

**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 2025**

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**Sheppey Matters**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**Sheppey Matters**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Reference and administrative details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Trustees**

Michael John Brown, Chair (until 12/11/2024)  
Christine White, Chair (starting 12/04/2025)  
Kenneth Pugh  
Paul Murray MBE  
Joe Rook MBE, Chair (starting 12/11/2024, until 10/04/2025) (resigned 10 April 2025)  
Gareth Dyson  
Evan Francis (appointed 10 August 2025)  
Seshnie Naidoo (appointed 10 August 2025)  
Teresa Boag (appointed 1 October 2025)

**Company registered number**

03946296

**Charity registered number**

1102847

**Registered office**

Sheppey Leisure Centre  
Broadway  
Sheerness  
Kent  
ME12 1HH

**Company secretary**

Nigel Martin

**Swale Borough Council Representative**

Elliott Jayes

**Accountants**

Kreston Reeves LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Maritime Place  
Quayside  
Chatham Maritime  
Chatham  
Kent  
ME4 4QZ

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. 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 regular basis and has a frequent 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 2025**

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.
- Regular 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 2024/25. 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 2024/25 year was extremely challenging from a fundraising point of view. The number of successful funding applications made in this year was down on the previous twelve months and is similar to other reported difficulties by charities in securing monies as the number of applicants increases whilst that of funders dwindles through closure, pausing or reducing funding levels.

The charity was pleased to secure financial support from new funders: Access Foundation, Peter Harrison Foundation, Nisa, Swire Charitable Foundation, The Cole Trust, Engaging Kent and the Chalk Cliff Trust.

The board remains grateful for ongoing support from its regular funders. The search for new funders to minimise the reliance of few funders continues and is successfully demonstrated above. 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 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, Swale Borough Council, The National Lottery Community Fund, Tudor Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Henry Smith Charity, Motability, Kent Sport, UK Cycling, Sheerness Town Council, Minster Parish Council, OFCOM, Enfinium, Access Foundation, Peter Harrison Foundation, Nisa, Swire Charitable Foundation, Chalk Cliff Trust, Medway Voluntary Action, Sports Connect, Cole Trust and Engaging Kent.

The charity's annual Big Bash was once again held in October in the sports hall and attracted over 650 visitors. The event featured over 20 support groups and organisations, all promoting their services to the community. Feedback from these groups was overwhelmingly positive:

Sateda Share Wear: Recorded over 37 interactions with individuals experiencing domestic abuse, who visited to access resources from their clothes project

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Swale Foodbank: Distributed over 100 cookbooks and received substantial food donations, supporting local families in need.

Samuels Charity: Found the event invaluable for raising awareness about their work supporting children and families affected by cancer.

### Family-Friendly Activities:

Children enjoyed a variety of attractions, including crowd favourites like the bouncy castle, Creepy Crawlies, and face painting. The local police, represented by PC Alice, provided an engaging experience, allowing children to try on police uniforms and interact with a friendly, familiar face.

Additionally, many children participated in a best-dressed competition, proudly showing off their costumes. Prizes for the competition were provided by our Everyday Active Champion, Julie Calder, who also managed the "Walk-In Wellness Hub." In the Abbey Room wellness hub, services like Cardiac Care, Retrain the Pain support, and "One You" were on hand, offering free health MOTs to the public.

### New Additions:

#### **Craft Stalls and Eco-Friendly Workshop**

This year, local craft stalls were introduced, which attracted attendees who may not have participated in prior years. The Waterfront Room became a creative hub, featuring a "Make Your Own Halloween Costume & Swap Shop" run by Jade, a Repair Cafe volunteer and art teacher from Leigh Academy, with support from the youth team, Elaine and Sharon. Over 50 people participated, creating cape costumes and learning about eco-friendly practices in a hands-on, inspiring environment.

The Big Bash event successfully achieved its objectives: engaging the community, promoting local services, and providing valuable resources. Attendees enjoyed a well-rounded experience, while support groups and local organisations reached those in need. This positive feedback reflects the impact of the charity's collaborative, inclusive approach and sets a strong foundation for future community events.

The major event of the year was the need to vacate the healthy living centre to allow the refurbishment works to be started. This move was completed during January 2025; thanks are due for the hard work, creativity and devotion to the charity and needs of the community shown by staff and volunteers.

The administration part of the charity was accommodated in the nearby Sheerness Gateway (a Kent County Council/Swale Borough Council building). A twelve-month lease was taken on a local shop (funded by Swale Borough Council) allowing a smaller level of delivery by Sheppey Matters and partners' projects. The shop has been a great success, bringing greater exposure to the community in a high street setting. The charity has had to hire other local venues for session delivery.

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The move from the healthy living centre has resulted in a loss of room hire income. This has been partly covered by Swale Borough Council, but the reduced income has resulted in a negative figure in the annual accounts and is shown in the lower level of unrestricted income. At July 2025, the conversation is still ongoing with the council to recover this loss of income. The board and senior management team is also seeking other income streams.

The board is currently agreeing a new lease for the healthy living centre with the council, setting a budget for 2026/27 based on the costs involved for the move back to the healthy living centre, which is expected in June 2026.

Below are further details on the projects.

### **Well Life**

November 2024 marked the conclusion of the final year of funding for the Well Life project. During this last year, the team remained dedicated to engaging the community in activities aimed at supporting wellbeing, belonging, and connection, whether through volunteering or participation in community groups.

The team provided inclusive and accessible sessions, groups, and activities to support a large number of our community since the COVID lockdowns, and the subsequent cost of living crisis.

Activities offered included:

- Walking for health groups
- Adapted Tai Chi
- Walking netball
- Line dancing
- Heart Health and Pain Management groups
- Community cooking
- Lunch club
- Youth cooking sessions
- Community gardening
- Garden Club
- Youth gardening activities
- Sowing and growing
- Gardening for wellbeing

Several groups that were formed during the lifetime of this project have demonstrated sustainability and continued beyond project funding, ensuring that the social connections and friendships formed will live on as a legacy of Well Life.

### **Safer Streets – Community Gardening**

In March 2025, we concluded the funding for the Safer Streets project in collaboration with Swale Borough Council. This initiative aimed to address violence against women and girls, as well as antisocial behaviour, through community gardening and litter picks, enhancing the sense of safety and community in Sheerness.

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

After organising 15 monthly community litter picks around Sheerness, the group officially registered with the Wombles Community, leading to the formation of the 'Sheppey Matters Wombles' group. It continues to meet every month and partners with other local organisations to tackle litter issues across the Isle of Sheppey.

### **Island Youth Voice**

The Youth Voice project started in December 2024 and will run for one year, empowering young people to advocate for change regarding youth services on the Island.

It has successfully established a weekly Life Skills group for home-educated children between the ages of 9 and 17. The group is working to develop a guide showcasing the opportunities available to the youth of the Island. This guide is being designed for young people, by young people and will be published online and in booklet form in the Autumn of 2025.

### **Sheppey Healthy Living Centre**

Over the past year, Sheppey Healthy Living Centre (HLC) has continued to serve as a vital community health hub, delivering a wide range of accessible support services, events, and preventative health programmes to improve wellbeing and reduce health inequalities across the Isle of Sheppey.

From April to December 2024, the Centre maintained its role as a daily base for essential health and social care partners. The Forward Trust provided in-person support around substance misuse, working with individuals struggling with alcohol, opioid dependency, and recreational drug use. Alongside this, One You delivered smoking cessation clinics, health MOTs, and weight management support sessions, helping residents take positive steps towards improved physical health.

Ongoing partnership with the Trussell Trust Swale Foodbank continued every Wednesday morning, ensuring access to emergency food parcels. Crucially, this was complemented by wrap-around support from Live Well Kent and Mind, as well as a Pre-Loved School Uniform exchange, providing practical and emotional support to families under pressure.

In addition, HLC provided regular hosting space for key services including Victim Support, the Diabetes Prevention Programme, and various local counselling services, enabling residents to access help discreetly and close to home.

In support of sustainability and upskilling, May 2024 saw the launch of our monthly Repair Café, an increasingly popular initiative encouraging residents to bring along textiles, small household items, and bicycles to be repaired with the guidance of local volunteers. Not only does this reduce landfill, but it also empowers attendees with hands-on skills in basic repairs and maintenance.

The Repair Café aligns with our successful partnership with Cycle Re-Cycle, an innovative scheme in which unwanted bikes are refurbished by inmates from one of the island's three prisons, as part of a vocational skills programme. These upcycled bikes are then sold at community events for just £10, offering affordable transport options while supporting rehabilitation and environmental goals. Sheppey Matters hosted three bike sales during this period—March, June, and August—resulting in the sale of over 140 bicycles.



## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The events calendar featured a wide range of public engagement activities designed to promote physical and emotional wellbeing. In May, it hosted Mental Health Awareness Week events including guided beach walks, sound bath sessions, and reflective 'Tea & Talk' spaces. September saw a playful yet purposeful Mad Hatter's Tea Party fundraising event in aid of Macmillan, helping raise both awareness and funds for those affected by cancer. October welcomed the return of the annual Think Pink breast cancer awareness event, in partnership with Medway Hospital's Breast Care Unit. Activities included salsa taster classes, information stalls, and an impactful hands-on session with breast models demonstrating how to detect lumps and abnormalities. A staff member shared the following case study, which exemplifies the real-world impact of our work:

*"On the 18th October I attended the Think Pink coffee morning. A breast cancer support worker was demonstrating how to check for lumps, which prompted me to book an appointment with my GP that same day. I was referred to the Medway One-Stop Breast Clinic and after a biopsy, I was relieved to learn the lump was benign. If I hadn't attended that event, I may have continued to ignore it. I'm extremely grateful to Kelly and the team for making support so accessible."*

In August 2024, the first-ever Women's Health and Wellness Expo was held, attracting over 100 attendees and drawing a powerful mix of clinical professionals, charities, and local businesses. The event offered sessions and information on breast and gynaecological cancers, domestic abuse, pelvic health, menopause, nutrition, and addiction services. It featured live music, free taster workshops, and guest speakers, and was met with overwhelmingly positive community feedback.

Our annual 'Big Bash' Family Fun Day, held in October half-term, was another resounding success. Welcoming over 650 attendees, the day featured over 20 local services and clubs, a trick-or-treat costume swap, and a pop-up Repair Café, making it a standout highlight in our family engagement calendar.

As the festive season approached, HLC partnered with the Swale Foodbank and the Salvation Army to deliver a 'Giving Tree' initiative, collecting and redistributing over 100 Christmas presents to local children and families in need—ensuring that no child went without at Christmas.

In January 2025, Sheppey Matters exited the HLC building temporarily due to major improvement works funded by the Levelling Up Initiative. While the core building undergoes redevelopment, services have been successfully transitioned into our new temporary hub at 31 Broadway, Sheerness. This smaller but flexible space now houses back-office functions and provides ongoing hosting for essential partners including Forward Trust and One You. The community-facing hub opened on 14th February 2025 with a 'Red Carpet Health Day', which tied into Heart Health Month. The event included free heart health MOTs, a coffee morning, and community information stalls. The day marked a positive turning point in the continuation of Sheppey Matters services despite infrastructure changes.

March 2025 marked the launch of a new Cancer Support Group, a much-needed peer-led initiative offering a safe space for individuals and families affected by cancer. Also welcomed was a Stoma Support Group to our community roster, reflecting an ongoing commitment to inclusive, person-centred support.

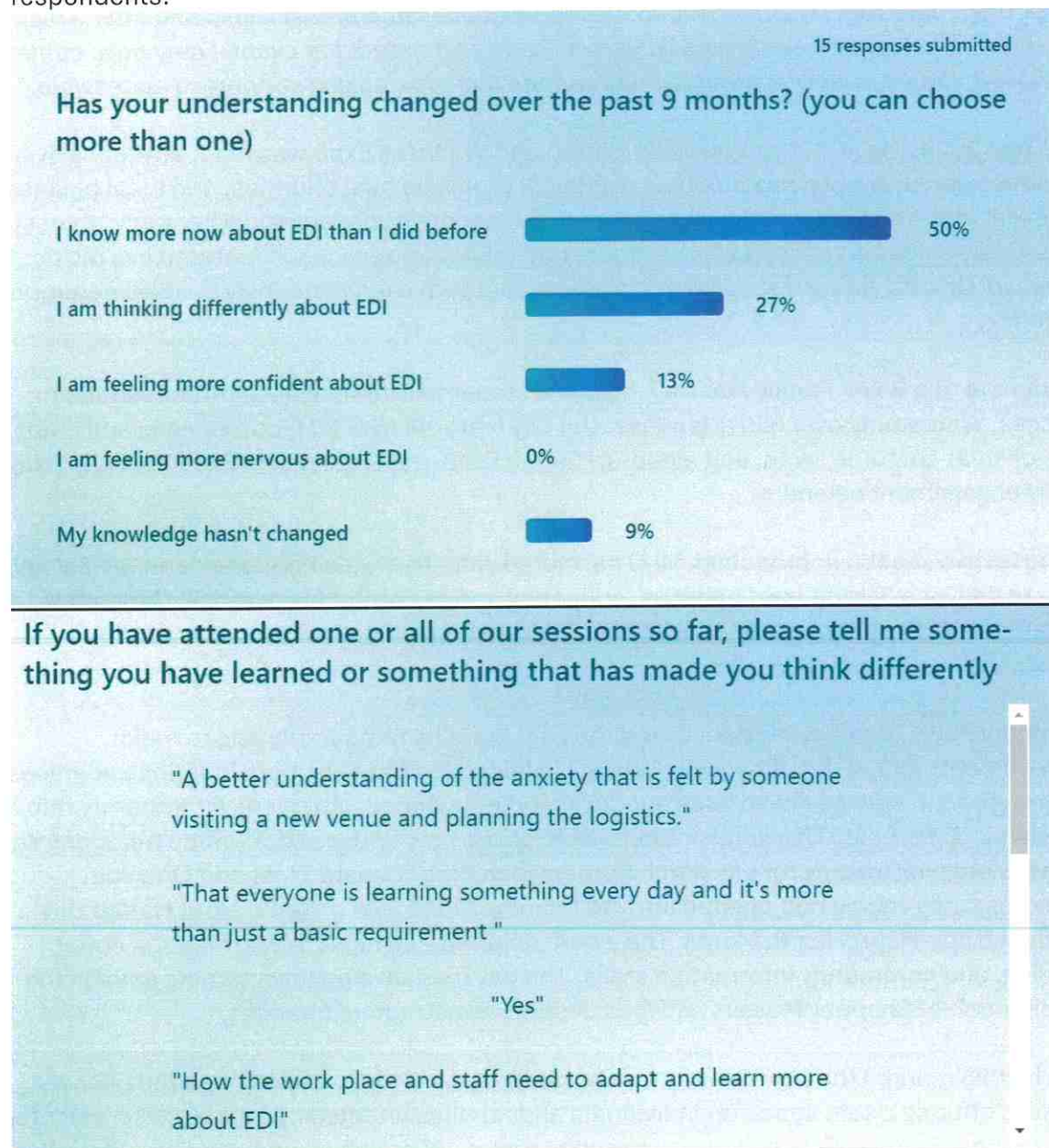
## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

In summary, the Sheppey Healthy Living Centre continues to adapt, innovate, and respond to the evolving needs of the local community. Despite the challenges of relocation and the national pressures on public health, it has maintained strong impact—evidenced by continued service uptake, new partnerships, and the many stories of lives positively affected. As the charity looks ahead to the reopening of the redeveloped Centre, it remains committed to a vision of a healthier, more connected Sheppey.

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Sheppey Matters

In June 2024, a staff session was held to look at other organisations' examples of EDI work to gain inspiration and plan.

In August 2024, colleagues were surveyed their current positions on EDI. We had 15 respondents:



"The evolving use of language is something that has made me more aware of my own terminology."

"Look at social issues from both sides and try to understand changes in society that perhaps aren't easy to understand or recognise "

"The importance of respect for groups and individuals feelings "

"There is no need to feel really nervous about a subject you are learning about and asking questions is ok "

"It surprises me how nervous this subject makes people still. "

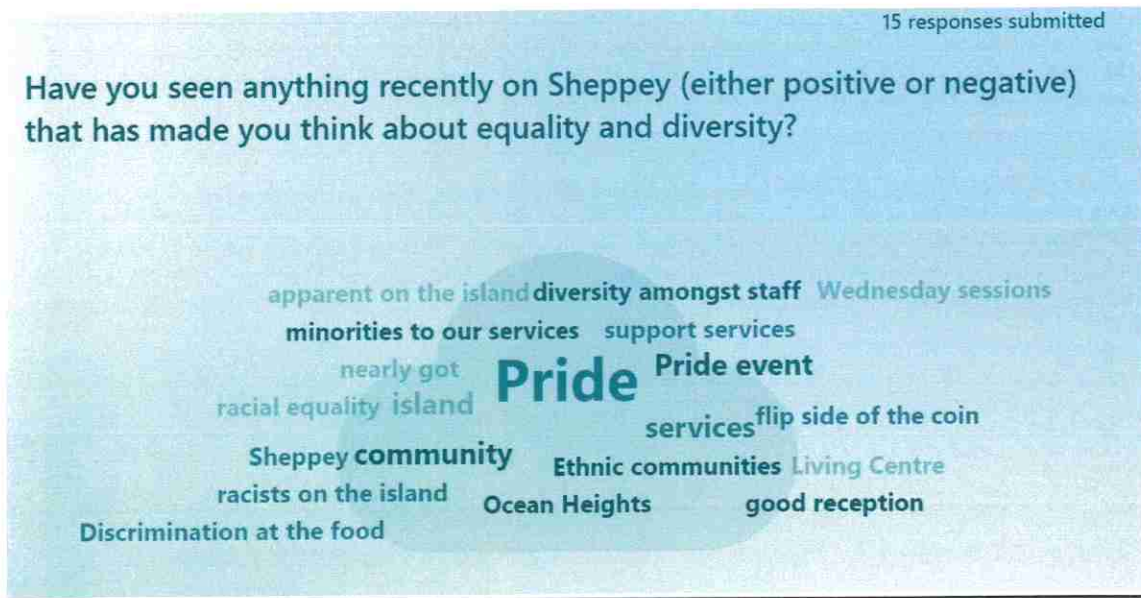
"Acronyms"

"Its not enough just to say all welcome when advertising an event. I'm more mindful when organising and advertising after attending the sessions."

What would you say are our 3 main values at Sheppey Matters? What do we stand for? What do we want people to think of when they hear our...

A word cloud visualization of values and themes. The words are arranged in a circular pattern around two central terms: 'Inclusion' and 'Community'. The words vary in size and color (shades of blue and green). The central terms 'Inclusion' and 'Community' are the largest and most prominent. Other words include 'Inclusiveness', 'rights', 'social equality', 'situation or circumstance', 'meat ups', 'equality and inclusion', 'local communities', 'Health & Wellbeing', 'health & wellness', 'diversity and equality', 'safe space', 'space', 'Knowledge', 'Integrity', 'group meat', 'working hard inclusive', 'Health & Wellbeing', 'Healthy lifestyle', and 'diversity and equality'.





In October and November, a series of working groups was held. Frontline group decided to focus on creating a new set of values for the organisation:



The events group decided to design Accessibility Guides for all the charity's spaces. It also decided on a "getting to know you" stall at our upcoming annual event, which was very popular:



## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The data group focused on how we can capture demographic data from members. It created a “getting to know you” survey, with 103 responses and will evolve with time and more responses to give Sheppey Matters a better understanding. The form can be accessed here: <https://forms.office.com/e/CuMAesDJC3>

From January, the charity finalised and published an Accessibility Guide for all new spaces used for delivery. These provide visitors with information on parking, disabled access, toilet facilities etc.

In February, staff was offered opportunity to take part in Race Equality Week, an initiative run by Race Equality Matters. This was a 5-day event, where staff completed a short activity each day. Staff was very engaged, and feedback was positive.

In late February, there was a “checking in” survey to staff about Race Equality Week and EDI progress in general and a weekly Staff Spotlight, where a different staff member, volunteer or trustee was highlighted on the charity’s social media channels.



**Staff Spotlight**

**Wayne Cordwell**  
Sheppey FM Programme and Studio Manager

I have been with Sheppey FM since before we launched on FM and have been privileged enough to watch them grow and achieve great things. I programme all of our output, take care of the presenters, the schedule and look after the running of the studio. It's a fantastic job made better by a wonderful team that make the dream work. I have been a working DJ on and off for 30 years and am into computers and engineering. I also host breakfast shows and the Club Sheppey Show on Saturday nights. I am a married family man with 4 children, some with profound SEN, so the flexibility of my job is perfect. Sheppey has a unique community togetherness that I've not experienced anywhere else. It's fantastic how so many people rally together as well as hold community events and celebrations. Being part of Sheppey FM and Sheppey Matters means we get to experience that community spirit first hand throughout the year.



**Staff Spotlight**

**Jay Giddings**  
Neurodiverse Youth Project Manager

I enjoy meeting new families and young people within my role. Within my role, I am privileged to be part of a young person's journey. I see young people grow in confidence and develop new skills which enhance their wellbeing.

I have lived on Sheppey for over 20 years and the beach is my favourite place. I love the freedom of the sand and water in what can be a chaotic lifestyle. The whole family enjoy time at the beach and have created lots of wonderful memories.

When I left school at 18, I toured with a theatre company across the UK, performing on stage using puppets and marionettes. I then went onto to write my own comedy show and perform as a stand up comedian in London.

## Grub Hub Schools Partnership Report

Thanks to the continued support of Minster Parish Council, Sheppey Matters has been able to sustain and expand its vital Grub Hub initiative, delivering free, hot, nutritious meals to families most affected by food poverty across the Isle of Sheppey.

Initially operating from the Sheppey Healthy Living Centre alongside the foodbank, the programme transitioned in January 2025 to a more decentralised and community-embedded approach, working directly with:

- Minster Primary School
- Thistle Hill Community Centre
- Rose Street School
- Richmond Primary
- Seashells Children's Centre
- Queenborough Primary School

Each partner site receives 30 freshly prepared meals weekly, empowering them to distribute meals directly to families they identify as most in need.

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

These schools are uniquely placed to understand the circumstances of their families much better than Sheppey Matters. From fluctuating income and benefit delays to housing instability and mental health challenges, schools witness the full picture. By entrusting them with the allocation of these meals, the support reaches families who may not traditionally engage with external services, but who are nevertheless in urgent need. This method has improved targeting, reduced stigma, and strengthened trust in the community.

### Community Engagement:

- 6 schools/centres actively involved in weekly distribution
- Free school Uniform and additional support services offered alongside meals
- New coffee afternoons launched to increase wider community inclusion

### Voices from the Community

"I was able to offer meals to a family in temporary accommodation, a household of 10 fleeing domestic violence, and a mum whose cooker was condemned this week."

"The children now ask if it's 'Dinner Day'. Some parents have started recreating the meals at home — it's building skills as well as feeding families."

"On a busy week I know my children will still have a hot meal. Honestly, I appreciate this service so much."

"It's like a weekly treat — a bit like a takeaway, but healthier and more helpful."

### Outcomes

- ✓ Reduced Pressure on Household Budgets
- ✓ Improved Nutrition for Children
- ✓ Strengthened Community Ties
- ✓ Increased Engagement with 'Harder to Reach' Families
- ✓ Decreased Risk of Crisis through Preventative Support

### Challenges & Observations

- Reports of youth antisocial behaviour on the estate underscores the need for positive community-based engagement.
- Families are often facing trade-offs between eating or heating, and other essentials.
- There is a clear demand for meal diversity (e.g. vegan and halal options), and for broader promotion of the service.

### Looking Forward

This project continues to adapt to meet the needs of a changing community. Unfortunately, the funding comes to an end at the end of July 2025; without further funding, this project will stop.

However, if ongoing support is a success, the project aims to:

- Expand meal distribution capacity
- Increase culturally appropriate meal options
- Broaden reach through school and social media campaigns
- Use food provision as a gateway into wider support services



## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

### Project's Gratitude

This impactful initiative would not be possible without the unwavering support of Minster Parish Council and Sheerness East Working Men's Club. Their commitment has directly improved the lives of local families and helped bring warmth, nourishment, and dignity to households across Sheppey.

### **Inspire Me**

Inspire Me is progressing in a positive manner. Over the last year the beneficiary list has grown continually. Regular groups have been a great resource to introduce new members to finding their new or resumed hobbies and new companions. As members ages range so widely, from 16 to 59 and poor mental health has been a large theme throughout many of their journeys, some of the beneficiaries have needed more time and encouragement than had at first been anticipated.

A group for younger and neuro diverse members, giving them the opportunity to share board games and conversation has a strong following. Along with an evening menopause support group, where encouragement had been given to direct women (and men) to get better access to health care. Craft sessions were enjoyed with a variety of activities, whilst the team also used this time to meet with new people at the shop. There is a very busy "not sew alone" group at Eastchurch for clients that struggle with time alone in the evenings, offering companionship and support with individual projects. There are other regular sessions at number 31, as well as Leysdown, Thistle Hill and Eastchurch.

The project has supported and attended events at the local breast-feeding group, nature reserve, sea allotment, repair cafe, D Day celebrations, Women's health event and created over 100 breast cancer support cushions and drain bags. Throughout this year the team has strived to offer innovative and creative activities that bring people together and offer them an opportunity to help themselves and others to better wellbeing and connection.'





### Physical & Mental Health Project

Over the last year the walking for health group has steadily grown, having around 130 people attending the walks every month. The demographics of this group are people over the age of 50 and have health condition(s), widowed or living in isolation.

Jenny who is 82 and is a widow said, "I make sure I attend the walking group every week as this is the only time I ever walk outdoors. It is not very motivating to go walking on your own, and I love going for a coffee afterward."

Regular walks are supplemented by longer and shorter walks in other local beauty spots, including Milton Creek and Elmley Nature Reserve, where the group was interviewed by BBC Radio Kent.

In the last 6 months the walking 'whatsapp' group has expanded to a social whatsapp group where people suggest and arrange social activity events outside of the walking group. This has included a visit to Queenborough Bowls, line dancing and a meal over Easter at a local venue. Many of the walkers would normally spend Easter weekend alone; 19 that attended the meal and exchanged easter eggs.

Retrain the Pain, which was set up in January 2024, now has a regular attendance of around 25 – 30 people each month. It covers different topics and activities each month, including Yoga, Qi

Gong (adapted Tai Chi), Sound & Vibration Therapy, and educational workshops on distraction & nerve pain. Through these educational meeting participants have learnt to understand how much movement can not only improve their condition but also their mental wellbeing.

The session is also a safe space where they can share how they are feeling with their peers and in turn feel supported. Many feel that family and friends do not understand what they are going through and feel quite lonely, even if they have partners and family.

Qi Gong (adapted Tai Chi) has become a regular event that Sheppey Matters provides for free around the island in different locations using a local volunteer instructor.

During the winter months the Everyday Active for Health strand saw quieter times but outdoor in local parks and beauty spots there are 20 – 25 people regularly attending.

The Sheppey Community Cycling club secured further funding from Cycle UK and has trained up four new leaders this year. They have a regular attendance of around eight beginners every other week when they run their sessions.



## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

New partner groups have included Parkinson UK and an Ostomy group; both communities are very under-represented group on the island. They have little to no support locally to help manage or improve their conditions. This has included a physical activity session for those on the Island living with Parkinsons, whilst support is being given to finding a replacement instructor in Sittingbourne. The project is working with the Ostomy group to help break-down barriers locally, many have been penalised in local venues due to unseen disabilities and find being outside and socialising a huge barrier.

### **Legacy**

Legacy was created as a dedicated response to the deepening issue of isolation and loneliness in older adults (60+) across the Isle of Sheppey. Launched in early 2024, Legacy swiftly became a lifeline for the over 60s community, championing dignity, inclusion, and resilience. Through a blend of tailored one-to-one support, group activities, outreach, and innovative partnerships, Legacy reached some of the most vulnerable individuals on the Isle of Sheppey, helping to rebuild confidence, develop and nurture new friendships, and provide practical and emotional support.

### Our Foundations

From its inception, Legacy focused on building resilient partnerships within the voluntary and statutory sectors. Learning from previous projects, it ensured the right people were around the table from the start, creating a joined-up, community-first approach. These strategic connections unlocked shared resources, best practices, funding pathways, and volunteer recruitment opportunities, which laid the foundation for sustainable delivery and long-term impact.

### Project Launch & Continual Development

April 2024 saw the official launch of Legacy with a stakeholder showcase event. This brought together professionals and potential service users to introduce the project's offer, explore referral routes, and encourage collaborative working. The programme provides:

- One-to-one tailored support for individuals aged 60+
- Evening and weekend activities to bridge isolation gaps
- Outreach across Sheppey, particularly to harder-to-reach areas

The first evening activity, the community-led card group "Whist," quickly proved popular and was followed by a series of creative and inclusive sessions: succulent planting, coffee mornings, men's mental health groups, befriending, fitness sessions, and digital inclusion workshops to name just a few.

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

### Key Activities & Engagement

Legacy was designed around lived experience and engagement with our people. Highlights of the year included:

- **Digital Literacy Workshops** – Providing tablets and training, including anti-scams education
- **Resilience Sessions** – Helping participants create healthy boundaries and rebuild self-worth
- **Intergenerational Events** – Partnering with primary and secondary schools to deliver intergenerational cooking sessions with our community chef.
- **Creative Arts & Gardening** – Therapeutic outlets for expression and memory-sharing, utilising a beach hut in Leysdown and other venues and spaces that encouraged a freedom of expression.
- **Bereavement & Emotional Support** – Safe spaces for grief and sessions in gentle boundary making and resilience workshops.
- **Falls Prevention & Health Support** – Reducing hospital admissions and increasing mobility working alongside the everyday active leader to support those with ongoing health conditions that needed a little extra support with mobility.
- **Legacy Lounge (Oct 2024)** – An intergenerational story-sharing event with HM Prison staff and Legacy participants – sharing stories and memories of the past. Creating a space for conversation and storytelling.

### Partnerships and Referrals

Legacy's success owes much to its partnerships, including: - Age UK - Kent Community Wardens - Kent Fire & Rescue Service - GP Surgeries & NHS Health Trainers - Imago, Southern Housing, Salvation Army - DWP & local prisons

Through these collaborations, participants were linked to vital support services including Staying Put, Safe & Well visits, and adult safeguarding support.

### Outcomes & Participant Impact

Legacy helped older adults reconnect with community life. Many participants began a journey from chronic loneliness to thriving engagement. Highlighted outcomes include: -

- Over 150 individual participants supported –
- 40+ group sessions held across various settings/activities etc.
- New friendships formed that continue outside of sessions
- Support for cancer patients, COPD sufferers, mobility-restricted individuals, and those navigating bereavement –
- A unique befriending support, even reaching bed-bound clients, with a super active WhatsApp group for digitally able clients to stay connected and informed.

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

*"This is the only visit I look forward to all week. Without Legacy, I wouldn't speak to another soul."* A Client supported through a volunteer befriending scheme

### Challenges & Adapting

Some outreach in Queenborough, Rushenden, Leysdown, and Warden Bay struggled with low attendance. Rather than persist with ineffective models, the approach was quickly adapted by gathering community feedback, discontinuing underperforming groups, integrating with existing coffee mornings and shifting focus to more interactive, creative, and responsive activities

### Accessibility

Transport on Sheppey remains a barrier, particularly for older adults. Legacy strategically placed sessions in locations accessible by foot, mobility scooter, or with volunteer transport assistance. Key hubs included: - Healthy Living Centre (Sheerness) - Minster Parish Hall - Tuesday Church Coffee Morning (Minster) - Pop-up events across central and eastern Sheppey. The project also teamed up with a sister project 'Miles and Smiles' to encourage their passengers to join in with some of the social activities.

### Community Voice

Participants played a central role in shaping the project. Activities were organised and created with residents in mind, often liaising with them and listening to vital feedback given about what they wanted to do and see. The charity celebrated their journeys and achievements through: -

- Day trips to local sites
- Numerous social events - breakfast meetups and quizzes, evenings out etc.

*"I came for a coffee morning. I left with a whole new set of friends."* – Legacy participant

### Conclusion

In just one year, Legacy has built a resilient foundation to support Sheppey's older population. It has helped individuals find their voice, regain purpose, and reconnect with their community. By placing compassion, flexibility, and inclusivity at the heart of its work, it has created a project that truly honours the people it serves.

As we move into our second year, our vision remains clear: to expand outreach, increase volunteer capacity, and develop a replicable model of community resilience that can be shared with others.

### **Young People Matter**

The project has provided 156 sessions, reaching out to 117 young people, giving a total of over 1194 attendances during the year.

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Sessions included

Monday – Art Squad, Youth Club

Tuesday – Home Educated Club

Friday – ADHD special needs club

There have been some great successes with holiday activities, supporting young people to enjoy paintballing, forest school, cooking sessions, wildwood, and mini-Olympics. Feedback is always sought from young people to share any ideas for future sessions, especially to co-design these summer activities.

Parents feedback indicated that activities and services are meeting the needs of the family. Many young people have flourished over the last year and grown in confidence, with two sufficiently confident to apply for college to undertake public services and photography. Many young people have engaged in activities they have never tried before by inviting guests to their sessions. They all enjoyed Trofit (physical fitness sessions) joining the youth club one evening and taking them through a variety of exercises. However, the club does still struggle to attract new members. This could be because there is no personal care or 1:1 care offered, parents may not be able to take them to sessions, whilst many young people find staying at home more engaging with technology. This has been an ongoing concern since Covid.

The project continues to find new and fresh ways of engaging with the youth on Sheppey to ensure they have every opportunity to meet their full potential.

### Miles and Smiles



The new financial year for Miles and Smiles began with project management changes. With this came creative approaches for gaining new membership, such as liaising with community groups, and offering group hires to disabled community groups. With this new approach membership increased very quickly, Miles and Smiles ended its year two of funding 20% above its target numbers for membership.

In the summer of 2024, a video walk through of the bus was created showcasing the minibus and its accessibility, which was used in meeting new groups and on the Sheppey Matters social media. It was a very widely shared video and attracted enquiries about our service.

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

One driver resigned and another recruited during the autumn, completing all the necessary training in the Christmas/ New Year period. This year has been very successful, and is demonstrated in the membership numbers as seen below:

- 93% reported improved physical and mental wellbeing
- 93% had increased ability to reach places they couldn't before
- 89% have improved confidence
- 94% are satisfied with our service.



### Sheppey Wheels



Following the difficulties of the previous year the first quarter of 2024 started off very well, recommencing the contract with Blackburn Lodge/Kent County Council alongside the contract with Age UK. During the year Sheppey Wheels had 1997 seats filled on day trips, 386 bookings with Age UK and Blackburn Lodge, 78 private hires, 14 school weeks of bookings with Halfway Houses and 26 school weeks of bookings with Queenborough School

The majority of the day trips this year were sold out, or close to. The two brochures produced in this period were very well received and created a large influx of contact to Sheppey Matters, both in person and via the phones. On both occasions additional support from other projects was required to ensure all the bookings went smoothly.

The difficulties experienced in this period were largely the result of maintenance on the ageing fleet. At the end of the financial period funding was secured for a new minibus, which will replace the oldest minibus which is now 12 years old.





Feedback from our passengers and hirers:

*'Excellent service the other day to Hempstead Valley, the driver was a lovely lady and went above and beyond'*

*'Thank you for the excellent job the driver did on Saturday transporting our volunteers to Rochester, they had a wonderful day.'*

### **Sheppey Community Media Centre/Sheppey FM**

The project has successfully provided 38 work experience placements to schools across Swale: Borden Grammar, Leigh Academy, East Kent College, Westlands, Fulston Manor, the Sittingbourne School, Mid-Kent College and for SEN schools: Meadowfields and Elmley Dray. Students showed a marked increase in confidence, self-esteem and pride in their achievements, and the schools have sent glowing reports to the station.

The youth training programme continues to thrive and has had 23 young people participate, with currently 15 remaining on the Youth Radio show, 9 of whom are special educational needs. The students have progressed to researching and creating their own podcasts, based on improving the environment, and have recently branched out into local journalism. Under the 'Princess Royal Training Award, the station continues to provide Arts Awards accredited qualification, with three students progressing to a gold award (the equivalent of 2 A-levels).

The station's roadshow attended 52 community events supporting Swale Police, charity fundraisers for CRUK, MSAS (men's sexual assault support) and many schools' fun days, whilst also partnering with Sheerness Town Council to attend their St George's Day and Remembrance

Sheppey FM features regular spots with a local PCSO, highlighting and updating residents on issues of concern. There is also a monthly 'Councillors On-Air' show, where Borough and Parish councillors can communicate and talk about their achievements and challenges in the community. People can send in their questions for the councillors to follow up on.

A new project is 'Music in Mind' which uses the power of music to reach people suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's, visiting residents at a local care home and play their music requests, whilst engaging them in conversation. The results have been heartwarming, with seniors in their 80s responding with smiles, singing, armchair-dancing and, with the influence of music, recalling their happiest memories.

There has been an ongoing plethora of guests in the studio highlighting and informing people about health concerns: Bowel Cancer Support, Menopause support, Breast Cancer Awareness, Dementia Awareness and MSAS. There have been appeals for two of our local children's centres: Wiggles Playgroup and Seashells Family & Children's Centre. Further guests included representatives from Mencap, Air Ambulance, Age UK, Salvation Army, CRUK, Marie Curie's '100-mile challenge', RNLI, School Therapy Dogs, and local artists and authors. There was also had an impromptu visit from the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner.

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

### **IT support**

Over the past year at Sheppey Matters, there have been two weekly digital drop-in sessions, mainly supporting older members of the community with digital inclusion. This includes helping people with IT-related subjects such as using email, setting up and managing accounts, creating passwords, and understanding how to stay safe online.

There has also been greater day-to-day IT support across the organisation—setting up new laptops, sorting out printer issues, helping staff with general tech problems and managing the charity's social media accounts, keeping them updated with the latest news and events. Other areas of support have included photography, editing, planning, and digital support where needed.

### **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.

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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.
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. The move from the healthy living centre (as reported above) has resulted in some financial loss from room hire, which is a staple income for the charity. The return to the healthy living centre will also incur additional costs, which are being discussed and funding sought over the next twelve months, with a return predicted in June 2026.

### **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 continue to seek new and different funding streams during 2025/26 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



## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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.

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 £390,463 of which £323,405 were restricted funds leaving £67,058 available for general purposes of the charity. The reduced level of unrestricted funds is due to the loss of income from room hire due to leaving the HLC in January 2025.

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 £85,000.00 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.

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

As at the year end, the charity's unrestricted reserves stood at £67,058, which is below the reserves policy as set. The 2024/25 year saw a slow down in room bookings (a usually solid basis for the core costs budget) from November 24 due to the uncertainty of a move-out date from the healthy living centre to allow the commencement of the centre's refurbishment. The move from the centre eventually happened in January 2025. Some of the lost income was met by Swale Borough Council, but the additional costs incurred by the charity to facilitate the move, redecorate an alternative venue and hire external meeting rooms was an unbudgeted figure and is reflected in the main account and reserves.

The board is aware of this shortfall and is working with the senior management team to increase unrestricted income and boost the reserves to the desired level of £85,000.00. However, fundraising for restricted and unrestricted monies has become increasingly challenging during this year and is expected to be the same in 2025/26. Additional resources will be applied to this function to successfully secure further income.

### **g. Financial review**

Income for the year amounted to £682,408 (2024: £579,334). Expenditure amounted to £682,558 (2024: £632,151). As a result, the charity generated a deficit of £150 (2024: deficit of £52,817). As at year end, the charity's total reserves amounted to £390,463 (2024: £390,613).

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. Consequently, the charity has shown a small deficit for the 2025 financial year.

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 three 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.

## Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

### 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 10/11/2025 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 2025**

**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 2025.

**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: 10 November 2025

FCCA DChA

**Kreston Reeves LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Maritime Place  
Quayside  
Chatham Maritime  
Chatham  
Kent  
ME4 4QZ

**Sheppey Matters**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	3,247	535,087	538,334	416,824
Charitable activities	5	44,991	93,431	138,422	158,750
Investments	6	5,652	-	5,652	3,691
Other income	7	-	-	-	69
<b>Total income</b>		<b>53,890</b>	<b>628,518</b>	<b>682,408</b>	<b>579,334</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	8	72,923	609,635	682,558	632,151
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>72,923</b>	<b>609,635</b>	<b>682,558</b>	<b>632,151</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(19,033)</b>	<b>18,883</b>	<b>(150)</b>	<b>(52,817)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		86,091	304,522	390,613	443,430
Net movement in funds		(19,033)	18,883	(150)	(52,817)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>67,058</b>	<b>323,405</b>	<b>390,463</b>	<b>390,613</b>

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

The notes on pages 30 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

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

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	31,981	48,401
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	14,147	32,818
Cash at bank and in hand		369,744	341,247
		<u>383,891</u>	<u>374,065</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(25,409)	(31,853)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>358,482</u>	<u>342,212</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>390,463</u></u>	<u><u>390,613</u></u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	14	323,405	304,522
Unrestricted funds	14	67,058	86,091
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>390,463</u></u>	<u><u>390,613</u></u>

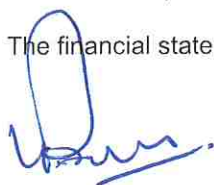
The Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

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: 10/11/2025

The notes on pages 30 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

**Sheppey Matters**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of cash flows**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities (note 16)	22,845	(49,560)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	5,652	3,433
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(4,674)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	5,652	(1,241)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	-	-
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	28,497	(50,801)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	341,247	392,048
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year (note 17)</b>	369,744	341,247

The notes on pages 30 to 42 form part of these financial statements

**Sheppey Matters**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**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 2025**

**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 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.

**2.7 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.

**2.8 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

**2.9 Debtors**

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

**Sheppey Matters**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.10 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.

**2.11 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.

**2.12 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.

**2.13 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.

**2.14 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.

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**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 £32,380 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.

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**4. Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	2,946	10,070	13,016	16,700
Grants	301	525,017	525,318	400,124
	<u>3,247</u>	<u>535,087</u>	<u>538,334</u>	<u>416,824</u>
	<u>4,922</u>	<u>411,902</u>	<u>416,824</u>	
Total 2024				

**5. Income from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Charitable activities, see note 22	44,991	93,431	138,422	158,750
	<u>47,831</u>	<u>110,919</u>	<u>158,750</u>	
Total 2024				

**6. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	5,652	5,652	3,433
Investment income	-	-	258
	<u>5,652</u>	<u>5,652</u>	<u>3,691</u>
	<u>3,691</u>	<u>3,691</u>	
Total 2024			

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**7. Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Other income	-	-	69
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total 2024	69	69	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Direct costs 2025 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Charitable activities (see Note 22)	678,590	3,968	<b>682,558</b>	632,151
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total 2024	627,481	4,670	632,151	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

**9. Staff costs**

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>428,622</b>	382,477
Social security costs	<b>21,062</b>	18,543
Pension costs	<b>8,653</b>	8,247
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>458,337</b>	409,267
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

	<b>2025 No.</b>	<b>2024 No.</b>
Employees	<b>31</b>	28
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Sheppey Matters**  
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**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**9. Staff costs (continued)**

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>2025 No.</b>	2024 No.
FTE equivalent employees	<b>16</b>	16

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 £84,474 (2024: £86,395).

**10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

**11. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Motor vehicles £</b>	<b>Fixtures and fittings £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	135,225	61,371	196,596
At 31 March 2025	135,225	61,371	196,596
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	94,332	53,863	148,195
Charge for the year	13,631	2,789	16,420
At 31 March 2025	107,963	56,652	164,615
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	27,262	4,719	31,981
At 31 March 2024	40,893	7,508	48,401

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**12. Debtors**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	10,742	28,741
Prepayments and accrued income	3,405	4,077
	<u>14,147</u>	<u>32,818</u>

**13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	14,147	11,911
Other taxation and social security	5,399	6,003
Other creditors	1,392	1,646
Accruals and deferred income	4,471	12,293
	<u>25,409</u>	<u>31,853</u>

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**14. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Redundancy Reserve	45,234	-	-	45,234
Fixed Asset Funds	15,950	-	(13,631)	2,319
	<u>61,184</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,631)</u>	<u>47,553</u>
<b>General funds</b>				
General Funds (see note 22)	24,907	53,890	(59,292)	19,505
	<u>86,091</u>	<u>53,890</u>	<u>(72,923)</u>	<u>67,058</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>				
	<u>304,522</u>	<u>628,518</u>	<u>(609,635)</u>	<u>323,405</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted Funds (see note 22)				
	<u>390,613</u>	<u>682,408</u>	<u>(682,558)</u>	<u>390,463</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>				

The nature and purpose of restricted funds have been included in the Trustees' Report, alongside the nature and purpose of designated funds.



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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**14. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
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>
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds (see note 22)	<u>9,159</u>	<u>56,513</u>	<u>(37,031)</u>	<u>(3,734)</u>	<u>24,907</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>79,474</u>	<u>56,513</u>	<u>(50,662)</u>	<u>766</u>	<u>86,091</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Restricted Funds (see note 22)	<u>363,956</u>	<u>522,821</u>	<u>(581,489)</u>	<u>(766)</u>	<u>304,522</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u>443,430</u>	<u>579,334</u>	<u>(632,151)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>390,613</u>

**Sheppey Matters**  
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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	31,981	-	31,981
Current assets	60,188	323,703	383,891
Creditors due within one year	(25,111)	(298)	(25,409)
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,058</b>	<b>323,405</b>	<b>390,463</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	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)
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,091</b>	<b>304,522</b>	<b>390,613</b>

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(150)	(52,817)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	16,420	15,598
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(5,652)	(3,433)
Increase in debtors	18,671	(7,878)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(6,444)	(1,030)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>22,845</b>	<b>(49,560)</b>

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand	369,744	341,247
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>369,744</b>	<b>341,247</b>

**18. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	341,247	28,497	369,744
	<b>341,247</b>	<b>28,497</b>	<b>369,744</b>

**19. 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 £8,653 (2024: £8,247). There were no amounts payable to the fund at the Balance sheet date (2024: £Nil).

**20. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2025 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	3,992	3,992
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	3,992	7,984
	<b>7,984</b>	<b>11,976</b>

**Sheppey Matters**  
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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**21. 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 £38,088 (2024: £39,660) and received income of £Nil (2024: £200). All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. At the balance sheet date Sheppey Matters owes £5,625 to Swale CVS (2024: was owed £1,465).

C White is also a director of Children and Families. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £Nil (2024: £36) and received income of £Nil (2024: £70) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. There were no amounts outstanding at the Balance sheet date. (2024: £Nil).

P Murray is also a director of Swale Community Leisure. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £10,031 (2024: £10,017) and received income of £Nil (2024: £3,435) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. At the balance sheet date Sheppey Matters is owed £Nil (2024: £445).

P Murray and N Martin are also trustees of Age UK Sheppey. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £13,340 (2024: £1,202) and received income of £Nil (2024: £30) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. There were no amounts outstanding at the Balance sheet date. (2024: £Nil).

P Murray is also a trustee of Eastern Sheppey Community Hub. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £200 (2024: £125) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. At the balance sheet date Sheppey Matters is owed £Nil (2024: £125).

P Murray is also a trustee of Sheerness Youth Club. During the financial year Sheppey Matters has incurred expenditure of £450 (2024: £Nil) with this organisation. All of these transactions were conducted at arm's length. At the balance sheet date Sheppey Matters is owed £Nil (2024: £Nil).

There were no other related party transactions in the current or prior year.

Sheppey Matters

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

22. Restricted funds - breakdown by project

	Total 2024		Total 2025	
Funds Brought Forward	383,956		384,522	
Income and endowments from				
Donations	11,778	10,070		
Grants	480,154	525,417		
Other Income	4,000	21,587		
Room Hire	1,922			
Services / Work Underpinning		17,215		
Travel and Membership		76,215		
		12,023		
		59,388		
		302,891		
Expenditure on				
Direct expenses				
Advertising				
Bad debt				
Bank Charges and Interest				
Computer Expenses				
Depreciation				
Goods Given as Grants				
Hall / Room Hire				
Insurance				
Legal and Professional Fees				
Management Fees				
Motor and Transport				
Postage, Printing, Photocopying and Stationery				
Profit / Loss on Disposal of FAs				
Repairs, Maintenance and Equipment				
Staff costs				
Telephone and Post				
Telephone and Internet				
Training				
Utilities				
Work under-lease				
Support costs				
Auditors' remuneration				
Auditors' remuneration - non-audit				
Net movement in funds	(8,978)	(3,940)		
Transfers between funds				

## Sheppey Matters

### Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 23. Unrestricted funds - Centre funds

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Funds brought forward</b>	<b>86,091</b>	<b>79,474</b>
<b>Income and endowments from</b>		
Grants	301	-
Donations	2,946	4,923
Room Hire	44,241	46,155
Travel and Membership	750	(1,122)
Services / Work Undertaken	-	1,581
Investment Income	5,652	3,691
Other Income	-	1,285
<b>Total income</b>	<b>53,890</b>	<b>56,513</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>		
Bad Debts	-	7,020
Bank Charges and Interest	235	(208)
Computer Expenses	119	6,216
Depreciation	16,190	15,368
Goods Given as Grants	-	(50)
Hall / Room Hire	-	(6,241)
Insurance	(391)	558
Legal and Professional Fees	-	-
Management Fees	-	(22,815)
Motor and Travel	162	660
Postage, Printing, Photocopying and Stationery	-	(190)
Repairs, Maintenance and Equipment	5,577	3,613
Staff Costs	52,126	43,689
Sundry Expenses	(1,501)	(2,821)
Telephone and Internet	248	522
Training	-	219
Utilities	-	-
Work Undertaken	(52)	452
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>72,713</b>	<b>45,992</b>
<b>Support costs</b>		
Auditors' remuneration	210	4,670
Auditors' remuneration - non-audit	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>4,670</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(19,033)</b>	<b>5,851</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>766</b>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>67,058</b>	<b>86,091</b>