GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales · Charity number 1113558

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05590517
Registered	2006-04-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 3A. TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTHSHIRE, THE CITY OF NEWPORT AND THE COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AREAS OF BLAENAU GWENT, CAERPHILLY AND TORFAEN BY ASSISTING THE WORK OF THE STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN ADVANCING EDUCATION, FURTHERING HEALTH, RELIEVING POVERTY, DISTRESS OR SICKNESS, IMPROVING THE SKILL OF COUNTRY CRAFTSMEN, OR IN PURSUING ANY OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES.3B. TO PROMOTE AND ORGANISE IN CO-OPERATION IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SAID PURPOSES AND TO THAT END TO BRING TOGETHER IN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AUTHORITIES AND ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THE SAID PURPOSES WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MOMOUTHSHIRE, THE CITY OF NEWPORT AND THE COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AREAS OF BLAENAU GWENT, CAERPHILLY AND TORFAEN.

Activities: To support Voluntary Organisations by providing the following services; information, advice, training, mentoring, the recruitment of volunteers, community development services to assist in the development of other voluntary organisations and to develop new voluntary services where appropriate. To

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promote partnership work between statutory and voluntary organisations.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** COUNTY OF MONMOUTHSHIRE, THE CITY OF NEWPORT AND THE COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AREAS OF BLAENAU GWENT, CAERPHILLY AND TORFAEN.
- Blaenau Gwent
- Caerphilly
- Monmouthshire
- Newport City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,041,961	£2,764,226	£2,242,754	44
2024-03-31	£3,255,039	£2,974,571	£1,965,019	56
2023-03-31	£4,487,540	£3,804,896	£1,684,551	77
2022-03-31	£3,686,323	£3,612,184	£1,001,907	70
2021-03-31	£3,863,538	£3,227,807	£927,768	64

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Edward Watts MBE DL	Chair	
CHRISTINE DAVY		2017-11-15
Christine Alice Williams		2012-01-16
Christopher Hawker		2024-11-27
James Hugh Lewis		2026-01-22
Jeffrey Hambley Cuthbert		2024-11-27
Jeffrey Hambley Cuthbert		2025-01-22
Leonard John Casley		2026-01-22
Lisa Victoria Watkins		2026-01-22
Olakunle Olufemi David		2026-01-22
Robert Lynbeck		2024-11-27
Robert Malcolm Dutt		2017-11-15
Rosalie Sian King		2026-01-22
Sharon Reader		2024-11-27

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GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1113558

Accounts

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Gwent

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Gwent

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Foreword by the GAVO Chair

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to report that 2024-2025 was a remarkable year for GAVO. You will see within this report an overview of the work by GAVO officers to support the Third Sector by continuing to give advice and guidance with an ever-increasing demand for assistance in areas such as funding, volunteering, community development, and empowerment. Officers continue to work towards the Strategic Aims – Good Governance, Sustainable Funding, Volunteering and Influencing and Engagement, which match the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) four pillars.

As the Chair of GAVO, I have been invited to several different events throughout the year. Events that involve remembering the past remind me of the significance of never forgetting our history as a CVC. This makes us more aware of the support, help, and guidance we, as a CVC, need to provide to our communities. I had the honour of representing GAVO at a Remembrance Service in Cardiff recently to remember those who fought for our freedom in the First and Second World Wars from across the UK and the Commonwealth.

In 2027, GAVO will proudly mark 100 years of empowering communities, supporting volunteers, and driving positive change across the GAVO footprint. This Centenary is not just a celebration of our past—it's a vibrant tribute to the people and partnerships that have shaped our journey. Plans are already underway to ensure this landmark year is filled with meaningful events, stories, and opportunities that bring together our members, communities, officers, and stakeholders.

On behalf of the Board Trustees, I would like to extend sincere thanks to GAVO staff, GAVO members for their support and collaboration from across the local authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport. We also acknowledge the continued commitment of our statutory and private sector partners, whose engagement has once again been exemplary, helping the third sector to adapt and thrive in a changing environment.



Warm regards,
Edward Watts MBE DL
Chair of GAVO

Year at a Glance

Statement of Financial Activities

(including income and expenditure account) For Year Ended 31st March 2025

			31.03.25
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total from continuing operations £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS			
Donations and legacies	2,750	0	2,750
Charitable activities	1,099,600	1,896,367	2,995,967
Investment income	43,244	0	43,244
Other income	0	0	0
Total Income	**1,145,594**	**1,896,367**	**3,041,961**
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on charitable activities	826,407	1,937,819	2,764,226
Total Expenditure	**826,407**	**1,937,819**	**2,764,226**
Net Income and net movement in funds	**319,187**	**(41,452)**	**277,735**
Transfers between funds	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds	**319,187**	**(41,452)**	**277,735**
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	1,795,325	169,694	1,965,019
Total funds carried forward	**2,114,512**	**128,242**	**2,242,754**

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

			31.03.24	
Discontinued operations	Total Funds	Total from continuing operations	Discontinued operations	Total Funds
£	£	£	£	£
0	2,750	3,075	0	3,075
0	2,995,967	2,513,167	699,984	3,213,151
0	43,244	35,693	0	35,693
0	0	3,120	0	3,120
0	**3,041,961**	**2,555,055**	**699,984**	**3,255,039**
0	2,764,226	2,311,784	662,787	2,974,571
0	**2,764,226**	**2,311,784**	**662,787**	**2,974,571**
0	**277,735**	**243,271**	**37,197**	**280,468**
0	0	37,197	(37,197)	0
0	**277,735**	**280,468**	**0**	**280,468**
0	1,965,019	1,684,551	0	1,684,551
0	**2,242,754**	**1,965,019**	**0**	**1,965,019**

Statement of Financial Position

For Year Ended 31st March 2025

	31.03.25		31.03.24
	£	£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	319,893		129,952
Investments	9,998		0
Cash at bank and in hand	2,628,287		2,571,498
	2,958,178		**2,701,450**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**704,694**		**731,429**
Net current assets		2,253,484	1,970,021
Total assets less current liabilities		**2,253,484**	**1,970,021**
Provisions			
Pensions and similar obligations		10,730	5,002
Net Assets		**2,242,754**	**1,965,019**
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		128,242	169,694
Unrestricted funds		2,114,512	1,795,325
Total charity funds		**2,242,754**	**1,965,019**

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 24/11/2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

GAVO has a core team in each of the four counties of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport to support the vibrant third sector through all of its voluntary activities.

- Our Regional Leads are engaged with the relevant support structures across the region to ensure the third sector's voice is heard.
- Our Community Development Officers are in place to provide governance and financial support to voluntary organisations across the region.
- Our Volunteering Officers, both Adult and Youth, are there to support volunteering through responding to requests from individuals in the community for placements and assisting third sector organisations and partners to provide quality volunteering opportunities.
- Our Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing Partnership Officers are there to support the key points of the wellbeing agenda whilst ensuring the third sector is embedded in supporting wellbeing through partnership, and that organisations with a Health remit within the sector have dedicated support.

BLAENAU GWENT



Community Development

In Blaenau Gwent, GAVO's Community Development Officers, one of whom is the Regional Strategic Lead, provide critical governance and financial support to local organisations, ensuring the third sector's voice is represented.

- The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) project in Blaenau Gwent contributed to significant funding for local groups. Staff also negotiated with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) to provide Shared Prosperity Fund grants to meet high demand from sporting organisations, and successful promotional efforts continued through job fairs, County Voluntary Council (CVC) collaboration, and community events.
- Across the year, GAVO's Community Development Officers have supported funding bids for groups such as Friends of Pen-Y-Pont Care Home, Waundeg Tenants and Residents, Gwent Valley Evangelism, Tabor Chapel, One Life, Blaina CC, and Brynmawr FC.
- A funding surgery was arranged in partnership with the National Lottery, with plans to make it a regular event supporting local groups.
- GAVO supported Gwent Valley Evangelism in its successful application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), navigating some challenges linked to the group's strong religious focus.
- Community Development Officers worked closely with BGCBC to promote Shared Prosperity Fund training and provide tailored support to groups across the borough.
- Funding for food and warm hub projects was secured for Coedcae Community House and Ebbw Vale Institute, aiding vital community initiatives. Plans for future events and workshops are set to enhance community development awareness in line with GAVO's strategic priorities.

Volunteering

The Adult and Youth Volunteering Officers implemented the Blaenau Gwent Volunteering Plan, increasing visibility through community outreach and developing innovative opportunities such as youth micro-volunteering. Stronger partnerships with the Job Centre, NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) services, and local organisations have contributed to higher volunteer engagement across the borough.



- GAVO initiated a new Opportunity of the Week promotion in collaboration with Public Health to spotlight local volunteering roles and increase engagement.
- Cash4U: GAVO continues its work with the Cash4U funding panels to support local youth initiatives.
- Collaborative working continued with organisations such as Volunteering Matters, focusing on befriending services for individuals over 18, and with partners supporting volunteers with additional needs, ensuring their successful integration into placements and provision of tailored support.
- Visibility of GAVO's services was enhanced through the introduction of a Youth Volunteering Officer in Blaenau Gwent, helping to boost youth engagement and strengthen community connections.
- GAVO focused on matching volunteers to suitable placements and supporting community groups to strengthen their impact and achieve their goals. Our team actively attended local events, including volunteer fairs and networking sessions, to raise awareness and attract new participants, promoting high-quality placements in partnership with community development efforts to ensure meaningful experiences.
- Efforts to streamline volunteer recruitment included developing and piloting a new sign-up system, refreshed promotional materials, collaborations with local community groups and Job Centres, participation in Wales-wide volunteering campaigns, and the relaunch of the Volunteering Subgroup to drive further improvements.

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Although the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Officer position was vacant for part of the year, officers maintained strong partnerships and embedded third sector perspectives into local wellbeing initiatives.

- GAVO actively promoted third sector engagement and health initiatives by attending planning meetings for the Bevan Centre Marketplace, liaising with mental health-focused third sector stalls, arranging guest speakers and external services for groups such as Muddled Minds and Men's Den, and working with Care and Repair to promote their new project and deliver a guest talk at NCN.
- Staff attended key networks and steering groups, including BG Comms and Engagement, BG Food Partnership (supporting volunteer training), BG Dewis, and the Interactive Map Steering Group, ensuring third sector voices were embedded in the Wellbeing Agenda.
- GAVO engaged with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) to explore funding for volunteer training around food, connecting ABUHB with GAVO's Strategic Lead in Blaenau Gwent to support delivery.
- The revamped Weekly Burst bulletin, now delivered via Sway, has enhanced community engagement and provided a platform for third sector organisations to share updates. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, building trust and increasing visibility for health-focused work.
- Newly appointed Wellbeing Coaches are becoming key connectors between individuals and third sector support. Recruited in partnership with Aneurin Leisure Trust and ABUHB as part of the Happy, Healthy Blaenau Gwent initiative, they play a preventative role in health and wellbeing, helping people access support before reaching crisis. Their impact will be highlighted in future updates.

Key Partners & Supported Organisations in Blaenau Gwent

Friends of Pen-Y-Pont Care Home, Waundeg Tenants and Residents, Gwent Valley Evangelism, Tabor Chapel, One Life, Blaina Cricket Club, Brynmawr FC, Coedcae Community House, Ebbw Vale Institute, Muddled Minds, Men's Den, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, National Lottery Community Fund, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Aneurin Leisure Trust, Volunteering Matters, Care and Repair, Public Health Wales, Job Centres Plus, and members of the BG Food Partnership, Dewis, and the Happy Healthy Blaenau Gwent initiative.

CAERPHILLY



Community Development

Within Caerphilly, we are funded via an SLA for an additional Development Officer. During the quarter, our Development Officers, one of whom is also the Regional Strategic Lead for Caerphilly, have:

- Organised Lottery Funding Surgeries, offering groups individual appointments.
- Continued Caerphilly Forum with over 30 group members attending regularly and productive presentations.
- Developed a Community Development National Occupational Standards training programme and bespoke development training packages, fostering collaboration among groups such as Smart Money Cymru, Bug Life Project, and Disability Can Do, while supporting governance changes for Fit for Living Gym and White Rose Resource Centre.





- Supported local groups with business planning, capacity building, and advocacy, securing over £500,000 collectively for community-led projects.
- Engaged communities to increase visibility of local services, promoting initiatives such as supporting the participatory budgeting process in Risca, and sustainability/green space projects.
- Consolidated experiential learning from Rhymney's Participatory Budgeting programme, with resident panels meeting fortnightly.

- Organised Operational Development workshops to equip local groups with skills to thrive.
- Responded to growing demand for governance training and Community Asset Transfer guidance, particularly from bowls clubs and community centres.
- Strengthened strategic partnerships with local authorities, Bute Energy, and other stakeholders.
- Guided governance and capacity-building efforts for local organisations including Cefn Fforest & Pengam Partnership.

Volunteering





- Celebrated Volunteer Week, creating 40th Anniversary certificates and engaging the staff team in the Caerphilly Toy Box project.
- Organised successful community events, including the Volunteer Awards evening at Blackwood Rugby Club and the Halloween-themed "V Fest."
- Linked volunteering with corporate social responsibility through pilots with Unilever Food suppliers, Welsh Government Finance Team Day at Bargoed Taraggan Educational Gardens, and partnerships with British Aerospace STEM students and Careers Wales.
- Adult and Youth Volunteering Officers implemented community volunteering plans, increased visibility through outreach, and developed innovative opportunities such as youth micro-volunteering.
- Provided support for funding applications for Cash4U, securing grants for groups like Inside Out and Bedwas Crafters).

- Strengthened volunteer engagement through collaborations with local libraries, community groups, and organisations including the CCBC Employability Team, alongside training sessions like WCVA Personal Development.
- Supported volunteer recruitment via a new sign-up system and promotional materials, participation in Wales-wide campaigns, and the relaunch of the Volunteering Subgroup, ensuring high-quality placements and meaningful experiences.
- Responded to November flooding by supporting third sector organisations and facilitating access to emergency funds.
- Organised the annual volunteer tree planting, this time in Rhymney, with Caerphilly CBNC and other partners.





Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

The Health Partnership Officer role was vacant for part of the year.

- Explored and supported the development of wellbeing hubs across the county, including governance setup and start-up funding access.
- Attended events such as Crosskeys College Wellbeing Day, consulting with students to identify wellbeing priorities.
- Maintained third sector support through ISPB involvement and strengthened strategic partnerships with local authorities, Bute Energy, and other stakeholders.
- The Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Officer, appointed in Quarter 4, quickly integrated, launching a local newsletter and planning awareness initiatives such as a menopause education session.

Key Partners & Supported Organisations in Caerphilly

Smart Money Cymru, Bug Life Project, Disability Can Do, Fit for Living Gym, White Rose Resource Centre, Crosskeys College, St John Ambulance, Bute Energy, Careers Wales, British Aerospace STEM students, Unilever Food suppliers, Welsh Government Finance Team, CCBC Employability Team, local libraries, parent and toddler groups, bowls clubs, community centres, Early Years teams, and third sector groups involved in Participatory Budgeting (Rhymney, Risca, Van, Greater Bargoed), Inside Out, Bedwas Crafter, and Cefn Fforest & Pengam Partnership.

Early Language Programme



- Delivered sessions supporting Early Language development, providing parents with advice and connecting them to additional services as needed.
- Attended Collaborative Communication Peer Mentor Training to enhance mentoring within the team and Early Years programme.
- Launched "Let's Talk with Your Baby" groups across 9 community areas, including 6 library-based sessions in partnership with Caerphilly libraries, improving accessibility for families and supporting early learning.

- Collaborated with the Early Years team, providing resources and activities, and established a partnership with St John Ambulance to offer free mini first aid sessions.
- Promoted the Early Language Team project and delivered training sessions for parent and toddler staff, enhancing early language development in local communities including parent and toddler outreach.
- Officers undertook Makaton and Welsh language training to improve inclusivity, while consultations with families of children with complex needs informed plans for tailored support groups.

Participatory Budgeting

- GAVO's Participatory Budgeting (PB) Project supports Integrated Wellbeing Networks by providing focused funding and fostering community-led decision-making.
- The PB Officer received 19 project applications, requesting approximately £60,000 to improve health and wellbeing in the Upper Rhymney Valley. Following evaluations, 10 proposals were selected to advance to stage 2, and a total of £36,000 was allocated to eight community-voted projects in the first round.
- PB activity continued to expand across Rhymney, The Van, Bargoed, Risca, and Greater Bargoed Wards, helping local groups become more confident and active, with successful grant rounds, planning for sustainability, and support for ward-based Community Wealth Building Partnerships to foster collaboration and resource sharing.
- The PB Officer presented at the Pan Gwent NCN conference and supported the second round of PB projects in Rhymney. Despite challenges such as flooding in Risca, efforts continued to engage key organisations and build new partnerships through the Integrated Wellbeing Network.

MONMOUTHSHIRE



Community Development

- A Development Officer post was backfilled internally to ensure continuity of work during staff absences in Monmouthshire.
- ·Began research and engagement for the Wyesham Hive project, aiming to transform the former Girls' Brigade Hut into a Community Hub. Early discussions with MCC, local councillors, community members, the National Lottery, and Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA) have been positive. GAVO's Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Officer is exploring potential health provision support at the site, with further community engagement and a survey event planned.
- · Contributed to a successful open day at The Tithe Barn, bringing together community development, volunteering, and health and wellbeing partners. The event led to new volunteer recruitment and stronger local networks.
- · Reconnected with key stakeholders, supported new community groups including a cycling initiative, delivered a well-attended Funding Surgery with the National Lottery (now planned as a regular event), and provided governance, funding, and volunteer coordination support to groups including Mardy Roots, Wyesham Hive, and Glascoed Hwb.
- · Collaborated on local projects such as the "Winter Warmer" in Llangybi, facilitated funding for Llanover and Llangybi village halls, and strengthened community spaces including Glascoed Hwb and Llanelly Hill. This work led to new CIC registrations, increased volunteer engagement, and capital improvements.





- The Community Spaces Outreach Officer, funded through Shared Prosperity until March 31st 2025, has ensured rural voices are heard, offering targeted crisis support and building environmental and heritage partnerships across the county. Community Spaces Outreach Officer
- The Officer began a mapping exercise to identify areas needing support and researched current activity levels across rural Monmouthshire.
- Formed collaborative partnerships, including meeting the Rural Housing Enabler for MCC trailer project planning, supporting RUSTIK focus groups, and working with Melin Homes to strengthen rural community development and future collaborations.
- Supported village hall committees with constitutions, funding advice, trustee recruitment, and succession planning, collaborating with MCC and Halls Together.
- The role also contributes to developing a mobile outreach vehicle, engages with rural Community Councils, provides governance advice, and supports new community projects across Monmouthshire.

Volunteering

The Volunteering Officers in Monmouthshire share the Regional Strategic Lead role.

- Two large job fairs were held in Abergavenny and Caldicot, leading to many new volunteer registrations and networking opportunities with third sector organisations and employers.
- Collaborations expanded with Mon Life, MCC, and other partners, including joint planning of Community Action Network (CAN) events, presenting at the Volunteer Awards at Bridges Centre for Volunteering for Wellbeing, and supporting the "Getting Ahead with Volunteering" online course attended by over 30 participants from across Wales.
- Launched the Family Volunteering Club pilot in Abergavenny and supported volunteer initiatives such as TogetherWORKS by collating SPF data, organising the Monmouthshire Volunteer Awards, collaborating with MIND Gwent to promote youth volunteering, and increasing overall community engagement.



- A steering group with Monmouthshire County Council is improving volunteer recruitment for the Abergavenny Wellbeing Information Centre.
- Volunteering Officers provided tailored support, including trustee training and fundraising guidance for organisations such as Dandelion Wishes and Blue Phoenix Jazz Band, while promoting diversity and inclusion through new volunteer roles and partnerships with marginalised groups, such as Queerspace in Caldicot.
- Volunteering continues to thrive across Monmouthshire, with growing youth engagement, school partnerships, and celebration events attended by over 100 volunteers.

Health Social Care and Wellbeing

The Health Social Care and Wellbeing post has been a job share between two officers during the year. During that time, they have:

- Been a focal point and organiser of the Monmouthshire Wellbeing Network, facilitated by GAVO staff, which is expanding its reach and involving more organisations and service providers. The Network's success inspired plans for Carers Week events, including a meeting for unpaid and family carers at Severn View Parc residential care home, involving partners such as the Alzheimer's Society, Adferiad, and Growing Space.
- Supported dementia-focused initiatives, improving diagnosis clarity and access to community activities through ISPB and MHA's Digital Lending Library.
- Collaborated on funding for Dementia Connector roles, chaired an ISPB sub-group, conducted Ripple Effect Mapping, and contributed to the Dementia Hubs Steering Group.
- Launched Community Conversations to address local health needs and expand support for carers and individuals living with dementia.
- Updated the volunteer directory, organised community wellbeing events and supported the development of the Abergavenny Wellbeing Information Centre.
- Strengthened partnerships with organisations such as the Alzheimer's Society, delivering community health initiatives including hospital gardening projects and wellbeing workshops, reflecting GAVO's commitment to person-centred care.







Wellbeing Links

The Wellbeing Links project is funded by Neighbourhood Care Networks/IWN across Monmouthshire, and links GP surgery patients to third-sector services, often before they need to see a GP, reducing demand on practices. The project is facilitated by GAVO through the well-attended Monmouthshire Wellbeing Network, which continues to expand to involve more organisations and service providers.

• It has engaged with ABUHB staff regarding their new 10-year strategy, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and supported community feedback on the question: "What's important for you to feel healthy?"
• Over the year, Wellbeing Links Advisors provided support to hundreds of individuals, making 1,343 links: provided information about groups, services, and opportunities; with referrals to support services where necessary; and provided supportive introductions where Advisors accompanied individuals to groups or appointments. Advisors helped socially isolated individuals navigate services, offered guidance on budgeting, CV writing, volunteering, and accompanied people to group activities when needed.
• The team continues to reduce pressure on GP services while connecting individuals with targeted support through strong relationships with health professionals.

989 links were information about groups, services, and opportunities

313 links were referrals to support services

41 links were supported introductions

TogetherWORKS

TogetherWORKS is a collaborative project between GAVO, Monmouthshire County Council, Monmouthshire Housing Association, and other partners. It provides a central community hub in Caldicot, offering targeted support through activities such as Games and Grub nights for families, a community fridge, craft and friendship groups, and hosting support services.





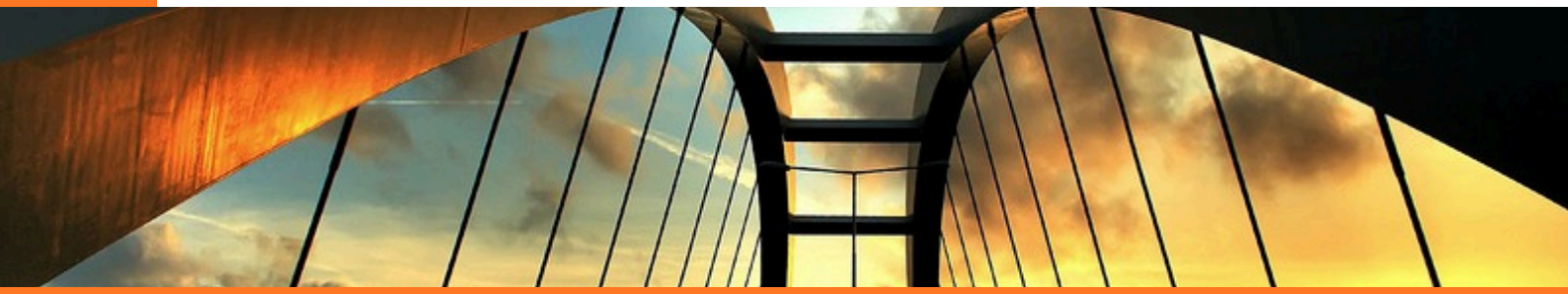


Through SPF funding, a Woodwork Technician was hired to deliver sessions from the community workshop, providing a respite space for people experiencing loneliness and isolation.
• The initiative has expanded its community offerings, including youth-focused activities and the woodwork programme, supporting individuals experiencing loneliness.
• Secured for another year, TogetherWORKS reached over 4,000 people, created 68 volunteering opportunities, supported 65 events, and enabled young volunteers to develop work-ready skills through weekly community café sessions.

Key Partners & Supported Organisations in Monmouthshire:

Monmouthshire County Council (MCC), local councillors, community members, the National Lottery, Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA), The Tithe Barn, Glascoed Hwb, Llanelly Hill community spaces, Mardy Roots, Wyesham Hive, Llanover and Llangybi village halls, Unilever, Mon Life, the Bridges Centre for Volunteering for Wellbeing, CCBC Employability Team, Dandelion Wishes, Blue Phoenix Jazz Band, Queerspace in Caldicot, Alzheimer's Society, Adferiad, Growing Space, and ABUHB.

NEWPORT



Community Development

The Development Team in Newport were augmented by an Officer funded by the Newport CC Shared Prosperity Fund. Unfortunately, the core funded Officer appointed at the beginning of the year left shortly after appointment. They have:

- Attended a Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) event in Newport, awarding £65,000 to 28 projects and highlighting local community achievements.
- Supported the Caerleon Sunshine Grant by liaising with Lightsource BP, reviewing contract details, and drafting a relaunch timetable and blog. The fund, generated by a local solar farm, totals £21,207.39 with £1,000 per megawatt annually for 20 years.
- Joined the Newport PB steering group for a £100,000 programme supporting vulnerable people's emotional wellbeing, providing event support and feedback, and contributing to the Raising Hope Wellbeing in the Community event.
- Supported the Warm Hubs initiative, running 137 events from November to January, welcoming 12,945 visitors (including 2,321 during winter), and produced a case study video on the "Pizza and Poetry" Hub.
- Focused on community engagement and education, supporting groups such as Caerleon in Bloom, delivering monthly funding surgeries, and increasing outreach through newsletters and promotional videos.
- Promoted community engagement through weekly radio segments highlighting award nominees and facilitated the Warm Hub, Food Sustainability Grant, and Small Grants Scheme with Newport City Council.
- Participated in key events including the Gwent Dementia Hub, Section 16, and Wellbeing Activity Conference, and led the creation of a Newport Dementia Hub steering group to promote collaboration and information sharing.







Additionally, GAVO is leading the creation of a steering group for the Newport Dementia Hub, promoting third-sector collaboration and information sharing.

- Highlights include the success of the Warm Hubs initiative, with over £60k awarded to 38 groups and 1,422 attendees. The creation of a dedicated Warm Hubs mini-site and case study video increased accessibility and engagement. Discussions with the Kingsway Centre are underway for a Third Sector Forum to celebrate local groups and attract volunteers.
- Hosted a successful Third Sector Event in Newport to drive collaboration.
- Recent work on Community Asset Transfer included delivering training sessions with Newport City Council. Bimonthly funding surgeries were held at the Riverfront Centre between January and March with funders such as the Big Lottery. GAVO has also been an active partner in key community forums, including Maesglas (anti-social behaviour strategies), the Newport Environment Network, and the Newid Practitioner Forum, continuing our commitment to supporting joined-up approaches to local challenges.

Volunteering



- Supported volunteers into opportunities, including individuals with additional needs and one with spent convictions. In each case, relevant checks were conducted to ensure the safety and appropriateness of the placements.
- Delivered a presentation to the Recovery Through Activity Group on the benefits of volunteering and receiving positive feedback.
- Facilitated numerous volunteer placements and supported organisations like Cancer Research UK and Eden Gate.
- Promoted volunteer opportunities through various media platforms and engaged in sector-wide discussions to share best practices and overcome challenges. Fair at USW Newport Campus fostered networking opportunities and planned ongoing support for volunteers, organisations, and Cash 4 U projects.
- Collaborated with Newport Mind to discuss how volunteering supports young people's mental health and planned to attend their Community of Practice, ensuring GAVO support and visibility.

- Planned the Newport Third Sector Event, which focused on enhancing community connections, and organising workshops to improve accessibility for local groups. The Newport Volunteer Fair, held in November, provided a platform for connecting volunteers and organisations.
- Placed volunteers, including those from Careers Wales, with organisations like Age Cymru and St John's Ambulance.
- Conducted visits to Cash4U-funded projects, including cookery and sports coaching courses, to showcase the positive outcomes of youth-led initiatives.
- Partnered with corporate entities to create volunteer opportunities and supported young people, including those with mental health challenges, in finding meaningful volunteer roles.



Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

The Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Officer in Newport is also the Regional Strategic Lead.

- Has continued to strengthen partnerships and promote community-focused health initiatives across the city.
- Engaged with the Gwent Carers Board to enhance support for unpaid carers, and participated in establishing five Dementia Hubs across Gwent.
- GAVO attended a Social Leadership webinar and arranged a bespoke session for minority ethnic group leaders to encourage enrolment in Community Leadership programmes.
- Worked closely with ABUHB on Place-Based Care discussions, contributing to improved community engagement and awareness, while supporting the recruitment of social care professionals and assessing carers' service funding bids.
- Collaborated with DeafBlind Cymru on dual sensory loss initiatives and supported activity sessions in residential care settings.
- Partnered with Voc Tec Challenge UK to develop skills-based training for HSCWB community groups, focusing on digital skills for people with disabilities and those from minority ethnic backgrounds, aligned with Newport's Right Skills agenda.
- Represented GAVO at key forums and events, including the newly formed Children and Young People's (CYP) Partnership Board, Newport City Summit, Bettws Partner Network, and EYST Annual Conference at the Lysaght Centre, fostering collaboration and amplifying the third sector's voice.





Key Partners & Supported Organisations in Newport:

Caerleon Sunshine Grant, Lightsource BP, Newport PB, Raising Hope Wellbeing in the Community, Caerleon in Bloom, Newport City Council, Big Lottery, Riverfront Centre, Newport Environment Network, Newid Practitioner Forum, Maesglas community forums, Recovery Through Activity Group, Newport Mind, USW Newport Campus, Cancer Research UK, Eden Gate, Age Cymru, St John's Ambulance, Careers Wales, Cash4U youth projects, ABUHB, Gwent Carers Board, Dementia Hubs across Gwent, DeafBlind Cymru, Foodsense Wales, Welsh Government, Voc Tec Challenge UK, the Social Leadership Programme for minority ethnic group leaders, EYST, the Alway Centre, local food groups across Newport, Public Health Wales, Blaenau Gwent food coordinator, CYP Partnership Board, Newport City Summit, Newport Bettws Partner Network, Community of Practice events, Section 16 event, Wellbeing Activity Conference, Third Sector Event in Newport, and the Warm Hubs initiative.

- Supported food security initiatives through partnerships with Foodsense Wales and Welsh Government, helping design a regional training package on food access and cost-of-living support.
- Secured additional funding for Warm Hubs and engaged with Gwent Police to contribute to their community action plan.
- Continued involvement in Locality ISPBs, NCN Collaboratives, and management groups, including the new 19 Hills Primary Care Centre, ensuring that third-sector perspectives inform strategic health planning and delivery.



Food Sustainability

The Food Sustainability Project, funded by Newport City Council, aimed to strengthen local food networks through grants, guidance, and collaboration opportunities for community food initiatives.

Despite staff transitions during the year, the project continued to make strong progress in supporting community-led food work and promoting sustainability across the city. Key achievements included:

- The development and expansion of the Alway Centre Food Pantry—now offering frozen meal collections—and the coordination of a second round of Warm Hubs in Newport.
- GAVO also engaged with community groups, hosted a food strategy meeting to improve collaboration on sustainable food initiatives, and participated in digital skills workshops to help groups operate more effectively.
- Work began to explore partnerships with local food suppliers to enhance sustainability and reduce food waste.
- The project concluded at the end of the financial year, leaving behind a strengthened food network and improved links between community organisations, local authorities, and support services.



CORPORATE GWENT-WIDE SERVICES

Education Programme for Patients

The EPP project provides a range of self-management health and well-being courses and workshops for people living with a health condition or those caring for someone with a health condition across the Gwent ABUHB footprint. People involved with EPP Cymru, the staff, and the volunteer tutors have personal experience living with or caring for someone with a health condition.

• Active at numerous events through the year, collaborating with Glan Yr Avon Surgery at the New Bevan Centre to prepare patient invitation post-outs for courses.

• Delivered an education session for the North Gwent cardiac rehab team, with 14 patients completing the Chronic Disease Self-Management Programme (CDSMP) short course, training EPP volunteer staff and coordinators in the new heart course for future cardiac group sessions.

• Piloted new courses, including "Living with Lymphedema," online lymphedema, diabetes and foot care courses, pain management, fibromyalgia, and "Five Ways to Wellbeing."

• Collaborated with GP practices, health centres, and local autism services to broaden reach, including cancer care training and neurodiversity courses, plus supporting the Ebbw Vale lymphedema pilot.

• Supported EPP Cymru's QISMET accreditation and produced reports, e.g., Tredegar Health Centre pain course.

• Focused on volunteer development, core skills training, and improving accessibility while managing waiting lists.

• Restructured roles to improve efficiency, with plans to replace a retiring coordinator with administrative/support staff.

• Celebrated long-service awards and accredited new tutors to support volunteer development.
• Strengthened course offerings through collaborations with NHS, Diabetes UK, and local community groups, while implementing quality assurance improvements.

• Continued partnership work includes delivering sessions to 3P's contacts, enhancing sector contribution and training opportunities.

Courses for the year are listed on the GAVO website, planning underway for further course expansion and volunteer support into 2025. Focus for next year includes addressing growing waiting lists, improving course delivery efficiency, and exploring strategies to increase tutor availability.

Senior Management Team



Our Senior Management Team, made up of the Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, remains focused on the "Influencing and Engaging" pillar within the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) framework. Over the past year, we've held positive and productive meetings with Assembly Members, MPs, councillors, and strategic partners. Notably, we've been encouraged by the strong backing for the TogetherWorks project, particularly considering recent funding challenges.

Internally, our budget planning for the coming year has progressed well with the support of our Board of Trustees. We are also actively exploring new organisational roles that align with our strategic goals and enhance our ways of working.

Our new Strategic Plan is now live on our website and outlines a bold and collaborative direction for GAVO. As part of this, we've engaged in detailed operational planning alongside our regional leads and wider GAVO staff to explore innovative delivery models that help meet the ambitions set out in the strategy.

We're also pleased to report that the Third Sector Partnership Agreement for Gwent is developing well. Several partners have come together to support its formation, helping to shape a collaborative approach to engaging with the third sector across the region.

GAVO actively participates in various regional and national structures, including the Third Sector Support Wales architecture, Gwent Public Service Board, Regional Partnership Board, Climate Action Forum, and Resilience Forum. This collaborative approach ensures a strong and unified third sector voice.

Supported the Get Ahead with Volunteering OU Steering Group, for another year. This is beneficial for GAVO as we will support sessions by facilitating discussions and workshops.

Ongoing discussions with Health regarding the Health and Social Care and Wellbeing Officers SLA. A new reporting structure has been introduced for the team.

PA to the CEO and Chair of GAVO

The PA to the CEO and Chair has the responsibility of supporting them in their day-to-day activities. Our Officer has:

- Provided secretariat support for Governance meetings and other committees, including the Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Representatives, General Purpose, Executive Board, and Local Committees.
- Encouraging more members to join local committees, promote GAVO membership and support the election and induction of Trustees

Finance

Our finance team supports GAVO's financial procedures, ensuring that, as an organisation, it complies with the relevant regulations. Finance as a Team has been working on:

- Carrying out finance meetings with area teams and received positive responses.
- All SPF and external funding claims have been completed for the year.
- Finance reports have been provided to the Board.
- Financial Transparency and Strategic Planning: The organisation emphasises financial accountability with completed trustee reports and auditor's accounts. Strategic planning is underway, including the development of a new strategic plan and the annual impact report.



Human Resources



Our HR Team supports policies and procedures for GAVO, ensuring that as an organisation, it complies with all relevant regulations.

- Continued to support GAVO, Matt Thomas from THS has worked at GAVO one day a week to provide face to face and online support.
- GAVO continues to prioritise the support for its staff, providing resources such as financial procedure and HR guidance and CRM training.

Information Technology

Our IT Officer is in place to ensure the IT infrastructure works to support staff to achieve outcomes. Our Officer has:

- Continued with support to staff around new equipment, specifically rolling out new MS Office upgrades.
- Has commenced planning for the Digital 'workgroup' and had willing volunteers to be involved.



Engagement and Influencing



Stephen Tiley, CEO

Third Sector Support Wales

Throughout 2024/25, GAVO has continued to strengthen its links with the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) networks. These connections remain invaluable for gaining national insight, sharing best practice, and addressing challenges collectively, while also promoting the work of GAVO and the wider third sector across Gwent. Through our ongoing engagement, we ensure that local voices contribute to the national picture and that learning from across Wales informs our regional work.

Our collaborative approach with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and fellow County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) continues to be a cornerstone of this work. GAVO has remained an active member of national forums such as the TSSW Executive, CVC Cymru, the TSSW Safeguarding Board, and key practitioner and thematic networks including Volunteering, Funding, and Learning. These platforms enable us to represent the sector effectively and influence national dialogue between TSSW and Welsh Government.

We also continue to maintain strong and open lines of communication with Members of the Senedd, Members of Parliament, and Local Councillors. These relationships have been instrumental in helping to shape policy, inform decision-making, and support sustainable funding for the third sector. Maintaining these connections will remain a key priority moving forward.

Gwent Public Service Board

Since its establishment in 2021, the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) has continued to provide the framework for regional collaboration, replacing the former county-based PSBs. GAVO continues to play an integral role, representing and championing the third sector at both the Gwent PSB and through the local delivery structures that underpin it.

The PSB's ongoing priorities remain focused on:

· Creating a fairer, more equal Gwent that includes everyone
· Protecting and enhancing our environment
· Working towards Gwent becoming a Marmot region

Through our active involvement, GAVO ensures that the third sector's contribution is clearly embedded within the Wellbeing Plans and associated actions. This year, significant progress has also been made on developing the new Gwent Third Sector Partnership Agreement, due for approval in 2025/26. This document will formalise the working relationship between the Gwent PSB and the third sector, setting out a shared framework for partnership and collaboration.

Further information about the PSB and its plans can be found at www.gwentpsb.org/en.

Regional Partnership Board

GAVO continues to play a leading role within the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB), with representation at Board level and across a wide range of supporting groups through our Deputy CEO and staff. Our involvement ensures that the third sector's voice remains central to regional discussions on health, social care, and wellbeing.

During 2024/25, we have continued to support and monitor the operation of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF), advocating for accessible governance and fair opportunities for third sector engagement. GAVO has also contributed to work on shaping prevention-focused strategies and strengthening community-based support to aid hospital discharge and early intervention. Looking ahead, we remain committed to ensuring that the sector continues to play a vital and recognised role within the region's evolving health and social care landscape.

More details about the RPB and its activities are available at www.gwentrpb.wales.

Glossary

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 5590517
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1113558

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

31 March 2025

WALTER HUNTER & CO LIMITED
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

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Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Foreword by the Chair Mr Edward Watts MBE DL

During 2024-25, GAVO has continued to provide dedicated support to an exemplary and proactive third sector across Gwent. The work of GAVO Officers has continued to grow, with increasing demand for assistance in areas such as funding, volunteering, community development, and empowerment.

There is a growing recognition of the third sector's vital role in early intervention and prevention programmes across the region, working alongside public service partners to improve outcomes for individuals and communities. GAVO's contribution remains crucial in supporting mental health and wellbeing agendas, helping to reduce pressure on statutory services and improving people's lives through community-based support.

The GAVO Strategic Plan 2022-2025, launched at the previous AGM, continues to guide our work. Throughout the year, Trustees and staff have been focused on turning strategy into action, aligning our efforts with GAVO's Mission, Aims and Values, and ensuring that the third sector across Gwent remains well-supported and represented.

Our four strategic aims mirror the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) pillars:

- Influencing and Engaging
- Volunteering
- Sustainable Funding
- Good Governance

GAVO Officers continue to explore new and innovative ways of advancing these aims, and we welcome anyone wishing to learn more or connect with this work to get in touch.

Our regional offices are now well-established in Blaenau Gwent (Innovation Centre, Ebbw Vale), Caerphilly (Cherry Tree House, Oakdale), Monmouthshire (Sessions House, Usk), and Newport (Beechwood House, Newport).

GAVO continues to represent the sector across a wide range of strategic partnerships, including the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) and the Regional Partnership Board for Health and Social Care. Information from these partnerships is shared through GAVO Forums, local committees, and partnership meetings, ensuring that the sector remains informed and engaged with emerging regional priorities.

As part of the national Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) network, in partnership with WCVA and County Voluntary Councils across Wales, GAVO remains committed to embedding the four pillars-volunteering, sustainable funding, governance, and engagement and influencing-into all aspects of our work.

Looking ahead to the next financial year, the GAVO Board, Officers, and partners remain committed to supporting our communities to the best of their ability.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to extend sincere thanks to the GAVO Board, staff, and to the many third sector organisations, partners, and community groups for their ongoing support and collaboration. We also acknowledge the continued commitment of our statutory and private sector partners, whose engagement has once again been exemplary, helping the third sector to adapt and thrive in a changing environment.

Continue to support your communities - and GAVO will continue to support you.

Edward Watts MBE DL, Chair

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Charity registration number	1113558
Company registration number	5590517
Principal office and registered office	Room 2, Beechwood House 54 Beechwood Road Newport NP19 8AH

The trustees

Mr E Watts MBE DL	
Mr L Casley	(Resigned 10 June 2025)
Ms C Davy	
J Cuthbert	(Appointed 27 November 2024)
Mr R M Dutt	
Mr P S Farley	
Mr C L Hawker	
Mr A Huckin	(Resigned 11 June 2025)
R Lynbeck	(Appointed 27 November 2024)
Ms S Reader	(Appointed 24 January 2025)
Mrs C Williams	

President	Brigadier R Aitken CBE His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent

Auditor	Walter Hunter & Co Limited Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 24 Bridge Street Newport South Wales NP20 4SF
Bankers	NatWest Bank plc High Street Newport NP20 4SE
Solicitors and advisors	Morgan, Denton Jones Ground Floor Park House Greyfriars Road Cardiff CF10 3AF THS HR Services Ltd 160 Corporation Road Newport NP19 0WF

Structure, governance and management

Nature of the Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The Charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee; company registration number 5590517. Registered charity number 1113558.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees serve three-year terms, with one-third of the committee stepping down each year, though they are eligible for re-election. Officers are also elected for three-year terms.

The policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Annual training is provided for all Trustees, encompassing all aspects of voluntary sector regulations.

The name of the Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer to whom day to day management of the charity was delegated during the 2024/25 year by the charity trustees

Chief Executive Officer	Stephen Tiley
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Alison Palmer

Full details of all members of staff can be found on GAVO's website www.gavowales.org.uk.

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

The organisational structure of the charity and how decisions are made

The governance of the charity is maintained by a Board of Trustees, who are elected by GAVO members. The Trustees are responsible for making key financial and policy decisions, frequently guided by advice from senior staff and various sub-committees. The Board meets a minimum of four times annually.

Ultimate accountability for the organisation rests with the Chief Executive Officer. Management and organisational issues are regularly reviewed during Senior Management Team meetings, which include the Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Membership of a wider network

The Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) continues to serve as a membership body, welcoming voluntary and community groups that operate within our designated area of benefit.

As an affiliate of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), GAVO maintains its active involvement within the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) network.

We sustain strong collaborative relationships with key stakeholders including the Welsh Government, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport local authorities, alongside the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.

Our partnerships remain particularly focused on health and social care, working closely with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the social care teams across local councils to support community wellbeing.

Relationships between the charity and related parties, including its subsidiaries

GAVO is a membership organisation. Membership is open to all relevant voluntary and community groups who operate in the area of benefit.

GAVO has no subsidiary undertakings.

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks

The GAVO Risk Register provides a systematic framework to identify and manage risks across the organisation and its activities, supporting well-informed decisions for upcoming projects and initiatives.

Relationships with other Groups, Charities and Individuals

GAVO is a membership organisation. Membership is open to all relevant voluntary and community groups who operate in the area of benefit.
Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2025 622 (2024: 455).

Objectives and activities

A summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

As a County Voluntary Council, GAVO's role, as outlined in the Welsh Government's Third Sector Scheme 2014, includes:

- Supporting the development, sustainability, and growth of third sector organisations.
- Promoting volunteering and empowering individuals to engage in voluntary action.
- Championing safe, effective governance across the third sector.
- Contributing to the planning and delivery of public services in partnership with statutory bodies.
- Representing the voice of the sector at local, regional and national levels.
- Encouraging innovation and sharing good practice throughout the sector.

Beyond these core duties, GAVO also draws on a wealth of experience in designing and delivering community-based projects and initiatives. Our approach is rooted in collaboration and driven by a commitment to identifying and addressing unmet needs across our communities.

Summary of main aims, activities and achievement in relation to those purposes for the public benefit
GAVO (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations) continues to act as the key voice for the third sector across the Gwent region, representing the communities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport. As the region's principal umbrella organisation for the sector, we remain committed to supporting, connecting, and empowering voluntary and community groups.

Our Third Sector Development Team provides vital support around governance, policies, and the formation of new groups, while also helping established organisations with project planning and accessing funding opportunities.

Through our dedicated Volunteering Team, we support individuals on their volunteering journeys-offering one-to-one guidance and access to a wide range of roles via www.volunteering-wales.net. We also assist organisations in recruiting, managing, and retaining volunteers, providing practical support through policy development, training in volunteer management, and recognition schemes.

Our Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Team ensures the third sector remains actively engaged in regional planning and service delivery. We work with organisations and individuals to strengthen their ability to shape local services and improve overall community wellbeing.

As highlighted throughout this year's impact report, GAVO continues to deliver a range of direct support projects that contribute meaningfully to the lives of individuals and to the resilience of our wider communities.

Contribution made by volunteers
Volunteering remains at the heart of our work as a County Voluntary Council and continues to be a central element of Third Sector Support Wales. It plays a vital role in building stronger, more resilient communities.

GAVO is dedicated to empowering individuals who want to give their time and skills through volunteering, while also supporting the organisations that rely on volunteers to deliver meaningful community impact. Our approach supports both national and local wellbeing objectives and reflects a shared commitment to working collaboratively for the benefit of our communities.

Objectives and activities ***(continued)***

Public Benefit
The trustees have also acted as Directors of the charity during the year, carrying out all duties required under the Companies Acts, as well as fulfilling their obligations as trustees under the Charities Act.

Trustees who are not Directors are responsible solely for the duties set out for charity trustees under the Charities Act.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole

2024/25 Overview
Throughout 2024/25, GAVO remained steadfast in its mission to deliver targeted, high-quality support to the Third Sector across Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport. A full overview of our impact and achievements, including performance against key indicators, is available in the GAVO Annual Impact Report. Below is a summary of key developments and strategic activity:

Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) and Regional Engagement:
GAVO has continued to cultivate strong and productive links within the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) networks. These connections are central to our ability to stay informed on national developments, troubleshoot sector-wide challenges, and raise awareness of both our own work and the broader efforts of the Third Sector across Gwent. The national networks offer vital opportunities for dialogue, shared learning, and ensuring that our regional voice contributes meaningfully to the wider Welsh context.

Collaboration remains a cornerstone of our approach. We work in close alignment with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and fellow County Voluntary Councils (CVCs), participating actively in a range of national forums and working groups. These include the TSSW Executive, CVC Cymru, the TSSW Safeguarding Board, the Volunteer Practitioners Network, the Funding Network, and the Learning Steering Group. These platforms allow us to influence the direction of Third Sector support across Wales, contribute to strategic policy discussions, and engage regularly with Welsh Government officials. Ongoing engagement with MPs, Members of the Senedd, and local councillors continues to play an important role in advancing the sector's interests, securing resources, and shaping legislation.

Regionally, GAVO plays a central role in representing the Third Sector within Gwent's evolving governance structures. Since the formation of the regional Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) in 2021-consolidating the former county-level PSBs-GAVO has taken an active role in advancing the PSB's strategic aims. These include promoting fairness and inclusion, environmental protection, and establishing Gwent as a Marmot region. We ensure the Third Sector has a clear and consistent presence in the development and delivery of Wellbeing Plans. A key piece of work in 2024/25 is our leadership on the creation of the Gwent Third Sector Partnership Agreement, which will formalise how the sector collaborates with the Gwent PSB going forward.

Our influence continues through our representation on the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB), where we advocate strongly for the sector's role in health and social care. This year, we have supported work to oversee the implementation of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) and pushed for improvements to governance arrangements to enhance access for Third Sector organisations. As the region continues to prioritise prevention and discharge support, GAVO remains committed to championing the sector's contribution to these goals and ensuring it is embedded within long-term regional strategies.

Achievements and performance ***(continued)***

Community Development Overview:
GAVO's Development Team continues to play a vital role in supporting the growth, resilience, and sustainability of third sector organisations across Gwent. Working closely with local communities and stakeholders, the team provides essential advice on governance, funding, organisational development, and partnership building, while ensuring the voice of the sector is represented at local, regional, and national levels.

Over the past year, the team has responded to a sustained and growing demand for support from voluntary and community groups. Officers have facilitated access to a wide range of funding opportunities, with hundreds of thousands of pounds in grant funding secured or pending across the region. This includes supporting groups through the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), Awards for All, and community grant schemes such as Warm Hubs and local participatory budgeting initiatives. Funding surgeries, "meet the funder" events, and tailored one-to-one support have been key mechanisms for unlocking these opportunities.

Governance support has remained a core focus, with officers helping groups to strengthen their structures, register as Charitable Incorporated Organisations or Community Interest Companies, and navigate complex compliance and reporting requirements. Training workshops and mentoring for trustees and volunteers have been delivered to build knowledge and capacity, especially in response to increasing challenges around sustainability and leadership transitions.

The team has contributed significantly to local resilience through targeted work with communities facing specific needs or vulnerabilities. This has included supporting flood recovery efforts, helping new and marginalised groups to access resources, and advising on community asset transfers. Officers have also driven forward inclusive practice by supporting diverse and BAME-led organisations, promoting intergenerational activities, and embedding wellbeing into community development.

Strategic collaboration has been central to the team's work. Development Officers have engaged in regional forums, liaised with funders and local authorities, and shaped strategic projects such as the Gwent Third Sector Partnership Agreement. Across all areas, the team has supported new initiatives, hosted forums and events, and strengthened engagement through proactive outreach-whether via monthly group visits, large-scale community events, or digital engagement campaigns.

Despite challenges such as staffing gaps and increased complexity in funding landscapes, the Development Team has remained adaptable and innovative. New partnerships have emerged, including work with health boards, housing associations, and local anchor organisations, reflecting GAVO's commitment to collaborative and place-based approaches. Officers have also contributed to internal development, designing training for new staff and strengthening cross-team learning.

Overall, the Development Team's work over 2024/25 has enabled hundreds of groups to sustain their services, expand their reach, and deepen their impact, demonstrating the continued importance of locally embedded, responsive third sector infrastructure support.

Achievements and performance ***(continued)***

Volunteering Overview:
GAVO's Volunteering Team, comprising both Adult and Youth Officers, has continued to provide high-quality support to volunteers and third sector organisations across Gwent. The team's focus remains on promoting volunteering, supporting individuals into placements, enhancing organisational capacity, and celebrating the value of volunteers.

Throughout 2024/25, the team supported hundreds of individuals into volunteering, including those with additional needs, lived experience of the justice system, or requiring tailored placements. Volunteering Officers delivered a wide range of outreach activities, including job fairs, college events, community days, and direct engagement with local Job Centres. These efforts significantly increased visibility and access to volunteering opportunities across all communities.

GAVO played a leading role in volunteer recognition and engagement, delivering a series of high-profile Volunteer Awards events, with strong partnership support from local authorities, funders, and community venues. Initiatives like the Cash4U youth grant programme, Family Volunteering Clubs, and micro-volunteering pilots provided creative pathways into volunteering, particularly for young people and families. The team also supported the development of a Youth Panel and Recognition Scheme to help champion the next generation of volunteers.

Strategic collaboration with organisations such as MonLife, Newport Mind, Volunteering Matters, and local health boards strengthened the support available to volunteers and ensured a joined-up approach to volunteering and wellbeing. Officers worked closely with corporate partners like Unilever, SSCL, and the Principality Building Society to develop staff volunteering programmes and explore opportunities for social value partnerships.

Training and skills development remained a key theme, with officers undertaking qualifications such as ILM Level 4 in Leadership and Management, and offering volunteer training sessions across the region. Officers also contributed to national conversations through active participation in the TSSW Volunteer Practitioners Network, Volunteering Wales development sessions, and thematic working groups on safeguarding, digital systems, and corporate engagement.

This year also saw the delivery of several successful projects supported through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), notably the W9 Volunteering Project in Caerphilly. These exceeded expectations and provided direct investment into community groups, enhancing the local volunteering infrastructure.

The Volunteering Team has made significant progress in developing systems and tools to streamline volunteer onboarding, support community groups with governance and policy needs, and promote inclusive and accessible volunteering. This has included the design of promotional materials for community venues, the development of new sign-up processes, and improved data collection and reporting.

Across Gwent, GAVO's volunteering work continues to make a measurable impact-bringing people and organisations together, supporting personal development, and helping to build thriving, connected communities.

Achievements and performance ***(continued)***

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Project Overview:
GAVO's Health, Social Care and Wellbeing (HSCWB) team continues to play a vital role in ensuring the Third Sector is embedded across key health and wellbeing agendas in Gwent. Our officers work collaboratively with partners and communities to promote preventative approaches, support the development of community-based services, and ensure the voices of Third Sector organisations are represented at all levels of planning and delivery.

This year, the team has made significant progress in shaping local health and wellbeing strategies. Officers have built strong relationships with statutory partners, including local authorities, the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), and public service boards. They have represented the sector on key forums such as the Integrated Services Partnership Boards (ISPB), Regional Partnership Boards (RPB), and local wellbeing networks. Through this engagement, they have influenced discussions around discharge planning, dementia services, carers' support, and food insecurity.

The team has supported the development of Dementia Hubs across Gwent, coordinated community conversations to identify local needs, and championed initiatives aligned with the Primary Care Model for Wales. These include preventative health projects such as falls prevention, mental health support, and rural health outreach, alongside innovative partnerships with organisations like Age Cymru Gwent and the Rapid Medical Service.

Officers have played a central role in managing local grant schemes, supporting funding applications, and contributing to successful bids that strengthen community-based provision. They have worked closely with community groups to develop skills, improve service coordination, and secure sustainable resources. Notable examples include support for unpaid carers during hospital discharge, training offers around volunteering in social care, and the facilitation of wellbeing hubs and community centres as as integrated support spaces.

Communication and engagement have been a consistent focus. The team has refreshed weekly information bulletins to create more interactive and accessible platforms for sharing Third Sector news and opportunities. These tools have not only increased visibility for local initiatives but also strengthened collaborative working across the region.

The HSCWB team has also led on strategic projects aimed at improving health equity and inclusion, including support for minority ethnic organisations, inclusive dementia care, and digital inclusion for disabled groups. They have worked closely with public health colleagues to promote social prescribing, embed preventative services into GP surgeries, and ensure Third Sector perspectives are reflected in wider system reform efforts.

Overall, the team's work continues to bridge the gap between communities and formal health and care systems, advocating for a well-resourced and recognised Third Sector contribution to health and wellbeing across Gwent.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Projects

Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Coaches:

During the quarter, GAVO appointed new Wellbeing Coaches as part of the Happy, Healthy Blaenau Gwent initiative. These Coaches serve as vital connectors between individuals in need and local third sector organisations, focusing on early support to help people before they require health or public service interventions. Their ongoing progress and impact will be reported in the first quarter of 2025/26.

Community Spaces Outreach Officer - Monmouthshire:

In 2024/25, the Community Spaces Outreach Officer role, funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund until March 2025, has focused on strengthening support for rural communities across Monmouthshire. Early work included a mapping exercise to identify areas of need and a review of current rural activity levels.

Key achievements this year include forming strategic partnerships with local organisations such as the Rural Housing Enabler, Melin Homes, and the RUSTIK project, enhancing community development opportunities and research. The officer has provided valuable governance and funding advice to numerous village hall committees, collaborating with Monmouthshire County Council and Halls Together to improve trustee recruitment and succession planning.

GAVO continues to support significant community space refurbishments in Llanelly Hill and Grosmont, facilitating the transition from the concluding Rural Futures project. Efforts are underway to develop a mobile outreach vehicle to enhance rural engagement, despite challenges related to funding and roadworthiness.

Engagement with 16 rural Community Councils has generated multiple successful funding applications, governance improvements, and community events. Initiatives such as 'Winter Warmer' sessions have provided vital support tackling isolation through energy advice, meals, and social activities, with further events planned to build on this impact.

Support has been extended to emerging community projects like Mardy Roots in Abergavenny, promoting capacity-building, intergenerational work, and addressing inequalities in service access. Additionally, GAVO has assisted rural and semi-rural groups-including Wyesham Hive, Glascoed Community Hwb, and the Halfway Pub-with governance, funding applications, and volunteer coordination to establish sustainable operations.

Strong partnerships with organisations such as Severn Wye Energy Agency have enhanced service delivery and volunteer recruitment. The officer has also engaged in sector-wide capacity building, attending conferences and workshops to inform governance, community ownership, and procurement practices.

Key community spaces continue to progress, with successful events, funding bids, and CIC registrations driving sustainability. The programme has expanded support to five additional spaces, while new initiatives focus on heritage collaborations, veterans' CIC exploration, and environmental partnerships.

As the project nears the end of its funding period, legacy activities including accessibility improvements and monitoring of increased community engagement demonstrate lasting benefits, laying the groundwork for continued partnership and development in Monmouthshire's rural communities.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Early Language Programme

GAVO's Early Language Programme continued to support families across Caerphilly Borough by delivering targeted sessions for parents and children, designed to foster early communication skills. Throughout the year, the team expanded its reach by partnering with Caerphilly libraries, using six library venues borough-wide to deliver the "Let's Talk with Your Baby" groups, now active in eight community areas.

The programme emphasised collaboration with local partners, including the Early Years team, St John Ambulance, and schools, to offer complementary activities such as mini first aid sessions and summer play events. Engagement was further strengthened through community outreach in health clinics and schools, alongside an active social media presence.

Staff development remained a priority with team members completing training in areas such as Makaton sign language, safeguarding, ELKLAN Level 3, and Welsh language courses to enhance service inclusivity and quality. Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, and consultations with families of children with complex needs are guiding future tailored support.

The team's full complement was restored in early 2025 following staff returns from leave, allowing uninterrupted delivery of courses and community activities. The programme's ongoing commitment to Welsh language use is reflected in both staff training and daily practice.

Education Programme for Patients (EPP):

The EPP project continues to deliver vital self-management health and well-being courses and workshops tailored for individuals living with health conditions, as well as carers. The team, comprising staff and volunteer tutors with personal experience of health challenges, has maintained strong engagement with local communities and healthcare partners throughout the quarter.

Highlights include active collaboration with GP practices such as Glan Yr Avon Surgery and participation in key events like Mental Health Day at the Bevan Centre and the Diabetes UK Living Well Event, attracting new attendees and volunteer tutors, notably from the Asian community. The team successfully delivered the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program to cardiac rehab patients and trained staff to facilitate future cardiac-focused sessions.

EPP Cymru achieved QISMET accreditation, reflecting high-quality standards in self-management education. Several courses ran successfully, including a full-attendance six-week pain management program and a new pilot course on living with lymphedema, with plans to expand this online due to demand. Preparations are underway for additional courses such as fibromyalgia.

The programme has strengthened partnerships with ABUHB clinical teams and local health centres to widen course reach, including planned outreach to diabetes patients. Tutor development remains a priority, with training provided for diabetes foot care (STANCE) and online course delivery, alongside recognition of long-serving volunteers. Quality assurance improvements and comprehensive handovers ensure continuity despite upcoming staff retirements.

New initiatives included launching an HIV pilot course and online chronic pain sessions, while ongoing collaboration with organisations like the Women's Institute and TVA supports reducing waiting lists and expanding access. Administrative improvements have enhanced efficiency, enabling focus on key project goals.

All current courses continue to be delivered across the region, with schedules available on the GAVO website.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Food Sustainability Project:
During 2024/25, the Food Sustainability Project in Newport, funded by the Local Authority, has continued to support local food initiatives through grant funding, advice, guidance, and networking opportunities.

Key activities have included collaborating with community groups such as Greening Maindee on developing a gifted plot into a community green space, and conducting a comprehensive mapping exercise to identify food poverty resources across the area. This informed a successful small grant scheme during school holidays that benefited eight local community groups.

Partnership working has been a strong focus, including engaging with Public Health Wales to explore food and nutrition workshops for early years and community audiences, as well as contributing to local food poverty working groups. GAVO has also supported the development of the Alway Centre Food Pantry by advising on facility improvements to enhance storage and distribution capabilities.

The project actively promoted volunteer engagement through participation in the Newport Volunteers Fair and has collaborated with Cwmpas on digital skills initiatives aimed at improving community group efficiency. Efforts to build partnerships with local supermarkets and cultural food shops are ongoing, aiming to strengthen community food supply networks.

Warm hubs across Newport have been successfully supported, fostering inclusion among diverse groups including the Chinese community, BME women, and local men's groups. In addition, GAVO engaged with the Newport County Council's food strategy meeting to contribute feedback and support enhanced collaboration within the Newport Food Partnership, with a shared emphasis on sustainability and reducing food waste.

Ongoing food centre support has included the Celtic Collection meal provision, which continued to serve families with accessible meals. The Alway Centre expanded its role to function as both a food pantry and a distribution point for frozen meals, fresh produce, and essentials, positively impacting local residents facing food insecurity.

Participatory Budgeting:
During 2024/25, GAVO's Participatory Budgeting project has played a vital role in supporting Integrated Wellbeing Networks (IWNs) through targeted funding initiatives. Following the appointment of a dedicated PB Development Officer, significant progress has been made in several key areas.

The project's initial rollout in Rhymney has been highly successful, with the Resident Panel consistently engaging 12-15 members at fortnightly meetings. To date, nineteen project proposals have been received requesting around £60,000, with ten advancing to the second stage following thorough evaluations. Eight community-voted projects have secured £36,000 in funding and are now actively delivering positive health and wellbeing outcomes across the Upper Rhymney Valley.

Building on the Rhymney model, PB activities have expanded into The Van ward of Caerphilly, while initial engagement efforts have commenced in Risca and Greater Bargoed. Despite some challenges in Risca, including limited engagement and adverse flooding, early promotional work in Greater Bargoed has seen promising developments, including the establishment of a strong contact network and plans for a launch event.

The project continues to benefit from strengthened governance arrangements, clear work plans, and increasing stakeholder support across all target areas. GAVO remains committed to facilitating capacity building, event coordination, and ongoing support to ensure the continued growth and impact of Participatory Budgeting within the IWNs.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

TogetherWORKS:

TogetherWORKS is a partnership between GAVO, Monmouthshire County Council, Monmouthshire Housing Association, and other local partners, serving as a vital community hub. The project delivers a range of inclusive activities such as family-focused Games and Grub nights, community fridge access, craft and friendship groups, and hosting support services.

In 2024/25, TogetherWORKS expanded its offer with the support of SPF funding by hiring a Woodwork Technician to run sessions in the community shed, providing a valuable respite space for individuals experiencing loneliness and isolation. The community garden also saw increased engagement, culminating in the opening of a new garden space in July.

The project now offers well-attended digital drop-in sessions to help residents tackle technological challenges, further enhancing community support. In response to building security concerns, GAVO worked closely with the local authority to implement safety improvements, ensuring a secure environment for staff and visitors.

TogetherWORKS secured 12 months' funding to continue its work, supported by positive outcomes from the third quarter. Plans are in place to foster community self-sufficiency through initiatives like the "Friends of TogetherWORKS" group, with new targets set for the upcoming year.

Key achievements include reaching over 4,000 people throughout the year, creating 68 volunteering opportunities, and supporting 65 community events. A notable initiative is the weekly "Comp Coffee" café run by students from Caldicot Comprehensive School's Nurcombe Centre, offering practical work experience in a welcoming community setting.

Despite concerns about the future of the site, GAVO has been proactive in securing funding for 2024/25 and exploring sustainability options beyond 2025/26 to ensure TogetherWORKS remains a cornerstone of community support.

Wellbeing Links:

The Wellbeing Links project, funded through Neighbourhood Care Networks and IWN, operates across Monmouthshire with the goal of connecting GP patients to third-sector services before they require direct GP intervention. This proactive approach helps reduce pressure on GP surgeries and ensures individuals receive more tailored support within their communities.

During the year, GAVO continued to facilitate the Monmouthshire Wellbeing Network, which has grown steadily in membership, engaging a wider range of organisations and service providers. The team collaborated closely with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) staff, contributing to the development of a new 10-year health strategy focused on prevention and early intervention, and helping gather community feedback on what matters most to people's health.

The Wellbeing Links team supported hundreds of individuals, assisting 328 people over the financial year with requests for advice and support. They made approximately 400 connections to relevant organisations, ranging from information sharing to formal referrals and supported introductions. The service notably supports people from diverse and often vulnerable backgrounds, including those socially isolated due to health issues. Support has included practical help with budgeting, CV writing, volunteering opportunities, and accompaniment to group activities to reduce isolation.

The team's impact is reflected in positive outcomes, such as assisting an autistic young adult to overcome social anxiety and engage confidently in employment and community activities. By providing timely support, Wellbeing Links helps prevent crises and eases demand on Primary Mental Health Services.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Further collaboration has been strengthened through regular involvement in SMART meetings with GPs and healthcare staff, and participation in community and regional wellbeing networks, enhancing the team's knowledge and professional partnerships. Feedback from service users, including carers, highlights the vital role the project plays in offering much-needed social and emotional respite.

Demand for the service continues to grow, underscoring its importance as a key link between healthcare and the third sector in supporting community wellbeing across Monmouthshire.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Community Grants Overview

Regional Partnership Board Small Grants Scheme:
The Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) has allocated a small grants fund to each area within Gwent for the period 2024-2027. These funds are administered by the respective County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) within each Integrated Service Partnership Board (ISPB) area. Promotion of the funds is coordinated across the ISPBs and targeted at supporting social value and the third sector within their local communities.

The primary aim of this initiative is to facilitate the successful development and integration of at least six new national care models by the conclusion of the five-year RIF programme. These models focus on the following key areas:

- Community-based care emphasising prevention and local coordination
- Complex care delivered closer to home
- Enhancing emotional health and wellbeing
- Supporting family cohesion and providing therapeutic care for children with care experience
- Home-from-hospital services
- Accommodation-related solutions

Throughout the year, the small grants scheme has allocated £87,500 per GAVO area, contributing to positive outcomes aligned with these objectives.

Shared Prosperity Grants (Blaenau Gwent):
In 2025, GAVO made notable progress in strengthening communities through the Shared Prosperity Training Grants in Blaenau Gwent. This programme offered vital funding for skills development, enabling individuals to access training opportunities that bolster the voluntary sector and community participation. The initiative has supported a wide variety of beneficiaries, fostering both economic growth and community resilience.

Additionally, Shared Prosperity Grants have played a crucial role in supporting sports projects within Blaenau Gwent. By enhancing local sports facilities and encouraging participation across all age groups, these grants have promoted physical health and strengthened community connections. This strategic investment supports not only wellbeing but also social cohesion and prosperity within the region.

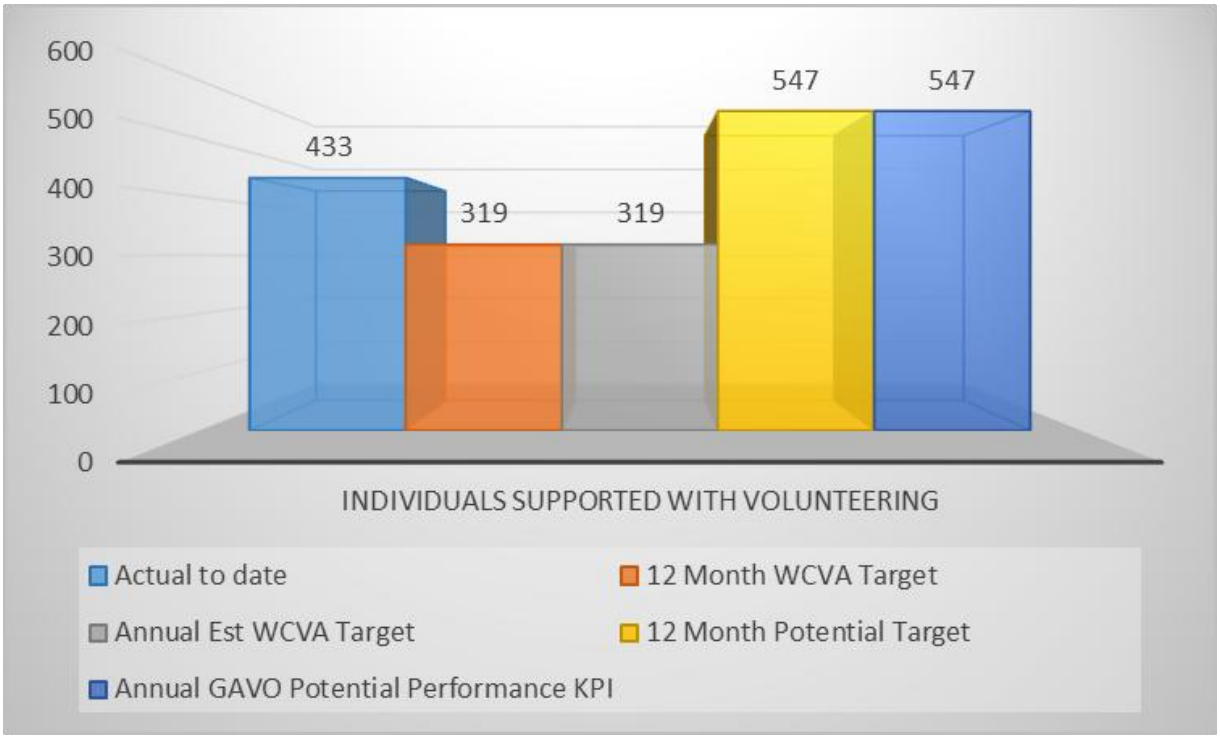
Solar/Wind Farm Grants:
The Trustees are pleased to highlight substantial advancements in GAVO's renewable energy ventures, particularly through our solar and wind farm projects. These initiatives have contributed to sustainable energy generation while simultaneously strengthening GAVO's financial position via increased income streams. By integrating environmental responsibility into our operations, GAVO continues to lead in community-based green energy solutions aligned with long-term sustainability goals.

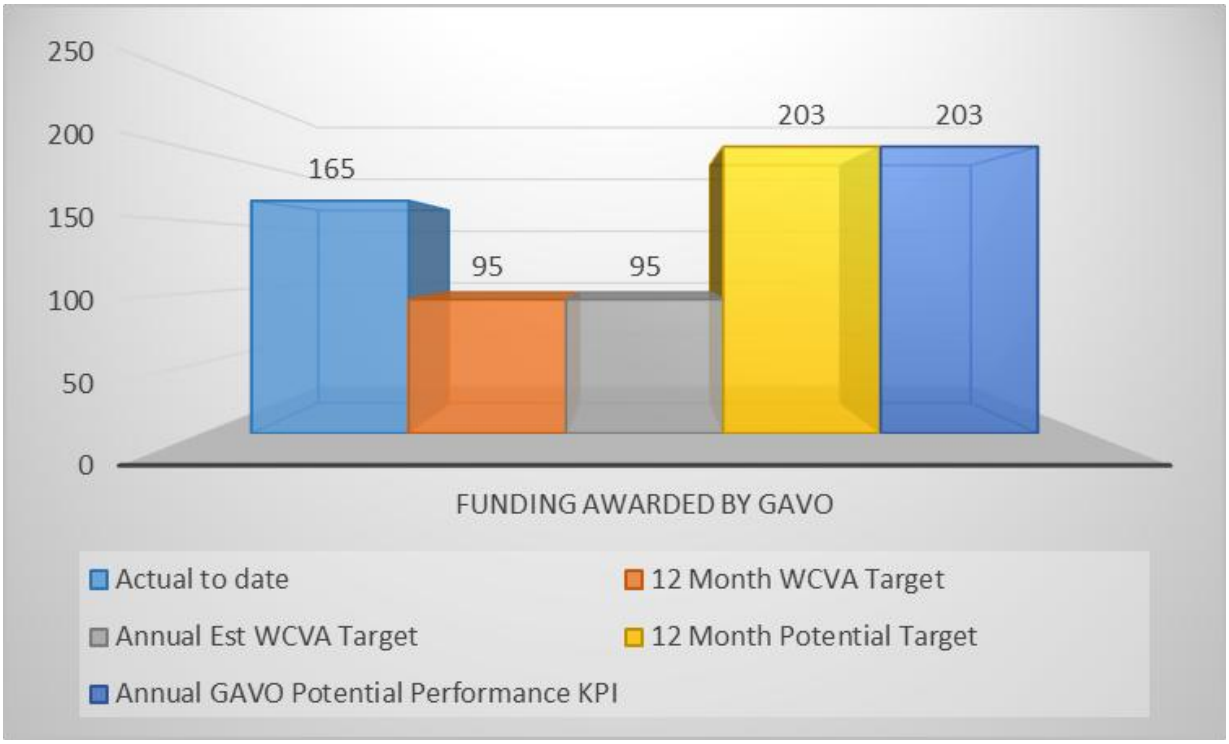
Youth-Led Grants:
This year, GAVO has reaffirmed its dedication to youth empowerment across Gwent through the Youth-Led Grants initiative. Managing a fund of £40,000, GAVO has worked closely with young leaders to empower them to decide which projects receive support. By giving young people direct control over funding decisions, the programme has nurtured emerging community leaders and ensured that grants address issues important to young people, such as mental health and environmental action. The success of this initiative highlights GAVO's commitment to fostering vibrant, inclusive communities where youth voices drive meaningful impact.

For more information and eligibility against GAVO grants, please refer to the website, www.gavo.org.uk for more information.

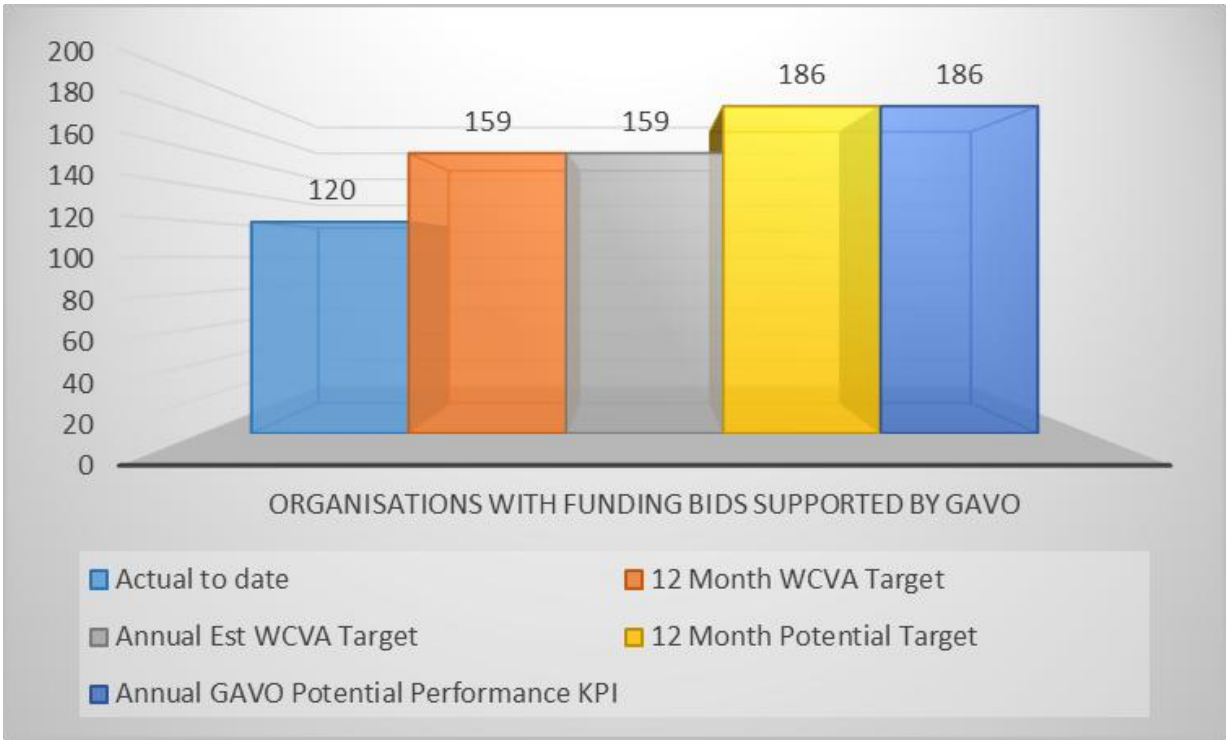
Achievements and performance *(continued)*

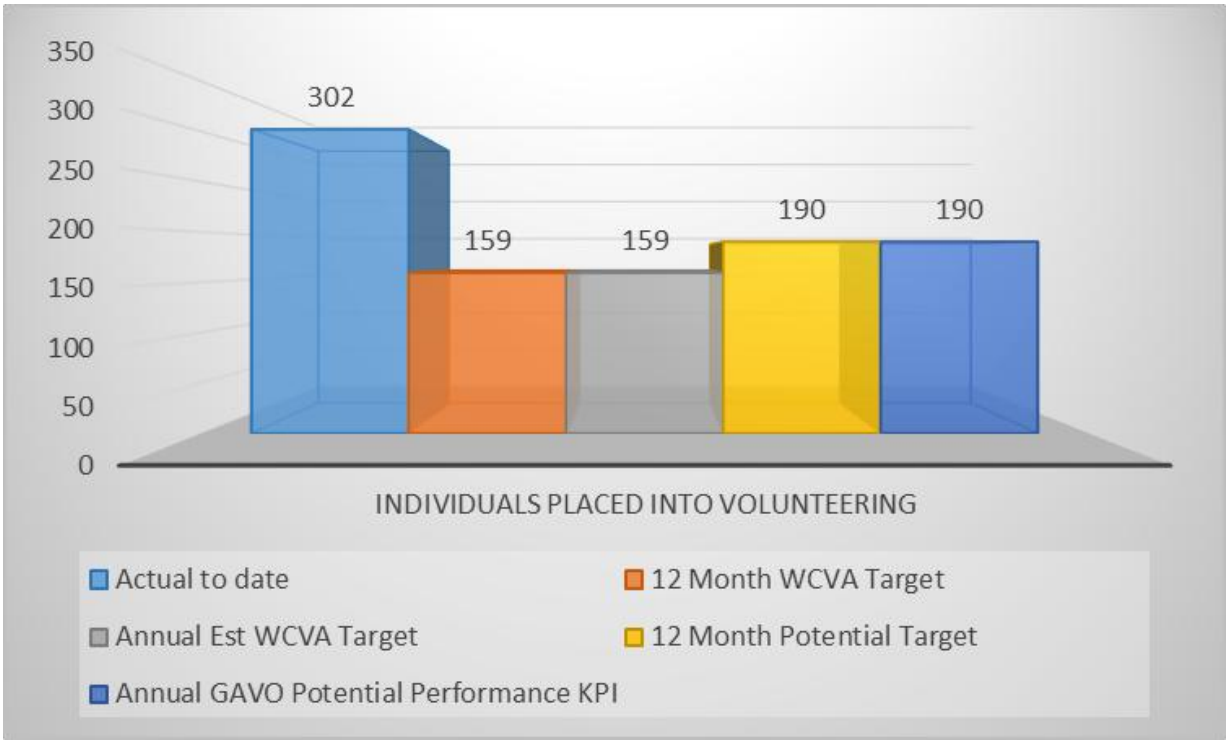
For all information about GAVO and its activities, please read the GAVO Impact Report and visit the GAVO website at www.gavo.org.uk.



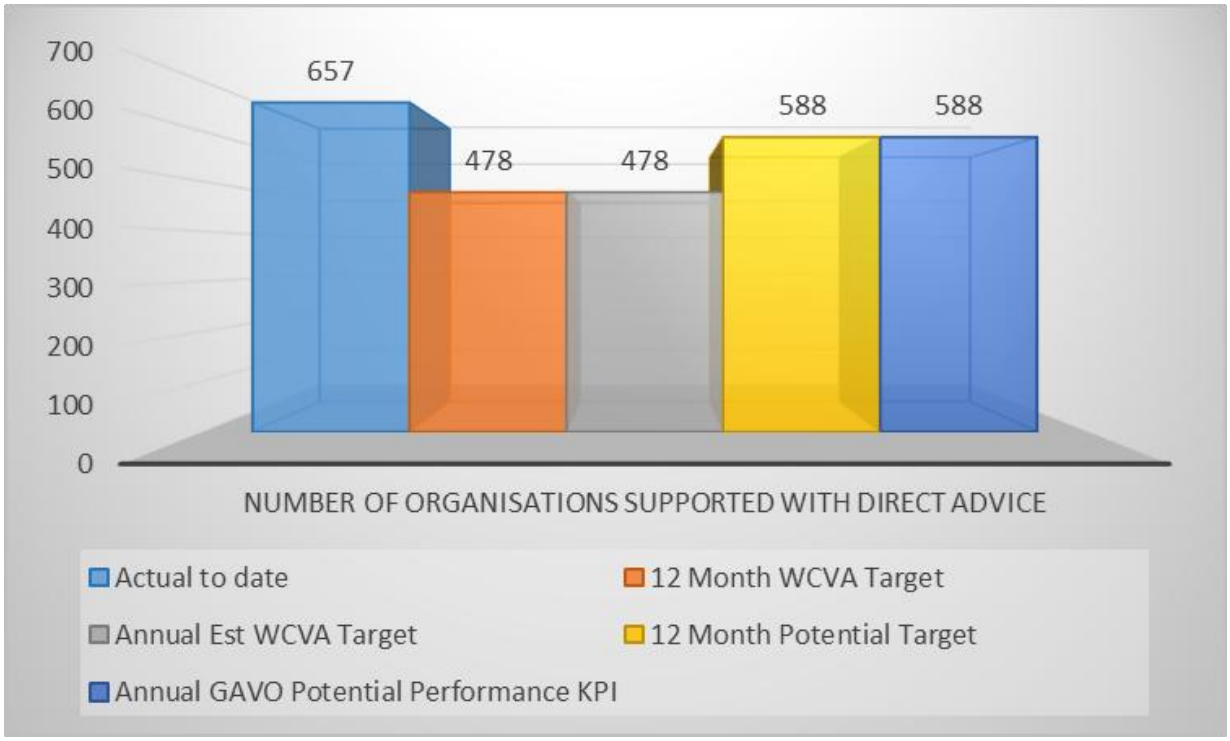


Achievements and performance *(continued)*





Achievements and performance *(continued)*



Summary
Funding awarded by GAVO - £653,219
Organisations with funding supported by GAVO - £1,605,913

Financial review

The Charity's financial oversight is provided by the General Purpose Committee, which meets on a quarterly basis to monitor income, expenditure, and any significant financial developments or changes in funding. This Committee provides regular reports to the full Executive Committee, which holds overall responsibility for all financial policy decisions.

GAVO is actively progressing towards the delivery of its 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, with financial sustainability remaining a central focus. The effective management of funding, aligned with the organisation's reserves policy, will be critical to supporting long-term objectives and ensuring continued impact.

Transactions and Financial position

The financial statements are set out on pages 28 to 48. These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Statement of Financial Activities shown on page 28 to the accounts discloses net incoming resources for the year of £277,735 (2024: net incoming £210,984).

The total reserves at the year end stand at £2,242,754 (2024: £1,965,019).

Reserves Policy

GAVO seeks to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to a minimum of three months' unrestricted expenditure. Any surplus beyond this level is earmarked for long-term investment to support the organisation's sustainability and strategic goals.

GAVO has set a target reserve level of approximately £650,000. This figure is designed to provide appropriate cover for identified and potential business risks, assessed on an ongoing annual basis. Reserve levels are reviewed regularly as part of our quarterly financial monitoring process.

In line with our policy, the reserves are allocated as follows:

- Core Activities: £350k
- Project Activities: £300k

Investment Policy

During 2024/25, GAVO undertook a review of its investment strategy to optimise returns on its unrestricted reserves.

The Senior Management Team and Trustees have secured these reserves by using a financial portal that maximises both the protection of cash under FSCS regulations and the potential for increased returns.

Trustees and key Senior Managers have been fully involved throughout the process, with investment discussions now a regular standing item on the Executive Board agenda.

Specific changes in fixed assets

All movements in fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the accounts.

Plans for future periods

In line with the organisation's Strategic Aims, GAVO will be maximising opportunities to deliver, influence and facilitate third sector engagement with the Welsh Government, Programme for Government, 'Taking Wales Forward 2021-26' and the TSSW Business Plan for 2022-27. Also, through its governance structures, GAVO will monitor its expenditure and develop income generation approaches which will have a synergy with GAVO's Mission and Strategic Aims.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 4 December 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

By enquiring with senior management and those charged with governance all areaS of risk identified were considered and any potential litigation or claim, if any, were noted.

- Ensuring by enquiry that there were no issues of non-compliance with laws and regulations relating to tax and compliance;

- By obtaining an understanding of the company's policies and procedures on compliance with laws and regulations, and with best accounting practice;

- Noting issues discussed with the Board and the Senior Management Team as this relates to risks faced by the company;

- Reviewing disclosures in the financial statements and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and

- Considering the effect on risk to the company of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's departure from the EU. In particular to note whether any such issues would affect the company's ability to continue to operate.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Rhodes BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Walter Hunter & Co Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

4 December 2025

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	**Total funds £**	2024 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	Total funds £
Income and endowments									
Donations and legacies	**5**	2,750	–	2,750	–	**2,750**	3,075	–	3,075
Charitable activities	**6**	1,099,600	1,896,367	2,995,967	–	**2,995,967**	2,513,167	699,984	3,213,151
Investment income	**7**	43,244	–	43,244	–	**43,244**	35,693	–	35,693
Other income	**8**	–	–	–	–	**–**	3,120	–	3,120
Total income		1,145,594	1,896,367	3,041,961	–	**3,041,961**	2,555,055	699,984	3,255,039
Expenditure									
Expenditure on charitable activities	**9,10**	826,407	1,937,819	2,764,226	–	**2,764,226**	2,311,784	662,787	2,974,571
Total expenditure		826,407	1,937,819	2,764,226	–	**2,764,226**	2,311,784	662,787	2,974,571
Net income and net movement in funds		319,187	(41,452)	277,735	–	**277,735**	243,271	37,197	280,468

The statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 31 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

		2025					2024		
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	**Total funds £**	Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	Total funds £
Transfers between funds		–	–	–	–	–	37,197	(37,197)	(37,197)
Net movement in funds		319,187	(41,452)	277,735	–	**277,735**	280,468	–	280,468
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		1,795,325	169,694	1,965,019		**1,965,019**	1,684,551	–	1,684,551
Total funds carried forward		2,114,512	128,242	2,242,754	–	**2,242,754**	1,965,019	–	1,965,019

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

The statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 31 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	£	2024 £
Current assets				
Debtors	**17**	**319,893**		129,952
Investments	**18**	**9,998**		–
Cash at bank and in hand		**2,628,287**		2,571,498
		2,958,178		2,701,450
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	**704,694**		731,429
Net current assets			**2,253,484**	1,970,021
Total assets less current liabilities			**2,253,484**	1,970,021
Provisions				
Pensions and similar obligations	**20**		**10,730**	5,002
Net assets			**2,242,754**	1,965,019
Funds of the charity				
Restricted funds			**128,242**	169,694
Unrestricted funds			**2,114,512**	1,795,325
Total charity funds	**22**		**2,242,754**	1,965,019

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 4 December 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash generated from operations	24	**23,543**	1,041,625
Interest received		**43,244**	35,693
Net cash from operating activities		**66,787**	1,077,318
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets		**–**	3,120
Purchases of other investments		**(9,998)**	–
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities		**(9,998)**	3,120
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		**56,789**	1,080,438
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**2,571,498**	1,491,060
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		**2,628,287**	2,571,498

The notes on pages 31 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

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 Room 2, Beechwood House, 54 Beechwood Road, Newport, NP19 8AH.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £.

Going concern

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

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

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

Unrestricted pension deficit recovery fund relates to the net present value of the liabilities payable, at present, as a result of the multi-employer pension deficit in which the charity participates.

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

There is no formal policy of transfer between funds or on the allocation of funds to designated funds other than described above.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All income is 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:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.

- 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 costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

- 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.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

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.

A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Items of less than £1,000 are not capitalised by the charity.

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:

Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum Straight line

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the entity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. Provisions are recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position and the amount of the provision as an expense.

Provisions are initially measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and subsequently reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the amount that would be required to settle the obligation. Any adjustments to the amounts previously recognised are recognised in income or expenditure unless the provision was originally recognised as part of the cost of an asset.

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.

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.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

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.

Pension schemes

The employees of the charity are members of one of two pension schemes as follows:

NOW Pensions Defined Contribution Scheme
This is a defined contribution plan. Contributions 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.

Pensions Trust Multi-Employer Defined Benefit Scheme
The charity participates in the Pension Trust scheme which is a multi-employer scheme providing benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 and is limited by guarantee, each member having to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are still a member or within one year thereafter.

Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2025 is 622 (2024: 455).

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations				
Public & Community Council donations	2,750	**2,750**	3,075	3,075

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Welsh Government	–	–	**–**
WCVA	873,160	26,600	**899,760**
Local Authority Councils	45,569	942,722	**988,291**
Local Health Boards	4,000	914,925	**918,925**
Other grants	39	12,120	**12,159**
Administration fees	176,832	–	**176,832**
	1,099,600	1,896,367	**2,995,967**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Welsh Government	2,200	688,281	690,481
WCVA	772,980	34,100	807,080
Local Authority Councils	54,346	580,581	634,927
Local Health Boards	–	863,112	863,112
Other grants	24	21,508	21,532
Administration fees	196,019	–	196,019
	1,025,569	2,187,582	3,213,151

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	43,244	**43,244**	35,693	35,693

8. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	–	**–**	3,120	3,120

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Core activities	685,307	–	**685,307**
Communities For Work	–	–	**–**
Children & Families	–	184,521	**184,521**
Care Projects	–	390,557	**390,557**
Volunteering	–	4,540	**4,540**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	1,160,773	**1,160,773**
Support costs	141,100	197,428	**338,528**
	826,407	1,937,819	**2,764,226**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Core activities	704,261	–	704,261
Communities For Work	–	549,122	549,122
Children & Families	–	214,440	214,440
Care Projects	–	338,402	338,402
Volunteering	–	4,441	4,441
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	759,915	759,915
Support costs	128,135	275,855	403,990
	832,396	2,142,175	2,974,571

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding of activities £	Support costs £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total fund 2024 £
Core activities	685,307	–	129,600	**814,907**	821,516
Communities For Work	–	–	–	**–**	662,787
Children & Families	140,769	43,752	21,980	**206,501**	241,341
Care Projects	350,602	39,955	64,195	**454,752**	395,495
Volunteering	4,540	–	535	**5,075**	4,751
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	123,588	1,037,185	110,718	**1,271,491**	837,801
Governance costs	–	–	11,500	**11,500**	10,880
	1,304,806	1,120,892	338,528	**2,764,226**	2,974,571

11. Analysis of support costs

	Core activities	Children & Families	Care Projects	Grants to Voluntary Organisations	Volunteering	Pension Deficit Recovery Fund	**Total 2025**	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Premises	39,967	3,507	7,822	3,042	–	–	**54,338**	64,337
Communications and IT	10,468	1,777	4,470	605	–	–	**17,320**	21,694
General office	22,910	699	6,116	724	–	–	**30,449**	38,730
Finance costs	2,981	–	–	–	–	–	**2,981**	365
Governance costs	37,891	–	1,997	756	–	5,728	**46,372**	36,827
Insurance	4,168	686	1,230	202	–	–	**6,286**	7,661
Subscriptions	11,998	407	1,878	84	–	–	**14,367**	11,923
Training	4,989	691	42	–	–	–	**5,722**	32,870
Management charges	–	14,213	40,640	105,305	535	–	**160,693**	189,583
	135,372	21,980	64,195	110,718	535	5,728	**338,528**	403,990

12. Analysis of grants

	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants to institutions		
Blaenau Gwent Key Fund Grants	**226,940**	59,654
Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Hub Grants	**5,100**	10,540
Caerphilly Care Grants	**–**	70,822
Caerphilly Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Grants	**17,164**	11,944
Caerphilly IWN Community Connections	**–**	1,718
Cost of Living Emergency Fund Grants	**118,114**	102,206
Food Poverty Grants	**5,477**	19,520
Further Faster Small Grants	**102,567**	–
GWIRVOL Youth Led Grants	**52,583**	25,562
Other Small Grants	**14,273**	7,143
Participatory Budgeting Grants	**36,194**	–
Small Grants Fund RIF	**345,846**	361,835
Summer Together Grants	**–**	27,000
Summer Food Grants	**38,275**	47,861
Together Works Grants	**39,955**	20,000
Warm Hubs Small Grants	**118,404**	56,444
	1,120,892	822,249
Total grants	**1,120,892**	822,249

13. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**–**	(3,120)
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	**11,500**	10,880

14. Staff costs

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**1,062,304**	1,376,732
Social security costs	**101,054**	130,817
Employer contributions to pension plans	**61,791**	79,786
	1,225,149	1,587,335

The average head count of employees during the year was 44 (2024: 56). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Number of administrative staff	**8**	9
Number of staff employed on charitable activities	**26**	37
	34	46

14. Staff costs *(continued)*

The number of employees whose remuneration for the year fell within the following bands, were:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
£60,000 to £69,999	**1**	–

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £119,876 (2024:£107,670).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

Expenses totalling £620 (2024: £446, two trustees) were reimbursed to four trustees during the year in relation to travelling expenses.

Other than the above, no trustees or any persons connected with them have received any remuneration or expenses.

Funds belonging to the charity have been used for the purchase of insurance to protect the charity from loss arising from neglect or defaults of its trustees, employees or agents, or to indemnify its trustees, employees or agents, against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The indemnity insurance is included as part of the overall charity insurance premium and therefore is an unidentifiable cost.

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £	**Total £**
Cost		
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	5,500	**5,500**
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	5,500	**5,500**
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2025	–	**–**
At 31 March 2024	–	–

17. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	**309,796**	122,961
Prepayments and accrued income	**5,433**	5,433
Other debtors	**4,664**	1,558
	319,893	129,952

18. Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other investments	**9,998**	–

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**144,118**	66,831
Accruals and deferred income	**21,401**	31,602
Social security and other taxes	**34,888**	37,485
Grants received in advance	**504,287**	595,511
	704,694	731,429

20. Provisions

	Pensions and similar obligations
	£
At 1 April 2024	**5,002**
Movement on pension provision - see note 21 to the accounts	**5,728**
At 31 March 2025	**10,730**

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 £61,791 (2024: £79,786).

21. Pensions and other post retirement benefits *(continued)*

The Pensions Trust Scheme

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 521 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2023. This valuation showed assets of £514.9m, liabilities of £531.0m and a deficit of £16.1m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2025 to 31 January 2028: **£2,100,000** Per annum (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 March 2028 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9mm and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: **£3,312,000** Per annum (payable monthly)

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

21. Pensions and other post retirement benefits *(continued)*

GAVO Position

Present Values of Provisions

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Present value of provision	**10,730**	5,002	10,707

Reconciliation of Opening & Closing Provisions

	2025	2024
	£	£
Provision as the start of the period	**5,002**	10,707
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	**132**	410
Deficit contribution paid	**(5,099)**	(6,119)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**68**	4
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	**10,627**	Nil
Provision at end of period	**10,730**	5,002

Income and Expenditure Impact

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest expense	**132**	410
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**68**	4
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	**10,627**	Nil
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	**(5,099)**	(6,119)
	5,728	(5,705)

Assumptions

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Rate of discount	**4.84**	5.31	5.52

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

22. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2025 £**
General unrestricted fund	1,795,325	1,145,594	(826,407)	(510,000)	**1,604,512**
Investment in Strategic Lead Positions and Community Development Designated Fund	–	–	–	170,000	**170,000**
Volunteering Development Designated Fund	–	–	–	50,000	**50,000**
2027 Centenary Celebrations Designated Fund	–	–	–	40,000	**40,000**
Staff Reorganisation and Redundancy Designated Fund	–	–	–	250,000	**250,000**
	1,795,325	1,145,594	(826,407)	–	**2,114,512**

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General unrestricted fund	1,453,360	1,067,457	(832,396)	106,904	1,795,325
Investment in Strategic Lead Positions and Community Development Designated Fund	–	–	–	–	–
Volunteering Development Designated Fund	–	–	–	–	–
2027 Centenary Celebrations Designated Fund	–	–	–	–	–
Staff Reorganisation and Redundancy Designated Fund	–	–	–	–	–
	1,453,360	1,067,457	(832,396)	106,904	1,795,325

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2025 £**
Development Projects & Development Officers Posts	–	5,075	(5,075)	–	**–**
Communities for Work	–	–	–	–	**–**
Children & Families	–	206,501	(206,501)	–	**–**
Care Projects	–	454,752	(454,752)	–	**–**
Volunteering	–	–	–	–	**–**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	169,694	1,230,039	(1,271,491)	–	**128,242**
	169,694	1,896,367	(1,937,819)	–	**128,242**

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Development Projects & Development Officers Posts	–	–	–	–	–
Communities for Work	–	699,984	(662,787)	(37,197)	–
Children & Families	29,657	211,684	(241,341)	–	–
Care Projects	–	395,495	(395,495)	–	–
Volunteering	–	4,751	(4,751)	–	–
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	201,534	875,668	(837,801)	(69,707)	169,694
	231,191	2,187,582	(2,142,175)	(106,904)	169,694

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

(a) During the prior year the trustees continued their review of the accounting methodology used to recognise grants in advance. As a result, balances totalling £69,707 were transferred from restricted reserves to unrestricted reserves. These related primarily to monies received in prior years which can now be utilised at the charity's discretion.

The funds are held for the following purposes:

Children and Families

In Caerphilly, children and families are supported through the Early Language project, aimed at helping the development of speech and language throughout the borough and ensuring effective links with Flying Start and Families First.

Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Projects

GAVO employs Health and Social Care Facilitators funded by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to support the third sector to play an active role in the planning and delivery of health and social care services. The Education Programme for Patients Cymru, funded by Health, provides a range of award-winning self-management health and well-being courses and workshops for people living with health conditions, or for those who care for someone with a health condition. The Monmouthshire Carers Project provides information and support to more than 1,000 carers.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Service Level Agreement with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board / Regional Partnership Board for the distribution of Regional Integration Fund small grants to the Third Sector across all four regions as well as some additional funding for winter pressures. GAVO has also received the Voluntary Sector grants via Welsh Government through WCVA and Comic Relief with a purpose of supporting groups recovering from Covid closures and cost of living pressure on community buildings.

A detailed analysis of the individual projects that are included within the above activities of the charity are shown in the Appendix to the accounts.

23. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Current assets	2,217,996	740,182	**2,958,178**
Creditors less than 1 year	(92,754)	(611,940)	**(704,694)**
Provisions	(10,730)	–	**(10,730)**
Net assets	2,114,512	128,242	**2,242,754**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Current assets	1,936,245	765,205	2,701,450
Creditors less than 1 year	(135,918)	(595,511)	(731,429)
Provisions	(5,002)	–	(5,002)
Net assets	1,795,325	169,694	1,965,019

24. Cash generated from operations

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income	**277,735**	280,468
Adjustments for:		
Other interest receivable and similar income	**(43,244)**	(35,693)
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**–**	(3,120)
Accrued (income)/expenses	**(10,201)**	3,573
Changes in:		
Trade and other debtors	**(189,941)**	610,656
Trade and other creditors	**(16,534)**	191,446
Provisions and employee benefits	**5,728**	(5,705)
	23,543	1,041,625

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2024 £	Cash flows £	**At 31 Mar 2025 £**
Cash at bank and in hand	2,571,498	56,789	**2,628,287**
Current asset investments	–	9,998	**9,998**
	2,571,498	66,787	**2,638,285**

26. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	**20,631**	27,510
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**12,257**	–
	32,888	27,510

27. Limitation of auditors liability

By way of a board resolution the company has agreed to enter into a limited liability agreement with its auditors whereby their exposure to legal claims is limited to £50,000 per claim.

28. Related parties

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under FRS102 other than those already disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer to Unrestricted Reserves	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
LITTLE VOICES	-	114,602	(114,602)	-	-
CAERPHILLY LITTLE VOICES	-	2,343	(2,343)	-	-
SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAMME GRANT	-	5,533	(5,533)	-	-
SUMMER FOOD GRANT	-	42,775	(42,775)	-	-
SUSTAINABLE FOOD SHARE PROSPERITY FUND	-	41,248	(41,248)		
CHILDREN & FAMILIES	-	206,501	(206,501)	-	-
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE FACILITATORS	-	117,282	(117,282)	-	-
EXPERT PATIENT PROGRAMME	-	61,009	(61,009)	-	-
WELLBEING LINK OFFICERS	-	86,234	(86,234)	-	-
TOGETHER WORKS	-	183,792	(183,792)	-	-
ABERGAVENNY MICRO GEOGRAPHY PROJECT	-	4,624	(4,624)		-
WELLBEING COACH BLAENAU GWENT	-	1,811	(1,811)		
CARE PROJECTS	-	454,752	(454,752)	-	-
CAERPHILLY VOLUNTEER TRAINING	-	5,075	(5,075)	-	-
VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS	-	5,075	(5,075)	-	-
CAERPHILLY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	18,160	-	(17,164)	-	996
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING CAERPHILLY	-	65,399	(65,399)	-	-
MONMOUTHSHIRE SUMMER TOGETHER GRANTS	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
BLAENAU GWENT KEY FUND	-	254,897	(254,897)	-	-
BLAENAU GWENT MENU TRAINING	-	44,453	(44,453)	-	-
NEWPORT SPF	-	41,180	(41,180)	-	-
COST OF LIVING EMERGENCY FUND	-	132,536	(132,536)	-	-
WARM HUBS SMALL GRANTS	-	136,801	(130,404)	-	6,397
BLAENAU GWENT WELLBEING HUB	11,419	-	(5,100)	-	6,319
CAERPHILLY IWN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	1,412	-	-	-	1,412
BAHG INSTALLATION	6,844	-	(6,814)	-	30
BLAENAU GWENT CRISIS FUND	-	3,461	(3,461)		
FURTHER FASTER SMALL GRANTS FUND	-	115,388	(115,388)		
SMALL GRANTS FUND RIF	-	400,665	(395,846)	-	4,819
COMIC RELIEF	7,958	-	-	-	7,958
GWIRVOL YOUTH LED GRANT - PAN GWENT	39,835	26,600	(54,008)	-	12,427
LIGHTSOURCE	20,932	5,478	(548)	-	25,862
SOLAR ENERGY STATIC GRANTS	53,624	-	(1,059)	-	52,565
DARRAN VALLEY GRANTS	1,510	3,181	(3,234)	-	1,457
GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	169,694	1,230,039	(1,271,491)	-	128,242
	169,694	**1,896,367**	**(1,937,819)**	**-**	**128,242**

GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1113558

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 5590517
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1113558

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

31 March 2024

WALTER HUNTER & CO LIMITED
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

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Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Foreword by the Chair Mr Edward Watts MBE DL

GAVO continues to support communities within Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport.

GAVO has worked with voluntary groups to obtain funding totalling £1,855,434 across the GAVO footprint to help towards the sustainability of their organisations. This has also shown the sector growing to provide much-needed support to our communities. During the year there has been an increase in new organisations which GAVO have supported, with direct advice given to 482 groups in total.

GAVO Officers have reported that individuals are still reluctant to volunteer due to the cost-of-living crisis, GAVO continues to support third sector organisations to recruit and retain volunteers. successfully recruiting 161 new volunteers.

As GAVO's Chair, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking volunteers who keep our sector thriving. Moving into the next financial year, I know that the GAVO Board, the officers and partners will continue to support our communities to the best of their ability. You will see throughout this report the support our Officers have given to a wide variety of third sector organisations across the GAVO footprint. Looking to the future GAVO is committed to involving young people to be part of the mechanics of the organisation by sitting on the Executive Board and Local Committees.

The GAVO Strategic Plan 2025-2028 will be launched at this year's GAVO AGM, which Trustees and staff will work to put this strategy into action. The organisation is committed to ensuring that the third sector is supported, through its Mission Statement, Aims and Values. GAVO will strive to ensure that the Welsh Government policy for a Safer Wales is high on the Equality Diversity and Inclusion agenda.

GAVO continues to represent the voice of the sector on a variety of strategic partnerships, including the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) and Regional Partnership Board for health. Information gathered at the Gwent PSB is passed through to each area via GAVO Forums, GAVO local committees and local partnership meetings, this ensures that the sector is regularly informed of emerging priorities across Gwent.

GAVO continues to be part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and ensures that the four pillars (volunteering, sustainable funding, governance and engagement and influencing) are at the forefront of GAVO's working practices. GAVO continues to work in partnership with both the statutory and private sector, whose response has again been exemplary, allowing the third sector to adapt to different and new ways of working.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the GAVO Board, GAVO Officers and special thanks goes to the third sector organisations, partners and community groups for your support over this period.

Continue to support your communities and GAVO will continue to support you.

Edward Watts MBE DL
Chair

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Charity registration number	1113558
Company registration number	5590517
Principal office and registered office	Room 2, Beechwood House 54 Beechwood Road Newport NP19 8AH
The trustees	
	Mr E Watts MBE Mr L Casley Ms C Davy Mr R M Dutt Mr P S Farley Mr C L Hawker Mr A Huckin Mrs C Williams Mr J Williams MBE JP (Resigned 12 December 2023) Brigadier R Aitken CBE His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent
Auditor	Walter Hunter & Co Limited Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 24 Bridge Street Newport South Wales NP20 4SF
Bankers	NatWest Bank plc High Street Newport NP20 4SE
Solicitors	MDJ Law Ground Floor Park House Greyfriars Road Cardiff CF10 3AF THS HR Services Ltd 160 Corporation Road Newport NP19 0WF

Structure, governance and management

Nature of the Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity
The Charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee; company registration number 5590517. Registered charity number 1113558.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees
Trustees serve three-year terms, with one-third of the committee stepping down each year, though they are eligible for re-election. Officers are also elected for three-year terms.

The policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees
Annual training is provided for all Trustees, encompassing all aspects of voluntary sector regulations.

The name of the Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer to whom day to day management of the charity was delegated during the 2023/24 year by the charity trustees

Chief Executive Officer	Stephen Tiley
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Alison Palmer

Full details of all members of staff can be found on GAVO's website www.gavowales.org.uk.

The organisational structure of the charity and how decisions are made
The charity is overseen by a Board of Trustees, elected by members of GAVO. Financial and policy decisions are made by the Trustees, often based on recommendations from senior staff and sub-committees. The Board convenes at least four times a year.

The CEO holds ultimate responsibility for the organisation. Regular Senior Management Team meetings, which include the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, are held to discuss management and organisational matters.

Membership of a wider network
Affiliated with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), GAVO is also an active member of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW).

We collaborate closely with the Welsh Government, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Gwent.

Our ongoing partnerships in health and social care include working with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the social care departments of local authorities.

Relationships between the charity and related parties, including its subsidiaries
GAVO has no subsidiary undertakings.

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks
GAVO's Risk Register offers a structured approach for managing risks throughout the organisation and across all GAVO activities, ensuring informed decision-making for future initiatives.

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Relationships with other Groups, Charities and Individuals
GAVO is a membership organisation. Membership is open to all relevant voluntary and community groups who operate in the area of benefit.

Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2023 455 (2023: 543).

Objectives and activities

A summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

As a County Voluntary Council, GAVO's role, as outlined in the Welsh Government's Third Sector Scheme 2014, includes:

- Supporting the growth and development of other Third Sector organisations.
- Assisting individual volunteers and promoting collective voluntary action.
- Advocating for good and safe governance across the Third Sector.
- Aiding in the design and delivery of public services.
- Providing a voice and representation for the wider sector.
- Promoting best practices and innovation.

In addition to this core framework, GAVO brings experience in developing and implementing projects and programs through collaborative approaches to meet unmet community needs.

Summary of main aims, activities and achievement in relation to those purposes for the public benefit GAVO serves as the primary advocate for the third sector within the Gwent Public Service architecture, representing Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport. As the leading umbrella body for the sector in our region, GAVO plays a vital role in supporting and strengthening community initiatives.

Our Third Sector Development Team offers essential guidance on governance structures and policies, helping to establish new groups and support existing ones. We also provide ongoing assistance with project development and identifying funding opportunities.

GAVO's Volunteering Officers guide individuals on their volunteering journeys, offering personalised consultations and access to diverse opportunities via www.volunteering-wales.net. We assist organisations with volunteer recruitment, management, and retention, and offer policy guidance, Volunteer Management training, and recognition schemes.

Our Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing Team promotes third sector work within the health and social care landscape, ensuring organisations relate to regional strategies. We work to empower organisations and individuals to influence local services and improve community well-being.

As detailed in this year's Impact Report, GAVO continues to support communities through various direct projects that benefit the public and the broader community.

Contribution made by volunteers
Volunteering is a cornerstone of the support we provide as a County Voluntary Council and a key pillar of Third Sector Support Wales, vital to strengthening our society.

At GAVO, we are committed to supporting both individuals who wish to volunteer and the organisations that depend on volunteers to enrich community life. Our efforts align with national and local wellbeing goals, promoting a collaborative approach to community improvement.

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Public Benefit
The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charities aims and purposes and in planning future activities.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole

Introduction
In 2023/24, GAVO maintained its commitment to providing focused and effective support to the Third Sector across the Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport regions. A comprehensive summary of GAVO's accomplishments and progress toward key performance indicators can be found in the GAVO Annual Impact Report. Below are some key initiatives:

TSSW and Regional Overview:

GAVO continues to maintain robust connections with the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) Networks, which have proven invaluable in providing national insights, resolving challenges, and promoting our work and the sector's efforts in Gwent. These networks offer us, and the broader sector, essential opportunities to engage with the national landscape, ensuring our voice is heard and allowing us to learn from others across Wales.

Our commitment to a collaborative approach remains strong, as we work closely with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and other partner County Voluntary Councils (CVCs). This collaboration extends to active participation in various committees and networks, such as the TSSW Executive, CVC Cymru, TSSW Safeguarding Board, Volunteer Practitioner Network, Funding Network, and the Learning Steering Group, among others. These national networks also provide us with a platform to influence and engage with TSSW (of which GAVO is a member) and the Welsh Government. We maintain open lines of communication with MPs, AMs, and local councillors, which has been crucial in shaping policies, securing funding, and influencing legislation-a practice that will continue to be vital as we progress.

The Gwent Public Service Board (PSB), established in 2021, has replaced the previous County Public Service Boards. GAVO plays a pivotal role, representing the third sector at both the regional and Gwent PSB levels. We are actively involved in the Gwent PSB's key objectives: creating a fairer and more inclusive Gwent, protecting the environment, and working towards Gwent becoming a Marmot region. Our engagement ensures that the third sector is integral to the forthcoming Wellbeing Plans and actions. Additionally, GAVO is leading the development of the Gwent Third Sector Partnership Agreement, which is set for approval in 2024/25 and will serve as the governing document for the Gwent PSB's collaboration with the third sector.

At the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB), GAVO continues to play a significant role. Our participation has been crucial in ensuring the third sector's role is recognised and respected. This year, we have also played a key role in monitoring the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) and have advocated for a governance review to improve third-sector access. Looking ahead, we see the third sector as vital to health and social care strategies, particularly around prevention and discharge support, and we will continue to support these initiatives and strengthen sector connections wherever possible.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Community Development Overview:

In the past year, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) has continued its mission to empower communities and improve well-being across Gwent. Through strategic partnerships and a commitment to inclusivity, we have enabled local groups and individuals to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Our community development initiatives have seen positive progress, with particular emphasis on building capacity within local organisations. We have provided vital support and resources, ensuring that voluntary groups are better equipped to deliver services that address local needs. Training programs, funding advice, and governance support have been key elements of our strategy, allowing grassroots organisations to flourish in challenging times.

GAVO has played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration between the public, private, and voluntary sectors. By acting as a bridge, we have facilitated partnerships that have led to innovative solutions for social challenges, from reducing isolation among vulnerable populations to promoting health and well-being.

Looking ahead, GAVO remains committed to nurturing resilient communities. We will continue to adapt our approach to meet evolving needs, ensuring that the voluntary sector remains a cornerstone of community life in Gwent. The trustees are proud of the strides made and are optimistic about the impact GAVO will continue to have in the years to come.

A few examples of work carried out which have made a significant impact are as follows:

- Helped raise or allocate £2,032,459 for community groups. This included successful Awards for All applications targeting sewing and crafting groups in Blaenau Gwent to combat social isolation and build supportive relationships. In Caerphilly, secured a £260,000 National Lottery People and Places grant for Rhymney Valley Foodbank and a £90,000 National People and Places grant for Cefn Fforest Miners Institute. In Monmouthshire, engaged with the community through Network meetings and supported local organisations like Gwent Wildlife Trust, Women's Institute, and Monmouthshire Housing Association in exploring funding collaborations. In Newport, collaborated with Newport County Council (NCC) to distribute £60,000 in Warm Hubs grants to local community groups.
- Advanced professional development by participating in training workshops on bid writing, with plans to share this knowledge with community groups. Conducted workshops on Trustee roles and responsibilities within the GAVO region to enhance organisational sustainability and governance.
- Assisted with increasing community asset transfer applications and business plans. Currently supporting several organisations through the complex and lengthy asset transfer process.

Volunteering Overview:

Volunteering remains at the heart of GAVO's mission. Over the past year, our dedicated volunteer network has grown both in numbers and in impact, contributing significantly to local well-being and social cohesion. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the external environment, including economic pressures and the aftermath of the pandemic, our volunteers have demonstrated extraordinary adaptability and determination.

This year, GAVO facilitated 777 volunteering opportunities, supporting a diverse range of sectors including health and social care, youth services, and community development. Our volunteer support has empowered individuals from all walks of life to share their skills, forge new connections, and make a meaningful difference in their communities.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

In response to the growing demand for volunteer support, GAVO has enhanced its training and development initiatives, ensuring that our volunteers are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the evolving needs of those they serve. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration with local organisations, we have also expanded our outreach, ensuring that volunteering remains an accessible and rewarding experience for everyone.

A few examples of work carried out which have made a significant impact are as follows:

- Over the past year, GAVO staff have worked with public service partners to expand volunteering initiatives across the region. These initiatives include exploring how volunteers can support asylum dispersal families and engage with asylum seekers. We have promoted volunteering opportunities at local colleges and universities during Fresher's Fayres, connecting with individuals, charities, and referral agencies. Our active participation in various employment and cost-of-living events has led to an increase in referrals, particularly from Careers Wales. Additionally, we have facilitated partnerships between Gwent Police mini cadets and local organisations for community volunteering.
- The GAVO Volunteering Awards have been successful across the region, recognising and thanking volunteers for their contributions. These awards have been well-received by organisations and individuals, fostering new relationships and uncovering new volunteering opportunities.
- Our volunteering staff have been collaborating with the Volunteering Wales subgroup of Third Sector Support Wales to support the launch of the new Volunteering website.
- We have conducted volunteer workshops throughout the region for various organisations, including training providers. These workshops have enhanced youth engagement, planned future volunteering projects, and facilitated connections between volunteers and organisations, resulting in new placements and skill-building opportunities.

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Project Overview:

In the past year, GAVO's commitment to improving community health and wellbeing has been powerfully exemplified through the work of our Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing Partnership Officers. These dedicated officers have played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between health and social care services, the voluntary sector, and the communities we serve. Their efforts have focused on fostering strong partnerships, facilitating access to vital resources, and ensuring that the voices of local people are heard in the planning and delivery of health and social care services.

Throughout the year, our officers have been instrumental in coordinating collaborative initiatives that address key health inequalities and promote wellbeing across our regions. By working closely with local authorities, NHS partners, and community organisations, they have helped to shape policies and practices that are responsive to the needs of our diverse communities. This has included delivering targeted interventions, supporting the development of community-based health initiatives, and enhancing the capacity of the voluntary sector to contribute effectively to health and social care agendas.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

As we reflect on the impact of this work, we are proud of the progress made in creating more integrated, person-centred approaches to health and wellbeing. GAVO remains committed to supporting these essential partnerships as we strive to build healthier, more resilient communities.

A few examples of work carried out which have made a significant impact are as follows:

- Assisted organisations with the planning, preparation, distribution, and follow-up of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Small Grants scheme, totalling £350,000 across the GAVO region.
- Collaborated with Integrated Wellbeing Networks across Gwent to build regional networks supporting key priorities in Health, Social Care, and other local issues affecting the third sector and partners.
- Represented the sector on the newly formed Integrated Service Partnership Boards, focusing on enhancing collaboration across Gwent to better support local communities.
- Played a crucial role in the new Section 16 Forums across Gwent, which emphasise integrating social enterprises and the third sector into early intervention and prevention efforts, with a strong focus on public sector procurement.

Communities 4 Work (C4W) Overview:

GAVO's Communities 4 Work officers have been instrumental in driving impactful change across our communities. Their commitment to fostering economic growth and social inclusion has been evident through various initiatives designed to support individuals facing barriers to employment and personal development.

Our officers worked diligently to connect residents with tailored support services, providing guidance and resources that address the unique challenges they face. From facilitating job readiness workshops and career counselling to forging partnerships with local businesses and educational institutions, their efforts have created a robust network of support that empowers individuals to achieve their full potential.

Key achievements included the successful placement of numerous individuals into sustainable employment, the expansion of training programs, and the strengthening of community ties through collaborative projects.

During 2023/2024, C4W transferred over to Blaenau Gwent local authority in line with the change in funding strategy by the Welsh Government and to align with other local authority-run schemes. The project has gone with GAVO's blessing and continues supporting many people in Blaenau Gwent who continue to have complex employment needs.

Achievements and performance ***(continued)***

Community Grants Overview:

Regional Partnership Board Small Grants Scheme
The Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) has approved a small grants fund for each area within Gwent for the period of 2024-27.

The small grants fund will be managed by the respective County Voluntary Council (CVC) in each Integrated Service Partnership Board (ISPB) area. The funds will be promoted throughout the ISPBs and the social value/third sector in their respective localities.

The overarching goal is that, by the end of the five-year RIF programme, the RPB will have successfully developed and integrated at least six new national models of care. The focus areas for these models include:

- Community-based care - prevention and community coordination
- Community-based care - complex care closer to home
- Promoting good emotional health and well-being
- Supporting families to stay together safely, and providing therapeutic support for care-experienced children
- Home from hospital services
- Accommodation-based solutions

The small grants scheme is designed to support these objectives, with the amount of £87,500 has been distributed over the year with positive outcomes achieved.

Shared Prosperity Grants (Blaenau Gwent)
In 2024, GAVO made significant strides in empowering communities through the Shared Prosperity Training Grants project across Blaenau Gwent. This initiative provided crucial funding for skills development, enabling individuals to access training opportunities that enhance the sector and community engagement. The project has successfully supported a diverse range of participants, fostering economic growth and resilience in the region. Through this work, GAVO continues to play a pivotal role in driving positive social impact across the community.

The GAVO Shared Prosperity Grants have also significantly bolstered sporting projects across Blaenau Gwent, fostering community engagement and promoting physical well-being. Through strategic funding and partnership, we have empowered local organisations to enhance facilities, expand access to sports, and encourage participation across all age groups. These initiatives not only support health and fitness but also strengthen the community bonds, contributing to the overall prosperity and social cohesion of the region.

Shared Prosperity Grants (Caerphilly)
The GAVO Trustees are pleased to highlight the impact of the GAVO Shared Prosperity Grants, which have been instrumental in supporting volunteer training across Caerphilly. This initiative has empowered local communities by enhancing the skills and capabilities of volunteers, fostering stronger community engagement. Through strategic partnerships and targeted funding, GAVO has successfully contributed to sustainable development, ensuring that volunteers are better equipped to support various community projects and services in the region.

Achievements and performance ***(continued)***

Youth Led Grant
This year, GAVO proudly advanced its commitment to empowering young people across Gwent through the Youth-Led Grants Project. Working and supporting young leaders, GAVO manages £40,000 in grants to support initiatives that matter most to local youth. By placing decision-making power directly in the hands of young people, GAVO not only nurtured the next generation of community leaders but also ensured that funding was directed towards projects that resonated deeply with their peers. These initiatives, ranging from mental health support to environmental action, reflect

the diverse and pressing concerns of Gwent's youth. The success of the Youth-Led Grants Project underscores GAVO's mission to foster active, engaged communities, where the voices of young people are not just heard but drive meaningful change.

Solar/Wind Farm grants
The GAVO Trustees are pleased to report significant progress in our renewable energy initiatives, particularly the GAVO solar and wind farms. These projects have not only contributed to sustainable energy production but also enhanced our financial resilience through increased revenue. By prioritising environmental stewardship, we continue to align our mission with long-term sustainability goals, ensuring that GAVO remains at the forefront of community-focused, green energy solutions.

For more information and eligibility against GAVO grants, please refer to the website, www.gavo.org.uk for more information.

Early Language Programme Overview:

In the past year, GAVO has proudly championed the Early Language Project, an initiative dedicated to enhancing early childhood language development across our communities. Recognising that early language skills are pivotal to academic success and lifelong learning; our project aimed to address gaps and provide robust support to both children and educators.

Funded by Caerphilly County Borough Council, through a series of targeted workshops, resources, and community engagements, we have empowered parents, caregivers, and educators with practical tools and strategies to foster rich language environments. Our approach is rooted in evidence-based practices, ensuring that each interaction and intervention is grounded in the latest research.

This year, we saw a remarkable increase in participation. Feedback from families and partners has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting significant improvements in children's communication skills and greater confidence among educators.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the Early Language Project, we are inspired by the progress made and the positive impact on our community. Looking forward, we remain committed to reaching even more families and ensuring children can develop a solid foundation in language from an early age.

Achievements and performance ***(continued)***

A few examples of work carried out which have made significant impact are as follows:

- Over the year, staff completed training in collaborative communication, enhancing their ability to engage with families.
- Staff have run multiple "Let's Talk with Your Baby" courses since November, held in Penyrheol, New Tredegar, Blackwood, Abertysswg, Lansbury, and Bargoed.
- A partnership with Bright Beginnings was established to promote the "Let's Talk" courses, leading to increased parent sign-ups. This collaboration also secured additional funding for first aid courses available to participants of both "Let's Talk" and Bright Beginnings.
- Staff have also conducted mini first aid sessions for families with babies, aimed at improving their first aid skills and knowledge. Continued training in collaborative communication has focused on effective family engagement through reflection and active listening.

Participatory Budgeting Overview:

In the past fiscal year, GAVO has proudly carried out the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Project, a joint venture with the local authority in Caerphilly and the funders, Aneurin University Health Board. The project is evidence of our commitment to community empowerment and transparent governance. This innovative initiative has allowed residents to engage directly in the decision-making process regarding the allocation of public funds, ensuring that financial resources are directed towards projects that resonate with community needs and priorities.

Our participatory budgeting efforts have been marked by an inclusive and collaborative approach, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability among participants. Through a series of workshops, consultations, and voting processes, community members have had the opportunity to propose, discuss, and prioritise funding for local initiatives. This method not only enhances civic engagement but also helps bridge the gap between public authorities and the communities they serve.

As we move forward, GAVO remains dedicated to refining and expanding this project, ensuring that it continues to serve as a model for participatory democracy and community-driven development. We look forward to building on this success and further integrating the voices of our community into the fabric of decision-making processes.

A few examples of work carried out which have made significant impact are as follows:

- The project, designed by GAVO with input from partners, outlines key outputs and impacts which have been shared with all involved.
- Our initial worker has focused on the Rhymney area, identifying key areas for improving health and well-being. The project is funded for all Integrated Wellbeing Network areas within GAVO's scope, with additional areas to be targeted and supported in 2024 and 2025.
- In the first focus area, over 140 responses were collected, highlighting 420 issues. The Rhymney Participatory Budgeting Residents panel, which meets biweekly, includes 34 members with an average attendance of 15. Although still in its early stages, practical initiatives are being implemented.
- More than 200 residents participated in selecting projects for funding, which will be allocated in the second quarter of 2024/25.

Achievements and performance ***(continued)***

Wellbeing Links Overview:

In the past year, the GAVO Trustees have been proud to oversee and support the transformative Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Wellbeing Links Project, a key initiative that aligns with our mission to enhance community resilience and individual well-being across our region. This project represents a significant investment in fostering holistic support systems that bridge gaps between community resources and those in need.

The Wellbeing Links Project has been instrumental in creating a network of support services that directly address the diverse needs of people in our communities. By focusing on mental health, social inclusion, and access to essential services, the project has successfully facilitated connections between individuals and the resources that can make a tangible difference in their lives. Our approach has been characterised by collaboration with local organisations, fostering partnerships that amplify the impact of our efforts and ensure a comprehensive response to the needs identified.

Over the course of this reporting period, the project has seen substantial progress which, have not only improved access to critical services but have also empowered individuals to take proactive steps towards their own well-being.

The Trustees extend their gratitude to all the partners, stakeholders, and team members who have contributed to the success of the Wellbeing Links Project. Your dedication and hard work have been pivotal in achieving the project's goals and in reinforcing GAVO's commitment to fostering healthier, more connected communities.

A few examples of work carried out which have made a significant impact are as follows:

- Impact numbers for the year are as follows:
- Requests received: 421.
- Face-to-face Wellbeing Appointments: 304.
- Links/Information provided: 877.
- Ongoing referrals made: 297.
- Supportive introductions carried out: 76.
- Total number of links provided to individuals: 1250.
- We have successfully engaged previously inactive practices across the region, with staff now actively participating and initiating personal engagement sessions with Practice Managers and General Practitioners.
- We received positive feedback from a patient who said, "Before today's appointment, I felt like I was hitting a wall. After discussing everything with you, I now feel equipped to overcome that wall."
- The success of the Wellbeing Links project has led to its inclusion in the Social Prescribing framework for Gwent.

Achievements and performance ***(continued)***

TogetherWorks Overview:

In the past year, the TogetherWorks project has emerged as a transformative initiative in Caldicot, epitomising GAVO's commitment to fostering community development and collaboration. This project, funded by Monmouthshire County Borough Council, has been a cornerstone of our strategic efforts and was designed to bring together diverse community groups and resources to address local needs and enhance collective well-being.

Through Togetherworks, we have successfully facilitated a range of activities and partnerships that empower residents, strengthen local networks, and promote sustainable community solutions. The project's impact is evident in the increased engagement of local volunteers, the development of innovative community programs, and the strengthened capacity of local organisations to deliver effective services.

Key achievements include the establishment of a community hub that serves as a focal point for activities and support, and the implementation of several initiatives aimed at improving social inclusion and economic opportunities for underserved populations. These accomplishments reflect the project's core objective of building resilient communities through cooperation and shared vision.

As we reflect on the year's progress, we are proud of the milestones achieved and remain committed to furthering the project's goals. Togetherworks stands as a testament to the power of collaborative effort and community spirit, driving positive change and laying a solid foundation for future growth in Caldicott.

A few examples of work carried out which have made significant impact are as follows:

- Served as a central point for local engagement and collaborated with other GAVO initiatives, including hosting youth groups that benefited from Cash4U funding. This allowed the project to observe the impact of funding on young people.
- Engaged in discussions with Monmouthshire Local Authority about new Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) initiatives, such as investing in a barista coffee machine for public use and training. Also explored SPF funding for a Woodwork Technician to conduct sessions in the community shed, aimed at providing a respite space for individuals experiencing loneliness and isolation.
- Began development of a community garden, which will be an accessible public space.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Food Sustainability Project Overview:

In the past fiscal year, GAVO has been at the forefront of advancing food sustainability in Newport, a critical initiative aimed at addressing local food security and environmental concerns. Funded by Newport Council, our Food Sustainability Project has launched in response to growing community and environmental needs and has made substantial strides in fostering a more resilient and eco-friendly food system.

Through collaborative efforts with local stakeholders, including community groups, businesses, and educational institutions, we have successfully implemented a range of initiatives designed to enhance local food production and reduce waste.

Our work has not only empowered residents with the knowledge and resources to make sustainable choices but also strengthened the local food economy by supporting small-scale producers and promoting local sourcing. The positive impact of these efforts is reflected in the increased community engagement and the tangible improvements in food security and environmental stewardship within Newport.

Looking ahead, GAVO remains committed to expanding and refining these initiatives, ensuring that Newport continues to lead by example in the pursuit of a more sustainable and equitable food system. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all partners and supporters whose dedication has been instrumental in driving this vital project forward.

A few of examples of work carried out which have made a significant impact are as follows:

- Distributed a £50,000 grant to support food provision during school summer holidays, benefiting 492 families/households and 10 community food projects.
- Achievements include establishing community gardens, launching educational workshops on sustainability, and creating a food recovery network to reduce waste and aid those in need.
- Collaborated with Celtic Manor, Newport Council, and private companies through the Business in the Community network. In one quarter, Newport organisations donated 1,200 meals to those in need.
- Facilitated the Warm Hubs Grant Fund, launched in November, with grants totalling £59,367. Supported 725 Warm Hub sessions with 15,844 attendees.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Education Programme for Patient (EPP)s Overview:

In the past year, GAVO has made significant strides in advancing its Education Programme for Patients across Gwent, reaffirming our commitment to enhancing patient education and empowerment. This project is a cornerstone of our mission to improve health outcomes and foster a well-informed patient community.

Our initiative focuses on delivering comprehensive, accessible educational resources tailored to the diverse needs of patients throughout the region. By collaborating with healthcare providers, local organisations, and patient groups, we have developed a range of workshops, seminars, and digital resources aimed at addressing key health topics and promoting proactive health management.

Highlights of the programme include the successful launch of a series of interactive workshops covering chronic disease management, preventive health measures, and mental wellness. These sessions have not only provided valuable knowledge but have also encouraged active participation and feedback from patients, ensuring that the content remains relevant and impactful.

Additionally, we have expanded our digital outreach, creating an online platform that offers easy access to educational materials, self-help tools, and virtual support groups. This initiative has been particularly effective in reaching individuals who may face barriers to traditional in-person education.

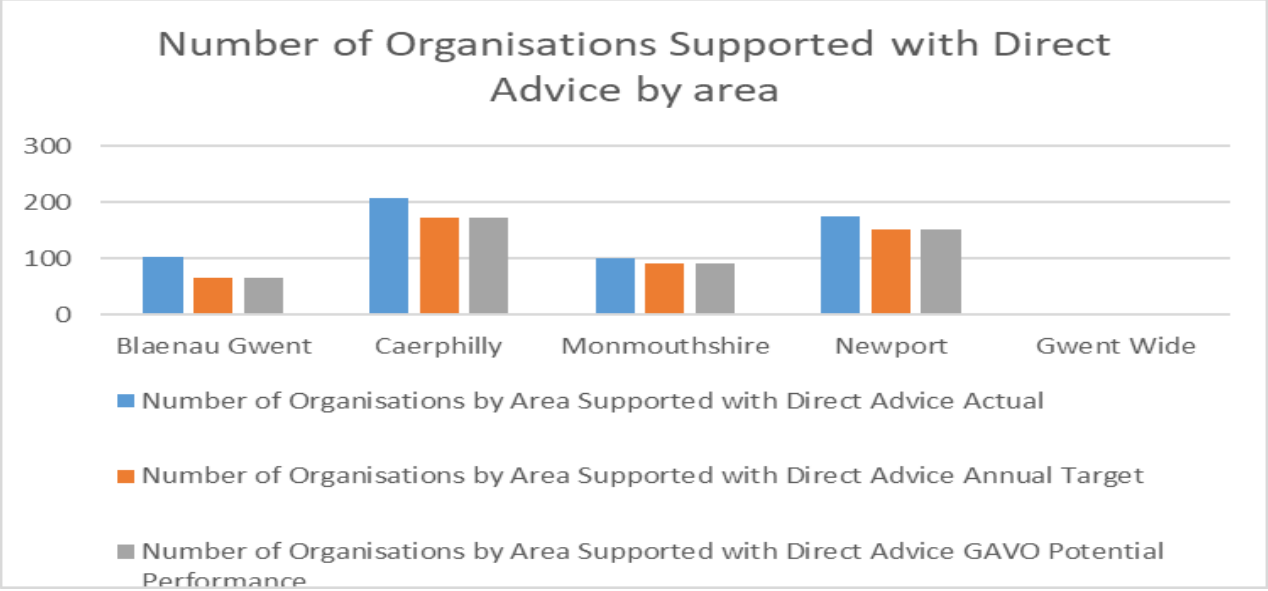
Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to evolving and expanding the programme, continually seeking ways to enhance its reach and effectiveness. We extend our gratitude to all partners and volunteers who have contributed to the success of this project and look forward to further progress in the coming year.

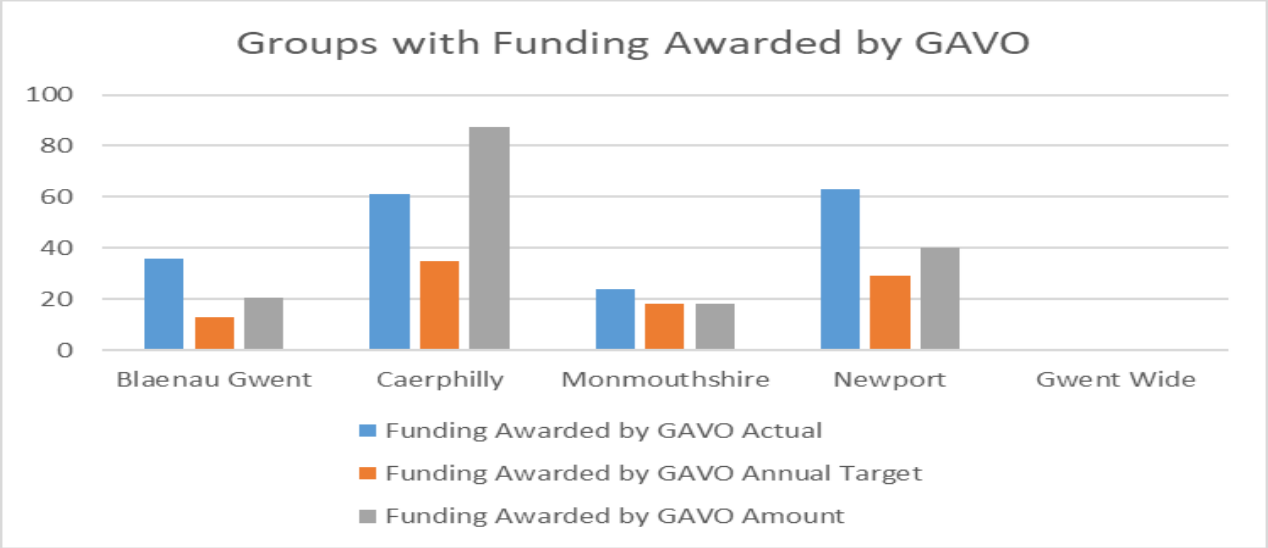
A few examples of work carried out which have made significant impact are as follows:

- The EPP Team has been actively involved with partners and is a key part of the "Living Well on a Waiting List" initiative across Wales.
- Throughout the year, there has been strong collaboration with officers connecting with health and social care networks to reintroduce EPP to GP practices within health boards as needed.
- Several new courses have been developed over the year, including ones on Dementia and living with HIV.

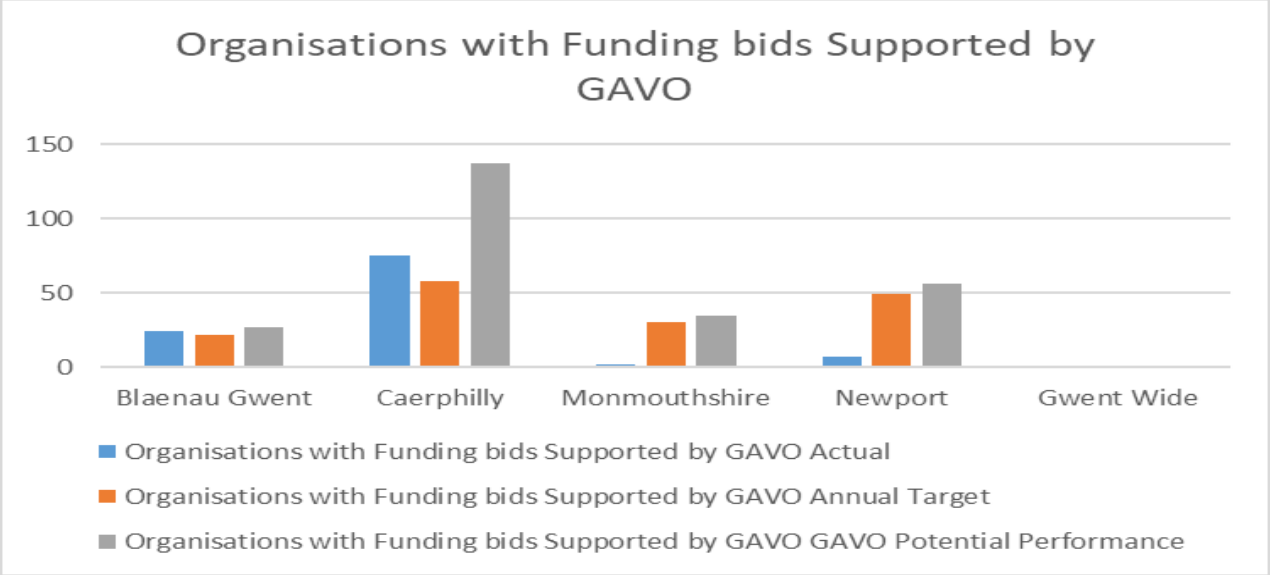
For all information about GAVO and its activities, please read the GAVO Impact Report and visit the GAVO website at www.gavo.org.uk.

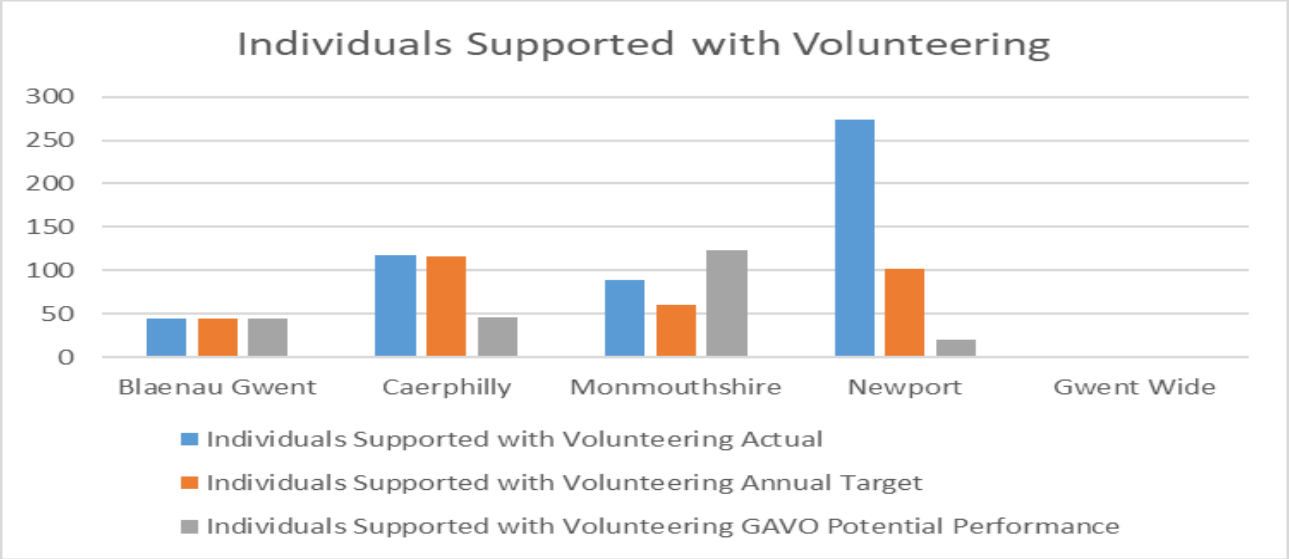
Achievements and performance *(continued)*



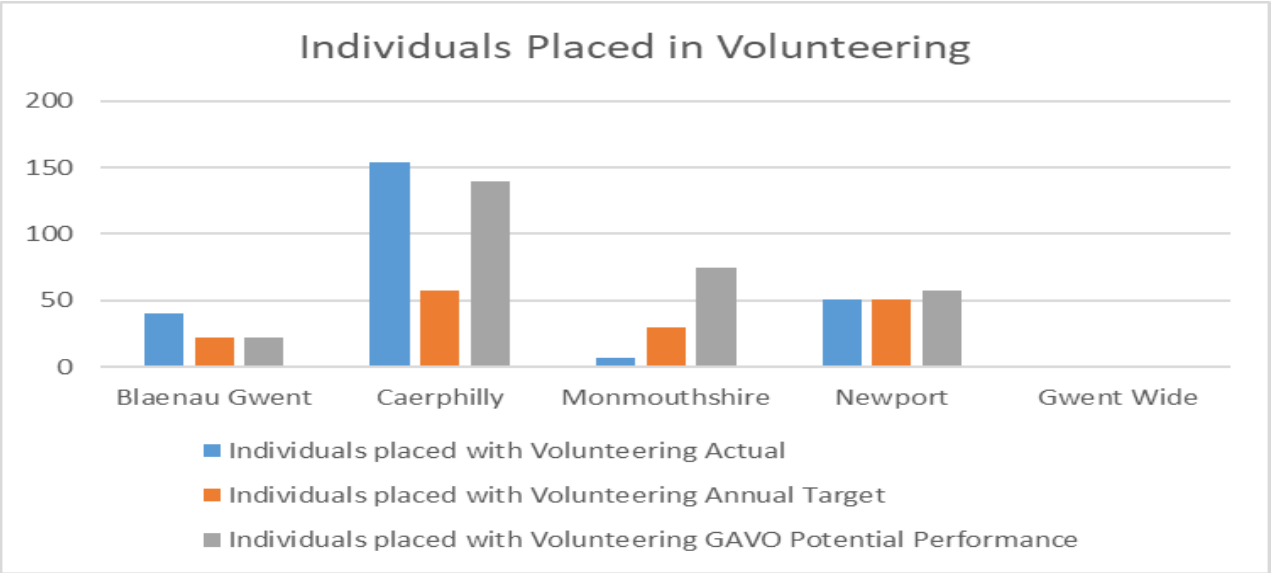


Achievements and performance *(continued)*





Achievements and performance *(continued)*



Potential Funding to be awarded by GAVO	£1,587,240
Actual Funding awarded by GAVO	£728,605
Target Value of funding supported by GAVO	£793,620
Organisations with Funding supported by GAVO	£1,303,854

Financial review

The Charity has a Finance Sub Committee, which meets monthly to review expenditure, income and to look at major items of expenditure or changes in funding. The Finance Sub Committee reports to the full Executive Committee which is responsible for making all policy decisions on financial matters.

GAVO has been working towards the strategic plan for 2022-2025, with finances playing a crucial role in this document. GAVO's sustainability is closely tied to its funding usage, which will be managed by the established reserves policy.

Transactions and Financial position

The financial statements are set out on pages 27 to 47. These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Statement of Financial Activities shown on page 27 to the accounts discloses net incoming resources for the year of £280,468 (2023: net incoming £682,644). The net incoming resources is split as £341,965 unrestricted incoming resources and £61,497 restricted outgoing resources.

The unrestricted reserves at the year end stand at £1,795,325 (2023: £1,453,360) and restricted reserves £169,694 (£2023: £231,191) resulting in total reserves of the charity of £1,965,019 (2023: £1,684,551).

Reserves Policy

GAVO aims to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to at least three months' worth of unrestricted expenditures. Any reserves exceeding this threshold will be allocated for long-term investment purposes.

GAVO has established an overall target for reserves to be around £650k, which is intended to cover all identified or anticipated business risks on a rolling annual basis, as monitored through our agreed quarterly reporting process.

According to our policy, the breakdown of reserve levels is as follows:

Core Activities: £350k
Project Activities: £300k

Investment Policy

During 2024/25, GAVO will review its investment strategy to maximise returns on its unrestricted reserves.

The GAVO Senior Management Team and Trustees plan to establish a new group to monitor these investments, ensuring that finances are protected, accessible, and appropriately invested for the organisation.

The involvement of Trustees and key Senior Managers will ensure transparency, making investment discussions a standing item for the Executive Board.

Specific changes in fixed assets

All movements in fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the accounts.

Plans for future periods

In line with the organisation's Strategic Aims, GAVO will be maximising opportunities to deliver, influence and facilitate third sector engagement with the Welsh Government, Programme for Government, 'Taking Wales Forward 2021-26' and the TSSW Business PLan for 2022-27. Also, through its governance structures, GAVO will monitor its expenditure and develop income generation approaches which will have a synergy with GAVO's Mission and Strategic Aims.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 27 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Year ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

By enquiring with senior management and those charged with governance all areaS of risk identified were considered and any potential litigation or claim, if any, were noted.

- Ensuring by enquiry that there were no issues of non-compliance with laws and regulations relating to tax and compliance;

- By obtaining an understanding of the company's policies and procedures on compliance with laws and regulations, and with best accounting practice;

- Noting issues discussed with the Board and the Senior Management Team as this relates to risks faced by the company;

- Reviewing disclosures in the financial statements and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and

- Considering the effect on risk to the company of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's departure from the EU. In particular to note whether any such issues would affect the company's ability to continue to operate.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Rhodes BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Walter Hunter & Co Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

27 November 2024

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	**Total funds £**	2023 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	Total funds £
Income and endowments									
Donations and legacies	**5**	3,075	–	3,075	–	**3,075**	–	–	–
Charitable activities	**6**	1,025,569	2,187,582	2,513,167	699,984	**3,213,151**	2,695,617	1,695,807	4,391,424
Investment income	**7**	35,693	–	35,693	–	**35,693**	7,327	–	7,327
Other income	**8**	3,120	–	3,120	–	**3,120**	88,789	–	88,789
Total income		1,067,457	2,187,582	2,555,055	699,984	**3,255,039**	2,791,733	1,695,807	4,487,540
Expenditure									
Expenditure on charitable activities	**9,10**	832,396	2,142,175	2,311,784	662,787	**2,974,571**	2,109,089	1,695,807	3,804,896
Total expenditure		832,396	2,142,175	2,311,784	662,787	**2,974,571**	2,109,089	1,695,807	3,804,896
Net income		235,061	45,407	243,271	37,197	**280,468**	682,644	–	682,644
Transfers between funds		106,904	(106,904)	37,197	(37,197)	**–**	–		–
Net movement in funds		341,965	(61,497)	280,468	–	**280,468**	682,644	–	682,644

The statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 31 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	**Total funds £**	2023 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	Total funds £
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		1,453,360	231,191	1,684,551		**1,684,551**	1,001,907		1,001,907
Total funds carried forward		1,795,325	169,694	1,965,019	–	**1,965,019**	1,684,551	–	1,684,551

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

The statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 31 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	£	2023 £
Current assets				
Debtors	**17**	**129,952**		740,608
Cash at bank and in hand		**2,571,498**		1,491,060
		2,701,450		2,231,668
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**18**	**731,429**		536,410
Net current assets			**1,970,021**	1,695,258
Total assets less current liabilities			**1,970,021**	1,695,258
Provisions				
Pensions and similar obligations	**19**		**5,002**	10,707
Net assets			**1,965,019**	1,684,551
Funds of the charity				
Restricted funds			**169,694**	231,191
Unrestricted funds			**1,795,325**	1,453,360
Total charity funds	**21**		**1,965,019**	1,684,551

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 27 November 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash generated from operations	23	**1,041,625**	(269,140)
Interest received		**35,693**	7,327
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities		**1,077,318**	(261,813)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets		**3,120**	438,789
Net cash from investing activities		**3,120**	438,789
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		**1,080,438**	176,976
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**1,491,060**	1,314,084
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		**2,571,498**	1,491,060

The notes on pages 31 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

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 Room 2, Beechwood House, 54 Beechwood Road, Newport, NP19 8AH.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

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

Unrestricted pension deficit recovery fund relates to the net present value of the liabilities payable, at present, as a result of the multi-employer pension deficit in which the charity participates.

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

There is no formal policy of transfer between funds or on the allocation of funds to designated funds other than described above.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All income is 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:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.

- 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 costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

- 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.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

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.

A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Items of less than £1,000 are not capitalised by the charity.

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:

Freehold property	-	4% per annum Straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum Straight line

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the entity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. Provisions are recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position and the amount of the provision as an expense.

Provisions are initially measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and subsequently reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the amount that would be required to settle the obligation. Any adjustments to the amounts previously recognised are recognised in income or expenditure unless the provision was originally recognised as part of the cost of an asset.

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.

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.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

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.

Pension schemes

The employees of the charity are members of one of two pension schemes as follows:

NOW Pensions Defined Contribution Scheme
This is a defined contribution plan. Contributions 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.

Pensions Trust Multi-Employer Defined Benefit Scheme
The charity participates in the Pension Trust scheme which is a multi-employer scheme providing benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 and is limited by guarantee, each member having to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are still a member or within one year thereafter.

Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2024 is 455 (2023: 543).

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations				
Public & Community Council donations	3,075	**3,075**	–	–

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Welsh Government	2,200	688,281	**690,481**
WCVA	772,980	34,100	**807,080**
Local Authority Councils	54,346	580,581	**634,927**
Local Health Boards	–	863,112	**863,112**
Comic Relief	–	–	**–**
Other grants	24	21,508	**21,532**
Administration fees	196,019	–	**196,019**
	1,025,569	2,187,582	**3,213,151**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Welsh Government	–	1,650,330	1,650,330
WCVA	723,051	63,848	786,899
Local Authority Councils	59,388	608,905	668,293
Local Health Boards	25,000	792,883	817,883
Comic Relief	–	129,968	129,968
Other grants	5,602	86,397	91,999
Administration fees	246,052	–	246,052
	1,059,093	3,332,331	4,391,424

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	35,693	**35,693**	7,327	7,327

8. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3,120	**3,120**	88,789	88,789

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Core activities	704,261	–	**704,261**
Communities For Work	–	549,122	**549,122**
Children & Families	–	214,440	**214,440**
Care Projects	–	338,402	**338,402**
Volunteering	–	4,441	**4,441**
Transport	–	–	**–**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	759,915	**759,915**
Support costs	128,135	275,855	**403,990**
	832,396	2,142,175	**2,974,571**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Core activities	707,358	–	707,358
Communities For Work	–	1,413,813	1,413,813
Children & Families	–	300,179	300,179
Care Projects	–	336,555	336,555
Volunteering	–	–	–
Transport	–	2,144	2,144
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	466,867	466,867
Support costs	172,015	405,965	577,980
	879,373	2,925,523	3,804,896

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding of activities £	Support costs £	**Total funds 2024 £**	Total fund 2023 £
Core activities	704,261	–	117,255	**821,516**	868,493
Communities For Work	549,122	–	113,665	**662,787**	1,695,807
Children & Families	147,060	67,380	26,901	**241,341**	329,883
Care Projects	318,402	20,000	57,093	**395,495**	410,581
Volunteering	4,441	–	310	**4,751**	–
Transport	–	–	–	**–**	2,207
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	25,046	734,869	77,886	**837,801**	487,045
Governance costs	–	–	10,880	**10,880**	10,880
	1,748,332	822,249	403,990	**2,974,571**	3,804,896

11. Analysis of support costs

	Core activities	Communities For Work	Children & Families	Care Projects	Grants to Voluntary Organisations	Volunteering	Pension Deficit Recovery Fund	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Premises	42,499	10,298	3,696	6,975	869	–	–	**64,337**	121,541
Communications and IT	12,807	3,558	657	4,477	195	–	–	**21,694**	65,640
General office	23,872	6,326	2,696	5,110	726	–	–	**38,730**	62,800
Finance costs	365	–	–	–	–	–	–	**365**	7,066
Governance costs	37,840	2,250	399	1,098	945	–	(5,705)	**36,827**	61,116
Insurance	4,758	2,250	230	390	33	–	–	**7,661**	9,462
Subscriptions	10,377	–	–	1,546	–	–	–	**11,923**	5,544
Training	1,322	29,834	1,133	120	461	–	–	**32,870**	11,877
Management charges	–	59,149	18,090	37,377	74,657	310	–	**189,583**	232,934
	133,840	113,665	26,901	57,093	77,886	310	(5,705)	**403,990**	577,980

12. Analysis of grants

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants to institutions		
Caerphilly Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Grants	**11,944**	–
Caerphilly Care Grants	**70,822**	–
GWIRVOL Youth Led Grants	**25,562**	15,075
Small Grants Fund RIF	**361,835**	150,400
Food Poverty Grants	**19,520**	144,991
Comic Relief Community Fund Grants	**–**	122,010
Caerphilly IWN Community Connections	**1,718**	74,395
Cost of Living Emergency Fund Grants	**102,206**	–
Blaenau Gwent Key Fund Grants	**59,654**	–
Winter Pressures Grants	**–**	4,701
Summer Together Grants	**27,000**	–
Summer Food Grants	**47,861**	–
Together Works Grants	**20,000**	–
Other Small Grants	**7,143**	18,563
Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Hub Grants	**10,540**	48,795
Warm Hubs Small Grants	**56,444**	38,123
	822,249	617,053
Total grants	**822,249**	617,053

13. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**(3,120)**	(88,789)
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	**10,880**	10,880

14. Staff costs

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**1,376,732**	1,913,232
Social security costs	**130,817**	173,509
Employer contributions to pension plans	**79,786**	100,336
	1,587,335	2,187,077

14. Staff costs *(continued)*

The average head count of employees during the year was 56 (2023: 77). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Number of administrative staff	**9**	9
Number of staff employed on charitable activities	**37**	57
	46	66

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £107,670 (2023:£101,608).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

Expenses totalling £446 (2023: £447) were reimbursed to two trustees during the year in relation to travelling expenses.

Other than the above, no trustees or any persons connected with them have received any remuneration or expenses.

Funds belonging to the charity have been used for the purchase of insurance to protect the charity from loss arising from neglect or defaults of its trustees, employees or agents, or to indemnify its trustees, employees or agents, against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The indemnity insurance is included as part of the overall charity insurance premium and therefore is an unidentifiable cost.

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £	**Total £**
Cost or valuation		
At 1 April 2023	25,240	**25,240**
Disposals	(19,740)	**(19,740)**
At 31 March 2024	5,500	**5,500**
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	25,240	**25,240**
Disposals	(19,740)	**(19,740)**
At 31 March 2024	5,500	**5,500**
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2024	–	**–**
At 31 March 2023	–	–

17. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	**122,961**	731,461
Prepayments and accrued income	**5,433**	8,650
Other debtors	**1,558**	497
	129,952	740,608

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	**66,831**	57,149
Accruals and deferred income	**31,602**	28,029
Social security and other taxes	**37,485**	42,766
Grants received in advance	**595,511**	408,466
	731,429	536,410

19. Provisions

	Pensions and similar obligations
	£
At 1 April 2023	**10,707**
Net effect of Income and Expenditure adjustments (note 20)	**(5,705)**
At 31 March 2024	**5,002**

20. 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 £79,786 (2023: £100,336).

20. Pensions and other post retirement benefits *(continued)*

The Pensions Trust Scheme

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: **£3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)**

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2025: **£11,243,000 per annum (payable monthly)**

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

20. Pensions and other post retirement benefits *(continued)*

GAVO Position
Present Values of Provisions

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£	£
Present value of provision	**5,002**	10,707	16,796

Reconciliation of Opening & Closing Provisions

	2024	2023
	£	£
Provision as the start of the period	**10,707**	16,796
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	**410**	316
Deficit contribution paid	**(6,119)**	(6,119)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**4**	(286)
Provision at end of period	**5,002**	10,707

Income and Expenditure Impact

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest expense	**410**	316
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**4**	(286)
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	**(6,119)**	(6,119)
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	**(5,705)**	(6,089)

Assumptions

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£	£
Rate of discount	**5.31**	5.52	2.35

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

21. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2024 £**
General unrestricted fund	1,453,360	1,067,457	(832,396)	106,904	**1,795,325**
Fixed Asset Fund - GAVO Head Office	–	–	–	–	**–**
	1,453,360	1,067,457	(832,396)	106,904	**1,795,325**

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General unrestricted fund	722,980	1,155,209	(879,373)	454,544	1,453,360
Fixed Asset Fund - GAVO Head Office	278,927	–	–	(278,927)	–
	1,001,907	1,155,209	(879,373)	175,617	1,453,360

21. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

		At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2024 £**
Communities for Work	(a)	–	699,984	(662,787)	(37,197)	**–**
Children & Families		29,657	211,684	(241,341)	–	**–**
Care Projects		–	395,495	(395,495)	–	**–**
Transport		–	–	–	–	**–**
Volunteering		–	4,751	(4,751)	–	**–**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	(a)	201,534	875,668	(837,801)	(69,707)	**169,694**
		231,191	2,187,582	(2,142,175)	(106,904)	**169,694**

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Communities for Work	–	1,695,807	(1,695,807)	–	–
Children & Families	–	359,540	(329,883)	–	29,657
Care Projects	–	586,198	(410,581)	(175,617)	–
Transport	–	2,207	(2,207)	–	–
Volunteering	–	–	–	–	–
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	688,579	(487,045)	–	201,534
	–	3,332,331	(2,925,523)	(175,617)	231,191

(a) During the year the trustees continued their review of the accounting methodology used to recognise grants in advance. As a result, balances totalling £106,904 (2023: £175,617) were transferred from restricted reserves to unrestricted reserves. These related primarily to monies received in prior years which can now be utilised at the charity's discretion.

21. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

The funds are held for the following purposes:

Children and Families

In Caerphilly, children and families are supported through the Early Language project, aimed at helping the development of speech and language throughout the borough and ensuring effective links with Flying Start and Families First.

Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Projects

GAVO employs Health and Social Care Facilitators funded by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to support the third sector to play an active role in the planning and delivery of health and social care services. The Education Programme for Patients Cymru, funded by Health, provides a range of award-winning self-management health and well-being courses and workshops for people living with health conditions, or for those who care for someone with a health condition. The Monmouthshire Carers Project provides information and support to more than 1,000 carers.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Service Level Agreement with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board / Regional Partnership Board for the distribution of Regional Integration Fund small grants to the Third Sector across all four regions as well as some additional funding for winter pressures. GAVO has also received the Voluntary Sector grants via Welsh Government through WCVA and Comic Relief with a purpose of supporting groups recovering from Covid closures and cost of living pressure on community buildings. A detailed analysis of the individual projects that are included within the above activities of the charity are shown in the Appendix to the accounts.

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Current assets	1,936,245	765,205	**2,701,450**
Creditors less than 1 year	(135,918)	(595,511)	**(731,429)**
Provisions	(5,002)	–	**(5,002)**
Net assets	1,795,325	169,694	**1,965,019**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	–	–	–
Current assets	1,592,011	639,657	2,231,668
Creditors less than 1 year	(127,944)	(408,466)	(536,410)
Provisions	(10,707)	–	(10,707)
Net assets	1,453,360	231,191	1,684,551

23. Cash generated from operations

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income	**280,468**	682,644
Adjustments for:		
Other interest receivable and similar income	**(35,693)**	(7,327)
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**(3,120)**	(88,789)
Accrued expenses/(income)	**3,573**	(41,439)
Changes in:		
Trade and other debtors	**610,656**	(413,478)
Trade and other creditors	**191,446**	(394,662)
Provisions and employee benefits	**(5,705)**	(6,089)
	1,041,625	(269,140)

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2023 £	Cash flows £	**At 31 Mar 2024 £**
Cash at bank and in hand	1,491,060	1,080,438	**2,571,498**

25. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	**27,510**	16,801
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**–**	1,800
	27,510	18,601

26. Limitation of auditors liability

By way of a board resolution the company has agreed to enter into a limited liability agreement with its auditors whereby their exposure to legal claims is limited to £50,000 per claim.

27. Related parties

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under FRS102 other than those already disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Appendix to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer to Unrestricted Reserves	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK PLUS (EMPLOYABILITY)	-	485,833	(485,833)	-	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK P1	-	140,714	(124,035)	(16,679)	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK P3	-	61,734	(41,216)	(20,518)	-
COMMUNITIES 4 CLOSURE TEAM	-	11,703	(11,703)	-	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK	-	699,984	(662,787)	(37,197)	-
LITTLE VOICES	-	104,934	(104,934)	-	-
CAERPHILLY LITTLE VOICES	-	10,710	(10,710)	-	-
SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAMME GRANT	29,657	38,176	(67,833)	-	-
SUMMER FOOD GRANT	-	57,864	(57,864)	-	-
CHILDREN & FAMILIES	29,657	211,684	(241,341)	-	-
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE FACILITATORS	-	139,057	(139,057)	-	-
EXPERT PATIENT PROGRAMME	-	70,151	(70,151)	-	-
CARERS MONMOUTH	-	16,544	(16,544)	-	-
WELLBEING LINK OFFICERS	-	84,263	(84,263)	-	-
TOGETHER WORKS	-	85,480	(85,480)	-	-
CARE PROJECTS	-	395,495	(395,495)	-	-
CAERPHILLY VOLUNTEER TRAINING	-	4,751	(4,751)	-	-
VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS	-	4,751	(4,751)	-	-
CAERPHILLY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	31,790	-	(13,630)	-	18,160
CAERPHILLY CARE GRANTS	-	70,822	(70,822)	-	-
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING CAERPHILLY	-	16,957	(16,957)	-	-
MONMOUTHSHIRE SUMMER TOGETHER GRANTS	-	35,000	(27,000)	-	8,000
BLAENAU GWENT KEY FUND	-	64,577	(64,577)	-	-
BLAENAU GWENT MENU TRAINING	-	7,199	(7,199)	-	-
COST OF LIVING EMERGENCY FUND	-	102,206	(102,206)	-	-
WARM HUBS SMALL GRANTS	1,877	67,567	(69,444)	-	-
BLAENAU GWENT WELLBEING HUB	21,959	-	(10,540)	-	11,419
CAERPHILLY IWN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	3,130	-	(1,718)	-	1,412
BAHG INSTALLATION	8,602	-	(1,758)	-	6,844
INTEGRATED CARE FUND	-	69,707	-	(69,707)	-
SMALL GRANTS FUND RIF	12,500	399,335	(411,835)	-	-
COMIC RELIEF	7,958	7,500	(7,500)	-	7,958
GWIRVOL YOUTH LED GRANT - PAN GWENT	40,189	26,600	(26,954)	-	39,835
LIGHTSOURCE	18,717	5,240	(3,025)	-	20,932
SOLAR ENERGY STATIC GRANTS	54,260	-	(636)	-	53,624
DARRAN VALLEY GRANTS	552	2,958	(2,000)	-	1,510
GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	201,534	875,668	(837,801)	(69,707)	169,694
	231,191	**2,187,582**	**(2,142,175)**	**(106,904)**	**169,694**

GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1113558

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 5590517
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1113558

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

31 March 2023

WALTER HUNTER & CO LIMITED
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

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Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Foreword by the Chair Mr Edward Watts MBE DL

During 2022-23 GAVO has seen how the sector has adapted to the 'new' way of working post covid. The work by the GAVO Officers has continued and has increased as groups get back to working with their communities.

The GAVO Strategic Plan 2022-2025 was launched at the last GAVO AGM and during the year Trustees and staff have worked to put strategy into action. The organisation is committed to working towards GAVO's Mission Statement, Aims and Values, ensuring that the third sector is supported.
The GAVO regional offices are now well established in Blaenau Gwent (Innovation Centre, Ebbw Vale), Caerphilly (Cherry Tree House, Oakdale), Monmouthshire (Sessions House, Usk) and Newport (Beechwood House, Newport).

GAVO continue to represent the sector on a variety of strategic partnerships, including the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) and Regional Partnership Board for health. Information gathered at the Gwent PSB is passed through to each area via GAVO Forums, GAVO local committees and local partnership meetings, this ensures that the sector is regularly informed of emerging priorities across Gwent.

GAVO continues to be part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and ensures that the four pillars (volunteering, sustainable funding, governance and engagement and influencing) are at the forefront of GAVO's working practices.

It would be remiss of me as Chair of GAVO not to acknowledge the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during the year and the impact felt by so many across our communities. The involvement of the Queen's Representative, the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, our President, at our Volunteering Awards provided an opportunity to acknowledge her passing and welcome King Charles III appropriately. We also sadly lost our Marketing and Communications Officer in the Autumn, a great shock to staff and Trustees alike and our thoughts are with his family.

Moving into the next financial year, I know that the GAVO Board, the officers and partners will continue to support our communities to the best of their ability.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the GAVO Board, Staff and special thanks goes to the third sector organisations, partners and community groups for your support over this period.
GAVO continues to work in partnership with both the statutory and private sector, whose response has again been exemplary, allowing the third sector to adapt to different and new ways of working.
Continue to support your communities and GAVO will continue to support you.

Edward Watts MBE DL
Chair

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Charity registration number	1113558
Company registration number	5590517
Principal office and registered office	Room 2, Beechwood House 54 Beechwood Road Newport NP19 8AH

The trustees

Mr E Watts MBE DL	
Mrs J Steven	(Resigned 22 November 2022)
Mr L Casley	(Appointed 22 November 2022)
Ms C Davy	
Mr R M Dutt	
Mr P S Farley	
Mr C L Hawker	
Mr A Huckin	(Appointed 22 November 2022)
Mr D Jones OBE	(Resigned 22 November 2022)
Ms S Reader	(Resigned 22 February 2023)
Mrs C Williams	
Mr J Williams MBE JP	

Brigadier R Aitken CBE His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent

Auditor	Walter Hunter & Co Limited Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 24 Bridge Street Newport South Wales NP20 4SF
Bankers	NatWest Bank plc High Street Newport NP20 4SE
Solicitors	Harding Evans Queens Chambers 2 North Street Newport NP20 1TE THS HR Services Ltd 160 Corporation Road Newport NP19 0WF

Structure, governance and management

Nature of the Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The Charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee; company registration number 5590517. Registered charity number 1113558.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are elected for three years with a third of the committee standing down each year, but eligible for re-election. The officers are elected for three years.

The policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Annual training is arranged for all Trustees, covering all aspects of voluntary sector regulations.

The name of the Chief Executive Officer and other senior staff members to whom day to day management of the charity was delegated during the 2022/23 year by the charity trustees

Chief Executive Officer	Stephen Tiley
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Alison Palmer

Full details of all members of staff can be found on GAVO's website www.gavowales.org.uk.

The organisational structure of the charity and how decisions are made

The charity is managed by a Board of Trustees elected by the membership of voluntary organisations. Financial and Policy decisions are made by the Trustees, where appropriate following recommendations by the senior staff and the sub-committees i.e. personnel and finance as and when necessary. The Board meets at least four times per annum.

The CEO has overall responsibility for the organisation. Senior Management Team meetings are held on a regular basis with the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and area managers to discuss management/organisational issues.

Membership of a wider network

GAVO is affiliated to the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and is an active member of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW).

GAVO works closely with the Welsh Government, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council, the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Gwent.

Health and Social Care working relationships are ongoing with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the Social Care departments of Local Authorities.

Relationships between the charity and related parties, including its subsidiaries

GAVO has no subsidiary undertakings.

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks

GAVO's Risk Register provides a mechanism and framework for the management of risk within the organisation across the portfolio of GAVO activity and to inform decision making moving forward.

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Relationships with other Groups, Charities and Individuals

GAVO is a membership organisation. Membership is open to all relevant voluntary and community groups who operate in the area of benefit.

Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2023 543 (2022: 473).

Objectives and activities

A summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

GAVO's role as a County Voluntary Council is set out in Welsh Government's Third Sector Scheme 2014 as:

- Enabling other Third Sector organisations to grow and develop;
- Supporting individual volunteers and collective voluntary action;
- Promoting good and safe governance across the Third Sector;
- Supporting Public Service design and delivery;
- Providing voice and representation for the wider sector; and
- Sharing good practice and innovation.

In addition to this Core Framework, GAVO has significant experience in developing and delivering projects and programmes through collaborative approaches, which are a response to identified unmet community need.

Summary of main aims, activities and achievement in relation to those purposes for the public benefit

GAVO serves as the representative of the third sector within the Gwent Public Service Board, acting on behalf of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport. GAVO holds the position of the primary umbrella infrastructure body for the third sector across the GAVO footprint.

Our Third Sector Development Team offers valuable guidance and counsel on governance structures and policies, aiding in the establishment of new groups and organisations whilst continuing to provide support for established groups across the GAVO footprint. Additionally, we provide ongoing assistance in project development and identification of funding sources.

Our dedicated Volunteering Team is committed to supporting and guiding individuals in their volunteering journey. This support encompasses personalised 1-2-1 consultations and access to an extensive array of volunteering opportunities through www.volunteering-wales.net. Moreover, GAVO extends its support to organisations working with volunteers, offering assistance in recruitment, volunteer management, and retention. We also provide policy guidance, conduct Volunteer Management training, and facilitate access to our recognition schemes.

The Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing Team hold a pivotal role in advocating for individuals' emotional, mental, and physical health and wellbeing. We actively empower people to influence local services, contributing to the betterment of the community.

As detailed in our impact report, GAVO further extends its support to communities through a range of direct projects aimed at benefiting the public and community at large.

Objectives and activities ***(continued)***

Contribution made by volunteers
Volunteering is a cornerstone of the support that we provide as a County Voluntary Council. Volunteering is one of the 4 pillars of Third Sector Support Wales and is a vital support to our society.

GAVO is proud of the work it carries out supporting not only the individuals that want to Volunteer but also the Organisations that depend on and need Volunteers to improve Community life and work in conjunction with our national and local Wellbeing aims.

Public Benefit
The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charities aims and purposes and in planning future activities.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole

Introduction
Throughout 2022/23, GAVO maintained its commitment to providing targeted and efficient support to the Third Sector within the regions of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport. A significant shift occurred as Teams transitioned from thematic structures to area-based teams, where a full range of skills became localised within these areas. This strategic reorganisation allowed GAVO to respond more promptly to support requests while becoming deeply ingrained in regional issues.

While a comprehensive overview of GAVO's accomplishments and progress toward key performance indicators can be found in the GAVO Annual Impact report, the following offers a summary of key initiatives in each area:

National Focus
GAVO remained committed to its collaboration with partners within Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW). Notable partners in TSSW included the Welsh Government (WG), all County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) across Wales, and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). Our national efforts were centred around our four core pillars of delivery:

- Good Governance
- Sustainable Finance
- Influence and Engagement
- Volunteering

Regional Engagement:
GAVO assumed the role of Third Sector representative for the regions it serves within the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) and its supporting structures. The Gwent PSB commenced operations on April 1, 2023, with a primary focus on advancing the Wellbeing agenda. GAVO has been actively working towards establishing a Gwent Third Sector Partnership agreement, fostering positive collaboration between PSB partners and the Third Sector.

Furthermore, GAVO maintained its presence at the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and its supporting bodies. The RPB holds a vital responsibility in overseeing the Welsh Government's Health and Social Care delivery agenda across the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) jurisdiction. GAVO continued its efforts to influence and engage with the board through dedicated updates, providing insights into the state of the sector, challenges, and successes. Notably, key partners recognised the importance of progressing toward a prevention agenda, which represents a significant opportunity for both GAVO and the sector as a whole. The CEO and Deputy CEO have already observed enhanced collaborative efforts, particularly concerning the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) within the RPB.

This summary underscores GAVO's dedication to supporting the Third Sector, both at the national and regional levels, while actively engaging with partners to advance the well-being of the communities it serves.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Blaenau Gwent

GAVO has taken the lead on Age Friendly Communities, with this initiative set to conclude on 31 March 2023. GAVO has also been actively engaged in discussions concerning the structure of upcoming Well-being Plan iterations, particularly in light of changes within the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) landscape.

Development

Funding remains a primary focus for Development within BG. Our Officer has played a pivotal role in the Blaenau Gwent Ukrainian Support Group and the Warm Hub Panel. Notably, Blaenau Gwent has been at the forefront of addressing these critical issues, particularly in welcoming numerous new Ukrainian families. Our Officer has also been instrumental in discussions related to the United Kingdom's Shared Prosperity Fund, aiding organisations in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities associated with available resources.most impactful for the sector.

Volunteering

During the year, GAVO introduced a new Volunteering Officer into the team, receiving a warm reception from both the GAVO Team and the communities we serve. Officers have forged new connections with organisations while maintaining strong relationships with existing groups. They have actively collaborated with the Department of Working Pensions (DWP) in BG to facilitate the integration of volunteers into employment. Notably, there has been a noticeable surge in young individuals signing up for Volunteering Wales. Officers have made Volunteering a focal point of events in BG, including Volunteering fairs held at colleges, Local Authority venues, and employment-related events, among others. Over the course of the year, there has been an increased interest in volunteering, with referrals coming from organisations such as Careers Wales, Disability Can Do, Aberbeeg Community Centre, and the Park Run Group. The successful distribution of the Cash 4 U grant in the area has fostered positive relationships. Officers have also established strong connections with local groups and councillors, benefiting events like Volunteer's Week and the GAVO awards, while raising awareness of initiatives such as the Cash 4 U grant.

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Project

In the past year, we appointed a new Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing Partnership Officer. This Officer has been instrumental in establishing links across the area, engaging with partners, ABUHB, and various other projects and groups. The Officer has been providing the sector with a weekly information update, highlighting sector activities and focusing on Health and Wellbeing services available in the area. These updates have proven invaluable to communities and organisations and have been further shared by General Practitioners. Collaboratively, our Officer has agreed to conduct a joint mapping exercise of BG with ABUHB Place Based Care/(Integrated Wellbeing Network (IWN) during the year, a valuable resource for prevention and individual support beyond the ABUHB scope. Our Officer has also met with Public Health and ABUHB to discuss new projects related to healthy living and introduced them to groups willing to engage in these discussions. This collaborative effort extends into Caerphilly and demonstrates the strength of working relationships between county partners. Moreover, our Officer has successfully distributed £11,000 in funding for third sector services to provide information sessions and £37,500 from the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) through the Regional Partnership Board. Our Officer has also engaged with Health and Economics experts at Swansea University to explore the benefits of Social Prescribing and develop a means of quantifying the monetary value of third sector services, a resource Health can use to demonstrate cost savings. Health Economics experts at the University are scheduled to visit Blaenau Gwent, to further explore this initiative and discuss how GAVO can effectively incorporate this approach into its work.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Communities 4 Work (C4W)

The C4W team has continued to provide employability support and remove barriers to employment for the people of BG. They have organised various events, including the Employability Find Your Future event held in partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the Department of Working and Pensions. This event aimed to encourage young people to engage with employers, resulting in over 50 employers attending and providing advice to 240 individuals. Taster sessions in construction for young people aged 16-25 have been successful, and C4W has actively organised training events for students to ensure they are well-informed about career pathways. The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) project within C4W has experienced an increased number of participants seeking advice and support, ultimately saving clients £19,115, which directly benefits those involved.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Caerphilly

GAVO continues to collaborate with the structures in Caerphilly, even as these structures undergo review due to the evolving landscape of the new Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) architecture. GAVO has taken the lead on Volunteering, with this initiative set to conclude on 31 March 2023.

Development

Over the past year, our Officers have provided ongoing support to organisations across the sector, offering guidance on funding, sustainability, and governance. Specific Organisational Development Workshops tailored to the Third Sector have been conducted, where our staff work closely with Directors, Trustees, or Committee Members to help identify and address issues within their community organisations. GAVO has actively supported organisations in acquiring key community assets, such as shops and pubs, as part of the Councils' Community Asset Transfer (CAT) plans. In addition, the Caerphilly team together with the Development Officers organised the first in-person One Beat Event in three years, followed by the Mega One Beat, both of which were well-received. The Third Sector bulletin remains a vital source of information for the sector, providing updates on Caerphilly's happenings and promoting valuable links with contact information. Staff have also established collaborations with Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil, showcasing effective practices and cooperation with other CVCs and overlapping organisations. Furthermore, our Officer authored a paper titled 'Toward a Psychosocial Model of Community Well-being Development: Realizing the Marmot Principle of Healthy and Sustainable Communities,' which has been circulated within GAVO, ABUHB, and WCVA. A short report titled 'Sustaining the Voluntary Sector in the Current Economic Climate: An Overview of GAVO Community Services' was also produced to to highlight GAVO's services and contributions to community well-being development. These efforts provide a valuable platform for GAVO staff to positively apply their experience and knowledge for the sector's benefit. Additionally, our Officers have supported the Caerphilly Cares staff team and the distribution of Welcoming Spaces funds.

Volunteering

Our staff have collaborated with their youth counterparts to participate in numerous College Wellbeing events, promoting Volunteering opportunities while assisting students in finding suitable options. These events serve as excellent opportunities to engage with partnering organisations. GAVO has also supported partners with their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, notably Caerphilly County Borough Council's Programme, which has facilitated the connection of 15 staff members with tasks such as painting raised beds, fencing, and preparing plots for Taraggan Educational Gardens. This collaboration between the Third Sector and the Private Sector is always a positive development. Our Officer has worked closely with Volunteering Matters to explore business engagement and foster collaborative efforts, with GAVO Volunteering offering insights into best practices and volunteering. The Volunteering Officer has also supported organisations seeking volunteers for food-related initiatives. Corporate social responsibility has been a primary focus, with our Officer working with Target Financial Services, to involve staff in various activities related to the food poverty agenda, establishing connections with local groups. Our Officer has also engaged with numerous organisations, all with a focus on Food Poverty, the outdoors, and Mental Health & Well-being, aligning with the work related to the Wellbeing Agenda and Marmot Principles. This collaborative approach permeates the Organisation and benefits the Sector as a whole. The Officer has also supported the Caerphilly Cares staff team and the distribution of Welcoming Spaces funds. This year's tree planting initiative involved 141 volunteers from Business, the Third Sector, ONS, BEIS, and local residents. GAVO staff from all departments actively participated to ensure the event's success.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Project

Our Officers continue to provide support to organisations focusing on Health and Social Care. During the year, our Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing Partnership Officer reignited Integrated Wellbeing Partnership meetings, crucial for bringing partners together to ensure collaborative efforts. These meetings involve GAVO, ABUHB, and various Caerphilly Council departments and have proven highly productive in fostering better relationships. In conjunction with the Integrated Wellbeing Networks and Dewis. Our staff have created a new Wellbeing initiative called Cwtsh, building on the success of Cwtsh activities. GAVO has also introduced information bursts to inform the community about local activities in their area, and work is underway on a strategy to promote community involvement in wellbeing under a unified Cwtsh brand. This brand will encompass activity guides, localised wellbeing sessions, monthly coffee mornings, and Wellbeing friends/volunteers. One of our key priorities has been Women's Health, where staff have collaborated closely with the Integrated Wellbeing Network (IWN) and Community Connectors to enhance support around women's health. Another significant development is the creation of the Accelerated Cluster Development (ACD), with our staff actively participating in discussions related to the new setup with Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCN) this month. Furthermore, GAVO staff organised a Caerphilly-wide Women's Wellbeing event in Risca Library, featuring support and advice organisations, workshops, activities, and live music. GAVO has been invited to organise a similar event for Men's health in 2024/25.

Early Language Programme

Our Early Language Programme has continued to provide support to families regarding early language development, funded by Families First in Caerphilly. During the year, the team secured funding from Families First underspend to extend Let's Splash sessions in leisure centre pools across the county borough, enabling families attending Let's Talk with your Baby courses to participate in two monthly pool sessions. These sessions have proven highly successful, with many families experiencing leisure centre pools with their babies for the first time. Additionally, the play in the parks session in Rhymney attracted over 130 children and adults in July. The Early Language project secured funding for additional first aid sessions for families, addressing concerns related to choking during weaning. Staff also attended and supported the PlaNet event in November, promoting the project's work and the key partner, the Parent Network.

Participatory Budgeting

In Quarter 3 of 2022/23, GAVO was tasked with leading Participatory Budgeting in the area. Progress has been made in collaboration with partners in Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Caerphilly County Borough Council, with plans to distribute funding in 2023/24, accompanied by Terms of Reference and the establishment of steering groups. Updates on the progress of this initiative will be provided in next year's Trustee Report.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Monmouthshire

GAVO continues to collaborate with our PSB partners within the Programme Board and PSB structure. This partnership is expected to continue even after the implementation of the Gwent PSB structure.

Development

Development support remains in high demand across the area, with a focus on financial sustainability and governance. Monmouthshire's sector stands out due to its vibrancy, with a strong emphasis on community engagement. GAVO Officers have played a pivotal role in supporting various new training opportunities developed as part of the online offering of Be Community Plus. This has significantly benefited the area, and the allocation of funding via GAVO has eased access to small equipment items, reducing barriers and expediting project progress throughout the year.

Volunteering

Our Volunteering Officers have been actively forming partnerships with community groups, the Local Authority, and numerous Third Sector organisations. Staff members have embraced the TogetherWORKS initiative, gaining insights into the community and its dynamics. The Cash4U youth-led fund has proven invaluable, enabling staff to reach a diverse range of projects and groups eager to involve youth in volunteering and participation. The latest Monmouth Community Action Network (CAN) event garnered an an impressive turnout, allowing Officers to connect with proactive community members. GAVO's social media presence continues to thrive, with high engagement levels observed throughout the year. Our Volunteering Officers have joined forces with Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) Be Community, Cwtch Angels, and the Melville Centre for the Arts to plan a training and networking day for volunteers, aptly named Workshop Wednesday for Volunteers. This event has fostered positive relationships among all involved. Staff conducted three short training sessions, providing attendees with the opportunity to select one course while also gathering valuable input on volunteer needs and how GAVO could offer enhanced support in the future. Hashtags like #Opportunityoftheweek and #TipTuesday have proven effective in expanding our reach on social media, a notable achievement for the Team. For the Volunteering Team, the delivery of the youth-led Cash4U fund celebrated the invaluable contributions of young people within the community. Additionally, our engagement with Job Centre Plus has resulted in GAVO establishing a monthly presence in Monmouthshire Job Centres. During the year, GAVO Officers were pleased to have their youth volunteer winner attend a Westminster Christmas carol concert as a guest of the Lord Lieutenant. Our Young Volunteer winner and parent had a truly memorable experience at the concert, attended by King Charles and various other members of the Royal family.

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Project

Our Officers have continued their support for organisations with a focus on Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing. A new staff member joined the area during the year. Staff members have actively participated in assessing applications for the 'You Decide' grants scheme in the Monmouth area. Our Officer has engaged with staff from Monmouthshire County Council's (MCC) 'My Day My Life' service, which supports people with learning disabilities, to discuss the benefits and challenges of community-based support. Our Officer encouraged a visit to Mencap Chepstow to witness the development of their centre, offering skills and training as part of a social model. Moreover, our Officer has collaborated with Gwent Police to learn about 'Spot The Signs' training aimed at addressing the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. A training session is scheduled with the Wellbeing Network in January to raise awareness. During the year, our H&SC Officer underwent training to become a mentor in 'Collaborative Communication' approaches, a valuable skill in supporting Wellbeing project staff. Our Officer also attended a DEEP (Developing Evidence Enriched Practice) session with Swansea University, representing the sector and providing input for a Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) inspection of Social Services. Furthermore, they worked with MCC Communities and Social Justice team to organise local cost of living summits, aimed at finding ways to assist people who are facing difficulties during this period.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Wellbeing Links

The Wellbeing Links Team has been active for a year, making concerted efforts to engage all General Practitioner (GP) surgeries in the county and raise awareness of potential patient benefits. Positive feedback from surgery staff and individuals who have benefited from the service has supported our evaluation and facilitated discussions with NCN leads, Primary Care, and MCC regarding future investment in the approach. The Monmouthshire Wellbeing Network continues to grow, with monthly meetings proving to be a valuable platform for support services in the county. It offers an opportunity for community-facing workers to connect with peers in similar roles and build relationships, improving communication between organisations and increasing engagement, as staff members know who to contact for information or referrals. The Wellbeing Links project has garnered positive feedback from ABUHB and MCC, generating interest from the wider Gwent area. The project continues to raise awareness among surgery staff to to reach individuals who may benefit, such as those struggling with stress, anxiety, or depression due to environmental factors like housing, finances, relationships, loneliness, etc.

Monmouthshire Carers

Our new Carers Officer commenced their role during the year, with a primary focus on engaging with carers and establishing contact with various support groups, charities, and Monmouthshire council contacts. These connections are expected to support both the Officer and, more importantly, the carers in the upcoming year. In support of Monmouthshire Carers, our Officer hosted two New Year's Luncheons at the Monmouthshire Golf Club on consecutive days. These events provided attendees with the opportunity to take a brief respite from their care giving responsibilities for a couple of hours, greatly benefiting them as individuals. The Newsletter continues to reach over 1000 carers, and the autumnal trip to Weston-Super-Mare successfully took place, receiving positive feedback.

Together Works Hub

TogetherWORKS has been a rewarding experience for staff, enabling them to immerse themselves in the community and gain valuable insights. Funding has been approved through the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)for two years. Staff hosted a successful open day at TogetherWORKS during Quarter 2, coinciding with the project's first anniversary. The celebrations were informative, positive, and offered an opportunity for GAVO staff to collaborate with new projects and visitors.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Newport
GAVO plays a crucial role in the Right Skills action area until 31st March 2023. Our active engagement within the PSB structures continues as we adapt to potential changes linked to the Gwent PSB.

Development
Our dedicated Development Officer provides ongoing support to numerous groups in Newport, focusing on governance, empowerment, and securing funding. Administering the Warm Hubs Grants and facilitating Participatory budgeting events across the region, GAVO proudly awarded over £300K to community groups. Our guidance has empowered these groups, enabling their growth. Notably, several charities and social enterprises, such as Newport Yemeni Community Association (NYCA) and the Newport Sisters Circle, have successfully secured medium to large grant funding from sources like the National Lottery Fund and the Welsh Government Community Facilities program.

We're actively involved in events such as the Digital development day, hosted in collaboration with CWMPAS under their Digital for the Third Sector Programme. Our Development Officer is a strong advocate for the well-being targets in the PSB consultation organised by Newport Council, underlining the significant role of GAVO and third sector providers in achieving these goals.

In a significant development, Newport hosted the first in-person Newport Third Sector Forum at the Neon, featuring speakers from organisations like the National Lottery Fund, Community Foundation Wales, and Citizens Advice Bureau Newport. Our Newport Officer has also contributed to our online presence by creating their first blog on the New GAVO website www.gavo.org.uk, along with experimenting with Microsoft Feedback forms and a walkthrough video explaining the Funding Wales Platform, which has garnered positive feedback.

Our engagement extends to meeting with Newport partners, Senedd Members, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and councillors, expanding our reach into harder-to-reach areas of Newport communities. We believe that engagement is essential, as highlighted during our community walk with Maindee Unlimited.

We've also supported POBL in overseeing the Pill Masterplan, reinforcing our commitment to Newport's development.

Volunteering
Throughout the year, our Volunteering Officers actively contributed to a local authority survey aimed at a focus group of 700 members of the public across Newport. This initiative provided valuable insights into people's perceptions of volunteering and their experiences, helping us better understand the motivations of volunteers and how to harness their skills effectively.

The Cash 4 U panels have resulted in funding for youth activities, while our continued collaboration with universities, such as the 'Experience Works' event at the University of South Wales, promotes the benefits of volunteering and available opportunities in Newport. We've also fostered partnerships between local LGBTQ+ communities in Newport and Media Academy Cymru, providing a safe and fun environment for LGBTQ+ community promotion and involvement.

Our community litter pick in March, in collaboration with Microsoft and Girl Guiding Newport, exemplified our dedication to community engagement. Additionally, our Officer has met with the Strategic Communications Lead at Newport City Council (NCC) to align our support and social media efforts with the Newport Volunteering team.

Building relationships remains a priority, and we've engaged with Business in The Community (BiTC) to explore innovative programmes targeting socially and economically deprived areas, a potential positive collaboration with a lasting impact.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Project

Our Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing Partnership Officer have played a pivotal role in populating the Integrated Medium Term Plan for ABUHB, incorporating the Marmot Principles, enhancing partnership working with GAVO. We've actively supported various events, including Dementia awareness events with Museum Wales, the EYST conference, planning the Armed Forces Day, and discussions with Diabetes UK about developing Live Well courses in Newport.

As the representative for GAVO at the Welsh Government (WG) steering group, our Officer has raised awareness about new easy read booklets on Continuing Healthcare and the Continuing Healthcare and Direct Payment working group, emphasising proposed changes to social care legislation and the Community Health Council (CHC) Framework. We've also contributed to the redesigning of the Older People's Pathway and Fraility, as well as discussions around the cost of living and winter pressures planning.

Our Officer has facilitated the collaboration between our Health and Social Care and Volunteering teams to develop training modules with Volunteering Matters to support organisations in upskilling volunteers, thus promoting synergy across GAVO.

Food Sustainability Project

Our Third Sector Food Sustainability Project Officer provides invaluable support, guidance, funding, and networking opportunities to food providers, distributors, and growers across Newport. Over the year, we've secured £100k of food grants and £44k of Warm Hubs funding, actively promoting and processing these grants for the benefit of our communities.

Feedback is crucial, and we've provided detailed feedback to grant applicants to ensure their bids meet required standards. A Third Sector Food Provider Network meeting was held, fostering promising links between network members and promoting collaboration. We aim to facilitate better communication between network groups through a chat app.

Our successful bid to WG for the Food Partnership fund ensures the continuation of the Newport Sustainable food activity, setting an example of best practice that could be replicated in other areas of Wales.

Parent Participation Project

Our Participation Officer, though no longer with GAVO, contributed significantly during the year. We initiated the pilot of the Classroom/Early Years versions of Circle of Security and engaged with Coleg Gwent about the new Additional Learning Needs Bill. Our Officer also collaborated with NCC to address the implications of the cost of living crisis and played a pivotal role in organising the Families Love Newport event.

A highlight was hosting a Newport-focused Infant Mental Health webinar, with excellent feedback from attendees. Although funding for this project has ended during 2023, the legacy and learning will continue to benefit GAVO.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Gwent Wide Projects

Education Programme for Patients (EPP)

EPP Cymru continues to offer self-management health and well-being courses and workshops for individuals living with health conditions or caring for someone with a health condition. Our team comprises individual volunteers with personal experience in health conditions, ensuring empathy and understanding.

Throughout the year, we've promoted our courses and interacted with various partners. Notably, we've engaged with organisations like Disability Can Do and Fibromyalgia UK. Additionally, we've met with United Welsh connect officers and Compassionate Communities officers, exploring opportunities for collaboration and course delivery.

Our national engagement has also been notable, with our staff attending national coordinators' meetings and supporting Cardiff coordinators with successful working models. We continue to receive direct referrals from General Practitioners, delivering a range of courses accessible via our online portals.

For more information about GAVO and our work, please refer to our 2022/23 Impact Report and visit our website at https:

Financial review

The Charity has a Finance Sub Committee, which meets monthly to review expenditure, income and to look at major items of expenditure or changes in funding. The Finance Sub Committee reports to the full Executive Committee which is responsible for making all policy decisions on financial matters.

GAVO will be working towards a new strategic plan covering 2022-2025 and GAVO finances moving forward will be a fundamental part of this document. Finance has been received for COVID recovery and for GAVO sustainability and utilisation of these Unrestricted Reserves will be targeted, focused and directed to support this recovery.

GAVO's sustainability is linked to this funding and will be utilised in line with the reserves policy in place.

Transactions and Financial position

The financial statements are set out on pages 23 to 43. These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Statement of Financial Activities shown on page 23 to the accounts discloses net incoming resources for the year of £682,644 (2022: net incoming £74,139).

The total reserves at the year end stand at £1,684,551 (2022: £1,001,907).

Financial review ***(continued)***

Reserves Policy
GAVO's policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves totalling at least 3 month's unrestricted expenditure. Reserves above this threshold would be used for long-term investment. An overall agreed level of reserves should be in the region of £650k which covers all known / perceived business risks on a rolling annual basis via the agreed quarterly reporting format.

As noted in the policy, the assessment of reserve levels is split as follows: -

Core Activities as £350k & Project Activities as £300k

Investment Policy
GAVO will be reviewing its investment strategy during 2023/24 to ensure GAVO is maximising its returns against its unrestricted reserves.

GAVO Senior Management Team and Trustees will look to set up a new committee to monitor these investments moving forward to ensure finances are protected, accessible and invested in appropriate ways for the business.

Involvement of Trustees and key Senior Managers in GAVO will ensure transparency with investments to become a standing item for the Executive Board.

Pension Deficit Recovery Fund
In prior years the charity adopted best accounting practice to recognise the net present value of its agreed additional contributions to the Trustee to eliminate the deficit on the multi-employer pension scheme as a separate reserve. During the year, it was decided to transfer this reserve to general unrestricted reserves of the charity on the basis that the provision for future contributions is no longer a material figure. Full details of the pension deficit are disclosed in notes 19 and 20 to the accounts.

Specific changes in fixed assets
All movements in fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the accounts.

Plans for future periods

In line with the organisation's Strategic Aims, GAVO will be maximising opportunities to deliver, influence and facilitate third sector engagement with the Welsh Government, Programme for Government, 'Taking Wales Forward 2021-26' and the TSSW Business PLan for 2022-27. Also, through its governance structures, GAVO will monitor its expenditure and develop income generation approaches which will have a synergy with GAVO's Mission and Strategic Aims.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 15 November 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Year ended 31 March 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

By enquiring with senior management and those charged with governance all areaS of risk identified were considered and any potential litigation or claim, if any, were noted.

- Ensuring by enquiry that there were no issues of non-compliance with laws and regulations relating to tax and compliance;

- By obtaining an understanding of the company's policies and procedures on compliance with laws and regulations, and with best accounting practice;

- Noting issues discussed with the Board and the Senior Management Team as this relates to risks faced by the company;

- Reviewing disclosures in the financial statements and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and

- Considering the effect on risk to the company of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's departure from the EU. In particular to note whether any such issues would affect the company's ability to continue to operate.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Rhodes BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Walter Hunter & Co Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

15 November 2023

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	**Total funds £**	2022 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	Total funds £
Income and endowments									
Charitable activities	**5**	1,059,093	3,332,331	2,695,617	1,695,807	**4,391,424**	3,683,411	–	3,683,411
Other trading activities	**6**	–	–	–	–	**–**	2,775	–	2,775
Investment income	**7**	7,327	–	7,327	–	**7,327**	137	–	137
Other income	**8**	88,789	–	88,789	–	**88,789**	–	–	–
Total income		1,155,209	3,332,331	2,791,733	1,695,807	**4,487,540**	3,686,323	–	3,686,323
Expenditure									
Expenditure on charitable activities	**9,10**	879,373	2,925,523	2,109,089	1,695,807	**3,804,896**	3,612,184	–	3,612,184
Total expenditure		879,373	2,925,523	2,109,089	1,695,807	**3,804,896**	3,612,184	–	3,612,184
Net income		275,836	406,808	682,644	–	**682,644**	74,139	–	74,139
Transfers between funds (Note 21(a))		175,617	(175,617)	–		**–**	–		–
Net movement in funds		451,453	231,191	682,644	–	**682,644**	74,139	–	74,139

The statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 27 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	**Total funds £**	2022 Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	Total funds £
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		1,001,907	–	1,001,907		**1,001,907**	927,768		927,768
Total funds carried forward		1,453,360	231,191	1,684,551	–	**1,684,551**	1,001,907	–	1,001,907

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

The charity has ceased the employment support activity, and this is shown above as a discontinued operation.

The statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 27 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets	**16**		**–**	350,000
Current assets				
Debtors	**17**	**740,608**		327,130
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,491,060**		1,314,084
		2,231,668		1,641,214
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**18**	**536,410**		972,511
Net current assets			**1,695,258**	668,703
Total assets less current liabilities			**1,695,258**	1,018,703
Provisions				
Pensions and similar obligations	**19**		**10,707**	16,796
Net assets			**1,684,551**	1,001,907
Funds of the charity				
Pension deficit recovery funds			**–**	(16,796)
Restricted funds			**231,191**	–
Unrestricted funds			**1,453,360**	1,018,703
Total charity funds	**21**		**1,684,551**	1,001,907

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 15 November 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash generated from operations	23	**(269,140)**	126,987
Interest received		**7,327**	137
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities		**(261,813)**	127,124
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets		**438,789**	–
Net cash from investing activities		**438,789**	–
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		**176,976**	127,124
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**1,314,084**	1,186,960
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		**1,491,060**	1,314,084

The notes on pages 27 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

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 Room 2, Beechwood House, 54 Beechwood Road, Newport, NP19 8AH.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

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

Unrestricted pension deficit recovery fund relates to the net present value of the liabilities payable, at present, as a result of the multi-employer pension deficit in which the charity participates.

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

There is no formal policy of transfer between funds or on the allocation of funds to designated funds other than described above.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All income is 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:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.

- 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 costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

- 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.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

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.

A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Items of less than £1,000 are not capitalised by the charity.

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:

Freehold property	-	4% per annum Straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum Straight line

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the entity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. Provisions are recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position and the amount of the provision as an expense.

Provisions are initially measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and subsequently reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the amount that would be required to settle the obligation. Any adjustments to the amounts previously recognised are recognised in income or expenditure unless the provision was originally recognised as part of the cost of an asset.

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.

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.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

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.

Pension schemes

The employees of the charity are members of one of two pension schemes as follows:

NOW Pensions Defined Contribution Scheme
This is a defined contribution plan. Contributions 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.

Pensions Trust Multi-Employer Defined Benefit Scheme
The charity participates in the Pension Trust scheme which is a multi-employer scheme providing benefits to some 950 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 and is limited by guarantee, each member having to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are still a member or within one year thereafter.

Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2023 is 543 (2022: 473).

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**
Welsh Government	–	1,650,330	**1,650,330**
WCVA	723,051	63,848	**786,899**
Local Authority Councils	59,388	608,905	**668,293**
Local Health Boards	25,000	792,883	**817,883**
Comic Relief	–	129,968	**129,968**
Other grants	5,602	86,397	**91,999**
Administration fees	246,052	–	**246,052**
	1,059,093	3,332,331	**4,391,424**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Welsh Government	–	1,617,181	1,617,181
WCVA	633,531	277,799	911,330
Local Authority Councils	75,131	231,678	306,809
Local Health Boards	–	545,550	545,550
Comic Relief	–	12,369	12,369
Other grants	–	7,275	7,275
Administration fees	282,897	–	282,897
	991,559	2,691,852	3,683,411

6. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Rental income	–	**–**	2,775	2,775

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Bank interest receivable	7,327	**7,327**	137	137

8. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	88,789	**88,789**	–	–

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension deficit recovery fund £	**Total Funds 2023 £**
Core activities	707,358	–	–	**707,358**
Regional Covid19 Support	–	–	–	**–**
Communities For Work	–	1,413,813	–	**1,413,813**
Children & Families	–	300,179	–	**300,179**
Care Projects	–	336,555	–	**336,555**
Transport	–	2,144	–	**2,144**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	466,867	–	**466,867**
Support costs	172,015	405,965	–	**577,980**
	879,373	2,925,523	–	**3,804,896**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension deficit recovery fund £	Total Funds 2022 £
Core activities	629,877	–	–	629,877
Regional Covid19 Support	91,203	–	–	91,203
Communities For Work	–	1,326,108	–	1,326,108
Children & Families	–	142,879	–	142,879
Care Projects	–	275,612	–	275,612
Transport	–	106,238	–	106,238
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	473,913	–	473,913
Support costs	251,205	367,102	(51,953)	566,354
	972,285	2,691,852	(51,953)	3,612,184

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding of activities £	Support costs £	**Total funds 2023 £**	Total fund 2022 £
Core activities	706,358	1,000	161,135	**868,493**	865,502
Pension Deficit Recovery	–	–	–	**–**	(51,953)
Regional Covid19 Support	–	–	–	**–**	101,283
Communities For Work	1,413,813	–	281,994	**1,695,807**	1,615,098
Children & Families	155,188	144,991	18,013	**318,192**	158,640
Care Projects	332,080	4,475	85,717	**422,272**	326,079
Transport	2,144	–	63	**2,207**	110,944
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	280	466,587	20,178	**487,045**	476,591
Governance costs	–	–	10,880	**10,880**	10,000
	2,609,863	617,053	577,980	**3,804,896**	3,612,184

11. Analysis of support costs

	Core activities £	Communities For Work £	Children & Families £	Care Projects £	Transport £	Grants to Voluntary Organisations £	Pension Deficit Recovery Fund £	**Total 2023 £**	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**–**	13,233
Premises	58,008	55,577	2,471	5,485	–	–	–	**121,541**	119,937
Communications and IT	25,391	33,885	990	5,374	–	–	–	**65,640**	56,910
General office	32,351	19,010	1,277	10,162	–	–	–	**62,800**	107,048
Finance costs	7,066	–	–	–	–	–	–	**7,066**	5,647
Governance costs	44,522	4,500	–	18,183	–	–	(6,089)	**61,116**	(6,927)
Insurance	2,422	4,500	900	1,640	–	–	–	**9,462**	9,580
Subscriptions	5,544	–	–	–	–	–	–	**5,544**	531
Training	2,800	8,387	690	–	–	–	–	**11,877**	22,341
Management charges	–	156,135	11,685	44,873	63	20,178	–	**232,934**	238,054
	178,104	281,994	18,013	85,717	63	20,178	(6,089)	**577,980**	566,354

12. Analysis of grants

	2023 £	2022 £
Grants to institutions		
Caerphilly Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Grants	**–**	37,310
GWIRVOL Youth Led Grants	**15,075**	10,600
Health & Social Care Facilitators Grants	**150,400**	–
Food Poverty Grants	**144,991**	–
Comic Relief Community Fund Grants	**122,010**	12,369
Caerphilly IWN Community Connections	**74,395**	–
Integrated Care Fund Small Grants	**–**	140,573
Voluntary Services Emergency Fund Grants	**–**	79,742
Winter Pressures Grants	**4,701**	147,369
Risk Assessment Grants	**–**	38,160
Community Transport Grants	**–**	72,095
Caerphilly Youth Support Grants	**–**	20,000
Other Small Grants	**18,563**	14,535
Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Hub Grants	**48,795**	–
Warm Hubs Small Grants	**38,123**	–
	617,053	572,753
Total grants	**617,053**	572,753

13. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**(88,789)**	–
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	**10,880**	10,000

14. Staff costs

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	**1,913,232**	1,939,576
Social security costs	**173,509**	178,949
Employer contributions to pension plans	**100,336**	104,404
	2,187,077	2,222,929

The average head count of employees during the year was 77 (2022: 80). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Number of administrative staff	**9**	8
Number of staff employed on charitable activities	**57**	62
	66	70

14. Staff costs *(continued)*

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

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £54,212 (2022:£52,055).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

Expenses totalling £447 (2022: £nil) were reimbursed to two trustees during the year in relation to travelling expenses.

Other than the above, no trustees or any persons connected with them have received any remuneration or expenses.

Funds belonging to the charity have been used for the purchase of insurance to protect the charity from loss arising from neglect or defaults of its trustees, employees or agents, or to indemnify its trustees, employees or agents, against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The indemnity insurance is included as part of the overall charity insurance premium and therefore is an unidentifiable cost.

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Motor vehicles £	**Total £**
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2022	464,000	25,240	**489,240**
Disposals	(464,000)	–	**(464,000)**
At 31 March 2023	–	25,240	**25,240**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	114,000	25,240	**139,240**
Disposals	(114,000)	–	**(114,000)**
At 31 March 2023	–	25,240	**25,240**
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2023	–	–	**–**
At 31 March 2022	350,000	–	350,000

17. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	**731,461**	321,697
Prepayments and accrued income	**8,650**	5,433
Other debtors	**497**	–
	740,608	327,130

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	**57,149**	41,342
Accruals and deferred income	**28,029**	69,468
Social security and other taxes	**42,766**	51,888
Grants received in advance (note 21)	**408,466**	809,813
	536,410	972,511

19. Provisions

	Pensions and similar obligations £
At 1 April 2022	16,796
Net effect of Income and Expenditure adjustments (note 20)	(6,089)
At 31 March 2023	**10,707**

20. 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 £100,336 (2022: £104,404).

The Pensions Trust Scheme
The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: **£3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)**

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2025: **£11,243,000 per annum (payable monthly)**

20. Pensions and other post retirement benefits *(continued)*

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

GAVO Position
Present Values of Provisions

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Present value of provision	**10,707**	16,796	68,749

Reconciliation of Opening & Closing Provisions

	2023	2022
	£	£
Provision as the start of the period	**16,796**	68,749
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	**316**	396
Deficit contribution paid	**(6,119)**	(17,397)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**(286)**	(386)
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	**-**	(34,566)
Provision at end of period	**10,707**	16,796

Income and Expenditure Impact

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest expense	**316**	396
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**(286)**	(386)
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	**(6,119)**	(17,397)
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	**Nil**	(34,566)
	(6,089)	(51,953)

Assumptions

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Rate of discount	**5.52**	2.35	0.66

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

21. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2023 £**
General unrestricted fund	722,980	1,155,209	(879,373)	454,544	**1,453,360**
Fixed Asset Fund - GAVO Head Office	278,927	–	–	(278,927)	**–**
Designated Fund - Covid19 Response	–	–	–	–	**–**
	1,001,907	1,155,209	(879,373)	175,617	**1,453,360**

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
General unrestricted fund	507,590	994,471	(871,002)	108,717	739,776
Fixed Asset Fund - GAVO Head Office	278,927	–	–	–	278,927
Designated Fund - Covid19 Response	210,000	–	(101,283)	(108,717)	–
	996,517	994,471	(972,285)	–	1,018,703

During the year, the reserve representing the net present value of the pension deficit contributions, £16,796, was transferred to the unrestricted reserves of the charity on the basis that the balance is not material. The net present value of the pension deficit contributions as at 31 March 2023 is £10,707.

21. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2023 £**
Communities for Work	–	1,695,807	(1,695,807)	–	**–**
Children & Families	–	318,192	(318,192)	–	**–**
Care Projects (Note (a))	–	597,889	(422,272)	(175,617)	**–**
Transport	–	2,207	(2,207)	–	**–**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Note (b))	–	718,236	(487,045)	–	**231,191**
	–	3,332,331	(2,925,523)	(175,617)	**231,191**

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Communities for Work	–	1,619,599	(1,619,599)	–	–
Children & Families	–	158,640	(158,640)	–	–
Care Projects	–	326,079	(326,079)	–	–
Transport	–	110,944	(110,944)	–	–
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	476,590	(476,590)	–	–
	–	2,691,852	(2,691,852)	–	–

(a) During the year the trustees undertook a review of the accounting methodology used to recognise grants in advance. As a result, balances totalling £175,617 were transferred from restricted reserves to unrestricted reserves. These related primarily to monies received in prior years which can now be utilised at the charity's discretion.

(b) A further sum of £231,191 has been reclassified from grants in advance to restricted reserves. This relates to Small Grants Scheme funds and better reflects the nature of the transactions.

21. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

The funds are held for the following purposes:

Communities 4 Work

GAVO is the Lead Delivery Body for Communities 4 Work in Blaenau Gwent. The programme is designed to remove barriers and aid the furthest from the labour market back to work and is one of the top performing programmes in Wales.

Children and Families

In Caerphilly, children and families are supported through the Early Language project, aimed at helping the development of speech and language throughout the borough and ensuring effective links with Flying Start and Families First.

Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Projects

GAVO employs Health and Social Care Facilitators funded by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to support the third sector to play an active role in the planning and delivery of health and social care services. The Education Programme for Patients Cymru, funded by Health, provides a range of award-winning self-management health and well-being courses and workshops for people living with health conditions, or for those who care for someone with a health condition. The Monmouthshire Carers Project provides information and support to more than 1,000 carers.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Service Level Agreement with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board / Regional Partnership Board for the distribution of Regional Integration Fund small grants to the Third Sector across all four regions as well as some additional funding for winter pressures. GAVO has also received the Voluntary Sector grants via Welsh Government through WCVA and Comic Relief with a purpose of supporting groups recovering from Covid closures and cost of living pressure on community buildings. A detailed analysis of the individual projects that are included within the above activities of the charity are shown in the Appendix to the accounts.

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension Deficit Recovery Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**
Tangible fixed assets	–	–	–	**–**
Current assets	1,592,011	639,657	–	**2,231,668**
Creditors less than 1 year	(127,944)	(408,466)	–	**(536,410)**
Provisions	(10,707)	–	–	**(10,707)**
Net assets	1,453,360	231,191	–	**1,684,551**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension Deficit Recovery Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	350,000	–	–	350,000
Current assets	831,401	809,813	–	1,641,214
Creditors less than 1 year	(162,698)	(809,813)	–	(972,511)
Provisions	–	–	(16,796)	(16,796)
Net assets	1,018,703	–	(16,796)	1,001,907

23. Cash generated from operations

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income	**682,644**	74,139
Adjustments for:		
Other interest receivable and similar income	**(7,327)**	(137)
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**(88,789)**	–
Accrued (income)/expenses	**(41,439)**	30,841
Changes in:		
Trade and other debtors	**(413,478)**	3,764
Trade and other creditors	**(394,662)**	70,333
Provisions and employee benefits	**(6,089)**	(51,953)
	(269,140)	126,987

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2022 £	Cash flows £	**At 31 Mar 2023 £**
Cash at bank and in hand	1,314,084	176,976	**1,491,060**

25. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	**16,801**	16,880
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**1,800**	2,618
	18,601	19,498

26. Limitation of auditors liability

By way of a board resolution the company has agreed to enter into a limited liability agreement with its auditors whereby their exposure to legal claims is limited to £50,000 per claim.

27. Related parties

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under FRS102 other than those already disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Appendix to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfer to Unrestricted Reserves	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK PLUS (EMPLOYABILITY)	-	859,654	(859,654)	-	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK P1	-	332,700	(332,700)	-	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK P3	-	189,811	(189,811)	-	-
COMMUNITY ANIMATOR PROJECT	-	10,912	(10,912)	-	-
COMMUNITIES ADDITIONAL	-	268,165	(268,165)	-	-
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROJECT	-	34,565	(34,565)	-	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK	-	1,695,807	(1,695,807)	-	-
FAMILIES FIRST NEWPORT	-	36,068	(36,068)	-	-
LITTLE VOICES	-	111,381	(111,381)	-	-
SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAMME	-	212,091	(182,434)	-	29,657
CHILDREN & FAMILIES	-	359,540	(329,883)	-	29,657
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE FACILITATORS	-	193,375	(123,101)	(70,274)	-
EXPERT PATIENT PROGRAMME	-	166,060	(81,866)	(84,194)	-
CARERS MONMOUTH	-	53,884	(32,735)	(21,149)	-
WELLBEING LINK OFFICERS PILOT	-	73,521	(73,521)	-	-
CALDICOT HUB PROJECT	-	88,189	(88,189)	-	-
VOLUNTEERING WALES STRATEGIC GRANT	-	11,169	(11,169)	-	-
CARE PROJECTS	-	586,198	(410,581)	(175,617)	-
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROJECT	-	2,207	(2,207)	-	-
TRANSPORT PROJECTS	-	2,207	(2,207)	-	-
CAERPHILLY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	-	31,790	-	-	31,790
WARM HUBS SMALL GRANTS	-	40,000	(38,123)	-	1,877
BLAENAU GWENT WELLBEING HUB	-	70,754	(48,795)	-	21,959
CAERPHILLY IWN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	-	84,500	(81,370)	-	3,130
BAHG INSTALLATION	-	10,000	(1,398)	-	8,602
MONMOUTH SMALL GRANTS	-	12,500	-	-	12,500
WINTER PRESSURES GRANT FUND	-	7,312	(7,312)	-	-
SMALL GRANTS FUND RIF	-	160,000	(160,000)	-	-
COMIC RELIEF	-	129,968	(122,010)	-	7,958
GWIRVOL YOUTH LED GRANT - PAN GWENT	-	56,536	(16,347)	-	40,189
LIGHTSOURCE	-	18,717	-	-	18,717
SOLAR ENERGY STATIC GRANTS	-	55,450	(1,190)	-	54,260
DARRAN VALLEY GRANTS	-	3,552	(3,000)	-	552
BUTE ENERGY	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	-	688,579	(487,045)	-	201,534
	-	**3,332,331**	**(2,925,523)**	**(175,617)**	**231,191**

GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1113558

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 5590517
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1113558

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

31 March 2022

WALTER HUNTER & CO LIMITED
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

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Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Foreword by the Chair Mr Edward Watts MBE DL

Welcome to the GAVO Annual Accounts for 2021/22. During the financial year 2021/22 Wales was slowly coming out of Covid pandemic restrictions. GAVO has seen how the sector has adapted to the 'new' way of working. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the GAVO Board, Staff and special thanks goes to the Third sector organisations, partners and community groups for your support over this period. GAVO continues to work in partnership with Statutory Sector and Private Sector, which has again been exemplary, allowing the third sector to adapt to different and new ways of working.

The GAVO Strategic Plan 2022-2025 was launched at the last GAVO AGM. The organisation is committed to working towards GAVO's Mission Statement, Aims and Values, ensuring that the third sector is supported.

GAVO now has a base in each of its regional areas - Blaenau Gwent (Innovation Centre, Ebbw Vale), Caerphilly (Cherry Tree House, Oakdale), Monmouthshire (Sessions House, Usk) and Newport (Beechwood House, Newport).

We continue to represent the Sector on a variety of Strategic meetings and currently is part of the Gwent Public Service Board. Information gathered at the Gwent PSB is passed through to each area via GAVO Forums, GAVO local committees and local partnership meetings, this ensures that the sector is regularly informed of priorities across Gwent.

GAVO continues to be part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW), Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and ensures that the four pillars (volunteering, sustainable funding, governance and engagement and influencing) are at the forefront of GAVO's working practices.

Moving into the next financial year, I know that the GAVO Board, the officers and partners will continue to support our communities.

Edward Watts MBE DL
Chair

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2022

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Charity registration number	1113558
Company registration number	5590517
Principal office and registered office	Room 2, Beechwood House 54 Beechwood Road Newport NP19 8AH

The trustees

Brigadier R Aitken CBE Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent	
Mr E Watts MBE DL	
Ms C Davy	
Mr R M Dutt	
Mr P S Farley	
Mr C L Hawker	
Mr D Jones OBE	
Mr A Lewis	(Resigned 18 March 2022)
Ms S Reader	
Mrs S Smith	(Resigned 1 July 2021)
Mrs J Steven	
Mrs C Williams	
Mr J Williams MBE JP	

Auditor	Walter Hunter & Co Limited Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 24 Bridge Street Newport South Wales NP20 4SF
Bankers	NatWest Bank plc High Street Newport NP20 4SE
Solicitors	Harding Evans Queens Chambers 2 North Street Newport NP20 1TE
HR Consultants	THS HR Services Ltd 160 Corporation Road Newport NP19 0WF

Structure, governance and management

Nature of the Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The Charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee; company registration number 5590517. Registered charity number 1113558.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are elected for three years with a third of the committee standing down each year, but eligible for re-election. The officers are elected for three years.

The policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Annual training is arranged for all Trustees, covering all aspects of voluntary sector regulations.

The name of the Chief Executive Officer and other senior staff members to whom day to day management of the charity was delegated during the 2020/21 year by the charity trustees

Chief Executive Officer	Stephen Tiley
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Alison Palmer

Full details of all members of staff can be found on GAVO's website www.gavowales.org.uk.

The organisational structure of the charity and how decisions are made

The charity is managed by a Board of Trustees elected by the membership of voluntary organisations. Financial and Policy decisions are made by the Trustees, where appropriate following recommendations by the senior staff and the sub-committees i.e. personnel and finance as and when necessary. The Board meets at least four times per annum.

The CEO has overall responsibility for the organisation. Senior Management Team meetings are held on a regular basis with the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and area managers to discuss management/organisational issues.

Membership of a wider network

GAVO is affiliated to the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and is an active member of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW).

Relationships between the charity and related parties, including its subsidiaries

GAVO works closely with the Welsh Government, WCVA, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council, the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Gwent.

Health and Social Care working relationships are ongoing with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the Social Care departments of Local Authorities.

GAVO has no subsidiary undertakings.

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks

GAVO's Risk Register provides a mechanism and framework for the management of risk within the organisation across the portfolio of GAVO activity and to inform decision making moving forward.

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Relationships with other Groups, Charities and Individuals
GAVO is a membership organisation. Membership is open to all relevant voluntary and community groups who operate in the area of benefit.
Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2022 473 (2021: 420).

Objectives and activities

A summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document
GAVO's role as a County Voluntary Council is set out in Welsh Government's Third Sector Scheme 2014 as:

- Enabling other Third Sector organisations to grow and develop;
- Supporting individual volunteers and collective voluntary action;
- Promoting good and safe governance across the Third Sector;
- Supporting Public Service design and delivery;
- Providing voice and representation for the wider sector; and
- Sharing good practice and innovation.

In addition to this Core Framework, GAVO has significant experience in developing and delivering projects and programmes through collaborative approaches, which are a response to identified unmet community need.

Summary of main aims, activities and achievement in relation to those purposes for the public benefit
GAVO represents the Third Sector at the Gwent Public Service Boards, representing the Third Sector for Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport. GAVO is the lead umbrella infrastructure body for the Third Sector in Gwent.

Our Third Sector Development Team provides advice and guidance on governance structures and policies for setting up new groups and organisations and on-going project development and funding sources.

Our Volunteering Team provides support, advice & guidance to help people start volunteering. The support offered includes 1-2-1 appointments access an extensive range of volunteering opportunities through www.volunteering-wales.net. Volunteering also provides support for organisations for example, if you work with Volunteers, then GAVO are here to support you with recruitment, management and retention of Volunteers, as well as policy advice, Volunteer Management training and access to our recognition schemes.

Our Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Team play a key role in promoting people's emotional, mental and physical health and wellbeing and supporting people to influence local services.

As outlined within the impact report, GAVO also provides support to Communities via various direct projects that are for Community and Public benefit.

Contribution made by volunteers
Volunteering is a cornerstone of the support that we provide as a County Voluntary Council. Volunteering is one of the 4 pillars of Third Sector Support Wales and is a vital support to our society.

GAVO is proud of the work it carries out supporting not only the individuals that want to or Volunteer but also the Organisations that depend on and need Volunteers to improve Community life and work in conjunction with our national and local Wellbeing aims.

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Public Benefit
The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charities aims and purposes and in planning future activities.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole

Introduction
During the year 2021/22, GAVO has reacted positively within a changing landscape with the main aim of ensuring we can provide that Third Sector support in the most targeted and efficient way. During the year, GAVO has implemented a restructure of the Organisation, with Teams restructuring from thematic teams to area teams, with all skill sets located in the areas of work, enabling quicker response to support requests, more targeted to regional issues. The move has been successful, and staff have been supportive of the change. The GAVO Impact report outlines a more detailed view of achievements alongside the key performance indicators worked towards. Below is an overview of some of the key pieces of work within each area.

Regional Picture

The Gwent PSB held its first meeting in September 2021, with all Regional Public Service Boards (PSB) now ceased having carried out their last meetings. There will be regional support in the form of "Local Delivery Groups" at which GAVO will continue to represent the third sector as well as at the Gwent PSB table and the focus for GAVO will now be overseeing and supporting the transitions into the Regional way of working. Even though GAVO continue to be the Lead on Age Friendly Communities in Blaenau Gwent, volunteering in Caerphilly, Active Citizenship in Monmouthshire and co-lead on Right Skills in Newport under the current Wellbeing Actions, GAVO will, as the next iteration of Wellbeing Actions come into play from April 2023, Co Lead with Gwent Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner the Cohesive Communities Action Plan. This will ensure the sector has a sound footing in the next Wellbeing Actions and plans. More importantly for the sector, GAVO SMT will start the work of producing the Gwent Third Sector Partnership Agreement for approval during 2023/24. The new Gwent Third Sector Partnership Agreement will be the Governing document for the Gwent PSB Board and their working and collaborative relationship with the sector for Gwent.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Blaenau Gwent

Community Development

The need for Development support has continued to grow within Blaenau Gwent, which has been challenging as many venues throughout the area remained closed at the years' outset due to COVID. The positive side to this as the year progressed, requests for Volunteers, links back in with community venues and organisations have increased indicating pandemic recovery. Within the area and through our Regional Strategic Lead Officer, GAVO is leading on the Wellbeing Plan's Age Friendly Communities Action and has supported partners during the year to communicate the vision for the action. There has been continued support by partners and the sector for GAVO to take this forward which has been a positive for the communities in Blaenau Gwent. During the year, our Officer has also been engaged in collaboration with VAMT (Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil), the County Voluntary Council (CVC) that covers Merthyr in providing a joint funding event for the benefit of both regions. With the Gwent PSB in mind, work will be be progressing to reintroduce the Blaenau Gwent Voluntary Sector Forum which will be directly linked to the new Gwent Governance arrangements around the Gwent PSB. It is important that the localism remains and work has been progressing during the year to ensure this will be at its most impactful for the sector.

Volunteering

Volunteers week was a big part of the GAVO calendar, with the organisation offering many opportunities for promotion and thanks for the great support given by our communities. Work continues to support Freshers Fayre's in Blaenau Gwent and this has been a real positive opportunity to re-engage with all ages of Volunteering and has been a real positive in terms of promotion of GAVO and services. During the year, we have conducted a Volunteering questionnaire and staff have disseminated the information from the volunteering questionnaire. The results have enabled the Volunteering Officers to formulate an effective strategy that can specifically target the needs of the community and has also given staff a useful way to establish new, productive relationships. During the year, an important piece of work across Gwent which has now started in Blaenau Gwent has been around Food Poverty and our Officers having been key in this work, linking with Local Community Centres and Tai Calon to provide support and advice to recruit Volunteers to help the growing issue. Our GAVO staff have also been working to develop a fully funded collaborative project between Volunteer Matters and the Local Authority around Loneliness and Isolation support and it has been agreed that funding will be granted to Volunteering Matters to continue and also expand upon the work they have been doing throughout the pandemic. There have also been positives in cross promotion between volunteering and the Blaenau Gwent Communities 4 Work (C4W) team and with Maximus which runs the probation service and which has led to good contacts and potential to support ex-offenders into volunteering.

Health and Social Care (H&SC)

During the year, our Health and Social Care Officer has been working closely with the befriending scheme in Blaenau Gwent run by Volunteering Matters (VM) which has been funded until September 2021. Relationships with providers and volunteers have continued to improve where staff have re-established connections with organisations. Our H&SC Officer has also been aiding recovery through meeting and focusing work with the Integrated Wellbeing Network Lead to map all Mental Health support services and pathways in Blaenau Gwent, a vital service as we leave the pandemic era. Links have been made with the new BG Carers Support Service and introducing them to partners. From a collaborative point of view, our Officer has also met a new staff member at Cyfannol Womens Aid who is running a Domestic Abuse Service based in Ebbw Vale. Our H&SC Officer has been working with ABUHB partners including planning how to increase uptake of cancer screening in BG in particular in relation to breast, cervical and bowel. Our staff have been heavily involved in focusing on a social media campaign to aid this important issue. They have also been linking with the area's Volunteer Officers and Transport Co-Ordinator to recruit volunteer drivers for the Transport to Health pilot scheme in Brynmawr, which has seen drivers contacted through the My Surgery App, through staff and partner networks and social media.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Our Health and Social Care Officer continues to work with ABUHB Public Health Team to promote and encourage uptake of the Connect 5 Mental Health Training Programme. It's been seen as an important task to ensure there are as many front-line workers across various roles and sectors trained as possible in order to raise awareness of Mental Health issues and where people can find further support.

Communities 4 Work

Communities 4 Work continues to support employment but will be faced with challenging times as GAVO has now been part of the first consultations in regards to its closure in 2023. Our C4W team has provided another year of positive delivery and outcomes with 469 engagements with 229 participants successfully being placed into employment. The Employability team have delivered a number of academies during the year, ranging from Care, Construction and Teaching. Specific training has been put together via meeting with Trusting Hands Care and Kier Construction.

The Delivery Manager continues to work with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Welsh Government and Department for Work and Pensions to understand the local footprint for employability in Blaenau Gwent once European support is withdrawn.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Caerphilly

Community Development

For Third Sector development, group enquiries for funding, auditing and legal advice have continued to increase as more restrictions are lifted and the community have been proactive in looking to resume activities. It's been highly positive to see funding being agreed for specific centres across the borough to expand, which shows confidence in recovery and will be vital for communities, our help in supporting these have been vital. As with all Development staff, the Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund has been launched with impressive returns. Our development staff have been working with the Gwent PSB Engagement sub-group with the view of ensuring a position for the sector in these supporting structures and feedback to sector opportunities. Preliminary results for the Gwent Wellbeing Assessment have highlighted some potential areas for focussed engagement work and sign posting, particularly around facilities and activities for young people and those over fifty. As such, our Officer has engaged with third sector organisations providing facilities and activities for these groups, such as community centres and religious venues. During the year, the Winter Pressures Fund has been fully allocated and 15 groups were awarded funding. During the year, GAVO has continued to run the Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Forum and Voluntary Sector Representatives and play a key role in Voluntary Sector Liaison meetings which have had good representation and importantly, Public Service Board (PSB) influence.

Volunteering

Volunteering continues to be prominent in Caerphilly many new opportunities surfacing and volunteers receiving many recognition award certificates for hours completed during the year. Staff have been supporting Cash4U funded projects which ensure a great opportunity for collaboration with Youth related projects across the area. Social media is still a key source in Caerphilly with staff raising awareness of Volunteering via email/Facebook for associated providers, provided updates and new engagement opportunities, funding, training, and 4 weekly registration updates. GAVO Youth Volunteering in Caerphilly is improving with staff supporting the £20,000 Caerphilly County Borough Council/GAVO Youth focused grant, advertised to existing organisations in a position to pilot wellbeing activities for young people. During the year our officer has made links with the probation service as they are looking at utilising us to place some ex-offenders in Volunteering opportunities and GAVO have been providing support and access to Volunteering Wales support. The joint working post with Caerphilly County Borough Council, the Buddy Scheme Volunteer Co-Ordinator has been working to provide Volunteering opportunities on Volunteering Wales easy and accessible to Caerphilly County Borough staff. This has helped improve links with the Local Authority and its Corporate Social responsibility opportunities. GAVO staff have been instrumental in a Volunteer led Tree Planting project with 5,000 shrubs being planted, situated at Ynys Hywel Farm to convert grass land to woodland. The First Minister attended in March and was seen as a great success for the area. Staff have been involved in the Chatty Cafe Rhymney, carrying out focused activities and volunteering events to increase recruitment and engagement.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Health and Social Care (H&SC)

H&SC have continued to support organisations and have been active in working with partners across the region. Our Officer has been working closely with the Integrated Wellbeing Networks (IWN) as well as looking at opportunities within the region for example the work with Royal Park in Rhymney. The work around the park has been a real collaborative effort by all partners with a view to come together to plan and hold a community event in Rhymney Park, working in partnership to improve the Park for the benefit of the community. Our Health and Social Care Officer has been involved in the return of the Wellbeing Friends Coffee Morning, which restarted early in the year and has been positive in providing COVID guidance updates, discussions around the booster vaccination programme and discussions on the wellbeing friends going forward. In partnership with the IWN and others, our staff member has been integral in supporting the planning of the Risca wellbeing week with the idea to showcase what already happens on a weekly basis in Risca, and also host a number of taster sessions to engage with local people and families. Collaboration within GAVO has been evident with our Officer and GAVO's Gwent Transport Co-Ordinator meeting Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN) Leads to discuss support for patients accessing medical appointments with the NCN's taking this seriously and committing NCN finances towards a transport scheme, particularly around the COVID booster. Our Officer has also been involved in the initial meeting for Creative Prescribing which was held at the end of the year. Following the success of last year's Nature Prescribing pilot, IWN and representatives from CCBC's Arts Development chaired this meeting to bring together third sector, arts and creative groups to gauge interest.

Little Voices/Tiny Talkers

The Little Voices project continues to provide support in respect of speech and language to families and children across Caerphilly. The Little Voices project was successful in receiving funding through underspend in Families First and from this they have been able to purchase resources to support the key messages of Early Language support at home and to provide booklets to support the delivery of the online Let's Talk to Your Baby course, which commenced in quarter 2 of 2021/22. For our Little Voices / Tiny Talkers Project, the first Let's Talk with Your Baby (pilot) group was completed at the end of August and in September the Early Language Officers met with the parents and babies to gather constructive feedback. Babble Bags have been provided to families with a view of supporting continued language development at home. The project Facebook page continues to grow and has now reached over 700 followers with staff creating new posts and videos to support speech and language for pre-school children. In relation to the Voices Programmes, they began the online delivery of two new Let's Talk with Your Family courses during the year with more families with babies and spreading the early language key messages across the borough. Staff continue to support individual families with bespoke support for early language and are working in partnership with other Early Years services in Health and the Local Authority.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Monmouthshire

Community Development

GAVO continues to work with our PSB partners in the structure of the Programme Board and PSB, with a view of continuing our progression with the Active Citizenship Action area. GAVO's Development Manager has been working with the partnership developing the Caldicot Hub, a community positive in bringing people together. Relationships with partners in Chepstow and local groups also continue to grow with enquiries increasing with GAVO recording increasing diversity of enquiries. Funding work has also been intense in respect of ICF and VSRF in Monmouthshire, with funding applications being readied for panel. GAVO staff have been leading on the Community Support Networks which are encouraging new people to engage locally, and dovetails perfectly into regional development work. During the year, our Development Officers have been key in administering and supporting both the WCVA Strategic Projects Fund (approximately £42k) and Community Renewal Fund (approximately £82k) to deliver Community Hubs in in Monmouthshire. GAVO has been heavily involved with the new Community hubs in Monmouthshire and is making many new local linkages to aid this.

Volunteering

Our new officers are continuing to develop their knowledge of volunteering and have been gathering resources to ensure that they are able to support volunteers and organisations to the continued high standards within Monmouthshire. Support continues within Monmouthshire to provide positive volunteering opportunities through Volunteering Wales. Due to demand, our staff in Monmouthshire have developed a greater use of GAVO's Volunteering Facebook page for the area. Engagement has increased by 2500%, page likes by 175% and people reached 2704% increase. The key successes have been #TipTuesday and #Opportunity of the week, which following on from piloting in Monmouthshire have now been implemented as working practice across the other regions. Our Officers have been heavily involved in the Community Support Networks working closely with Monmouthshire County Council in connecting with community members. Officers have also been linking with other partners, notably Aneurin University Health Board on the Diverse Communities Health Forum, working together with other organisations to create an event that is going to encourage people from all communities to attend and receive health checks and important health messages. Work has progressed and been positive with our involvement in working with Community Champions across Monmouthshire. These community champions are Volunteers who are trained to give guidance to the people of Monmouthshire on what's happening in their community, also on occasions also having the knowledge to divert to specialist services. Our Officers have worked closely with the rest of the Monmouthshire Team to tackle digital inclusion, with staff attending meetings and learning about the process of setting up a digital inclusion network aimed at finding out the needs of the community and putting in place support. The Community Support Networks hosted by Officers in Caldicot and Chepstow have been a success and have given staff a real insight into the priorities of the community. Staff have also been key in setting up and supporting events, one being with Girlguiding Gwent with the event aimed at giving visitors an idea of the role that volunteers do, and to hopefully encourage some people to sign up to become a volunteer with the organisation.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Health and Social Care (H&SC)

Our H&SC Officer has also been working with partners on COVID recovery plans and been assisting with designing a monitoring process for feedback to Regional Partnership Board Transformation fund, which will allow for improved involvement of the sector. The collaboration with Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCN's) and MCC to pilot Community Wellbeing Link workers has commenced with the 6 months pilot funded from Transition monies via MCC. GAVO is hosting the 2 posts who have been building relationships with GP practices and meeting people who may benefit from support in the community or voluntary sector. These Officers have been involved with groups looking at tackling poverty, inequality and digital inclusion and assisting in developing awareness campaigns for wellbeing and mental health support and cascading information out to a wide network with recruitment underway. The new Community Link workers are an excellent addition to the Team and will add to GAVOs role in Abergavenny and the south of the County. Our H&SC Officer has been building relationships with the Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners who are based in GP surgeries and linking with the Primary Care analyst and the MCC Wellbeing team to avoid duplication and to work together to evidence impacts. Our GAVO staff member has also inputted into an Active Citizenship and Volunteering strategy for Monmouthshire and represented GAVO on partnership groups concerned with ageing well, poverty and inequality.

Monmouthshire Carers Project

Our Monmouthshire Carers Officer has been focused on Carers events which have gradually resumed following COVID. During the year, carers have been offered a free £10 voucher to be spent at various outlets within Monmouthshire and Ex-carers have also been recognised especially during this difficult time and have been given a free £60 voucher in appreciation of their caring role. The Carers Officer engaged with over 1,000 carers to promote a Christmas Luncheon in November and December 2021, which was well received and well attended. Working in partnership, our Officer has also been involved in intergenerational events which were be organised for young and adult carers and hosted in Gilwern Outdoor Pursuits Centre, which was a great collaboration opportunity. Partnership working with MCC area leads continues to grow, working with partners on the hub initiative and the food poverty programme in the Chepstow area. During the year, our long-standing Monmouthshire Carers staff member retired, a new Carers Officer has been appointed with full details of their work and contacts available on the GAVO Website.

Together Works Hub

Partnership working with Monmouthshire County Councils (MCC) has been key in working on a hub initiative and with the food poverty programme in the Chepstow area. The new TogetherWORKS hub in Caldicot is open, providing even more scope for new initiatives and projects in the area. For our Development Staff, work is underway to support the TogetherWORKS Hub alongside two members of staff who have been appointed, a consultant to oversee the paperwork and reporting on the project and a hub coordinator to to help drive forward new initiatives and deliver project impacts.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Newport

Community Development

GAVO is the joint lead on the Right Skills action area and through progressive discussion, the action area has split into pieces of focused work streams with GAVO leading on identifying lead community groups with a view to surveying opinion on and promoting Adult Community Learning to employees and wider. Engagement has been a focus of the Regional Strategic Lead Officer, with COVID response being a main focus. Our Development Officer has been actively engaging with the communities they will be supporting, collaborating with partners, and starting to support groups with funding and governance advice, with positive feedback. Our new Officer is also looking into ideas of how to incorporate asset mapping and asset-based development with strength-based approaches for Groups in the new/renewed Newport Networks and during the year, the Newport Network Forum has restarted with many new and older participants. Our Officer has been engaging with community partners in Pill, attending Wednesday walks with partner organisations. These walks have helped make connections including Pill Mill Centre, NCC staff and Gwent Police. Community visits to Ringland and Maindee have helped engage with a wide variety of groups, board directors, individuals, and partner organisations during the quarter. All these opportunities have started to help build bridges between different organisations which has seen so many positive impacts for Newport.

Volunteering

Our Newport Volunteering Officers have had many links with the Youth Council, focusing on the Youth Led Grants and have had real positive engagement with Newport City Council (NCC) who are keen to assist with the preparation of processes for next funding cycle 21/22. A key focus has been integration with existing groups, and this has progressed well over the year with many new and old links in place. Our Officers have been active at a Newport based Freshers events which both provided great engagement opportunities with around many young people aged 14-25 years, registering their details with us for follow up information, support, and guidance. Our Volunteering Officer has secured a partnership with University of Wales Civic Engagement Scheme, designed to encourage students to engage and volunteer in the communities in which they are studying. This pilot project allows GAVO to promote appropriate volunteering opportunities on the USW Careers Connect platform with the potential of placing more Newport students as a result of the scheme. Staff have been collaborating with other CVC's through a meeting, organised by Swansea CVS, to share best practice around their City of Sanctuary projects (CoS). These opportunities have been carefully selected to ensure they are accessible to students in terms of location and flexibility of the role around their studying. GAVO staff have been invited to return to speak to another Occupational Therapy Recovery Through Activity user group about access to and the benefits of Volunteering.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Health and Social Care (H&SC)

Our Health and Social Care Officer has continued to support the progress of FoodCycle UK initiative for Newport, engaging GAVO's Volunteering Officer to support FoodCycle with recruiting Volunteers for the Community Food Project. Our Regional Strategic Lead Officer has been involved in key discussions with Newport County Council (NCC) regarding Food Poverty initiatives. Partnership working with ABUHB is also progressing around developing services e.g. bereavement support, mental health, wound care (establishing Lindsay Leg Club for Newport). Staff have also initiated discussions on developing third sector support to GP practices and third sector support for patients who are currently waiting for treatment, discussing a funded role to actively manage referrals to third sector support while people are waiting due to the COVID backlog. Our Officer has put forward proposals to the NCN's to develop 2 posts to support the Multi-Disciplinary Team and Virtual Ward model to assist with effectively engaging the relevant third sector services to support patients on discharge from hospital. These posts will be a key element of the model for delivery moving forward and will also help to map gaps and provide support for commissioning services based on need and unmet need. A key issue in Newport is around digital exclusion and our Officer has been actively contributing to the Newport Digital Inclusion steering group collaborating on informing the digital inclusion strategy with specific focus on including people with disabilities, sensory impairment and those with cognitive impairment.

Newport Parenting Project

Our Newport Participation Officer has been busy linking to the work of the Bettws Early Learning Centre and has become a lead on the Community Action and Inclusion group, planning Community Engagement Activities in Bettws. The group has also worked alongside the Green and Safe Spaces to Play work-stream, Building Blocks meetings and with Save the Children to update them along with GAVO Management as to where the project is and have discussed the Innovation Funding that could support this project. During the year, our Officer began new Circle of Security (CoS) Groups with Barnardos and this has continued throughout the year. Our Officer has also focused providing these opportunities specifically targeting men during the year after monitoring data and analytics on the audience participating in these early in the year. Our Officer has also attended a reflective practice session and agreed to try to encourage more COS facilitators to attend. Our Officer attended an Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership meeting and spoke to the meeting about issues around mental health emerging after the last lockdown period and the drive to change the access for Adult Mental Health resources especially where there are children living in the household.

Food Poverty Project

During the year, GAVO appointed a Food Poverty Officer, funded by Newport City Council. The Officer has met with a number of groups offering food to clients and many community growing projects. Among these were a number of BAME groups and organisations who were able to advise on the additional barriers that exist to ethnic minorities when it comes to accessing emergency food support services.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Pan-Gwent Projects

Education Programme for Patients (EPP)

The EPP has continued to provide online training opportunities across the Borough, with in person training commencing towards the end of the financial year. The EPP team has met the new Health Minister Eluned Morgan at the Velodrome Newport in June which showcased the work GAVO had done with the new Long COVID course. The GAVO team were congratulated by the Health Minister on the success of the EPP programme and the versatility of the NHS working with third partner agencies, even being mentioned later when interviewed by the BBC. During the year, EPP created a new and exciting EPP Film, with the film being centred around courses offered and referral pathways across Gwent. Over the lockdown, EPP in GAVO recorded 80+ courses, the most online courses available across Wales. EPP have had the opportunity to present to new psychological wellbeing practitioners in for October as there are new staff coming into post each month and they differ in work from the Primary mental health team referrals. Our Officer carried out a presentation to the practitioners in the surgeries on the successes of EPP. During the quarter, the project has had some positive praise from Primary mental health teams which really evidences the impacts of the project. Staff have carried out a combined presentation to ABUHB as part of the end of year review and following this, staff received overwhelming support from ABUHB staff on our accomplishments during the pandemic. Due to the accomplishments of the team, GAVO has been funded for extra days going forward to support the local General Practitioners with courses. Courses will continue throughout the year 2022/23, with details of these courses available on the GAVO website.

Transport to Health Programme (T2H)

During the year, GAVO implemented the Programme with funding from ABUHB. The early months were focused on gaining an understanding of the current situation regarding Community Transport (CT) across the areas and building a picture of the whole ABUHB footprint. Our Officer was active in contacting local AMs and MPs to discuss issues with transport to health raised by their constituents which was negative in terms of CT but positive in terms of interaction. Our Officer created a Directory of Transport Services which has been circulated to all hospital wards and health centres in ABUHB and to all existing Community Transport schemes. Circa £70k in grants have been distributed throughout the year, with our Officer now working with these projects on their monitoring and evaluation in order to report back to ABUHB. Funding for this post is to continue within Bridges with GAVO links to be maintained.

For more information on the work of GAVO, please see our Impact Report for 2021/22 and visit the GAVO website.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Achievements against set objectives

	Total	Annual target	GAVO potential performance
Number of interactions with organisations to support with direct advice	2,367	477	1,760
Number of organisations with funding bids supported by GAVO	119	159	89
Number of organisations with funding awarded by GAVO	124	95	98
Individuals supported with volunteering	1,432	317	978
Individuals placed into volunteering	387	159	348
Funding awarded by GAVO	£288,305	£1,587,240	–
Organisations with funding supported by GVAO	£1,790,965	£793,620	–

Financial review

The Charity has a Finance Sub Committee, which meets monthly to review expenditure, income and to look at major items of expenditure or changes in funding. The Finance Sub Committee reports to the full Executive Committee which is responsible for making all policy decisions on financial matters.

GAVO will be working towards a new strategic plan covering 2022-2025 and GAVO finances moving forward will be a fundamental part of this document. Finance has been received for COVID recovery and for GAVO sustainability and utilisation of these Unrestricted Reserves will be targeted, focused and directed to support this recovery.

GAVO's sustainability is linked to this funding and will be utilised in line with the reserves policy in place.

Transactions and Financial position

The financial statements are set out on pages 23 to 45. These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Statement of Financial Activities shown on page 23 to the accounts discloses net incoming resources for the year, before unrealised gains on revaluation of fixed assets, of £74,139 (2021: net incoming £635,731).

The total reserves at the year end stand at £1,101,907 (2021: £927,768).

Financial review ***(continued)***

Reserves Policy
GAVO's policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves totalling at least 3 month's unrestricted expenditure. Reserves above this threshold would be used for long-term investment. An overall agreed level of reserves should be in the region of £650k which covers all known / perceived business risks on a rolling annual basis via the agreed quarterly reporting format.

As noted in the policy, the assessment of reserve levels is split as follows: -

Core Activities as £350k & Project Activities as £300k

Pension Deficit Recovery Fund
The charity has adopted best accounting practice to recognise the net present value of its agreed additional contributions to the Trustee to eliminate the deficit on the multi-employer pension scheme. Full details are disclosed in notes 20 and 21 to the accounts.

Specific changes in fixed assets
All movements in fixed assets are shown in note 17 to the accounts.

The freehold property owned by the charity, and formerly used as its head office, had been revalued on 31 March 2020. The valuation was undertaken by C Jones MRICS of Savills (UK) Limited, Chartered Surveyors. On an existing use basis the fair value of the property was £350,000. The property was sold on 18 July 2022 for £450,000 less costs. The Board have taken the decision not to revalue the property as at 31 March 2022 but recognise the gain, when realised, in 2022/23.

Plans for future periods

In line with the organisation's Strategic Aims, GAVO will be maximising opportunities to deliver, influence and facilitate third sector engagement with the Welsh Government, Programme for Government, 'Taking Wales Forward 2021-26' and the TSSW Business Plan for 2022-27. Also, through its governance structures, GAVO will monitor its expenditure and develop income generation approaches which will have a synergy with GAVO's Mission and Strategic Aims.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 16 November 2022 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Mr D Jones OBE
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Year ended 31 March 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

By enquiring with senior management and those charged with governance all areaS of risk identified were considered and any potential litigation or claim, if any, were noted.

- Ensuring by enquiry that there were no issues of non-compliance with laws and regulations relating to tax and compliance;

- By obtaining an understanding of the company's policies and procedures on compliance with laws and regulations, and with best accounting practice;

- Noting issues discussed with the Board and the Senior Management Team as this relates to risks faced by the company;

- Reviewing disclosures in the financial statements and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and

- Considering the effect on risk to the company of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's departure from the EU. In particular to note whether any such issues would affect the company's ability to continue to operate.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Rhodes BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Walter Hunter & Co Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

16 November 2022

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Pension deficit recovery funds £	2022 **Total funds** £	2021 Total funds £
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies	**5**	–	–	–	**–**	5,056
Charitable activities	**6**	991,559	2,691,852	–	**3,683,411**	3,845,363
Other trading activities	**7**	2,775	–	–	**2,775**	12,035
Investment income	**8**	137	–	–	**137**	284
Other income	**9**	–	–	–	**–**	800
Total income		994,471	2,691,852	–	**3,686,323**	3,863,538
Expenditure						
Expenditure on charitable activities	**10,11**	972,285	2,691,852	(51,953)	**3,612,184**	3,227,807
Total expenditure		972,285	2,691,852	(51,953)	**3,612,184**	3,227,807
Net income and net movement in funds		22,186	–	51,953	**74,139**	635,731
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		996,517	–	(68,749)	**927,768**	292,037
Total funds carried forward		1,018,703	–	(16,796)	**1,001,907**	927,768

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. Funding for Communities for Work will end in the Summer of 2023 when European support is withdrawn. The charity continues to work with outside agencies to establish how this funding will be replaced.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	£	2021 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets	**17**		**350,000**	350,000
Current assets				
Debtors	**18**	**327,130**		330,894
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,314,084**		1,186,960
		1,641,214		1,517,854
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**19**	**972,511**		871,337
Net current assets			**668,703**	646,517
Total assets less current liabilities			**1,018,703**	996,517
Provisions				
Pensions and similar obligations	**20**		**16,796**	68,749
Net assets			**1,001,907**	927,768
Funds of the charity				
Pension deficit recovery funds			**(16,796)**	(68,749)
Unrestricted funds			**1,018,703**	996,517
Total charity funds	**22**		**1,001,907**	927,768

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 16 November 2022, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Mr D Jones OBE
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash generated from operations	24	**126,987**	912,282
Interest received		**137**	284
Net cash from operating activities		**127,124**	912,566
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets		**–**	800
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities		**–**	800
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		**127,124**	913,366
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		**1,186,960**	273,594
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		**1,314,084**	1,186,960

The notes on pages 26 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

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 Room 2, Beechwood House, 54 Beechwood Road, Newport, NP19 8AH.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

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

Unrestricted pension deficit recovery fund relates to the net present value of the liabilities payable, at present, as a result of the multi-employer pension deficit in which the charity participates.

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

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Fund accounting *(continued)*

There is no formal policy of transfer between funds or on the allocation of funds to designated funds other than described above.

Incoming resources

All income is 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:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.

- 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 costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

- 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.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line 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.

A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Items of less than £1,000 are not capitalised by the charity.

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:

Freehold property	-	4% per annum Straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum Straight line

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the entity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. Provisions are recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position and the amount of the provision as an expense.

Provisions are initially measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and subsequently reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the amount that would be required to settle the obligation. Any adjustments to the amounts previously recognised are recognised in income or expenditure unless the provision was originally recognised as part of the cost of an asset.

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.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

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.

Pension schemes

The employees of the charity are members of one of two pension schemes as follows:

NOW Pensions Defined Contribution Scheme

This is a defined contribution plan. Contributions 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.

Pensions Trust Multi-Employer Defined Benefit Scheme

The charity participates in the Pension Trust scheme which is a multi-employer scheme providing benefits to some 950 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 and is limited by guarantee, certain members, who are also directors of the charity, having to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are still a member or within one year thereafter.

Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2022 is 473 (2021: 420).

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**
Donations			
Public & Community Council donations	–	–	**–**
Dial-a-Ride donations	–	–	**–**
	–	–	**–**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations			
Public & Community Council donations	407	4,569	4,976
Dial-a-Ride donations	–	80	80
	407	4,649	5,056

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**
Welsh Government	–	1,617,181	**1,617,181**
WCVA	633,531	277,799	**911,330**
Local Authority Councils	75,131	231,678	**306,809**
Local Health Boards	–	545,550	**545,550**
Comic Relief	–	12,369	**12,369**
Other grants	–	7,275	**7,275**
Administration fees	282,897	–	**282,897**
Exceptional income from charitable activities	–	–	**–**
	991,559	2,691,852	**3,683,411**

6. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Welsh Government	–	1,476,551	1,476,551
WCVA	498,684	49,155	547,839
Local Authority Councils	74,347	290,748	365,095
Local Health Boards	–	449,852	449,852
Comic Relief	–	8,306	8,306
Other grants	(1,885)	39,026	37,141
Administration fees	240,512	–	240,512
Exceptional income from charitable activities	613,703	106,364	720,067
	1,425,361	2,420,002	3,845,363

In the prior year, exceptional income from charitable activities relates to Covid19 grants provided by WCVA and Comic Relief to enable the charity to support the third sector following the Covid19 pandemic.

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**
Rental income	2,775	–	**2,775**
Other sundry income	–	–	**–**
	2,775	–	**2,775**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Rental income	7,087	–	7,087
Other sundry income	588	4,360	4,948
	7,675	4,360	12,035

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Bank interest receivable	137	**137**	284	284

9. Other income

	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	–	**–**	800	800

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension Deficit Recovery Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**
Core activities	629,877	–	–	**629,877**
Regional Covid19 Support	91,203	–	–	**91,203**
Communities For Work	–	1,326,108	–	**1,326,108**
Children & Families	–	142,879	–	**142,879**
Care Projects	–	275,612	–	**275,612**
Transport	–	106,238	–	**106,238**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	473,913	–	**473,913**
Support costs	251,205	367,102	(51,953)	**566,354**
	972,285	2,691,852	(51,953)	**3,612,184**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension Deficit Recovery Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Core activities	575,768	–	–	575,768
Regional Covid19 Support	35,583	–	–	35,583
Communities For Work	–	1,148,764	–	1,148,764
Children & Families	–	174,838	–	174,838
Care Projects	–	233,772	–	233,772
Transport	–	1,862	–	1,862
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	493,482	–	493,482
Support costs	199,354	377,093	(12,709)	563,738
	810,705	2,429,811	(12,709)	3,227,807

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	**Total funds 2022**	Total fund 2021
	£	£	£	**£**	£
Core activities	625,377	4,500	235,625	**865,502**	758,804
Pension Deficit Recovery	–	–	(51,953)	**(51,953)**	(12,709)
Regional Covid19 Support	90,703	500	10,080	**101,283**	42,301
Communities For Work	1,326,108	–	288,990	**1,615,098**	1,420,674
Children & Families	121,134	21,745	15,761	**158,640**	204,099
Care Projects	275,612	–	50,467	**326,079**	286,909
Transport	34,143	72,095	4,706	**110,944**	7,251
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	473,913	2,678	**476,591**	510,878
Governance costs	–	–	10,000	**10,000**	9,600
	2,473,077	572,753	566,354	**3,612,184**	3,227,807

12. Analysis of support costs

	Core activities £	Community Development £	Communities For Work £	Children & Families £	Care Projects £	Transport £	Grants to Voluntary Organisations £	Pension Deficit Recovery Fund £	**Total 2022 £**	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	10,925	–	–	831	1,477	–	–	–	**13,233**	–
Premises	67,996	–	48,730	400	2,811	–	–	–	**119,937**	79,734
Communications and IT	26,566	446	22,772	1,476	5,571	79	–	–	**56,910**	61,088
General office	55,506	2,875	38,505	1,054	9,079	29	–	–	**107,048**	122,324
Finance costs	5,647	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**5,647**	4,253
Governance costs	40,526	–	4,500	–	–	–	–	(51,953)	**(6,927)**	32,695
Insurance	5,080	–	4,500	–	–	–	–	–	**9,580**	10,369
Subscriptions	531	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**531**	1,304
Training	4,716	125	11,822	1,943	3,685	50	–	–	**22,341**	16,433
Management charges	28,132	6,634	158,161	10,057	27,844	4,548	2,678	–	**238,054**	235,538
	245,625	10,080	288,990	15,761	50,467	4,706	2,678	(51,953)	**566,354**	563,738

13. Analysis of grants

	2022	2021
	£	£
Grants to institutions		
Caerphilly Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Grants	**37,310**	5,900
Caerphilly Care Grants	**–**	9,178
GWIRVOL Youth Led Grants	**10,600**	22,320
Health & Social Care Facilitators Grants	**–**	5,000
Lightsource Grants	**–**	13,593
Comic Relief Community Fund Grants	**12,369**	8,306
Comic Relief Covid 19 Grants	**–**	106,364
Integrated Care Fund Small Grants	**140,573**	226,965
Voluntary Services Emergency Fund Grants	**79,742**	100,856
Winter Pressures Grants	**147,369**	–
Risk Assessment Grants	**38,160**	–
Community Transport Grants	**72,095**	–
Caerphilly Youth Support Grants	**20,000**	–
Other Small Grants	**14,535**	–
	572,753	498,482
Total grants	**572,753**	498,482

14. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**–**	(800)
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	**10,000**	9,600

15. Staff costs

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**1,939,576**	1,693,258
Social security costs	**178,949**	162,254
Employer contributions to pension plans	**104,404**	98,433
	2,222,929	1,953,945

The average head count of employees during the year was 80 (2021: 75). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Number of administrative staff	**8**	8
Number of staff employed on charitable activities	**62**	56
	70	64

15. Staff costs *(continued)*

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: Nil).

16. Trustee remuneration and expenses

During the year remuneration totalling £4,140 (2021: £11,556) was paid to one trustee, Mrs S Smith, who acted as interim finance officer. The Board agreed the temporary appointment and the remuneration paid. The trustee resigned from the Board on 1 July 2021 and was subsequently appointed to the permanent post of finance officer.

No expenses were reimbursed to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year ended 31 March 2022 (2021: £45, paid to one trustee).

Funds belonging to the charity have been used for the purchase of insurance to protect the charity from loss arising from neglect or defaults of its trustees, employees or agents, or to indemnify its trustees, employees or agents, against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The indemnity insurance is included as part of the overall charity insurance premium and therefore is an unidentifiable cost.

17. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Motor vehicles £	**Total £**
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	464,000	25,240	**489,240**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	114,000	25,240	**139,240**
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2022	350,000	–	**350,000**
At 31 March 2021	350,000	–	350,000

Tangible fixed assets held at valuation

The freehold property owned by the charity, and formerly used as its head office, had been revalued on 31 March 2020. The valuation was undertaken by C Jones MRICS of Savills (UK) Limited, Chartered Surveyors. On an existing use basis the fair value of the property was £350,000. The property was sold on 18 July 2022 for £450,000 less costs. The Board have taken the decision not to revalue the property as at 31 March 2022 but recognise the gain, when realised, in 2022/23.

17. Tangible fixed assets *(continued)*

In respect of tangible fixed assets held at valuation, the aggregate cost, depreciation and comparable carrying amount that would have been recognised if the assets had been carried under the historical cost model are as follows:

	Freehold property £
At 31 March 2022	
Aggregate cost	**1,180,961**
Aggregate depreciation	**(661,322)**
Carrying value	**519,639**
At 31 March 2021	
Aggregate cost	1,180,961
Aggregate depreciation	(661,322)
Carrying value	519,639

18. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	**321,697**	317,492
Prepayments and accrued income	**5,433**	10,313
Other debtors	**–**	3,089
	327,130	330,894

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	**41,342**	54,403
Accruals and deferred income	**69,468**	38,627
Social security and other taxes	**51,888**	41,664
Grants received in advance	**809,813**	736,643
	972,511	871,337

20. Provisions

	Pensions and similar obligations £
At 1 April 2021	**68,749**
Net effect of Income and Expenditure adjustments (note 21)	**(51,953)**
At 31 March 2022	**16,796**

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 £104,404 (2021: £98,433).

21. Pensions and other post retirement benefits *(continued)*

The Pensions Trust Scheme

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: **£3,312,000 per annum** (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2025: **£11,243,000 per annum** (payable monthly)

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

21. Pensions and other post retirement benefits *(continued)*

GAVO Position
Present Values of Provisions

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£	£
Present value of provision	**16,796**	68,749	81,458

Reconciliation of Opening & Closing Provisions

	2022	2021
	£	£
Provision as the start of the period	**68,749**	81,458
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	**396**	1,831
Deficit contribution paid	**(17,397)**	(16,891)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**(386)**	2,351
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	**(34,566)**	Nil
Provision at end of period	**16,796**	68,749

Income and Expenditure Impact

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest expense	**396**	1,831
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**(386)**	2,351
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	**(17,397)**	(16,891)
Remeasurements - amendments to the contribution schedule	**(34,566)**	Nil
	(51,953)	(12,709)

Assumptions

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£	£
Rate of discount	**2.35**	0.66	2.53

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

22. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2022 £**
General unrestricted fund	507,590	994,471	(871,002)	108,717	**739,776**
Fixed Asset Fund - GAVO Head Office	278,927	–	–	–	**278,927**
Designated Fund - Covid19 Response	210,000	–	(101,283)	(108,717)	**-**
	996,517	994,471	(972,285)	–	**1,018,703**

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
General unrestricted fund	94,568	1,433,727	(810,705)	(210,000)	507,590
Fixed Asset Fund - GAVO Head Office	278,927	–	–	–	278,927
Designated Fund - Covid19 Response	–	–	–	210,000	210,000
	373,495	1,433,727	(810,705)	–	996,517

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2022 £**
Communities for Work	–	1,619,599	(1,619,599)	–	**–**
Children & Families	–	158,640	(158,640)	–	**–**
Care Projects	–	326,079	(326,079)	–	**–**
Transport	–	110,944	(110,944)	–	**–**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	476,590	(476,590)	–	**–**
	–	2,691,852	(2,691,852)	–	**–**

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Communities for Work	–	1,420,674	(1,420,674)	–	–
Children & Families	–	204,099	(204,099)	–	–
Care Projects	–	286,909	(286,909)	–	–
Transport	–	7,251	(7,251)	–	–
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	510,878	(510,878)	–	–
	–	2,429,811	(2,429,811)	–	–

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Communities 4 Work

GAVO is the Lead Delivery Body for Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work + in Blaenau Gwent. The programme is designed to remove barriers and aid the furthest from the labour market back to work and is one of the top performing programmes in Wales.

Children and Families

The Families First team in Newport now take the lead on the GAVO Children and Families Forum. The Parent Participation Officer supports parent groups across Newport. In Caerphilly, children and families are supported through the Little Voices and Tiny Talkers projects, aimed at helping the development of speech and language throughout the borough and ensuring effective links with Flying Start and Families First.

Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Projects

GAVO employs Health and Social Care Facilitators funded by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to support the third sector to play an active role in the planning and delivery of health and social care services. The Education Programme for Patients Cymru, funded by Health, provides a range of award winning self-management health and well-being courses and workshops for people living with a health conditions or for those who care for someone with a health condition. The Monmouthshire Carers Project provides information and support to more than 1,000 carers.

Transport

The Dial a Ride Service in Blaenau Gwent helps with isolation issues by transporting hundreds of residents within the area to various luncheon clubs and community centres in order to partake in various group activities. The service is run through our Development Manager, with transport carried out by Volunteers.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Service Level Agreement with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board for the distribution of Health and Social Care grants to the Third Sector primarily in the Caerphilly area. GAVO also provides grants to support new initiatives to Third Sector Organisations from the Intermediate Care Fund across each of the GAVO regions. GAVO has also received the Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund grants via Welsh Government through WCVA and Comic Relief with a purpose of supporting groups through the Covid pandemic.

A detailed analysis of the individual projects that are included within the above activities of the charity are shown in the Appendix to the accounts.

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Pension deficit recovery funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2022 £**
Pension Deficit Recovery Fund	(68,749)	–	51,953	–	**(16,796)**

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Pension Deficit Recovery Fund	(81,458)	–	12,709	–	(68,749)

23. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**
Tangible fixed assets	350,000	–	–	**350,000**
Current assets	831,401	809,813	–	**1,641,214**
Creditors less than 1 year	(162,698)	(809,813)	–	**(972,511)**
Provisions	–	–	(16,796)	**(16,796)**
Net assets	1,018,703	–	(16,796)	**1,001,907**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	350,000	–	–	350,000
Current assets	781,211	736,643	–	1,517,854
Creditors less than 1 year	(134,694)	(736,643)	–	(871,337)
Provisions	–	–	(68,749)	(68,749)
Net assets	996,517	–	(68,749)	927,768

24. Cash generated from operations

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income	**74,139**	635,731
Adjustments for:		
Other interest receivable and similar income	**(137)**	(284)
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**–**	(800)
Accrued expenses	**30,841**	12,635
Changes in:		
Trade and other debtors	**3,764**	5,141
Trade and other creditors	**70,333**	272,568
Provisions and employee benefits	**(51,953)**	(12,709)
	126,987	912,282

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2021	Cash flows	**At 31 Mar 2022**
	£	£	**£**
Cash at bank and in hand	1,186,960	127,124	**1,314,084**

26. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	**16,880**	49,334
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**44,505**	43,788
	61,385	93,122

27. Limitation of auditors' liability

By way of a board resolution the company has agreed to enter into a limited liability agreement with its auditors whereby their exposure to legal claims is limited to £50,000 per claim.

28. Related parties

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under FRS102 other than those already disclosed in note 16 to the accounts.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Appendix to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK PLUS (EMPLOYABILITY)	-	862,600	(862,600)	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK P1	-	371,229	(371,229)	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK P3	-	205,063	(205,063)	-
COMMUNITY ANIMATOR PROJECT	-	2,419	(2,419)	-
COMMUNITIES ADDITIONAL	-	178,288	(178,288)	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK	-	1,619,599	(1,619,599)	-
FAMILIES FIRST NEWPORT	-	25,740	(25,740)	-
LITTLE VOICES	-	109,288	(109,288)	-
SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAMME	-	3,612	(3,612)	-
CAERPHILLY YOUTH SUPPORT GRANT	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
CHILDREN & FAMILIES	-	158,640	(158,640)	-
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROJECT	-	34,589	(34,589)	-
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE FACILITATORS	-	154,904	(154,904)	-
EXPERT PATIENT PROGRAMME	-	76,942	(76,942)	-
CARERS MONMOUTH	-	27,601	(27,601)	-
WELLBEING LINK OFFICERS PILOT	-	26,764	(26,764)	-
CALDICOT HUB PROJECT	-	5,279	(5,279)	-
CARE PROJECTS	-	326,079	(326,079)	-
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROJECT	-	110,944	(110,944)	-
TRANSPORT PROJECTS	-	110,944	(110,944)	-
CAERPHILLY HSC & WELLBEING	-	37,310	(37,310)	-
WINTER PRESSURES GRANT	-	147,376	(147,376)	-
RISK ASSESSMENTS	-	38,160	(38,160)	-
COMIC RELIEF	-	12,369	(12,369)	-
GWIRVOL YOUTH LED GRANT - PAN GWENT	-	10,600	(10,600)	-
ICF	-	140,573	(140,573)	-
SOLAR ENERGY STATIC GRANTS	-	1,489	(1,489)	-
DARRAN VALLEY GRANTS	-	3,900	(3,900)	-
VOLUNTEERING WALES STRATEGIC GRANT	-	3,150	(3,150)	-
VOLUNTARY SECTOR EMERGENCY FUND	-	81,663	(81,663)	-
GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	-	476,590	(476,590)	-
	-	**2,691,852**	**- 2,691,852**	**-**

GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1113558

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 5590517
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1113558

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

31 March 2021

WALTER HUNTER & CO LIMITED
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

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Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Foreword by the Chair and Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the GAVO Annual Accounts for 2020/2021. The financial year 2020/2021, because of the COVID pandemic, has been a challenging one and thanks must be given at the outset to all Volunteers who have been committed to helping their Communities, Statutory Partners for the support of GAVO and the Third Sector and all GAVO staff for their tireless efforts to support Organisations and people who make a positive difference.

Collaboration of the Third Sector with the Statutory Sector and Private Sector has been exemplary and has ensured that even through the terrible times of the pandemic, we have been able to adapt, change and work together in the most difficult of circumstances.

During the financial year, we have continued to work towards the Strategic Plan 2019-22 which has been created to ensure we are working to support the Mission Statement of the Organisation whilst ensuring GAVO is fully focused on working in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Social Services and Wellbeing Act, both aimed at improving our communities and ways of life across Wales.

Working practices at GAVO have needed to change and will continue to change in line with demand to ensure maximum input to promote the Third Sector voice and to ensure the Sectors representation is at its strongest and most impactful. We are very fortunate that during the pandemic the Board did not furlough any staff which has been vital in our ability to provide key support to the Sector, meet our current strategic aims and help progress through to our next strategic plan which will cover 2022-2025.

During the pandemic, GAVO along with many others in the sector have been able to access numerous grants to support sustainability in the sector and also to support COVID recovery. The accounts detail evidence of the level of this support but for us as an Organisation, it's our responsibility to use funds justly, targeted and with future sustainability being the key focus. This thought process, coupled with our unrestricted funds will be key in the next strategic plan to ensure, as an Organisation, we we focus on Sector recovery after COVID and plan for targeted investment to support the sector.

Influencing and engaging is still key to GAVO and the sector and it's vital we continue to build this influence across the (Third Sector Support Wales) network, a network made up 19 County Voluntary Councils (CVC's) across Wales and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and keep the 4 pillars of the Third Sector which are Volunteering, Sustainable Funding, Governance and Support and Engagement and Influencing at the forefront of our working practice.

Key changes in the Public Service structures are coming late 2021 with a move to the Gwent PSB with GAVO being a key partner but as these structures grow, GAVO will continue to work towards the local Wellbeing Agenda's with particular focus on our areas where we have a direct lead responsibility, with these being Blaenau Gwent's Age Friendly Communities, Caerphilly's Volunteering action area, Monmouthshire's Active Citizenship and Joint Lead on Newport's Right Skills intervention.

We hope that you will all reference this to our Annual Impact Report 2020/2021, which focuses on the breadth and reach of the Organisation, through inclusive approaches that are reflective of the Protected Characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is vital in our work and support and we continue to strive towards full inclusion of all protected characteristics within our communities fairly, reputably and with leadership. This is a challenging time and learning continues to be important and new ways of thinking which captures this learning will be a key focus for GAVO moving forward.

We would like to thank the Corporate Management Team, Corporate Staff, Core TSSW staff and Project staff across the whole of GAVO for their efforts this financial year.

We would also like to again thank all partners across the Statutory, Private and Third Sector for their continued support and involvement during 2020/2021 with an extended thanks to the GAVO Trustees, Local Committees and Volunteers for their efforts and valued contribution.

Edward Watts MBE DL
Chair

Stephen Tiley
Chief Executive Officer

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2021

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Charity registration number	1113558
Company registration number	5590517
Principal office and registered office	Ty Derwen Church Road Maindee Newport NP19 7EJ

The trustees

Brigadier R Aitken CBE Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent	
Mr E Watts MBE DL	
Mrs J Steven	
Mr L Clay	(Resigned 25 March 2021)
Ms C Davy	
Mr R M Dutt	
Mr C L Hawker	
Mr D Jones OBE	
Mr A Lewis	
Mrs S Smith	(Resigned 1 July 2021)
Mrs C Williams	
Mr J Williams MBE JP	

Auditor	Walter Hunter & Co Limited Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 24 Bridge Street Newport South Wales NP20 4SF
Bankers	NatWest Bank plc High Street Newport NP20 4SE
Solicitors	Morgan, Denton & Jones Haywood House North Dumfries Place Cardiff CF10 3GA

Structure, governance and management

Nature of the Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity
The Charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee; company registration number 5590517. Registered charity number 1113558.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees
Trustees are elected for three years with a third of the committee standing down each year, but eligible for re-election. The officers are elected for three years.

The policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees
Annual training is arranged for all Trustees, covering all aspects of voluntary sector regulations.

The name of the Chief Executive Officer and other senior staff members to whom day to day management of the charity was delegated during the 2020/21 year by the charity trustees

Chief Executive Officer	Stephen Tiley
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Alison Palmer

Full details of all members of staff can be found on GAVO's website www.gavowales.org.uk.

The organisational structure of the charity and how decisions are made
The charity is managed by a Board of Trustees elected by the membership of voluntary organisations. Financial and Policy decisions are made by the Trustees, where appropriate following recommendations by the senior staff and the sub-committees i.e. personnel and finance as and when necessary. The Board meets at least four times per annum.

The CEO has overall responsibility for the organisation. Senior Management Team meetings are held on a regular basis with the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and area managers to discuss management/organisational issues.

Membership of a wider network
GAVO is affiliated to the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and is an active member of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW).

Relationships between the charity and related parties, including its subsidiaries
GAVO works closely with the Welsh Government, WCVA, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council, the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Gwent.

Health and Social Care working relationships are ongoing with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the Social Care departments of Local Authorities.

GAVO has no subsidiary undertakings.

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks
As and when the funding for any particular project is due to end, GAVO will do everything in its power to seek a continuation of the funding if appropriate or an alternative. Failing this GAVO's redundancy procedure is activated to minimise loss to the Charity.

GAVO's Risk Register provides a mechanism and framework for the management of risk within the organisation across the portfolio of GAVO activity and to inform decision making moving forward.

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Relationships with other Groups, Charities and Individuals

GAVO is a membership organisation. Membership is open to all relevant voluntary and community groups who operate in the area of benefit.
Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2021 420 (2020: 389).

Objectives and activities

A summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

GAVO's role as a County Voluntary Council is set out in Welsh Government's Third Sector Scheme 2014 as:

- Enabling other Third Sector organisations to grow and develop;
- Supporting individual volunteers and collective voluntary action;
- Promoting good and safe governance across the Third Sector;
- Supporting Public Service design and delivery;
- Providing voice and representation for the wider sector; and
- Sharing good practice and innovation.

In addition to this Core Framework, GAVO has significant experience in developing and delivering projects and programmes through collaborative approaches, which are a response to identified unmet community need.

Vision and Mission Statement

A vision statement is in place to ensure that GAVO shows what its purpose and existence is, with its mission clearly to set on how to achieve that vision. GAVO has a strong ethos and the resource to achieve both of these important factors of our being with the statements outlined in the points below:

- GAVO's vision is to help towards "A society where communities, individuals and organisations work together in a culture of equality, shared ownership, responsibility and support to build a sustainable future".

- GAVO's mission is "To support, facilitate and broker positive change in the Well-being of people and communities through collaborative approaches".

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Values and USP
The goodwill of the sector and key stakeholders is a vital element to GAVO's strategic direction and to ensure that this is appreciated and acknowledged by all, GAVO has implemented a work culture based on good values, which are listed as part of the strategic plan to remind all internal staff and external stakeholders the values recognised and adhered by the Organisation.

Our values statement is;

"GAVO help people and communities to achieve their aims and aspirations through inclusive approaches that are defined by Respect, Integrity and Transparency"

Our unique selling point can be defined as;

"GAVO has supported, facilitated and brokered positive change in people and communities across Gwent since 1927. Over 94 years, GAVO has developed a wealth of experience, competencies and connections. This pedigree informs approaches that ensures GAVO continues to be responsive and relevant to the existing and emerging needs of people and communities"

Impact
GAVO's impact on the sector can be reviewed through the Impact Report 2019/2020. The impact of the sector is promoted and communicated through the Voluntary Voice publications.

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Summary of main aims, activities and achievement in relation to those purposes for the public benefit

Strategic Aim 1
GAVO will provide strong support to Voluntary, Community Organisations and Communities in line with the TSSW 4 pillars of working.

GAVO is proactively looking to address this key action area by carrying out the following key tasks:

- Across each region of the GAVO footprint, GAVO are working towards a standard service and robust Community Development support. GAVO is working ensuring staff are aware and responsive to the current regulations and responsive to changes in Governance, structures, legislation, funding, Community Asset Transfer and Business planning opportunities. Work in response of has ensured and is progressing to further strengthen GAVO's position to communicate and support the Sector effectively.

- Across each region of the GAVO footprint, GAVO has produced a standard Volunteering offer which is fully integrated with GAVO Best Practice, linked to the Volunteer Management Network. The offer is aligned to Welsh Governments Programme for Government which in turn, fully supports the Volunteer effort across GAVO's regions in Gwent.

- Across each region of the GAVO footprint, GAVO are working to ensure a standard Health and Social Care offer which is fully integrated with GAVO Best Practice, linked to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board's outcomes and where required, Welsh Governments Programme for Government. The Health and Social Care pillar if the Third Sector is key to the progress of this aim and GAVO's approach is to ensure the Sector is fully integrated into the relevant legislation and Public Service arena.

- GAVO will look to develop a standard GAVO offer in respect of supported services, in particular Payroll, Information Technology, Marketing and Human Resources services. These offers will allow for additional support for the sector but will need to be support within the financial constraints of the Organisation and the organisations we are looking to support.

- GAVO will look to ensure that our physical locations support the GAVO objectives in supporting our Voluntary, Community Organisations and Communities. This monitoring of locations has supported the opening of outreach offices in all areas of GAVO support which allows for more clear accessibility to our communities.

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Strategic Aim 2
GAVO will use the principles of partnership working and engagement to build connectivity, participation and empowerment to people in their communities

GAVO is proactively looking to address this key action area by carrying out the following key tasks:

- GAVO is in a position of support for the sector through implementing, reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of a standardised outcomes focused structure within each region to ensure the views of the sector are able to be raised, addressed and communicated. GAVO is looking at the integration of the sector in many different and evolving formats to ensure the two-way communication from Public Services to the Sector and back is effective and that the sector is abreast of the evolving Regional Wellbeing Agenda's and their action areas.

- GAVO supports the direction of CVC Cymru initiatives and work requirements, ensuring proactive communication streams through GAVO and wider.

- GAVO supports the direction of Third Sector Support Wales initiatives and working requirements, ensuring proactive communication streams throughout GAVO and wider where required. GAVO continues its support for groups and volunteers alike through its communication streams but has increased its Social Media presence and representation through the use of multi-functioning meeting platforms.

- GAVO continues to promote and support Volunteering across regions, taking account of a standardised way of working and how this links to the current Volunteering structure and regional requirements. GAVO will look at a best practice way for working whilst integrating into relevant Well Being Action areas.

- GAVO is reviewing internal Governance structures and ensuring these are being adapted regularly to the changing climate. We continue to strive to be responsive to our Governance whilst ensuring our impact on the sector is at the maximum, with a best practice approach being implemented across the footprint and instilled to staff for the benefit of the sector.

- GAVO has strong links with partners but strives to improve on these with the desired outcome to improve collaboration opportunities, income generation and voice of the sector. Public Service Board partners, Voluntary Sector Representatives and the Private Sector links can be reviewed with a view of communicating and initiating an improved and proactive understanding of GAVO and the Sector.

- GAVO is embracing the use of new digital platforms, improving connectivity, scope and impact of GAVO and the Third Sector.

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Strategic Aim 3
GAVO will strive to strengthen the Third Sectors voice and influence at a National, Regional and Local level

- GAVO will strive to continually review and build on its own communication streams, ensuring information sharing across the whole organisation for relevant staff, incorporating Trustee's and their communications regarding the Organisation and the Third Sector. There has been working groups set up within GAVO with the remit of ensuring communication streams are reviewed and that GAVO incorporates them in line with evolving formats.

- GAVO will ensure to review and improve where possible, communication with all stakeholders to promote the work of the Sector but also ensuring that the work and scope of GAVO is deep in the mind-set of the partners in which we work with. These will include PSB members, External provision, member organisations and Communities across Gwent.

- GAVO will look to improve on external relationships with Local Members of Parliament and Assembly Members with a view to promote the Organisation, the Sector and its partners. This will be through the communication of the work of GAVO, the outcomes of GAVO and the work and impact of the Third Sector.

- GAVO will look to ensure that communication, linking both internal and external, is at the required standard to ensure the most effective two-way communication paths to improve knowledge and information sharing across GAVO, the Third Sector and wider partners.

- GAVO will continue to review and work with new technology, encompassing social media, advanced external communication opportunities and investing in the use of Microsoft 365 to improve visibility, communication and scope of the Organisation.

- GAVO will ensure the Trustees are communicated to effectively and with transparency with the workings of GAVO and that their roles and responsibilities in the promotion of GAVO ensure a positive impact on the Organisation and on the work of the Sector where possible.

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Strategic Aim 4
GAVO will champion Third Sector understanding of the principles of legislation within Wales

- GAVO will continue to ensure that the work and scope of the Organisation and the Sector is positively promoted and deeply imbed within the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Agendas across each region, ensuring influence and engagement not only by GAVO but where relevant Communities and Community based organisations.

- GAVO will continue to ensure that as an Organisation, it is understanding and working with the agreed Social Services and Wellbeing legislation, ensuring that effective communication streams are in place for Community based Organisations to be communicated to effectively and kept abreast of changes as required.

- GAVO will ensure that training will be made available to upskill the Organisation and the Third Sector in order to ensure as a whole, all involved are in the best position to deal with changes in legislation across Wales and also to ensure the Organisation and the Sector is strong and thriving to deal with current and ever changing climate.

- GAVO will ensure that in line with legislation and changes in this legislation, we will support external partners in where possible, best practice can be worked towards across the GAVO footprint.

- GAVO will continue to ensure that the Third Sector has a voice and is interlinked into the Well being agenda's of our Public Service areas

- GAVO will continue its involvement and support with the Taking Wales Forward 2016-21 initiative and will support where possible, the Third Sectors input into its outcomes to deliver more and better jobs through a stronger, fairer economy, improving and supporting the reform public services to work towards a more connected and sustainable Wales.

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Strategic Aim 5
GAVO will continue to operate in a culture of collaboration as a pathway to its sustainability

- GAVO will look to generate additional income, identify gaps across Third Sector provision, improve relationships with a view of improving collaborative working across the Gwent footprint and ensure there is a clear methodology for staff and partners alike to be able to work raise ideas for the benefit of our communities.

- GAVO staff will value and ensure effective project support with all current opportunities, with a view of ensuring future sustainability of projects through collaborative thinking and working, foresight and planning.

- GAVO will continue with, but evaluate its method of managing, reporting and acknowledging risk management moving forward. There will be progression on the clear vision across the Organisation of embedding a departmental ethos of managing risk and working towards mitigating these risks for the good of the Organisation.

- GAVO will continue to explore the possibilities and benefits of incorporating trading arms into the organisation, not only for current services but for potential new opportunities for the purpose of future sustainability.

- GAVO will look to work collaboratively with partners and the Sector alike to ensure appropriate investments in the correct projects moving forward, with community impact at the forefront of GAVO thoughts.

- GAVO will ensure that there is a defined method of capturing ideas of staff around Income Generation and staff feel empowered to make decisions for GAVO benefit and for the Third Sector in agreeing and progressing potential Income Generation opportunities.

- GAVO will ensure that their relationships held at a high level and are progressed and that partnership working and collaboration is at the fore front of current projects, future opportunities, whether leading or ensuring we are a part of the thought process of other lead organisations.

- GAVO staff will work with a mind-set of ensuring Value For Money at the fore front of their thinking, removing inefficiencies where possible and liaising with relevant Management and staff to address new ways of working where required.

Public Benefit
The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charities aims and purposes and in planning future activities.

Financial review

The Charity has a Finance Sub Committee, which meets monthly to review expenditure, income and to look at major items of expenditure or changes in funding. The Finance Sub Committee reports to the full Executive Committee which is responsible for making all policy decisions on financial matters.

GAVO will be working towards a new strategic plan covering 2021-2025 and GAVO finances moving forward will be a fundamental part of this document. Finance has been received for COVID recovery and for GAVO sustainability and utilisation of these Unrestricted Reserves will be targeted, focused and directed to support this recovery.

GAVO's sustainability is linked to this funding and will be utilised in line with the reserves policy in place.

Transactions and Financial position

The financial statements are set out on pages 20 to 41. These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Statement of Financial Activities shown on page 20 to the accounts discloses net incoming resources for the year, before unrealised gains on revaluation of fixed assets, of £635,731 (2020: net incoming £48,938).

The total reserves at the year end stand at £927,768 (2020: £292,037).

Reserves Policy

GAVO's policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves of £650,000 to cover operational risk through the current year ending 31 March 2022.

During the year, the Trustees have decided to designate £210,000 of unrestricted funds as Covid19 Response funds. This is to enable GAVO to invest in developing services focusing on supporting the third sector to restart following the pandemic as legislation allows.

A full review of the reserves policy will be carried our during the year ending 31 March 2022.

Pension Deficit Recovery Fund

The charity has adopted best accounting practice to recognise the net present value of its agreed additional contributions to the Trustee to eliminate the deficit on the multi-employer pension scheme. Full details are disclosed in notes 20 and 21 to the accounts.

Specific changes in fixed assets

All movements in fixed assets are shown in note 17 to the accounts.

Plans for future periods

In line with the organisation's Strategic Aims, GAVO will be maximising opportunities to deliver, influence and facilitate third sector engagement with the Welsh Government, Programme for Government, 'Taking Wales Forward 2016-21'. Covid 19 and the potential for change is continually monitored through GAVO's governance structures and will be a key addition to GAVO's need to continue to efficiently monitor expenditure and develop income generation approaches, which have a synergy with GAVO's Mission and Strategic Aims. The organisation will continue to ensure that exit strategies for projects include provision for redeployment or redundancy as defined in the GAVO Policy Framework.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on ..... 10/12/2021 ..... and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

E. Watts

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Jones

Mr D Jones OBE
Trustee

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Year ended 31 March 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

By enquiring with senior management and those charged with governance all areaS of risk identified were considered and any potential litigation or claim, if any, were noted.

- Ensuring by enquiry that there were no issues of non-compliance with laws and regulations relating to tax and compliance;

- By obtaining an understanding of the company's policies and procedures on compliance with laws and regulations, and with best accounting practice;

- Noting issues discussed with the Board and the Senior Management Team as this relates to risks faced by the company;

- Reviewing disclosures in the financial statements and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and

- Considering the effect on risk to the company of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's departure from the EU. In particular to note whether any such issues would affect the company's ability to continue to operate.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2021

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Rhodes BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Walter Hunter & Co Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
24 Bridge Street
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4SF

10 December 2021

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Pension Deficit Recovery funds £	Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies	5	407	4,649	–	**5,056**	8,530
Charitable activities	6	1,425,361	2,420,002	–	**3,845,363**	3,080,729
Other trading activities	7	7,675	4,360	–	**12,035**	15,834
Investment income	8	284	–	–	**284**	753
Other income	9	–	800	–	**800**	–
Total income		1,433,727	2,429,811	–	**3,863,538**	3,105,846
Expenditure						
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	810,705	2,429,811	(12,709)	**3,227,807**	3,056,908
Total expenditure		810,705	2,429,811	(12,709)	**3,227,807**	3,056,908
Net income and net movement in funds		623,022	–	12,709	**635,731**	48,938
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		373,495	–	(81,458)	**292,037**	243,099
Total funds carried forward		996,517	–	(68,749)	**927,768**	292,037

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

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	£	2020 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets	17		**350,000**	350,000
Current assets				
Debtors	18	**330,894**		336,035
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,186,960**		273,594
		1,517,854		609,629
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	**871,337**		586,134
Net current assets			**646,517**	23,495
Total assets less current liabilities			**996,517**	373,495
Provisions				
Pensions and similar obligations	20		**68,749**	81,458
Net assets			**927,768**	292,037
Funds of the charity				
Pension Deficit Recovery funds			**(68,749)**	(81,458)
Unrestricted funds			**996,517**	373,495
Total charity funds	22		**927,768**	292,037

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on ..... 10/12/2024 ....., and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr E Watts MBE DL
Trustee

Mr D Jones OBE
Trustee

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash generated from operations	24	912,282	120,827
Interest received		284	753
Net cash from operating activities		912,566	121,580
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets		800	–
Net cash from investing activities		800	–
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		913,366	121,580
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		273,594	152,014
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		1,186,960	273,594

The notes on pages 23 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

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 Ty Derwen, Church Road, Maindee, Newport, NP19 7EJ.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

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.

Since the middle of March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has seriously affected the UK generally. As a charity we have taken all necessary steps to combat the effects of the virus and to ensure that the charity is able to continue to operate.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

3. **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

Fund accounting

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

Unrestricted pension deficit recovery fund relates to the net present value of the liabilities payable, at present, as a result of the multi-employer pension deficit in which the charity participates.

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

There is no formal policy of transfer between funds or on the allocation of funds to designated funds other than described above.

Incoming resources

All income is 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:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.

- 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 costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

3. **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

Resources expended *(continued)*

- 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.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line 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.

A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Items of less than £1,000 are not capitalised by the charity.

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:

Freehold property	-	4% per annum Straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25% per annum Straight line

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the entity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. Provisions are recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position and the amount of the provision as an expense.

Provisions are initially measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and subsequently reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the amount that would be required to settle the obligation. Any adjustments to the amounts previously recognised are recognised in income or expenditure unless the provision was originally recognised as part of the cost of an asset.

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.

3. **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

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.

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.

Pension schemes

The employees of the charity are members of one of two pension schemes as follows:

NOW Pensions Defined Contribution Scheme
This is a defined contribution plan. Contributions 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.

Pensions Trust Multi-Employer Defined Benefit Scheme
The charity participates in the Pension Trust scheme which is a multi-employer scheme providing benefits to some 950 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 and is limited by guarantee, each member having to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are still a member or within one year thereafter.

Number of member organisations as at 31 March 2021 is 420 (2020: 389).

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2021 £**
Donations			
Public & Community Council donations	407	4,569	**4,976**
Dial-a-Ride donations	–	80	**80**
	407	4,649	**5,056**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations			
Public & Community Council donations	315	5,615	5,930
Dial-a-Ride donations	–	2,600	2,600
	315	8,215	8,530

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2021 £**
Welsh Government	–	1,476,551	**1,476,551**
WCVA	498,684	49,155	**547,839**
Local Authority Councils	74,347	290,748	**365,095**
Local Health Boards	–	449,852	**449,852**
Comic Relief	–	8,306	**8,306**
Other grants	(1,885)	39,026	**37,141**
Administration fees	240,512	–	**240,512**
Exceptional income from charitable activities	613,703	106,364	**720,067**
	1,425,361	2,420,002	**3,845,363**

6. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Welsh Government	–	1,368,579	1,368,579
WCVA	435,041	233,786	668,827
Local Authority Councils	37,418	274,787	312,205
Local Health Boards	–	211,419	211,419
Comic Relief	–	216,858	216,858
Other grants	3,922	68,492	72,414
Administration fees	230,427	–	230,427
Exceptional income from charitable activities	–	–	–
	706,808	2,373,921	3,080,729

Exceptional income from charitable activities relates to Covid19 grants provided by WCVA and Comic Relief to enable the charity to support the third sector following the Covid19 pandemic.

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2021 £**
Rental income	7,087	–	**7,087**
Other sundry income	588	4,360	**4,948**
	7,675	4,360	**12,035**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Rental income	11,835	1,600	13,435
Other sundry income	–	2,399	2,399
	11,835	3,999	15,834

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2021 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Bank interest receivable	284	**284**	753	753

9. Other income

	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2021 £**	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	800	**800**	–	–

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	**Total Funds 2021 £**
Core activities	575,768	–	–	**575,768**
Regional Covid19 Support	35,583	–	–	**35,583**
Communities For Work	–	1,148,764	–	**1,148,764**
Children & Families	–	174,838	–	**174,838**
Care Projects	–	233,772	–	**233,772**
Transport	–	1,862	–	**1,862**
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	493,482	–	**493,482**
Volunteering	–	–	–	–
Support costs	199,354	377,093	(12,709)	**563,738**
	810,705	2,429,811	(12,709)	**3,227,807**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Core activities	509,054	–	–	509,054
Regional Covid19 Support	–	–	–	–
Communities For Work	–	1,150,816	–	1,150,816
Children & Families	–	192,425	–	192,425
Care Projects	–	172,151	–	172,151
Transport	–	4,683	–	4,683
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	296,170	–	296,170
Volunteering	–	177,150	–	177,150
Support costs	177,827	393,990	(17,358)	554,459
	686,881	2,387,385	(17,358)	3,056,908

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	**Total funds 2021**	Total fund 2020
	£	£	£	**£**	£
Core activities	575,768	–	183,490	**759,258**	663,262
Pension Deficit Recovery	–	–	(12,709)	**(12,709)**	(17,358)
Regional Covid19 Support	35,583	–	6,718	**42,301**	–
Communities For Work	1,148,764	–	271,910	**1,420,674**	1,389,533
Children & Families	174,838	–	29,261	**204,099**	229,081
Care Projects	228,772	5,000	53,137	**286,909**	238,074
Transport	1,862	–	5,389	**7,251**	17,172
GAVO Voluntary Action Centre	–	–	–	–	15,260
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	493,482	17,396	**510,878**	309,850
Volunteering	–	–	–	–	205,050
Governance costs	–	–	9,146	**9,146**	6,984
	2,165,587	498,482	563,738	**3,227,807**	3,056,908

12. Analysis of support costs

	Core activities £	Community Development £	Communities For Work £	Children & Families £	Care Projects £	Transport £	Grants to Voluntary Organisations £	Pension Deficit Recovery Fund £	**Total 2021 £**	Total 2020 £
Premises	29,654	–	30,225	10,449	5,406	4,000	–	–	**79,734**	103,664
Communications and IT	20,099	2,463	26,928	4,859	6,111	628	–	–	**61,088**	36,718
General office	63,639	269	49,132	945	8,294	–	45	–	**122,324**	114,502
Finance costs	4,253	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**4,253**	3,719
Governance costs	39,803	–	5,240	–	–	361	–	(12,709)	**32,695**	(1,015)
Insurance	5,869	–	4,500	–	–	–	–	–	**10,369**	8,247
Subscriptions	796	–	–	108	–	400	–	–	**1,304**	321
Training	3,338	753	3,945	–	8,397	–	–	–	**16,433**	27,879
Depreciation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**–**	20,375
Management charges	25,185	3,233	151,940	12,900	24,929	–	17,351	–	**235,538**	229,049
Loss on revaluation of tangible fixed assets	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**–**	11,000
	192,636	6,718	271,910	29,261	53,137	5,389	17,396	(12,709)	**563,738**	554,459

13. Analysis of grants

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants to institutions		
Caerphilly Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Grants	**5,900**	24,901
Caerphilly Care Grants	**9,178**	–
GWIRVOL Youth Led Grants	**22,320**	28,410
Health & Social Care Facilitators Grants	**5,000**	–
Lightsource Grants	**13,593**	34,789
Comic Relief Community Fund Grants	**8,306**	208,070
Comic Relief Covid 19 Grants	**106,364**	–
Intergrated Care Fund Small Grants	**226,965**	–
Vountary Services Emergency Fund Grants	**100,856**	–
Community Animators Grants	**–**	1,727
	498,482	297,897
Total grants	**498,482**	297,897

14. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**–**	20,375
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**(800)**	–
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	**9,600**	6,984

15. Staff costs

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**1,693,258**	1,644,596
Social security costs	**162,254**	154,535
Employer contributions to pension plans	**98,433**	95,867
	1,953,945	1,894,998

The average head count of employees during the year was 75 (2020: 74). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Number of administrative staff	**8**	6
Number of staff employed on charitable activities	**56**	57
	64	63

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2020: Nil).

16. Trustee remuneration and expenses

During the year remuneration totalling £11,556 (2020: £nil) was paid to one trustee who acted as interim finance officer. The Board agreed the temporary appointment and the remuneration paid. The trustee resigned from the Board on 1 July 2021 and was subsequently appointed to the permanent post of finance officer.

Expenses totalling £45 (2020: £574, paid to four trustees) was reimbursed to one trustees during the year in relation to travelling expenses.

Other than the above, no trustees or any persons connected with them have received any remuneration or expenses, either in the current year or in the prior year.

Funds belonging to the charity have been used for the purchase of insurance to protect the charity from loss arising from neglect or defaults of its trustees, employees or agents, or to indemnify its trustees, employees or agents, against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The indemnity insurance is included as part of the overall charity insurance premium and therefore is an unidentifiable cost.

17. Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Motor vehicles £	**Total £**
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2020	464,000	68,240	**532,240**
Disposals	–	(43,000)	**(43,000)**
At 31 March 2021	464,000	25,240	**489,240**
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	114,000	68,240	**182,240**
Disposals	–	(43,000)	**(43,000)**
At 31 March 2021	114,000	25,240	**139,240**
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2021	350,000	–	**350,000**
At 31 March 2020	350,000	–	350,000

Tangible fixed assets held at valuation

The charity revalued their freehold head office property on 31 March 2020. The valuation was undertaken by C Jones MRICS of Savills (UK) Limited, Chartered Surveyors. On an existing use basis the fair value of the property was £350,000. The Board consider the carrying value as at 31 March 2021 to be unchanged.

17. Tangible fixed assets *(continued)*

In respect of tangible fixed assets held at valuation, the aggregate cost, depreciation and comparable carrying amount that would have been recognised if the assets had been carried under the historical cost model are as follows:

	Freehold property £
At 31 March 2021	
Aggregate cost	**1,180,961**
Aggregate depreciation	**(661,322)**
Carrying value	**519,639**
At 31 March 2020	
Aggregate cost	1,180,961
Aggregate depreciation	(661,332)
Carrying value	519,629

18. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	**317,492**	328,116
Prepayments and accrued income	**10,313**	–
Other debtors	**3,089**	7,919
	330,894	336,035

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	**54,403**	71,511
Accruals and deferred income	**38,627**	25,992
Social security and other taxes	**41,664**	39,039
Grants received in advance	**736,643**	449,592
	871,337	586,134

20. Provisions

	Pensions and similar obligations £
At 1 April 2020	**81,458**
Net effect of Income and Expenditure adjustments (note 21)	**(12,709)**
At 31 March 2021	**68,749**

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 £98,433 (2020: £95,867).

The Pensions Trust Scheme

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 950 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2019 to 31 January 2025:	£11,243,000 per annum	(Payable monthly and increasing by 3% pa on 1st April)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2014. This valuation showed assets of £793.4m, liabilities of £969.9m and a deficit of £176.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contributions

From 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2025:	£12,945,440 per annum	(Payable monthly and increasing by 3% pa on 1st April)
From 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2028:	£54,560 per annum	(Payable monthly and increasing by 3% pa on 1st April)

21. Pensions and other post retirement benefits *(continued)*

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

GAVO Position
Present Values of Provisions

	31 March 2021	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£	£	£
Present value of provision	**68,749**	81,458	98,816

Reconciliation of Opening & Closing Provisions

	2021	2020
	£	£
Provision as the start of the period	**81,458**	98,816
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	**1,831**	1,250
Deficit contribution paid	**(16,891)**	(16,399)
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**2,351**	(2,209)
Provision at end of period	**68,749**	81,458

Income and Expenditure Impact

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest expense	**1,831**	1,250
Remeasurements - impact of any change in assumptions	**2,351**	(2,209)
Costs recognised in income and expenditure account	**(16,891)**	(16,399)
	(12,709)	(17,358)

Assumptions

	31 March 2021	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	%	%	%
Rate of discount	**0.66**	2.53	1.39

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

22. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2021 £**
General unrestricted fund	94,568	1,433,727	(810,705)	(210,000)	**507,590**
Fixed Asset Fund - GAVO Head Office	278,927	–	–	–	**278,927**
Designated Fund - Covid19 Response	–	–	–	210,000	**210,000**
	373,495	1,433,727	(810,705)	–	**996,517**

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
General unrestricted fund	35,478	719,711	(660,621)	–	94,568
Fixed Asset Fund - GAVO Head Office	305,187	–	(26,260)	–	278,927
Designated Fund - Covid19 Response	–	–	–	–	–
	340,665	719,711	(686,881)	–	373,495

During the year, the Trustees have decided to designate £210,000 of unrestricted funds as Covid19 Response funds. This is to enable GAVO to invest in developing services focusing on supporting the third sector to restart following the pandemic as legislation allows.

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2021 £**
Development Projects & Development Officers Posts	–	–	–	–	–
Communities First	–	1,420,674	(1,420,674)	–	–
Children & Families	–	204,099	(204,099)	–	–
Care Projects	–	286,909	(286,909)	–	–
Transport	–	7,251	(7,251)	–	–
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	510,878	(510,878)	–	–
Volunteering	–	–	–	–	–
	–	2,429,811	(2,429,811)	–	–

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
Development Projects & Development Officers Posts	–	33,414	(33,414)	–	–
Communities First	–	1,389,533	(1,389,533)	–	–
Children & Families	–	229,081	(229,081)	–	–
Care Projects	–	238,074	(238,074)	–	–
Transport	1,250	15,922	(17,172)	–	–
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	–	275,061	(275,061)	–	–
Volunteering	–	205,050	(205,050)	–	–
	1,250	2,386,135	(2,387,385)	–	–

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Development Projects and Development Officer Posts

The GAVO Development team have, during 2020/21 supported a number of groups across the GAVO footprint with advice and guidance and where possible, supporting the strategic structure of our public services.

Communities 4 Work

GAVO is the Lead Delivery Body for Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work + in Blaenau Gwent. The programme is designed to remove barriers and aid the furthest from the labour market back to work and is one of the top performing programmes in Wales.

Children and Families

The Families First team in Newport now take the lead on the GAVO Children and Families Forum. The Parent Participation Officer supports parent groups across Newport. In Caerphilly, children and families are supported through the Little Voices and Tiny Talkers projects, aimed at helping the development of speech and language throughout the borough and ensuring effective links with Flying Start and Families First.

Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Projects

GAVO employs Health and Social Care Facilitators funded by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to support the third sector to play an active role in the planning and delivery of health and social care services. The Education Programme for Patients Cymru, funded by Health, provides a range of award winning self-management health and well-being courses and workshops for people living with a health conditions or for those who care for someone with a health condition. The Monmouthshire Carers Project provides information and support to more than 1,000 carers.

Transport

The Dial a Ride Service in Blaenau Gwent helps with isolation issues by transporting hundreds of residents within the area to various luncheon clubs and community centres in order to partake in various group activities. The service is run through our Development Manager, with transport carried out by Volunteers.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Service Level Agreement with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board for the distribution of Health and Social Care grants to the Third Sector primarily in the Caerphilly area. GAVO also provides grants to support new initiatives to Third Sector Organisations from the Intermediate Care Fund across each of the GAVO regions. GAVO has also received the Voluntary Sector Emergency Fund grants via Welsh Government through WCVA and Comic Relief with a purpose of supporting groups through the Covid pandemic.

A detailed analysis of the individual projects that are included within the above activities of the charity are shown in the Appendix to the accounts.

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Endowment funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	**At 31 March 2021 £**
Pension Deficit Recovery Fund	(81,458)	–	12,709	–	**(68,749)**

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
Pension Deficit Recovery Fund	(98,816)	–	17,358	–	(81,458)

23. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension Deficit Recovery Funds £	**Total Funds 2021 £**
Tangible fixed assets	350,000	–	–	**350,000**
Current assets	781,211	736,643	–	**1,517,854**
Creditors less than 1 year	(134,694)	(736,643)	–	**(871,337)**
Provisions	–	–	(68,749)	**(68,749)**
Net assets	996,517	–	(68,749)	**927,768**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Pension Deficit Recovery Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	350,000	–	–	350,000
Current assets	160,037	449,592	–	609,629
Creditors less than 1 year	(136,542)	(449,592)	–	(586,134)
Provisions	–	–	(81,458)	(81,458)
Net assets	373,495	–	(81,458)	292,037

24. Cash generated from operations

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income	**635,731**	48,938
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**–**	20,375
Other interest receivable and similar income	**(284)**	(753)
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	**(800)**	–
Accrued expenses/(income)	**12,635**	(7,376)
Loss on revaluation of tangible fixed assets	**–**	11,000
Changes in:		
Trade and other debtors	**5,141**	(143,361)
Trade and other creditors	**272,568**	209,362
Provisions and employee benefits	**(12,709)**	(17,358)
	912,282	120,827

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2020	Cash flows	**At 31 Mar 2021**
	£	£	**£**
Cash at bank and in hand	273,594	913,366	**1,186,960**

26. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	**49,334**	3,670
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**43,788**	62,502
	93,122	66,172

27. Limitation of auditors liability

By way of a board resolution the company has agreed to enter into a limited liability agreement with its auditors whereby their exposure to legal claims is limited to £50,000 per claim.

28. Related parties

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under FRS102 other than those already disclosed in note 16 to the accounts.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Appendix to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfer to Unrestricted Reserves £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK PLUS (EMPLOYABILITY)	-	763,927	(763,927)	-	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK P1	-	406,636	(406,636)	-	-
COMMUNITIES 4 WORK P3	-	178,725	(178,725)	-	-
COMMUNITY ANIMATOR PROJECT	-	20,639	(20,639)	-	-
COMMUNITIES ADDITIONAL	-	50,747	(50,747)		
COMMUNITIES FIRST & COMMUNITIES 4 WORK	-	1,420,674	(1,420,674)	-	-
FAMILIES FIRST NEWPORT	-	24,909	(24,909)	-	-
LITTLE VOICES	-	161,319	(161,319)	-	-
FOOD POVERTY	-	17,871	(17,871)	-	
CHILDREN & FAMILIES	-	204,099	(204,099)	-	-
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROJECT	-	25,924	(25,924)	-	-
DEPARTMENT FOR WORK & PENSIONS	-	660	(660)	-	-
COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES TRAINING	-	17,850	(17,850)	-	-
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE FACILITATORS	-	145,844	(145,844)	-	-
EXPERT PATIENT PROGRAMME	-	62,895	(62,895)	-	-
CARERS MONMOUTH	-	33,736	(33,736)	-	-
CARE PROJECTS	-	286,909	(286,909)	-	-
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROJECT	-	788	(788)	-	-
DIAL A RIDE B/GWENT	-	6,463	(6,463)	-	-
TRANSPORT PROJECTS	-	7,251	(7,251)	-	-
CAERPHILLY CARE GRANTS	-	17,178	(17,178)	-	-
CAERPHILLY HSC & WELLBEING	-	5,900	(5,900)	-	-
COMIC RELIEF	-	8,306	(8,306)	-	-
COMICS RELIEF COVID19 GRANTS	-	106,364	(106,364)	-	-
GWIRVOL YOUTH LED GRANT - PAN GWENT	-	22,365	(22,365)	-	-
ICF	-	226,965	(226,965)	-	-
LIGHTSOURCE	-	14,944	(14,944)	-	-
VOLUNTARY SECTOR EMERGENCY FUND	-	108,856	(108,856)	-	-
GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	-	510,878	(510,878)	-	-
	-	2,429,811	(2,429,811)	-	-