

**BCU LIFE SKILLS CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025**



Bexley Centre for the Unemployed trading as BCU Life Skills Centre
Trinity Baptist Church Trinity Place Broadway Bexleyheath Kent DA6 7AY
Company Number 3871023 Charity Reg Number 1082691
Website www.bculifescills.org.uk Email bculife@btconnect.com
Tel 020 8301 3187

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CHARITY NUMBER	1082691	
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER	3871023	
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1 st April 2024	
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31 st March 2025	
DIRECTORS AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	Revd Trevor Wyatt	
	Patricia Anne Giles	Alan Eaton
	Revd Andy Banks	
	Lisa Vickery	Charles Roberts
	Maureen Kelly	Bernadette Roberts
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Memorandum and Articles of Association Incorporated 3 rd November 1999.	

AIMS

BCU aims to address the basic needs of people to be valued, respected and active members of society by providing support, advice and training for the unemployed, ethnic minorities, women returners, disabled and the socially disadvantaged. We aim to enable adults to

cope with their individual circumstances and equip them in the longer term with the skills and confidence necessary to either return to the work-force or to go back into education.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Trinity Baptist Church
Trinity Place
Broadway Bexleyheath
Kent DA6 7AY

BANKERS

HSBC Plc
39 High St
Dartford
Kent DA1 1DG

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting statement of responsibilities as set out in the notes to the financial statements pages 11-17 and comply with the organisation's governance document, the memorandum and articles of association.

Structure, Governance and Management

The general control, strategic oversight and management of the Centre's activities are the responsibility of the Management Committee/Board of Directors which is made up of 5 individual members and 2 Church representatives.

Nominations are invited annually to the Management Committee and are drawn from the membership base of the organisation. The membership is open to individuals and groups in the London Borough of Bexley. The Management Committee usually meet bi-monthly and the Executive Sub-Committee, monthly.

Risk Management and strategic planning

The risk management policy will form part of the strategic planning process. The trustees are careful to establish and review policies, procedures and systems which comply with applicable legislation and ensure that risk is managed satisfactorily. A strategic development working group has been established and an ongoing programme of risk assessment continues.

Management

During the period April 2024 to March 2025 Management consisted of the Coordinator, Centre Administrator, Group Therapy Facilitator and a Drop-In Coordinator

Two student counsellors who gained their diplomas

Two accredited counsellors who are also qualified supervisors

Two listeners who went on to become student counsellors with us

1 volunteer offering a mentoring/befriending/outreach service

2 meeters and greeters

Charitable objects

The charitable objects set out in the memorandum and articles of association are to relieve poverty and advance education among the inhabitants of Bexley and its neighbourhood, and in particular those who are unemployed and to provide facilities for recreation and leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life of said inhabitants.

Aims for 2024/2025

- Sustain support services
- Continue to seek appropriate funding
- To review and develop our organisation's infrastructure
- To ensure we can deliver services in future
- To establish an ongoing process of evaluation and monitoring which underpins everything we do and creates an evidence base of our work

How our activities deliver public benefit

The charity's main purpose is to provide services free of charge to those with multiple disadvantage and those who are experiencing financial hardship in Bexley Borough. We have a person-centred approach and an open door policy.

Current and proposed fundraising plan

Funding from the Yapp Charitable Trust was used to continue providing our services throughout the year. We were successful with funding applications from Awards for All and City Bridge Trust which meant we were able to commence the next financial year in a healthy position. The Annual Sponsored Walk did not take place in April 2024. We will continue with our fundraising efforts to various trusts and continue requesting donations from local businesses and churches. We will continue to work with Bexley Voluntary Services Council to identify grant makers.

Activity Reports

Coordinator's Report

With the continued support of our qualified volunteers we were able to offer our counselling provision by telephone, zoom and in person.

Supervision continued throughout the year by our qualified counselling supervisors to ensure safe practice and in accordance with the British Association of Counselling Psychotherapists.

The Women's Therapy Group also continued.

All required administrative work was carried out by staff and submissions, as required, were duly made to Companies House and the Charities Commission.

Several volunteers supported service users living locally with their distressing situations supporting them to access services, meals and help with finances and a range of health issues.

Our most grateful thanks again go to David Ault who kindly prepares our accounts and to Trinity Baptist Church for their continued support.

Financial Policy

Our financial policy sets out the financial controls for managing the organisation and during this period we commenced internet banking.

Reserves

Restricted and designated fund requirements are strictly adhered to as set out in our funders' guidelines.

Accounts

Accounts were prepared by David Ault, Independent Examiner

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

Small company's exemption

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

This report was prepared by the trustees and signed on their behalf.

Patricia Giles
Chair

BEXLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

(Incorporating Income & Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024/25 £	TOTAL 2023/24 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds					
Voluntary Income	3a	2,620	31,000	33,620	27,585
Activities for Generating Funds	3b	2,217	-	2,217	2,140
Other Incoming Resources	3c	-	-	-	228
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		4,837	31,000	35,837	29,953
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of Generated Funds					
Costs of Charitable Activities	4a	223	27,578	27,801	13,282
Activities for Generating Funds	4b	964	964	1,928	1,021
Governance Costs	4c	-	643	643	644
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		1,187	29,185	30,372	14,947
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		3,650	1,815	5,465	15,006
Total Funds Brought Forward		3,501	22,018	25,519	10,513
Transfers of Funds		-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		7,151	23,833	30,984	25,519

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the charity's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

BEXLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31-Mar-25 Total £	31-Mar-24 Total £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	510	-	510	728
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and in Hand	6	7,408	23,066	30,474	24,791
Prepayments	7	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets		7,408	23,066	30,474	24,791
Creditors: due within one year	8	-	-	-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		7,408	23,066	30,474	24,791
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		7,918	23,066	30,984	25,519
Deferred Income	10	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		7,918	23,066	30,984	25,519
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		7,918	-	7,918	4,269
Restricted Funds	5	-	23,066	23,066	21,250
		7,918	23,066	30,984	25,519

For the year ended 31st March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. -

The director's acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the board of Directors on

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

Patricia A Giles
Chair

**BEXLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the accounts the charity follows best practice as laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005), and Appendix 5 'Accounting for Smaller Charities'.

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.

Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.

Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

**BEXLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Expenditure and Liabilities (Continued)

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meeting and any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent the use of resources, eg. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost if donated, at a reasonable value on receipt.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

BEXLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures		2024/25
	Plant and Machinery	Fittings and Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost at 1st April 2024	-	10,527	10,527
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Cost at 31st March 2025	-	10,527	10,527
Depreciation at 1st April 2024	-	9,799	9,799
Depreciation Charge for the year	-	218	218
Depreciation on Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation at 31st March 2025	-	10,017	10,017
Net Book Value at 31st March 2025	-	510	510
Net Book Value at 31st March 2024	-	728	728

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on a Reducing Balance over their estimated useful lives. The rate applied is 30% per annum.

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases, capital commitments, contingent liabilities are follows:

31st March 2025: Nil

31st March 2024: Nil

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024/25 Total	2023/24 Total
Note	£	£	£	£
a) Voluntary Income				
Gifts & Donations	2,620	-	2,620	1,585
Grants Received	-	31,000	31,000	26,000
	2,620	31,000	33,620	27,585
b) Activities for Generating Funds				
Sponsored Walk	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid - Tax reclaimed on Sponsored Walk	-	-	-	-
Canteen	2,217	-	2,217	2,140
	2,217	-	2,217	2,140
c) Other incoming resources				
Sundry Income (including course fees)	-	-	-	228
Monies received under Government Furlough Scheme	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	228

BEXLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024/25 Total	2023/24 Total
Note	£	£	£	£
a) Costs of Charitable Activities				
Depreciation Expense	218	-	218	308
Printing, Postage & Stationery		134	134	89
Inland Revenue		3,296	3,296	1,081
Net Staff Costs		18,053	18,053	8,064
Rent		4,792	4,792	2,500
Volunteers Expenses	5	-	5	-
Sundry Expenses		142	142	260
Equipment under £500 (see Note 1 - Assets)	-	-	-	40
Telephone & Broadband Costs		1,161	1,161	940
	223	27,578	27,801	13,282
b) Costs of Generating Funds				
Canteen Supplies	964	964	1,928	1,021
	964	964	1,928	1,021
c) Governance Costs				
Insurance Costs		643	643	644
DBS Check	-	-	-	-
	-	643	643	644

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1-Apr-24	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31-Mar-25
	£	£	£	£
National Lottery Awards For All	1,250	-	1,250	-
National Lottery - Warm Space, Warm Welcome	20,000	-	16,934	3,066
City Bridge Trust		11,000	11,000	-
National Lottery Awards For All	-	20,000	-	20,000
	21,250	31,000	29,184	23,066

Any Restricted Funds held by the charity are wholly represented by cash reserves and will be expended as specified in each Grant.

BEXLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

6. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£
Current Account	30,441	24,457
Petty Cash	33	334
	<u>30,474</u>	<u>24,791</u>

7. DEBTORS

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£
Accruals	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

9. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	£	£
Gross Wages and Salaries	21,349	9,145
Employer's National Insurance Costs	-	-
	<u>21,349</u>	<u>9,145</u>

Employees who were engaged in each of the following activities:

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	TOTAL	TOTAL
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	2	2
Management and administration	2	2
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

The Charity operates a PAYE scheme to pay all employed members of staff and no employees received emoluments of over £50,000 (2023/24: None)

BEXLEY CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

10. DEFERRED INCOME

	31-Mar-25 £	31-Mar-24 £
No Deferred Income in year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

11. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT ON CAPITAL AND RESERVES

The Company is Limited by Guarantee (3871023) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (1082691) and does not have a share capital and has no income subject to Corporation Tax.

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Surplus / Deficit for the financial year	5,465	15,006
Other Recognised Gains	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5,465</u>	<u>15,006</u>
Balance Brought Forward	25,519	10,513
Closing Funds	<u>30,984</u>	<u>25,519</u>

12. PAYMENTS TO DIRECTORS AND RELATED PARTIES

No payments were made to directors or any persons connected with them during this financial period. No material transaction took place between the charity and a trustee or any person connected with them. (2023/24: None)

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The directors actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The directors have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The directors have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The directors aim to ensure the charity is able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The directors will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' which are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the Directors' Report. The Directors confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

SCD Life Skills Centre

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1082691

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011
(the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to
undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of
applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable. £35,000

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that
disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in any material
respect

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements
concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities
(Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Diola Ann Hutchings

Date:

12/12/2025

Name:

Diola Ann Hutchings

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

MICB AM.DIP (Institute of Certified Bookkeepers)

STAFF	
Address	

Section B	Discussion
Give a brief summary of the evidence presented in the text (not more than 100 words). Indicate the main points of the text and the author's conclusions.	

Give a brief summary of any other text the examiner wishes to discuss.

10/10 2 Oct 2018