

THE AUTUMN DAYCARE CENTRE CORBY

**DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

1st APRIL 2023 - 31st MARCH 2024



The Autumn Centre Limited
Company Registered Number: 05397008
Registered Charity Number: 1110164

	PAGE
Index	1-2
Legal & Administrative information	3
Directors Report:	
Executive Summary	4
Structure, Governance & Management	5
Staffing:	
(i) Staffing Structure	6
(ii) Volunteers & Members	6
(iii) Proposed New Staff Posts - Future Years	7
Potted History (2002 - 2024)	7-8
Covid 19 - Staying Vigilant	8
Objectives & Activities	8
Activities	9-10
Financial Pressures	10-11
Restricted Funding	11
Sustainability for the Future	11-12
Working Groups	13-14
Fundraising Initiatives/Events/Grant Strategy	14
Marketing/Promotion & Website	14
Evolving 5 year Business Plan	14-15
Transport	15
Notable Achievements	15-16-17
Donations/Grants/Fundraising	17
Future Plans and Hopes	18
Desired Future Capital Programme	19-20
Financial Transparency	20
Reserves Policy	20
Benefit with Testimonials	21
(a) Testimonial 1	21
(b) Testimonial 2	22
(c) Testimonial 3	22
(d) Testimonial 4	23
Thanks to organisations & individuals	24

	PAGE
Trustees Responsibilities	25
Independent Examiners' Report	26
Statement of Financial Activities	27
Balance Sheet	28
Accounting Policies	29
Notes to the Accounts	30-32

Legal and Administrative information:

Company Registration Number:	05397008
Charity Registration Number	1110164
Registered Office:	The Autumn Centre Counts Farm Road Corby Northants NN18 8BH
Directors/Trustees:	M Bissett - Chair J. Sheldon - Vice-Chair L. Coupland M. Craig Dianne Floody P. Floody MBE P. Hulme M. Palmer S. Sorrie S. Tew N. Bhatia
Company Secretary:	P. Floody MBE
Treasurer:	P. Floody MBE
Bankers:	Co-operative Bank Delf House Southways Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Independent Examiner:	Brenda Peers-Ross 29 Drift Road Selsey Chichester West Sussex PO20 0PW

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statement of the Charity (**See Appendix I**) for the year ended 31st March 2024

Executive Summary 27th August 2024

Over the past twelve months as a charity we have delivered a host of services within the local senior community and have continued to develop and grow. We are so grateful to so many who have accompanied us on our journey and have collectively faced many hurdles but thankfully we have overcome them all thanks to our amazing in-house team of dedicated staff, members, volunteers and board of trustees.

Towards the end of March 2024 we were made aware of our Annual Grant from CBC / North Northants Council (NNC) being reduced from a historical £37,000.00 to just £8,800.00 a massive blow just days before the commencement of the 2024/25 financial year. We had to restructure the budget with this alarming cut in mind and were forced into forming a collaborative to be included in the grant process.

A very recent opportunity has arisen allowing us to look forward more positively working together with Public Health (PH), NNC and Northampton University to support us to become a "Centre of Excellence". The new "Orchard Project" will enable a study to be undertaken aimed at people living with dementia and also allow for early stage intervention.

The Centre will also benefit from a Capital Programme at the centre with a £199K capital investment from PH (this may enhance our desired programme as detailed in the report).

As a charity, we are very excited with this concept, and are really looking forward to making an even bigger difference for our senior and wider community in the future.

Trustees Report 1st April 2023 – March 31st 2024

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and recruitment and appointment of Trustees is through election at our Annual General Meetings. If a vacancy exists we can consider future trustees with specific skills who are recommended to the board.

The trustees meet on the last Tuesday of the month to discuss business on behalf of the charity and to take any decisions required by the trustees as an active and inclusive process.

All trustee meetings are minuted and sent out to all trustees to be agreed at the next monthly meeting along with any matters arising / amendments before proceeding with that month's agreed agenda.

Staffing

The Autumn Centre used to employ 8 members of staff including our Manager who runs the Centre on a day to day basis in partnership with the users, volunteers, staff and the Board of Directors (Trustees who are all members of the charity). This number rose to 9 members of staff from May 2022 as we appointed an additional carer for the Dementia Suite as the need was clearly developing with increasing pressure to accommodate more new members living with dementia.

We were hoping to employ an additional carer later this year but the grant reduction of £28,200 from NNC has made this impossible in the short term. This left the trustees and staff feeling a bit confused after all the positivity we were hearing from North Northants Council Officers & Elected Members regarding our high quality and much needed service provision.

We had 2 members of staff leave over the last 12 months and this allowed us to promote from within and appoint new health workers to fill the vacant posts. This also gave us an opportunity to restructure the allocated hours to suit our current operational needs to the benefit of both staff and members.

We are where we are today because of our amazing dedicated staff members. As they all say this is not a job, it is a "way of life", and this is so obvious as they all go well beyond their individual "job descriptions". The care and support they give to all our members is what creates the "Autumn Centre Caring Environment" and why we continue to attract new members.

Staffing Structure

1 x Manager / Level 5 Health & Social Care / Leadership & Management
1x Deputy Manager / Level 3 Health & Social Care
4 x Health Care Assistants / All Level 3 Health & Social Care
2 x Catering Staff
1 x Caretaker Cleaner

Volunteers & Members.

Our staff are supported in a big way by our band of volunteers who help us to deliver a higher quality of service as they have brought and gained so many skills to ensure all our members are looked after in our "Family Environment" and every one is cared for, respected and also given the opportunity to become part of the team.

Proposed new staff posts in future years.

- Intergenerational Officer
- Additional Health Care Assistants
- Coordinator for Business Development
- Site Supervisor (depending on increased hours of opening)

We can also boast a variety of related qualifications within the "Team" such as First Aid, Fire Wardens, OTAGO, Assistant Yoga Teacher, Mental Health Well-Being Co-ordinator, Activities Co-ordinator - keep fit and stay active.

Training for Staff / Volunteers, Students & Trustees

We invest heavily in our staff training to ensure compliance and continual development. To this end we have substantially increased our training budget to ensure funding is always available to top up training requirements.

Utilising a training matrix with over 70 site specific courses for staff, trustees and volunteers, this includes dementia awareness which is proving invaluable.

The training is coupled with regular individual supervision sessions between staff and our Manager to ensure any issues are addressed early. It is very important to us that all the staff and volunteers enjoy coming to work. To this end we also updated the Employee's Handbook with all terms / conditions produced by both staff and trustees along with all our policies and procedures.

We also work closely with the local college to allow students studying Health and Social Care to take up work placements at the centre to allow them hands-on experience. We can also boast one of the placements is now one of our full time members of staff working in our dementia suite.

Potted History (2002 - 2024)

The town used to boast three day centres from 1970's / 80's & 90's (Central Day Centre, Arran Way Day Centre and Darley Dale Day Centre) but all three were merged in 2002 into what we have today "The Autumn Centre", as it was proving difficult to sustain three centres in one town, and all three were funded by Northamptonshire County Council and Corby Borough Council (now merged into North Northants Council) .

With the merger of the three facilities it greatly reduced the funding needed from the two councils and has saved the authorities many, many hundreds of thousands of pounds over the past 22 years with better facilities and services all under one roof.

The building is owned by NNC (previously Corby Borough Council) and it had for many years agreed to retain landlord's responsibility but the lease is up for renewal (expires August 2025) and negotiations are scheduled to commence in July 2024 to review the terms and conditions of any new lease. Being aware of the reduction in the grant from April of this year (2024) we are not as confident for the same level of support as we received over the last 22 years regarding the terms and conditions of a new lease.

Covid 19 Staying Vigilant

Staff are very aware that Covid has greatly reduced but also aware it has not fully left us. A number of the local community are still contracting the disease but thankfully the Covid Jabs have reduced the number and severity of people still contracting it. We will continue with various implemented practices and remain vigilant as most of our members will remain in the high risk bracket.

We were unable to hold an AGM in 2020 or 2021 owing to Covid 19 but thankfully we have held AGM's in 2022 / 2023 and our most recent in March 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity is very focused on its objective to improve the quality of life for our seniors in Corby and across the North of the County . We also have some younger members of the community either living with dementia or a variety of disabilities or life long illnesses. We have many members living with a variety of health conditions including:

- Members living with early and mid stages of diagnosed dementia
- Wheelchair bound or unable to walk unaided
- Mental Health
- Heart Disease
- Non Communicative
- Diabetes
- Heart Conditions
- Visually Impaired
- Learning Conditions
- Asthmatic

Activities

To this end the charity provides a host of activities as agreed / requested by the users to improve health / mobility / fighting loneliness / isolation / reducing the impact of dementia on individuals and their families and staying fitter longer giving many the chance to retain home independence

The activities of the centre are always aligned with key outcomes required by Public Health / NNC through the Well Being Programme for vulnerable adults.

We have been inspected by officers from North Northants Council and our service comfortably met their high bar criteria for quality of services. This has given the team a real boost and is a very encouraging message going forward.

We are the only Day Care Centre in Corby, freely accessible, operating 5 days a week Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. offering a variety of services / activities including:

Special Events

Christmas Parties, Burns Suppers, Halloween Fun, New Year Celebrations, St Patrick's Day, St Andrews Day, Summer Inclusive Programme, Race Days (on the big screen), Easter Celebrations, Indian Food Experience, We also held a series of events to Celebrate the King's Coronation in 2023.

Tribute Acts

Stage Entertainers bring a fantastic feeling to our members and we include various tribute acts such as Elvis and Neil Diamond, and have groups such as Andante who have a wide repertoire entertaining the members at many special events. The members love these events as they bring back wonderful memories to the members with many having a really good sing along.

Activities

Floor projector interactive play, Virtual Reality Headsets, personalised individual playlists along with OTAGO in falls prevention plus Get up and Go, seated dance, aerobics, exercise sessions, smoking cessation, weigh-ins, along with many other health initiatives.

We have our very own "Body Rockers" who love doing all the exercises and have their own motif tee shirts.

We have Virtual Reality Headsets to allow our members to visit the world, go on walks while still at the centre, all through embracing modern technology.

Pet therapy, TV & Films, darts, quizzes, table top ping pong (brilliant for stimulating the brain), board games, arts & crafts, bingo, Ukulele band.

Food-market, members can purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for a small donation.

We previously purchased a floor projector that the members can interact with such as walking through meadows, resting their feet in a stream with electronic fish swimming in and out, making it a living experience, plus a host of other activities all projected on the floor for many members to enjoy all at the same time. This has proven to be an excellent provision for members.

Yoga classes scheduled to commence July 2024,

As an organisation we encourage new ideas from within the membership and where new requests are made we try hard to deliver new and exciting activities. As can be seen from above there is normally a wide list of activities and this is expanding year on year. This programme of events suffered badly during the pandemic but we have bounced back stronger and fitter than ever before.

Visits by local dignitaries, sponsors, local and NNC councillors, health representatives, local schools and prospective clients are regular attendees to the centre.

Intergenerational Officer (One for the Future).

The Trustees of the Autumn Centre have never lost sight of the fact that we are not just a Day Care Centre but have the desire to become a "Community Hub". To this end we have a long-term objective to promote interaction between our older community and the younger community bringing them together to explore common ground where all members of the local community can benefit and enjoy the centre for interactive opportunities.

Outside the centre we have a Multi Activity Games Area (MUGA) that could be utilised to organise joint and mixed activities across the age spectrum. This could include different activities being led by different age groups but linked to something for all.

To achieve this ambitious proposal we would love to create a future post of an Intergenerational Worker whose role would be to explore, create and deliver an interactive development programme for all the members of the community regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, race or religion.

Over recent years we have seen the demise of youth provision and it is with this in mind we want to reach out and welcome the younger generation to feel the centre has something for them and they also can have the feeling of ownership with respect for the centre, their peers and all different generations in a positive, rewarding, and inclusive programme. Much of the future programme could operate outside the hours of our current daily service provision.

Financial Pressures (Our biggest threat!)

All charities face continual financial challenges and as already mentioned earlier in the report regarding the huge reduction of our annual grant and our lease expiring in 2025 we could face even greater pressures as a result of this. With the government increasing the National Minimum Wage from April 2024 and we as a caring charity always pay our junior members of staff the enhanced living wage, adding a considerable increase in our salaries budget.

This among other costs has forced all staff, trustees and members to be even more proactive in fundraising, sponsored activities, grant applications, chasing donations, and of course our structured income streams from our users in Tiers 1, 2 & 3 service provision.

An improved training budget agreed to pursue accreditation for the Charity to become recognised as a "Centre of Excellence"

Plus all the other related increases in utilities, various contracts, food stuffs etc are all rising pressures and many charities have gone under and this is something we are working tirelessly to avoid.

Restricted Funding (£55K +£5K =£60K) Specific Projects.

We have recently set aside some Restricted Funding as we have been very successful in bringing in new monies either through grant applications or donations. These are of course to be used for specific elements of our future plans and often in compliance with specific grant applications compliance / donation requirements.

We were given a donation of **£55K** and it is presently restricted for the building of an additional 50 sq metre activity hall from the executors for the will of Jeff Ward. Jeff passed away and had been living with dementia. The executors came to the centre and were so impressed by our services they thought they would be giving us a £20K donation but after the tour they loved what we were doing at the centre and made the donation up to £50K to build something as a lasting legacy in memory of Jeff which was a lovely gesture. This was later made up to £55K. If we wish to have a change of use we will need to go back and speak with the executors.

We also have recently received a **£5K** grant from Groundwork for a Grow / Cook & Eat project which is also restricted for this project.

We have put all the above on hold to ensure maximum opportunity with the recent announcement from Public Health for a large Capital Grant to make improvements to the building.

Sustainability for the Future

Delivery of our 3 Tier Daily Experience

April 2021 was the start of the implementation of our "Going Forward " strategy with the implementation of our new "**3 Tier Daily Experience**" pricing structure. In the past pre Covid and being paid for delivering 3 x Public Health Contracts (Value £54K per annum) which ceased in March 2021, we had to restructure our complete service delivery to give the charity any chance of survival in the coming

years (which thankfully we have managed to do) as we are still looking to go forward after that huge financial blow three years ago.

Our **"3 Tier Daily Experience"** pricing structure included for all tiers:

- Three Course Meal (including specific dietary requirements).
- All beverages
- Health Exercises, Wellness Checks, OTAGO, YOGA (from July 2024).
- Bingo / singalongs quizzes / Arts & Crafts, Table Top Games plus others.
- Support from staff with showering, meals, hydration, toileting, barber services, shaving, manicures, weighing / blood pressure checks,
- Opportunity to meet new people and forge new friendships.
- A comfortable, warm, safe welcoming environment.
- If any member is unable to attend through ill health a freshly cooked meal can be delivered to their home.

Tiers 2 & 3 include more personal care with various functions such as assisting members with toileting and meals, often One to One interaction and **Tier 3** being for members living with Dementia. The pricing structure (April 2023 – March 2024) reflects this being as below:

3 TIER DAILY EXPERIENCE

Tier 1 = £11.00 with increase to £12.00 from April 2024 (more able bodied)

Tier 2 = £30.00 with increase to £35.00 from May 2024 (early diagnosis of dementia, additional care required)

Tier 3 = £50.00 with increase to £55.00 from April 2024 (members living with dementia / continual additional care)

For all financial information please refer to our examined accounts (Appendix I).

As pointed out above we will have to increase our prices substantially from April 2024 and all the members / their families are on board and understand the reasons for the increase and our quest for financial sustainability. This has become essential for our very existence especially with the cut from April 2024 in our usual local authority annual grant.

The **Daily Experience** has proven to be of significant importance in various degrees to our many members and their families. In some instances it has given an element of life back to certain family members as all know their loved ones are

in good hands and are treated as part of **"Our Family"** but with high levels of professional support / care linked to their individual needs.

All our meals are freshly cooked daily on site by our own in-house catering team with individual requirements and needs built into any care / support packages.

We also have the facilities to ensure any member not wishing to eat all three courses at lunch time, the courses not eaten, can be taken home, packed up in catering packaging to keep fresh, for eating later.

Many of Tier 2 & Tier 3 are referred through Adult Social Services with some Tier 1 also being referred but most Tier 1 are here because they choose to be as it supports their quest of staying healthy longer, retaining independence and

meeting new friends. Also some Tier 2 & 3 are from private sources with their families paying us directly.

We are currently averaging 125 visits per week by members with the following in each tier, Tier 1 = 65, Tier 2 = 37 & Tier 3 = 23

Our overall membership is currently 120 members.

It is important to note our delivery of front line services brought in £50K per annum up until March 2021 and since relaunching our new business model because of losing PH contact funding our front line service delivery Tiers 1/2/3 will bring in over £160K per annum up to end of March 2024 and are projected to bring in £180K by the end of March 2025.

To run the Autumn Centre over the next 12 months will be in the region of £250,000.00 (yes a quarter of a million £££££'s) so we have an awful lot of services to deliver over the next 12 months to give us any hope of becoming financially sustainable and linking to our grants strategy and other income generating ideas.

We are continually looking to expand our membership for future sustainability but if the trend was in the other direction it would severely put the charity at risk of failing and therefore closure. The efforts by all the staff, members, volunteers and trustees are committed to ensure that never happens.

Working Groups

We have 4 working groups as follows:

- 1. Carers & Volunteering**
- 2. Fundraising Initiatives / Events and Grant Strategy.**
- 3. Marketing, Promotion & Website**
- 4. Five Year Business Plan**

All of these groups have been playing an instrumental role in bringing another element of sustainability to the Autumn Centre Corby through their targeted efforts in their field of expertise.

This has recently seen the fourth working group being created, the 5 Year Business Plan Working Group.

1. Carer / Volunteering

The Carer Working Group includes Trustees, Staff & family members who have a vested interest in ensuring their loved ones' needs are indeed met. This increased level of care was a new development for us from last year but the staff, trustees, volunteers, general members and now family members have all embraced the new development with open arms. This group has allowed us to link in more volunteers.

We have some excellent volunteers and counting the trustees input and other volunteers this gives us an additional level of support, if we had to pay for the volunteers time it would add over £50K to the existing salary costs. This voluntary contribution is priceless for our well being as a charity and it humbles us at their dedication for supporting our charity.

2. Fundraising Initiatives / Events & Grant Strategy

Members of this group will concentrate on income generating activities / events such as the Trustees 20K sponsored walk, fun days, our Managers sponsored swim, A Day at the Races, raffles. The group has some very experienced members in this field and is reaping dividends as we go forward.

We have set a-side £1,800 in the 24/25 financial year to utilise a professional bid writer to submit grants on our behalf and to help us navigate the bid process for the future. This is very much in line with our future grant strategy process.

3. Marketing / Promotion & Website

This group has already played a major role in: the production of leaflets & posters, designing an advert on Corby Radio, adverts in various circulars such as The Corby Trader, NHS Newsletter and helped to shape our website that we launched in 2022. This has been a real bonus getting our message out and is bringing in new members and volunteers on a regular basis as well as utilising the space in the local Corby Library. This also allows future members and their families to check the service provision, even before they set foot inside the centre. It helps current members' families to track our development and new activities / health initiatives as they are added to keep our service delivery fresh and specifically aimed at our members for their continued well being.

To promote the centre the staff were issued with new branded uniforms, picked through a consultative process with staff and volunteers. This allows us to fly our own flag at various health initiatives and community events held around the county.

4. Evolving 5 Year Business Plan.

This is our latest Working Group and will use the last 3 years trading figures since the introduction of the **3 Tier Daily Experience** to produce a Business Plan that will shape our service delivery well into the future and seek the best roadway to follow to achieve the long term objective of inhouse sustainability.

We will be looking at:

- Where we came from Pre 2002 - 2019
- The Pandemic & coming out of it 2019 - 2022
- Where we are now 2024
- Where we want/need to be 2025 - 2029

We will use our 22 years of operational experience, the pandemic, our new service delivery plan and North Northants Corporate Plan, Public Health Aims and Objectives and of course our members' needs and aspirations to strive for our ambition of being financially sustainable, by providing a service aimed at the senior community with a variety of health issues.

Currently we are providing a much needed service for the senior community offering support to many to live a healthier life and at the same time providing a complimentary service to cater for many seniors (and some younger members) already living with a variety of health issues including dementia.

Please Note

The medium/long term business plan may change over the coming months as we are in the process of exploring the Autumn Centre Corby becoming a Centre of Excellence. We are currently in talks with Public Health, NNC and Northampton University.

Transport (Local Provider) & Escort Service (in-house staff).

To help our financial sustainability we had to terminate the transport subsidy we gave to our members prior to losing the funding from Public Health in 2021. Our members realised we were forced to make this decision and have fully supported us ever since

We now have an agreement where we pay the local service provider directly on a new "Pay as you Go" service, with the current transport cost being £25K per annum. We claim this back from our individual members using the service so we now run it at nil cost to the charity.

This is an additional cost to members but they and their families fully understood why we had to implement this system and for the ending of the transport subsidy. The transport provider has vehicles adapted to carry wheelchairs and other members with mobility issues.

We provide an in-house escort service by staff who travel with the local provider with some of our members and see them safely from and into their homes.

Notable Achievements

We have achieved on so many other fronts as well as the above including:

- Our very own Deborah, who was recognised for 15 years volunteering service, in the Spirit of Corby Awards, as the best volunteer of the year, absolutely amazing. Deborah was presented with the award on the night at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Corby and again in front of staff, volunteers and members at the Autumn Centre,
- In recent summers we have faced another new challenge with having to close our centre for 2 days during the government's red warning during the heatwave. When we re-opened we provided cooling fans, ice lolly hydration stations, more ventilation, cold and iced water plus cooling towels to minimise any chance of our vulnerable users feeling unwell from the heat. Thankfully all our additional measures proved effective and our members and their families were very grateful for our awareness and implementation of an action plan. If needed again this summer we can

immediately roll out the safety measures as we remain on high alert for any forecasts of any sustained heatwaves.

- To qualify for NNC grant funding we had very short notice (about 10 days) in March 2024 to form a collaborative with 4 other partners or we would not have been able to submit a bid. This we managed to achieve and it was an amazing amount of work by ourselves and the other 4 members of the new "Older People's Collaborative" across the whole of North Northamptonshire. This proved how Professional the "Voluntary / Charitable Sector" is and how working together we can often deliver, even within a very unfavourable timeframe.
- A wonderful series of events to celebrate the King's Coronation and we were successful in our bid to NNC for a £1,500.00 grant to provide the celebrations.
- New plants are annually purchased and planted in the courtyard to complement the outside seating area which is furnished with bistro tables, chairs and picnic tables and used by members during the nice weather. This area is lovingly tended by one of our amazing volunteers.
- Continued development of the "Friends of The Autumn Centre" group, This is a group of individuals with special skills we can call upon as and when required to support the trustees & members. This will be invaluable when we build the two new garden areas for the Grow, Cook and eat projects once the boundary line has been extended. This will also allow the relaunch of the "Digging with Dementia Group".
- We had a retired solicitor visiting the centre to allow our members to raise many issues they needed guidance with. This was very successful and she was voted on to the board as a trustee at our AGM in March 2023 and thankfully again in March 2024
- Full Houses again for Members Christmas Dinners staged over a couple of days during Dec 2023 which was attended by our local mayor and representatives from Public Health, NNC and some of our sponsors.
- The previously fitted eco friendly wall heaters in the Dementia Suite continue to make it very snug even in the very cold weather.
- Pauley's continues to offer returned but edible fruit and vegetables free of charge to be collected once a week. We use as much as we can for the week's menus and offer the rest to members for a small voluntary contribution.
- Continuing to utilise a permanent promotion space in Corby Library in the Health & Well-Being area and also on their Facebook page.
- Retaining all the trustees at our recent Annual General Meeting in March 2024.
- Continued to build on the close working relationship on a number of projects with our local infant / junior schools and technical college
- Demand for the snug / quiet room continues to grow for assessments, consultations, family waiting area, staff meetings, trustees monthly meetings, meeting potential sponsors / volunteers, staff interviews and 1 to 1's. This has proven incredibly successful for our "Personal Service" requirements.

- Continuing to work with various agencies including Adult Social Care Commissioning Team, Social Prescribers, Public Health, GP Surgeries, Mental Health Team and SALT Team.
- All trustees DBS Checked

Donations / Grants / Fundraising

We are very dependent on a variety of income streams other than our charges for front line daily service provision. To that end we are so grateful to organisations, individuals and grant making funders for the following as without this combined support we would not be able to deliver what we do on a daily basis.

Donations

- £1,000.00 Corby Diagnostic Tea Bar
- £100.00 Co-op tea party
- £55,000.00 Executors of Jeff Ward's will.
- £1,000.00 Cambridge Weight Plan
- £1,000.00 RS Components
- £1,000.00 Corby Ladies Indoor Tennis Club

Grants

- £3,000.00 Members Empowerment Fund
- £2,000.00 David Cock Foundation (grow, cook & eat project),
- £5,000.00 Groundwork (grow, cook & eat project).
- £1,500.00 NNC King's Coronation

Fundraising

- £525.00 Managers Swim
- £947.00 Santa's 20 Kilometre Walk
- £401.66 Race Nights
- £270.00 Trustee (ST) Knitted Items
- £2,726.00 Also our own members with the following Raffles, Auctions, 59ers, bingo balls, fruit & veg donations

Future Plans & Hopes

The centre will continue to develop services in line with the ever increasing demands on our more senior members of the community fighting: social isolation, ill health, reduced mobility, onset of dementia, mental health, vulnerability to falls, various disabilities, hospitalisation and personal grief.

As a charity we are totally committed to continue to grow in spite of ever increasing financial pressures from loss of contracts, increased inflation especially food and energy bills, cuts in grant aid and ever reducing funding streams.

We all accept the ageing population is growing and therefore the need for facilities such as ours are in greater demand than ever before. Hence the need for writing a 5 Year Business plan to guide us into the future setting ourselves realistic and achievable targets.

Failure to create a sustainable service is not in the minds of any members, staff or trustees as we are united for the benefit of the Senior Community including many of the most vulnerable.

As mentioned elsewhere in the report we are in current talks with Public Health and Northampton University to explore the possibility of developing the Autumn Daycare Centre Corby into a Centre of Excellence. This will be accompanied by a large Capital Funding Injection and coupled to our own Restricted Funding this could see major improvements to the facility.

Through increased levels of income aligned to increased pricing for services, fundraising, donations, sponsorship and external grant applications we will continue to shape the "Care Team" to complement and grow the service. If we fail to do this and attempt to stand still we will implode and fail our client / member base and the families of those often in desperate need of such a service.

- As has been the case in the past we will once again probably be forced to call on our reserves in the next few years but hopefully our service will, in the not too distant future, become self financing.
- Continue building good working relationships with Public Health, where together we can identify and meet common needs.
- To create an Arts Programme to design murals / photographs on parts of the building to celebrate our members and local heroes.
- Continue to undertake annual reviews of all our policies and procedures to ensure best practice and continual improvement

DESIRED FUTURE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

As a charity we have had a Capital Programme item on our monthly Agenda for the past 3 years and trustees / staff and members have agreed to pursue the following over coming years.

Dementia Suite

- We have wanted to extend the footprint of the Dementia Suite by pushing the toilets back to create 3 new DDA compliant toilet facilities.
- Taking out the west facing window and installing french doors into a safe garden area where members can sit and relax. This could alternatively accommodate a small conservatory to allow all year round access.
- Extend the east wall in the dementia suite to incorporate existing storage rooms into being an integral part of the footprint to allow us to invite more members to utilise the suite.
- Create a new garden / outside area on the east boundary to allow a host of activities to be enjoyed and to implement the Grow, Cook and Eat project with funding (£2K) from the David Cock Foundation. This will include the relaunch of the "Digging for Dementia Group".

Memory Cafe / Extending West Boundary Fence Line.

- To remove a window and fit outward opening french doors to create a garden and alfresco dining area.
- To extend the current boundary fence line to create an additional 80 sq metres. This will allow us to deliver the Grow, Cook and Eat project with funding recently received from Groundwork.

Reception Area

- To upgrade the existing toilets and create 3 x new DDA compliant toilets giving more room in the reception area.
- To install a doorway into the external area and build a new reception office to allow all visitors to be greeted on arrival at the centre.

More Recently to Build a Multifunctional Activity Hall in the CourtYard

- We have recently received a donation of £55K in memory of Jeff Ward who passed away in 2023 living with dementia. In conversation with the executors of Jeff Ward's Will we have agreed to build an activity hall in the courtyard to give the members an additional 50 sq metres of all year round multifunctional activity space.

Long Term Mezzanine Floor

- To create a mezzanine floor in the space above the false ceiling in the main hall. This has been a long term plan and may be further down the line but it will one day allow us to provide a host of additional services. As a lift will be required this has to date made this financially unachievable.

Desired Capital for Future Consideration

- Creating a new improved personal care facility with a hoist, shower and possible step in the bath.
- Staff room for changing, washing etc
- Admin / business development office.
- Storage will always be needed and as we develop a capital programme storage will need building in / reviewing.

Financial Transparency

Lee McCormick leads the team and has been an excellent Manager since taking up the role nearly 7 years ago. We are all very much indebted to her and her excellent team of staff and volunteers.

Lee has developed a close working relationship with an officer from CVS Northampton (Brenda Peers Ross) and produces monthly spreadsheets which are copied to our main funders and trustees.

This is complemented with monthly updates by the Treasurer at Trustees meetings on current balance, current income / expenditure plus projected income / expenditure to the end of the current financial year. This ensures transparency and financial dealings are scrutinised at a number of levels by all the trustees.

Unfortunately CVS Northampton will cease to operate from June 2024 owing to a number of financial pressures, a very sad day for the Voluntary Community.

With the cessation of CVS Northampton we have made alternative arrangements regarding our annual accounts and pay-roll services. Our independent examiner this year will be undertaken by Brenda Peers-Ross

Reserves Policy

An amount of approximately 6 months operational costs are normally kept in reserve along with a small committed capital fund for future development of the Centre (to act as match funding for future capital grant applications) as secured funding, if ever a Termination Strategy had to be implemented. We need to ensure we can meet our legal obligations towards our hard working and valued staff plus any outstanding bills / contracted services.

The reserve can also be utilised, if for any reason, existing funding sources are late in processing either grants or contractual payments for the wide-ranging care / activity programme currently in place.

Benefit with Testimonials As can be seen from the report the Charity of the Autumn Centre meets a growing need for the senior community and various younger individuals living with various disabilities and needs in Corby and beyond. Without the Autumn Daycare Centre many believe many of the senior community living with a wide range of health issues lives would be much poorer than they are at present.

Testimonial 1 : My Mother Janet

The facility of the Autumn Centre in Corby has and continues to be a lifeline for my family. My mother Janet is a regular at the centre, attends every day for 4 hours and really enjoys her time there.

Dementia is a very hard disease to come to terms with, mum has had this for over 7 years now and as a family we struggled to get our heads around this. Mum has attended the centre for 2 or 3 years and the stimulation she receives from the support team at the centre is paramount to her quality of life.

My dad is my mum's full-time carer and without the Autumn Centre would be in a much darker place. It gives him the respite he needs to recharge his battery each day. My dad is able to attend the clubs he is a member of and socialise with other friends as therapy, as it can be very lonely otherwise.

Mum definitely benefits from all that happens at the Autumn Centre, we can really see a difference in mum's awareness of everything around her, after she attends the centre.

The team at the Autumn Centre work hard and know how to interact with mum on a daily basis and this is very visible. This service is vital to anyone who has family members with dementia or requires any support in this field.

The family of Janet Jeffery

Testimonial 2 : What an amazing place! (April 2023)

What an amazing place the Autumn Centre is! My mum and dad Jean and Mike love coming twice a week. It has improved mum's confidence so much and they love talking to their new found friends. They even try to schedule all their appointments around their Autumn Centre days - so they don't miss out. Their 3 course lunch always sounds delicious. Mum and dad love the chair exercises, the musical bingo, playing dominoes, quizzes, bingo games and so much more. The staff and volunteers are so caring and supportive, making the centre have a real family feel. My dad was dancing at the Christmas Party now he is in his 80's. I highly recommend the Autumn Centre.

Sarah (Jean and Mike's daughter)

Testimonial 3 : A massive thank you

I just wanted to give you all at the Autumn Centre a massive thank you as since Mum has started we have seen such a massive improvement in her mental state and wellbeing.

Before Mum started at the Autumn Centre she was suicidal and in a very depressive state. She had just spent two months in St. Mary's and when she was discharged was still not any better. She just cried a lot and did nothing for herself.

She is now speaking a lot more and seems happier in herself. She gets herself dressed and makes her bed, which is a huge improvement. She is confident and outgoing.

The Autumn Centre has done wonders for Mum and I just want to let you all know you are amazing. Please continue doing a fantastic job.

Kerry - (Linda Maughan's daughter)

Testimonial 4: Tribute to my father

When my Mum passed away six years ago one of my biggest concerns was my father being lonely with close family not living in the same county. I wanted to find somewhere for my dad to be able to socialise with people of the same age. I can truly say the Autumn Centre was the answer to mine and my father's prayers.

Not only does it provide five days a week of fabulous homemade three course lunches, fantastic activities along with transport to and from the centre.

Karen McGee - (daughter of William Fincham)

Our heartfelt thanks once again go out to a large number of groups, individuals and organisations:

- A.T.O. Corby Cab & Star Cabs Corby (contract ceased Dec 2023).
- Matts Cabs (new transport provider since Dec 2023).
- Corby Lions
- W Pauley
- Friends of Corby Woodland Project
- Corby Diagnostic Centre Tea Bar
- Morrisons Supermarket
- RS Components
- North Northants Council
- Brenda-Peers Ross - Independent Examiner
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation
- Co-op
- Corby Library Services
- Growing Community Award Scheme (David Cock Foundation)
- The Executors for the Will of Jeff Ward (Lesley & Caroline)
- Groundwork (Grow, Cook & Eat Project).
- Starbucks Corby
- And of course our very own Staff, Volunteers, Members and Well-wishers.
- The newly formed (March 2024) Older People's Collaborative.
- The Orchard Team.

Thank you all

Prepared and presented to the Board of Trustees by the Company Secretary for approval / adoption and signed on their behalf.

Trustees Responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any 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 operational existence.
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993.
- 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.

The trustees report was produced by our Company Secretary and presented to the trustees for adoption on 27th August 2024.

Peter Floody MBE.....
Company Secretary Date: Tuesday 27th August 2024

Marie Bissett.....
Chairperson Date Tuesday 27th August 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of:
THE AUTUMN CENTRE LTD**

Page 26

Registered Charity Number: 1110164

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on the attached pages 27 to 32.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent Examiner's statement

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 that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with the Companies section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
- the accounts do not accord with these records: or
- 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
- 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).

Brenda Peers-Ross

Brenda Peers-Ross FMAAT, ACIE
28th October 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023
		£	£	£			£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies		3,486	55,000	58,486	9,912	-	9,912
Charitable Activities	1	238,505	5,000	243,505	171,179	-	171,179
Other Income		6,583	-	6,583	1,012	-	1,012
Total income		248,574	60,000	308,574	182,103	-	182,103
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		-	-	-	70	-	70
Charitable activities	3	230,481	-	230,481	188,859	-	188,859
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		230,481	-	230,481	188,929	-	188,929
Net income/(expenditure)		18,093	60,000	78,093	(6,826)	-	(6,826)
Reconciliation of funds							
Transfer between funds		(2,000)	2,000				
Total funds brought forward		142,666	-	142,666	149,492	-	149,492
Total funds carried forward		158,759	62,000	220,759	142,666	-	142,666

Income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Company Number: 05397008

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4	66	-	66	88
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	6,047	-	6,047	305
Cash at bank and in hand		153,570	62,000	215,570	142,927
Investment		-	-	-	-
		159,617	62,000	221,617	143,232
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(924)	-	(924)	(654)
		(924)	-	(924)	(654)
Net current assets /(liabilities)		158,693	62,000	220,693	142,578
Net assets/(liabilities)		158,759	62,000	220,759	142,666
Charity Funds		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
Unrestricted funds	7	158,759	-	158,759	142,666
Restricted	8	-	62,000	62,000	-
Total charity funds/(deficit)		158,759	62,000	220,759	142,666


For the year ending 31st March 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.


The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (ii) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- (iii) these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within the Companies Act 2006, SORP (FRS 102) effective October 2019 and relevant UK accounting standards.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 24th September 2024,
Signed on behalf of the board of trustees.


Marie Bissett Chairperson/Director


P Floody MBE Company Secretary/Director

Notes on pages 30 to 32 form part of the financial statements.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Practice SORP (FRS102) issued on 1st October 2019 and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Format

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the year.

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 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 funds 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 the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants are brought into account on a receivable basis.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is stated inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all tangible fixed assets by instalments over the expected useful lives. The period generally applicable are:

Equipment	25% on	reducing balance method
-----------	--------	-------------------------

Intangible income

Intangible income, in the form of donated facilities and voluntary help etc., is not included in the financial statements since it is not considered practicable to quantify such income.

Reserves

The current reserve policy is to maintain sufficient cash flow for known commitments, and the replacement of replacement of certain assets. Not all grants/income are received at the beginning of the financial year other are received in arrears.

Risk

The directors/trustees do not believe the organisation is subject to any substantial risk beyond those disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The organisation has employer and public liability insurance to protect it in the case of a claim.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
1 Charitable activities					
NNC		38,500	-	38,500	48,270
Groundwork		-	5,000	5,000	-
NCF		3,000	-	3,000	-
		<u>41,500</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>46,500</u>	<u>48,270</u>
Café income		40	-	40	23
Tier 1/2		118,892	-	118,892	96,164
Tier 3		56,222	-	56,222	21,760
Hall hire		30	-	30	540
Transport		19,095	-	19,095	-
Activities raffles etc.		2,191	-	2,191	3,773
Fareshare		535	-	535	649
		<u>238,505</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>243,505</u>	<u>171,179</u>
2 Charitable activities					
Employment costs	3	150,068	-	150,068	132,807
Training courses and activities		7,026	-	7,026	4,202
Stationery, printing, postage, etc		745	-	745	628
Telephones, internet		1,680	-	1,680	1,466
Equipment, alarm etc		565	-	565	5,865
Repairs, maintenance and renewals		3,461	-	3,461	5,505
Rent, rates, heat and light		9,649	-	9,649	8,571
Transportation		21,767	-	21,767	-
Storage unit		3,484	-	3,484	-
Sundries		2,007	-	2,007	3,016
Cleaning and hygiene costs		1,585	-	1,585	1,537
Marketing, publicity		2,220	-	2,220	4,364
Provisions		22,416	-	22,416	17,418
Insurance		571	-	571	565
Governance					
Professional fees		2,759	-	2,759	2,401
Independent Examination		456	-	456	484
Depreciation		22	-	22	30
Total expenditure		<u>230,481</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>230,481</u>	<u>188,859</u>
3 Trustees and Employment costs					
Gross salaries		142,431	-	142,431	127,285
Employer NI		5,074	-	5,074	3,225
ER Pension		2,449	-	2,449	2,297
Volunteer Expenses		-	-	-	-
DBS Checks		114	-	114	-
		<u>150,068</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,068</u>	<u>132,807</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

There are no employee being paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees by head count during the year was: 8 (2023:8)

During the year the trustees received £nil in remuneration. (2023: £nil)

The total expenditure reimbursed to trustees amounted to £nil (2023: £nil)

4 Tangible assets

Cost

Balance 01.04.23

Add: Additions during the year

Depreciation

At 1 April 2023

Charge in year

At 31 March 2024

Net Book Value

At 31 March 2024

At 31 March 2023

	2024	2023
	Tangible Assets	Tangible Assets
	£	£
	15,612	15,612
	-	-
	<u>15,612</u>	<u>15,612</u>
	15,524	15,494
	22	30
	<u>15,546</u>	<u>15,524</u>
	<u>66</u>	
		<u>88</u>

5 Debtors

Other

Prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
	5,545	-
	502	305
	<u>6,047</u>	<u>305</u>

6 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year

Sundry creditors

Accruals

	2024	2023
	£	£
	(914)	(144)
	(10)	(510)
	<u>(924)</u>	<u>(654)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Opening Balance 2023 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2024 £
7 Unrestricted reserves					
Fixed Assets	88	-	(22)	-	66
Unrestricted	27,287	248,574	(230,459)	(11,554)	33,848
Designated: Furniture replacement	4,500	-	-	-	4,500
Designated: Equipment replacement	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Designated: Redecoration etc.	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Designated: IT equipment	1,605	-	-	-	1,605
Designated: Covid-19	601	-	-	(601)	-
General Reserve	103,085	-	-	10,155	113,240
	142,666	248,574	(230,481)	(2,000)	158,759

The Trustees have designated reserves for replacement of furniture , equipment and IT equipment based on a cycle of replacement.

The Centre is now responsible for internal redecoration and is trying to build a fund over the next few years.

Trustees have allocated a general reserves to ensure adequate cash flow to meet liabilities, grants and other income are not always received in advance. The aim as part of the Trustee's good governance is to build a general reserve to cover six months operating costs, based on current cost that amounts to £152,240

8 Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance 2023 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer between funds £	Balance 2024 £
Grant Groundwork	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Legacy from Jeff Ward	-	55,000	-	-	55,000
David Cock Foundation	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
	-	60,000	-	-	62,000

Groundwork - funds are a contribution towards "Grwn, Cook, Eat project.

The Legacy received from Jeff Wade is for capital expenditure and professional fees.

David Cock Foundation is for the Grow, Cook, and Eat project.

9 Workforce pension

The Autumn Centre operate a NEST Pension Scheme

10 Ultimate Controlling Party

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its trustees, who are also the directors, and whose names are shown at the front of the financial statements.