

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**

**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

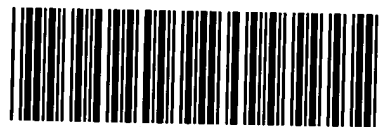
Charity number : 1086162

Company Number : 03286106



Feltons  
Chartered Accountants  
Birmingham  
B1 3JR

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**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**

**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report and financial statements  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Reference and administrative details	1
Report of the trustees	2
Independent auditor's report on the financial statements	9
Statement of financial activities incorporating income & expenditure account	13
Balance sheet	14
Cash flow statement	15
Notes forming part of the financial statements, incorporating :	
Statement of accounting policies	16
Other notes to the financial statements	22
<b>The following page does not form part of the statutory financial statements:</b>	
Detailed income and expenditure account	34

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Reference and Administrative Details**

Trustees	Mrs S A Rogers Mr G Walker Mrs M Hall Mr A S Coley Mrs K L Jones F A Betteridge	appointed 13 November 2023 resigned 1 April 2023
Company secretary	Mrs T D Graham	
Key management personnel	Andrew Coley	Chief Executive
Registered office		Trigate Building Hagley Road West Oldbury England B68 0NP
Charity number		1086162
Company registration number		03286106
Auditor		Feltons 8 Sovereign Court 8 Graham Street Birmingham B1 3JR
Bankers		Barclays Bank plc 47 High Street Dudley West Midlands DY1 1PP
Solicitors		Wright Hassall LLP Olympus Avenue Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV34 6BF

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

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

**Trustees of the charity**

Details of the trustees who served during the year and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative details on page 1.

**Objectives and activities**

The Trust's objectives are to promote the relief of and provide relief, support and assistance to individuals who, by reason of old age, mental illness or physical or learning disabilities, require special care and attention.

To promote, in particular, the relief of and support and assistance to beneficiaries who are resident in or associated to Sandwell MBC, Walsall MBC, Dudley MBC and Torbay Care Trust or any of its neighbouring councils.

There has been no change in these during the year.

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

Whilst the adverse consequences of the covid-19 pandemic have gradually subsided, covid-19 continues to pose challenges to the adult social care sector. Despite this, the Trust has managed to meet the objectives highlighted above. Throughout the year the Trust has successfully kept its residents, tenants and employees safe.

The principal activity of the Trust is to provide health and social care services to older people and adults with learning and/or physical disabilities. The Trust currently provides residential care for over 110 older people, 88 of whom are suffering with dementia, 150 days of day care each week for adults with profound learning and or physical disabilities and care and support to over 280 adults with learning disabilities in supported living. As reported in the previous years' financial statements, the pandemic had a detrimental impact upon occupancy, particularly within residential care, which contributed to a deterioration in financial performance. However, on a positive note, the recovery in occupancy levels within residential in the latter part of that financial year continued in the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

One of the continuing major objectives during the financial year has been to fully understand the implications of austerity on Local Authority income and the impact that this would have on the fees paid for the delivery of Adult Social Care. In addition, the Charity will need to continue to clarify the implications of the continued rise in the National Minimum Living Wage, particularly in the context of on-going austerity.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (continued)  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Objectives and activities (continued)**

There is no restriction on who can access the services provided by Sandwell Community Caring Trust. All the care packages which are provided are based on the clinical and social needs of each individual.

Admission to Sandwell Community Caring Trust's services normally takes place after a multi-disciplinary needs assessment, which involves the prospective service user and their family.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

The services provided by Sandwell Community Caring Trust are compliant with the Commission for Racial Equalities Code of Practice.

Due to the nature of the services that it provides, the charity does not rely on the use of volunteers.

**Strategic report**

The description under the headings "Achievements and performance" and "Financial review" meet the company law requirements for the Trustees to present a strategic report.

**Achievements and performance**

The Trust has continued to maintain and fulfil its contractual obligations and achieved its targets securing ongoing provision for the care of vulnerable people.

Two of the Trust's main key performance indicators are the level of employee sickness and staff turnover. Employee sickness levels are monitored through the year.

The staff turnover for this year was 17% (2023:19%) which was a decrease of 2 percentage points compared to last year.

Staff turnover not only has a financial impact on the Trust but also impact on the quality of care that is provided to its service users. These levels have remained constant over the years which contribute to a consistent happy work force that provide a high quality of care to the vulnerable people that deserve to receive continuity from the service they need.

Despite the difficulties experienced during the pandemic, the Trust successfully maintained the standard of care provision without recourse to the use of staffing agencies and continues to do so.

The quality of the care that the Trust provides is measured and regulated by the Care Quality Commission and is reflected in their inspection reports on the Trust's services.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (continued)  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Financial review (including reserves policy)**

The company's balance sheet as detailed on page 14 shows that the funds before the 2024 defined benefit pension scheme liability amounted to £8,736,631 (2023: £8,570,188). The closing position including the pension scheme liability as at 31 March 2024 was £8,736,631 (2023: £8,570,188).

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 13 of these financial statements shows a surplus expenditure of £448,443 (2023: net deficit expenditure £888,442) for this financial year. This considerable improvement in financial performance is attributable to a number of contributory factors, the most significant of which are fee increases as a result of the fair cost of care increases which have generated significant increases in fees paid by local authorities, residential care home occupancy rates being at near-capacity and the implementation of cost control measures.

The Balance Sheet, on page 14 of these financial statements, shows net current assets of £1,701,804 (2023: £1,755,932).

The Trustees are reassured that the Charity continues to meet its loan obligations and working capital requirements, when due, from its cash at bank balances.

Having considered the above, in conjunction with projections for the year ending 31 March 2025, at the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, as confirmed in note 1.2 on page 16, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds before the defined pension scheme liability, which have not been designated for a specific use, should be maintained at a level equivalent to 10% of incoming resources from charitable activities. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant reduction in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

Having developed a clear understanding of the implications of austerity on local authority contracts and the impact of the continued rise in the National Minimum Living Wage, as reported in previous years, the Charity introduced changes in the terms and conditions of its employees that reflect the new financial environment within which it operates. These changes were implemented in October 2018 and the Charity continues to assess the impact of these changes and review its financial position, in the context of its operating environment, on a regular basis.

**Investment powers and policy**

The charity currently has no long-term investments but takes advantage of short-term cash flow situations by placing funds with institutions approved by the Board.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (continued)  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

***Risk management***

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to these major risks.

The Trustee Board is responsible for overseeing the charity's risk management activities. Detailed consideration of risk is delegated to the Senior Management Team, who are continually reviewing this matter and reporting thereon to the Trustee Board. Through the risk management process established for the charity, the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks have been identified and processes for addressing them have been implemented. It is recognised that any control systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

In previous years the defined benefit pension scheme deficit has had a significant impact on the net assets of the Trust and is based on the valuation provided by the Scheme's actuaries in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The key risk to the Trust surrounding such a pension deficit is the funding of future contributions for both Schemes in place. This is mitigated by the fact that both Schemes no longer admit new members agreement with Sandwell MBC that any employer contributions above the agreed 17.9% relating to the EMI Scheme will be paid by the Council although the current employer contributions are 11.5% for this particular scheme. Furthermore, when an employer applies for admitted body status, the WMPF requires a guarantor or a Bond to cover any costs in the event of insolvency. The WMPF has procedures in place to mitigate the risks of rogue employers.

It should be noted that as at 31 March 2024 there was deemed to be a defined benefit pension surplus of £8.4m (2023: £6.6m). However, under FRS 102 a pension scheme surplus is only recognised as an asset in the balance sheet to the extent that the employer can recover a surplus through reduced contributions or refunds. Therefore, in accordance with these requirements the defined benefit pension liability is shown as nil on the balance sheet. See further details at note 24.

The Trustee Board is aware of the combined risks posed by austerity on local authority contracts and the increase in the National Minimum Living Wage. They have clear plans which will address these risks and ensure the continued sustainability of the Charity.

The Trustees previously reported on the outcome of a CQC inspection of its supported living services in July 2021.

The inspection rated SCCT's supported living services as 'inadequate.' This rating came as a complete surprise and in response a detailed action plan, to address all the concerns noted in the report, was implemented. This action plan was accepted by CQC and all the local authorities which commissioned our supported living services. Following the implementation of the action plan our supported living services were reinspected in February 2022. This follow-up inspection report recognised all the improvements that had been made and noted the very positive comments made by our service users and their families and other professionals working in partnership with SCCT. The overall rating was 'requires improvement'.

The inadequate rating from the report in July 2021, whilst very disappointing, did not represent any risk to the sustainability of SCCT as a business. All the key commissioners of our services remained confident in the services we provided and left all their contracts in place. Our commissioners worked with us to ensure that we addressed the issues highlighted by CQC.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (continued)  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

***Risk management (continued)***

The Senior Strategy Meeting process instigated by SCCT's commissioners, in response to the CQC report published on 14 September 2021, was closed with no further action required.

It was previously reported that SCCT would request a further full inspection of Supported Living Services by the CQC with the previous Chief Executive expecting the service to regain its "Good" rating. This has not occurred yet due to the CQC revising its regulatory approach and, in particular, its criteria for conducting re-inspections. SCCT will continue to explore the possibility of securing a further full inspection of its Supported Living Services.

**Plans for future periods**

The Trust is always looking towards the future, seeking out new prospects and contracts to enable them to continue to deliver services to those most needy.

The Trust is able to take advantage of any opportunities for expansion particularly through the transfer of providers from local authorities, as austerity and budget deductions fully impact on local authority expenditure on adult social care.

**Structure, governance and management**

***Governing document***

The Charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up on 1 April 1997. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mrs S A Rogers  
Mr G Walker  
Mrs M Hall  
Mr A Coley  
Ms K Jones (appointed 12 October 2023)

***Appointment of trustees***

The Board of Trustees may fill vacancies arising during the year by appointing Trustees themselves, but any Trustees so appointed shall retain their office only until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall be eligible for re-election.

Any appointments made are with due regard to the broad range of relevant skills required by the Board of Trustees and the specialist skills and experience offered by the applicant Trustee.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.



**Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (continued)  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

***Organisation***

The governing body of the Charity is the Board of Trustees which comprises 4 members and has met 4 times a year together with the Senior Management Team.

The Chief Executive has been appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations.

***Trustee induction and training***

Individual Trustee training is undertaken by Trustees on a need basis but training for the full Board of Trustees and Senior Management Team takes place at least annually and focuses on governance issues.

***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 senior manager of the charity with a client or supplier must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. Related party transactions in the current year are described in notes 10 and 25 to the accounts.

***Pay policy for senior staff***

The Trustees are responsible for determining the pay and conditions of key management personnel. This is done in consultation with an external human resources company who provide advice on comparative positions across the sector.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for recommending any changes in pay and conditions of the remainder of the paid service.

***Employee involvement***

The Charity's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions, staff councils and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests.

Information of matters of concern to employees is given through information bulletins and reports, which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the group's performance.

***Disabled persons***

Applications for employment made by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment within the Charity continues and that the appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the Charity that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (continued)  
Year ended 31 March 2024**

**Auditors**

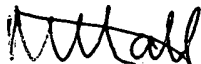
A resolution proposing that Feltons be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the members.

**Disclosure of information to auditor**

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**Mrs M Hall**

Dated: 6 December 2024

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of  
Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Sandwell Community Caring Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements :

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

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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

**Other information**

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

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of  
Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
(continued)**

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement (set out on page 5), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of  
Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
(continued)**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

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

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

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

**Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of  
Sandwell Community Caring Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
(continued)**

**Use of our report**

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

*Feltons*

**David W Farnsworth FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

For and on behalf of Feltons, Statutory Auditor

8 Sovereign Court

8 Graham Street

Birmingham B1 3JR

Date : *16/12/2024*

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income</b>						
Donations and legacies	4	30,326	-	-	30,326	35,854
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>	5					
Residential care home fees		16,154,478	-	-	16,154,478	14,198,034
Investment income	6	9,500	-	-	9,500	4,080
<b>Total income</b>		<b>16,194,304</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,194,304</b>	<b>14,237,968</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Operational and support costs	7	15,792,703	(282,000)	-	15,510,703	14,502,283
<i>Other costs:</i>						
Amount paid to SMBC		-			-	450,000
Financing costs	12	235,158			235,158	174,127
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>16,027,861</b>	<b>(282,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,745,861</b>	<b>15,126,410</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>		<b>166,443</b>	<b>282,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>448,443</b>	<b>(888,442)</b>
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) after transfers</b>		<b>166,443</b>	<b>282,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>448,443</b>	<b>(888,442)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	24	-	(282,000)	-	(282,000)	1,824,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>166,443</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>166,443</b>	<b>935,558</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward	19	8,196,795	-	373,393	8,570,188	7,634,630
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>8,363,238</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>373,393</b>	<b>8,736,631</b>	<b>8,570,188</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company Number : 03286106

/ Charity number : 1086162

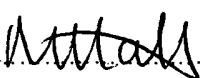
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		9,520,085		9,520,085
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	1,962,929		2,063,734	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,497,826</u>		<u>1,313,857</u>	
		3,460,755		3,377,591	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	<u>1,758,951</u>		<u>1,621,659</u>	
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>			1,701,804		1,755,932
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>11,221,889</u>		<u>11,276,017</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	16		(2,485,258)		(2,705,829)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>8,736,631</u>		<u>8,570,188</u>
<b>Defined benefit pension liability</b>			-		-
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><u>8,736,631</u></u>		<u><u>8,570,188</u></u>
<b>Funds of the charity :</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
General fund	19		373,393		373,393
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	19	8,363,238		8,196,795	
Pension fund	19	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
			8,363,238		8,196,795
<b>Total funds</b>			<u><u>8,736,631</u></u>		<u><u>8,570,188</u></u>

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

The notes on pages 16 to 33 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 6 December 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....  


Mrs M Hall  
(Chair)



**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of cash flows**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	22	694,706	(1,051,271)
Interest paid			
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>		<u>694,706</u>	<u>(1,051,271)</u>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>			
Interest received		9,500	4,080
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>		<u>9,500</u>	<u>4,080</u>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>			
Repayment of bank loans		(520,237)	(259,543)
<b>Net cash flow from financing activities</b>		<u>(520,237)</u>	<u>(259,543)</u>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<u>183,969</u>	<u>(1,306,734)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023		1,313,857	2,620,591
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024</b>		<u>1,497,826</u>	<u>1,313,857</u>

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**1. Accounting policies**

**General information**

Sandwell Community Caring Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. 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 charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are to provide health and social care services to older people and adults with learning and/or physical disabilities.

**1.1 Basis of preparation**

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

The 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.

**1.2 Going concern**

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

*The charity is conscious of continuing cost pressures across the sector and will, therefore, continue to restrict costs as far as possible whilst seeking new income sources that are consistent with its charitable objectives. The Trust will also continue to lobby local authorities regarding a sustainable level of care fees.*

**1.3 Funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Income recognition**

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

- **Grants receivable**

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

- **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**1.5 Expenditure recognition**

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

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.5 Expenditure recognition (continued)**

Expenditure is categorised under the following headings:

- **Charitable activities**  
These are costs incurred in activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- **Governance costs**  
These include the costs attributable to the trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

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

**1.6 Allocation of support costs**

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets**

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

Land and buildings, and long leasehold are not depreciated.

At each reporting date the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any.

**1.8 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.9 Financial instruments**

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

*Basic financial assets*

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

*Basic financial liabilities*

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

*Derecognition of financial liabilities*

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

**1.10 Operating leases**

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

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.11 Taxation**

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

**1.12 Pension benefits**

During the year the Trust operated two LGPS defined benefit pension schemes and a defined contribution pension scheme.

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

Neither of the defined benefit schemes admit new members. New members of staff are admitted into the defined contribution scheme on their employment with the Charity.

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method and is based on actuarial advice. Actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gain and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate on high quality corporate bonds) less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

Termination benefits are employee benefits provided in exchange for the termination of an employee's involvement in the Charity. Redundancy costs are recognised immediately once the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate employment.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.13 Employee benefits**

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination payments are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

**2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

**Critical judgements**

*Recoverability of trade debtors*

A provision for doubtful debtors from operations is set up when the likelihood of recovering the debt is diminished. The level of provision will be based on any current repayment plan entered into and which is being adhered to by the debtor, together with an estimate of the likelihood of the amounts being fully recovered.

**Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

*Defined benefit pension scheme*

The charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors including : life expectancy, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends. See note 24 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit scheme.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**3. Prior year Statement of Financial Activities (year end 31 March 2023)**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income</b>				
Donations and legacies	35,854	-	-	35,854
Income from charitable activities	14,198,034	-	-	14,198,034
Investment income	4,080	-	-	4,080
<b>Total income</b>	<b>14,237,968</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,237,968</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charitable activities	14,291,283	211,000	-	14,502,283
Amount paid to SMBC in the year	450,000	-	-	450,000
Other	174,127	-	-	174,127
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>14,915,410</b>	<b>211,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,126,410</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>	<b>(677,442)</b>	<b>(211,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(888,442)</b>
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	-	1,824,000	-	1,824,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(677,442)</b>	<b>1,613,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>935,558</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward	8,874,237	(1,613,000)	373,393	7,634,630
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>8,196,795</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>373,393</b>	<b>8,570,188</b>

**4. Donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	19,187	-	19,187	24,000
Covid-19 government support	-	-	-	11,854
Grants	11,139	-	11,139	-
	<b>30,326</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,326</b>	<b>35,854</b>

General donations and income for digitalisation project.



**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**5. Income from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Residential care home fees	16,154,478	-	-	16,154,478	14,198,034
	<u>16,154,478</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,154,478</u>	<u>14,198,034</u>

**6. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Deposit account interest	9,500	-	9,500	4,080
	<u>9,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,500</u>	<u>4,080</u>

**7. Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Activity 1 £	Activity 2 £	Residential and day care services £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Operational and support costs</b>					
Staff costs	-	-	10,633,340	10,633,340	9,986,122
Heat and light	-	-	174,581	174,581	164,295
Rent, rates and insurance	-	-	1,003,611	1,003,611	1,044,938
Telecommunications	-	-	7,044	7,044	10,231
Other staff costs	-	-	21,646	21,646	44,614
Motor and travel	-	-	60,450	60,450	92,828
Repairs, renewals and equipment hire	-	-	539,707	539,707	544,673
Cleaning, waste and pest control	-	-	142,648	142,648	138,756
Other office costs and sessionals	-	-	84,880	84,880	84,127
Printing, postage and stationery	-	-	6,187	6,187	5,582
Provisions	-	-	364,159	364,159	250,494
Support costs (see note 7)	-	-	2,428,292	2,428,292	2,070,777
Governance costs (see note 7)	-	-	44,158	44,158	64,846
	-	-	<u>15,510,703</u>	<u>15,510,703</u>	<u>14,502,283</u>

Total expenditure on charitable activities was £15,510,703 (2023 - £14,502,283) of which £15,510,703 (2023 - £14,502,283) was unrestricted and £nil (2023 - £nil) was restricted.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**8. Analysis of support and governance costs**

	<b>Basis of allocation</b>	<b>General support</b>	<b>Governance function</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	Staff time	1,111,220		1,111,220	1,158,204
Heat and light	Usage	10,694		10,694	8,786
Rent, rates and insurance	Usage	366,929		366,929	325,685
Telecommunications	Usage	38,208		38,208	39,570
Other staff costs	Usage	182,337		182,337	172,990
Motor and travel	Usage	33,357		33,357	45,062
Repairs, renewals and equipment hire	Usage	157,720		157,720	110,700
Cleaning, waste and pest control	Usage	81,134		81,134	1,712
Other office costs and sessionals	Usage	417,235		417,235	177,578
Printing, postage and stationery	Usage	24,011		24,011	29,971
Provisions	Usage	5,447		5,447	519
Audit and accountancy services	Governance	-	40,110	40,110	47,880
Legal and other professional	Governance	-	4,048	4,048	16,966
		<u>2,428,292</u>	<u>44,158</u>	<u>2,472,450</u>	<u>2,135,623</u>

**9. Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

Net income / (expenditure) is stated after charging / (crediting):

	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Operating lease rentals		
Office equipment	106,222	75,866
Premises	1,066,246	1,111,625
Bank interest payable		-
Auditors remuneration	15,000	47,880

The auditors remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £15,000 (2023 - £32,880) and other services of £nil (2023 - £15,000).

**10. Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses**

A Coley received remuneration in the year of £98,000 (2023 - G Walker, £124,000) paid to him for his role as Chief Executive and not as a trustee of the charity.

No trustee was reimbursed expenses during the year (2023 - £nil).

The Trust considers its key management personnel comprise of Chief Executive Officer. The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel was £98,000 (2023 - £244,105).

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**11. Analysis of staff costs and numbers**

**a) Staff costs :**

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	10,727,813	9,660,751
Social security costs	891,151	845,978
Other pension costs	111,828	620,134
	<u>11,730,792</u>	<u>11,126,863</u>
Severance payments	13,768	17,463
	<u>11,744,560</u>	<u>11,144,326</u>

Included in other pension costs above is an adjustment of £282,000 (2023 - £218,000) relating to the increased pension costs as a result of the 2024 Pension Expense Calculation in respect of pension benefits provided by the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The amounts above relate to the shortfall in contributions as advised by the Actuary of £31,000 (2023 - £169,505), interest costs advised by the Actuary of £313,000 (2023 - £45,000) and administration costs advised by the Actuary of £nil (2023 - £3,495).

**b) Staff numbers :**

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

	<b>2024 Number</b>	<b>2023 Number</b>
Care	475	448
Finance and administration	13	13
	<u>488</u>	<u>461</u>

**c) Higher paid staff**

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was :

	<b>2022/23 Number</b>	<b>2021/22 Number</b>
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£90,000 - £100,000	1	-
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

**12. Other costs**

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Finance costs	<u>235,158</u>	<u>174,127</u>

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**13. Tangible fixed assets**

	Land and buildings £	Long leasehold £	Office equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	8,969,945	550,140	-	9,520,085
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	-	-	-	-
<b>Net book values</b>				
At 31 March 2024	8,969,945	550,140	-	9,520,085
At 31 March 2023	8,969,945	550,140	-	9,520,085

Freehold land and buildings with a carrying amount of £7,467,081 (2023 - £7,467,081) have been pledged to secure borrowings of the Charity. The Charity is not allowed to pledge these assets as security for other borrowings or to sell them to another entity.

Barclays Bank plc hold a debenture with a fixed and floating charge over the undertaking.

Depreciation on freehold property is not provided as the trustees feel that significant replacement and maintenance works are carried out on an annual basis and therefore there is no material change to the net book value at the year end.

**14. Debtors**

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Debtors from operations	1,654,169	1,874,442
Prepayments and accrued income	260,837	75,056
Other debtors	47,923	114,236
	<u>1,962,929</u>	<u>2,063,734</u>

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**15. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Bank loans	220,572	520,238
Creditors from operations	305,875	162,895
Taxation and social security	199,307	200,747
Accruals and deferred income	975,110	713,075
Other creditors	58,087	24,704
	<u>1,758,951</u>	<u>1,621,659</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	186,223	222,566
Resources deferred in the year	127,866	186,223
Amounts released from previous years	<u>(186,223)</u>	<u>(222,566)</u>
Deferred income at 31 March 2024	<u>127,866</u>	<u>186,223</u>

At the balance sheet date the charity was holding funds received in advance for a digitalisation project and residential care fees.

**16. Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Bank loans	<u>2,485,258</u>	<u>2,705,829</u>

**17. Loans and overdrafts**

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Bank loans	<u>2,705,830</u>	<u>3,226,067</u>
Payable within one year	220,572	520,238
Payable after more than one year	<u>2,485,258</u>	<u>2,705,829</u>
	<u>2,705,830</u>	<u>3,226,067</u>

The long term loans are secured by fixed charges against the properties to which they relate.

The interest rates on the loans vary from 3% to 7.5% and repayment terms vary from 2023 to 2038.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**18. Commitments under operating leases**

At 31 March 2024 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases :

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Within one year	1,332,217	1,305,111
Within two to five years inclusive	4,788,621	4,402,172
In over five years	18,102,072	15,942,782
	<u>24,222,910</u>	<u>21,650,065</u>

**19. Analysis of funds**

	<b>Balance at 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024 £</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Alsop House	373,393	-	-	-	373,393
Pension	-	-	282,000	(282,000)	-
	<u>373,393</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>282,000</u>	<u>(282,000)</u>	<u>373,393</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	8,196,795	16,194,304	(16,027,861)	-	8,363,238
	<u>8,196,795</u>	<u>16,194,304</u>	<u>(16,027,861)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,363,238</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>8,570,188</u>	<u>16,194,304</u>	<u>(15,745,861)</u>	<u>(282,000)</u>	<u>8,736,631</u>

<b>Name of fund</b>	<b>Description, nature and purpose of fund</b>
<b>Restricted general fund</b>	<p>Money given to the charity where the donor requires that a grant or donation be spent for a specific project.</p> <p>Funds relating to Alsop House were received from the Lottery Community Fund and 92% of the asset value would be repayable to BIG in the event of the disposal of the asset prior to 1 February 2025. The remainder of the funds are not repayable.</p>
<b>Unrestricted general fund</b>	The free reserves of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**20. Analysis of net assets between funds**

Fund balances at 31 March 2024  
are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	9,146,692	-	373,393	9,520,085
Current assets	3,460,755	-	-	3,460,755
Current liabilities	(1,758,951)	-	-	(1,758,951)
Long term liabilities	(2,485,258)	-	-	(2,485,258)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>8,363,238</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>373,393</b>	<b>8,736,631</b>

Comparative information in respect  
of the preceding period is as follows  
:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted pension fund £	Restricted general funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	9,146,692	-	373,393	9,520,085
Current assets	3,377,591	-	-	3,377,591
Current liabilities	(1,621,659)	-	-	(1,621,659)
Long term liabilities	(2,705,829)	-	-	(2,705,829)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>8,196,795</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>373,393</b>	<b>8,570,188</b>

**21. Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities**

In the 2017/18 financial year SCCT entered into a lease with Real Estate Investors PLC and Sandwell Valley School (SVS) to act as the guarantor of the rent should the tenant (SVS) fail to pay. The lease runs from 29 September 2016 to 28 September 2041 with a rental charge of £120,000 plus VAT per annum.

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

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	448,443	(888,442)
Interest receivable	(9,500)	(4,080)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 24)	39,000	166,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost/(income) (note 24)	(313,000)	45,000
Defined benefit pension scheme unfunded benefits paid	(8,000)	-
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	100,805	(310,190)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	436,958	(59,559)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>694,706</b>	<b>(1,051,271)</b>

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**23. Analysis of changes in net (debt)/funds**

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,313,857	183,969	1,497,826
Loans falling due within one year	(3,017,733)	2,797,161	(220,572)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(208,334)	(2,276,924)	(2,485,258)
	<u>(1,912,210)</u>	<u>704,206</u>	<u>(1,208,004)</u>

**24. Retirement benefit schemes**

**Defined contribution schemes**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £257,936 (2023 - £260,134).

**Defined benefit schemes**

The charity operates a defined benefit pension plan for qualifying employees providing benefits based upon final pensionable pay. The pension plan is funded by the payment of contributions and assets of the plan are held in a separately administered fund.

The most recent comprehensive actuarial valuation of pension plan assets and the present value of the defined benefit obligation were carried out at 31 March 2019.

The fair value of the pension assets at 31 March 2024 are in excess of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at that date. This gives rise to a surplus of £8,423,000 (2023 - £6,602,000).

The surplus is recognised in the financial statements only to the extent that the Trust can recover that surplus, either through a reduction in future contributions or through a refund to the Charity.

The Charity is not able to determine that future contributions will be reduced nor will it receive a refund in the foreseeable future. Therefore the surplus of £8,423,000 (2023 - £6,602,000) is not recognised as an asset at 31 March 2024. An adjustment has been made through the Statement of Financial Activities to reflect this.

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	At 31 March 2024	At 31 March 2023
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	3.78%	4.75%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.78%	3.00%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.83%	4.00%



**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**24. Retirement benefit schemes (continued)**

**Mortality assumptions**

The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<b>At 31 March 2023</b>
Retiring today		
Males	20.3	21.7
Females	22.7	22.7
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	19.5	20.0
Females	24.4	24.9

**Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities**

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Current service cost	179,000	315,000
Interest income	(1,121,000)	(641,000)
Interest cost	808,000	686,000
	<u>(134,000)</u>	<u>360,000</u>

**Amounts taken to other comprehensive income**

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Actual return on scheme assets	-	129,000
Interest income	1,121,000	641,000
Return on scheme assets	1,121,000	770,000
Actuarial changes related to scheme assets	<u>(282,000)</u>	<u>1,824,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was 9.70% (2023: 5%)

The amounts included on the balance sheet arising from the charity's obligations in respect of defined benefit schemes are as follows:

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Present value of defined benefit obligations	25,690,000	23,793,000
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(25,690,000)</u>	<u>(23,793,000)</u>
<b>Deficit in scheme</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows :**

	<b>2023/24 £</b>	<b>2022/23 £</b>
At 1 April 2023	23,793,000	25,566,000
Current service cost	179,000	315,000
Benefits paid	(590,000)	(603,000)
Unfunded benefits paid	(8,000)	-
Employee contributions	54,000	49,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(367,000)	(8,822,000)
Interest cost	808,000	686,000
Adjustment for unrecognised surplus in scheme	1,821,000	6,602,000
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<u>25,690,000</u>	<u>23,793,000</u>

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**24. Retirement benefit schemes (continued)**

The defined benefit obligations arise from plans funded as follows :

	<b>Total 2023/24</b>	<b>Total 2022/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wholly unfunded obligations	89,000	90,000
Wholly or partly funded obligations	17,178,000	17,101,000
Adjustment for unrecognised surplus in scheme	8,423,000	6,602,000
	<u>25,690,000</u>	<u>23,793,000</u>

Changes in the fair value of Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows :

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2023	23,793,000	23,953,000
Interest income	1,121,000	641,000
Return on assets less interest	1,172,000	(770,000)
Benefits paid net of transfers in	(590,000)	(603,000)
Employer contributions	140,000	142,000
Employee contributions	54,000	56,000
Other	-	374,000
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>	<u>25,690,000</u>	<u>23,793,000</u>

The trust's share of the assets in the scheme was :

	<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>31 March 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Equities	15,670,900	16,179,240
Property	7,193,200	1,665,510
Bonds	1,541,400	5,234,460
Cash and other liquid assets	1,284,500	713,790
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<u>25,690,000</u>	<u>23,793,000</u>

The latest asset split that has been provided allows for index returns, where required, on each asset category to determine the split of assets.

**25. Related party transactions**

The following related party transactions took place during the period :

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Sandwell Valley School Limited</b>		
Company in which M Hall, A Coley and G Walker are directors		
Income received from related party during the year	-	7,920
Expenditure to related company during the year	2,584	-
Amount due from/(to) related company at year end	246	14,368

**Sandwell Community Caring Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

**25. Related party transactions (continued)**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Lymph Care UK</b>		
Company in which G Walker is a member of the board		
Income received from related party during the year	3,870	2,000
Amount due from/(to) related company at year end	4,245	250

**26. Contingent liability**

The Trust is currently disputing a dilapidations liability of £158,989 claimed by its former landlord. A provision has been made in these accounts for any potential liability arising.