



Taking Part

An Independent Service for People with Health & Social Care Needs

Louise House, Roman Road,
Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 9JN

Telephone: 01743 363399

takingpart@takingpart.co.uk

Changing Times, Changing Lives

January 2025

Taking Part continues to survive another challenging year like many other charities throughout the sector. We will have the great pleasure in celebrating our 30 year anniversary in November 2024. This will be quite an achievement for such a small charity in the current circumstances with pressures being experienced on finances and increased demand for our services.

In February 2024, Taking Part were awarded the Quality Performance Mark for advocacy from NDTI again. This award lasts for 3 years and it is our 3rd time of being awarded it. Our assessor from NDTI said that for a small charity we punch way above our weight. We received glowing feedback from our submitted information and site visit.

At the beginning of 2024, Taking Part was preparing for retendering for existing contracts for our advocacy service. We worked with our collaborative partners to have facts and figures available to be able to submit a tender document with the hope that we would be successful going forward.

During 2023/2024 our dedicated staff team supported an increasing amount of people with a wide range of health and social care needs in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

**Advocacy
Guidance**

Information

Advice

Registered Charity No: 1092033

Company Registration No: 4362948

In Shropshire, our Advice, Advocacy and Welfare Benefits partnership supported 652 people with advocacy with 8399 interventions. Our volunteer advocates provided 1915 hours of the time for free which equates to £25.220

In Telford, our Wellbeing Independence Partnership took 1736 calls at First Point of Contact and supported a further 339 clients with follow up and more intense work.

In October 2023, 2 of our board members retired after giving us over 20 years of service. It was said to say goodbye to them but we understood their reasons for retiring. In May 2024, sadly, another of our trustees died very suddenly. This was devastating news for their family and Taking Part as an organisation. For the rest of the year Taking Part endeavoured to recruit more Trustees.

During this financial year of 2023/2024, Taking Part was able to secure some additional funding from Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin NHS to continue work around health inequalities for people with learning difficulties. We also remained a preferred supplier in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin to provide parental advocacy to clients who have substantial difficulties in understanding statutory services where they are under child protection or are children in need

Continued work with our local Integrated Care System along with other voluntary sector colleagues is challenging and time consuming. Our CEO is still involved in many workshops and meetings to see how the voluntary sector is being included and seen as equal partners but without funding. Within Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (STW) there is much work being undertaken strategically by voluntary sector leads to ensure that charities and their work is being recognised as vital services in the prevention agenda in the world of health and social care. Taking Part is very much linked into this work encouraging community solutions and promoting self help where possible. This work is also looking at resilience and sustainability of the sector across STW and assessing our impact locally based on outcomes and outputs and social value.

Taking Part remains resilient and confident that we can continue to deliver our services for going forward. However, we are experiencing a reduction in funding year on year and an increase in demand for our services.

Our Taking Part team consists of:

Volunteer Board of Trustees

- Jean Harris (chair)
- Garry Kirlew
- Sue Godfrey (retired October 2023)
- John Godfrey (retired October 2023)
- Paul Hume-Miller (passed away May 2024)

Staff Team

- C.E.O Julie Mellor, day to day management of the charity plus strategic representation, networking, maintaining our ongoing business plans and maintaining all required returns and outcome reports.
- Six further contracted staff – 4 Shropshire based, 2 Telford based
- Four sessional workers.
- Ten Experts by experience.
- Thirty Five volunteer citizen advocates.
- Two professional advisors.

Finances for the year 2023/24

Funding from local authorities, health, private funded commissions and other projects are reported on a quarterly basis and our monitoring and reporting mechanism reflect outputs, outcomes and funding spend.

We hold reserves to cover running costs for 18mths in compliance with our reserves policy. We also continue to hold ring fenced redundancy funds for staff and liable costs in the event of charity closure.


Accounts available on Charity Commission website.

Independently audited by;

Phillips Ltd. Chartered Accountants

4 Pearson Road, Central Park

Telford, Shropshire TF2 9TX



Jean Harris
Chair of Trustees

Taking Part

Registered Charity number 1092033
Company Limited by guarantee number 04362948

Unaudited Income and Expenditure Account

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Offices
Taking Part
Louise House
Roman Road
Meole Brace
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY3 9JN

Accountants

Phillips Ltd
Chartered Accountants
4 Pearson Road
Central Park
Telford
TF2 9TX

Taking Part
Company No 04362948
Charity No 1092033
Contents of the Financial Statements

for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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Taking Part

Report of the Directors for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

The Directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company in the period under review was that of the prevention or relief of poverty and provision of information, advice, advocacy and training for those clients who have health and social care needs.

Directors

The directors who have held office during the period from 1st April 2023 to the date of this report are as follows:

Mr Garry S Kirlew

Mrs Jean Harris

Mr Paul Barton (appointed 22nd November 2024)

Mr Paul R Hume-Miller (resigned 23rd May 2024)

Mrs Susan M Godfrey (resigned 5th October 2023)

Mr John Godfrey (resigned 10th December 2023)

All the directors who are eligible offer themselves for election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Mrs Jean Harris

Date 4th December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts to the trustees of Taking part
On the Accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Taking Part

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Taking Part for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Neil Phillips FCA
Phillips Ltd
Chartered Accountants
4 Pearson Road
Central Park
Telford
TF2 9TX

Neil C Phillips

Date

14/12/24

Taking Part

Statement of Financial Activities for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Grants and contracts	2	247,752	1,803	249,555	188,647
Total incoming resources		<u>247,752</u>	<u>1,803</u>	<u>249,555</u>	<u>188,647</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable activities		252,770	-	252,770	240,463
Total resources expended	3	<u>252,770</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>252,770</u>	<u>240,463</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		<u>(5,018)</u>	<u>1,803</u>	<u>(3,215)</u>	<u>(51,816)</u>

Taking Part
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets					
Debtors	4	68,263	-	68,263	38,236
Cash at bank and in hand		121,197	153,414	274,611	307,948
Total current assets		189,460	153,414	342,874	346,184
Creditors					
	5	2,872	-	2,872	2,967
Net current assets		186,588	153,414	340,002	343,217
Net assets		186,588	153,414	340,002	343,217
Funds of the Charity					
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Opening Funds		191,606	151,611	343,217	395,033
Net incoming resources		(5,018)	1,803	(3,215)	(51,816)
Total funds		186,588	153,414	340,002	343,217

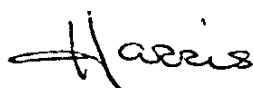
For the year ended 31st March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 4th December 2024 and were signed on its behalf
by:



.....

Mrs Jean Harris

Taking Part

Notes to the financial statements for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

2 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants	10,724	9,892
Other Income	237,028	178,425
	<u>247,752</u>	<u>188,317</u>

3 Total resources expended

	Charitable Activities 2024	Charitable Activities 2023
	£	£
Wages	205,317	187,141
Expenses	13,938	12,205
Telephone	2,157	2,818
Postage & Stationery	3,829	5,088
Computer Expenses	8,261	9,356
Staff training	4,913	1,573
Sundry expenses	1,996	13,198
Accountancy and professional charges	720	763
Travelling	7,051	4,232
Rent and premises costs	2,524	2,404
Insurance	1,972	1,580
Bank Charges	94	105
	<u>252,770</u>	<u>240,463</u>

Taking part

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024

4 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	68,263	38,236
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	68,263	38,236
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5 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors and accruals	2,872	2,967
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,872	2,967
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6 Taxation status

The company is a registered charity and, under sections 478 and 479 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

7 Reserves policy

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for the use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designation for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise restricted funds that have been set aside by Trustees for particular purposes.

Reserves will be used to continue with the running of the service until other funds are obtained in the case of future lost income from statutory sources.

Funds in reserves will have to take into consideration payments required for staff redundancies and expenditure associated with the closure of the service if further funding is not forthcoming in the future. This expenditure will all be overseen by the board of Trustees.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited.

Taking Part

Registered Charity number 1092033
Company Limited by guarantee number 04362948

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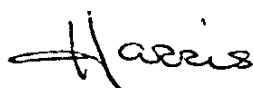
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