and employment pipeline, influencing public sector commissioning, procurement and fair funding for groups, supporting sector workforce initiatives, championing new partnerships with NHS Providers through place-partnerships and the Alternative Provider Collaboration (Greater Manchester), advancing the sector role in mental health and wellbeing, supporting volunteering and access to volunteering, building large-scale grass-roots and sector-led initiatives around cancer prevention and other health conditions, championing VCFSE partnerships with primary care including and beyond social prescribing, developing VCFSE children and young people services and models, pushing for VCFSE good employment models, sector role in and needs around net zero, sector intelligence and models of coproduction, sector access to data and research, sector role in tackling homelessness, in local regeneration and in creating welcoming communities for refugees and asylum seekers.

Our work in population health, as one example of the above, has helped develop new VCFSE-led models of working with the sector. The **Answer Cancer Programme** has pioneered new models of working with the sector: mobilising hundreds of community organisations and 4,621 community champions, providing on the ground engagement, campaign-tools, training and grants. The work of Jacqui Naraynsingh (VSNW Project Coordinator) and Fiona Chow (Database and Admin Officer) and Yen Siang Tan (Operations Director) have been fundamental to the success of our work in partnership with Salford CVS (Programme lead), BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements. Through our *Bee Seen, Get Screened* Campaign, over 80,000 people can now access paid time off to attend NHS cancer screenings. Answer Cancer continues to demonstrate the vital role of the VCFSE sector in tackling health inequality and driving population health and prevention initiatives, particularly in communities where previous models and approaches have been less successful.

Through our regional partnerships, the sector now has streamlined means to appoint and support **sector representation** at the highest levels across the region. Kassandra Banks (Partnerships Officer), with a good deal of debt to colleagues in Lancashire and South Cumbria VCFSE Alliance, has driven this work forward such that in Greater Manchester, there are 50 leaders sitting on just under 100 boards and committees, representing our sector and communities.

The **North West** is now the first region to have the VCFSE sector as full partner members on all of our Integrated Care NHS Boards, a full set of health inequalities strategies with the sector embedded, the sector universally embedded in currently delivering the post-EU UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme, and clear,

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published evidence of the size and scope of the sector across the North West. As part of this, VSNW, VS6 and CWIP, launched the flagship *Cheshire and Merseyside State of the Sector Report*. The report evidences the size, scale and scope of the VCFSE sector across Cheshire and Merseyside and is being widely shared, embedded in Steve Rotheram's own manifesto and soon to be presented to the chairs of our 17 acute trusts.

Our **Cheshire and Merseyside** (C&M) VCFSE Health and Care Transformation Programme secured over £400k funding from NHS C&M in 2023-2024 and shows the integrated care boards commitment to recognising the sector as an equal strategic and delivery partner.

This commitment to the sector and VSNW, is repeated in our work with the **Greater Manchester** Combined Authority and NHS via the Accord, where VSNW works with a broad and diverse range of VCFSE Leaders and in partnership with 10GM and GMCVO.

As of April 2024, the **VS6-Lottery Reaching Communities** project, managed on behalf of VS6, successfully completed and we continue to support the VS6 Partnership through a new VCFSE manifesto, with ambitions for how the sector can nurture a stronger, inclusive economy.

Last year also marked the start for us in terms of developing a new set of partnerships and relationships with the region's **National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)** agencies. Francesca McIntosh (Research & Engagement Coordinator), has led on this work, working with NIHR agencies who have now formally committed to working in partnership with the sector. Francesca and Emma Newman (Communications Officer) are now developing tools and models to scale up sector-academia partnership working.

Nationally, we have maintained our links to NHS England's voluntary sector team. Over the past five years, we have successfully lobbied for a VCSE Partnership programme, linked to the NHS's 42 Integrated Care Systems (ICS), modelled on our work in Greater Manchester, to be rolled out. VCSE Partnerships or Alliances are now established right across England, this includes all four areas that operate in the North West (Cheshire & Merseyside, Lancashire and South Cumbria, Greater Manchester, North East and North Cumbria).

While our Social Prescribing programme for groups in the North West, led on by Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS and funded through NASP, came to an end in September, we continue to be a voice for sector as a member of **National Social Prescribing Network** steering group

For our regional work, VSNW has been successful in securing 4 year funding from the Lottery, to deliver the **"VCFSE Sector influencing the Future of the North West project"** providing us with the means to scale up our work, including influencing commissioning and procurement, fair funding, codesign and coproductions models, sector's role in skills and employment, sector role in health creation and links to the convention of the north and emerging Combined Authorities. Laura Tilston (Research and Policy Manager), Emma Newman, Yen Siang Tan (Operations Director) and Warren Escadale are working on the programme, which

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sets VSNW well for supporting the sector in the North West as new challenges and opportunities, and new ways of working and influencing, head towards our sector.

An effective NW VCFSE leadership organisation

The Board has prioritised ensuring VSNW is a fit-for-purpose organisation with the capacity to connect, influence, and drive positive change in the sector. Our organisational development has progressed steadily, maintaining 12 staff roles as of March 2024. Our development supports new projects, including the VCFSE Sector influencing the Future of the North West, funded by the Lottery, and the ICS Research Engagement Network Development Programme, broadening our reach and influence.

Income generation is strong, with long-term funding secured for projects in Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Merseyside until 2026. A 4 year funding was secured from the Lottery to deliver the "VCFSE Sector influencing the Future of the North West project", which offers opportunities and capacity to do more across the North West, the North and nationally.

Yen Siang Tan, Operations Director, working with the Chief Executive, Board and colleagues, continues to play a key role in VSNW's operations and ongoing development. In terms of leadership, and the Board continues to work effectively in guiding and supporting VSNW's strategic direction.

Plans for the Future

VSNW will continue to deliver against the current strategic plan 2022/25, and seek to develop the following strategic plan with members once there is greater clarity on the political and policy landscape. We know that there are likely to be significant changes linked to devolution in particular, and uncertainty over significant investment streams like the Shared Prosperity Fund.

In order to boost internal capacity, and support good practice in managing reserves, the board has designated £62,583. This investment includes additional support for engagement, membership and event activity which will help increase our ability to meet ambitious headline key performance indicators around engagement and membership in particular.

Financial review

The charity held reserves of £564,885 at the year end (2023: £429,240) of which £74,511 (2023: £8,840) were restricted and £107,036 (2023: £11,970) designated leaving a general reserve of £383,338 (2023: £408,430). VSNW is in a reasonable financial position at this point. A review of our financial position is conducted quarterly by the Resources Group and is then considered by the Trustee Board. This review is ongoing.

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Reserves policy

The VSNW reserves policy is to maintain sufficient levels of reserves for the delivery of existing programs of work to be completed and/or transferred to alternative providers should a shortfall in income occur. The required time to do this effectively is a minimum 6 months and the level of reserves required to achieve this is £130,265.

The general reserve, as stated above, is higher than this, however, given the short term funding environment and reliance on short-term and project funding, we will periodically review our reserves.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 April 2000 and registered as a charity on 19 February 1998.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2024 was 128 full members. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Trustee selection methods

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association half the members of the Trustee Board elected to serve must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Both business and strategic skills are required on the Trustee Board and the Board has made a firm commitment to appoint trustees with strong strategic connections to the VCSE sector in each subregion whilst also being sensitive to inclusion and diversity. An annual skills audit is conducted to identify any skills gaps.

Trustees are appointed via an electoral process at the Annual General Meeting elections. Other Trustees can be co-opted by the Trustee Board throughout the year, in accordance with the constitution. The Trustee Board meets every six weeks.

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Induction and training of trustees

New Trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive where the current financial position and the governing framework are presented, and the obligations of Board members and future plans and objectives are outlined. The NCVO booklet Trustees and Trustees Members National Occupational Standards is given to all new trustees.

Organisational structure

VSNW has a Trustee Board of up to 12 members who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. As at 31st March 2024 the Board has six members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

VSNW's decision making process rests with the Trustee Board. Decisions regarding implementation of the charity's work and staff supervision are delegated to the Chief Executive, who has one-to-ones with the Chair.

Sub groups are established and agreed by the Trustees to meet between Trustee Board meetings to address any issues that require immediate attention and report any actions for agreement to the full Trustee Board.

The Board delegates day-to-day management of the charity to the Chief Executive, Warren Escadale. The Board takes advice from VSNW staff, in particular the Chief Executive and the Operations Director, Yen Siang Tan, and are informed by their relationships with VSNW's subregional VCFSE partnerships and their own VCFSE organisations, networks and partnerships operating in VSNW's area of benefit, North West England.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, VSNW is guided by local, regional and national policy. Sub regional partnerships ensure engagement with thematic, geographic and specialist VCSE infrastructure and provides VSNW with a wide reach into the VCSE sector across the region.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

A subgroup of the board reviews remuneration with advice from our HR consultant, using comparable pay rates within and beyond the sector, including equivalent relationships.

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

Risk management

The Trustee Board conducts a risk analysis with its budget at outset each year. There is a Risk Register and Policy in place and the register is reviewed on a regular basis. Procedures are implemented internally to ensure proper authorisation for all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure Health and Safety compliance. These are currently under review for future improvement.

Fundraising

VSNW did not conduct public fundraising activities in 2023/24.

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Voluntary Sector North West for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

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.

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Ltd were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 29th October 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Sally Yeoman (Chair)

Gill Bainbridge (Treasurer)

Independent auditor's report
to the members of Voluntary Sector North West

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voluntary Sector North West (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Prior year unaudited

The financial statements of Voluntary Sector North West for the year ended 31 March 2023 were unaudited. An independent examination was performed which expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements.

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

Independent auditor's report
to the members of Voluntary Sector North West

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 trustees are responsible for the 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. 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.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions 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 (incorporating the directors' 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 returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

Independent auditor's report
to the members of Voluntary Sector North West

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- 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' Annual 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 12, 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.

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:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- enquiry of the charity's staff, management and those charged with governance to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Independent auditor's report
to the members of Voluntary Sector North West

- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

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 is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

Christy Yun Hing Lau FCCA DChA CTA
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of

Slade & Cooper Limited
Statutory Auditors
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG
20th December 2024

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Charitable activities:	3	535,606	792,634	1,328,240	600,178
Total income		535,606	792,634	1,328,240	600,178
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:	4	465,632	726,963	1,192,595	603,080
Total expenditure		465,632	726,963	1,192,595	603,080
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		69,974	65,671	135,645	(2,902)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	69,974	65,671	135,645	(2,902)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		69,974	65,671	135,645	(2,902)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		420,400	8,840	429,240	432,142
Total funds carried forward		490,374	74,511	564,885	429,240

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Voluntary Sector North West
Company number 3988903
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	843	1,781
Total fixed assets		843	1,781
Current assets			
Debtors	13	18,782	218,760
Cash at bank and in hand	14	658,852	275,143
Total current assets		677,634	493,903
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	15	(113,592)	(66,444)
Net current assets		564,042	427,459
Total assets less current liabilities		564,885	429,240
Net assets		564,885	429,240
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	17	74,511	8,840
Unrestricted income funds	18	490,374	420,400
Total charity funds		564,885	429,240

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 21 to 36 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 29/10/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Sally Yeoman (Chair)

Gill Bainbridge (Treasurer)

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	20	383,709	(81,060)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		383,709	(81,060)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		275,143	356,203
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		658,852	275,143

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Voluntary Sector North West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

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

e 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.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of 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 charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

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

h Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures & fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3, 4 or 5 years

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

i Debtors

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

j Cash at bank and in hand

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

k Creditors and provisions

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

l Financial instruments

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

m Pensions

Employees of the charity are opted into a Pension Scheme (defined contribution 'money purchase' schemes) with an employer's contribution. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 8. There were outstanding contributions of £2,745 (2023: £2,599) at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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 registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Social Prescribing Network NW NHS England	-	15,120	15,120
VCFSE Transformation Programme (Cheshire & Merseyside)	-	438,758	438,758
C&M Research	-	56,461	56,461
Salford CVS (GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	101,001	101,001
VS6 (Reaching Community Fund)	-	123,303	123,303
GMCA (Accord)	526,826	-	526,826
National Lottery	-	57,991	57,991
Burnley Pendle & Rossendale CVS (400 Voices)	4,280	-	4,280
Community Futures	4,500	-	4,500
Total	535,606	792,634	1,328,240

Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Social Prescribing Network NW NHS England	-	40,470	40,470
VCFSE Transformation Programme (Cheshire & Merseyside)	-	143,758	143,758
Salford CVS (GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	113,608	113,608
VS6 (Reaching Community Fund)	-	91,215	91,215
GMCA (Accord)	183,800	-	183,800
Lloyds Bank Foundation	17,250	-	17,250
Other income	10,077	-	10,077
Total	211,127	389,051	600,178

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

4 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	426,657	376,696
Other Staff costs	4,794	19,136
Administration	18,282	23,008
Accommodation	10,831	7,164
Associates/Sub-contractors	163,486	135,797
Conferences & events	9,965	5,710
Other project costs	29,981	18,763
Grants to institutions (see note 6)	495,024	-
Depreciation	938	938
Bad debt	10,000	-
Governance costs (see note 5)	22,637	15,868
	1,192,595	603,080
	2024 £	2023 £
Restricted expenditure	726,963	392,267
Unrestricted expenditure	465,632	210,813
	1,192,595	603,080

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2024 £
Auditor fees	Governance	3,816	3,816
Professional fees	Governance	18,391	18,391
AGM and trustee costs	Governance	430	430
		22,637	22,637
		22,637	22,637

Previous reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2023 £
<i>Independent examiner fees</i>	<i>Governance</i>	<i>1,700</i>	<i>1,700</i>
<i>AGM and trustee costs</i>	<i>Governance</i>	<i>3,435</i>	<i>3,435</i>
		15,868	15,868
		15,868	15,868

6 Grants to institutions

Analysis of total grants paid:

	2024 £	2023 £
10GM	202,965	-
Cheshire West Voluntary Action	20,000	-
Community & Voluntary Services Cheshire East	20,000	-
GMCVO	112,059	-
Halton & St Helens VCA	40,000	-
Liverpool Charity & Voluntary Services	20,000	-
One Knowsley	20,000	-
Sefton CVS	20,000	-
Warrington Voluntary Action	20,000	-
Wirral CVS	20,000	-
	495,024	-
	495,024	-

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	938	938
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	10,831	8,064
Auditor's / (2023: Independent examiner's) fees:		
Accountancy	1,180	1,130
Audit	2,000	-
Independent examination	-	570
Bookkeeping	1,100	4,400
Payroll bureau	394	983
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	378,975	322,313
Social security costs	21,833	28,375
Pension costs	25,849	22,529
Redundancy costs	-	3,479
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>426,657</u>	<u>376,696</u>

No employees has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 12 (2023: 10).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 11 (2023: 10.8).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Chief Executive and the Operations Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £122,531 (2023: £101,324).

9 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2023: Nil).

One (2023: four) member of the board of trustees received travel and subsistence expenses of £18 during the year (2023: £494).

GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project

In December 2018 VSNW worked in partnership with Salford CVS, BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements to secure a contract with NHS England (on behalf of GM Health and Social Care Partnership) in response to an OJEU tender to deliver the GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project. Salford CVS were the named lead provider within this partnership, on behalf of 10GM. The contract was awarded to this VCSE partnership (now known as Answer Cancer), with Salford CVS as the accountable body. Delivery commenced in the year 2019/20 and during 2023/24 Salford CVS made payments of £101,001 to VSNW (2023: £113,607) in relation to delivery of this project (as per the partnership's revised budget submission). It should be noted that the former Chair of VSNW (resigned 01/06/2023), Alison Page, is also the Chief Executive of Salford CVS.

Cheshire and Merseyside NHS VCFSE Transformation Programme

This programme aims to drive better VCFSE integration and partnership with health and social care at system, local authority-level ('Place'), and health neighbourhood. Accordingly, the programme included £180,000 to support better Place-VCSE partnership working. £20,000 was allocated for each of the nine Places (or boroughs) in Cheshire and Merseyside. The fund was open to VCFSE Strategic Place lead organisations, who had to complete an application form proposing how they would develop local sector-wide working relationships across their Place. Each proposal had to be signed and endorsed by their NHS Place Director and then reviewed by a cross-sector Cheshire and Merseyside panel. As part of this process, Halton and St Helens VCA, the VCFSE Strategic Place lead organisation for both Halton and St Helens was awarded funding to develop improved sector-wide Place-VCSE partnerships. The Principles of Good Grant Making (Directory of Social Change) were followed throughout the process which included a number of additional checks and balances to ensure accountability. It should be noted that the Chair of VSNW, Sally Yeoman, is the Chief Executive of Halton and St Helens VCA.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

10 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (via Liverpool CCG)	495,219	143,758
GMCA	526,826	183,800
	<u>1,022,045</u>	<u>327,558</u>

See note 17 for restricted funds carried forward. Conditions attached are to complete the project, which we expect to do in the forthcoming financial years.

11 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

12 Fixed assets: tangible assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	500	5,772	6,272
Disposals	-	-	-
	<u>500</u>	<u>5,772</u>	<u>6,272</u>
At 31 March 2024	500	5,772	6,272
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	500	3,991	4,491
Charge for the year	-	938	938
	<u>500</u>	<u>4,929</u>	<u>5,429</u>
At 31 March 2024	500	4,929	5,429
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	-	843	843
	<u>-</u>	<u>843</u>	<u>843</u>
At 31 March 2023	-	1,781	1,781
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,781</u>

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Grants and fees receivable	15,000	213,719
Bad debt provision	(10,000)	-
Prepayments and accrued income	13,782	5,041
	18,782	218,760

14 Cash at bank and in hand

	2024 £	2023 £
Short term deposits	100,000	-
Cash at bank and on hand	558,852	275,143
	658,852	275,143

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	7,456	15,868
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	5,714	-
Other creditors and accruals	59,800	40,571
Deferred income (see note 16)	37,250	-
Taxation and social security costs	3,372	10,005
	113,592	66,444

16 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred grant brought forward	-	-
Grant received	37,250	-
Released to income from charitable activities	-	-
Deferred grant carried forward	37,250	-

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	15,120	(15,120)	-	-
GMCSE Answer Cancer	-	101,001	(100,372)	-	629
VCFSE Transformation Programme	-	438,758	(430,718)	-	8,040
C&M Research	-	56,461	(26,405)	-	30,056
VS6	8,840	123,303	(113,994)	-	18,149
National Lottery	-	57,991	(40,354)	-	17,637
Total	8,840	792,634	(726,963)	-	74,511
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	40,470	(40,470)	-	-
GMCSE Answer Cancer	12,056	113,608	(125,664)	-	-
VCFSE Transformation Programme	-	143,758	(143,758)	-	-
VS6	-	91,215	(82,375)	-	8,840
Total	12,056	389,051	(392,267)	-	8,840

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Social Prescribing Network NW	Funding from National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), via Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, to support VCSE role in Social Prescribing in North West England
GMCSE Answer Cancer	Subcontracted from Salford CVS delivery of the GM Cancer Screening Engagement service
VCFSE Transformation Programme	To support the VCFSE role in the transformation of health and care across Cheshire and Merseyside.
C&M Research	To support VCFSE sector to engage in health and care research, funded via C&M NHS.
VS6	Reaching Communities Lottery Funds held on behalf of the VS6 Partnership in order to support the VCFSE role in shaping the future of Liverpool City Region
National Lottery	Four year funding from the National Lottery Communities Fund to enable the "VCFSE Sector to influence the Future of the North West" project.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

18 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2024 £
General fund	408,430	8,780	28,711	(62,583)	383,338
Designated Funds:					
GM Accord	11,970	526,826	(494,343)	-	44,453
Organisational Development	-	-	-	62,583	62,583
	420,400	535,606	(465,632)	-	490,374
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2023 £
General fund	289,883	211,127	(189,914)	97,334	408,430
Designated Funds:					
Carers C&M	10,666	-	(10,666)	-	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
GM Accord	56,665	-	-	(44,695)	11,970
Organisational Development	47,872	-	(10,233)	(37,639)	-
	420,086	211,127	(210,813)	-	420,400

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

18 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds (cont.)

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Designated Funds	
GM Accord	The GM VCFSE Accord is a collaboration agreement between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), NHS Greater Manchester, and the Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector, represented by the GM VCFSE Leadership Group. Its purpose is to strengthen partnerships between these sectors to improve outcomes for the communities in Greater Manchester.
Carers C&M	Funding to support carers in Cheshire and Merseyside linked to NHS workforce development
Lloyds Bank Foundation	Lloyds Bank Foundation grant investment in VSNW's core funding
Organisational Development	Funding designated by VSNW's Board for future development and sustainability and to support delivery, in line with our priorities, across the North West and the five subregions.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	843	-	-	843
Net current assets/(liabilities)	382,495	107,036	74,511	564,042
Total	383,338	107,036	74,511	564,885
<i>Previous reporting period</i>	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Designated funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	<i>1,781</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1,781</i>
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	<i>406,649</i>	<i>11,970</i>	<i>8,840</i>	<i>427,459</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>408,430</i>	<i>11,970</i>	<i>8,840</i>	<i>429,240</i>

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

20 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	135,645	(2,902)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	938	938
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	199,978	(88,365)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	47,148	9,269
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating	383,709	(81,060)

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

21 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	3,000
Charitable activities:	211,127	389,051	600,178	431,740
Total income	211,127	389,051	600,178	434,740
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities:	210,813	392,267	603,080	389,448
Total expenditure	210,813	392,267	603,080	389,448
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments	314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	420,086	12,056	432,142	386,850
Total funds carried forward	420,400	8,840	429,240	432,142

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Accounts

Company number: 3988903

Charity Number: 1081654

Voluntary Sector North West

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Voluntary Sector North West
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Company number 3988903

Charity number 1081654

Registered office and operational address 3rd Floor Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street,
Manchester, M4 5JW

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Alison Page	Chair (resigned 1 June 2023)
Ed Moss	Vice Chair (resigned 24 May 2022)
Daniel Moxon	Treasurer (resigned 20 March 2023)
Circle Steele	
David Packwood	(resigned 23 November 2022)
Gill Bainbridge	
Jeremy Hodgkinson	(appointed 17 May 2023)
Khansa Taha	(resigned 23 November 2022)
Margaret Cheshire	
Ridwanah Gurjee	(resigned 6 August 2022)
Sally Yeoman	
Yakub Patel	(appointed 20 April 2023)

Key management	Warren Escadale	Chief Executive
personnel	Yen Siang Tan	Operations Manager

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Unity Trust Bank
PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

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Independent	Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA Slade & Cooper Limited
Examiner	Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Manchester, M4 6JG

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") were updated on 26 September 2000. They are:

To promote such purposes as are charitable according to the law of England and Wales for the benefit of the public in the North West of England by:

- (a) Providing a channel of information between voluntary organisations and local and central government agencies or other organisations in the region.
- (b) Providing a network of communication for voluntary organisations and agencies in the region.
- (c) Bringing together representatives from voluntary organisations, statutory authorities and other agencies in the region to identify the funding and policy needs of voluntary organisations.

The area of benefit, the North West of England is defined as the ceremonial counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Merseyside.

Ensuring our work delivers our object & aims

The Trustee Board of VSNW reviews the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year in order to ensure activities remain focused on our stated purposes. The trustees established in consultation with member organisations, a Strategic plan for 2022-2025. The following four strategic aims were established:

- Increase **connectivity** within the sector
- Enable **influence** for the sector
- Demonstrate the **value** of VSNW and the sector as a whole
- Build an effective **voice** for the North West VCSE sector

Underpinning this is our work to ensure VSNW is a well governed and financially sound organisation.

This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how

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planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The Charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities are undertaken to further Voluntary Sector North West's charitable purposes for the public benefit. We continued to carry out the work of VSNW in accordance with our mission, our strategic aims and in accordance with our strategic priorities for 2022-2025 (above).

This ensured that all our work was of benefit to, and reflected the priorities of, the North West voluntary and community sector and therefore the wider public in the North West.

Core Activities

The North West has always consisted of five sub regions and of a stark mix of economic success and marginalisation. Via our members and networks, we are in contact with over 50,000 groups working with communities right across the region. VSNW's work has historically had three core elements:

- Supporting the sector's role in creating social and economic impact, driven by the need to create effective economic strategies and delivery for our communities.
- Supporting the sector's role in the future of health and social care, City Regions, the Combined Authorities, and the NHS's new and reconfigured Integrated Care Systems are the key focus for influencing with and on behalf of the sector.
- General support for the sector bridging national policy and local implementation. An important part of this role has been about how we can be a system leader and create change, always within the context of the membership, networks and relationships that make VSNW possible

Increase connectivity within the VCSE sector

Supporting healthy VCSE partnerships across the North West is the foundation of our operating model. Our vision is to play our part in developing and/or supporting healthy, connected partnerships that deliver value for the sector in each sub-region.

We know that we have limited resources, and that this is the best way to add value, building on local networks and relationships.

In 2022/23, VSNW provided formal support to VCSE partnerships operating in Cheshire and Warrington, Liverpool City Region, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. As Cumbria CVS provides this function in Cumbria, we have not sought to duplicate but to build links and offer a different model of support through Cumbria CVS.

In **Liverpool City Region**, VSNW provides secretariat support to the VS6 Partnership whose members support and are connected to the 8,600 VCSE organisations in the City Region. Laura Tilston (Acting Programme Manager and Research & Policy Officer) and Ewan McGregor (Partnerships Manager) played a vital role in developing the partnership's policy, communications and engagement work throughout the year. We (VS6 and VSNW) have worked hard developing effective mechanisms to connect the wider sector into city region policy and influence work, using cascaded

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communications, developing the VS6 website (www.vs6partnership.org.uk). Through the Combined Authority, the VS6 Partnership secured investment to build collective delivery around mental wellbeing, community wealth building, and digital inclusion. Building on this model, Lottery investment has allowed us to embed this model and continue to support the wider engagement of the sector in partnership with the VS6 Partnership. An important element of this was supporting the formation of an independently chaired City Region race equality VCFSE group, mapping out the sector's role in contributing to delivering Sustainable Food support, as well digital inclusion services, for communities across the City Region.

In Greater Manchester (GM), the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group (facilitated and chaired by VSNW) connects to a broad range of VCSE networks: disability, Black Asian and minority ethnic, older people, young people, LGBTQ+, faith, carers, mental health, sport, refugee, women, local VCSE infrastructure, including 10GM and GMCVO, social enterprise, and VCSE providers, with links, through infrastructure organisations and equalities networks, to the 17,000 VCSE organisations in Greater Manchester. The Leadership Group's main bulletin has over 2,000 direct contacts. As a Leadership Group, as part of connecting to the wider sector, we use formal working groups (commissioning, inclusive economy, population health, workforce, GM VCSE mental health leaders and GM=EqAI), short term task and finish groups, focused networks (eg homelessness), events, consultations, and roadshows held with VCSE leaders in the ten boroughs.

Through **Answer Cancer** there are over 4,600 Cancer Champions, while 239 organisations have committed, with their staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, to preventing and tackling cancer. So far over 40,000 people working in Greater Manchester, through the 'Bee Seen, Get Screened' pledge now have the right to access screening services as part of their terms of employment.

In **Cheshire**, we set up and have supported the Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP) for the last three years. This group has ensured that the sector is connected into the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, developments in health and care, and to the re-emerged Cheshire and Warrington Leaders Board. Dena Kynaston (Head of Communications), Andrew Rainsford (Research and Policy Officer) and Marina Ma (Admin Officer) have been key parts of our support in Cheshire and Warrington throughout the year.

To complement the NHS footprint, the **Cheshire and Merseyside VCSE Health and Social Care Leadership Group** links 60 plus VCSE Leaders from each of the 9 boroughs. This includes: CVS, VCSE Place Board representatives, and equalities and specialist VCSE Providers. This Group links to the NHS Board, ensures accountability to the sector and provides a platform for connecting the sector more broadly.

In **Lancashire**, we (VSNW and local VCSE Leaders) have worked alongside the VCSE Alliance in order to support a connected and influential sector and helped to develop an agreed partnership model, with formal terms of reference now agreed. Having supported engagement across Lancashire, we developed a collective statement on ambitions for the local sector, a *VCSE Manifesto for the Lancashire sector*.

We also hosted the **North West Social Prescribing Network** with over 400 people signed up to a dedicated Bulletin. Working alongside Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS and a network of CVS across the North West, we have supported the regional VCSE Social Prescribing programme (Thriving

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Communities) working closely with partners from the National Academy of Social Prescribing (NASP). This included running a regional learning programme, which has been attended by just under 200 delegates driving the sector's role in social prescribing. Dena Kynaston and Marina Ma have been pivotal to this work.

Following a review of **VSNW membership**, this stood at 127 full members and 56 associates (as at 31st March 2023) and we have a general contact list of over 2,500 VCSE Chief Executives and senior staff across the region signed up to our bulletins: VSNW, GM Leadership, VS6 Partnership, Social Prescribing, and GM Cancer Champions.

Enable influence and demonstrating value of the sector

The **VS6 Partnership of Liverpool City Region (LCR)** have had an extremely busy and productive year advocating for the local sector. The LCR VCFSE sector is recognised as a local economic partner and the LCR VCFSE Manifesto has been central to this.

As champions for the LCR VCFSE sector, VS6 have supported a growth in VCFSE representation across the City Region. This includes key representatives on each of the three main governance bodies operating in Liverpool City Region: the Combined Authority Board (Ellen Loudon, VS6 Chair), the Local Enterprise Partnership Board (Angela White) and on NHS Cheshire and Merseyside main board (Warren Escadale, VSNW Chief Executive). Following on from the joint work with the Combined Authority to supporting the City Region's Economic Recovery Plan, "Building Back Better", three main grant programmes were commissioned via VS6, VOLA and the Community Foundation: community wealth building, mental wellbeing, and digital inclusion. We have also mapped the sector's role in a Sustainable, Affordable and Inclusive Food Strategy across the City Region and are discussing models for better supporting this work and our communities.

Alongside this, considerable portions of the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** have been earmarked for the VCFSE sector as the lead on delivery (£6.635m). There will be considerable additional opportunities for VCFSE groups over and above this investment. This is in addition to the Combined Authority's commitment to delivering the manifesto, LCR Cares and the LCR Cares Grant Programme, which has previously invested (£0.5m) in the sector's role in community wealth building, tackling digital exclusion, supporting mental wellbeing and building volunteering support. Ewan McGregor and Laura Tilston have been central to our delivery of this work. Through the mental wellbeing and wealth building funds the sector was able to support over 13,200 people.

Across **Cheshire and Merseyside**, we are supporting and promoting the VCSE role in health neighbourhoods and primary care, the new Integrated Care Partnership, and place-based working. An important aspect of this is developing relationships with acute and community health providers. We are a key partner in the C&M NHS strategy and implementation.

Going forward, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside have committed to a larger VCFSE Transformation Programme in 2023/24 (£400k+) which includes large-scale investment in VCSE-place partnership working.

In **Greater Manchester (GM)**, we have continued to develop the "template for VCSE involvement in Devolution across England" through the work of our members, partners and the GM VCSE Leadership Group. Through this work, over 70 VCSE representatives and leaders now sit on key public sector

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boards and working groups, linking back through the Leadership Group to ensure focused, accountable representation and the full inclusion of the sector in shaping Greater Manchester. We also launched the GM **VCFSE Forum** with 10 Councils hosted by the GM Portfolio Cooperatives and Communities holder (Cllr Arooj Shah).

Major achievements include continued delivery of the **5 year Accord** agreement in Greater Manchester between the VCSE sector, the Combined Authority and the NHS. Key activities in the Accord include tackling inequality, creating an inclusive economy, building a stronger VCSE Ecosystem, developing a joint workforce approach, and implementing the VCSE Commissioning framework in order to build the sector's financial resilience. Anna Cooper, GM Programme Manager, Kassandra Banks, Partnerships Officer, and Tom Jackson, Communications Officer, have played an essential and vital role in this work and have finalized a three year £1.6m funding agreement to support the voice, influence and capacity building of the sector. Warren Escadale, VSNW Chief Executive, has chaired the GM VCSE Leadership Group.

Additional investment has landed with the sector through the influence of VSNW, sector leaders and the partnerships and collaborations that VSNW has helped establish. These include: £900k for VCSE equalities groups for mental wellbeing work; 12 month VCSE Workforce project £300k; £240k PCN and population health project to start in 2022; and an additional year's investment for a VCSE cancer screening programme (£500k) with grant investment throughout the programme for VCSE equalities groups (Answer Cancer) of over £400k to date.

Partnership achievements include:

- Launch a GM-wide VCSE workforce programme and support sector sign up to the Good Employment Charter;
- Establish the Alternative Provider Collaborative (APC), an innovative partnership of charities and social businesses delivering NHS services across the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System (which has a membership with a collective turnover of around £150m, employ in excess 2000 people and utilise around 1000 volunteers)
- Run a VCSE Ecosystem Fund to better connect faith groups, bolster collective capacity for action on tackling poverty; better connecting VCSE Mental Health leadership and sector ability to support refugee and asylum seekers.

In terms of our role in the **Answer Cancer partnership programme** (led by Salford CVS and in partnership with BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements), VSNW staff have played a strong role. Jacqui Naraynsingh (Project Coordinator), Kirit Patel and Sabina Khanum (Answer Cancer Development Workers), Vanessa Porter (Organisational Champion Lead) and Martin Hall (Communications Officer) have developed resources (in 14 community languages), case studies, and outreach strategies in order to build the evidence base for how to engage specific communities. This work includes case studies and over 80 videos supporting population health and prevention work with Black Asian and minority ethnic, disability, LGBTQ+, mental health, and carer groups and in communities of financial poverty. Answer Cancer continues to demonstrate the capacity of the VCSE sector to drive prevention in communities where previous approaches have been less successful. Yen Tan, our Operations Manager, has ensured VSNW has delivered effective support to groups and champions throughout.

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Nationally, we have continued to champion the sector's role in social prescribing advocating for investment for sector referrals and the VCSE role in being adequately funded link worker hosts. We are working with the **National Academy for Social Prescribing** and a unique VCSE partnership to deliver the regional Thriving Communities programme.

Build an effective voice for the North West VCSE sector

The VCSE sector is recognised as a core economic partner for **Liverpool City Region** Combined Authority. Over £6.6m of the UK SPF is being led by and delivered through the sector.

In Greater Manchester, the sector is also seen a core partner. The Combined Authority has earmarked five years' investment for the GM VCSE Leadership Group. The new Health and Care Partnership is matching this investment. Both have signed the **GM VCSE Accord**. This sits alongside £2.5m investment in the sector with further investment proposed through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF). Delivery of over £1m UK SPF is being led on by VCSE local infrastructure.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership is investing in a sizeable **VCSE Transformation Programme** (over £400k in 2023/24).

Through the NHS Charities Community Partnership programme, VSNW helped to secure £1.1m investment in local VCSE organisations in **Cheshire and Merseyside**. This 2-year investment has been used to fund NHS-VCSE pilot projects. Pilots include supporting BAME communities to access health services in East Cheshire and developing a sector-wide hospital discharge model with Halton and Warrington Hospital and the local CVS. The latter pilot, *Healthy at Home*, is being seen as a national and local exemplar project able, through a partnership of local VCSE organisations, to support over 125 people to leave hospital and be supported at home each month.

VCSE delivery of mental wellbeing, cancer prevention, and 'complex lives' support is being piloted across Cheshire and Merseyside. This includes investment via mental health transformation funding of just under £1m to date.

In **Lancashire**, through the Lancashire Association of CVS, the sector has now secured £300k investment to champion the ambitions of the sector's Lancashire manifesto.

Nationally, we have maintained our links to NHS England's voluntary sector team. Over the past five years, we have successfully lobbied for a VCSE Partnership programme, linked to the NHS's 42 Integrated Care Systems (ICS), modelled on our work in Greater Manchester, to be rolled out. VCSE Partnerships or Alliances are now established right across England, generally with six-figure annual local investment and clear goals for improved NHS-VCSE working, this includes all four areas that operate in the North West (Cheshire & Merseyside, Lancashire and South Cumbria, Greater Manchester, North East and North Cumbria). The sector now has representatives invited to the main NHS Board in all 42 areas as default.

Over the past 18 months, VSNW has supported additional investment into the North West VCSE sector of over £12.3m. However, we know that our work and the partnerships we work with and for, have created far more investment than this for the local sector, far beyond what any single VCSE organisations could hope to achieve.

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An effective NW VCSE leadership organisation

VSNW organisational development has continued. We have increased our staffing to 12 as at 31st March 2023. We are moving to a point where we no longer rely on one or two staff operating as exceptional individuals but creating a fit for purpose organisation that has sufficient capacity to help the sector to connect, influence, and drive change for the benefit of our communities. We, as the Board, see this as a priority.

As part of this, the Board has committed to investing reserves and developing an expanded staff team in 2022/23, so that we can increase our capacity to support the sector in Lancashire, Cumbria and on a North West footprint, while maintaining and developing local partnerships.

We continue to review, develop and improve our internal systems. Given the increase in staff and activity, Yen Siang Tan, Operations Manager, is pivotal to the further development and evolution of VSNW. Alison Page and Dan Moxon have now left the VSNW board but their work as Chair and Treasurer has been an essential part of our development.

Income generation remains strong but largely project based, however, we have made significant steps forward in developing VSNW's delivery capacity. We continue to push for longer funding streams for VSNW. Answer Cancer delivery has been funded for the last five years and the VS6 Lottery funding until 2024. We are extremely pleased to have secured longer term investment in Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Merseyside until 2026.

The work that we do in Lancashire and Cumbria is funded through VSNW reserves.

Financial review

The charity held reserves of £429,240 at the year end (2022: £432,142) of which £8,840 (2022: £12,056) were restricted and £11,970 (2022: £130,203) designated leaving a general reserve of £408,430 (2022: £289,883). VSNW is in a reasonable financial position at this point. We have utilised a proportion of our unrestricted reserves in accordance with our Reserves Policy. A review of our financial position is conducted quarterly by the Resources Group and is then considered by the Trustee Board. This review is ongoing.

Reserves policy

The VSNW reserves policy is to maintain sufficient levels of reserves for the delivery of existing programmes of work to be completed and/or transferred to alternative providers should a shortfall in income occur. The required time to do this effectively is a minimum 6 months and the level of reserves required to achieve this is £156,758.

The general reserve, as stated above, is higher than this, however, given the short term funding environment and reliance on short-term and project funding, we will review our reserves.

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Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 April 2000 and registered as a charity on 19 February 1998.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2023 was 127 full members. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Trustee selection methods

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association half the members of the Trustee Board elected to serve must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Both business and strategic skills are required on the Trustee Board and the Board has made a firm commitment to appoint trustees with strong strategic connections to the VCSE sector in each subregion whilst also being sensitive to inclusion and diversity. An annual skills audit is conducted to identify any skills gaps.

Trustees are appointed via an electoral process at the Annual General Meeting elections. Other Trustees can be co-opted by the Trustee Board throughout the year, in accordance with the constitution. The Trustee Board meets every six weeks.

Induction and training of trustees

New Trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive where the current financial position and the governing framework are presented, and the obligations of Board members and future plans and objectives are outlined. The NCVO booklet Trustees and Trustees Members National Occupational Standards is given to all new trustees.

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Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Organisational structure

VSNW has a Trustee Board of up to 12 members who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. As at 31st March 2023 the Board has 5 members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

VSNW's decision making process rests with the Trustee Board. Decisions regarding implementation of the charity's work and staff supervision are delegated to the Chief Executive, who has one-to-ones with the Chair.

Sub groups are established and agreed by the Trustees to meet between Trustee Board meetings to address any issues that require immediate attention and report any actions for agreement to the full Trustee Board.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, VSNW is guided by local, regional and national policy. Sub regional partnerships ensure engagement with thematic, geographic and specialist VCSE infrastructure and provides VSNW with a wide reach into the VCSE sector across the region.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

A subgroup of the board reviews remuneration with advice from our HR consultant, using comparable pay rates within and beyond the sector, including equivalent relationships.

Risk management

The Trustee Board conducts a risk analysis with its budget at outset each year. There is a Risk Register and Policy in place and the register is reviewed on a regular basis. Procedures are implemented internally to ensure proper authorisation for all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure Health and Safety compliance. These are currently under review for future improvement.

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Trustees' annual report
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Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Voluntary Sector North West for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company 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 provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 20th November 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Sally Yeoman (Chair)

Gill Bainbridge (Treasurer)

Independent examiner's report
to the members of
Voluntary Sector North West

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 31.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your 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 requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA
Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Manchester, M4 6JG
Date: 07 December 2023

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	3,000
Charitable activities:	4	211,127	389,051	600,178	431,740
Total income		211,127	389,051	600,178	434,740
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:	5	210,813	392,267	603,080	389,448
Total expenditure		210,813	392,267	603,080	389,448
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		420,086	12,056	432,142	386,850
Total funds carried forward		420,400	8,840	429,240	432,142

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Voluntary Sector North West
Company number 3988903
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	1,781	2,719
Total fixed assets		1,781	2,719
Current assets			
Debtors	13	218,760	130,395
Cash at bank and in hand	14	275,143	356,203
Total current assets		493,903	486,598
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	15	(66,444)	(57,175)
Net current assets		427,459	429,423
Total assets less current liabilities		429,240	432,142
Net assets		429,240	432,142
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	16	8,840	12,056
Unrestricted income funds	17	420,400	420,086
Total charity funds		429,240	432,142

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime (of the Companies Act 2006).

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 17 to 31 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 20/11/2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Sally Yeoman (Chair)

Gill Bainbridge (Treasurer)

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	20	(81,060)	(39,546)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(81,060)	(39,546)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		356,203	395,749
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		275,143	356,203

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Voluntary Sector North West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

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

e 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.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of 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 charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

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

h Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures & fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3, 4 or 5 years

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

i Debtors

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

j Cash at bank and in hand

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

k Creditors and provisions

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

l Financial instruments

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

m Pensions

Employees of the charity are opted into a Pension Scheme (defined contribution 'money purchase' schemes) with an employer's contribution. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 8. There were outstanding contributions of £2,599 (2022: £1,827) at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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 registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations		
Society of the Holy Child Jesus CIO	-	3,000
Total	-	3,000

All donations and legacies income is unrestricted.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Social Prescribing Network NW NHS England		40,470	40,470
VCFSE Transformation Programme (Cheshire & Merseyside)	-	143,758	143,758
Salford CVS (GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	113,608	113,608
VS6 (Reaching Community Fund)	-	91,215	91,215
GMCA	183,800	-	183,800
Lloyds Bank Foundation	17,250	-	17,250
Other income	10,077	-	10,077
Total	211,127	389,051	600,178
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
GMCVO (GM H&SC Partnership)	11,558	-	11,558
Social Prescribing Network NW NHS England (VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site (Cheshire & Merseyside))	-	16,850	16,850
NHS England (Carers C&M)	-	81,442	81,442
Salford CVS (GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	10,000	-	10,000
Salford CVS (Make Smoking History)	-	112,020	112,020
NAVCA (EP - Local Liaison Lead)	-	9,700	9,700
VS6 (Reaching Community Fund)	-	4,750	4,750
GMCA	-	54,750	54,750
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service	116,143	-	116,143
CVS Cheshire East	9,834	-	9,834
Other income	3,433	-	3,433
	1,260	-	1,260
Total	152,228	279,512	431,740

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	376,696	264,815
Other Staff costs	19,136	2,163
Administration	23,008	17,381
Accommodation	7,164	6,960
Associates/Sub-contractors	135,797	60,105
Conferences & events	5,710	6,013
Other project costs	18,763	19,946
Depreciation	938	1,178
Governance costs (see note 6)	15,868	10,887
	603,080	389,448
	2023 £	2022 £
Restricted expenditure	392,267	330,041
Unrestricted expenditure	210,813	59,407
	603,080	389,448

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2023 £
Independent examiner fees	Governance	1,700	1,700
Professional fees	Governance	10,733	10,733
AGM and trustee costs	Governance	3,435	3,435
		15,868	15,868
Previous reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2022 £
<i>Independent examiner fees</i>	<i>Governance</i>	<i>1,575</i>	<i>1,575</i>
<i>Professional fees</i>	<i>Governance</i>	<i>7,727</i>	<i>7,727</i>
<i>AGM and trustee costs</i>	<i>Governance</i>	<i>1,585</i>	<i>1,585</i>
		10,887	10,887

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	938	1,178
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	8,064	6,960
Independent examiner's fees:		
Accountancy	1,130	1,050
Independent examination	570	525
Bookkeeping	4,400	5,250
Payroll bureau	983	441

8 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	322,313	232,756
Social security costs	28,375	17,962
Pension costs	22,529	14,097
Redundancy costs	3,479	-
	376,696	264,815

One (2022: Nil) employee has employee benefits between £60,000 and £70,000 in the year.
The average number of staff employed during the period was 10 (2022: 8.5).

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

8 Staff costs (continued)

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 10.8 (2022: 7.4).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer and the Operations Manager (2022: Chief Executive Officer). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £101,324 (2022: £61,498).

9 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2022: Nil).

Four (2022: one) member of the board of trustees received travel and subsistence expenses of £494 during the year (2022: £30).

GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project

In December 2018 VSNW worked in partnership with Salford CVS, BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements to secure a contract with NHS England (on behalf of GM Health and Social Care Partnership) in response to an OJEU tender to deliver the GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project. Salford CVS were the named lead provider within this partnership, on behalf of 10GM. The contract was awarded to this VCSE partnership (now known as Answer Cancer), with Salford CVS as the accountable body. Delivery commenced in the year 2019/20 and during 2022/23 Salford CVS made payments to VSNW (£113,607) in relation to delivery of this project (as per the partnership's revised budget submission). It should be noted that the Chair of VSNW (resigned 01/06/2023), Alison Page, is also the Chief Executive of Salford CVS.

10 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (via Liverpool CCG)	143,758	81,442
NHS England	-	10,000
GMCA	183,800	116,143
	327,558	207,585

There were no unfulfilled conditions and contingencies attaching to the grants.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

11 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

12 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Fixtures & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
At 1 April 2022	500	5,772	6,272
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	500	5,772	6,272
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	500	3,053	3,553
Charge for the year	-	938	938
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	500	3,991	4,491
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	-	1,781	1,781
At 31 March 2022	-	2,719	2,719

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Grants and fees receivable	213,719	124,853
Prepayments and accrued income	5,041	5,542
	218,760	130,395

14 Cash at bank and in hand

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and on hand	275,143	356,203
	275,143	356,203

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	15,868	33,748
Other creditors and accruals	40,571	13,704
Taxation and social security costs	10,005	9,723
	66,444	57,175

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	40,470	(40,470)	-	-
GMCSE Answer Cancer	12,056	113,608	(125,664)	-	-
VCFSE Transformation Programme	-	143,758	(143,758)	-	-
VS6	-	91,215	(82,375)	-	8,840
Total	12,056	389,051	(392,267)	-	8,840
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
<i>FutureNW Forum</i>	7,726	-	(7,726)	-	-
<i>Social Prescribing Network NW</i>	4,220	16,850	(21,070)	-	-
<i>GMCSE Answer Cancer</i>	8,234	112,020	(108,198)	-	12,056
<i>VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site</i>	36,130	81,442	(117,572)	-	-
<i>Make Smoking History</i>	1,900	9,700	(11,600)	-	-
<i>VS6</i>	-	54,750	(54,750)	-	-
<i>STP Merseyside & Cheshire</i>	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
<i>NW Recovery</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EP-Local Liaison Lead</i>	2,375	4,750	(7,125)	-	-
Total	62,585	279,512	(330,041)	-	12,056

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Social Prescribing Network NW	Funding from National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), via Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, to support VCSE role in Social Prescribing in North West England
GMCSE Answer Cancer	Subcontracted from Salford CVS delivery of the GM Cancer Screening Engagement service
VCFSE Transformation Programme	To support the VCFSE role in the transformation of health and care across Cheshire and Merseyside.
VS6	Reaching Communities Lottery Funds held on behalf of the VS6 Partnership in order to support the VCFSE role in shaping the future of Liverpool City Region
FutureNW Forum	Funding to support the North West Forum on Ageing, an unconstituted network
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site	Funding from Cheshire & Merseyside Health and Social Care Partnership, with NHS England contribution, via Liverpool CCG to support the development of a Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) VCSE Partnership and VCSE role in C&M Health & Care Partnership
Make Smoking History	Subcontract from Salford CVS to support a smoking cessation social movement project
STP Merseyside & Cheshire	NHS England investment via NAVCA to support VCFSE engagement in NHS' Five Year Strategy
EP-Local Liaison Lead	Funding contribution to link Cheshire and Warrington into National VCSE Emergency Partnership Structures

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2023 £
General fund	289,883	211,127	(189,914)	97,334	408,430
Designated Funds:					
Carers C&M	10,666	-	(10,666)	-	-
Lloyds Bank					
Foundation	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
GM Accord	56,665	-	-	(44,695)	11,970
Organisational Development	47,872	-	(10,233)	(37,639)	-
	<u>420,086</u>	<u>211,127</u>	<u>(210,813)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>420,400</u>
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2022 £
General fund	286,932	145,228	(37,773)	(104,504)	289,883
Designated Funds:					
Carers C&M	14,000	10,000	(13,334)	-	10,666
Lloyds Bank					
Foundation	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
NHS Volunteer Responder	8,333	-	(8,300)	(33)	-
GM Accord	-	-	-	56,665	56,665
Organisational Development	-	-	-	47,872	47,872
	<u>324,265</u>	<u>155,228</u>	<u>(59,407)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>420,086</u>

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds (cont.)

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Designated Funds	
Carers C&M	Funding to support carers in Cheshire and Merseyside linked to NHS workforce development
Lloyds Bank Foundation	Lloyds Bank Foundation grant investment in VSNW's core funding
GM Accord	2021/22 funding brought forward to support agreed delivery in 2022/23 and 2023/24
Organisational Development	Funding designated by VSNW's Board for future development and sustainability and to support delivery, in line with our priorities, across the North West and the five subregions.
NHS Volunteer Responder	NHS England investment to develop potential integration of Good Sam and local volunteering services

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	1,781	-	-	1,781
Net current assets/(liabilities)	406,649	11,970	8,840	427,459
Total	408,430	11,970	8,840	429,240
Previous reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,719	-	-	2,719
Net current assets/(liabilities)	391,701	25,666	12,056	429,423
Total	394,420	130,203	12,056	432,142

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

19 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	Property	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Less than one year	-	4,176
	-	4,176

20 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(2,902)	45,292
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	938	1,178
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(88,365)	(96,323)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	9,269	10,307
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating	(81,060)	(39,546)

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	3,000	-	3,000	-
Charitable activities:	4	152,228	279,512	431,740	380,080
Total income		155,228	279,512	434,740	380,080
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:	5	59,407	330,041	389,448	339,290
Total expenditure		59,407	330,041	389,448	339,290
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		324,265	62,585	386,850	346,060
Total funds carried forward		420,086	12,056	432,142	386,850

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Accounts

Company number: 3988903

Charity number: 1081654

Voluntary Sector North West

Report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Voluntary Sector North West
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Company number 3988903

Charity number 1081654

Registered office and operational address 3rd Floor Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street,
Manchester, M4 5JW

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Alison Page	Chair
Ed Moss	Vice-chair (resigned 24 May 2022)
Daniel Moxon	Treasurer
Sally Yeoman	
David Packwood	
Gill Bainbridge	
Ridwanah Gurjee	(resigned 6 August 2022)
Circle Steele	
Khansa Taha	
Margaret Cheshire	

Key management personnel Warren Escadale Chief Executive

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Unity Trust Bank
PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

Independent examiner Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Manchester, M4 6JG

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") were updated on 26 September 2000. They are:

To promote such purposes as are charitable according to the law of England and Wales for the benefit of the public in the North West of England by:

- (a) Providing a channel of information between voluntary organisations and local and central government agencies or other organisations in the region.
- (b) Providing a network of communication for voluntary organisations and agencies in the region.
- (c) Bringing together representatives from voluntary organisations, statutory authorities and other agencies in the region to identify the funding and policy needs of voluntary organisations.

The area of benefit, the North West of England is defined as the ceremonial counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Merseyside.

Ensuring our work delivers our object & aims

The Trustee Board of VSNW reviews the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year in order to ensure activities remain focused on our stated purposes. The trustees established in consultation with member organisations, a Strategic plan for 2019-2022. The following four strategic aims were established:

- Increase **connectivity** within the sector
- Support sector to **influence**
- Demonstrate the **value** of VSNW and the sector as a whole
- Build an effective NW VCSE leadership **organisation**

The latter includes ensuring that we continue to ensure VSNW is a well governed and financially sound organisation.

This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The Charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities are undertaken to further Voluntary Sector North West's charitable purposes for the public benefit. We continued to carry out the work of VSNW in accordance with our mission, our strategic aims and in accordance with our strategic priorities for 2019-2022 (above).

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This ensured that all our work was of benefit to, and reflected the priorities of, the North West voluntary and community sector and therefore the wider public in the North West.

Core Activities

The North West has always consisted of five sub regions and of a stark mix of economic success and marginalisation. Via our members and networks, we are in contact with over 40,000 groups working with communities right across the region. VSNW's work has historically had three core elements:

- Supporting the sector's role in creating social and economic impact, driven by the need to create effective economic strategies and delivery for our communities.
- Supporting the sector's role in the future of health and social care, City Regions, the Combined Authorities, and the NHS's new Integrated Care Systems are the key focus for influencing with and on behalf of the sector.
- General support for the sector bridging national policy and local implementation. An important part of this role has been about how we can be a system leader and create change, always within the context of the membership, networks and relationships that make VSNW possible.

Increase connectivity within the VCSE sector

Supporting and building the capacity of sub-regional VCSE partnerships is the foundation of our operating model. Our vision is to play our part in developing and/or supporting healthy, connected partnerships that deliver value for the sector in each sub-region.

We know that we have limited resources, and that this is the best way to add value, building on local networks and relationships.

In 2021/22, VSNW provided formal support to VCSE partnerships operating in Cheshire and Warrington, Liverpool City Region, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. As Cumbria CVS provides this function in Cumbria, we have not sought to duplicate but to build links and offer a different model of support through Cumbria CVS.

In **Liverpool City Region**, VSNW provides secretariat support to the VS6 Partnership whose members support and are connected to the 8,600 VCSE organisations in the City Region. Laura Tilston (Research and Policy Officer), Karen Conway (Partnerships Manager) and Anna Cooper (Membership and Events Lead) played a vital role in developing the partnership's policy, communications and engagement work. We (VS6 and VSNW) have worked hard developing effective mechanisms to connect the wider sector into city region policy and influence work, using cascaded communications, developing the VS6 website (www.vs6partnership.org.uk), holding virtual Assemblies, and using consultation surveys. Building on this model, Lottery investment started in August, allowing us to embed this model and continue to support the wider engagement of the sector in partnership with the VS6 Partnership. An important element of this was supporting the formation of an independently chaired City Region race equality VCFSE group.

In Greater Manchester (GM), the **Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group** (facilitated and chaired by VSNW) connects to a broad range of VCSE networks: disability, Black Asian and minority ethnic, older people, young people, LGBTQ+, faith, carers, mental health, sport, refugee, women, local VCSE infrastructure, including 10GM and GMCVO, social enterprise, and VCSE providers, with links, through infrastructure organisations and equalities networks, to the 17,000 VCSE organisations in Greater Manchester. The Leadership Group's main bulletin has over 2,000 direct contacts. As a Leadership Group, as part of connecting to the wider sector, we use formal working groups (commissioning, inclusive economy, population health, workforce, GM VCSE mental health leaders and GM=EqAI), short term task and finish groups, focused networks (eg homelessness),

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Assembly events, consultations, and roadshow events being held with leaders in the ten boroughs.

Through **Answer Cancer** over 200 organisations have committed, with their staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, to preventing and tackling cancer.

In **Cheshire**, we have helped set up the Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP). Formed during the Pandemic, this partnership played a vital role in sharing PPE and feeding into the national VCSE Emergency Partnership work via VSNW. This group, through the Cheshire and Warrington Community Foundation, links to the Local Enterprise Partnership as part of assessing the impact of the pandemic on local communities through CWIP's community pulse survey. Andrew Rainsford (Research and Policy Officer) has been a key part of our support in Cheshire and Warrington.

To complement the NHS footprint, the **Cheshire and Merseyside VCSE Health and Social Care Leadership Group** links 60 plus VCSE Leaders from each of the 9 boroughs. This includes: CVS, VCSE Place Board representatives, and equalities and specialist VCSE Providers. This Group links to the NHS Board, ensures accountability to the sector and provides a platform for connecting the sector more broadly.

In **Lancashire**, we (VSNW and local VCSE Leaders) have worked alongside the VCSE Health Alliance in order to support a connected and influential sector. As part of this work, we have developed a collective statement on ambitions for the local sector (a draft VCSE Manifesto for the Lancashire sector). There has been an extensive consultation and campaign with the Lancashire sector: *Locally Organised Communities Across Lancashire (LOCAL)* using a dedicated website (LocalLancashire.org.uk), surveys, workshop toolkits with sessions run by VSNW and Lancashire VCSE Leaders. Anna Cooper and Andrew Rainsford with additional communications consultancy support have been central to this work. The model has been praised by local VCSE and public sector partners and we have engaged over 400 VCSE leaders and held or supported over two dozen workshops. Going forward, we will explore a broader Leadership support offer linked to the collective ambitions outlined in the manifesto.

We also hosted the **North West Social Prescribing Network** with over 300 people signed up to a dedicated Bulletin. Working alongside Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS and a network of CVS across the North West, we support the regional VCSE Social Prescribing programme (Thriving Communities) working closely with partners from the National Academy of Social Prescribing (NASP). This included running a regional learning programme with 82 regular VCSE participants attending the 10 sessions; Anna Cooper, our Membership and Events Lead, has been pivotal to all this work.

Through our role in **North West Voices** supporting the regional NHS equalities work, we have proven the ability of the local sector (in Cheshire, Merseyside and Lancashire) to connect with and interview 800 marginalised citizens about the impact of COVID. Those interviewed include homeless people, digitally excluded, young people not in employment, education or training, older people not in work and those for whom English is a second language.

2021 marked eleven years of the Green Bullet. This bulletin keeps **North West Environment Link** members and wider networks up to date on environmental events and issues of interest to voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West.

Following a review of **VSNW membership**, this stood at 125 full members and 56 associates (as at 31st March 2022) and we have a general contact list of over 2,500 VCSE Chief Executives and senior staff across the region signed up to our bulletins: VSNW, GM Leadership, VS6 Partnership, Social Prescribing, GM Cancer Champions and the Green Bullet.

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Enable influence

The **VS6 Partnership of Liverpool City Region (LCR)** have had an extremely busy and productive year advocating for the local sector. The VCFSE Manifesto was codesigned with the sector and the City Region Metro Mayor committed to supporting its implementation. The LCR VCSE sector is recognised as a local economic partner.

As champions for the LCR VCSE sector, VS6 have supported a growth in VCSE representation across the City Region. This includes key representatives on each of the three main governance bodies operating in Liverpool City Region: the Combined Authority Board (Ellen Loudon, VS6 Chair), the Local Enterprise Partnership Board (Angela White) and on NHS Cheshire and Merseyside main board (Warren Escadale, VSNW Chief Executive), alongside a growing set of boards, such as the LCR Economic Recovery Panel. In consultation with the sector, VS6 developed a business case for VCSE sector recovery which was included within the City Region's Economic Recovery Plan, "Building Back Better", and submitted to Government. This included a number of substantial investment propositions via the sector including a jointly proposed Sector Resilience and Capacity Fund, which has now been included in the Combined Authority's Social Value Framework.

As part of this commitment, considerable portions of the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** have been earmarked for the VCFSE sector as the lead on delivery (£6.635m or 15% between 2022 and 2025). There will be considerable additional opportunities for VCFSE groups over and above this investment. This is in addition to the Combined Authority's commitment to delivering the manifesto, LCR Cares and the LCR Cares Grant Programme, which has previously invested (£0.5m) in the sector's role in community wealth building, tackling digital exclusion, supporting mental wellbeing and building volunteering support.

Through VS6, VSNW have continued to support the implementation of the LCR VCFSE Manifesto for 2021-2024. The main elements are outlined elsewhere in this report but this also includes helping VS6 to secure a piece of work mapping the sector's role in a Sustainable, Affordable and Inclusive Food Strategy.

Following Karen Conway's departure, Laura Tilston working as Acting Programme Manager for VS6, was able to continue the high standard of support and impact previously established.

Across **Cheshire and Merseyside**, we are supporting and promoting the VCSE role in health neighbourhoods and primary care, Integrated Care Partnerships, and place-based working. An important aspect of this is developing relationships with acute and community health providers. We are a key partner in the C&M NHS strategy and implementation.

Going forward, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside have committed to a larger VCSE Transformation Programme in 2022/23 (£400k+) which includes large-scale investment in VCSE-place partnership working.

A central part of our NHS work has been supporting the development of Place-VCSE partnership framework. This work has been incorporated into the Cheshire and Merseyside self-assessment of Place (equivalent to the local authority footprint in this instance) working. This included a focused piece of work exploring how Places can transform or step up their work with the local sector in Sefton: 'Sefton VCF Sector at the Frontline of Transformation'.

In **Greater Manchester (GM)**, we have continued to develop the "template for VCSE involvement in Devolution across England" through the work of our members, partners and the GM VCSE Leadership Group. Through this work, a large number (over 30 reps at any point in time) of VCSE representatives have been appointed to key public sector boards and working groups, linking back through the

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Leadership Group to ensure focused, accountable representation and the full inclusion of the sector in shaping Greater Manchester.

Major achievements include a **new 5 year Accord** agreement in Greater Manchester between the VCSE sector, the Combined Authority and the NHS from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2026, with core activity funding for VCSE equalities, inclusive economy, health, local infrastructure and provider delivery activity. Key activities in the Accord include: tackling inequality, creating an inclusive economy, building a stronger VCSE Ecosystem, developing a joint workforce approach, and implementing the VCSE Commissioning framework in order to build the sector's financial resilience. Karen Conway, VSNW Partnerships Manager, Anna Cooper, Acting GM Programme Manager from the last quarter of 2020/21, and Cassandra Banks, Partnerships Officer, have played an essential and vital role in this work. Warren Escadale, VSNW Chief Executive, has chaired the GM VCSE Leadership Group.

Additional investment has landed with the sector through the influence of VSNW, sector leaders and the partnerships and collaborations that VSNW has helped establish. These include: £600k for VCSE equalities groups for mental wellbeing work (with a further £300k for 2022/23); 12 month VCSE Workforce project £300k to start in 2022; £240k PCN and population health project to start in 2022; and an additional year's investment for a VCSE cancer screening programme (£500k) with grant investment for VCSE equalities groups (Answer Cancer).

Other major achievements in Greater Manchester include development of a Build Back Fairer framework with public sector partners (Marmot) and pump priming an Alternative Provider Federation to link the sector into the new, local NHS provider collaborative.

In terms of our role in the **Answer Cancer programme**, Kirit Patel (Answer Cancer Development Worker), Vanessa Porter (Organisational Champion Lead) and Martin Hall (Communications Officer) have developed resources (in 14 community languages), case studies, and outreach strategies in order to build the evidence base for how to engage specific communities. This work includes case studies on supporting population health and prevention work with Black Asian and minority ethnic, disability, LGBTQ+, mental health, and carer groups and in communities of financial poverty. Answer Cancer continues to demonstrate the capacity of the VCSE sector, with over 200 organisations involved, to drive prevention in communities where previous approaches have been less successful.

Nationally, we have continued to champion the sector's role in social prescribing advocating for investment for sector referrals and the VCSE role in being adequately funded link worker hosts. We are working with the **National Academy for Social Prescribing** and a unique VCSE partnership to deliver the regional Thriving Communities programme. We continue to campaign for the sector's role as part of the National Social Prescribing Network and supported last year's virtual International Social Prescribing Conference. As part of this work, we codesigned a set of principles for better working with the VCSE sector, SP9 Principles, which have been promoted nationally through the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), NAVCA and the National Social Prescribing Network.

Demonstrate value of VSNW and the sector as a whole

The VCSE sector is recognised as a core economic partner for **Liverpool City Region** Combined Authority. Over £7m has been earmarked for VCSE delivery and for VCSE leadership in that delivery.

In Greater Manchester, the sector is also seen a core partner. The Combined Authority has earmarked five years' investment for the GM VCSE Leadership Group. The new Health and Care Partnership is matching this investment. Both have signed the **GM VCSE Accord**. This sits alongside £2.5m investment in the sector with further investment proposed through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF). Delivery of over £1m UK SPF will be led on by VCSE local infrastructure.

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The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership is investing in a sizeable **VCSE Transformation Programme** (over £400k in 2022/23).

Through the NHS Charities Community Partnership programme, VSNW helped to secure £1.1m investment in local VCSE organisations in **Cheshire and Merseyside**. This 2-year investment has been used to fund NHS-VCSE pilot projects. Pilots include supporting BAME communities to access health services in East Cheshire and developing a sector-wide hospital discharge model with Halton and Warrington Hospital and the local CVS. These pilots will serve as models for future discussions.

Alongside this, our NHS transformation work has secured and piloted the VCSE role in a **maternal wellbeing programme** across Cheshire and Merseyside. This has included a successful small grants programme (£180K) where 24 organisations delivered 38 perinatal wellbeing support projects across Cheshire and Merseyside with over 10,000 families benefiting.

VSNW also developed a set of principles for **VCSE/Community Mental Health Provider Partnership** working. This helped secure additional VCSE investment in a number of places (c.£400k to date) and is shaping further discussions.

In **Lancashire**, the County Council has committed to working with the sector and collaborating on the VCSE Manifesto. Reorganisation, across all partners, has delayed this work. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund discussions have occurred at district and borough levels.

Nationally, we have maintained our links to NHS England's voluntary sector team. Over the past five years, we have successfully lobbied for a VCSE Partnership programme, linked to the NHS's 42 Integrated Care Systems (ICS), modelled on our work in Greater Manchester, to be rolled out. VCSE Partnerships or Alliances are now established right across England, generally with six-figure annual local investment and clear goals for improved NHS-VCSE working, this includes all four areas that operate in the North West (Cheshire & Merseyside, Lancashire and South Cumbria, Greater Manchester, North East and North Cumbria). The sector now has representatives invited to the main NHS Board in all 42 areas as default.

Over the year, VSNW has supported additional investment into the North West VCSE sector of over £12m. However, we know that our work and the partnerships we work with and for, have created far more investment than this for the local sector, far beyond what any single VCSE organisations could hope to achieve.

An effective NW VCSE leadership organisation

VSNW organisational development has steadily continued. We are moving to a point where we no longer rely on one or two staff operating as exceptional individuals but creating a fit for purpose organisation that has sufficient capacity to help the sector to connect, influence, and drive change for the benefit of our communities. We, as the Board, see this as a priority.

As part of this, the Board has committed to investing reserves and developing an expanded staff team in 2022/23, so that we can increase our capacity to support the sector in Lancashire, Cumbria and on a North West footprint, while maintaining and developing local partnerships.

We continue to review, develop and improve our internal systems. Given the increase in staff and activity, the Board has committed to funding an Operations Manager role in 2022/23 in order to support the further development and evolution of VSNW. The Board has increased the frequency of board meetings and developed the HR Subgroup.

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Income generation remains strong but largely project based, however, we have made significant steps forward in developing VSNW's delivery capacity. Delivering virtually has made a significant impact on our productivity, giving us the ability to rapidly 'travel' around the region and offer support to local partnerships. This has meant that we can provide a far stronger offer to the two sub-regions of Lancashire and Cheshire & Warrington in a way we could have only hoped at the beginning of the year. Going forward, we need to build on the strong platform that our staff team have established over 2021/22.

We continue to push for longer funding streams for VSNW. Answer Cancer delivery has been funded for the last four years and the Lottery funding until 2024 is a positive. We are seeking longer term investment in Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Merseyside from 2023.

The work that we do in Lancashire and Cumbria is funded through VSNW reserves.

Financial review

The charity held reserves of £432,142 at the year end (2021: £386,850) of which £12,056 (2021: £62,585) were restricted and £130,203 (2021: £37,333) designated leaving a general reserve of £289,883 (2021: £286,932). VSNW is in a reasonable financial position at this point. We have utilised a proportion of our unrestricted reserves in accordance with our Reserves Policy. A review of our financial position is conducted quarterly by the Resources Group and is then considered by the Trustee Board. This review is ongoing.

Reserves policy

The VSNW reserves policy is to maintain sufficient levels of reserves for the delivery of existing programmes of work to be completed and/or transferred to alternative providers should a shortfall in income occur. The required time to do this effectively is a minimum 6 months and the level of reserves required to achieve this is £240,812.

The general reserve, as stated above, is higher than this, however, given the short term funding environment and reliance on short-term and project funding, we will review our reserves. As a board, we have designated £47,872 for the future development and sustainability of the organisation in order to support delivery, in line with our priorities, across the North West and the five subregions.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 April 2000 and registered as a charity on 19 February 1998.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2022 was 125 full members. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Trustee selection methods

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association half the members of the Trustee Board elected to serve must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Both business and strategic skills are required on the Trustee Board and the Board has made a firm commitment to appoint trustees with strong strategic connections to the VCSE sector in each subregion whilst also being sensitive to inclusion and diversity. An annual skills audit is conducted to identify any skills gaps.

Trustees are appointed via an electoral process at the Annual General Meeting elections. Other Trustees can be co-opted by the Trustee Board throughout the year, in accordance with the constitution. The Trustee Board meets every six weeks.

Induction and training of trustees

New Trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive where the current financial position and the governing framework are presented, and the obligations of Board members and future plans and objectives are outlined. The NCVO booklet Trustees and Trustees Members National Occupational Standards is given to all new trustees.

Organisational structure

VSNW has a Trustee Board of up to 12 members who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. As at 31st March 2022 the Board has 10 members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

VSNW's decision making process rests with the Trustee Board. Decisions regarding implementation of the charity's work and staff supervision are delegated to the Chief Executive, who has one-to-ones with the Chair.

Sub groups are established and agreed by the Trustees to meet between Trustee Board meetings to address any issues that require immediate attention and report any actions for agreement to the full Trustee Board.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, VSNW is guided by local, regional and national policy. Sub regional partnerships ensure engagement with thematic, geographic and specialist VCSE infrastructure and provides VSNW with a wide reach into the VCSE sector across the region.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

A subgroup of the board reviews remuneration with advice from our HR consultant, using comparable pay rates within and beyond the sector, including equivalent relationships.

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Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Risk management

The Trustee Board conducts a risk analysis with its budget at outset each year. There is a Risk Register and Policy in place and the register is reviewed on a regular basis. Procedures are implemented internally to ensure proper authorisation for all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure Health and Safety compliance. These are currently under review for future improvement.

Risks and mitigating measures were rapidly reviewed as Covid-19 continued to impact and additional resources were invested in remote working. In terms of commissioned work, adjustments were implemented and agreed with funders. In terms of partnership and member engagement, mechanisms were put in place. These measures and adjusted, agreed working arrangements are held under review.

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Voluntary Sector North West for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company 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 provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 15th November 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Alison Page
Chair

Independent examiner's report
to the members of
Voluntary Sector North West

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2022 which are set out on pages 13 to 30.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your 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 requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill, Jersey St,
Manchester, M4 6JG

Date 21 November 2022

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	3,000	-	3,000	-
Charitable activities:	4	152,228	279,512	431,740	380,080
Total income		155,228	279,512	434,740	380,080
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:	5	59,407	330,041	389,448	339,290
Total expenditure		59,407	330,041	389,448	339,290
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	7	95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		324,265	62,585	386,850	346,060
Total funds carried forward		420,086	12,056	432,142	386,850

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Voluntary Sector North West
Company number 3988903
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	2,719	3,897
Total fixed assets		2,719	3,897
Current assets			
Debtors	13	130,395	34,072
Cash at bank and in hand	14	356,203	395,749
Total current assets		486,598	429,821
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	15	(57,175)	(46,868)
Net current assets		429,423	382,953
Total assets less current liabilities		432,142	386,850
Net assets		432,142	386,850
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	16	12,056	62,585
Unrestricted income funds	17	420,086	324,265
Total charity funds		432,142	386,850

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime (of the Companies Act 2006).

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 16 to 30 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 15/11/2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Alison Page (Chair)



Dan Moxon (Treasurer)

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	(39,546)	110,067
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(2,191)
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		-	(2,191)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(39,546)	107,876
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		395,749	287,873
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		356,203	395,749

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Voluntary Sector North West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

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

e 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.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of 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 charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

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

h Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures & fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3, 4 or 5 years

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

i Debtors

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

j Cash at bank and in hand

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

k Creditors and provisions

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

l Financial instruments

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

m Pensions

Employees of the charity are opted into a Pension Scheme (defined contribution 'money purchase' schemes) with an employer's contribution. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 8. There were outstanding contributions of £1,827 (2021: £4,188) at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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 registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations		
Society of the Holy Child Jesus CIO	3,000	-
Total	3,000	-

All donations and legacies income is unrestricted.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
GMCVO (GM H&SC Partnership)	11,558	-	11,558
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	16,850	16,850
NHS England (VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site (Cheshire & Merseyside))	-	81,442	81,442
NHS England (Carers C&M)	10,000	-	10,000
Salford CVS (GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	112,020	112,020
Salford CVS (Make Smoking History)	-	9,700	9,700
NAVCA (EP - Local Liaison Lead)	-	4,750	4,750
VS6 (Reaching Community Fund)	-	54,750	54,750
GMCA	116,143	-	116,143
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service	9,834	-	9,834
CVS Cheshire East	3,433	-	3,433
Other income	1,260	-	1,260
Total	152,228	279,512	431,740

Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
GMCVO (GM H&SC Partnership)	22,500	-	22,500
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	4,220	4,220
Salford CVS (GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	104,872	104,872
NAVCA (STP Merseyside & Cheshire, CLES)	-	2,000	2,000
NHS England (VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site (Cheshire & Merseyside))	3,250	-	3,250
Big Lottery Fund (North West Recovery)	-	80,000	80,000
NAVCA (EP - Local Liaison Lead)	-	49,655	49,655
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	9,500	9,500
NHS England (Carers C&M)	15,000	-	15,000
VS6 (Lottery Emergency Response)	10,000	-	10,000
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (NHS Volunteer Responder)	-	70,750	70,750
	8,333	-	8,333
Total	59,083	320,997	380,080

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	264,815	219,108
Other Staff costs	2,163	33,020
Administration	17,381	15,232
Accommodation	6,960	7,610
Associates/Sub-contractors	60,105	42,435
Conferences & events	6,013	940
Other project costs	19,946	12,493
Depreciation	1,178	1,116
Governance costs (see note 6)	10,887	7,336
	389,448	339,290
	2022 £	2021 £
Restricted expenditure	330,041	323,237
Unrestricted expenditure	59,407	16,053
	389,448	339,290

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2022 £
Independent examiner fees	Governance	1,575	1,575
Professional fees	Governance	7,727	7,727
AGM and trustee costs	Governance	1,585	1,585
		10,887	10,887
		10,887	10,887
Previous reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2021 £
Independent examiner fees	Governance	1,500	1,500
Professional fees	Governance	5,560	5,560
AGM and trustee costs	Governance	276	276
		7,336	7,336
		7,336	7,336

7 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation	1,178	1,116
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	6,960	7,610
Independent examiner's fees:		
Accountancy	1,050	1,000
Independent examination	525	500
Bookkeeping	5,250	5,243
Payroll bureau	441	447

8 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	232,756	191,751
Social security costs	17,962	14,306
Pension costs	14,097	13,051
	264,815	219,108

No employees has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 8.5 (2021: 7).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 7.4 (2021: 6.5).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £61,498 (2021: £56,899).

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

9 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2021: Nil).

One (2021: none) member of the board of trustees received travel and subsistence expenses of £30 during the year (2021:nil). No (2021: one) member of the board of trustees received reimbursed training costs during the year (2021:£30).

GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project

In December 2018 VSNW worked in partnership with Salford CVS, BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements to secure a contract with NHS England (on behalf of GM Health and Social Care Partnership) in response to an OJEU tender to deliver the GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project. Salford CVS were the named lead provider within this partnership, on behalf of 10GM. The contract was awarded to this VCSE partnership (now known as Answer Cancer), with Salford CVS as the accountable body. Delivery commenced in the year 2019/20 and during 2021/22 Salford CVS made payments to VSNW (£120,540) in relation to delivery of year 3 of this project (as per the partnership's revised budget submission). It should be noted that the Chair of VSNW, Alison Page, is also the Chief Executive of Salford CVS.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

10 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (via Liverpool CCG)	81,442	80,000
NHS England	10,000	10,000
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership	-	8,333
GMCA	116,143	-
	207,585	98,333

There were no unfulfilled conditions and contingencies attaching to the grants.

11 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

12 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Fixtures & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
At 1 April 2021	500	23,073	23,573
Disposals	-	(17,301)	(17,301)
At 31 March 2022	500	5,772	6,272
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	500	19,176	19,676
Charge for the year	-	1,178	1,178
Disposals	-	(17,301)	(17,301)
At 31 March 2022	500	3,053	3,553
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	-	2,719	2,719
<i>At 31 March 2021</i>	-	3,897	3,897

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

13 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Grants and fees receivable	124,853	27,220
Prepayments and accrued income	5,542	6,852
	130,395	34,072

14 Cash at bank and in hand

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and on hand	356,203	395,749
	356,203	395,749

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	33,748	4,820
Other creditors and accruals	13,704	33,380
Taxation and social security costs	9,723	8,668
	57,175	46,868

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
FutureNW Forum	7,726	-	(7,726)	-	-
Social Prescribing Network NW	4,220	16,850	(21,070)	-	-
GMCSE Answer Cancer	8,234	112,020	(108,198)	-	12,056
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site	36,130	81,442	(117,572)	-	-
Make Smoking History	1,900	9,700	(11,600)	-	-
VS6	-	54,750	(54,750)	-	-
STP Merseyside & Cheshire	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
EP-Local Liaison	2,375	4,750	(7,125)	-	-
Total	62,585	279,512	(330,041)	-	12,056
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
FutureNW Forum	7,726	-	-	-	7,726
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	4,220	-	-	4,220
GMCSE Answer Cancer	24,709	104,872	(121,347)	-	8,234
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site	22,475	80,000	(66,345)	-	36,130
Make Smoking History	9,915	-	(8,015)	-	1,900
VS6	-	70,750	(70,750)	-	-
STP Merseyside & Cheshire	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
NW Recovery	-	49,655	(49,655)	-	-
EP-Local Liaison Lead	-	9,500	(7,125)	-	2,375
Total	64,825	320,997	(323,237)	-	62,585

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
FutureNW Forum	Funding to support the North West Forum on Ageing, an unconstituted network
Social Prescribing Network NW	Funding from National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), via Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, to support VCSE role in Social Prescribing in North West England
GMCSE Answer Cancer	Subcontracted from Salford CVS delivery of the GM Cancer Screening Engagement service
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site	Funding from Cheshire & Merseyside Health and Social Care Partnership, with NHS England contribution, via Liverpool CCG to support the development of a Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) VCSE Partnership and VCSE role in C&M Health & Care Partnership
Make Smoking History	Subcontract from Salford CVS to support a smoking cessation social movement project
VS6	Reaching Communities Lottery Funds held on behalf of the VS6 Partnership in order to support the VCFSE role in shaping the future of Liverpool City Region
STP Merseyside & Cheshire	NHS England investment via NAVCA to support VCFSE engagement in NHS' Five Year Strategy
NW Recovery	Emergency funding from the Lottery to support VCFSE response to Covid-19 pandemic across the North West
EP-Local Liaison Lead	Funding contribution to link Cheshire and Warrington into National VCSE Emergency Partnership Structures

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2022 £
General fund	286,932	145,228	(37,773)	(104,504)	289,883
Designated Funds:					
Carers C&M	14,000	10,000	(13,334)	-	10,666
Lloyds Bank Foundation	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
NHS Volunteer Responder	8,333	-	(8,300)	(33)	-
GM Accord	-	-	-	56,665	56,665
Organisational Development	-	-	-	47,872	47,872
	<u>324,265</u>	<u>155,228</u>	<u>(59,407)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>420,086</u>
	<u><u>324,265</u></u>	<u><u>155,228</u></u>	<u><u>(59,407)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>420,086</u></u>
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2021 £
General fund	267,902	25,750	(16,053)	9,333	286,932
Designated Funds:					
LCO-VCSE Guide	9,333	-	-	(9,333)	-
Carers C&M	4,000	10,000	-	-	14,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	15,000	-	-	15,000
NHS Volunteer Responder	-	8,333	-	-	8,333
	<u>281,235</u>	<u>59,083</u>	<u>(16,053)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324,265</u>
	<u><u>281,235</u></u>	<u><u>59,083</u></u>	<u><u>(16,053)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>324,265</u></u>

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds (cont.)

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Designated Funds	
Carers C&M	Funding to support carers in Cheshire and Merseyside linked to NHS workforce development
Lloyds Bank Foundation	Lloyds Bank Foundation grant investment in VSNW's core funding
NHS Volunteer Responder	NHS England investment to develop potential integration of Good Sam and local volunteering services
GM Accord Organisational Development	2021/22 funding brought forward to support agreed delivery in 2022/23 Funding designated by VSNW's Board for future development and sustainability and to support delivery, in line with our priorities, across the North West and the five subregions.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,719	-	-	2,719
Net current assets/(liabilities)	287,164	130,203	12,056	429,423
Total	289,883	130,203	12,056	432,142
Previous reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	3,897	-	-	3,897
Net current assets/(liabilities)	283,035	37,333	62,585	382,953
Total	286,932	37,333	62,585	386,850

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

19 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as

	Property	
	2022	2021
	£	£
Less than one year	4,176	4,176
	4,176	4,176

20 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	45,292	40,790
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	1,178	1,116
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(96,323)	31,391
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	10,307	36,770
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating	(39,546)	110,067

Accounts

Company number: 3988903

Charity number: 1081654

Voluntary Sector North West

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021

Voluntary Sector North West
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Company number 3988903

Charity number 1081654

Registered office and operational address 3rd Floor Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street,
Manchester, M4 5JW

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Alison Page	Chair
Ed Moss	Vice-chair
Daniel Moxon	Treasurer
Sally Yeoman	
David Packwood	
Gill Bainbridge	(appointed 12 th November 2020)
Ridwanah Gurjee	(appointed 12 th November 2020)
Circle Steele	(appointed 12 th February 2021)
Khansa Taha	(appointed 12 th November 2020)
Margaret Cheshire	(appointed 20 th August 2021)

Key management personnel Warren Escadale Chief Executive

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Independent examiner Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Manchester, M4 6JG

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") were updated on 26 September 2000. They are:

To promote such purposes as are charitable according to the law of England and Wales for the benefit of the public in the North West of England by:

- (a) Providing a channel of information between voluntary organisations and local and central government agencies or other organisations in the region.
- (b) Providing a network of communication for voluntary organisations and agencies in the region.
- (c) Bringing together representatives from voluntary organisations, statutory authorities and other agencies in the region to identify the funding and policy needs of voluntary organisations.

The area of benefit, the North West of England is defined as the ceremonial counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Merseyside.

Ensuring our work delivers our object & aims

The Trustee Board of VSNW reviews the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year in order to ensure activities remain focused on our stated purposes. The trustees established in consultation with member organisations, a Strategic plan for 2019-2022. The following four strategic aims were established:

- Increase **connectivity** within the sector
- Support sector to **influence**
- Demonstrate the **value** of VSNW and the sector as a whole
- Build an effective NW VCSE leadership **organisation**

The latter includes ensuring that we continue to ensure VSNW is a well governed and financially sound organisation.

This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The Charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities are undertaken to further Voluntary Sector North West's charitable purposes for the public benefit. We continued to carry out the work of VSNW in accordance with our mission, our strategic aims and in accordance with our three strategic priorities for 2019-2022 (above).

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

This ensured that all our work was of benefit to, and reflected the priorities of, the North West voluntary and community sector and therefore the wider public in the North West.

Core Activities

The North West has always consisted of five sub regions and of a stark mix of economic success and marginalisation. Via our members and networks, we are in contact with over 20,000 groups working with communities right across the region. VSNW's work has historically had three core elements:

- Supporting the sectors role in creating social and economic impact, driven by the need to create effective economic strategies and delivery for our communities.
- Supporting the sectors role in the future of health and social care. City Regions, the Combined Authorities, and the NHS's Health and Care Partnerships (STPs/ICSs) are the key focus for influencing with and on behalf of the sector.
- General support for the sector bridging national policy and local implementation. An important part of this role has been about how we can be a system leader and create change, always within the context of the membership, networks and relationships that make VSNW possible.

Increase connectivity within the VCSE sector

Supporting and building the capacity of sub-regional VCSE partnerships is the foundation of our operating model. Our vision is to play our part in developing and/or supporting healthy, connected partnerships that deliver value for the sector in each sub-region.

We know that we have limited resources, and that this is the best way to add value, building on local networks and relationships.

In 2020/21, VSNW provided formal support to VCSE partnerships operating in Cheshire and Warrington, Liverpool City Region, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. As Cumbria CVS provides this function in Cumbria, we have not sought to duplicate but to build links and offer a different model of support through Cumbria CVS.

In **Liverpool City Region**, VSNW provides secretariat support to the VS6 Partnership whose members support and are connected to the 8,600 VCSE organisations in the City Region. Laura Tilston (Research and Policy Officer), Martin Hall, (VSNW Communications Officer), Karen Conway (Partnerships Manager) and Anna Cooper (Membership and Events Coordinator) have played a vital role in developing the partnership's policy, communications and engagement work. We (VS6 and VSNW) have worked hard developing effective mechanisms to connect the wider sector into city region policy and influence work, using cascaded communications, developing the VS6 website (www.vs6partnership.org.uk), holding virtual Assemblies, and using consultation surveys.

In Greater Manchester (GM), the **Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group** (facilitated and chaired by VSNW) connects to a broad range of VCSE networks: disability, Black Asian and minority ethnic, older people, young people, LGBTQ+, faith, carers, mental health, sport, refugee, women, local VCSE infrastructure, including 10GM and GMCVO, social enterprise, and VCSE providers, with links, through infrastructure organisations and equalities networks, to the 17,000 VCSE organisations in Greater Manchester. The Leadership Group's main bulletin has over 2,000 direct contacts. As a Leadership Group, as part of connecting to the wider sector, we use formal subgroups (commissioning, inclusive economy, population health, workforce, mental health), short term task and finish groups, focused networks (eg homelessness), Assembly events, consultations, roadshow events being held with leaders in the ten boroughs (most but not all online) and work closely with GM Equal.

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

In **Cheshire**, we have helped set up the Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP). This Partnership played a vital role in sharing PPE and feeding into the national VCSE Emergency Partnership work via VSNW. This group, through the Cheshire and Warrington Community Foundation, links to the Local Enterprise Partnership as part of assessing the impact of the pandemic on local communities. Andrew Rainsford (Research and Policy Officer) has been a key part of our support in Cheshire and Warrington.

To complement the NHS footprint, the **Cheshire and Merseyside VCSE Health and Social Care Leadership Group** links 80 plus VCSE Leaders from each of the 9 boroughs. This includes: CVS, VCSE Place Board representatives, and equalities and specialist VCSE Providers. This Group links to the NHS Board, ensures accountability to the sector and provides a platform for connecting the sector more broadly.

In **Lancashire**, we (VSNW and local VCSE Leaders) have worked alongside the VCSE Health Alliance in order to support a connected and influential sector. As part of this work, we have developed a collective statement on ambitions for the local sector (a draft VCSE Manifesto for the Lancashire sector). There has been an extensive consultation and campaign with the Lancashire sector: *Locally Organised Communities Across Lancashire (LOCAL)* using a dedicated website (LocalLancashire.org.uk), surveys, workshop toolkits with sessions run by VSNW and Lancashire VCSE Leaders. Anna Cooper and Andrew Rainsford (Research and Policy Officer) with additional communications consultancy support have been central to this work. The model has been praised by local VCSE and public sector partners and we have engaged over 400 VCSE leaders and held or supported over two dozen workshops. Going forward, we will explore a broader Leadership support offer linked to the collective ambitions outlined in the manifesto.

Our series of North West events to connect VCSE Leaders across the region, culminated in our highly acclaimed online **Festival of North West Thinking** which gave the opportunity for over 200 VCSE Leaders from right across the region to connect around a series of key issues. This marked a key point in our offer to members and the North West sector on which we will build.

We also hosted the **North West Social Prescribing Network** with over 300 people signed up to a dedicated Bulletin. Working alongside Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS and a network of CVS across the North West, we support the regional VCSE Social Prescribing programme (Thriving Communities) working closely with partners from the National Academy of Social Prescribing (NASP). This included running a 10-session training programme for 82 VCSE participants.

2021 marks eleven years of the Green Bullet. This bulletin keeps **North West Environment Link** members and wider networks up to date on environmental events and issues of interest to voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West.

Following a review of **VSNW membership**, this stood at 120 full members and 49 associates (as at 31st March 2021) and we have a general contact list of over 1,000 VCSE Chief Executives and senior staff across the region signed up to our bulletins: VSNW, Social Prescribing, GM Cancer Champions and the Green Bullet.

Enable influence

The **VS6 Partnership of Liverpool City Region (LCR)** have had an extremely busy and productive year advocating for the local sector, particularly in supporting and lobbying for the VCSE sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As champions for the LCR VCSE sector, VS6 have supported a growth in VCSE representation across the City Region. This includes key representatives on each of the three main governance bodies operating

Voluntary Sector North West
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

in Liverpool City Region: the Combined Authority Board (Ellen Loudon, VS6 Chair), the Local Enterprise Partnership Board (Angela White) and on NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Partnership Board (Warren Escadale, VSNW Chief Executive), alongside a growing set of boards, such as the LCR Economic Recovery Panel. In consultation with the sector, VS6 developed a business case for VCSE sector recovery which was included within the City Region's Economic Recovery Plan, "Building Back Better", and submitted to Government. This included a number of substantial investment propositions via the sector including a jointly proposed **Sector Resilience and Capacity Fund** (£25m).

An overview of the sector's response to COVID-19 and the importance of the sector for LCR economic recovery was also developed. This included input from over 160 strategic lead organisations looking at the impact on children and young people, shielded and vulnerable people, mental health, and inequalities through a Black Asian and Minority Ethnic lens. Further Assemblies were held looking at sustainable and affordable food, and housing, and both embedded in local cross-sector strategic work.

During the latter half of 2020/21, VS6 were busy developing the LCR VCFSE Manifesto for 2021-2024. The manifesto outlines the aims and ambitions of the sector for the next three years, and how VS6 and the sector can work with the LCR Combined Authority to develop a sustainable and resilient sector. It has been developed with the VCFSE sector in LCR through regular engagement and consultation and has commitment from Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham to implement.

Across **Cheshire and Merseyside**, we are supporting and promoting the VCSE role in health neighbourhoods and primary care, Integrated Care Partnerships, and place-based working. An important aspect of this is developing relationships with acute and community health providers. We are a key partner in the C&M NHS strategy and implementation. In 2020/21, over 200 local VCFSE leaders contributed to the development of sub-regional NHS Strategy and to developing the framework for joint NHS-VCSE work in Cheshire and Merseyside. With secondments appointed by this leadership group, we supported local pandemic responses, NHS hospital discharge coordination, PPE distribution and volunteering coordination activity.

In **Greater Manchester** (GM), we have continued to develop the "template for VCSE involvement in Devolution across England" through the work of our members, partners and the GM VCSE Leadership Group. Through this work, a large number (over 30 reps at any point in time) of VCSE representatives have been appointed to key public sector boards and working groups, linking back through the Leadership Group to ensure focused, accountable representation and the full inclusion of the sector in shaping Greater Manchester.

Major achievements include the publication of a VCSE Policy Paper outlining a vision for a City Region VCSE Ecosystem, agreeing a VCSE Commissioning Framework with Greater Manchester's Health and Social Care Partnership, developing a vision for an inclusive economy that has been included in Greater Manchester's Independent Inequalities Commission own vision, and, most importantly, supported the sector's response to the pandemic. The latter included a commissioners' statement of support for the sector, agreeing flexibility of delivery of pre-pandemic contracts in order to work in new circumstances and with a new set of realities. Much of this work has subsequently led to agreeing a new Accord between Greater Manchester's VCSE sector, the Combined Authority and the Health and Social Care Partnership with investment and agreed areas of work: tackling inequality, creating an inclusive economy, building a stronger VCSE Ecosystem, developing a joint workforce approach, and implementing the VCSE Commissioning framework in order to build the sector's financial resilience. Karen Conway, VSNW Partnerships Manager, has played an essential and vital role in this work. Warren Escadale, VSNW Chief Executive, has chaired the GM VCSE Leadership Group.

In terms of our role in the **Answer Cancer programme**, outreach work for the sector over the last year has been particularly challenging. However, Kirit Patel (Answer Cancer Development Worker), Vanessa Fisher (Organisational Champion Lead) and Martin Hall (Communications Officer) have shown

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innovation and determination in keeping the work on target, and in building the evidence base for how to engage specific communities suffering the worst impacts of 'wider determinants of ill health' and a pandemic. This work includes case studies on supporting population health and prevention work with (and not 'to') Black Asian and minority ethnic, disability, LGBTQ+, mental health, and carer groups and in communities of financial poverty.

Nationally, we have continued to champion the sector's role in social prescribing advocating for investment for sector referrals and the VCSE role in being adequately funded link worker hosts. We are working with the **National Academy for Social Prescribing** and a unique VCSE partnership to deliver the regional Thriving Communities programme. We continue to campaign for the sector's role as part of the National Social Prescribing Network and supported last year's virtual International Social Prescribing Conference.

Demonstrate value of VSNW and the sector as a whole

Following successful discussions with **Liverpool City Region** Combined Authority and Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram, the "LCR Cares" charitable fund was established to support the VCSE sector during COVID-19. This fund, via Merseyside Community Foundation, has distributed £2m to local community groups across the City region providing a vital lifeline for communities.

Nationally, we have maintained our links to NHS England's voluntary sector team. Over the past five years, we have successfully lobbied for a VCSE Partnership programme, linked to the NHS's 42 Integrated Care Systems (ICS), modelled on our work in Greater Manchester, to be rolled out. While the national investment for the programme is modest (under £1m per annum), local matched investment of between £50k and £200k is common and hopefully just the beginning; in addition, there is now national support provided (through NCVO, shifting to NAVCA, and NHS E&I) to just under half of England (19 of 42 areas), with plans for England-wide roll out starting Autumn 2021. This already includes Cheshire & Merseyside, Lancashire and South Cumbria, and North East & North Cumbria. Through this local ICS-VCSE Partnership programme, the sector is now influencing national NHS policy and guidance, and being linked into the national VCSE Health & Wellbeing Alliance. All 42 ICS systems, based on draft national guidance, are now assessing their relationship to their VCSE sector. VSNW can proudly lay claim to be instrumental in starting and driving this movement.

Through the NHS Charities Community Partnership programme, we secured £1.1m investment in local VCSE organisations in **Cheshire and Merseyside**. This will be invested over the next two years and we have agreed, with our NHS partners, to use the funded projects as pilots for local NHS-VCSE integrated models of working.

In **Lancashire**, we were able to support Lancashire Community Foundation and council officers to get the National Emergency Fund, with local additional investment, rapidly up and running. Linked to this work, Community Futures is supporting a Lancashire Funders Forum.

In **Greater Manchester**, building on the relationships developed through the Commissioning subgroup and the VCSE Commissioning Framework, a Commissioner's Statement of Support to VCSE Groups during Covid was published. This offered open conversations about flexibility and adaption for current paid-for delivery. While it will not have generated new income for the sector, it extended contracts and allowed for adaptation that would offer better services for citizens and communities, ensuring significant multi-million pound contracts with the sector continue.

An independent evaluation of the Leadership Group work in Greater Manchester, and by proxy VSNW's partnership model, was commissioned independently, conducted by Cordis Bright and published on the Social care Institute for Excellence's online journal. Cordis Bright identified progress in three outcomes:

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- A step change in the understanding and involvement of people and communities.
- Better services and greater support for the public.
- Increased mutual learning and continuous professional development.

In addition to these, a number of areas were highlighted as flagship, transformative pieces of work: Homelessness Action Network, Mental Health Leaders Group, and the VCSE Leadership Group, which was described as "an important forum" for the sector and the sector's role in Greater Manchester.

Through our work influencing the GM Health and Social Care Partnership, a number of grant programmes have invested in the reach of local VCSE groups to engage communities. During the pandemic, £100k was invested in equalities organisations to promote vaccination take-up, £30k invested in smoking cessation, and through Answer Cancer, grant investment for grassroots VCSE BAME, disability, LGBTQ+, MH and carer groups across Greater Manchester (£100k per annum for four years).

Working alongside CLES and commissioned by Salford CVS, we continue to build the evidence base for an effective **Place-based Third Sector Grants Programme**. Through the implementation of Salford CVS's annual £1m+ Grants Programme, large-scale VCSE activity aligned to agreed local goals has been engaged and mobilised. We see this as a fore-runner of how Integrated Care Partnerships should be working with their local sector and developing local VCSE "market" capacity.

Through our Social Prescribing work, we facilitated a number of partnership bids to the Arts Council, with four securing investment for pilot work (£200k total).

Over the year, VSNW has directly supported additional investment into the VCSE sector of over £7m. However, we know that our work and the partnerships we work with and for, have created far more investment than this for the local sector, far beyond what any single VCSE organisations could hope to achieve.

An effective NW VCSE leadership organisation

VSNW organisational development has steadily continued. We are moving to a point where we no longer rely on one or two staff operating as exceptional individuals but creating a fit for purpose organisation that has sufficient capacity to help the sector to connect, influence, and drive change for the benefit of our communities. We, as the Board, see this as a priority.

We have committed to offering employment whenever possible on the longest terms available as part of a vision to develop an effective core staff team. We were sorry to see Michael Mcgearty leave VSNW but pleased to welcome Vanessa Fisher. We were also pleased to be able to extend short term contracts for no fewer than three staff.

Income generation remains strong but project based, however, we have made significant steps forward in developing VSNW's delivery capacity. Delivering virtually has made a significant impact on our productivity, giving us the ability to rapidly 'travel' around the region and offer support to local partnerships. This has meant that we can provide a far stronger offer to the two sub-regions of Lancashire and Cheshire & Warrington in a way we could have only hoped at the beginning of the year. Going forward, we need to build on the strong platform that our staff team have established over 2020/21.

Financial review

The charity held reserves of £386,850 at the year end (2020: £346,060) of which £62,585 (2020: £64,825) were restricted and £37,333 (2020: £13,333) designated leaving a general reserve of

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£286,932 (2020: £267,902). VSNW is in a reasonable financial position at this point. We have utilised a proportion of our unrestricted reserves in accordance with our Reserves Policy. A review of our financial position is carried out by the Resources Group which meets quarterly and then considered by the Trustee Board. This review is ongoing. Continued uncertainty about the role and opportunities for regional funding means VSNW needs to retain a surplus that gives the organisation flexibility and control in what are difficult times.

Reserves policy

The VSNW reserves policy is to maintain sufficient levels of reserves for the delivery of existing programmes of work to be completed and/or transferred to alternative providers should a shortfall in income occur. The required time to do this effectively is a minimum 6 months and the level of reserves required to achieve this is £244,295. The general reserve, as stated above, is higher than this, however, given the potential for Covid-19 (and hopefully a post-COVID economic environment) to impact on income, we will review our reserves policy to assess a potential longer running cost/level of reserves.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 April 2000 and registered as a charity on 19 February 1998.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2021 was 120 full members. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Trustee selection methods

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association half the members of the Trustee Board elected to serve must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Both business and strategic skills are required on the Trustee Board and the Board has made a firm commitment to appoint trustees with strong strategic connections to the VCSE sector in each subregion whilst also being sensitive to inclusion and diversity. An annual skills audit is conducted to identify any skills gaps.

Trustees are appointed via an electoral process at the Annual General Meeting elections. Other Trustees can be co-opted by the Trustee Board throughout the year, in accordance with the constitution. The Trustee Board meets quarterly.

Induction and training of trustees

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Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2021

New Trustees are familiar with the work of VSNW as they have previously been active members. Additionally, they spend 2-3 hours with the Chair and Chief Executive where the current financial position and the governing framework are presented, and the obligations of Board members and future plans and objectives are outlined. The NCVO booklet Trustees and Trustees Members National Occupational Standards is given to all new trustees.

Organisational structure

VSNW has a Trustee Board of up to 12 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. As at 31st March 2021 the Board has 9 members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

VSNW's decision making process rests with the Trustee Board. Decisions regarding implementation of the charity's work and staff supervision are delegated to the Chief Executive, who has one-to-ones with the Chair.

Sub groups are established and agreed by the Trustees to meet between Trustee Board meetings to address any issues that require immediate attention and report any actions for agreement to the full Trustee Board.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, VSNW is guided by local, regional and national policy. Sub regional partnerships ensure engagement with thematic, geographic and specialist VCSE infrastructure and provides VSNW with a wide reach into the VCSE sector across the region.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

A subgroup of the board reviews remuneration with advice from our HR consultant, using comparable pay rates within and beyond the sector, including equivalent relationships.

Risk management

The Trustee Board conducts a risk analysis with its budget at outset each year. Each project has its own risk analysis attached and that risk is monitored through the reporting mechanisms with the funder. There is a Risk Register and Policy in place and the register is reviewed on a regular basis. Procedures are implemented internally to ensure proper authorisation for all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure Health and Safety compliance.

Risks and mitigating measures were rapidly reviewed as Covid-19 impacted and additional resources were invested in remote working. In terms of commissioned work, adjustments have been implemented and agreed with funders. In terms of partnership and member engagement, mechanisms have been effectively put in place. These measures and adjusted, agreed working arrangements are held under review. At present, remote working has enabled VSNW to increase its capability to support the VCSE sector across the North West.

The board has met once a month to maintain an ongoing understanding of how staff, Chief Executive and the organisation are operating during Covid. At present, income generation remains consistent.

Operating safely and effectively during Covid-19

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for the year ended 31 March 2021

During the pandemic, staff have been working remotely, with home working audits updated and reviewed. Staff are working effectively and we have developed mechanisms to provide regular contact and internal communication. Access to more formal wellbeing support has been supported, offered and provided.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Voluntary Sector North West for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company 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 provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 09/11/2021 and signed on their behalf by

Alison Page

Chair

Independent examiner's report
to the members of
Voluntary Sector North West

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2021 which are set out on pages 12 to 29.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your 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 requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA
Date 09 December 2021

Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill, Jersey St,
Manchester, M4 6JG

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Charitable activities:	3	59,083	320,997	380,080	274,672
Total income		59,083	320,997	380,080	274,672
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:	4	16,053	323,237	339,290	264,052
Total expenditure		16,053	323,237	339,290	264,052
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		43,030	(2,240)	40,790	10,620
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	6	43,030	(2,240)	40,790	10,620
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		43,030	(2,240)	40,790	10,620
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		281,235	64,825	346,060	335,440
Total funds carried forward		324,265	62,585	386,850	346,060

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Voluntary Sector North West
Company number 3988903
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	3,897	2,822
Total fixed assets		3,897	2,822
Current assets			
Debtors	12	34,072	65,463
Cash at bank and in hand	13	395,749	287,873
Total current assets		429,821	353,336
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	14	(46,868)	(10,098)
Net current assets		382,953	343,238
Total assets less current liabilities		386,850	346,060
Net assets		386,850	346,060
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	15	62,585	64,825
Unrestricted income funds	16	324,265	281,235
Total charity funds		386,850	346,060

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime (of the Companies Act 2006).

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 15 to 29 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 09/11/2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Alison Page (Chair)

Dan Moxon (Treasurer)

Voluntary Sector North West
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19	110,067	174,569
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,191)	(2,501)
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(2,191)	(2,501)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		107,876	172,068
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		287,873	115,805
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		395,749	287,873

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Voluntary Sector North West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

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

e 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.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of

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 charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

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

h Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures & fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3, 4 or 5 years

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

i Debtors

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

j Cash at bank and in hand

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

k Creditors and provisions

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

l Financial instruments

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

m Pensions

Employees of the charity are opted into a Pension Scheme (defined contribution 'money purchase' schemes) with an employer's contribution. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 8. There were outstanding contributions of £4,188 (2020: £955) at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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 registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
GMCVO (GM H&SC Partnership)	22,500	-	22,500
NHS England (Social Prescribing Network)	-	4,220	4,220
Salford CVS (GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	104,872	104,872
NAVCA (STP Merseyside & Cheshire)	-	2,000	2,000
CLES	3,250	-	3,250
NHS England (VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site (Cheshire & Merseyside))	-	80,000	80,000
Big Lottery Fund (North West Recovery)	-	49,655	49,655
NAVCA (EP - Local Liaison Lead)	-	9,500	9,500
Lloyds Bank Foundation	15,000	-	15,000
NHS England (Carers C&M)	10,000	-	10,000
VS6	-	70,750	70,750
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (NHS Volunteer Responder)	8,333	-	8,333
Total	59,083	320,997	380,080

Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
GMCVO (GM H&SC Partnership)	22,500	-	22,500
NHS England (Social Prescribing Network)	-	24,000	24,000
Salford CVS (GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project)	-	138,422	138,422
CLES	2,000	-	2,000
NHS England (VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site (Cheshire & Merseyside))	-	55,000	55,000
Salford CVS (Make Smoking History)	-	18,750	18,750
VS6	-	9,000	9,000
Consultancy	5,000	-	5,000
Total	29,500	245,172	274,672

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

4 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Staff costs	219,108	147,471
Other Staff costs	33,020	4,986
Administration	15,232	22,000
Accommodation	7,610	5,123
Associates/Sub-contractors	42,435	63,316
Conferences & events	940	2,259
Other project costs	12,493	3,006
Depreciation	1,116	639
Governance costs (see note 5)	7,336	15,252
	339,290	264,052
	2021 £	2020 £
Restricted expenditure	323,237	188,073
Unrestricted expenditure	16,053	75,979
	339,290	264,052

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2021 £
Independent examiner fees	Governance	1,500	1,500
Professional fees	Governance	5,560	5,560
AGM and trustee costs	Governance	276	276
		7,336	7,336
		7,336	7,336
Previous reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2020 £
Independent examiner fees	Governance	1,500	1,500
Professional fees	Governance	10,692	10,692
AGM and trustee costs	Governance	3,060	3,060
		15,252	15,252
		15,252	15,252

6 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation	1,116	639
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	7,610	5,123
Other	-	-
Independent examiner - accountancy fees	1,000	1,000
Independent examiner's fee	500	500
Independent examiner - bookkeeping	5,243	-
Independent examiner - payroll bureau fees	447	-
	15,916	6,662
	15,916	6,662

7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	191,751	129,269
Social security costs	14,306	9,335
Pension costs	13,051	8,867
	219,108	147,471
	219,108	147,471

No employees has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7 (2020: 7).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 6.5.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £56,899 (2020: £50,095).

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

8 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2020: Nil).

No (2020: none) member of the board of trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year (2020:nil). One (2020: none) member of the board of trustees received £30 reimbursed training costs during the year (2020:nil).

GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project

In December 2018 VSNW worked in partnership with Salford CVS, BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements to secure a contract with NHS England (on behalf of GM Health and Social Care Partnership) in response to an OJEU tender to deliver the GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project. Salford CVS were the named lead provider within this partnership, on behalf of 10GM. The contract was awarded to this VCSE partnership (now known as Answer Cancer), with Salford CVS as the accountable body. Delivery commenced in the year 2019/20 and during 2020/21 Salford CVS made payments to VSNW (£104,872) in relation to delivery of year 2 of this project (as per the partnership's revised budget submission). It should be noted that the Chair of VSNW, Alison Page, is also the Chief Executive of Salford CVS.

Make Smoking History

In 2019, in support of its aims to 'Demonstrate the value of VSNW and the sector as a whole', VSNW worked in partnership with Salford CVS to bring resources into the VCSE sector to help deliver aspects of the Greater Manchester 'Make Smoking History Project'. The partnership of VSNW and 10GM agreed to respond to this widely advertised grant opportunity to recruit volunteer 'History Makers' and create smoke-free places and events across GM. Salford CVS were the named lead provider within this partnership, on behalf of 10GM. This project was funded by Greater Manchester Social Care Partnership. During this year 2020/21 Salford CVS made no payments to VSNW (£0), but funds were carried forward from 2019/20 in order to deliver VSNW elements of the work. It should be noted that the Chair of VSNW, Alison Page, is also the Chief Executive of Salford CVS.

VCSE-ICS Accelerator pilot (Cheshire and Merseyside)

In April Sally Yeoman successfully applied for a secondment opportunity into Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Social Care Partnership (initially 2 days per week for the first 5 months, then reduced to one day per week). This process was managed by and funded through VSNW on behalf of the partnership and the Cheshire and Merseyside VCSE Health & Care Leaders Group as part of the VCSE_ICs Accelerator Pilot, and endorsed by the Merseyside VCFSE Partnership, VS6. The appointment process was a joint one involving VSNW's Chief Executive, a representative from the VCFSE Leaders Group and a senior officer from the funding body (Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Social Care Partnership). As part of this secondment, Halton and St Helens VCA (Sally Yeoman's employer) received £12,000 backfill costs via VSNW. Reporting for the role was made directly to Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership and the VCFSE Leadership Group. It should be noted that VSNW Trustee, Sally Yeoman, is also Chief Executive of Halton and St Helens VCA.

8 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions (cont.)

Sefton Transformation Research

In September 2020, VSNW and Halton & St Helens VCA jointly bid for the Sefton Transformation tender, with VSNW as the lead. This tender was successful and VSNW subcontracted Halton & St Helens VCA for £3,000, much of the subcontracted work carried out by Sally Yeoman. It should be noted that VSNW Trustee, Sally Yeoman, is also Chief Executive of Halton and St Helens VCA.

9 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Salford CCG	4,220	24,000
Liverpool CCG	80,000	55,000
NHS England	10,000	-
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership	8,333	-
	102,553	79,000

See note 15 for restricted funds carried forward. Conditions attached are to complete the project, which we expect to do in the forthcoming financial years.

10 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

11 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Fixtures & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
At 1 April 2020	500	20,882	21,382
Additions	-	2,191	2,191
At 31 March 2021	500	23,073	23,573
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	500	18,060	18,560
Charge for the year	-	1,116	1,116
At 31 March 2021	500	19,176	19,676
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	-	3,897	3,897
<i>At 31 March 2020</i>	-	2,822	2,822

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

12 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Grants and fees receivable	27,220	64,000
Prepayments and accrued income	6,852	1,463
	34,072	65,463

13 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and on hand	395,749	287,873
	395,749	287,873

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	4,820	2,856
Other creditors and accruals	33,380	3,891
Taxation and social security costs	8,668	3,351
	46,868	10,098

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

15 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
FutureNW Forum	7,726	-	-	-	7,726
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	4,220	-	-	4,220
GMCSE Answer Cancer	24,709	104,872	(121,347)	-	8,234
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site	22,475	80,000	(66,345)	-	36,130
Make Smoking History	9,915	-	(8,015)	-	1,900
VS6	-	70,750	(70,750)	-	-
STP Merseyside & Cheshire	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
NW Recovery	-	49,655	(49,655)	-	-
EP-Local Liaison	-	9,500	(7,125)	-	2,375
Total	64,825	320,997	(323,237)	-	62,585
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
FutureNW Forum	7,726	-	-	-	7,726
Social Prescribing Network NW	-	24,000	(24,000)	-	-
GMCSE Answer Cancer	-	138,422	(113,713)	-	24,709
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site	-	55,000	(32,525)	-	22,475
Make Smoking History	-	18,750	(8,835)	-	9,915
VS6	-	9,000	(9,000)	-	-
Total	7,726	245,172	(188,073)	-	64,825

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

15 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
FutureNW Forum	Funding to support the North West Forum on Ageing, an unconstituted network
Social Prescribing Network NW	Funding from National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), via Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, to support VCSE role in Social Prescribing in North West England
GMCSE Answer Cancer	Subcontracted from Salford CVS delivery of the GM Cancer Screening Engagement service (3 year project)
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site	Funding from Cheshire & Merseyside Health and Social Care Partnership, with NHS England contribution, via Liverpool CCG to support the development of a Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) VCSE Partnership and VCSE role in C&M Health & Care Partnership
Make Smoking History	Subcontract from Salford CVS to support a smoking cessation social movement project
VS6	Emergency funding from the Lottery held on behalf of the VS6 Partnership in order to support VCFSE response to Covid-19 pandemic across Liverpool City Region
STP Merseyside & Cheshire	NHS England investment via NAVCA to support VCFSE engagement in NHS' Five Year Strategy
NW Recovery	Emergency funding from the Lottery to support VCFSE response to Covid-19 pandemic across the North West
EP-Local Liaison Lead	Funding contribution to link Cheshire and Warrington into National VCSE Emergency Partnership Structures

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

16 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2021 £
General fund	267,902	25,750	(16,053)	9,333	286,932
LCO-VCSE Guide	9,333	-	-	(9,333)	-
Carers C&M	4,000	10,000	-	-	14,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	15,000	-	-	15,000
NHS Volunteer Responder	-	8,333	-	-	8,333
	281,235	59,083	(16,053)	-	324,265
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2020 £
General fund	185,796	29,500	653	51,953	267,902
GM Cancer Champions Social Movement	116,550	-	(64,597)	(51,953)	-
LCO-VCSE Guide	14,000	-	(4,667)	-	9,333
Carers Workshop	8,333	-	(4,333)	-	4,000
Employment Litigation	3,035	-	(3,035)	-	-
	327,714	29,500	(75,979)	-	281,235

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

16 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds (cont.)

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Designated Funds	
LCO-VCSE Guide	Funding from NHS England for development of VCSE guidance at place and via commissioning
Carers C&M	Funding to support carers in Cheshire and Merseyside linked to NHS workforce development
Lloyds Bank Foundation	Lloyds Bank Foundation grant investment in VSNW's core funding
NHS Volunteer Responder	NHS England investment to develop potential integration of Good Sam and local volunteering services
GM Cancer Champions Social	Funding for Cancer Champion work delivered in 2018/19
Employment Litigation	Tribunal award to ex-employee of VSNW from 2012 in lieu of pension contribution

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	3,897	-	-	3,897
Net current assets/(liabilities)	283,035	37,333	62,585	382,953
Total	286,932	37,333	62,585	386,850
Previous reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,822	-	-	2,822
Net current assets/(liabilities)	265,080	13,333	64,825	343,238
Total	267,902	13,333	64,825	346,060

Voluntary Sector North West

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

18 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as

	Property	
	2021	2020
	£	£
Less than one year	4,176	4,524
	4,176	4,524

19 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	40,790	10,620
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	1,116	639
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	31,391	168,070
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	36,770	(4,760)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating	110,067	174,569