

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04164949
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1085867

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2025**

FOR

MERTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE COUNCIL

Trading name: MERTON CONNECTED

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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MERTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE COUNCIL

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

04164949 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1085867

Trading Name

Merton Connected

Registered office

The Vestry Hall
London Road
Mitcham
Surrey
CR4 3UD

Auditor

Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd
308 Ewell Road
Surbiton
Surrey
KT6 7AL

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
Nine Brindley Place
4 Oozells Square
Birmingham
B1 2HB

Investments

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4ET

Solicitors

Russell-Cooke LLP
2 Putney Hill
Putney
London
SW15 6AB

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are pleased to present their annual Trustees' Report for Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC), together with the audited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

MERTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE COUNCIL's (MVSC) MISSION

MVSC's mission is to inspire and develop an excellent voluntary and community sector in the London Borough of Merton (LBM).

MVSC's Charitable Objects are:

1. To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the public, principally but not exclusively in the local government area of the London Borough of Merton (LBM) and its environs (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") and, particularly the advancement of education, the furtherance of health, and the relief of poverty, distress, and sickness.
2. To build the capacity of third sector organisations and provide them with the necessary support, information, and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose.
3. To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The charitable company's principal activity for the year, which is ultimately the objects set out in the Articles of Association, for MVSC was to provide practical support to voluntary and community organisations, liaison and advocacy, community engagement, development, standard setting, strategic partnership working and fund management. The social prescribing service promotes health (in line with Article 1) and partnership working between the NHS and third sector (in line with Article 3).

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2011. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. We believe that we have complied with this and seek to demonstrate this within this report. Our objects and funding limit the services we provide to those detailed in our charitable objectives.

A review of the Charity's activities is set out further in this report.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

MVSC is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. MVSC has pursued effective governance throughout the year, following provisions and procedures in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. MVSC trades under the name Merton Connected. Membership of MVSC is as set out in the Articles of Association.

MVSC is reviewing its Articles in 2025/26 to ensure they are aligned with the way of operating and are relevant for the future.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Trustees

The Trustee Board is made up of not less than five and no more than fifteen persons. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Charity's governing document. The Board periodically reviews the mix of skills and experience required and recruits new trustees as needed using appropriate methods, including advertising, professional networks and recommendations. New Trustees are provided with an induction programme led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and are provided with a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the latest Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements. The induction programme includes a briefing on their obligations under company and charity law, the decision-making processes within MVSC, the Business and Strategic Plans, and information relating to operational and financial management. Trustees are encouraged to participate in appropriate external training events which can facilitate the undertaking of their role.

The Board of Trustees governs the Charity. The Board meets four to five times a year, with a Finance Committee, meeting and occasional task and finish groups to look at specific issues and report back. All task and finish groups have clear terms of reference, which are agreed by the Board before they are established.

All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in Notes 12 and 14 to the accounts.

Trustee	Changes in year
Emma Wiley	Resigned 12 February 2026
Jennifer Goddard	
Wendy Jane Pridmore	Resigned 11 December 2025
Asha Newsum	
Judith Brodie - Chair	
Nigel Lawson - Treasurer	Resigned 3 February 2026
Karen Peck	Appointed 22 September 2025
Natalie Busari	Appointed 22 September 2025
Omar Daair	Appointed 22 September 2025
Preeya Parmar	Appointed 22 September 2025

Management of MVSC

The Trustees provide policy and strategic leadership and guidance to the organisation. Day to day management and decision making of the Charity is delegated to the CEO who works closely with senior and other staff to fulfil the Charity's objectives and ensure the smooth and effective running of the organisation. The CEO reports to the Chair and the Board.

Senior Management Team

Tony Molloy	Chief Executive Officer
Adwoa Fadahunsi	Head of Development and Volunteering
Dave Curtis	Head of Healthwatch Merton
Kelly Walker	Head of Social Prescribing appointed Nov 2024
Amy Gee	Head of Operations
Marie Douglas	Finance Business Partner

Pay policy for the Senior Management Team

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in line with a rate set by the Board of Trustees, considering available funding. In view of the nature of the Charity, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other voluntary organisations, other voluntary sector infrastructure organisations across London as well as with the public sector.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. Any connection between a Trustee or a senior manager of the Charity with a supplier, funder, or charitable organisation in the London Borough of Merton (LBM) is disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. Further details of any related party transactions can be found in Notes 12 and 14 of the accounts.

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Use of volunteers

One of the aims of the Charity is to match expressions of interest in volunteering to volunteer opportunities offered, with a focus on providing additional capacity to local voluntary and community organisations. MVSC continues to provide Home Visit Libraries volunteers under contract to the London Borough of Merton (LBM) and is grateful for the support of the many volunteers who support local organisations and MVSC itself.

1. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The continued cost-of-living crisis, alongside sustained pressures on the NHS and statutory services, has resulted in significantly increased demand for voluntary and community sector support across the London Borough of Merton. In response, MVSC has continued to play a pivotal role in inspiring, supporting and strengthening the voluntary, community and faith sector, ensuring residents across the borough can access timely, locally delivered support. Throughout the year, MVSC remained focused in consolidating and adapting its strategic objectives to respond to emerging needs, while maintaining continuity and quality of delivery. Our key objectives, and associated activity, included the following:

1.1 Capacity building and sector development

MVSC continued to support existing voluntary and community organisations, while also enabling the creation and development of new groups. This work strengthened organisational resilience, governance and delivery capacity across the voluntary, community and faith sectors, ensuring local organisations are well positioned to meet the needs of the residents they serve.

1.2 Partnership development and innovation

We developed and delivered effective partnership models, including *Motivate Merton*, a collaboration of eleven organisations providing mentoring support to local children and young people. This initiative, funded through the GLA and Propel investment, demonstrates the value of coordinated, cross-sector working in achieving improved outcomes for young people.

1.3 Health and integrated care collaboration

MVSC continued to work closely within the Integrated Care System (ICS) at both borough and South West London (SWL) levels. This included the delivery of pilot and longer-term health and wellbeing initiatives such as the Community Health and Wellbeing Project, the Ethnic Minorities Health Improvement Project (EMHIP), and the Core Connectors programme, all of which support preventative approaches and address health inequalities.

1.4 Social Prescribing delivery

We maintained the successful delivery of Social Prescribing services in line with contractual requirements, supporting all GP practices across the six Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in the borough. This ensured residents can access non-clinical, community-based support to improve wellbeing and reduce pressure on primary care services.

1.5 Healthwatch Merton

MVSC ensured Healthwatch Merton continued to operate as an effective and independent consumer health champion. Through engagement and intelligence gathering, Healthwatch Merton identified good practice, emerging challenges and opportunities for improvement across local health and care services, ensuring the voices of residents informed service development.

1.6 Funding, investment and grant administration

Working in partnership with the Merton Chamber of Commerce, statutory partners and donors (including the London Borough of Merton, South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB), Wimbledon Foundation and City Bridge Foundation), MVSC continued to administer and distribute funding through *Merton Giving*. This enabled targeted investment into local voluntary sector services at a time of heightened financial pressure across the sector.

1.7 Wellbeing Hub at Wilson Hospital

Following its successful launch in April 2023, MVSC continued to support the development and delivery of the Wellbeing Hub at the former Wilson Hospital. This work was undertaken in partnership with the Steering Group, NHS partners and the London Borough of Merton's Public Health team, providing an accessible, community-based resource to support local residents' health and wellbeing.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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Together, these activities reflect MVSC's continued commitment to collaborative working, preventative approaches, and strengthening the voluntary and community sector to meet the evolving needs of Merton's residents.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This section provides highlights from the annual review of MVSC's work and forms part of the annual financial statement.

2.1 Key highlights for the year

2.1.1 Trustee Board

The board have undertaken to develop a new 5-year strategy for MVSC, this project is underway with completion during 2025/26.

2.1.2 Social Prescribing

The service was extended to deliver a pilot programme providing a Social Prescribing service to high intensity users (HIU) which ceased on 31 March 2025. A new pilot service has been commissioned for 2025/26 to deliver a social prescribing and health coaching service within St George's Hospital to patients diagnosed with Sick Cell and/or Thalassaemia.

2.1.3 Merton Giving Fund

There has been one successful round of grant giving since April 2024 to support Merton residents with the cost-of-living pressures. An additional payment of £55,000 has been made to the Wilson Wellbeing Centre to fund a service gap. During the year, the Merton Giving service was reviewed and MVSC will now deliver the service with a close working relationship with Merton Chamber of Commerce who will provide insight, knowledge and links into the business sector within the borough.

2.1.4 Motivate Merton fund by the GLA Propel Fund

MVSC was awarded a grant to deliver a partnership mentoring program to young people over a two-year period by bringing a partnership of voluntary groups together to jointly deliver the mentoring through a mix of voluntary and paid mentors. This funding by GLA ceased on 31 March 2025 but has been replaced for one further year through Lottery Funding starting from the start of the 2025/26 financial year. This is expected to be the final year of Motivate Merton funding, however the Motivate Merton partnership and its partners will endure.

2.1.5 Community Health and Wellbeing Project

MVSC are delivering the Community Health and Wellbeing Project funded by the ICB in the Pollards Hill and Cricket Green areas. This service provides one to one contact across 150 – 200 homes in each area.

2.1.6 Providing Support to Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations

MVSC continues to play a central role in supporting and strengthening the VCFSE sector across the London Borough of Merton. Our work focuses on building organisational resilience, improving governance and compliance, supporting workforce and volunteer development, and enabling collaboration to maximise impact for local residents.

2.2 Key areas of activity during the year

2.2.1 Information sharing, training and capacity building

MVSC remained committed to keeping the VCFSE sector informed of essential sector news, funding opportunities and volunteering developments. We facilitated and hosted a comprehensive programme of continuing professional development (CPD) and capacity-building workshops, responding directly to identified sector need.

Topics included:

- Introduction to Artificial Intelligence: uses and applications for organisations
 - Financial compliance for charities, Community Interest Companies and social enterprises
 - Income generation and budgeting for funding applications
 - Contextual safeguarding for children and young people
-

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- Accredited First Aid
- Introduction to safeguarding for adults
- Volunteers and the law
- Monitoring and evaluating services, projects and programmes

2.2.2 Strengthening skills, confidence and compliance across the sector

Over 85 individuals from local organisations participated in workshops across the year.

2.2.3 Communications and digital engagement

MVSC remained committed to keeping the sector informed about key news, funding opportunities, and volunteering updates through our communications channels. Our social media reach continued to grow, with Facebook followers increasing from 886 to 952, Instagram followers rising from 347 to 613, and LinkedIn followers growing from 368 to 444. Across all platforms, average post impressions increased by 50.2 percent. The MVSC newsletter subscriber base grew to 898, and engagement improved significantly, with the average open rate rising from 26.2 percent to 42.6 percent. These developments, shaped by stakeholder feedback, ensure our communications are relevant, timely and accessible to local VCFSE organisations and the residents they serve.

2.2.4 One-to-one organisational support

MVSC continued to deliver tailored one-to-one support to local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations. Support covered a wide range of areas, including:

- Organisational governance and legal compliance
- Development and review of policies and procedures
- Safeguarding
- Income generation and funding applications
- Service and project development
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Trustee and volunteer recruitment

During the year, 53 organisations benefited from over 820 hours of individualised support, enabling organisations to strengthen delivery, governance and sustainability.

2.2.5 Funding support and investment into the borough

MVSC supported organisations to secure funding from a range of external sources, bringing additional income and services into Merton. Through the Propel scheme, supported by a collaboration of London funders, MVSC was awarded a one-year extension grant of £330,059 for 2025/26. This funding will be shared with ten local partner organisations delivering the *Motivate Merton* programme, enabling a further 160 local young people to receive one-to-one mentoring support and tailored enrichment activities.

2.2.6 Sector Investment

Further inward investment, more than £500,000 was achieved through the support and assistance in drafting applications on behalf of local VCFSE organisations to the National Lottery Community Fund, Awards For All, BBC Children in Need, Lloyds Foundation, Kitchen Social (Mayor's Fund for London) and Arts Council (to name but a few)

2.2.7 Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)

MVSC also supported organisations with applications to the Borough's HAF programme, the Borough of Sports funding stream, and the Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund.

2.2.8 Volunteering infrastructure and leadership

MVSC continued to provide volunteering infrastructure and leadership across the Borough. Over 500 residents registered an interest in volunteering via our specialist volunteering platform, powered by Simply Connect. Existing and prospective volunteers were kept informed through regular bulletins, social media activity and outreach events, including monthly outreach at Mitcham Jobcentre, targeted to specific volunteering roles.

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2.2.9 Management Support

MVSC facilitated bi-monthly Volunteer Managers Forums, enabling those responsible for volunteer coordination to remain informed of legislative changes and best practice, while benefiting from peer support and problem-solving through action learning approaches.

2.2.10 Sector forums and representation

MVSC continued to facilitate the overarching Voluntary Sector Forum (*Involve*), alongside a range of thematic sub-forums including Mental Health, Youth Partnership, CEO/Senior Leadership Network, Family Support Services and the Small Organisations Forum. These forums provided timely briefings, legal updates and opportunities for discussion on emerging issues and sector challenges. They enabled peer support, strengthened advocacy, amplified the collective voice of the sector and supported innovation and collaboration, ensuring the VCFSE sector remains well-placed to meet the evolving needs of Merton's residents.

2.2.11 Community Health and Wellbeing Service

Through an innovative initiative funded by the Integrated Care Board (ICB), MVSC employs two Community Health and Wellbeing Officers based in Phipps Bridge and Pollards Hill. The service delivers one-to-one support, group-based activities, and community outreach, improving residents' knowledge, confidence, and access to health services. To date, the programme has engaged over 135 residents, with measurable outcomes including increased attendance at health appointments, uptake of preventative services, and greater participation in community wellbeing initiatives. Through these initiatives, MVSC demonstrates tangible outcomes aligned with local and sub-regional priorities, including:

- Strengthened capacity and governance of voluntary and community organisations, enabling sustainable local service provision;
- Increased community awareness and engagement in health and wellbeing initiatives, particularly among underserved populations;
- Improved access to services and support for residents experiencing barriers to participation;
- Enhanced resident resilience, confidence, and social inclusion through tailored community support and engagement programmes.

2.2.12 Celebrating the Achievements of Merton's VCFSE Sector

MVSC proudly delivered and hosted the Merton Partnership Civic Pride Awards during Volunteer's week to an audience of over 300 people celebrating and amplifying the incredible volunteering contribution residents made to the London Borough of Merton.

2.3 Creating Models of Innovative Partnership

Evolving the services we provide to respond to the needs of organisations and the wider operating environment. Examples include:

2.3.1 Health Partnerships

Integrated Care Board (ICB): Working with London Borough of Merton (LBM) and health colleagues from the ICB to support several initiatives to engage even more successfully with communities and individuals to improve understanding and engagement with proactive health initiatives. These include The Core 20 Connectors and Ethnicity and Mental Health Improvement Project (EMHIP) initiatives which continued through 2024/25 and were concluded 31 March 2025 in line with most similar projects in the SW ICB area.

2.3.2 Strong VCFSE Partnership Working

Motivate Merton (as set out above)

2.3.3 Sector Representation and Influence

Continuing influencing and contributing to policy at regional, sub-regional and borough level, across the wider health and social care agenda, representing the views and amplifying the voice of the sector, by senior team member presence on key local and regional boards, such as: Care Together Board, Safer Merton Partnership, Children Trust and Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer Neighbourhood Board, Merton Safeguarding Adult Board and Violence Against Women And Girls (VAWAG) Board.

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The CEO is a member of the SWL VCSE Alliance Leadership Group which has grown from the VSCE transition team for the ICS. The group works sub-regionally with the five other CVS organisations across the London Boroughs of Croydon, Sutton, Kingston, Wandsworth, and Richmond in South West London (SWL). The group highlights health inequalities and promotes the idea of co-production (between the voluntary and statutory sectors) as an effective mechanism for addressing these societal issues, sub-regionally, as well as at borough and neighbourhood level as well as the emerging Merton health provider alliance.

2.4 Contracted Home Visits Library Service

MVSC continues to run a home visits library service throughout LBM where volunteers select and deliver library books to those who are unable to visit the library.

2.5 Continued successful delivery of social prescribing services

Social prescribing is a way of linking patients with sources of support within the community. It provides General Practitioners (GPs) with non-medical referral options that can operate alongside existing medical treatments and interventions to improve overall health and well-being, whilst reducing GP appointments so their focus can remain on medical need.

MVSC's Social Prescribing teams look to support individuals to enable them to have more choice and control in how their health and well-being is managed and maintained whilst importantly increasing the capacity of the GPs to meet increased demand on their services.

During the last ten years the social prescribing model has gained increasing prominence as has MVSC's social prescribing service which has also grown and developed. Highlights include:

2.5.1 ONS Wellbeing Tool

The Social Prescribing team has been using the wellbeing tool of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) since January 2020. The ONS Wellbeing outcomes for Social Prescribing patients are as follows.

2.5.2 ONS Wellbeing outcomes, Apr 2024 – Mar 2025

- 84% of patients have experienced positive changes
- 78.6% of patients expressed satisfaction with the service
- 69.1% of patients expressed the service was worthwhile
- 76.1% of patients have expressed an improvement in happiness
- 74.4% of patients expressed reduced anxiety

2.5.3 Appointments Delivered

The main Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for our contract delivery is KPI 1.4 "Working with Primary Care to achieve 80% service utilisation rate". During the financial year the service achieved a utilisation rate of 110% exceeding the utilisation rate for the previous year. The annual average utilisation rate for financial year 2023/24 was 89%.

2.5.4 Number of New Referrals Received

The Social Prescribing team received 3,622 new referrals between April 2024 and March 2025 an increase of 50 people on the 2023/24 financial year. During 2022/23 financial year the team received 2,615 new referrals. Demand for the service is increasing, and the main reasons for referrals during the last financial year have been for Mental Health (20.4%), Social Isolation (12.2%), Housing and Financial Advice (28%) and Support for Carers (9.9%).

In total the social prescribing team delivered 8,994 appointments. In addition, the social prescribing team do outreach work to promote the service at Merton events.

2.5.6 Data Collection

The Merton Social Prescribing team uses Elemental software to collect and store data safely. Elemental has been interfaced with EMIS; the software used within Primary Care in LBM. Our team has been clinically evaluated by Oxford University in 2022 and we are one of the most digitally mature Social Prescribing services in the UK. Our data is shared monthly with the ICB and Primary Care Network and quarterly with the ICS.

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2.6 Healthwatch Merton service delivery

Healthwatch Merton (HWM) has continued to deliver on its mission to ensure local people have a voice in shaping local health and care services. 2024/25 was another challenging year. The service continues to deliver both community outreach, specialised projects and directly influencing change across local, regional, and national health and care strategies.

2.6.1 HWM Community Outreach and Engagement

From April 2024 to March 2025, HWM engaged with over 500 residents across various outreach events and activities. These efforts helped gather essential feedback on local health and social care services, ensuring that the voices of those most affected by service provision were heard and considered in future planning.

Notable outreach activities included:

- Community Outreach Women Arise Ministries (WAM): Engaged with 30 parents at WAM's "Come dine with me" events on including the cost of living and how this impacts on health issues within the family.
- Veteran Outreach Games and Social Event: Engaged with 25 people to promote the veteran project and gathered useful information on activities and services for veterans outside of Merton.
- Veteran Outreach D Day Celebrations: 30 veterans attended, HWM stood alongside the Royal British Legion stall welcoming local veterans, their families, friends, neighbours and local shoppers giving info on what happened in Normandy France – on the 80th anniversary of D-Day.
- Community Outreach Merton's Windrush Day: 85 people attended and HWM joined MVSC in the grounds of Canons House for this annual event, promoting health services and volunteering.
- Community Outreach Be Well, Core Connectors: HWM engaged with over 40 people who attended Health and Wellbeing event arranged by MVSC's 2 Core Connector employees sharing information and gathering feedback on health and social care services.
- Young People's Freshers Fair: Interactive event with over 80 young people in attendance, who were set tasks by their tutors to engage with stall holders to increase their understanding and knowledge of what additional support is available to them from the local voluntary sector.

2.6.2 HWM Influencing Change and Advocacy

Healthwatch Merton has used feedback to advocate for improvement in local health and key areas of influence

2.6.3 The Merton 0-5 Autism diagnostic pathway

In partnership with Merton ICB, HWM created a first of its kind visual flowchart to help parents understand the complex autism diagnostic process for children under the age of 5. HWM reviewed information provided by statutory bodies and interviewed decision makers to map out the pathway, developing a visual triage mapping of the pathway using online design software.

2.6.4 The community nursing services in Merton

HWM gathered feedback on the community nursing services offered in Merton on behalf of SWL ICB to increase their knowledge base and understanding. We created a questionnaire in partnership with Merton Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (Merton CLCH), printed 200 booklets and distributed them to persons accessing community nursing services in Merton. HWM received 26 responses (25 paper and 1 online). Preliminary findings indicated an overall positive outlook and general satisfaction at community nursing services.

2.6.5 Evaluation of Mental Health services provided for the Merton Community

HWM commissioned by the Southwest London ICB and St. George's Mental Health Trust conducted a baseline survey to feed into and evaluate the state of mental health services provided for the Merton Community. The survey engaged 57 individuals who had previously accessed mental health services in Merton.

2.6.6 Polish and Eastern European community project

HWM undertook a project with the Polish and Eastern European (EE) community who live in Merton. This

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includes people from Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, and Ukraine who live and who have made their home in the borough. HWM along with the Polish Family Association (PFA) aimed to investigate the disparities in healthcare for the Polish and EE community within the borough. The assessment engaged 176 individuals attending PFA services through surveys, alongside five focus groups and two in-depth interviews with healthcare professionals. The findings have fed into the Health and Wellbeing Board whereby they are being utilised to inform areas within the current development of several LBM and ICB health strategies.

2.6.7 Veteran Voice and Veteran Aware Accreditation for GP Practices

HWM continued to advocate for better recognition and support for the needs of veterans in the borough. HWM facilitated 16 specific Armed Forces Veteran Outreach sessions to support their voice to inform and improve services locally. We have a healthy database of over 100 Armed Forces Veterans whom most have signed up for HWM monthly E-bulletin where they have their own special "What's on for Veterans" activity and events page. There has been a positive increase in accredited Veteran Friendly GP practices from 8 to 11 during the year. HWM continues to work with veterans and see further increase of GP practices in the borough attain this accreditation by the end of 2025/2026.

2.6.8 HWM Communication and Public Engagement

Throughout the year, HWM distributed 12 e-bulletins to keep the public informed about health and care services in the borough. These bulletins shared important updates, local opportunities, and invited residents to engage with ongoing consultations.

3. PLANS FOR 2025/2026

MVSC continues to have a key role in the London Borough of Merton, supporting communities through its key role strengthening and developing the Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors in the borough. During 2024/5 work started on a new long-term strategy to take us forward from 2025/26, there will be work to ensure our Articles of Association are updated to support MVSC to deliver the new 2025 to 2030 strategy.

While the past year was challenging, MVSC continued help setup and support new organisations and provide a range of assistance to existing organisations, including helping them to produce successful applications to regional and national funding bodies. MVSC's ambition remains to commission local services, which will also deliver embedded partnerships working in collaboration amongst and across our local VCSE sector.

3.1 Plans for Core Services 2025/2026

3.1.1 Step-Up Quality Assurance Programme

With continuing funding from The Wimbledon Foundation, the *Step-Up Quality Assurance Programme* that MVSC developed (a locally tailored framework designed to strengthen small and micro voluntary sector organisations, improving governance, service delivery and organisational resilience) has continued to be rolled out.

The programme provides intensive support to six local organisations, equipping them with knowledge, skills and tools to enhance operational capacity, compliance, safeguarding, and quality assurance. Support is delivered via one-to-one guidance, structured training workshops, and action learning sets. Participating organisations are enabled to evidence achievement against agreed quality standards, improving organisational sustainability and service outcomes for residents.

3.1.2 Community development model

The Core Services Team continues to apply an asset-based model of community development, identifying and building upon existing community strengths and resources. This approach supports improved health, wellbeing, resilience, and social cohesion, empowering local residents to access services, engage in community activities, and participate actively in local decision-making.

3.1.3 Outcome measurement

By embedding outcomes measurement across its core services, MVSC ensures that every intervention is evidence based and responsive to the evolving needs of Merton residents, delivering impactful, sustainable, and socially valuable outcomes for the borough.

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3.2 Plans for Healthwatch Merton 2025/2026

The service will face uncertainty in the coming year given government proposals to abolish Healthwatch and all 150 local Healthwatch services (announced June 2025). The service is expected to remain funded until the end of the financial year 2026/27. HWM has several areas of focus identified for 25/26 (below) which respond to National, Regional and local requirements.

- Complete the work to identify and raise the profile for eastern European residents within Merton and understand and promote how services listen to their needs.
- Merton College Project: Support and train up college students to be able to do local peer research and feed their findings directly into local services for young people to influence change, improvement and increase local knowledge.
- Continue to focus on strengthening the voice within service design and improvement locally for Armed Forces Veterans.
- Work in partnership with LBM, Public Health and the ICB to develop clear routes for service user voice to not be disadvantaged by government proposed changes.
- In partnership with our five Southwest London Healthwatch services, liaise to work with government on the significant changes and proposals with patient voice and the NHS both locally and nationally.

3.3 Plans for Social Prescribing 2025/2026

- MVSC remains committed to the development, enhancement and improvement of the Social Prescribing service with ongoing support from the borough's 21 GP practices. In late 2024 MVSC successfully recruited a new Head of Service internally thus retaining the knowledge and experience built since the service's inception.
- A new pilot for a Social Prescriber role with regard to Sickle Cell and/or Thalassemia has been agreed for a secondary care setting. Our Social Prescribing team will also continue to promote the success of the Merton model to other boroughs in the sub-region, region and nationally, and remain a key contributor to the continuing growth and knowledge of social prescribing services nationally. MVSC anticipate that in line with the NHS Ten Year Plan, the ICB will develop more locally commissioned health-based services which will look to increase prevention, with a greater focus on local community delivery. The service will also continue to raise awareness through outreach work within the borough.
- MVSC expect the ICB to increase the number of local third sector organisations supporting the direct delivery of front-line health and care services, with the shift to local community organisations delivering health outcomes. This service remains an area of business MVSC remains committed to.

3.4 Plans for Merton Giving 2025/2026

MVSC's role has increased to operate all aspects of Merton Giving strategy, funding raising and grant management. The service will recruit a Strategic Lead and a fundraiser, alongside the existing Grant Manager. MVSC will continue to work in partnership with Merton Chamber of Commerce to develop links with local business and services, and with stakeholders on the Merton Giving Steering Group to ensure the programme of work has a strategic and needs-based approach.

3.5 Plans for Central Staff Services 2025/2026

MVSC has invested internally to strengthen and future proof the organisation. This successful work has included expanding the staff team and investing in their individual and collective training and development and wellbeing, this work will continue and develop to strengthen the organisation further. The service will be better placed to use the data from the established annual staff survey to create tailored workplace action plans and respond to the needs of the MVSC team. New systems have improved and will continue to strengthen the recruitment and induction process.

As we continue to develop knowledge, we continue to enhance our digital skills, improve digital inclusion and look to the future with regards to digital assets. The team continues to make better use of SharePoint and Teams, particularly for organising large events and collating surveys and feedback. The entire team meet regularly and receive corporate information to improve team working across the organisation. The team will be

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

responsible for recruitment of new trustees and assisting with the development and communication of the new strategy.

4 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Statements

The financial statements, including the notes, have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102). The analysis of income and expenditure reflects the classification of activities, together with costs relating to administration.

Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 20 with a more detailed analysis of income and expenditure within the notes to the financial statements. Total incoming resources for the year decreased to £1,559,881 (2024: £1,737,292). Income from charitable activities for this year was £1,505,704 (2024: £1,681,686) this is split between £648,857 (2024: £592,426) unrestricted funding, £856,847 (2024: £1,089,260) restricted funding and a range of grant funds which MVSC manages on behalf of the public sector, including holding and distributing funds.

The total of these grants for distribution to third parties is recognised as restricted income, however it is worthwhile noting that these funds are not used in direct charitable expenditure rather given to organisations as grants. During this year the total of this income was £145,688 (2023/24: £154,851). Full details are shown in Note 5.

Donations this year have increased compared to last year £4,939 (2024: £2,822). The total expenditure for the year was £1,674,113 (2024: £1,363,543) increase from the previous year. The net effect of the above has led to an overall operating deficit of (£122,722) compared to last year surplus of £373,441.

Balance Sheet

Overall reserves are £1,280,299 (2024: £1,403,021) with unrestricted reserves being £303,089 (2024: £363,488) after providing for the defined benefit pension liability of £8,417 (2024: £3,734).

Unrestricted reserves: £303,089 (2024: £363,488)

Unrestricted reserves are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the Charity. Such costs can include programmes, fund-raising, management, and administration as well as the cost of meeting any future shortfalls in restricted fund activities. These funds are the accumulated balances arising from cost savings and income generation relating to the core functions of MVSC. They also include sums budgeted by the Board of Trustees to be set aside to meet known future cost threats.

The Board of Trustees considers that the total of accumulated unrestricted reserves needs to be sufficient to ensure:

- The full funding of adverse changes in income and unavoidable increases in costs which otherwise would result in an overall in-year deficit.
- That the core of the organisation can be sustained for up to 6 months should all funding from projects be lost and that it has sufficient resources to cease operations in an orderly and efficient manner should this be required.
- The funding of the Pension Deficit repayment that would need to be met in the event of the organisation closing.

Restricted Reserves: £977,210 (2024: £1,039,533)

These funds represent grants and contract sums provided to MVSC to fund specific expenditure in agreed areas of work. They are the outstanding amounts waiting to be spent. They cannot be used for any other purpose without the agreement of the grantor or contracting commissioner.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees reviews the reserves policy annually and seeks to maintain a minimum balance of

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

unrestricted reserves equivalent to six months of budgeted core net operating costs (including the uncovered pension deficit under FRS102). This equals £194,000 for this financial year.

Currently unrestricted reserves at the year-end are £303,089, less £8,417 set aside for the future pension liability repayments and £12,894 representing fixed assets, and £26,000 represents designated funds, giving a net unrestricted free reserves figure of £255,778 a surplus of £61,778 over the minimum target unrestricted reserves figure of £194,000. This substantial balance of unrestricted reserves will enable MVSC to manage future financial and operational risk in its growing programme of support and guidance to the third sector community within the LBM.

Unrestricted funds also need to be set aside for future major investment (e.g., systems and equipment and other infrastructure assets). There are no plans for making such investments at the date of this Trustees' Report. A designated fund of £26,000 has been received as management fees for the administration of Merton Giving.

To ensure the minimum impact on Reserves MVSC adopts the following principles in relation to ongoing project funding:

- Firstly, all annual Budgets only include estimates for grant income, whether for unrestricted or restricted purposes, if they are supported at minimum by a draft agreement with the funder.
- When specific project funding ends the associated staffing expenditure and direct overheads incurred in running the project will also cease. There will be no call on unrestricted reserves.
- In exceptional circumstances where Trustees expressly wish that activity is to continue and have a reasonable expectation that new funds will be received, unrestricted reserves may be used to sustain posts for a limited period.
- An allowance for redundancy costs for all project staff are included in project funding budgets to avoid the need to fund redundancy costs from general reserves.

MVSC does not consider its fixed assets to be freely convertible and does not include the value of fixed assets in its calculation of working capital.

The Board of Trustees will continue to monitor the effectiveness of its Reserves Policy so that it remains relevant to its current and future position. However, because the Charity operates in a constantly changing environment the Trustees throughout the year regularly review the Charity's balances of reserves, together with cash flow levels to ensure prudent management of its funds.

Details of the various reserves and their movements are set out in more detail in Note 23, 24 and 25 on pages 33 to 36.

Cash Management

The Board of Trustees seeks to retain a prudent sum of cash in the Bank Current Account sufficient to cover two months gross income on unrestricted activities and one month's income on restricted activities. For 2024/25 this required an average balance £188,300. The excess over this sum was placed in a short-term investment account, which offered more security than a current account and a better rate of interest. Current account cash is managed to ensure availability to meet the short-term net budgeted expenditure needs and grant giving requirements.

Currently these excess funds are placed with Charity Offices Investment Fund (COIF) under their Charities Deposit Fund scheme. COIF is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) and is an ethical investor. Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, MVSC has received a significant amount of investment income which has been added to our unrestricted funds.

The risk to the business rests with uncertainty of long-term core funding. The local authority are looking at how they deliver long term funding with a review starting 26/27. Changes and pressure within the health service persist, however long term planning with regards to delivering better health outcomes are likely to deliver future funding opportunities to MVSC and voluntary sector.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Grant making

The Charity makes grants to a wide range of organisations who are either based in the LBM and neighbouring or adjoining areas or have strong relationships in these areas with a proven track record of benefitting residents. We are particularly keen to help grassroots community groups and small-to-medium-sized voluntary organisations. We would always consider a proposal that has the potential to achieve substantial impact in our community and furthers our charitable objectives. All grant programmes are administered primarily through Merton Giving.

Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Merton Voluntary Service Council for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland."

Company law requires the Charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied, they 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 those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to Auditor

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd was re-appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Small Companies

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

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 19th February 2026



Judith Brodie, Chair

 (Feb 23, 2026 15:23:10 GMT)

Jen Goddard, Trustee

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Merton Voluntary Service Council (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis of opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within 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 the 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 directors' report included within 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 directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
 - Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
-

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
MERTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE COUNCIL Trading name: Merton Connected**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- 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 testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://shorturl.at/4UQzV>. 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.



23/02/2026

Kevin Fisher BA FCA CTA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd
308 Ewell Road
Surbiton
Surrey
KT6 7AL

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	<i>note</i>	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	2025	2024
INCOME		£	£	£	£
Donations	2	1,519	3,420	4,939	2,822
Charitable activities	5	648,857	856,847	1,505,704	1,681,686
Other Income	4	3,879	-	3,879	8,652
Investments	3	45,359	-	45,359	44,132
TOTAL INCOME		699,614	860,267	1,559,881	1,737,292
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable Activities	6	822,015	852,098	1,674,113	1,363,543
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		822,015	852,098	1,674,113	1,363,543
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		(122,401)	8,169	(114,232)	373,749
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	24	70,492	(70,492)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	15	(8,490)	-	(8,490)	(308)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(60,399)	(62,323)	(122,722)	373,441
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS: TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	24	363,488	1,039,533	1,403,021	1,029,580
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	24	303,089	977,210	1,280,299	1,403,021

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 – 37 form part of these financial statements.

MERTON VOLUNTARY SERVICE COUNCIL Trading name: Merton Connected
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 MARCH 2025

	<i>note</i>	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	17	9,684		11,298	
Tangible assets	18	3,210		4,805	
			12,894		16,103
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	19	229,020		329,242	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,195,746		1,179,619	
		1,424,766		1,508,861	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year	20	(148,944)		(118,209)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1,275,822		1,390,652
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY			1,288,716		1,406,755
DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY	15		(8,417)		(3,734)
TOTAL NET ASSETS			1,280,299		1,403,021
TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds:	24		303,089		363,488
Restricted Funds	24		977,210		1,039,533
Total Charity Funds			1,280,299		1,403,021

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 February 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Judith Brodie, Chair



Jen Goddard, Trustee

The notes on pages 23 – 37 form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	<i>note</i>	2025	2024
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		£	£
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>(29,232)</u>	<u>(270,171)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest from Investments	3	45,359	44,132
Purchase of intangible assets		-	(4,836)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>45,359</u>	<u>39,296</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		16,127	(230,875)
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the reporting period		1,179,619	1,410,494
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		1,195,746	1,179,619
Reconciliation of income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(122,722)	373,441
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation and amortisation charges	17,18	3,209	1,645
Interest from investments	3	(45,359)	(44,132)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors		100,222	(176,751)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors		30,735	(424,682)
(Decrease)/Increase in pension charge		4,683	308
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(29,232)</u>	<u>(270,171)</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	<i>note</i>	2025	2024
		£	£
Bank and cash in hand		<u>1,195,746</u>	<u>1,179,619</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents		<u>1,195,746</u>	<u>1,179,619</u>

The notes on pages 23 – 37 form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

Merton Voluntary Service Council is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The registered office and company registration number are detailed on page 3.

Basis of preparation

Merton Voluntary Service Council meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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

The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. The Trustees have made this assessment considering the Charity's unrestricted free reserves, secured funding going forward and current and planned activities.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities 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 received in advance of a project or other specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met (see Note 21.).

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. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of engaging professionals to support with preparation of funding bids.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the Charity and their associated support costs.

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 2019 (FRS 102), the general volunteer time contributed is not recognised and 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.

Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *continued*

Allocation of support costs

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature, which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support those activities. Support costs are apportioned on the basis of staff time.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, payroll, and governance costs which support MVSC's charitable activities.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The Charity contributes 5% to a defined contribution pension scheme for all of its employees. Contributions payable to the Charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Please refer to Note 15 for further details on Pension arrangements.

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.

Fund accounting

The 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 and grants, 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 or funds, which are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Corporation Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 or Section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets include the development of a new website and database. The estimated useful years and amortisation method of the intangible assets are calculated on a straight-line basis as follows:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Website	10% on cost
Database	10% on cost

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Asset Category	Annual Rate
Computer and office equipment	33% on cost

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.

Cash at bank 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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *continued*

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.

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.

Operating leases

The Charity classifies the lease of the offices in Vestry Hall as operating leases; rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	<u>4,939</u>	<u>2,822</u>

Income from donations was £4,939 (2024: £2,822) of which £1,519 was unrestricted (2024: £744) and £3,420 was restricted (2024: £2,078).

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest received	<u>45,359</u>	<u>44,132</u>

All the Charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts and is unrestricted.

4. INCOME EARNED FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Service Income	123	3,430
Other income	<u>3,756</u>	<u>5,222</u>
	<u><u>3,879</u></u>	<u><u>8,652</u></u>

Income earned from other activities was £3,879 (2024: £8,652) all being unrestricted income.

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Grants and contracts received are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted		
Canons House	-	15,234
ICS - Brazilian Model (Community Health & Wellbeing)	88,593	-
LBM - Notional Rent	37,949	37,949
LBM - Volunteering in Libraries Contract	17,500	17,500
Merton Clinical Commissioning Group - Social Prescribing Contract	493,632	518,323
Others	11,183	3,420
	<u>648,857</u>	<u>592,426</u>
Restricted - Project based		
CCG Capacity Building Fund	-	62,637
City Bridge Trust Merton Giving Grant	30,899	61,100
Core20 Plus Connector's Programme	46,699	-
Early Years Support	2,302	-
LBM - Civic Pride	207,613	207,113
LBM - Community Accountancy and Merton Giving Support	-	24,775
LBM - Community Hub Jigsaw	-	6,708
LBM - Healthwatch Grant	130,000	130,500
LBM - Transforming Communities	-	37,500
Merton EMHIP Inequalities Project	42,878	-
NHS South West Vaccination Outreach	17,000	-
Propel - Motivate Merton	213,268	383,576
Wimbledon Foundation Grant	20,500	20,500
	<u>711,159</u>	<u>934,409</u>
Restricted - Grants for third parties		
CYP Engagement	7,683	-
LB Haringey - Participatory Grant Giving Pilot	58,500	-
LBM - Inequalities	-	19,722
LBM - Merton Partnership Community Giving Grants	50,000	135,129
LBM - Ukraine	4,795	-
NHS 24-25 Winter Grants	24,710	-
	<u>145,688</u>	<u>154,851</u>
Total Restricted	<u>856,847</u>	<u>1,089,260</u>
Total Income from Charitable Activities	<u>1,505,704</u>	<u>1,681,686</u>

MVSC manages a range of grant funds on behalf of the public sector, including holding and distributing funds. The total of these grant funds is recognised in restricted income, shown above, however it is worthwhile noting that these funds are not used in direct charitable expenditure rather given to organisations as grants. During this year the total of this income was £145,688 (2024: £154,851).

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
6. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Charitable Expenditure <i>note 7</i> 2025	Grants Given <i>note 8</i> 2025	Support Costs <i>note 9</i> 2025	Total Charitable Expenditure 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Activities	622,270	-	199,744	822,015	752,129
CCG Capacity Building Fund	-	-	-	-	5,000
City Bridge Trust - Merton Giving	51,202	-	-	51,202	85,331
Core20PLUS Connectors Programme	23,105	-	-	23,105	-
CYP Engagement Grant	-	7,693	-	7,693	-
Greater London Authority - Young Londoners	-	-	-	-	49
LBM - Civic Pride	202,338	-	-	202,338	145,864
LBM - Community Accountancy Support	7,629	-	-	7,629	327
LBM - Healthwatch	117,380	-	-	117,380	105,913
LBM - Merton Partnership Community Giving Grants	-	35,874	-	35,874	-
LBM - Ukraine	-	2,430	-	2,430	-
NHS 24-25 Winter Grants	-	8,180	-	8,180	-
Merton EMHIP Inequalities Project	209	25,000	-	25,209	1,591
Merton Giving Grant Distribution Fund	43,522	-	-	43,522	66,856
Propel - Motivate Merton	18,395	294,673	-	313,817	192,434
Wimbledon Foundation - Step Up	13,719	-	-	13,719	8,048
	1,099,769	373,850	199,744	1,674,113	1,363,542

7. DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct Project costs	78,551	108,340
Office costs	36,840	61,794
Premises and hall hire costs	38,089	38,093
Professional fees and other costs	-	10,901
Staff and related costs	946,289	710,648
	1,099,769	929,776

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
8. GRANTS GIVEN

The following institutions were given cumulative grants in the year:

Grants Given	2025	2024
	£	£
Accoutre Centre for Learning CIC	-	2,500
AFC Wimbledon Foundation	45,952	37,055
Age UK Merton	550	-
Ashdon Jazz Academy	16,953	12,300
ATS Creative Academy CIC	19,157	8,943
Attic Theatre Company (London) Limited	3,020	2,500
Avanti Mental Wellbeing CIC	550	-
Care4Calais SW London	2,500	-
Carers First	400	-
Commonside Community Development Trust	1,100	2,500
Critical Support	1,692	-
Ethnic Minority Centre	4,470	4,994
Faith in Action - Merton Homelessness Project	2,500	-
Fayre n Square CIC	-	2,500
Filmanthropy CIC	27,030	12,300
Five Aside Theatre	2,500	2,500
Focus 4 1	-	2,514
Friends in St Helier (FISH)	500	-
Friends of Hillcross Primary School	500	-
FROG Learning CIC	2,310	2,500
Ghanaian Parents Association CIC	-	2,500
Graphite & Diamond Ltd	-	2,500
Home-Start Merton	470	-
Inner Strength Network CIC	8,700	23,000
Jigsaw4U	500	-
Learn English Together in Merton CIO	2,220	1,910
Learning Keys CIC	2,500	1,905
London Borough of Merton	27,340	6,480
Maggies at the Royal Marsden	2,500	-
Maroon Solis CIC	-	2,800
Merton Goan Senior Citizens Association	2,500	2,500
Merton Mencap	4,500	2,500
Merton Parents Bereaved by Suicide	2,505	-
Merton Vision	510	-
Mitcham Arts Collective CIC	2,000	2,482
Mitcham Town Community Trust	26,240	28,700
Need 2 Succeed	16,150	-

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
8. GRANTS GIVEN *continued*

Sherwood Park Hall CIC	2,500	2,500
Somali Community CIC	-	2,500
South Mitcham Community Association	1,899	-
South West London Law Centres	-	5,000
South West Runs	-	2,500
Springfield Advice and Law Centre	2,500	-
Sustainable Merton	-	2,500
The Nerve of my Multiple Sclerosis	-	2,500
Togetherness Community Centre	25,550	-
Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club Ltd	69,512	49,255
Ukrainian Refugee Help CIO	2,430	2,365
Unique Talent CIC	33,640	20,267
Veterans Community Choir CIC	-	2,500
Wimbledon Guild	1,000	2,500
Wimbledon Foodbank	2,000	-
Women Arise Ministries	2,500	2,500
	373,850	267,270

The following individuals were given cumulative grants in the year:

Antoinette Arthur	250	-
Miss Paris R Glasford	500	-
	750	-
TOTAL GRANTS GIVEN	374,600	267,270

9. SUPPORT COSTS

		2025	2024
	note	£	£
Governance costs	10	4,677	16,200
Office costs		62,145	18,775
Premises and hall hire costs		12,644	15,091
Professional fees and other costs		15,581	10,476
Staff and related costs		104,697	105,954
		199,744	166,496

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Audit fees	4,111	5,000
Committee & Strategic Planning costs	566	11,200
	4,677	16,200

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
11. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):	2025	2024
	£	£
Amortisation and depreciation	3,209	1,645
Audit fees	4,111	5,000
Operating lease rentals	-	17,440

12. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Pension costs	39,358	36,530
Social security costs	79,574	55,460
Wages and Salaries	858,108	628,083
	977,040	720,073

One employee (2024: nil) earned total employee benefits between £70,001 - £80,000 (excluding employer's national insurance and employer pension costs) (2024: £nil). Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2024: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: £nil). No Charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Charity (2024: £nil). The key management personnel of the Charity are detailed on page 5 of the accounts.

The total employee remuneration of the key management personnel (Trustees and CEO) of the Charity was £87,155 (2024: £82,945). Under FRS 102, total employee benefits include gross pay, benefits in kind, employer's national insurance contributions and employers pension costs.

13. STAFF NUMBERS

The average monthly number of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Numbers	Numbers
Senior Management & administration	6	5
Other Direct Charitable Staff	21	17
	27	22

The increase during the financial year 24/25 can be attributed to defined projects where staff have been employed on interim contracts to deliver the services.

14. TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions during the year or the previous year, other than the remuneration of key management personnel set out in Note 12.

15. PENSION COSTS

The charitable company has a defined contribution pension scheme, which all employees are entitled to join. Previously, the charitable company operated a defined benefit scheme, which is now closed to new members.

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
15. PENSION COSTS *continued*

This is a multi-employer scheme operated by TPT Retirement Solutions and, whilst it is not possible to estimate the share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme attributable to Merton Voluntary Service Council, TPT Retirement Solutions has estimated that the employers' debt on withdrawal liability at the most recent annual funding update of 30 September 2024 would have been £21,921 (30 September 2023: £44,126).

The Charity's Trustees consider that it is unlikely that any liability will crystallise in relation to this in the foreseeable future. Under FRS102, provision is required for the net present value of any agreed deficit recovery plan contributions relating to the Plan.

During the year ended 31 March 2025 payments have continued to be made in accordance with this plan and the provision for the net present value of deficit contributions was £8,417 (2024: £3,734).

The amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net interest from net defined asset/liability	99	305
	<u>99</u>	<u>305</u>

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined benefit obligation	(3,734)	(7,994)
Contribution by scheme participants	3,807	4,568
Interest Cost	(99)	(305)
Re-measurement from changes in financial assumptions	(53)	(3)
Re-measurement from amendments to the contribution scheme	(8,338)	-
	<u>(8,417)</u>	<u>(3,734)</u>

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Actuarial /(losses)/gains from changes in financial assumptions	(8,490)	(308)
	<u>(8,490)</u>	<u>(308)</u>

	2025	2024
	£	£
Discount rate	<u>4.84%</u>	<u>5.31%</u>

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

16. CORPORATION TAX

As a registered charity MVSC is exempt from Corporation Tax in respect of its investment and charitable income and in respect of capital gains.

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
17. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Website	Database	Total
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 April 2024	10,200	5,940	16,140
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	10,200	5,940	16,140
AMORTISATION			
At 1 April 2024	3,060	1,782	4,842
Charge for year	1,020	594	1,614
At 31 March 2025	4,080	2,376	6,456
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	7,140	4,158	11,298
At 31 March 2025	6,120	3,564	9,684

18. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer and Office Equipment	Total
	£	£
COST		
At 1 April 2024	32,536	32,536
Additions	-	-
Disposal	-	-
At 31 March 2025	32,536	32,536
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		
At 1 April 2024	27,731	27,731
Charge for the year	1,595	1,595
Disposal	-	-
At 31 March 2025	29,326	29,326
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 March 2024	4,805	4,805
At 31 March 2025	3,210	3,210

19. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	104,200	123,256
Other Debtors	2,133	2,133
Accrued Income	55,913	128,672
Prepayments	66,774	75,181
	229,020	329,242

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
20. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	8,551	2,969
Credit Card	205	-
Credit Union	100	300
Deferred income	24,450	-
Funds held on behalf of other organisations	(48,090)	18,826
Grant Holding Account	12,538	12,538
Other creditors	30,345	602
Payroll clearing	25	-
Pension Contributions	7,856	9,577
Taxation and social security	15,961	17,184
Trade creditors	97,003	56,213
	148,944	118,209

21. DEFERRED INCOME

	Balance Brought Forward	Amounts released from previous year	Income deferred in the current year	Balance Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£
Deferred Income	-	-	24,450	24,450

Deferred income of £24,450 (2024: £nil) included above relates to grant income received during the year but relating to a future accounting period

22. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Total future minimum lease payments for non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Expiring:		
Within one year	-	17,440
Between one and five years	-	-
More than five years	-	-
	-	17,440

The above commitments include service charges as well as rent.

23. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Current year information for the net assets between funds:

	Unrestricted Funds			Restricted funds	2025
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Pension Funds		Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	12,894	-	-	-	12,894
Current assets	397,106	26,000	-	1001,660	1,424,766
Current liabilities	(124,494)	-	-	(24,450)	(148,944)
Pension liability < 1 year	-	-	(8,417)	-	(8,417)
	285,506	26,000	(8,417)	977,210	1,280,299

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Comparative year information for the net assets between funds:

	Unrestricted funds			Restricted funds	2024
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Pension Funds		Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	16,103	-	-	-	16,103
Current assets	443,328	26,000	-	1,039,533	1,508,861
Current liabilities	(118,209)	-	-	-	(118,209)
Pension liability < 1 year	-	-	(3,734)	-	(3,734)
	341,222	26,000	(3,734)	1,039,533	1,403,021

24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 01/04/2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers between funds	Gains/ (losses)	Balance at 31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	341,222	699,614	(822,015)	66,685	-	285,506
Designated Fund	26,000	-	-	-	-	26,000
Pension Fund	(3,734)	-	-	3,807	(8,490)	(8,417)
Total Unrestricted Funds	363,488	699,614	(822,015)	70,492	(8,490)	303,089
Restricted Funds						
CCG Capacity Building Fund	57,637	-	-	-	-	57,637
City Bridge Trust - Merton Giving	149,007	180,008	(148,901)	-	-	180,114
Comm Hub Jigsaw Model Research Year Project	31,913	-	-	(31,913)	-	-
Core Connectors	-	46,699	(23,105)	-	-	23,594
Early Years Support	-	2,302	-	-	-	2,302
LBM - Community Accountancy	79,497	-	(7,629)	(8,000)	-	63,868
LBM - Civic Pride	8,537	207,612	(202,338)	-	-	13,811
LBM - Healthwatch	37,460	130,000	(117,380)	-	-	50,080
LBM - Transforming communities capacity funding	37,500	-	-	-	-	37,500
Merton EMHIP Inequalities Project	5,000	42,878	(25,209)	-	-	22,669
NHS South West Vaccination Outreach	-	17,000	-	-	-	17,000
Propel - Motivate Merton	127,132	213,268	(313,817)	(30,628)	-	(4,045)
Sutton and Merton CCGs' Charitable Funds	488,306	-	-	-	-	488,306
Wimbledon Foundation – Merton Step Up	17,593	20,500	(13,719)	-	-	24,374
Young Londoner's Fund	(49)	-	-	49	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	1,039,533	860,267	(852,098)	(70,492)	-	977,210
TOTAL FUNDS	1,403,021	1,559,881	(1,674,113)	-	(8,490)	1,280,299

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
24. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS *continued*

Comparative year information for movement in funds:

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers between funds	Gains/ (losses)	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	322,112	645,954	(752,129)	125,285	-	341,222
Designated Fund	26,000	-	-	-	-	26,000
Pension Fund	(7,994)	-	-	4,568	(308)	(3,734)
Total Unrestricted Funds	340,118	645,954	(752,129)	129,853	(308)	363,488
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds						
City Bridge Trust - Merton Giving	4,244	61,100	(85,331)	19,987	-	-
CCG Capacity Building Fund	-	62,637	(5,000)	-	-	57,637
Comm Hub Jigsaw Model Research Year Project	25,205	6,708	-	-	-	31,913
LBM - Community Accountancy Support	55,049	24,775	(327)	-	-	79,497
LBM - Healthwatch	12,873	130,500	(105,913)	-	-	37,460
LBM - Transforming communities capacity funding	-	37,500	-	-	-	37,500
Merton EMHIP Inequalities Project	-	19,722	(1,591)	(13,131)	-	5,000
Propel - Motivate Merton	-	383,576	(192,434)	(64,010)	-	127,132
Sutton and Merton CCGs' Charitable Funds	488,306	-	-	-	-	488,306
LBM Civic Pride	-	207,113	(145,864)	(52,712)	-	8,537
Young Londoner's Fund	-	-	(49)	-	-	(49)
Merton Giving Grant Distribution Fund	98,644	137,207	(66,857)	(19,987)	-	149,007
Wimbledon Foundation – Merton Step Up	5,141	20,500	(8,048)	-	-	17,593
Total Restricted Funds	689,462	1,091,338	(611,414)	(129,853)	-	1,039,533
TOTAL FUNDS	1,029,580	1,737,292	(1,363,543)	-	(308)	1,403,021

25. FUNDS

The surpluses/deficits on restricted funds arise because of timing differences where funding has been received in advance of expenditure and will be utilised over the duration of the relevant projects. The restricted funds recognised in these accounts were provided for the purposes listed below.

The Designated Fund for £26000 relates to future Merton Giving management costs which are expected to contributed towards the management costs during 2026/27.

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature, and purposes of the fund
Capacity Building – Trust for London	To enhance the knowledge and skills of local BAME organisations with regards to housing, planning and regeneration issues, enabling them to better support their members and BAME residents to present and campaign on the issues that affect them. The underspend on this fund was used to continue the project work which was delayed by the pandemic.

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

25. FUNDS *continued*

City Bridge Trust – Merton Giving	This element of the City Bridge Trust funding provides funding to both MVSC and Merton Chamber of Commerce to jointly generate income and arrange subsequent grant funding rounds through the Merton Giving Fund. The funding targets and outcomes have been over-achieved as a result of the continued activity of the Merton Giving Coronavirus Fund and its successors.
Core Connectors	Health Inequalities funding, support for global majority communities suffering health inequalities
Early Years Support	Support project for families with young children
LBM – Community Accounting Support	As part of the work done within the Merton Giving team, we have also supported organisations with community accountancy during the application process.
LBM – Civic Pride	Core funding for volunteering and development
LBM - Healthwatch	Healthwatch is the consumer champion for health and social care services in LBM.
Merton EMHIP Inequality Project	The Ethnic Mental Health Improvement Plan (EMHIP) project provides outreach and support within the borough as part of the ICB Health Inequalities fund to understand barriers to accessing health services
NHS South West Vaccination Outreach	Promote vaccines to global majority communities where there is low uptake
Propel – Motivate Merton	GLA grant funding to support young people through a mentoring programme
Sutton and Merton CCG Charitable Funds	These funds were transferred to MVSC in February and March 2020 from an 'umbrella' charity managed by the Sutton and Merton CCGs. The transferred funds will be managed by MVSC and channelled through Merton Giving as grants to voluntary organisations and other not-for-profit bodies within the Borough of Merton to provide services with a focus on supporting residents and patients accessing local health and wellbeing services. MVSC will be promoting the development of social prescribing services throughout the borough and undertaking other activities, taking advice from the local PCN.
Wimbledon Foundation – Merton Step-Up	The Merton Step-up programme was conceived as a natural progression to the Merton Skill-up project (a capacity building project funded by Wimbledon Foundation for a three-year period). Its aim is to provide a coherent and structured framework to support organisations evolution and ratify that they have met at least a foundation level of quality in terms of organisational governance and service delivery. The programme has been used to respond to inequalities exposed by the pandemic, engaging with small local organisations who have either themselves been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and/or whose beneficiaries have been so (these include three local community centres, two of who are new and the third is undertaking a fundamental review of their organisation).

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**
26. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The Charity has authorised and contracted for expenditure of £Nil. The Charity has authorised but not contracted for expenditure of £Nil in its capital budget for the upcoming year.

27. CONTINGENT ASSETS

Total grant funding awarded as at 31 March 2025 but not yet received and recognised as income due to the recognition criteria not being met amounts to £709,624 (2024: £1,644,864).

Funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
City Bridge Trust	-	31,000
LBM - Civic Pride	201,113	402,225
LBM - Healthwatch Merton	125,000	250,000
London Borough of Merton	307,049	614,098
Merton Giving	-	100,000
Propel - Motivate Merton	-	206,541
Social Prescribing Project	55,962	-
Wimbledon Foundation Grant	20,500	41,000
	<u>709,624</u>	<u>1,644,864</u>

28. LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

Merton Voluntary Service Council is a registered charity (charity number 1085867) and private company (Company No: 04164949) incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales. The company is limited by guarantee 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 address of the registered office is given in the Legal and Administrative Information on page 3.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Voluntary income		
Donations	4,939	2,822
Investment income		
Interest received	45,359	44,132
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Grants and contracts	1,505,704	1,681,686
Other trading activities		
Miscellaneous income	3,756	5,222
Service Income	123	3,430
Total Income	<u>1,559,881</u>	<u>1,737,292</u>

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Staff Salaries	858,108	628,083
Employers National Insurance	79,574	55,460
Pension	39,358	36,530
Pension Scheme Costs	8,912	-
Staff Training	2,140	5,666
Associates and Interim Staff	47,746	66,330
Staff travel	435	1,646
Recruitment	14,768	19,892
Other staff expenses	3,912	2,996
Premises costs	47,523	51,540
Volunteers' expenses	663	603
Committee and meeting costs		2,824
Grants given	374,600	267,270
Publications and subscriptions	4,028	6,860
Communication and publicity	5,075	6,165
Stationery, postage and telephone	12,540	9,447
IT costs	75,201	54,668
Depreciation and amortisation	3,209	1,645
Other costs	1,622	2,325
Professional fees	10,593	17,888
Bank charges	878	1,164
Direct project costs	78,551	108,341
	1,669,436	1,347,343
Governance costs		
Audit Fees	4,111	5,000
Committee and Strategic Planning costs	566	11,200
	4,677	16,200
Total Expenses	1,674,113	1,363,543
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	(114,232)	373,749

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements












ACCOUNTS 31 March 2024 25 - FINAL

Final Audit Report

2026-02-23

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