

**FOUNDATION FURNITURE AND GARDENING PROJECT LIMITED**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Charity No 1090034**

**Company registration number 03731516 (England and Wales)**

## FOUNDATION FURNITURE AND GARDENING PROJECT LIMITED

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**FOUNDATION FURNITURE AND GARDENING PROJECT LIMITED****1**

Legal and administrative information

Year ended 31 March 2025

<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	Rev B Howell E McMaster L O'Hallerton M Poulter
<b>Charity Number</b>	1090034
<b>Company Number</b>	03731516
<b>Registered Office</b>	Units 1 & 2 Teams Craft Workshops Askew Road West Gateshead Tyne & Wear NE8 2PB
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	TIG Accountants Metropolitan House Longrigg Road Swalwell Gateshead NE16 3AS

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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).

### **Objectives and activities**

Foundations aims to alleviate the effects of furniture poverty and disadvantage and to help Gateshead residents to create and maintain safe, settled and stable home lives. We achieve this through furniture reuse.

Each weekday our staff and volunteers collect donated furniture free of charge from residents in and around Tyne and Wear. Each item is then brought back to our charity where we carry out safety tests and checks, and make the items available at a low cost to people experiencing furniture poverty, and, whenever possible, free of charge for people experiencing crisis.

Our low-cost furniture is available to anyone in Gateshead who is experiencing hardship for many different reasons, including:

- households in receipt of benefits, or have benefit claim decisions pending
- households with benefit payments reduced due to rent arrears
- households affected by in-work poverty
- households affected by debt
- people in crisis and rebuilding their lives (after homelessness or fleeing from abuse for example).

### **Achievements and performance**

Over the last 12 months we have continued to successfully provide free and low-cost furniture to Gateshead residents. Demand for furniture remains high, and we have had a consistent supply of pre-loved furniture thanks to the generosity of people and organisations across Tyne and Wear who have donated items to us.

- 716 households were supported with furniture benefitting 1,724 people in total, of which 723 were children
  - 138 households were in crisis/absolute poverty and received free support to rebuild their home lives quickly
  - 71,658kgs of furniture was collected, from 709 households, saving £6,067 in landfill tax.
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We'd like to say thank you to everyone who supported us in 2024/25 including:

- Gateshead Council
- Community Foundation
- TNL Community Fund
- Gateshead Parochial Charities
- Reeds Grassroots Fund
- Pattinson Estate Agents
- Places for People

**Why we do it**

- 170,000 children (31%) were living in poverty across the North East in 2023/24
- 30% of families on low incomes struggled to afford beds for their children in 2020
- Recovery from homelessness and crisis can feel particularly challenging when experiencing financial hardship
- Over 1 million adults in the UK are in "deep furniture poverty," missing three or more essential items
- The cost of furniture, furnishings, and carpets has increased significantly over the past 10 years, further exacerbating the problem of furniture poverty for people in hardship
- Prevention of debt and rent arrears, which can lead to failed tenancies
- Furniture poverty can lead to increased cost of living for people already affected by hardship. (Without kitchen appliances like an oven or fridge for example, food bills become more expensive.)
- Over 6 million people in the UK do not have access to essential furniture, furnishings and appliances, according to research by End Furniture Poverty
- Prevention of preloved furniture being sent to landfill unnecessarily
- Stretched local resources

**Foundations case study**

A mother and her children moved to the UK from Europe. Originally, they lived in a furnished flat however the landlord served notice. Gateshead Council rehomed the family due to the risk of homelessness. The new property was unfurnished and the family had no access to funds to buy furniture. They were referred to Foundations by Gateshead Council to access support for beds, bedroom furniture, and sofas. When we spoke to the household a few months after delivering their furniture, the mother told us that she felt more confident tackling issues, and speaks to her new neighbours frequently which, she told us, is a great help in improving her English language. She disclosed she is feeling much less stressed, had found a job that fits in with the children, and has made friends at her new place of work. She told us:-

*"It was a fantastic service. I could never have got established and settled the children so quickly. I've avoided debt that would have made life even harder for us financially. I've created a home for me and my daughters, and it's our safe place because I now have a secure tenancy. I've saved money that I've been able to spend on my daughters' needs and have been back to Foundations to help make our home even more homely. I'm far less worried and pressured when it comes to sorting things out now."*

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### **New Beds for Children**

For several years now, we have provided free new beds and mattresses to children. With the uncertainty of consistent donations of single beds, we have received several grants allowing us to purchase 60 new beds and mattresses to give free of charge to children in 2024/25. The monitoring for this project has highlighted a far-reaching impact for children and their parent(s)/carer(s).

### **Free, Pre-loved Items**

In the last 12 months we have received support from local and national funders to provide free, pre-loved furniture to the most vulnerable households in Gateshead. Households who benefit are identified by our team when people visit us for help and disclose their circumstances, and we receive referrals from various Gateshead Council departments, NHS professionals and voluntary sector organisations. The households who benefit have experienced positive outcomes as a result.

### **Social impact**

Outcomes for beneficiaries include:

- improved friendships and greater engagement in social and community activities
  - feeling more settled and stable
  - reduction in psychological distress
  - feeling a sense of belonging
  - reduced and/or avoided debt
  - greater positivity, motivation, aspirations and hope
  - improved sleep for children
  - We create a £213,015 value to the social housing sector per year. In addition, the overall health and wellbeing value of our work equates to £54,495, with a potential cost saving to the public purse of £33,715 in health interventions per year.
  - We help reduce the need for temporary accommodation by preventing failed tenancies, and by helping people to quickly move into tenancies. This has a potential cost saving of £45,883 per year.
  - A secure and settled home leads to a potential £7,758 saving per year, particularly for households who have had to move to a new community.
  - For every £1 donated or granted to Foundations, we create a social, economic and environmental impact that has a value of £3.22.
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**Report of the Trustees**

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

**Social Impact Survey Results:**

- 100% experienced increased confidence
- 100% had greater self esteem
- 100% feel more supported
- 100% had improved mental health
- 73% experienced a greater sense of independence
- 67% felt more included in the community
- 53% had improved social lives

**Volunteering**

18 local people contributed 3,969 hours to Foundations over the year by giving their time, experience and support as volunteers. This created a social capital value of £45,405.

**Foundation4work**

Alongside our core activities, Foundations also provides free support for unemployed Gateshead residents to access a job readiness programme lasting up to 12 weeks. With funding from The National Lottery Community Fund (Reaching Communities) this year, volunteers were given personalised support with any of the following:

- Work experience
- Goal setting
- Online job searching
- Writing CVs
- Writing and submitting application forms
- Preparing for interviews

The programme provides free work boots and PPE for participants to keep, travel expenses to and from our charity and an employment readiness toolkit with everything needed to continue their journey independently after their time with us. In the past 12 months, participants have gone on to paid employment, further training or continued to gain work experience to add to their CV by volunteering with our charity, or elsewhere.

**Future plans**

Our focus for the next 12 months is to continue to raise awareness of our free collection service to encourage as many donations of furniture and appliances as possible. Due to demand being high for furniture, there is always a risk that the need for household items could outweigh the supply of furniture donations, therefore we are also focusing our efforts on securing funds to ensure we continue to have a supply of free new beds and mattresses for the most vulnerable children in Gateshead.

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**Financial review, reserves policy and going concern**

The financial statements show a deficit of £51,596. The charity retains a cash balance of £119,751 which will assist running costs in these difficult financial times.

The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves as at 31 March 2025 would be £100,000. At this level of unrestricted reserves the charity could maintain operation for six months.

Current unrestricted reserves amount to £68,967 (2024: £119,595). The charity enjoys good liquidity and has no issue on meeting its liabilities when they are due. The trustees are confident for the next twelve months. Grant applications are being submitted and everyone is optimistic for their success in gaining funding.

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 the major risks.

**Structure, governance, and management**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 11 March 1999 and registered as a charity on 10 January 2002. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

- Rev B Howell
- Mrs E McMaster
- Mr L O'Hallerton
- Martin Poulter

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees continually audit the available skills of the board and look to acquire new trustees with different skills and experiences which can assist in the growth of the organisation. Recruitment is by approach and word of mouth.

The trustees and management have carried out an assessment of the major risks facing the charity.

Signed on behalf of the management committee, on 7 November 2025.



Rev B Howell  
Trustee

**Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees of Foundation Furniture and Gardening Project Limited**

I report on the financial statements of Foundation Furniture and Gardening Project Limited for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

**Respective responsibility of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

**J Hart FCCA**  
Metropolitan House  
Longrigg Road  
Swalwell  
Gateshead  
NE16 3AS

Date: 7 November 2025

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**FOUNDATION FURNITURE AND GARDENING PROJECT LIMITED**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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		<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<i><b>Total 2024 £</b></i>
Donations and legacies	2	24,790	47,381	72,171	120,450
Charitable activities	3	97,776	-	97,776	94,586
Other income	4	5,160	-	5,160	5,000
<b>Total income</b>		<b>127,726</b>	<b>47,381</b>	<b>175,107</b>	<b>220,036</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Charitable activities	5	179,943	46,760	226,703	208,581
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>179,943</b>	<b>46,760</b>	<b>226,703</b>	<b>208,581</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>(52,217)</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>(51,596)</b>	<b>11,455</b>
Transfers		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(52,217)</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>(51,596)</b>	<b>11,455</b>
Total funds brought forward		119,595	51,379	170,974	159,519
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>67,378</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>119,378</b>	<b>170,974</b>

**FOUNDATION FURNITURE AND GARDENING PROJECT LIMITED**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025**

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		2025	2024
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	9	485	1,131
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	10	2,980	792
Cash at bank and in hand		119,751	170,720
		<u>122,731</u>	<u>171,512</u>
<b>Creditors – amount due within one year</b>	11	(3,838)	(1,669)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>118,893</u>	<u>169,843</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>119,378</u>	<u>170,974</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Restricted Income funds	12	52,000	51,379
Unrestricted funds		<u>67,378</u>	<u>119,595</u>
		<u>119,378</u>	<u>170,974</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 7 November 2025 and signed on the trustees behalf by:

*Brian Howell*

Rev B Howell  
Trustee

**1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 1023), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

**Basis of accounting**

The charity has adopted the accruals basis of accounting as required by the regulations.

**Income**

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

**Expenditure**

Costs are recognised as and when there becomes a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources.

**Funds accounting**

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 subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the funder, donor or through the terms of an appeal.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is charged at 33% straight line per year

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**FOUNDATION FURNITURE AND GARDENING PROJECT LIMITED**

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**Notes to the accounts**

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

**2 Grants receivable for core activities**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Community Foundation	-	6,650	6,650	3,250
Gateshead MBC	24,375	6,000	30,375	38,500
The Henry Smith Foundation	-	-	-	36,700
Nationwide Foundation	-	-	-	27,500
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust	-	-	-	7,000
Tesco Community Grants	-	-	-	500
Toy Trust	-	-	-	2,000
Van Neste Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
The National Lottery Community Fund (Reaching Communities Programme)	-	34,431	34,431	-
Other Grants	415	300	715	-
	<u>24,790</u>	<u>47,381</u>	<u>72,171</u>	<u>120,450</u>

**3 Income from charitable activities**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Furniture and white goods	89,416	86,470
Delivery charges	8,360	8,015
Other Income	-	101
	<u>97,776</u>	<u>94,586</u>

**4 Other Income**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Employment Allowance	5,000	5,000
Interest	160	-
	<u>5,160</u>	<u>5,000</u>

**5 Expenditure**

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	99,687	29,439	129,126	128,891
Direct costs	4,323	12,950	17,273	17,996
Establishment	32,336	-	32,336	24,587
Motor and travel	181	-	181	160
Office costs	3,327	150	3,477	2,437
Telephone	1,995	-	1,995	1,759
Accountancy	990	-	990	990
Software and IT	7,715	-	7,715	8,475
Cleaning and waste	121	-	121	430
Repairs and renewals	-	-	-	2,275
Bank charges	2,612	-	2,612	2,589
Depreciation	646	-	646	608
Insurance	2,960	-	2,960	2,840
Training	257	-	257	-
Management fee and Contribution to Core	22,793	4,221	27,014	14,544
	<u>179,943</u>	<u>46,760</u>	<u>226,703</u>	<u>208,581</u>

**6 Trustees expenses**

Expenses paid to trustees during the year: £Nil (2024: £Nil)

**Fees for examination of the accounts**

	2025 £	2024 £
Fee for reporting on the accounts	<u>990</u>	<u>990</u>

**7 Wages**

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross wages	120,611	121,651
Social security cost	7,289	6,106
Pensions	<u>1,226</u>	<u>1,134</u>
Total staff costs	<u>129,126</u>	<u>128,891</u>

**FOUNDATION FURNITURE AND GARDENING PROJECT LIMITED**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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**8 Staff numbers**

Staff numbers during the year were as follows

	<b>Part time</b>	<b>Full time</b>	<b>Total</b>
Management and administration	<u>-</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

**9 Tangible Fixed Assets**

	<b>Computers £</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2024	2,933
Additions	<u>          </u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,933</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2024	1,802
Depreciation charged in the year	<u>646</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,448</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2025	<u>485</u>

**10 Debtors**

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Debtors	2,200	-
Prepayments	<u>780</u>	<u>792</u>
	<u>2,980</u>	<u>792</u>

**FOUNDATION FURNITURE AND GARDENING PROJECT LIMITED**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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**11 Creditors – amount falling due within one year**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	2,848	679
Accruals and deferred income	990	990
	<u>3,838</u>	<u>1,669</u>

**12 Net movement on funds**

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General	119,595	127,726	(179,943)	-	67,378
<b>Restricted</b>					
Other Funds	<u>51,379</u>	<u>47,381</u>	<u>(46,760)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,000</u>
	<u>170,974</u>	<u>175,107</u>	<u>(226,703)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>119,378</u>

**13 Related party transactions**

Mr B Howell and Mrs E McMaster are unpaid directors of Teamwork Development Trust CIC. Teamwork Development Trust CIC provides management services to the company. During the year the cost of these services amounted to £13,250 (2024: £14,544). Certain expenses are recharged from Teamwork Development Trust CIC for software, legal support and staff time. The recharged amount was £13,764 (2024: £12,786).