



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Charity No. 1113432
Company No. 5659978

**HOME
START**
Herefordshire



Andy Walkden Chair of Trustees



Looking back, it has been a relatively quiet year for Home-Start Herefordshire (HSH). Last July we had a Garden Party, inviting people who have helped us to thank them for their support. We were pleased to welcome the then-current High Sheriff Robert Robinson and his wife Sue to the event. Robert's focus for his tenure in office was "Life Chances", and he spoke eloquently about the impact of the first three years of a child's life on their future, something very close to the interests of HSH.

There was little change in the staff and trustees of HSH; however, we were all sad to hear about Judy Hooley's passing. I first met Judy when she was acting as a volunteer representative on the Trustee Board, and I was always impressed with the insights she was able to give the trustees into the thoughts and concerns of the family visiting volunteers.

Looking to the future, 2024/25 will be a busy year. Most recently we have been negotiating with local charities, Vennture and The CLD Trust, to form a partnership to help young children and families. HSH will deliver School Readiness interventions as part of an overall initiative to provide school-based support for children and families. This is an exciting development, and we look forward to further partnership working in the future.

Two other work areas will be Quality Assurance and the Strategic Plan. The first is implementing the quality assurance procedures being introduced by Home-Start UK – these will ensure HSH remains fit for purpose; the second is redrafting HSH's Strategic Plan – this will guide our decision-making and priorities for the next four years.

Whether it is quality or strategic plans, though, having a diverse pool of people is fundamental to HSH's continuing success. As always, I take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports us by helping to help the families and children of Herefordshire.

My first thanks are to Herefordshire Council and the other funders who understand the economic and social value of early intervention in families before their needs become complex. I thank our staff who work tirelessly to ensure that families are well supported through the volunteers they are matched with, and that no child's future is limited. Thirdly, I thank my fellow trustees who voluntarily give their time and expertise to the important task of providing strategic oversight of HSH's operations.

And lastly, but by no means least, I thank the home visiting volunteers and those other volunteers who help with fundraising, for example. I was deeply moved by a recent Home-Start UK video that brought home to me the lasting impact that volunteers have on families. It focussed on a volunteer and the family she had helped several years previously and illustrated how much those people's lives had turned out for the better. All I can ask of you all is to carry on being the amazing people you are.

Andy

Mandie Preece Scheme Manager



It's amazing to think another year has passed and at such speed! It has been a year of change and, at times, challenges, with the cost-of-living crisis, national difficulties with volunteer recruitment, and the continuity of specific issues often seen in rural areas (isolation, loneliness, poverty) impacting our local families. Despite this, we have seen so many wonderful achievements and successes in terms of our service delivery and the effective and often life-changing support our service brings to some of the most vulnerable Herefordshire families.

Meeting needs

We couldn't do the work we do without our fabulous team of volunteers, who always approach the challenges experienced by families with confidence, compassion, and awareness, something that makes our service so special. Many families we support struggle with poor mental wellbeing, isolation, socio-economic difficulties, domestic abuse, physical and mental health challenges, and struggles with children's behaviour, or have felt ignored or disempowered by other services and sources of support previously. Our volunteers see the uniqueness of every family, and by listening to their expectations and needs, many families feel empowered and confident to make meaningful and positive changes for the first time. The work that our volunteers do isn't always easy but the dedication and care they show really does make a difference to the families we support.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Due to the national challenges in volunteer recruitment, we have had to develop new and innovative ways of attracting potential volunteers. After feedback from some potential volunteers around barriers to accessing training (days/times/family commitments), we have recently successfully trialled hybrid training courses, which offered a combination of both online and face-to-face evening sessions. With this positive change, we have been able to recruit and train an additional 15 volunteers to join our wonderful team!

Collaborative Early Intervention and Prevention Work

Many vulnerable families within Herefordshire struggle to access specialist services when they need them most, increasing the risk of poor outcomes for parents and children. This year, through the continuation of our volunteer-delivered early intervention and prevention support, we have been able to provide a multi-agency, family-centred approach whereby we work in collaboration with local and national agencies, organisations, and services to connect families to the additional systems of support they need. By working collaboratively over the last 12 months, we have assisted 91 families (174 children) to access further and specialised support when they needed it, helping remove some of the barriers in seeking help and preventing or reducing the impact of crisis.

As an organisation, Home-Start Herefordshire is extremely grateful for the ongoing support of our volunteers, trustees, friends, and all our stakeholders through 2023/24. This enables us to continue to provide our vital service in times of challenge and hardship. We are positive for the future and will continue to show our resilience and aptitude in the face of adversity to provide support for those families that need it most.

With grateful thanks

Mandie

Alexandra James President



Another year passes, and still, Home-Start Herefordshire looms high in my life. I want to take this opportunity to thank the team who keep us all on the straight and narrow. For all the courses they provide to keep us up to speed and to the volunteers whose compassion and kindness give families the courage and knowledge to move forward.

Your President

Alexandra

Jan Doran Volunteer Rep



As a volunteer representative, I have actively connected with numerous volunteers over the past twelve months, whether chatting over coffee, attending a support meeting, or participating in in-house training sessions. I ensure that any suggestions or queries raised are effectively communicated to Mandie.

I have also participated in external training (such as Cybersecurity and The Neurodiversity Lens) to enhance my knowledge, and I've been encouraging other volunteers to take up similar learning opportunities. I also remain dedicated to providing ongoing support to families whenever the need arises.

Jan

Tam Thomas Family Group Coordinator



With funding from The Mumford Memorial Trust and Kington United Charities, we are able to meet on Monday mornings. Invited families join us in the Parish Room, Kington, for a little bit of me time and fun activities for children and their carers. A warm welcome is guaranteed, and our volunteers Amber, Caroline and Elaine are always ready with a hot drink, cakes, snacks, and TLC for all. We sing, we play, we try different crafts, we read, we dance. During the school holidays, we try to get outdoors with buggy walks, picnics, and playing in the parks.

On a recent picnic/walk, I told the families I was writing a piece for the annual report and asked their thoughts. The answers went like this - "My safe place", "Don't like the singing", "Always welcome - never judged", "Fun, Laughter, Friendship", "My happy place, just love watching them play", "Help and support", "hot coffee - never time at home, always goes cold", "Crafts, as never time at home", "I have made lots of friends", "lots of support and new ideas", "Please, no more walks in the rain", "Great help at Christmas with lovely gifts". I hope this gives you an idea of what our family group is all about.

Tam

The Team

Trustees



Andy Walkden
Chair



Jan Frances
Vice Chair



Jeremy Stobart
Treasurer



Helen Tank
Safeguarding Trustee



Philippa Wride
Trustee



Virginia Taylor
Trustee



David Welton
Trustee

Staff



Mandie Preece
Scheme Manager



Kay Gray
Lamplight Administrator



Karen Marriott
Scheme Administrator



Imogen Potter
Coordinator



James Teppin
Coordinator



Sally Jones
Coordinator



Tina Rowlands
Marketing & Volunteer
Recruitment Coordinator



Tam Thomas
Family Group Coordinator

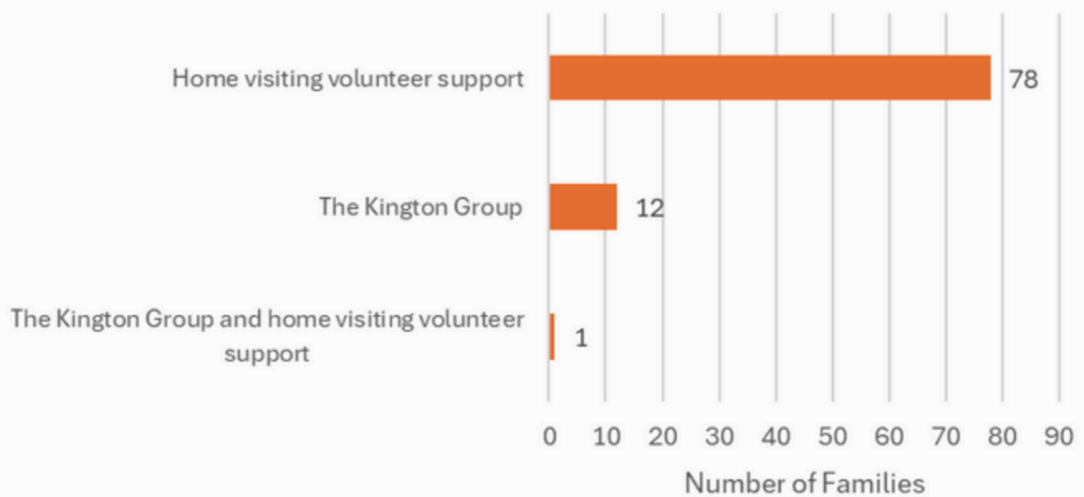


Facts

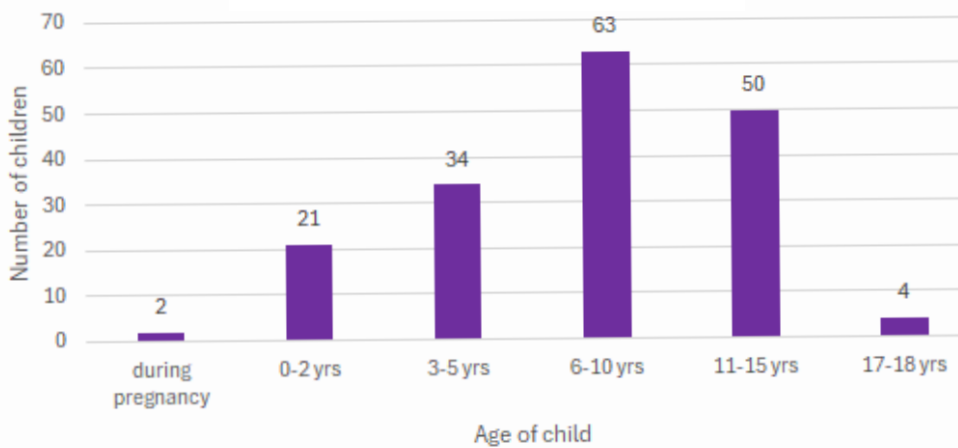
91
families
supported

174
children
supported

Families supported in 2023/24 through the following services



Number of children supported

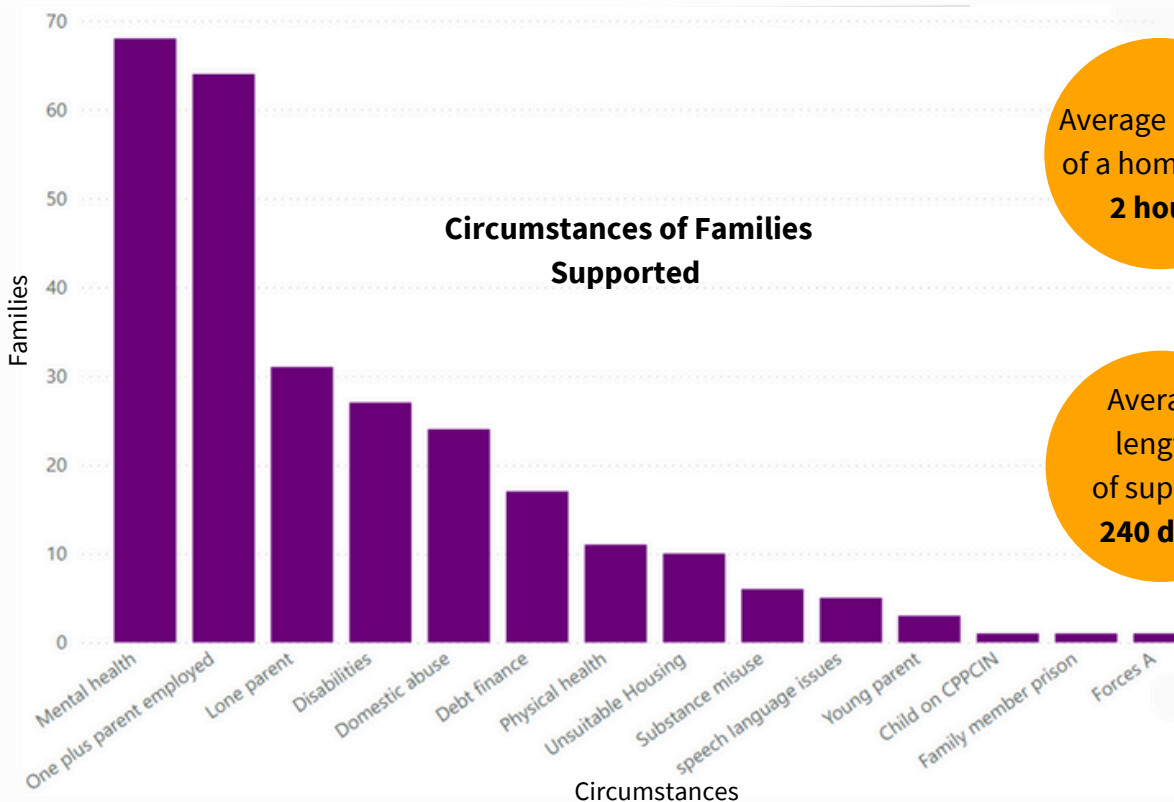


40
active
volunteers + **24**
resting
volunteers

Average length
of a home visit
2 hours

Average
length
of support
240 days

Circumstances of Families Supported



Jeremy Stobart Treasurer



In financial terms, 2023/2024 has been a difficult year. There has been a marked increase in expenditure this year, mainly due to higher than expected staff costs (22/23: £139,682, 23/24: £154,600). This has particularly skewed losses in restricted activities due to allocations being a percentage of over three-year historical revenues, and sadly, income from these activities has remained static whilst expenditure/staff costs have increased significantly. However, the reduction in unrestricted income has also been a significant factor (22/23: £92,382, 23/24: £73,332. Total expenditure has increased this year to £180,661 (2023: £165,385). Total income (core and restricted combined) was significantly decreased last year at £155,333 (2023: £178,982).

So, the unfortunate corollary of the above has been a deficit for the year on core/unrestricted activities of £8,452 (2023: £12,383 surplus). In addition, our restricted reserves have also worsened with a deficit this year of (16,876), so our overall restricted reserves deficit has increased from negative £6,456 to negative £23,332. So, our overall reserves have decreased to £54,173 (2023: £79,501).

On a more positive note, we are more hopeful for the coming year. A new contract working with Vennture should provide a much needed bolster to our cash position as well as help with the amortisation of staff costs. Along with some significant new unrestricted income streams, the outlook for 24/25 is looking rosier.

As ever, my praise goes out to Mandie and her hard-working team for their achievements. This has very much been a year of cementing in skills and knowledge for the newish staff team, and hopefully, this will assist in moving the charity towards more stable ground in financial terms.

Our current unrestricted reserves only provide minimum cover for emergencies such as shortfalls in funding or unexpected expenditures. The Trustees continue to believe that reserves equivalent to 6 months expenditure, i.e. circa £90,000 (based on current expenditure levels), are the optimum required to ensure continuity of operations and will continue to work towards this goal. Although the current reserves currently provide for just over 3.5 months of expenditure cover (2023: 5.5 months), although not ideal, the Trustees believe this is sufficient to meet the minimum requirements to continue operations.

These are still difficult times. The public sector continues to struggle with funding models and providing a steady stream of referrals. As I mentioned in last year's report, the cost of living crisis has not gone away. Although there are signs of improvement, the cost of living, energy costs, and inflation allied with depressed financial markets will continue to have an effect on us all, and everyone, including Home-Start Herefordshire, will continue to feel the squeeze in the years to come.

Amounts were received from Eveson Charitable Trust, Herefordshire Council, BBC Children in Need, EF Bulmer Trust, Herefordshire Community Foundation, HFT Forklifts, Rathbone Moral Aid Charity, HAYES Travel, Victoria Charitable Foundation, Ned Potter Limited, SR & PH Southall Trust, Kington United Charities, Waitrose & Partners, John Lewis & Partners, Pontrilas Developments, William A Cadbury, Philip Witcomb, The Mumford Memorial Trust, Hereford City Rotary Club and friends who make regular donations. TRP Sealing, ASDA and SIMTECH also kindly loan out their boardrooms for trustee and volunteer meetings and Sunshine Radio and Haines Watts for the donation of toys at Christmas. We are grateful for their support. In addition, money was received in the form of donations from individuals and the proceeds from fundraising events. We are grateful to the donors for their generosity and to all those involved in fundraising events for their hard work and commitment.

Jeremy

	Year ending 31 March 2024 (£)	Year ending 31 March 2023 (£)
Incoming resources		
Donations	4,745	5,990
Fundraising income	2,604	1,876
Grants	143,776	166,094
Other income	4,208	5,022
Total	155,333	178,982
Resources expended		
Staff and volunteer costs	154,600	139,682
Fundraising costs	405	0
Office costs	14,305	13,310
Scheme expenses	6,706	5,798
Governance costs	940	2,205
Other costs	3,705	4,390
Total	180,661	165,385
Net movement in funds		
Unrestricted funds	(8,452)	12,383
Restricted funds	(16,876)	1,124
Funds as of 31 March 2024		
Unrestricted funds	77,505	85,957
Restricted funds	(23,332)	(6,456)

Events

We held a wonderful Garden Party in Byford to give thanks to all our volunteers, friends and supporters



Thank you to all our
volunteers, friends and
supporters who have been
there for us this year



Events

Maggie's Challenge

Longtime supporter Maggie Matthews challenged herself to complete 800,000 steps, swim 80,000 metres and cycle 800 kilometres all in time for her milestone 80th birthday in 2023.



She exceeded her goals in all areas.



1,070,408
steps



80,200
metres
swam



828.5
kilometres
cycled



Events



Thank you to our
supporters



The Mumford Memorial Trust

Kington United Charities

SR and PH Southall Trust

Phillip Witcomb

Rathbone Moral Aid Charity



Private & Confidential

Mrs K Marriott
Home-Start Herefordshire
Suite 1 Unit 1a
Thorn Business Park Rotherwas
Hereford
HR2 6JT

Our ref: AH/rh

11 September 2024

Dear Karen

**RE: HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Following our recent contact, please find enclosed a set of the final accounts marked for signature and return. I would be grateful if at the annual general meeting, the chair could sign this set of accounts on page 5 and 8 where indicated and if this set could be returned as your formal authority to submit the abbreviated charity accounts to Companies House. We assume, as in previous years, you are filing the set required at the charity commission.

Separately, I enclose one bound and unbound copy of the accounts for your retention.

Finally, I enclose a copy of the letter of representation, which has previously been forwarded to you by email. As advised on my previous email I would be grateful if this letter could be put on the charity's headed paper and again signed at the annual general meeting and returned to us, in respect of the independent examination for this year.

If you have any queries in relation to the above request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Enc.

*For signature
to Return*



**HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST MARCH 2024

HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

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Reference and Administrative information

Trustees

Andy Walkden

Jeremy Stobart

Helen Tank

Jan Frances

Philippa Wride

Virginia Taylor

David Welton

Chair

Treasurer

Safeguarding

Scheme Manager

Mandie Preece

Principle address and registered office

Lakeside Offices

Unit 1 Suite A

Thorn Business Park

Rotherwas

Hereford

HR2 6JT

Company registration number

5659978

Charity registration number

1113432

Bankers

Lloyds TSB

High Town

Hereford

HR1 2AE

COIF Charity Funds

80 Cheapside

London

EC2V 6DZ

Independent Examiner

Andrew Houston

RJ Francis & Co

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Marshall Business Centre

Faraday Road

Hereford

HR4 9NS

Trustees' Report

The Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report together table company for the year ending 31st March 2024.

Our Aims and Objectives

We are a charity that wants children and young people to have the best start in life. Our mission is to provide the support to achieve this. Home-Start Herefordshire (HSH) aims to help families build better lives for their children by recruiting, training and supervising volunteers who offer support, friendship and practical help to families experiencing difficulties. We provide support across the county and to all families referred to us.

The difficulties our families experience are often complex and reflect the issues facing families identified in county research:

- challenging and anti-social behaviour;
- mental health issues affecting both parents and children;
- children in poverty;
- domestic abuse;
- school absenteeism and low academic achievement;
- substance abuse; and
- overcrowded housing conditions.

Many of these issues have worsened since COVID-19 and are also exacerbated by the cost of living crisis.

As a charitable company, HSH is dependent on funding from grant aid, contractual agreements, and fundraising. Funding uncertainty in terms of public finance constraints and the short-term nature of other funding sources is a major issue, and HSH needs to continually review its priorities and service delivery.

Charity Structure

HSH is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a board of Trustees, the minimum number of Trustees being five and the maximum twelve. Trustees act according to the Memorandum and Articles of Association that set out the objects of HSH and how it should operate.

HSH regularly advertises for new Trustees, suitable candidates are invited to submit an application form, and this is followed by an interview. Candidates who remain interested and whom HSH wish to recruit are invited to attend a board meeting as an observer. The last stage of the recruitment process is for existing Trustees to vote on inviting a candidate to join the board. Upon acceptance of a formal invite to join the board, the candidate/ new Trustee then undergoes an induction process that includes the philosophy and structure of the Home-Start federation and the role and responsibilities of being a Trustee.

HSH employs a staff team to deliver the charity's day-to-day activities. A Scheme Manager performs co-ordination between the board of trustees and the staff team. Including the Scheme Manager, there were eight employees in the staff team and seven trustees as of 31st March 2024.

The HSH service is, in the main, delivered by a team of volunteers who non-judgementally work directly with families to help them overcome those challenges that daily life can throw up. A staff team of three co-ordinators train and support volunteers in their role. As of 31st March 2024, HSH had 64 volunteers on its books.

The Strategic Plan

HSH maintains a strategic plan, which was last updated in 2021. Through this and its underpinning plans, the day-to-day activities of HSH are coordinated to deliver the objectives of the charity. The strategic plan has seven priorities, these are:

1. Service Development – integrating new technologies and innovations into the service.
2. Staff, volunteers and trustee development and succession planning.
3. Diversity - within HSH staff and trustees, and with families and groups in the community who might find themselves "easy to ignore".
4. Expanding partnerships and collaboration with other agencies.
5. Increasing public profile.
6. Financial resilience.
7. Maintaining delivery of a quality service to families.

Each priority is underpinned by an action plan that breaks down what HSH will do into SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) objectives. Since the action plan was first drafted in 2021, HSH has been working to make progress against these priorities. Underpinning the action plan is the operational plan delivered by the scheme manager, which directs the daily and weekly activities of the staff team.

Achievements and Performance

Looking back, it has been a relatively quiet year for HSH. In July 2023, we had a Garden Party, inviting people who had helped HSH to thank them for their support. We were pleased to welcome the then-current High Sheriff Robert Robinson and his wife Sue to the event. There have been no changes in the staff team or trustee board to report. HSH was awarded a further 12 months of funding from Herefordshire Council to continue our Early Help service.

With regards to furthering public benefit, HSH aims are to:

- inspire more people to volunteer for us and support our core offer;
- enhance the support we provide families in terms of providing a stronger 'voice' for families endeavour to improve access to early years services and compassionate support for families;
- improve inclusion and diversity across the county; and
- enhance the collective impact of the Home-Start network for the benefit of the wider community.

This year, through the continuation of our volunteer-delivered early intervention and prevention support, we have provided a multi-agency, family-centred approach whereby we collaborate with local and national agencies, organisations, and services to connect families to the additional support they need. By working collaboratively over the last 12 months, we assisted 91 families (174 children) to access additional and specialised support when they needed it, helping remove some of the barriers in seeking help and preventing or reducing the impact of crisis.

Looking to the future, 2024/25 will be a busy year. Most recently HSH has been negotiating with Vennture and The CLD Trust to form a partnership to help young children and families. HSH will deliver School Readiness interventions as part of an overall initiative to provide school-based support for children and families. This is an exciting development for HSH, and we look forward to further partnership working in the future.

Two other work areas for HSH are quality assurance (QA) and strategic plan. The first is implementing the QA procedures as they are being introduced by Home-Start UK. These will ensure that HSH remains fit for purpose and continues to deliver quality service to families. The second is redrafting HSH's strategic plan and action plan (as mentioned above). This will guide our decision-making and actions towards achieving the seven priorities up until 2027.

Financial Review

In financial terms, 2023/2024 has been a difficult year. There has been a marked increase in expenditure this year, mainly due to higher than expected staff costs (22/23: £139,682, 23/24: £154,600). This has particularly skewed losses in restricted activities due to allocations being a percentage of over three-year historical revenues, and sadly, income from these activities has remained static whilst expenditure/staff costs have increased significantly. However, the reduction in unrestricted income has also been a significant factor (22/23: £92,382, 23/24: £73,332). Total expenditure has increased this year to £180,661 (2023: £165,385). Total income (core and restricted combined) was significantly decreased last year at £155,333 (2023: £178,982).

So, the unfortunate corollary of the above has been a deficit for the year on core/unrestricted activities of £8,452 (2023: £12,383 surplus). In addition, our restricted reserves have also worsened with a deficit this year of (£16,876), so our overall restricted reserves deficit has increased from negative £6,456 to negative £23,332. So, our overall reserves have decreased to £54,173 (2023: £79,501).

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Our current unrestricted reserves only provide minimum cover for emergencies such as shortfalls in funding or unexpected expenditures. The Trustees continue to believe that reserves equivalent to 6 months expenditure, i.e. circa £90,000 (based on current expenditure levels), are the optimum required to ensure continuity of operations and will continue to work towards this goal. Although the current reserves currently provide for just over 3.5 months of expenditure cover (2023: 5.5 months), although not ideal, the Trustees believe this is sufficient to meet the minimum requirements to continue operations.

These are still difficult times. The public sector continues to struggle with funding models and providing a steady stream of referrals. As I mentioned in last year's report, the cost of living crisis has not gone away. Although there are signs of improvement, the cost of living, energy costs, and inflation allied with depressed financial markets will continue to have an effect on us all, and everyone, including Home-Start Herefordshire, will continue to feel the squeeze in the years to come.

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Travel, Victoria Charitable Foundation, Ned Potter, SR & PH Southall Trust, Kington United Charities, Waitrose & Partners, John Lewis & Partners, Pontrilas Developments, William A Cadbury, Philip Witcomb, Mumford Memorial Trust, Hereford City Rotary Club and Friends who make regular donations. TRP Sealing, ASDA and SIMTECH also kindly loan out their boardrooms for Trustee and Volunteer meetings. We are grateful for their support. In addition, money was received in the form of donations from individuals and the proceeds from fundraising events. We are grateful to the donors for their generosity and to all those involved in fundraising events for their hard work and commitment.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (also directors of HSH for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statement in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable laws and regulations.

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 the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a 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 sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the company's financial position, enabling them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the company's assets and, hence, for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 19 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Andy Walkden
Chair



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Home-Start Herefordshire ("the charity") for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company 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 as 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

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 financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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.



A A Houston FCA
Chartered Accountant
Independent Examiner

19th September 2024

HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including income and expenditure account)
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Notes</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income and Endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	66,843	-	66,843	83,154
Charitable activities	6	-	82,000	82,000	89,500
Other trading activities	7	2,604	-	2,604	1,876
Investment Income	8	2,202	-	2,202	952
Other income	9	1,684	-	1,684	3,410
Total Income		<u>73,333</u>	<u>82,000</u>	<u>155,333</u>	<u>178,892</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on fundraising:	10	405	-	405	121
Expenditure on charitable activities	11,12	80,439	98,876	179,315	163,059
Costs of raising donations and legacies	11,12	941	-	941	2,205
Total Expenditure		<u>81,785</u>	<u>98,876</u>	<u>180,661</u>	<u>165,385</u>
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		<u>(8,452)</u>	<u>(16,876)</u>	<u>(25,328)</u>	<u>13,507</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		85,957	(6,456)	79,501	65,994
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>77,505</u>	<u>(23,332)</u>	<u>54,173</u>	<u>79,501</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

	<i>Notes</i>	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	17	820	740
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors	18	-	-
Investments	19	9,955	9,052
Cash at bank and in hand		46,994	72,522
		<u>56,949</u>	<u>81,574</u>
<u>Creditors: Amounts falling due</u>			
within one year	20	3,596	2,813
<u>Net Current Assets</u>		<u>53,353</u>	<u>78,761</u>
<u>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</u>		£ <u>54,173</u>	<u>79,501</u>
<u>Funds of the Charity</u>			
Restricted Funds		(23,332)	(6,456)
Unrestricted Funds		77,505	85,957
<u>Total Charity Funds</u>	22	£ <u>54,173</u>	<u>79,501</u>

For the year ending 31st March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the 2006 Act relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (a) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (b) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on 19th September 2024

X

Andy Walkden
Chair

X

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Lakeside Offices, Suite 1, Unit 1a. Thorn Business Park, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6JT.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102. The 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) (Charities SORP) and the 2006 Act.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

There are no material judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one or two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- (a) income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- (b) legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- (c) income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- (d) income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- (a) expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- (b) expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- (c) other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial Instruments (continued)

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined Contribution Plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by Guarantee

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital, each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

5. Donations and Legacies

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Donations				
Individual Donations	9,696	9,696	15,733	15,733
Institutional Donations	56,050	56,050	67,421	67,421
Gifts				
Gifts aid reclaimed	1,097	1,097	-	-
	<u>66,843</u>	<u>66,843</u>	<u>83,154</u>	<u>83,154</u>

6. Charitable Activities

	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Grants receivable	82,000	82,000	89,500	89,500
	<u>82,000</u>	<u>82,000</u>	<u>89,500</u>	<u>89,500</u>

7. Other Trading Activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Local fundraising and street collection income	2,604	2,604	1,876	1,876
	<u>2,604</u>	<u>2,604</u>	<u>1,876</u>	<u>1,876</u>

8. Investment Income

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Other investment income	2,202	2,202	952	952
	<u>2,202</u>	<u>2,202</u>	<u>952</u>	<u>952</u>

9. Other Income

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Toy library	-	-	-	-
Cleaning income	431	431	392	392
Miscellaneous income	1,253	1,253	3,018	3,018
	<u>1,684</u>	<u>1,684</u>	<u>3,410</u>	<u>3,410</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

10. Costs of Raising Donations and Legacies

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	405	405	121	121
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

11. Expenditure on Charitable activities by Fund Type

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	80,439	98,876	179,315
Support costs	941	-	941
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	81,380	98,876	180,256
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	74,804	88,376	163,180
Support costs	2,205	-	2,205
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	77,009	88,376	165,385
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. Expenditure on Charitable activities by Activity Type

	<u>Activities</u>		<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Total Fund</u>
	<u>Undertaken</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Directly</u>	<u>Costs</u>		
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	83,367	95,948	179,315	163,180
Governance costs	941	-	941	2,205
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	84,308	95,948	180,256	165,385
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

13. Net Income/(Expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Depreciaton of tangible fixed assets	232	244
	<hr/>	<hr/>

14. Independent Examination Fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

Independent examination of the financial statements	900	900
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**15. Staff Costs**

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	149,594	134,846
Employer contributions to pension plans	5,006	4,836
	<u>154,600</u>	<u>139,682</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2023: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	No.	No.
Number of staff - type 1	8	8

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

16. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

17. Tangible Fixed Assets

	<u>Fixtures and Fittings</u>
Cost	£
At 1 April 2023	5,673
Additions	312
At 31 March 2023	<u>5,985</u>
Depeciation	
At 1 April 2022	4,933
Charge for the year	232
At 31 March 2023	<u>5,165</u>
Carrying Amount	
At 31 March 2023	<u>820</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>740</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

18. Debtors

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Trade Debtors	-	-

19. Investments

Other Investments	\$ 9,955	9,052
-------------------	----------	-------

20. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Trade Creditors	2,696	1,931
Accruals and Deferred Income	900	900
	<u>3,596</u>	<u>2,831</u>

21. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £5,006 (2023: £4,836).

22. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	<u>At 1 April</u>			<u>At 31 March</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	85,957	73,333	81,785	77,505
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>At 1 April</u>			<u>At 31 March</u>
	<u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	73,574	89,392	77,009	85,957
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

22. Analysis of Charitable Funds (continued)

Restricted Funds

	<u>At 1 April</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>At 31 March</u> <u>2024</u>
Restricted Fund	(6,456)	82,000	98,876	(23,332)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>At 1 April</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>At 31 March</u> <u>2023</u>
Restricted Fund	(7,580)	89,500	88,376	(6,456)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

23. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	611	209	820
Investments	9,955	-	9,955
Current assets	70,535	(23,541)	46,994
Creditors less than one year	(3,596)	-	(3,596)
Net Assets	<hr/> 77,505	<hr/> (23,332)	<hr/> 54,173
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	512	228	740
Investments	9,052	-	9,052
Current assets	79,206	(6,684)	72,522
Creditors less than one year	(2,813)	-	(2,813)
Net Assets	<hr/> 85,957	<hr/> (6,456)	<hr/> 79,501
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Private & Confidential

Mrs K Marriott
Home-Start Herefordshire
Suite 1 Unit 1a
Thorn Business Park Rotherwas
Hereford
HR2 6JT

Our ref: AH/rh

11 September 2024

Dear Karen

**RE: HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Following our recent contact, please find enclosed a set of the final accounts marked for signature and return. I would be grateful if at the annual general meeting, the chair could sign this set of accounts on page 5 and 8 where indicated and if this set could be returned as your formal authority to submit the abbreviated charity accounts to Companies House. We assume, as in previous years, you are filing the set required at the charity commission.

Separately, I enclose one bound and unbound copy of the accounts for your retention.

Finally, I enclose a copy of the letter of representation, which has previously been forwarded to you by email. As advised on my previous email I would be grateful if this letter could be put on the charity's headed paper and again signed at the annual general meeting and returned to us, in respect of the independent examination for this year.

If you have any queries in relation to the above request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Enc.

*For signature
J. R. Khan*



**HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST MARCH 2024

HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

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Reference and Administrative information

Trustees

Andy Walkden

Jeremy Stobart

Helen Tank

Jan Frances

Philippa Wride

Virginia Taylor

David Welton

Chair

Treasurer

Safeguarding

Scheme Manager

Mandie Preece

Principle address and registered office

Lakeside Offices

Unit 1 Suite A

Thorn Business Park

Rotherwas

Hereford

HR2 6JT

Company registration number

5659978

Charity registration number

1113432

Bankers

Lloyds TSB

High Town

Hereford

HR1 2AE

COIF Charity Funds

80 Cheapside

London

EC2V 6DZ

Independent Examiner

Andrew Houston

RJ Francis & Co

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Marshall Business Centre

Faraday Road

Hereford

HR4 9NS

Trustees' Report

The Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present their annual report together table company for the year ending 31st March 2024.

Our Aims and Objectives

We are a charity that wants children and young people to have the best start in life. Our mission is to provide the support to achieve this. Home-Start Herefordshire (HSH) aims to help families build better lives for their children by recruiting, training and supervising volunteers who offer support, friendship and practical help to families experiencing difficulties. We provide support across the county and to all families referred to us.

The difficulties our families experience are often complex and reflect the issues facing families identified in county research:

- challenging and anti-social behaviour;
- mental health issues affecting both parents and children;
- children in poverty;
- domestic abuse;
- school absenteeism and low academic achievement;
- substance abuse; and
- overcrowded housing conditions.

Many of these issues have worsened since COVID-19 and are also exacerbated by the cost of living crisis.

As a charitable company, HSH is dependent on funding from grant aid, contractual agreements, and fundraising. Funding uncertainty in terms of public finance constraints and the short-term nature of other funding sources is a major issue, and HSH needs to continually review its priorities and service delivery.

Charity Structure

HSH is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a board of Trustees, the minimum number of Trustees being five and the maximum twelve. Trustees act according to the Memorandum and Articles of Association that set out the objects of HSH and how it should operate.

HSH regularly advertises for new Trustees, suitable candidates are invited to submit an application form, and this is followed by an interview. Candidates who remain interested and whom HSH wish to recruit are invited to attend a board meeting as an observer. The last stage of the recruitment process is for existing Trustees to vote on inviting a candidate to join the board. Upon acceptance of a formal invite to join the board, the candidate/ new Trustee then undergoes an induction process that includes the philosophy and structure of the Home-Start federation and the role and responsibilities of being a Trustee.

HSH employs a staff team to deliver the charity's day-to-day activities. A Scheme Manager performs co-ordination between the board of trustees and the staff team. Including the Scheme Manager, there were eight employees in the staff team and seven trustees as of 31st March 2024.

The HSH service is, in the main, delivered by a team of volunteers who non-judgementally work directly with families to help them overcome those challenges that daily life can throw up. A staff team of three co-ordinators train and support volunteers in their role. As of 31st March 2024, HSH had 64 volunteers on its books.

The Strategic Plan

HSH maintains a strategic plan, which was last updated in 2021. Through this and its underpinning plans, the day-to-day activities of HSH are coordinated to deliver the objectives of the charity. The strategic plan has seven priorities, these are:

1. Service Development – integrating new technologies and innovations into the service.
2. Staff, volunteers and trustee development and succession planning.
3. Diversity - within HSH staff and trustees, and with families and groups in the community who might find themselves "easy to ignore".
4. Expanding partnerships and collaboration with other agencies.
5. Increasing public profile.
6. Financial resilience.
7. Maintaining delivery of a quality service to families.

Each priority is underpinned by an action plan that breaks down what HSH will do into SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) objectives. Since the action plan was first drafted in 2021, HSH has been working to make progress against these priorities. Underpinning the action plan is the operational plan delivered by the scheme manager, which directs the daily and weekly activities of the staff team.

Achievements and Performance

Looking back, it has been a relatively quiet year for HSH. In July 2023, we had a Garden Party, inviting people who had helped HSH to thank them for their support. We were pleased to welcome the then-current High Sheriff Robert Robinson and his wife Sue to the event. There have been no changes in the staff team or trustee board to report. HSH was awarded a further 12 months of funding from Herefordshire Council to continue our Early Help service.

With regards to furthering public benefit, HSH aims are to:

- inspire more people to volunteer for us and support our core offer;
- enhance the support we provide families in terms of providing a stronger 'voice' for families endeavour to improve access to early years services and compassionate support for families;
- improve inclusion and diversity across the county; and
- enhance the collective impact of the Home-Start network for the benefit of the wider community.

This year, through the continuation of our volunteer-delivered early intervention and prevention support, we have provided a multi-agency, family-centred approach whereby we collaborate with local and national agencies, organisations, and services to connect families to the additional support they need. By working collaboratively over the last 12 months, we assisted 91 families (174 children) to access additional and specialised support when they needed it, helping remove some of the barriers in seeking help and preventing or reducing the impact of crisis.

Looking to the future, 2024/25 will be a busy year. Most recently HSH has been negotiating with Vennture and The CLD Trust to form a partnership to help young children and families. HSH will deliver School Readiness interventions as part of an overall initiative to provide school-based support for children and families. This is an exciting development for HSH, and we look forward to further partnership working in the future.

Two other work areas for HSH are quality assurance (QA) and strategic plan. The first is implementing the QA procedures as they are being introduced by Home-Start UK. These will ensure that HSH remains fit for purpose and continues to deliver quality service to families. The second is redrafting HSH's strategic plan and action plan (as mentioned above). This will guide our decision-making and actions towards achieving the seven priorities up until 2027.

Financial Review

In financial terms, 2023/2024 has been a difficult year. There has been a marked increase in expenditure this year, mainly due to higher than expected staff costs (22/23: £139,682, 23/24: £154,600). This has particularly skewed losses in restricted activities due to allocations being a percentage of over three-year historical revenues, and sadly, income from these activities has remained static whilst expenditure/staff costs have increased significantly. However, the reduction in unrestricted income has also been a significant factor (22/23: £92,382, 23/24: £73,332). Total expenditure has increased this year to £180,661 (2023: £165,385). Total income (core and restricted combined) was significantly decreased last year at £155,333 (2023: £178,982).

So, the unfortunate corollary of the above has been a deficit for the year on core/unrestricted activities of £8,452 (2023: £12,383 surplus). In addition, our restricted reserves have also worsened with a deficit this year of (£16,876), so our overall restricted reserves deficit has increased from negative £6,456 to negative £23,332. So, our overall reserves have decreased to £54,173 (2023: £79,501).

On a more positive note, we are more hopeful for the coming year. A new contract working with Vennture should provide a much needed bolster to our cash position as well as help with the amortisation of staff costs. Along with some significant new unrestricted income streams, the outlook for 24/25 is looking rosier.

As ever, my praise goes out to Mandie and her hard-working team for their achievements. This has very much been a year of cementing in skills and knowledge for the newish staff team, and hopefully, this will assist in moving the charity towards more stable ground in financial terms.

Our current unrestricted reserves only provide minimum cover for emergencies such as shortfalls in funding or unexpected expenditures. The Trustees continue to believe that reserves equivalent to 6 months expenditure, i.e. circa £90,000 (based on current expenditure levels), are the optimum required to ensure continuity of operations and will continue to work towards this goal. Although the current reserves currently provide for just over 3.5 months of expenditure cover (2023: 5.5 months), although not ideal, the Trustees believe this is sufficient to meet the minimum requirements to continue operations.

These are still difficult times. The public sector continues to struggle with funding models and providing a steady stream of referrals. As I mentioned in last year's report, the cost of living crisis has not gone away. Although there are signs of improvement, the cost of living, energy costs, and inflation allied with depressed financial markets will continue to have an effect on us all, and everyone, including Home-Start Herefordshire, will continue to feel the squeeze in the years to come.

Amounts were received from Eveson Charitable Trust, Herefordshire Council, BBC Children in Need, EF Bulmer Trust, Herefordshire Community Foundation, HFT Forklifts, Rathbone Moral Aid Charity ,HAYES

Travel, Victoria Charitable Foundation, Ned Potter, SR & PH Southall Trust, Kington United Charities, Waitrose & Partners, John Lewis & Partners, Pontrilas Developments, William A Cadbury, Philip Witcomb, Mumford Memorial Trust, Hereford City Rotary Club and Friends who make regular donations. TRP Sealing, ASDA and SIMTECH also kindly loan out their boardrooms for Trustee and Volunteer meetings. We are grateful for their support. In addition, money was received in the form of donations from individuals and the proceeds from fundraising events. We are grateful to the donors for their generosity and to all those involved in fundraising events for their hard work and commitment.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (also directors of HSH for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statement in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable laws and regulations.

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 the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a 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 sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the company's financial position, enabling them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the company's assets and, hence, for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 19 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Andy Walkden
Chair



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Home-Start Herefordshire ("the charity") for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company 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 as 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

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 financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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.



A A Houston FCA
Chartered Accountant
Independent Examiner

19th September 2024

HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including income and expenditure account)
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Notes</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income and Endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	66,843	-	66,843	83,154
Charitable activities	6	-	82,000	82,000	89,500
Other trading activities	7	2,604	-	2,604	1,876
Investment Income	8	2,202	-	2,202	952
Other income	9	1,684	-	1,684	3,410
Total Income		<u>73,333</u>	<u>82,000</u>	<u>155,333</u>	<u>178,892</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on fundraising:	10	405	-	405	121
Expenditure on charitable activities	11,12	80,439	98,876	179,315	163,059
Costs of raising donations and legacies	11,12	941	-	941	2,205
Total Expenditure		<u>81,785</u>	<u>98,876</u>	<u>180,661</u>	<u>165,385</u>
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		<u>(8,452)</u>	<u>(16,876)</u>	<u>(25,328)</u>	<u>13,507</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		85,957	(6,456)	79,501	65,994
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>77,505</u>	<u>(23,332)</u>	<u>54,173</u>	<u>79,501</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

HOME-START HEREFORDSHIRE
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

	<i>Notes</i>	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	17	820	740
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors	18	-	-
Investments	19	9,955	9,052
Cash at bank and in hand		46,994	72,522
		<u>56,949</u>	<u>81,574</u>
<u>Creditors: Amounts falling due</u>			
within one year	20	3,596	2,813
<u>Net Current Assets</u>		<u>53,353</u>	<u>78,761</u>
<u>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</u>		£ <u>54,173</u>	<u>79,501</u>
<u>Funds of the Charity</u>			
Restricted Funds		(23,332)	(6,456)
Unrestricted Funds		77,505	85,957
<u>Total Charity Funds</u>	22	£ <u>54,173</u>	<u>79,501</u>

For the year ending 31st March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the 2006 Act relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (a) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (b) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on 19th September 2024

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Andy Walkden
Chair

X

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Lakeside Offices, Suite 1, Unit 1a. Thorn Business Park, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6JT.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102. The 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) (Charities SORP) and the 2006 Act.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

There are no material judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one or two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- (a) income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- (b) legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- (c) income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- (d) income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- (a) expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- (b) expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- (c) other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible Assets (continued)

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings - 15% reducing balance

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial Instruments (continued)

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined Contribution Plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by Guarantee

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital, each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

5. Donations and Legacies

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Donations				
Individual Donations	9,696	9,696	15,733	15,733
Institutional Donations	56,050	56,050	67,421	67,421
Gifts				
Gifts aid reclaimed	1,097	1,097	-	-
	<u>66,843</u>	<u>66,843</u>	<u>83,154</u>	<u>83,154</u>

6. Charitable Activities

	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Grants receivable	82,000	82,000	89,500	89,500
	<u>82,000</u>	<u>82,000</u>	<u>89,500</u>	<u>89,500</u>

7. Other Trading Activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Local fundraising and street collection income	2,604	2,604	1,876	1,876
	<u>2,604</u>	<u>2,604</u>	<u>1,876</u>	<u>1,876</u>

8. Investment Income

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Other investment income	2,202	2,202	952	952
	<u>2,202</u>	<u>2,202</u>	<u>952</u>	<u>952</u>

9. Other Income

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Toy library	-	-	-	-
Cleaning income	431	431	392	392
Miscellaneous income	1,253	1,253	3,018	3,018
	<u>1,684</u>	<u>1,684</u>	<u>3,410</u>	<u>3,410</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

10. Costs of Raising Donations and Legacies

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	405	405	121	121
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

11. Expenditure on Charitable activities by Fund Type

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	80,439	98,876	179,315
Support costs	941	-	941
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	81,380	98,876	180,256
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	74,804	88,376	163,180
Support costs	2,205	-	2,205
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	77,009	88,376	165,385
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. Expenditure on Charitable activities by Activity Type

	<u>Activities</u>		<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Total Fund</u>
	<u>Undertaken</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Directly</u>	<u>Costs</u>		
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	83,367	95,948	179,315	163,180
Governance costs	941	-	941	2,205
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	84,308	95,948	180,256	165,385
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

13. Net Income/(Expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Depreciaton of tangible fixed assets	232	244
	<hr/>	<hr/>

14. Independent Examination Fees

Fees payable to the independent examiner for:

Independent examination of the financial statements	900	900
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**15. Staff Costs**

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	149,594	134,846
Employer contributions to pension plans	5,006	4,836
	<u>154,600</u>	<u>139,682</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2023: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	No.	No.
Number of staff - type 1	8	8

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

16. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

17. Tangible Fixed Assets

	<u>Fixtures and Fittings</u>
Cost	£
At 1 April 2023	5,673
Additions	312
At 31 March 2023	<u>5,985</u>
Depeciation	
At 1 April 2022	4,933
Charge for the year	232
At 31 March 2023	<u>5,165</u>
Carrying Amount	
At 31 March 2023	<u>820</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>740</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

18. Debtors

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Trade Debtors	-	-

19. Investments

Other Investments	\$ 9,955	9,052
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20. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Trade Creditors	2,696	1,931
Accruals and Deferred Income	900	900
	<u>3,596</u>	<u>2,831</u>

21. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £5,006 (2023: £4,836).

22. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	<u>At 1 April</u>			<u>At 31 March</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	85,957	73,333	81,785	77,505
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>At 1 April</u>			<u>At 31 March</u>
	<u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	73,574	89,392	77,009	85,957
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

22. Analysis of Charitable Funds (continued)

Restricted Funds

	<u>At 1 April</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>At 31 March</u> <u>2024</u>
Restricted Fund	(6,456)	82,000	98,876	(23,332)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>At 1 April</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>At 31 March</u> <u>2023</u>
Restricted Fund	(7,580)	89,500	88,376	(6,456)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

23. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	611	209	820
Investments	9,955	-	9,955
Current assets	70,535	(23,541)	46,994
Creditors less than one year	(3,596)	-	(3,596)
Net Assets	<hr/> 77,505	<hr/> (23,332)	<hr/> 54,173
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	512	228	740
Investments	9,052	-	9,052
Current assets	79,206	(6,684)	72,522
Creditors less than one year	(2,813)	-	(2,813)
Net Assets	<hr/> 85,957	<hr/> (6,456)	<hr/> 79,501
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>