



Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Gwent

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



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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.

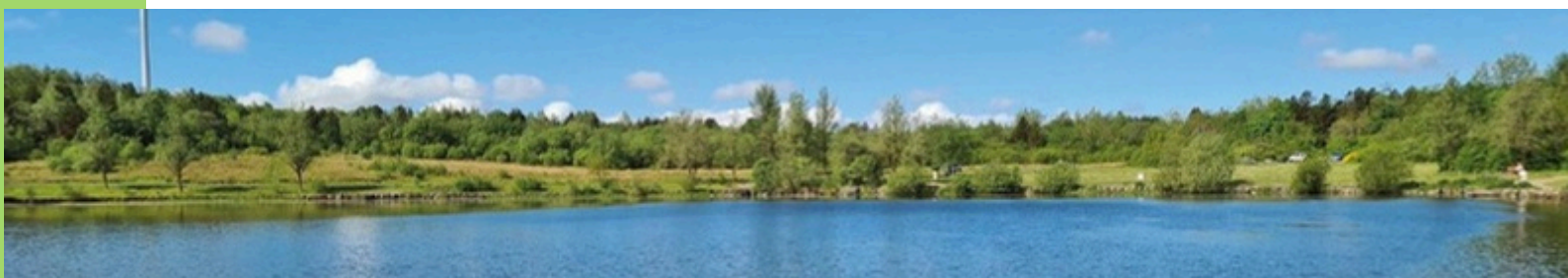
These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 24/11/2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

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. **6**

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

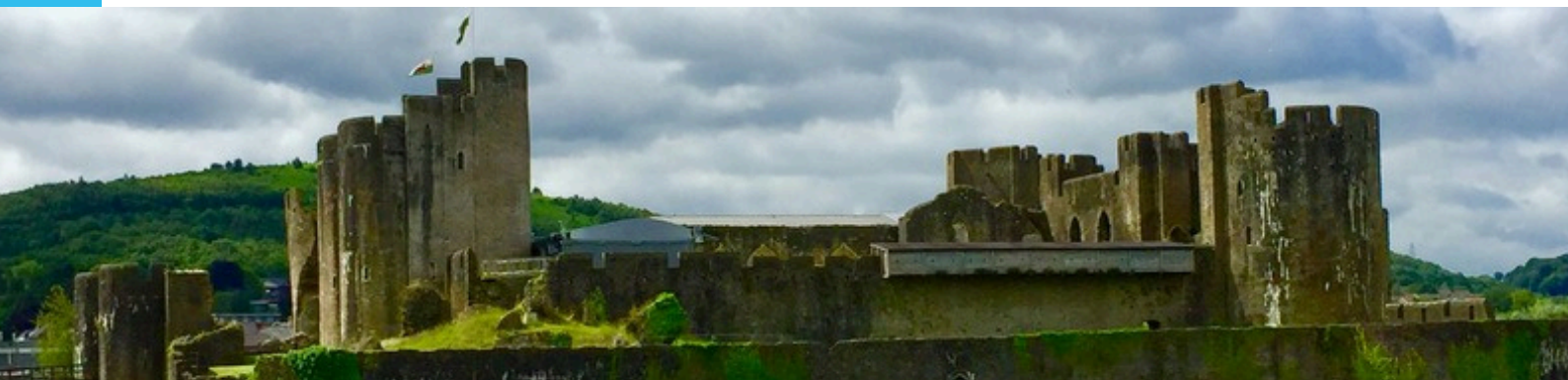
Although the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Officer position was vacant for part of the year, officers maintained strong partnerships and embedded third sector perspectives into local wellbeing initiatives.

- 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:

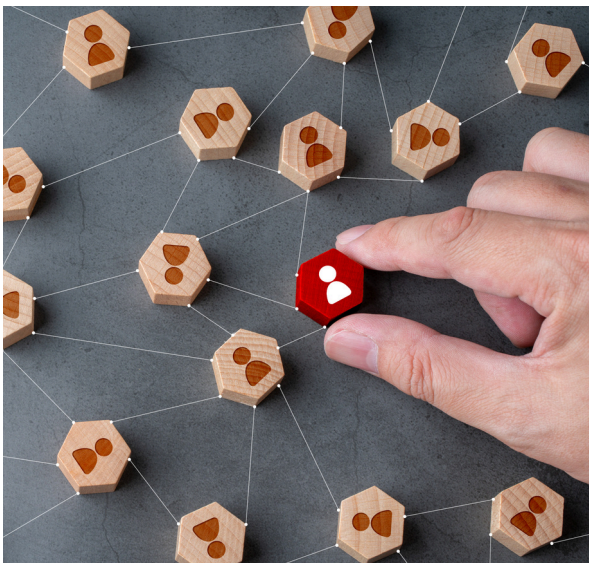
- Carrying out finance meetings with area teams and received positive responses.
- All SPF and external funding claims have been completed for the year.
- Finance reports have been provided to the Board.
- Financial Transparency and Strategic Planning: The organisation emphasises financial accountability 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

Third Sector Support Wales



Stephen Tiley, CEO

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.gwentrpwb.wales.

Glossary



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

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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
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Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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).

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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 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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

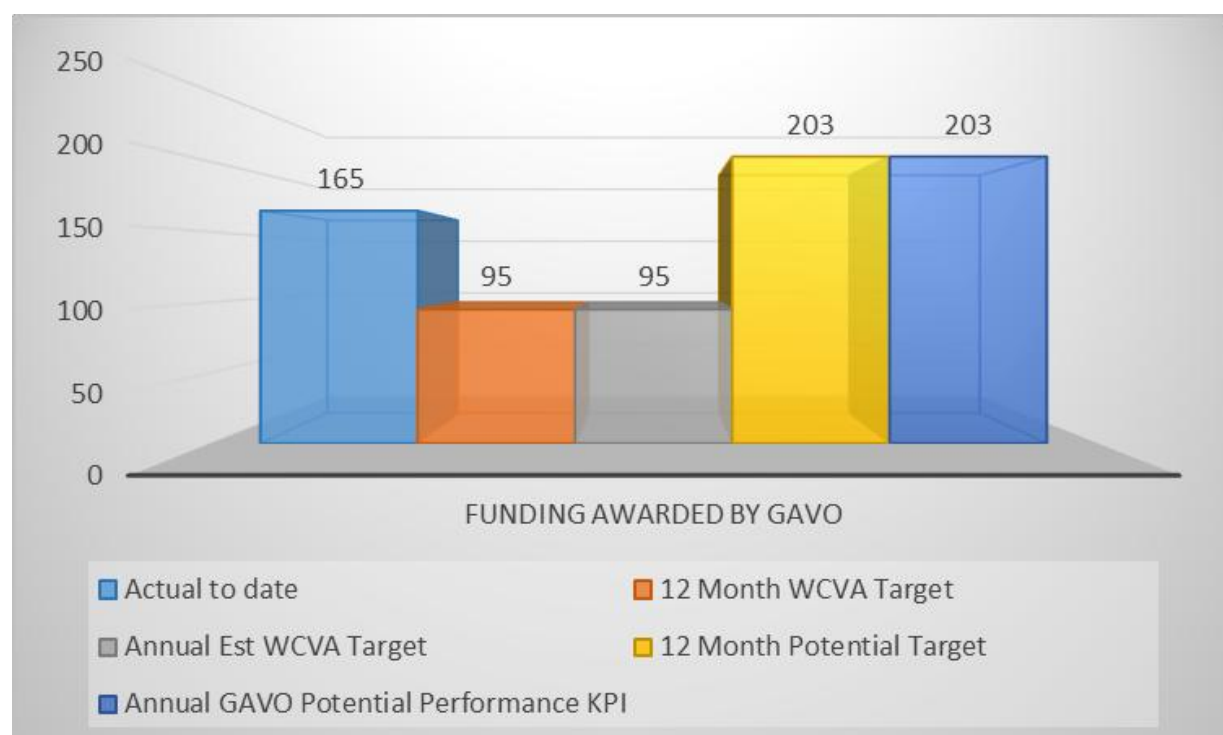
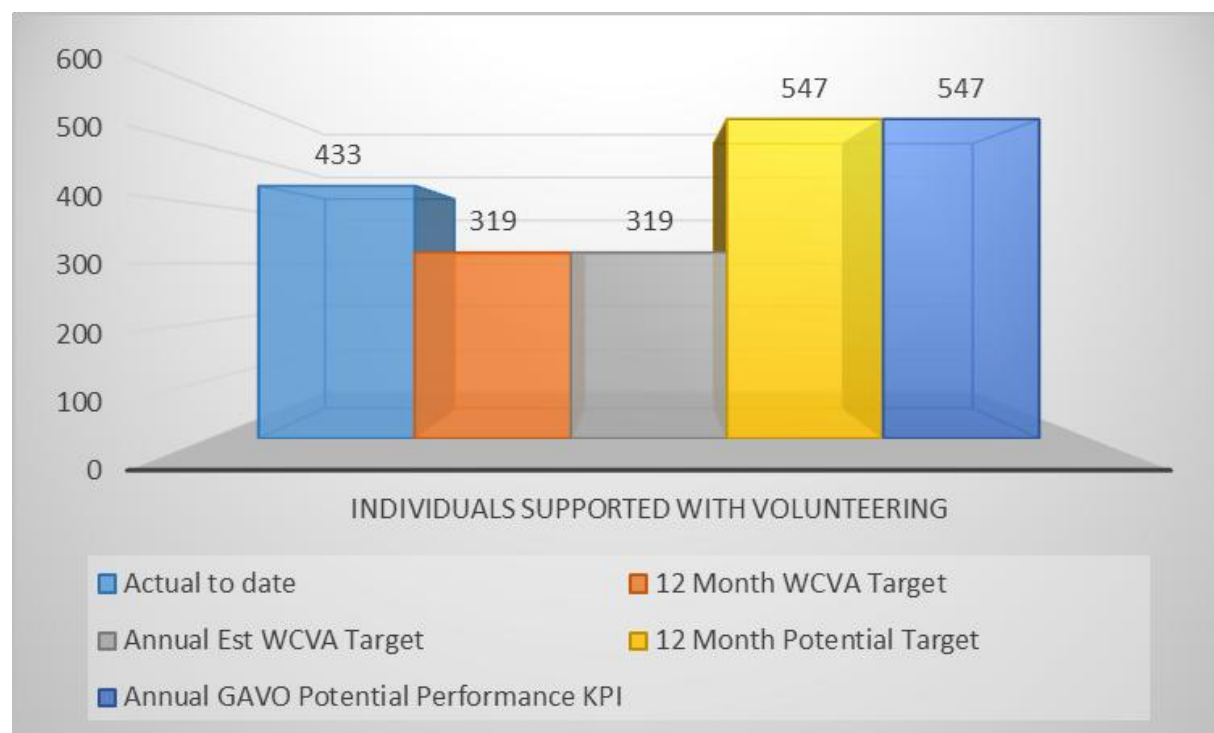
Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.



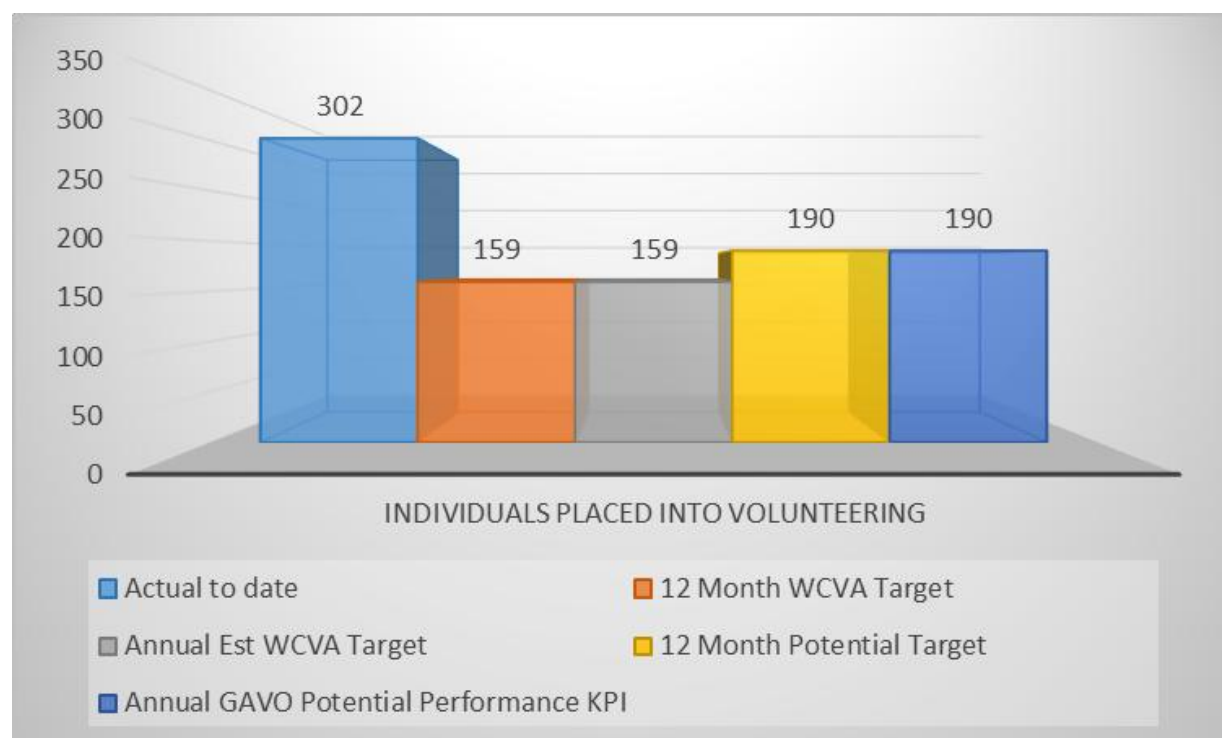
Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance *(continued)*



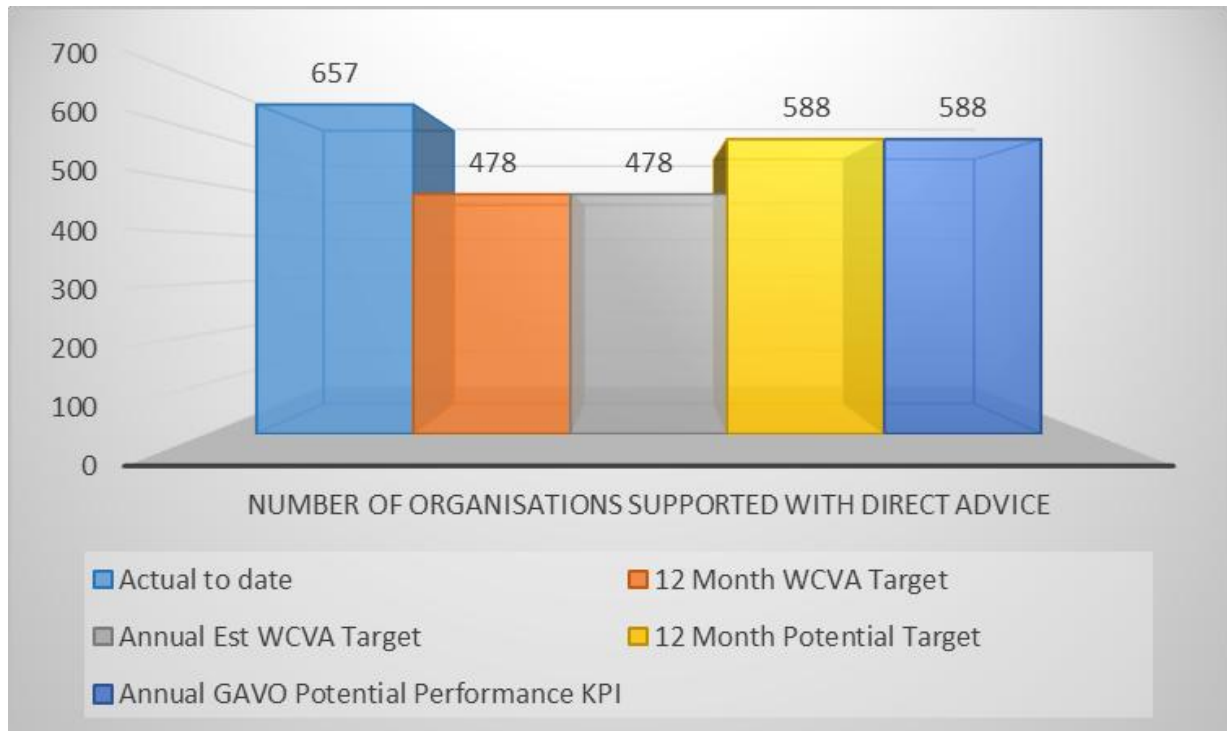
Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance *(continued)*



Summary

Funding awarded by GAVO - £653,219

Organisations with funding supported by GAVO - £1,605,913

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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

				2025				2024	
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total from continuing operations £	Discontinued operations £	Total funds £	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		<u>1,145,594</u>	<u>1,896,367</u>	<u>3,041,961</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>3,041,961</u>	<u>2,555,055</u>	<u>699,984</u>	<u>3,255,039</u>
Expenditure									
Expenditure on charitable activities	9,10	<u>826,407</u>	<u>1,937,819</u>	<u>2,764,226</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>2,764,226</u>	<u>2,311,784</u>	<u>662,787</u>	<u>2,974,571</u>
Total expenditure		<u>826,407</u>	<u>1,937,819</u>	<u>2,764,226</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>2,764,226</u>	<u>2,311,784</u>	<u>662,787</u>	<u>2,974,571</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>319,187</u>	<u>(41,452)</u>	<u>277,735</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>277,735</u>	<u>243,271</u>	<u>37,197</u>	<u>280,468</u>

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		<u>2,114,512</u>	<u>128,242</u>	<u>2,242,754</u>	–	<u>2,242,754</u>	<u>1,965,019</u>	–	<u>1,965,019</u>

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		<u>2,628,287</u>	<u>2,571,498</u>
		2,958,178	2,701,450
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>704,694</u>	<u>731,429</u>
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	<u>10,730</u>	<u>5,002</u>
Net assets		2,242,754	1,965,019
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		<u>128,242</u>	<u>169,694</u>
Unrestricted funds		<u>2,114,512</u>	<u>1,795,325</u>
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

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

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		<u>66,787</u>	<u>1,077,318</u>
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		<u>(9,998)</u>	<u>3,120</u>
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		<u>2,628,287</u>	<u>2,571,498</u>

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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).

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations				
Public & Community Council donations	<u>2,750</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>3,075</u>	<u>3,075</u>

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
	<u>1,099,600</u>	<u>1,896,367</u>	<u>2,995,967</u>

	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
	<u>1,025,569</u>	<u>2,187,582</u>	<u>3,213,151</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>43,244</u>	<u>43,244</u>	<u>35,693</u>	<u>35,693</u>

8. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>3,120</u>	<u>3,120</u>

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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
	<u>826,407</u>	<u>1,937,819</u>	<u>2,764,226</u>
	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
	<u>832,396</u>	<u>2,142,175</u>	<u>2,974,571</u>

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
	<u>1,304,806</u>	<u>1,120,892</u>	<u>338,528</u>	<u>2,764,226</u>	<u>2,974,571</u>

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

11. Analysis of support costs

	Core activities	Children & Families	Care Organisation Projects	Grants to Voluntary Organisations	s 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
	<u>135,372</u>	<u>21,980</u>	<u>64,195</u>	<u>110,718</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>5,728</u>	<u>338,528</u>	<u>403,990</u>

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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
	<u>1,120,892</u>	<u>822,249</u>
Total grants	<u>1,120,892</u>	<u>822,249</u>

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	<u>11,500</u>	<u>10,880</u>

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
	<u>1,225,149</u>	<u>1,587,335</u>

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 No.	2024 No.
Number of administrative staff	8	9
Number of staff employed on charitable activities	<u>26</u>	<u>37</u>
	<u>34</u>	<u>46</u>

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

14. Staff costs *(continued)*

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,000 to £69,999	<u>1</u>	<u>–</u>

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	<u>5,500</u>	<u>5,500</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>5,500</u>	<u>5,500</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2025	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

17. Debtors

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

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

18. Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other investments	<u>9,998</u>	<u>—</u>

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	<u>504,287</u>	<u>595,511</u>
	<u>704,694</u>	<u>731,429</u>

20. Provisions

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

21. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £61,791 (2024: £79,786).

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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	<u>10,730</u>	<u>5,002</u>	<u>10,707</u>

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	<u>10,730</u>	<u>5,002</u>

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)
	<u>5,728</u>	<u>(5,705)</u>

Assumptions

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Rate of discount	<u>4.84</u>	<u>5.31</u>	<u>5.52</u>

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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
	<u>1,795,325</u>	<u>1,145,594</u>	<u>(826,407)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,114,512</u>

	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	—	—	—	—	—
	<u>1,453,360</u>	<u>1,067,457</u>	<u>(832,396)</u>	<u>106,904</u>	<u>1,795,325</u>

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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
	<u>169,694</u>	<u>1,896,367</u>	<u>(1,937,819)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>128,242</u>

	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
	<u>231,191</u>	<u>2,187,582</u>	<u>(2,142,175)</u>	<u>(106,904)</u>	<u>169,694</u>

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
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
<i>Changes in:</i>		
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

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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	—
	<u>32,888</u>	<u>27,510</u>

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.

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

	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