

Registered number: 03946296
Charity number: 1102847

Sheppey Matters

(A company limited by guarantee)

Unaudited

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	1
Trustees' report	2 - 20
Independent examiner's report	21
Statement of financial activities	22
Balance sheet	23
Statement of cash flows	24
Notes to the financial statements	25 - 40

TRUSTEES REPORT 2023/24

Trustees

Michael John Brown, Principal
Christine White
Kenneth Pugh
Paul Murray MBE
Joe Rook MBE
Gareth Dyson (appointed 18 July 2023)

Company registered number.

03946296

Charity registered number

1102847

Registered office

Sheppey Leisure Centre
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Company secretary

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and Directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The objects of the Charity are:

- To promote and protect the good health of people living on the Isle of Sheppey, in particular by the provision of a healthy living centre.
- To advance education in the benefits of good health and social well-being.
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities because of their youth, age, disability, financial hardship, or social circumstances.

Sheppey Matters is an independent charity, and the Trustees meet at least four times a year to make major policy decisions and review progress. Other times limited working groups are set up when a particular topic needs more detailed consideration by the Trustees.

The Chief Executive Officer takes overall day-to-day responsibility for steering the charity in accordance with the strategic direction set by the Trustees. He meets the chair of Sheppey Matters on a weekly basis and has a regular email and telephone contact between meetings. Administrative staff based at Sheppey Healthy Living Centre (HLC) take responsibility for room bookings and supporting projects.

Sheppey Matters has a service level agreement with Swale CVS, which provides financial administration services, carried out by a designated officer. Additional day-to-day financial management support is provided by the director of Swale CVS.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

The Trustees' policy is to work in partnership with local agencies from the community and voluntary sector, and statutory sector to run projects at Sheppey HLC and outreach projects elsewhere on the island. In this way, the Charity can make a bigger impact, draw on the expertise of specialist agencies. and avoid duplication of local projects.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The charity is also increasing its environmental responsibilities through various initiatives –

- Collecting used ink cartridges, stamps, and batteries– all within Sheppey Matters and other third parties – collected and recycled, with the charity earning a small donation.
- Increased activity in the Sheerness and Eastchurch allotments – growing fruit and vegetables for community benefit.
- Checking the distance travelled whilst making online purchases – can items be acquired more locally, reducing the carbon footprint, and supporting local businesses?
- Calculating the shortest routes for minibuses whilst undertaking community bus transport services on and off the island.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

The Trustees have further updated the business plan for Sheppey Matters, which has been implemented by the CEO and his team and continued during 2023/24. The experience of COVID 19 and the continuing challenges of the cost-of-living crisis have remained a focus for all staff and volunteers.

The 2023/24 year was extremely challenging from a fundraising point of view. Two late but much welcome grants were secured which allowed the valuable community development and isolation and loneliness work to continue. The charity continues to seek a wide range of financial support and not relying on a few funders. This is highlighted below.

The cost-of-living crisis has seen meals (often as high as 175 per week) being cooked and delivered to identified families and community centres. Early in the new year the Swale Foodbank moved into the healthy living centre – beneficiaries were able to not only access food but also school uniform provision, hot and cold refreshments, a hot meal and if required, access to third party services such as mental health and drugs and alcohol advice, personal finance support and other visitors. The centre on a Wednesday is now a hive of activity.

The charity's annual Big Bash was cancelled due to bad weather – a replacement event was held in October in the sports hall and attracted over 750 visitors. This is far more than the usual July event, engaging many residents not usually seen at the charity's sessions. A wide range of fun and informative events were held – feedback was highly positive.

Sheppey Matters has collaborated closely with the community and statutory bodies on Sheppey to ensure that support services were working together and benefitting as many people as possible and so reducing duplication. The winter period once again saw warm rooms, school uniform, winter coats, and Christmas presents. Soup and coffee mornings were held round the island to engage as many people as possible and provide a little respite to the cost of living.

February saw the launch of two new projects tackling the ongoing issues of loneliness and isolation on Sheppey. The highly successful 'Isle Connect You' project finished its three years in 2023, but thanks to further funding from the National Lottery Community Fund the project restarted under the new name of 'Legacy' offering extended delivery hours for those aged over 60 throughout the week. A community development project working with people under the age of 60 complements Legacy and has been possible thanks to funding from the Henry Smith Charity.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

A Safer Streets project, funded by Swale Borough Council, started in the autumn, and is aimed at anti-social behaviour in the immediate vicinity of the healthy living centre. Residents are being engaged through several community actions including litter picking and gardening to improve the area.

Sheppey Matters remains thankful to its many funders for their support throughout 2023/24 and the flexible approach allowed to change our delivery to support those most in need. The charity continues to build positive relationships with funders, supporters, local authorities, community groups and agencies, without whom Sheppey Matters would not be able to deliver the much-needed support on the Isle of Sheppey.

The board, staff and volunteers would like to thank the many funders over this twelve-month period, and acknowledges the donations received from the local community to support our work.

The charity is grateful for the support of its funders to enable health and well-being work to be undertaken on the Isle of Sheppey; Kent County Council, BBC Children in Need, The Minerva Fund, Kent Community Foundation, Southern Housing, Swale Borough Council, The National Lottery Community Fund, Tudor Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Henry Smith Charity, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Motability, Swale Borough Council members, Kent Sport, Localgiving.com, Rotary Club of Minster-on-Sea, Swale CVS, UK Cycling, Sheerness Town Council, Minster Parish Council, OFCOM, Halfway Houses Primary School, Blakemore Foundation, G & E Pollitzer, Enfinium, and MSE Charity.

The royal recognition of the charity's work received in 2022 was further enhanced in 2023 when the charity's community radio station, Sheppey FM 92.2 was named winner of the UK's best community radio station.

During the year, the board of trustees and senior management team have been working with Swale Borough Council and healthy living centre partners to plan and secure a new room layout for the charity in a refurbished centre, made possible by the government's levelling up fund. The work, as June 2024, is expected to commence at the end of the year, requiring the charity to leave the premises for up to 12 months. Alternative accommodation for office staff and delivery sessions is being sought.

Below are further details on the projects.

Rural Youth

The project had a challenging twelve months; the number of participants remained below pre Covid levels for most of the sessions.

Notice that funding for general youth work would be ending in March 2024 was given in late 2023, but that for sessions for young people with additional needs was thankfully maintained. The Monday art group has been well supported following a change in delivery style during the year, which along with the Friday ADHD support group were the mainstays of the project. Other mainstream and older age group special needs sessions had disappointing participatory numbers; the project was reviewed in April 2024 with a view to community consultation and delivery. Early indications are encouraging that the new approach is attracting young people.

The summer activity programme was well received with high level of bookings and attendance. Sessions included Ready, Steady, Grow, Ninja warrior, cooking, an outdoor activity centre and tenpin bowling - in total 112 young people attended. Cookery sessions were popular with young people facing new challenges such as using knives to chop ingredients and trying new foods and flavours.

that they may not have had the opportunity to experience. Some of the feedback included comments of *I enjoyed learning how to use the bridge technique to chop ingredients*. One negative was that one young person tried the croutons but did not like them, but at least he tried them!

The project engaged with two Swale partners to extend the young persons' additional needs delivery at the healthy living centre. This had mixed outcomes; the younger session has stayed the course and is now operating under its own leadership.

The young persons' sexual health sessions were well attended at the local college.

Well Life

Well Life has seen consistent growth this year, with the Community Gardener, Community Chef, and Everyday Active Champion expanding on their achievements with residents over the past eighteen months. They work individually in their respective roles and collaboratively as a team to assist residents in enhancing their health and wellbeing post-Covid and during the ongoing economic challenges. The project has fostered connections with individuals, groups, and organisations, offering inclusive activities and support groups to residents across the Island.

Each aspect of the project takes pride in the supportive Well Life community they have created. They offer activities which include, but are not limited to Community Gardening for well-being, cooking groups to develop culinary skills, prepare budget-friendly recipes, and foster social connections through shared meals. They also provide all residents with the chance to engage in free or affordable physical activities and health support groups.

Community Chef

The community chef remains dedicated to supporting residents by sharing their passion for teaching people how to prepare delicious, affordable, and healthy meals from scratch. Working with various age groups across the Island, they are enthusiastic about supporting the older and younger generations through food and cooking.

The well-received Silver and Spice cooking group, initially serving mostly recovering stroke patients, is now open to all individuals over 65. The fortnightly, six-week sessions have helped participants acquire fundamental cooking skills, explore new recipes, and sample different foods. The group enjoys cooking, eating together, and adopting a welcoming environment for new members. Former attendees offer support to newcomers, expanding the ever-growing social circle. Some attendees have also gained enough confidence to participate in other Sheppey Matters and Well Life activities and groups. Due to poor transport links from the Eastern end of the Island, the sessions are currently held at Leysdown Village Hall to enable participation from that area, avoiding the need for residents to travel across the Island to attend, which can be costly.

Feedback from participant: *"It gave me the opportunity to learn new recipes plus enables me to mix with a variety of people"*.

Chef is also dedicated to sharing a passion for cooking and healthy eating with the younger generation. Through free, hands-on cooking sessions, children aged 8 to 14 can enjoy learning during school holidays in partnership with Sheppey Matters youth provision. Additionally, the chef extended this initiative to 2- to 4-year-olds with two sessions at Minster playgroup and groups of year 6 pupils at Halfway Houses Primary School. The cooking activities, such as making pancakes with healthy toppings, fresh fruit salad, and winter soup, are immensely popular. Chef imparts essential knowledge on basic hygiene, knife handling, and safety, allowing the children to cook independently, with expert guidance. After each session, just like the older participants, everyone gathers to enjoy the food they prepared together.

Feedback from Playgroup Manager: *"I think the children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. We have even received pictures of the plants as they took them home with them. Also, at the Abbey site we put the remaining fruit salad in little plastic cups and sent them home with the children. They were very excited to explain what was in them."*

Everyday Active Champion

The Everyday Active Champion has continued to promote the benefits of regular physical activity. They are passionate about supporting people to take steps into what is the unknown or revisiting that time when they felt good in themselves. They promote the ethos that regular physical activity has proven health benefits, both physically and mentally, and when enjoyed can be uplifting and rewarding by bringing a great sense of achievement.

With the cost-of-living situation as it is, the Everyday Active Champion has worked hard to provide taster sessions and introduce and promote low cost or free physical activity groups to Island residents. The free taster sessions have provided residents with the opportunity to 'try before they buy,' effectively trying activities first before committing to attending regularly and paying a monthly fee. Working with partners, the Everyday Active Champion has introduced residents to a variety of physical activities including outdoor Qigong (adapted Tai Chi), outdoor yoga, line dancing, walking netball, a youth fitness class and bowls and boccia, all of which have been well attended, with the added bonus of giving people the opportunity to socialise and meet new people.

The Walking for Health programme has gone from strength to strength and now runs one weekly walk in Sheerness and Leysdown, a fortnightly walk in Rushenden, and three weekly walks in Minster, plus the addition of ad hoc weekend and evening walks. The programme offers walks with or without poles for those who like to stride out and for those that enjoy a slower pace. The groups are led by trained volunteers and these walk leaders continue to be supported through a group leader WhatsApp group to exchange information. To further enhance inclusivity, a community buddy service to the groups was initiated by using existing walkers as volunteers. This was brought about because of local referrals who were struggling to go out and walk due to lack of confidence, caused by either a fear of falling or social anxiety since Covid.

Feedback from walking group members: *"It's meant not spending such a lot of time on my own and walking with others is great."*

"It is very rewarding to see all walker's mobility improve and them making new connections."

"I have gained more confidence, zest for life and very positive attitude to life."

This year, prompted by feedback from women on the Island, the Everyday Active Champion set up the Menopause and Me sessions, providing resources for women going through the menopause. It is widely known that women's health is often overlooked, and the lack of support for menopausal women has been a recurring concern in local communities and the media. The activities on offer were a variety of fun and engaging sessions using local community-based services, such as an independent class-based gym centre, yoga instructor, therapists, a walking netball experience, a combined activity with our Community Gardener and a newly trained Tai Chi instructor in a 'Chi and Gardening session', and evening get-togethers. The aim was to provide targeted taster sessions that educate women on how and where they can access local groups that help improve their symptoms.

Some of the feedback from participants who took part included *'understanding I'm not alone', 'not to be so hard on myself' and 'I didn't realise how much breathing could relax me and my mind.'*

The Everyday Active Champion has also set up a much needed 'Escape the Pain' course in the community, targeting individuals with back pain and knee/hip pain. These courses provided education and insight into how movement can reduce pain, peer support and a social environment to break isolation. These groups are supported by a monthly group led by the Everyday Active Champion and a volunteer from the VET (local GP) surgery, a specialised therapist in chronic pain. These monthly support sessions are open to those with other health conditions and aim to educate and empower those that attend to reduce their pain through a variety of methods, including distraction, gentle movement, relaxation and practical support.

Community Gardener

The community gardening strand of the Well Life project has been instrumental in promoting wellness and community interaction through gardening. From April 2023 to December 2023, growing activities took place at the Sheppey Matters Community Allotment in Sheerness and from January 2024 activities moved to our Eastchurch Community Garden.

East Kent Mencap Swale Hub members (four members and one support worker) continue to be regular participants in community gardening at our Eastchurch Hub and in Sheerness. They participate in a variety of gardening activities, which include sowing seeds, planting, weeding and nurturing plants. They grew their own vegetables and flowers at the allotment and used these skills in their own Hub Garden. The group has also helped to maintain and plant the large planters at Beachfields in Sheerness and are regular volunteers for Sheerness litter picks.

Feedback from Day Centre Manager: *"Thank you so much for all of your help this year, the guys have thoroughly enjoyed their gardening sessions with you and have learnt lots of skills."*

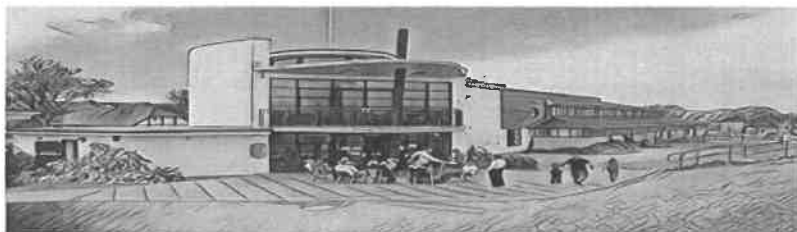
The Crawford Centre members (five members and three support workers) continue to engage in community gardening activities once a week throughout the year. They undertake a variety of gardening activities including growing and tending to crops at the Sheppey Matters allotment, Eastchurch Community Garden and in the Sheerness community greenspaces.

Feedback from Day Centre Manager: *"None of this would happen without you, so wanted you to know how much you are appreciated too and the positive impact you have on the guys as well as us."*

The Community Gardening project has engaged 40+ children aged between eight to 14 years during the school holidays. The young people were given the opportunity to plant crops, sow seeds, look after the plot and work together to make a scarecrow. In addition to this the Community Gardener joined Community Chef in providing gardening sessions at Minster playgroup with children aged between two to four years.

Working with volunteers, the Community Gardening group has transformed the tired and neglected garden at our Eastchurch Community Hub into a vibrant, colourful space. The volunteers have worked really hard at their own pace and used their skills and passion to bring the garden back to life for the community who use it and to re-attract the wildlife through painting, planning, growing, and planting.

Healthy Living Centre



All in all, another eventful year for Sheppey Healthy Living Centre!

The cost-of-living crisis hit Sheppey hard where many families had to make decisions whether to eat or heat their homes.

Sheppey Matters supported those most in need by introducing many initiatives such as creating a warm space in the Waterfront room where the local community could sit in warmth throughout the day, access wifi and hot drinks and a weekly soup kitchen. The grub hub provided over 50 hot meals once a week where people could eat in or takeaway to reheat and eat with their families.

Our annual big bash saw over 750 people walk through our doors at healthy living centre where we showcased all our projects and local support services that are available to access. We redistributed 138 pre-loved winter coats that had been donated, hosted monthly theme days including breast cancer awareness, Movember, Hearty Party supporting NHS national campaigns, fund raising, offering free events such as health MOTs, taster sessions to improve health such as Zumba, line dancing, Cardiac rehab, and meditation to name a few.

In the true spirit of Christmas, Sheppey Matters collaborated with The Salvation Army and Swale Foodbank to deliver the gift of Christmas, with local schools each nominating 10 struggling families. Sheppey Matters had a giving tree appeal which saw over 150 new toys and gifts donated to the cause. The Salvation army created a pop-up shop event where the nominated families could pick one main present and two stocking fillers per child along with a Christmas hamper filled with goodies.

During February, we relaunched the community wardrobe which previously gave access to free pre-loved school uniform once a month in a jumble sale fashion to creating a dedicated walk in wardrobe where donated uniform has been laundered and hung on rails and can be accessed on request or every week when doors are opened and staffed by volunteers. The opening hours coincide with Swale Foodbank that now operates out of the Healthy Living Centre every Wednesday alongside support services from Shaw Trust and Live Well Kent providing wrap around support to those accessing the foodbank.

During the winter months Sheppey Matters delivered money matters, a small project offering a game plan to create and manage a budget and how to tackle debt.

Case study - C, aged 57, lives on Sheppey, an area of high deprivation, and had heard from friends about our Wellness Wednesday sessions offering free soup and a roll so decided to come along and join in. After a friendly conversation C explained she was struggling with finances and was unsure what to do, so we agreed to meet the following day once C had collected all her paperwork together.

C returned Thursday with all her papers consisting of health records, benefit letters and old bank statements. She explained she had some learning difficulties and was unable to read and write so was hoping I could help make some sense of it all. In the past C managed her finances by regularly visiting her local bank branch requesting mini statements to check ins and outs. However, the local branch closed late 2022 and C had lost track of where her money was going. C does not use internet banking as finds it overwhelming to operate and does not have a smart phone or wifi at home, so it was very odd when we contacted her bank to find out she had been registered paperless on bank statements.

On looking through recent benefit letters, it became apparent C's Employment and Support

allowance had been stopped after a period of time had passed where they were unable to make contact. C told me and had hospital discharge records to prove she had spent a substantial period of time in hospital recently undergoing bowel surgery. We called the Department of Work & Pensions and C's benefit was reinstated and back dated with immediate effect.

We then discussed C's challenges around banking and decided to switch to another bank which is still present in local high street and was also offering a £200 switch fee which C qualified for, so I was able to further support her in switching bank account. On going through previous bank statements it was clear C lived quite a frugal lifestyle. However, we were able to change tariff with her existing energy provider to a better rate and then used a comparison site to save C money on her contents insurance that she had always let roll over in previous years.

We worked out together a simple budget sheet of monthly incomings and outgoings C could use to check statements against and then organised all her finance and personal paperwork into a multiple pocket box file. C was really pleased with the service and later returned with a Christmas card her friend had helped her write.

Sheppey Wheels



A challenging but successful year for Sheppey Wheels.

During the second quarter of 2023 Sheppey Wheels had 22 community groups using the minibuses for day trips, to all over Kent and London. The success of these trips has resulted in many of those groups becoming regular hirers of our services throughout the rest of the year.

With the release of the Spring/Summer brochure in April 2023 we introduced a new booking system for our day trips, which made the administration involved much more efficient. The new booking system also allows us to store our members data on a secure website.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024



In May 2023 we collected the minibus we were kindly donated by Kent County Council, putting the fleet back up to three vehicles, which allowed us to increase the number of private hires and day trips, as well as providing a transport service for a local day care centre, without the additional costs of hiring a vehicle.

During the summer months Sheppey Wheels experienced its first challenge. The corporate Blue Badge renewal was rejected following an update in the guidelines set out by the Department of Transport. Following the rejection, we were advised to ask our Day trip users to bring their own Blue Badges, and if they did not have one but were eligible to assist them with their application. This resulted in an increase in administration phoning all our private hires, and day trip users to see if they had their own blue badge, which in many cases they did not as a lot of our users do not drive so had not needed to apply. Some of our users did then apply but the lead time of 15 weeks for blue badges caused some issues on trips where disabled passengers were on board but did not have a blue badge. Sheppey Wheels has appealed against the rejection twice and has now sought the advice of local councillors.

The new brochure that was released in September, covered trips from October to March was a success with many trips being sold out. This brochure was built mostly on feedback and suggestions from the day trip users following management changes in September.

The third quarter was full of challenges and successes, with just 24 hours' notice our transport service for Blackburn Lodge care home ended, due to an emergency closure. This left a bus and a driver out of action with immediate effect. The temporary closure was announced with no time frame of reopening; we sought out extra work, private hires and day trips from November to February to cover the drivers' hours to ensure we would keep them employed and the minibus in use. Whilst this was a real challenge, we managed successfully to increase our day trips during the Christmas period, a majority of which were sold out, with long wait lists so we could run a second bus.

In the winter period, Sheppey Wheels also faced some maintenance issues across the fleet, which did impact financially and caused some trips to be affected. The repairs on all the buses did have an impact on the finances for Sheppey Wheels, but this enabled forward planning for pricing increases to cover the unexpected costs that running a fleet naturally will have.

The year ended on a high with a new contract taking passengers to Age UK Sheppey's increased day centre provision. This meant that the fleet was now back to its normal structure of one bus providing transport to a day care for the elderly, a school run bus for a local primary school and a bus for private hires and day trips for the residents of the Isle of Sheppey.

Feedback_ *The drivers are always on time, helpful and understanding as far as the young people are concerned. They put the radio on for them and don't complain if they get a little noisy. They are always polite to staff and young people and don't complain if the activity over runs or is a little late. They are a great bunch and a credit to Sheppey Matters*

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024



The Sheppey Matters fleet – with thanks to Sheerness East Working Men's Club for parking facilities.

Sheppey Community Media Centre

The media centre is the home of Sheppey FM 92.2, the charity's community radio station, broadcasting on FM and online to the Isle of Sheppey.

The station actively encourages residents, group, and agency leaders to visit the centre and tell the community about their club, session, event, or hobby – anything that may interest listeners. Interviewees have included The Aviation Museum, 'Miles & Smiles' transport service for isolated people, the 'Oliver Fisher Baby ward', 'Next Step Fostering', 'Youth Resilience', 'Child's Vision', Dementia Friendly Social Hub, Therapy dogs, 'One You' health advisers, 'Riding the Storm'~ discussing mental health issues, Mencap, Launch It'~ a new initiative for young people, and the Island Works. Local issues and concerns are covered by our monthly 'Councillors On-Air' surgery, a quarterly surgery with Sittingbourne and Sheppey's MP Gordon Henderson, and regular interviews

with Kent Police, and family law advice with a local solicitor.

There have also been work experience placements for young people from schools across Swale and Medway: Westlands, Fulston Manor, Oasis Academy, Borden Grammar, The Sittingbourne School, and Chatham Grammar.

Roadshows are a popular support service for many island events, engagement covering 43 schools and charity events and supporting fundraisers for the Air Ambulance, Demelza Children's Hospice, Cancer Research UK, Ukraine, HMP prison officers' wellbeing, Meadowfields SEN school, Aspire SEN school, Alzheimer's Awareness, Remembrance Sunday service and HMS Wildfire remembrance service, WW2 commemorations, local carnivals and Christmas events.

The year's highlight was in November 2023; the station was awarded the Community Media Association's UK's 'Station of the Year' for our community and health support services and a further gold award for our 'Community Impact Project ~ Rehabilitation into Education.'

Magic 1-2-3/ADHD & Me

Engagement for the 123, ADHD & Me programme has continued to be in demand. The project manager has provided ADHD Awareness talks to Maidstone Hospital and several schools in the local area.

The need for this programme is increasing due to the extensive wait times for a diagnosis. A variety of families have taken part in the programme with great success. We have seen many families and are currently working with five more who are due to finish in the next few weeks.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

A boy (M) aged eight was experiencing challenges in the classroom due to having a recent diagnosis of ADHD. He was still in the process of working through titration to get to an optimised level and was finding it difficult. His mother was struggling with his behaviour, and it was obvious that the relationship was breaking down. We worked together to help him understand why he becomes emotionally dysregulated and provided a host of strategies that he could implement without adult support – thereby providing him with control and autonomy.

After the family completed the programme, the school reported a positive impact on his behaviour in school and his mother's tolerance levels were increased due to understanding more about his ADHD and how she can support him better.

The project is in its final year and is seeking continuation funding.

Isle Connect You

As people age, they often experience changes in their social and personal relationships. Children grow up and move away, friends and spouses may pass away, and physical limitations can make it harder to get out and socialise. These changes can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness, which can have negative impacts on both physical and mental health, increasing the risk of mortality, depression, and cognitive decline among older adults. This highlights the importance of recognising and addressing these issues to support the well-being of our ageing population. Isle Connect You completed the final year of delivery in September 2023 which supported the older generation with the issues isolation and loneliness brings.

Nestled in the heart of Sheerness with outreach areas across the Isle of Sheppey a small team of four, all passionate about making a difference, created activities and meet ups that continued to support the Isle of Sheppey's older generation towards leading more enriched and happier lives. The project has been a lifeline for many of our customers. During the period April 23 - March 24, Isle Connect You had 62 referrals. We have seen participants engaging on their own journey of self-discovery to build upon their independence and resilience. The activities and outings have given our participants an opportunity to embrace new ideas and explore pathways to more enriched and inclusive lifestyles. It was interesting to see that Minster was the highest area of interaction closely followed by Sheerness. This gave us insight into the areas that needed a streamlined focus for this project.

We have facilitated a large and diverse number of activities ranging from the ancestry project: unveiling familial origins - unearthing tales from the past and igniting conversations for a journey through time. IT support sessions - aimed to enhance digital literacy skills among individuals. We continued to provide iPads and tablets along with training, support, and anti-scam awareness to ensure safety online along with weekly coffee morning meetups. We held resilience workshops - enabling participants to understand how to create healthier boundaries and relationships.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024



Intergenerational workshop - the Grainy Grub club cooking within a primary school. Confidence befriending, swimming, driving lessons, emotional support, virtual zooms, Men's mental health groups, fitness and well-being sessions, bereavement support, falls prevention, arts and crafts, garden get togethers, day trips to local attractions, breakfast meet ups, and a celebrational events such as the Coronation.



Our goal has been simple: empower participants to achieve their full potential while still maintaining their independence. For some, this has meant meeting new people and learning new skills. For others, it may be a more profound and challenging journey, involving the adaptation to life with health conditions. Our approach has always been to provide a gentle, nurturing environment that

supports the unique needs of each individual. We have worked hard to create sustainable solutions that will benefit them well into the future. We have worked closely with Kent Community Wardens, Age UK, Kent Fire and Rescue, Imago, GP surgeries and social prescribers, Southern Housing, NHS health trainers and the Department of Work and Pensions to gain specialist support for members whilst on our project.

We have seen newfound friendships form which has led to an encouraging level of social interaction and support networks strengthened. Two of our members found love in meeting each other! They have moved in together and attend many of the sessions as a couple. Both reported that if it had not been for the project they would never have met. Another lady formed a friendship with another group member, and they decided that they should spend the festive season together as they only had each other and did not want to feel so alone. They have since gone on to have two holidays together and remain good friends to this day.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Several spin-off groups have emerged organically from participating in sessions with Sheppey Matters, inviting individuals to join in various activities such as meals and quizzes. Sheppey Matters has provided a platform for these groups to thrive, growing independence among its members. The Isle Connect You community has played a crucial role in establishing voluntary groups, led by former members, to ensure lasting friendships and continuity as the project concludes, instilling a sense of longevity.

Isle Connect You has become a reputable and trusted name deeply embedded in our local community, engaging members through community events and support networks. The project has significantly improved the mental health and well-being of participants, reducing stress levels, and enhancing overall happiness and life satisfaction. Members have demonstrated personal growth and skill development through workshops, activities, and events.

Eight members have volunteered with us as a result of the project, inspired by their transformative experiences to support others on similar paths. Their lived experiences serve as evidence of the project's effectiveness in unlocking their full potential. Giving back has been a powerful motivator for them, enabling personal growth while assisting others. Active participation in community events and activities has empowered individuals to take charge of their community's well-being, fostering a sense of ownership.

Our personalised garden gate visits have been pivotal in understanding each participant's unique needs, driving our support approach. These visits have facilitated referrals to other support agencies and services, contributing to the overall enhancement of well-being. Success in reducing health risks required a comprehensive, multifaceted strategy.



The project concluded in September 2023, with funding later secured in December to allow us to continue our work in this area. We received news of this successful funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for a four-year project dedicated to supporting individuals over 60 dealing with isolation and loneliness. This led to the launch of 'Legacy;' recruitment efforts started in February 2024. The team hired two coordinators, an administration clerk, and a Project Manager. They engaged with the community in February to map out available support services on the Isle of Sheppey, establishing partnerships for befriending support. Referrals began in March, primarily from social prescribers, and a launch party was held to introduce the project to other voluntary sector professionals.

We celebrated the funding from the National Lottery Community Fund with a session to thank the players - as without them this project would not be possible. The team did this by planting a variety of bulbs with our community volunteers, staff also gave their time to get involved with this initiative.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Connection is at the core of wellbeing – if people feel valued and part of something that has a purpose – then their lives feel purposeful. We pride ourselves on being their eyes and ears – when we can see a positive change we act and do our very best to ensure they are listened to.

We have gained vital skills and knowledge from Isle Connect You; Legacy has been a natural step towards the deeper support people so desperately need and have asked for.

Miles and Smiles/Motability



The Miles and Smiles project fully launched to the public in April 2023. In the first three months we recruited 15 new members and carried out on average two trips per week to help boost our membership the team advertised at pop ups around the Isle of Sheppey, at supermarkets, local fairs, meeting with other charities, and organisations.

During the summer months there was another increase of 15 new members, and six trips on average per week were carried out, mostly to medical appointments.

After operating for a few months, the team highlighted some challenges when parking at the local hospitals. We established connections at the hospitals to assist our passengers when arriving, so we were not leaving the bus unattended when pulling up to the drop off points. This became vital when the corporate blue badge renewal was rejected, this has been successful since and our passengers get the assistance they need on arrival.

Over the last few months of 2023, the number of members continued to grow, and we carried out another six trips per week on average.

Whilst the workload remained steady there was still room for growth. Any downtime with the drivers or admin was spent promoting the project. The team visited a local day care centre to promote the service, resulting in some new memberships.

During the final quarter of the year there was an increase in the number of trips we carried out to eight trips per week on average.

Overall, this year has been successful for Miles and Smiles operationally. Any challenges have been quickly overcome; extra promotional work was carried out by our drivers to help boost our memberships, additional training was given to drivers in downtime, and the year ended almost running at its full capacity per week.



Destinations of our journeys April 2023- March 2024

182 Hospital

11 Clinics

24 Dentists

12 Physio



8 GP

7 Shopping

26 Social

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Feedback:

- 96% of users found our service easy to use.
- 98% found that our service helped them feel more connected to their community.
- 97% felt their confidence had grown from using our service.
- 100% would recommend our service to someone else who needed it.

Structure, governance, and management.

a. Constitution

The Charity is constituted under a Charity Commission Scheme and is a registered charity number 1102847. Sheppey Matters is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in March 2000, and registered as a charity in March 2004.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected or co-opted under the terms of the Trust Deed. The current policy of the trustees is to recruit new trustees from local groups, agencies, or individuals on the Isle of Sheppey.

c. Pay policy for key management personnel.

The policy is in line with similar charities in the local area.

The pay policy for the charity is set by the board of trustees on an annual basis for all employees and key management personnel and takes into account the existing inflation levels, any minimum wage increase allowed by the government, local pay levels for similar work, and the funds available to make an informed and realistic pay offer.

Any award is 'across the board' to all staff (aside any increases for minimum wage).

d. Risk management

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

The Trustees have considered what they believe to be the main risks the Charity is facing. These are deemed to be as follows:

1. Reliance on one or few funders – the Charity has expanded its funder base to ensure the potential loss of one funder has a minimal effect (or as minimal as possible). The current wide range of funders is demonstrated earlier in this report.
2. Loss of key staff; staff are kept engaged and are valued by the Charity. It recognises that losing a staff member at the end of a period of funding can be detrimental to the Charity as skills are lost, so the Charity always endeavours to keep staff even if in a different role. It cannot afford to lose years of training and investment in a staff member.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

3. Cost of living crisis has challenged and stretched the charity to deliver services to the community, with little opportunity for the staff and volunteers to recover from the pandemic before being faced with the next round of issues and concerns.
4. Loss of public support; the Charity has worked hard over the years to establish itself a good name and high level of support from all areas of the local community. It regularly checks media and social media for adverse comments and keeps a close and strong relationship with residents, businesses, other charities, and community groups plus those in authority and influential positions (councillors, council leaders etc.). The charity was delighted to be awarded Queens Award for Voluntary Services – the MBE for voluntary groups and the Princess Royal Training Award.
5. Loss of use of the healthy living centre; the Charity holds a 25-year lease which expires January 2028. The lease extension will shortly be discussed with Swale Borough Council and is part of the Levelling Up Fund secured by the council. The date for the commencement of the work is expected to be by the end of December 2024. Meetings are currently being held with partners to fully understand the effect that the work will have on the charity. Sheppey Matters has been keeping its beneficiaries fully informed as planning evolves during the year.

e. Plans for future periods

The Trustees will continue to support the objectives of the Charity for the foreseeable future. The board of trustees has continually expressed its confidence in the charity's delivery to the Sheppey community and full confidence in the ability and skills of the staff and volunteers to ensure this happens.

The board will be seeking new and different funding streams during 2024/25 to strengthen the charity's financial position as the cost-of-living crisis has increased the number of funding applications to grant providers, making success harder.

f. Reserves policy

The charity holds reserves for three separate areas.

- Restricted funds
- Unrestricted funds
- Designated funds

The charity receives a mix of income throughout the year which sits in the restricted or unrestricted streams. The charity expends monies to support its projects and administrative work in the normal course of events. At the year's end, it may still hold monies that for restricted services are still within the project's period of delivery (which may not always be a financial year) along with unrestricted incomes.

Restricted funds are from grants and other monies so designated by the board of trustees as restricted. These funds are granted as varying times throughout the financial year and may crossover one or two financial years and are shown as carry-over in the annual accounts. The amount per project may differ from budget against actual as project delivery can vary during a twelve-month period.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Unrestricted funds are earned from the charity's own unfunded activities such as room hire which form the basis of the charity's annual budgeting process.

Designated funds are for specific reasons.

The total reserves at the period end were £390,612 of which £304,521 were restricted funds leaving £86,091 available for general purposes of the charity.

The reserves policy has been designed to ensure that the charity has an adequate basis to continue operating for the foreseeable future –

- Unexpected demand for funds due to an emergency or unforeseen bills.
- Additional day-to-day operational costs such as temporary staff.
- Loss of an expected or regular source of funding such as a grant or donation. Use of reserves can help buy the time required to seek an alternative source.
- Reserves may be used to supplement a grant or other source of income that does not cover the total cost of the project or capital expenditure or as a bridging fund should a project be required to start before a grant is received.

The board of trustees seeks to hold a minimum of four months' funds at any time, being around £85,000 so that -

- In the event of any unexpected shortfall in income there is a reasonable amount of time available to seek alternative monies. The charity does have a wide and varied list of funders, so a loss of one funder may have an adverse effect on a project, but not necessarily the whole charity.
- Have funds available for any unexpected expenditure.
- An amount might be needed to cover 'troughs' in the cash budget.
- Money allocated for a specific event, such as redundancy.

In the Trustees' view, the charity's reserves should provide it with adequate financial stability and the means for it to meet its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

As at the year end, the charity's unrestricted reserves stood at £86,091, which is in line with reserves policy as set. The board of trustees regularly reviews its level of reserves to ensure that the minimum levels are maintained. Given the recent challenges of the cost of living and the constant demand from the community for varying levels of support, the trustees are satisfied with the situation.

The need for increased levels of reserves is a regular subject of discussion. Funding applications for core costs monies are regularly made to maintain or boost levels of unrestricted and reserve income.

g. Financial review

Income for the year amounted to £579,334 (2023: £822,558). Expenditure amounted to £632,15 (2023: £623,060). As a result, the charity generated a deficit of £52,817 (2023: surplus of £199,498). As at year end, the charity's total reserves amounted to £390,613 (2023: £443,430).

The financial year has been challenging for the charity, but not unexpected given the worldwide, national and local issues affecting the overall cost of living, which has impacted on expenditure. The receipt of grants throughout the year can distort the income/expenditure figures, with profit and loss being reported on almost alternate years.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The ongoing search for grants has become a bigger challenge with more charities seeking funding from a shrinking number of trusts, some of which are reducing monies available, temporarily ceasing rounds or closing completely. The board's decision to expand the number of funders rather than rely on a few has further helped the charity over the last two years.

h. Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

The charity has, during this financial year, held monies on behalf of the following community groups –

- Sheppey ADHD
- Eastchurch Allotments and Conservation Group

The charity maintains a normal accountancy trail of the financial transactions carried out on the behalf of either group.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its income and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Disclosure of information to independent examiner

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

The independent examiner, Samantha Rouse of Kreston Reeves LLP, has indicated her willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the independent examiner at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 26/11/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Michael John Brown
Trustee



Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent examiner's report
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Sheppey Matters ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Samantha Rouse

Dated: 26 November 2024

FCCA DChA

Kreston Reeves LLP
Chartered Accountants
Montague Place, Quayside
Chatham Maritime
Chatham
Kent
ME4 4QU

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	4,922	411,902	416,824	698,112
Charitable activities	5	47,831	110,919	158,750	123,613
Investments	6	3,691	-	3,691	833
Other income	7	69	-	69	-
Total income		56,513	522,821	579,334	822,558
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	50,662	581,489	632,151	623,060
Total expenditure		50,662	581,489	632,151	623,060
Net income/(expenditure)		5,851	(58,668)	(52,817)	199,498
Transfers between funds	14	766	(766)	-	-
Net movement in funds		6,617	(59,434)	(52,817)	199,498
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		79,474	363,956	443,430	243,932
Net movement in funds		6,617	(59,434)	(52,817)	199,498
Total funds carried forward		86,091	304,522	390,613	443,430

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 03946296

Balance sheet
as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	48,401	59,325
Current assets			
Debtors	12	32,818	24,940
Cash at bank and in hand		341,247	392,048
		<u>374,065</u>	<u>416,988</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(31,853)	(32,883)
Net current assets		<u>342,212</u>	<u>384,105</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>390,613</u></u>	<u><u>443,430</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	14	304,522	363,956
Unrestricted funds	14	86,091	79,474
Total funds		<u><u>390,613</u></u>	<u><u>443,430</u></u>

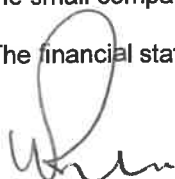
The Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Michael John Brown

Trustee

Date: 26/11/2024

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities (note 16)	(50,801)	155,022
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	-	833
Net cash provided by investing activities	-	833
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(50,801)	155,855
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	392,048	236,193
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year (note 17)	341,247	392,048

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. General information

Sheppey Matters is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Sheppey Leisure Centre, Broadway, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1HH. The principal activities of the Charity are as set out in the Trustees' Report.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Sheppey Matters meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The accounts are presented in round sterling.

2.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the Charity are the Trustees named on page 1. 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.

2.3 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.4 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

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.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

2.7 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 institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.8 Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the Charity assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives on the following bases:

Motor vehicles	- 5 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 5 years straight line

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

2.11 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.

2.12 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.13 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.14 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which 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.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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 costs 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.

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Tangible fixed assets

The Charity has recognised tangible fixed assets with a carrying value of £59,325 at the reporting date (see note 11). These assets are stated at their cost less provision for depreciation and impairment. The Charity's accounting policy sets out the approach to calculating depreciation for immaterial assets acquired. For material assets the Charity determines at acquisition reliable estimates for the useful life of the asset, its residual value and decommissioning costs. These estimates are based upon such factors as the expected use of the acquired asset and market conditions. At subsequent reporting dates the Trustees consider whether there are any factors such as technological advancements or changes in market conditions that indicate a need to reconsider the estimates used.

Where there are indicators that the carrying value of tangible assets may be impaired the Charity undertakes tests to determine the recoverable amount of assets. These tests require estimates of the fair value of assets less cost to sell and of their value in use. Wherever possible the estimate of the fair value of assets is based upon observable market prices less incremental cost for disposing of the asset. The value in use calculation is based upon a discounted cash flow model, based upon the Charity's forecasts for the foreseeable future which do not include any restructuring activities that the Charity is not yet committed to or significant future investments that will enhance the asset's performance. The recoverable amount is most sensitive to the discount rate used for the discounted cash flow model as well expected future cash flows and the growth rate used for extrapolation purposes.

Critical areas of judgement:

Lease commitments

The Charity has entered into a range of lease commitments in respect of plant and equipment. The classification of these leases as either financial or operating leases requires the Trustees to consider whether the terms and conditions of each lease are such that the Charity has acquired the risks and rewards associated with the ownership of the underlying assets.

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	4,922	11,778	16,700	20,977
Grants	-	400,124	400,124	538,026
Government grants	-	-	-	139,109
	<u>4,922</u>	<u>411,902</u>	<u>416,824</u>	<u>698,112</u>
Total 2023	<u>19,621</u>	<u>678,491</u>	<u>698,112</u>	

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable activities, see note 22	<u>47,831</u>	<u>110,919</u>	<u>158,750</u>	<u>123,613</u>
Total 2023	<u>49,510</u>	<u>74,103</u>	<u>123,613</u>	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	3,433	3,433	833
Investment income	258	258	-
	<u>3,691</u>	<u>3,691</u>	<u>833</u>
Total 2023	<u>833</u>	<u>833</u>	

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

7. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Other income	69	69	-

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable activities	627,481	4,670	632,151	623,060
Total 2023	615,560	7,500	623,060	

9. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	382,477	371,944
Social security costs	18,543	18,092
Pension costs	8,247	7,617
	409,267	397,653

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

2024 No.	2023 No.
28	30

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

2024 No.	2023 No.
16	16

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

9. Staff costs (continued)

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

During the year the Charity's key management personnel received remuneration and benefits, including employer's national insurance contributions, amounting to £86,395 (2023: £80,148).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2023	135,225	56,697	191,922
Additions	-	4,674	4,674
At 31 March 2024	135,225	61,371	196,596
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	80,701	51,896	132,597
Charge for the year	13,631	1,967	15,598
At 31 March 2024	94,332	53,863	148,195
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	40,893	7,508	48,401
At 31 March 2023	54,524	4,801	59,325

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

12. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	28,741	14,710
Other debtors	-	5,750
Prepayments and accrued income	4,077	4,480
	32,818	24,940

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	11,911	5,352
Other taxation and social security	6,003	7,046
Other creditors	1,646	2,057
Accruals and deferred income	12,293	18,428
	31,853	32,883

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Redundancy Reserve	11,450	-	-	4,500	15,950
Fixed Asset Funds	58,865	-	(13,631)	-	45,234
	<u>70,315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,631)</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>61,184</u>
General funds					
General Funds	<u>9,159</u>	<u>56,513</u>	<u>(37,031)</u>	<u>(3,734)</u>	<u>24,907</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>79,474</u>	<u>56,513</u>	<u>(50,662)</u>	<u>766</u>	<u>86,091</u>
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds (see note 22)	<u>363,956</u>	<u>522,821</u>	<u>(581,489)</u>	<u>(766)</u>	<u>304,522</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>443,430</u></u>	<u><u>579,334</u></u>	<u><u>(632,151)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>390,613</u></u>

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Redundancy Reserve	-	-	-	11,450	11,450
Fixed Asset Funds	2,101	-	(17,241)	74,005	58,865
	<u>2,101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(17,241)</u>	<u>85,455</u>	<u>70,315</u>
General funds					
General Funds	<u>35,571</u>	<u>69,602</u>	<u>(67,816)</u>	<u>(28,198)</u>	<u>9,159</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>37,672</u>	<u>69,602</u>	<u>(85,057)</u>	<u>57,257</u>	<u>79,474</u>
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds (see note 22)	<u>206,260</u>	<u>752,594</u>	<u>(537,641)</u>	<u>(57,257)</u>	<u>363,956</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>243,932</u></u>	<u><u>822,196</u></u>	<u><u>(622,698)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>443,430</u></u>

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

15. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Designated funds	70,315	-	(13,631)	4,500	61,184
General funds	9,159	56,513	(37,031)	(3,734)	24,907
Restricted funds	363,956	522,821	(581,489)	(766)	304,522
	443,430	579,334	(632,151)	-	390,613

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds	2,101	-	(17,241)	85,455	70,315
General funds	35,571	69,602	(67,816)	(28,198)	9,159
Restricted funds	206,260	752,594	(537,641)	(57,257)	363,956
	243,932	822,196	(622,698)	-	443,430

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	48,171	230	48,401
Current assets	61,487	312,578	374,065
Creditors due within one year	(23,567)	(8,286)	(31,853)
Total	86,091	304,522	390,613

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	58,865	460	59,325
Current assets	41,810	375,178	416,988
Creditors due within one year	(21,201)	(11,682)	(32,883)
Total	79,474	363,956	443,430

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(52,817)	199,498
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	15,598	19,112
Increase in debtors	(7,878)	(761)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(1,030)	12,011
Fixed Asset Additions	(4,674)	(74,005)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(50,801)	155,855

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

18. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash in hand	341,247	392,048
Total cash and cash equivalents	341,247	392,048

19. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	392,048	(50,801)	341,247
	392,048	(50,801)	341,247

20. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £8,247 (2023: £7,617). There were no amounts payable to the fund at the Balance sheet date (2023: £Nil).

21. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2024 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	3,992	3,992
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	7,984	11,976
	11,976	15,968

Sheppey Matters
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

22. Related party transactions

One of the Trustees, P Murray is also a trustee of Swale CVS, with C White K Pugh and being an employee of Swale CVS. During the financial year, Sheppey Matters incurred expenditure with Swale CVS of £39,660 (2023: £18,123) and received income of £200 (2023: £64). All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. At the balance sheet date Sheppey Matters is owed £1,465 (2023: Nil).

C White is also a director of Children and Families. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £36 (2023: £156) and received income of £70 (2023: £Nil) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. There were no amounts outstanding at the Balance sheet date. (2023: £Nil).

P Murray is also a director of Swale Community Leisure. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £10,017 (2023: £10,185) and received income of £3,435 (2023: £4,577) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. At the balance sheet date Sheppey Matters is owed £445 (2023: £984).

P Murray and N Martin are also trustees of Age UK Sheppey. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £1,202 (2023: £1,980) and received income of £30 (2023: £90) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. There were no amounts outstanding at the Balance sheet date. (2023: £Nil).

P Murray is also a trustee of Eastern Sheppey Community Hub. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £125 (2023: £Nil) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. At the balance sheet date Sheppey Matters is owed £125 (2023: £Nil).

Sheppey Matters

Notes to the financial statements

23. Restricted funds - breakdown by project

[illegible]

Sheppey Matters

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2024

23. Unrestricted funds - Centre funds

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Funds brought forward	79,474	37,672
Income and endowments from		
Grants	-	2,212
Donations	4,923	17,409
Room Hire	46,155	43,222
Travel and Membership	(1,122)	
Services / Work Undertaken	1,581	554
Investment Income	3,691	833
Other Income	1,285	5,372
Total income	56,513	69,602
Expenditure on		
Bad Debts	7,020	129
Bank Charges and Interest	(208)	117
Computer Expenses	6,216	(3,546)
Depreciation	15,368	18,882
Goods Given as Grants	(50)	1,890
Hall / Room Hire	(6,241)	61
Insurance	558	4,594
Legal and Professional Fees	-	216
Management Fees	(22,815)	(13,509)
Motor and Travel	660	136
Postage, Printing, Photocopying and Stationery	(190)	4,699
Repairs, Maintenance and Equipment	3,613	3,055
Staff Costs	43,689	51,142
Sundry Expenses	(2,821)	5,126
Telephone and Internet	522	(358)
Training	219	150
Utilities		5,604
Work Undertaken	452	369
Subtotal	45,992	78,757
Support costs		
Auditors' remuneration	4,670	6,300
Auditors' remuneration - non-audit	-	-
Subtotal	4,670	6,300
Net movement in funds	5,851	(15,455)
Transfers between funds	766	57,257
Funds carried forward	86,091	79,474