

Registered number: 05964574
Charity number: 1117979

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charitable company, its Trustees and advisers	1
Trustees' report	2 - 6
Independent auditors' report on the financial statements	7 - 9
Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the financial statements	12 - 24

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charitable company, its Trustees and Advisers
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Trustees

Hazel Christine Adams
Maureen Bortolozzo (resigned 6 July 2023)
Andrew James
Jonathan Shaw, Chairman
Justine Sloover
William Mangar (resigned 6 June 2023)
Kevin Moule
George Perry

Company registered number 05964574

Charity registered number 1117979

Registered office

St Andrew's Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9AN

Company secretary Denise Thursby

Key Management Personnel

Emma Halpin
Susanna Odin
Nathalie Belmas
Denise Thursby

Independent auditors

UHY Hacker Young
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Thames House
Roman Square
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4BJ

Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC
3 High Street
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1HJ

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Solicitors

Brachers
Somerfield House
59 London Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8JH

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report
For the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, are pleased to present their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**Governing Document**

The Blackthorn Trust is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The charitable company was incorporated on 12 October 2006 as The Blackthorn Trust. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees is made up of people with expert knowledge and life experience, including local people. It meets a minimum of six times per annum. It is aided and informed by a Management Group led by the Chief Executive to whom the day to day management of the charitable company is delegated.

Trustee induction and training

All serving trustees understand the methods and purpose of the charity. When new people are appointed to the Board, a programme of familiarisation with the charity and its work is put into effect, and advice for trustees published by the Charity Commission is provided. As new guidance is notified, it is made available at Board meetings. Board members have free access to all members of staff, enabling them to be fully aware of the charity's activities and ways of working.

Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law) who served during the year are stated on page 1.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- regular identification of emerging risks through the management reports to every board meeting;
- an annual review, at the time of budget preparation, of the risks the charity may face;
- a willingness to respond promptly to any emerging risks;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Alongside on-going systems to identify and manage non-financial risks within the areas of safeguarding, health & safety and environmental health, greater focus on financial risk has been necessary in recent years. In particular, the changing commissioning environment and the general economic context has led to a greater degree of uncertainty, requiring regular and detailed attention to the potential impacts of these developments and necessary contingency plans to mitigate them.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**Principal Activity and Objectives**

Blackthorn's stated objectives are "for the public benefit to relieve sickness, promote good health, advance the education and self-development of people with severe and/or chronic illness or disability (either physical or mental) by providing medical, educational and rehabilitation services, developed out of the perspective of Anthroposophy (see (1)).

The Trust works with individuals with long term mental health, or chronic physical health, conditions such as pain, fatigue, insomnia, stress and anxiety. Specialist therapies and training placements in social enterprise workshops such as (cooking, café, woodwork, craft and gardening), alongside one-to-one mentoring support are offered to help people back into employment, education or volunteering.

Many individuals who come to Blackthorn are leading isolated lives and are facing multiple health and social disadvantage. Most have not responded to mainstream interventions. Blackthorn aims to help people take up the challenge of their condition by reducing or moderating their symptoms and encouraging purposeful activity. The combination of therapy, work and community on offer maximises the individual's chances of achieving long term improvement, thus helping them to find their potential in life and optimise their ability to work and integrate in the wider community, with all the individual, social and economic benefits this brings.

(1) The anthroposophical approach (Gk. Anthropos human being, Sophia wisdom) seeks an understanding of each person's spiritual, soul and bodily constitution in relation to health and illness, and thus to enhance what may be achieved by way of additional interventions (medical therapeutic, social and occupational) alongside essential conventional ones.

The Blackthorn Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Public Benefit

The Trustees have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing their aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular the trustees consider regularly how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Volunteers

The Blackthorn Trust's work would not be possible without its dedicated and loyal group of regular volunteers, who provide significant support to the staff in running the wide range of social enterprise training workshops that take place on-site, and with clerical and fundraising tasks. There is an ongoing need for experienced and skilled volunteer support from the local community which is managed by a volunteer coordinator.

Beneficiaries

We provide a place to change for people with significant life struggles due to long term physical or mental health challenges. Given the opportunity to engage with the social, therapeutic support and training enables each person to find their way to re-engage fully with life, work and their community. Our ultimate goal is that our beneficiaries have the resilience to live a fulfilling life and achieve their goals.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Annual Report

Introduction

The Shaw Trust - Live Well Kent

The Live Well Kent mental health contract awarded in 2022 for 3 years, has seen Blackthorn exceed client numbers. Blackthorn will continue to compete for additional funding for innovation projects released by Shaw Trust each year.

Involve (Kent County Council Funded) Actively Involved for Over 55's or Under With Complex Health Conditions

Despite concerns over KCC funding, Involve have funded Blackthorn to run this support programme for another 12 months from September 2023. Blackthorn runs 6-week groups in craft and gardening which develops skills and combats loneliness.

Multiply (Kent County Council Funded)

Multiply (Skills for Life) is a programme of fully funded Maths courses, which aim to help people improve their ability to understand and use Maths in daily life, at home and at work. The skills training workshops offered at Blackthorn all include entry level maths skills which are integrated with wellbeing and support. A contract was awarded in July 2023 until the end of March 2024 with an invitation to tender in January 2024 for the next phase of funding. The programme is running up to the end of March 2025.

Frequent Attenders Pilot Project 2023-2024 (Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Funded)

In partnership with the NHS primary care network, Blackthorn Trust is piloting a 12 week support programme for 48 patients that attend multiple appointments a year with their GP due to anxiety. A contract has been awarded starting in September 2023, early evaluation is outstanding with the NHS Trust indicating further funding will be available later in 2024.

Kent Adult Education, (KAE) Community Learning and Skills, (Kent County Council Funded)

Response Programme funded by the Community Learning element of the KAE budget from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) until August 2024.

Blackthorn is supporting 50 learners to be able to access 2 taster sessions (equivalent to 1 day of learning) in any of Blackthorn training workshops dependent on their interests and preferences.

Blackthorn Trust Pain Programme (NHS Integrated Care Board)

This contract was funded until 31 March 2024.

Self-Pay Therapies and Therapeutic Services

During 2023, Blackthorn has developed a service which allows patients to purchase additional therapy at the end of a funded placement or to try a therapy for the first time. 12-week placements in training workshops have also been developed, all requiring a referral process, patient agreement and terms to be agreed.

Blackthorn Career, Learning and Development Programme 'Next Steps' What does my Future look like?

This service, facilitated by a registered career development professional, helps each participant to identify the skills and attributes they have that can then be taken forward to their individual goals for the future. The course runs for 8 weeks and is attended towards the end of a placement to support the individual to transition away from Blackthorn's support. This work is funded from grants with the intention to include it in future contracts.

The Blackthorn Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 5 shows an overall deficit for the year of £187,690 (2022: deficit of £23,661).

Whilst income from charitable activities (note 4) increased to £241,735 (2022: £231,978), the level of general grants and donations did not reach the levels from the prior year, and consequently total income for the year fell to £488,304 (2022: £598,966). At the same time expenditure rose by 8% to £675,994. Staff costs rose to £410,879 and were once again the charity's main expense at 60% of total expenditure. Repairs and maintenance expenditure was high during 2023 at £66,945 (2022: £22,799).

Deficit strategy

The deficit for 2023 was not unexpected, and the Trustees and management continue to work hard to ensure that financial performance improves and returns to a sustainable level.

Our financial situation over the past few years has been distorted somewhat as a result of a large legacy (£273k). We were able to recognise the legacy income in the 2021 financial year, when we were notified about it, and the 2021 accounts reported a surplus of £158k. The legacy income was not received until October 2022 – close to the end of our 2022 financial year.

The legacy income was naturally extremely welcome, but it has affected our ability to fundraise from grant making trusts; funders reviewing the 2021 accounts (submitted with applications between September 2022 and July 2023) saw that we had a large surplus and assumed our need for funding was not as great as other charities. Consequently we did not meet our Trust target for the 2023 financial year, and we had to use some of the legacy income to fund our running costs.

Alongside the impact the legacy has had on our accounts, we had a number of unplanned expenses for maintenance of our aging site during the last 12 months. This included a replacement commercial boiler for the GP surgery building, car park resurfacing and electrical safety inspection essential upgrading. This work totalled £70,000.

The reduction in grant income in 2023 meant we developed new partnerships, most recently with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, piloting a support service for frequent attenders to GP surgeries as a result of anxiety and loneliness.

Our ongoing fundraising strategy includes increasing our income generation in multiple ways:-

- Working with the Edward Gostling Foundation, a substantial grant-giving charity, who have invited The Blackthorn Trust to become one of its many “legacy partners”. The Edward Gostling Foundation intend to significantly increase their grant making to help build capacity to sustain and grow services across the not-for-profit sector, to support other charities that help people living with a disability or long-term illness. We have been delighted to accept this offer, and shortly before the approval of these financial statements were informed that the support will be in the form of an endowment of £150,000. Access to this funding is not immediate however, and is conditional on a number of factors, and therefore whilst very welcome, it remains important that we explore other income generation routes.
- Developing a self-pay service for our 1:1 therapies and training workshop support programmes.
- Capital funding to extend our café space internally and externally allowing for additional customers and evening fundraising events.
- Developing our supporter base and legacy giving, we benefit from a deep well of affection from our local community which we are looking to maintain and extend.
- Responding to the government need for mental health and wellbeing placements for individuals receiving benefits and needing support into work. We currently work with Kent County Council on similar support programmes so are well placed to respond.
- Continuing to apply for grants, which has been more successful in 2024.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees continue to believe that the Charity should aim to build financial reserves because:

- i) It has no endowment funding and is entirely dependent for income upon resources arising from year to year which are inevitably subject to fluctuations; and
- ii) It requires the ability to continue operating despite any extraordinary events. The Trustees are committed to achieving reserves of three months operating costs and the measures taken to reducing the cost base and continued targeted grant applications should allow the charity to move forward to this. As at 31 December 2023 unrestricted reserves totalled £925,709 (2022: £1,112,091). However this total includes funds tied up in fixed assets of £765,598 (2022: £768,230). There were no designated funds at 31 December 2023 (2022: £4,027). The charity's completely "free" reserves were therefore £160,111 (2022: £339,834). This is below the ideal level of reserves the Trustees would like the charity to hold, and the intention is to build reserve levels in the coming years.

The Blackthorn Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Going concern

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least the next year. The Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements, and the accounting policy in respect of going concern, which sets out the basis and assumptions made, is disclosed in accounting policy note 1.2.

Investment Powers

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year most of the charity's funds have been spent in the short term so there have been few, if any, funds for long-term investment.

Property assets

The Trust has established a significant asset base of £765,598 through the purchase over the years of a major proportion of the land upon which it operates as well as a portfolio of buildings including the Medical Centre, Café, Garden Room training kitchen, craft studio and office building. All of these buildings support continuity and stability of our activities, as well as bringing ongoing income to the Trust.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Shaw Trust

Blackthorn has worked closely with the Shaw Trust to develop the relationship engaging with the navigators employed by Shaw Trust and the senior leadership team. This has resulted in an increase in funding for additional clients during 2023. Innovation funding is made available throughout the year and Blackthorn is well placed to apply for new projects during 2024.

NHS Pain Management Contract - funding terminating 31st March 2024

This contract is to support 35 patients with chronic pain referred by their GP. Whilst this contract terminated on 31 March 2024, in late 2023 the Trust secured a grant from Hollands-Warren of the full contract amount to cover this work for a further 12 months until 31 March 2025. This gives The Blackthorn Trust an opportunity to develop this work and seek alternative funding.

Frequent Attenders Pilot Project 2023-2024 (Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Funded)

This pilot project started in September 2023, early evaluation is outstanding showing patients have significantly reduced their GP visits with the NHS Trust indicating further funding will be available later in 2024 to continue this work.

Multiply (Kent County Council Funded)

We have been successful in achieving the outcomes for this project and are tendering for the next phase of work April - November 2024. Early indications are that, if successful, this will be a larger contract.

Self-Funded Therapies and Therapeutic Services

During 2023 Blackthorn developed a self-pay option for the first time, enabling people to have additional treatment once a funded placement ends or try it for the first time. Now the procedures and processes are in place targeted advertising is planned to raise awareness of the service to the local community and health care professionals.

Mental Health Services for young people

Following the end of the Colyer Ferguson 3-year funded project, Blackthorn have worked to create a direct referral route with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS). The statistics show the huge number of young people who do not transition to adult services once they reach 18 because they do not meet the adult services thresholds for support. We also know that referrals for anxiety in young people have increased from 150 to 500 a month. Blackthorn is well placed to support young people and is working with CAMHS in partnership to apply to Colyer Ferguson for additional funding to continue and develop this work.

Involve (Kent County Council Funded) Actively Involved for Over 55's or Under with Complex Health Conditions

Involve have funded Blackthorn to run this support programme for another 12 months from September 2023, awarding the full contract amount of £20,250. Blackthorn runs 6-week groups in craft and gardening which develops skills and combats loneliness.

B-Well NIHR Funded Research Project

Following the very successful DWELL (Diabetes & Wellbeing) European Funded Project, which ended in December 2022, Blackthorn has joined a new partnership of Kent-wide organisations, including the NHS and Public Health, to develop the model specifically for diabetes and mental health. Funding is being sought from the National Institute of Health Research for the delivery and research of this work. Blackthorn would be delivering this work, which is hoped will start in September 2024.

Grant Funding

The Trust is awaiting a decision on numerous grant applications.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Employment Services and Blackthorn Career Learning and Development Program 'Next Steps'

The Next steps program has been funded again from September 2022 to run two separate 8 week courses to service users from all programs. This service helps to identify all the skills and attributes each person has that can then be taken forward to their individual goal for the future.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the charity's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

UHY Hacker Young were appointed auditors to the company and a resolution proposing their reappointment will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

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.....
Jonathan Shaw - Chair

Date: 7 June 2024

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Justine Sloover - Trustee

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Blackthorn Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Blackthorn Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Blackthorn Trust (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 Auditors' 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:

Based on our understanding of the charity and the wider not-for-profit sector in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to possible acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud. We also considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements and considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to revenue recognition and management bias.

Audit procedures performed included a review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, enquiries of management, testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the Trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures were also performed on the government grants received during the year for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, due to its material nature and potential for fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

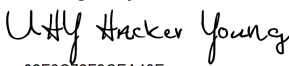
A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

The Blackthorn Trust
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Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Blackthorn Trust (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' 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 charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

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UHY Hacker Young
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Thames House
Roman Square
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4BJ

Date: 21 June 2024

UHY Hacker Young are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	149,690	88,824	238,514	344,537
Charitable activities:	4				
Rental income		72,421	-	72,421	78,456
NHS pain management contract		98,747	-	98,747	96,377
Sales in garden, cafe and craft shop		70,567	-	70,567	57,145
Other trading activities		5,072	-	5,072	3,985
Investments	5	2,983	-	2,983	560
Other income		-	-	-	17,906
Total income		399,480	88,824	488,304	598,966
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		47,361	-	47,361	44,698
Charitable activities	6	538,501	90,132	628,633	577,929
Total expenditure		585,862	90,132	675,994	622,627
Net movement in funds		(186,382)	(1,308)	(187,690)	(23,661)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		1,112,091	2,500	1,114,591	1,138,252
Net movement in funds		(186,382)	(1,308)	(187,690)	(23,661)
Total funds carried forward	15	925,709	1,192	926,901	1,114,591

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 12 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 05964574

Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2023


	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	765,598	768,230
Current assets			
Stocks		1,583	1,884
Debtors	12	49,931	102,463
Cash at bank and in hand		213,020	369,783
		<u>264,534</u>	<u>474,130</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(55,263)	(56,646)
Net current assets		<u>209,271</u>	<u>417,484</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>974,869</u>	<u>1,185,714</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(47,968)	(71,123)
Total net assets		<u><u>926,901</u></u>	<u><u>1,114,591</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	15	1,192	2,500
Unrestricted funds	15	925,709	1,112,091
Total funds		<u><u>926,901</u></u>	<u><u>1,114,591</u></u>

The entity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the entity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. However, an audit is required in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

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Jonathan Shaw, Chair

DocuSigned by:

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Justine Sloover, Trustee

Date: 7 June 2024

The notes on pages 12 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. General information

The Blackthorn Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Its registered office is Blackthorn Medical Centre, St Andrews Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 9AN.

The nature of the charity's operations, and its principal activity is to relieve sickness, promote good health, advance the education and self-development of people with severe and/or chronic illness or disability (either physical or mental) by providing medical, educational and rehabilitation services, developed out of the perspective of Anthroposophy.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective March 2018), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Blackthorn Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The currency used in the financial statements is Pound Sterling.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

The trustees have carefully considered whether the charitable company will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, by reviewing both income and expenditure and cash flow projections for the coming twelve months. They have concluded that these indicate a reasonable expectation that the charity will continue as a going concern for year ahead from the date of approval of these financial statement, and that it therefore remains appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the charitable company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the charitable company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the charitable company, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charitable company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charitable company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Government grants

Grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the charitable company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method. Land is not depreciated.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Permanent buildings	- 50 years straight line
Temporary buildings	- 10 years straight line
Specialist equipment	- 10 years straight line
Plant and machinery	- 3 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 5 years straight line

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charitable company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.9 Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charitable company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations	36,360	-	36,360	39,100
Legacies	2,000	-	2,000	8,476
Grants	111,330	88,824	200,154	296,961
	149,690	88,824	238,514	344,537
<i>Analysis of funds for 2022</i>	<i>189,969</i>	<i>154,568</i>	<i>344,537</i>	

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Medical, educational and rehabilitation services	241,735	241,735	231,978
<i>Analysis of funds for 2022</i>	231,978	231,978	

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Bank interest	2,983	2,983	560
<i>Analysis of funds for 2022</i>	560	560	

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
Medical, educational and rehabilitation services	538,501	90,132	628,633	577,929
<i>Analysis of funds for 2022</i>	383,809	194,120	577,929	

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Medical, educational and rehabilitation services	498,118	130,515	628,633	577,929
<i>Analysis of expenditure for 2022</i>	<i>443,625</i>	<i>134,304</i>	<i>577,929</i>	

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	263,816	249,419
Depreciation	46,362	44,406
Purchases	41,378	43,822
Co-workers and volunteers	2,735	8,984
Training and recruitment	4,221	4,015
Medical therapists materials	20	509
Publicity and events	1,615	1,211
Other staff costs	6,486	5,815
Repairs and maintenance	66,945	22,799
Rates and water	(297)	2,893
Light and heat	10,709	12,265
Cleaning, security and waste	16,347	14,204
Insurance	10,407	8,818
Technology	10,604	9,612
Printing, postage, stationery and telephone	12,539	10,623
Bank charges and interest	3,278	3,123
Sundry	953	1,107
	498,118	443,625

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	99,702	97,030
Light and heat	831	684
Insurance	1,014	1,146
Cleaning	237	265
Audit and accountancy	11,534	16,999
Legal and professional	17,197	18,180
	<u>130,515</u>	<u>134,304</u>

8. Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	<i>2022 £</i>
Fees payable to the charitable company's auditor for the audit of the charitable company's annual accounts	3,560	3,470
Fees payable to the charitable company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	<u>5,850</u>	<u>11,710</u>

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2023, expenses totalling £198 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2022 - £213). The expenses were for various ad hoc miscellaneous office items, including refreshments and stationery.

10. Staff costs

	2023 £	<i>2022 £</i>
Wages and salaries	373,357	354,015
Social security costs	30,040	30,225
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	7,482	6,907
	<u>410,879</u>	<u>391,147</u>

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

10. Staff costs (continued)

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

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
Operational charitable activities	15	<i>14</i>
Management and administration	3	<i>3</i>
	<u>18</u>	<u><i>17</i></u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Key Management Personnel

During the year, gross salaries, social security contributions and pension contributions made to these staff amounted to £147,063 (*2022 - £141,729*). No other benefits were provided to these employees during the year.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	1,442,934	87,811	217,261	1,748,006
Additions	-	29,882	13,848	43,730
Disposals	(18,859)	(32,981)	(116,838)	(168,678)
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,424,075</u>	<u>84,712</u>	<u>114,271</u>	<u>1,623,058</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	699,913	81,676	198,187	979,776
Charge for the year	35,760	5,754	4,848	46,362
On disposals	(18,859)	(32,981)	(116,838)	(168,678)
At 31 December 2023	<u>716,814</u>	<u>54,449</u>	<u>86,197</u>	<u>857,460</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2023	<u>707,261</u>	<u>30,263</u>	<u>28,074</u>	<u>765,598</u>
<i>At 31 December 2022</i>	<u><i>743,021</i></u>	<u><i>6,135</i></u>	<u><i>19,074</i></u>	<u><i>768,230</i></u>

Included in land and buildings used for direct charitable purposes is the part of the property used by The Blackthorn Centre medical practice. The trust and medical centre share facilities and staff, and work in an integrated way that achieves the aims of the charity and are indistinguishable for this particular purpose.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

12. Debtors

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Trade debtors	36,263	<i>32,189</i>
Other debtors	9,378	<i>6,768</i>
Prepayments and accrued income	4,290	<i>63,506</i>
	<u>49,931</u>	<u><i>102,463</i></u>

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Other loans	24,041	<i>24,041</i>
Trade creditors	10,520	<i>6,717</i>
Other creditors	1,933	<i>2,188</i>
Accruals and deferred income	18,769	<i>23,700</i>
	<u>55,263</u>	<u><i>56,646</i></u>

The prior year figures include deferred income of £6,035, in relation to rent received in advance. This has all been released during 2023, and there was no deferred income at 31 December 2023.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other loans	47,968	71,123

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Payable or repayable by instalments	-	3,077

Other loans:

1. A Bounce Back Loan (BBL) from NatWest Bank plc. The loan term is 6 years but includes a 12 month capital repayment holiday at inception. The BBL scheme is 100% government backed. The interest rate is fixed at 2.5% per annum. The amount outstanding at 31 December 2023 was £29,884.
2. A loan from the Edna Linnell Charitable Trust, secured over the trust freehold land and buildings. The loan is interest free and repayments made by monthly instalments. The loan is due to be repaid in full by May 2031 and the latest date the loan can be repaid by is 1 January 2034. The amount outstanding at 31 December 2023 was £36,677.
3. An unsecured loan from Francis and Sarah Salway. The loan is interest free and repayments made by monthly instalments. The loan is due to be repaid in full by September 2024. The amount outstanding at 31 December 2023 was £5,448.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
Medical centre	1,011	-	(1,011)	-
Maidstone Horticultural Society	2,057	-	(2,057)	-
Jan prior workways	285	-	(285)	-
Eurythmy fund	674	-	(674)	-
	<u>4,027</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,027)</u>	<u>-</u>
General funds				
General income fund	339,834	355,750	(535,473)	160,111
Tangible fixed assets	768,230	43,730	(46,362)	765,598
	<u>1,108,064</u>	<u>399,480</u>	<u>(581,835)</u>	<u>925,709</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>1,112,091</u>	<u>399,480</u>	<u>(585,862)</u>	<u>925,709</u>
Restricted funds				
DWELL	-	(697)	697	-
The Shaw Trust	-	38,020	(38,020)	-
KCC Multiply	-	30,001	(30,001)	-
KCC Combined Member Grant	-	1,500	(1,308)	192
Edward Gostling	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Colyer Fergusson	1,500	-	(1,500)	-
Cobtree Charity Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Biographical Gardening	1,000	-	-	1,000
	<u>2,500</u>	<u>88,824</u>	<u>(90,132)</u>	<u>1,192</u>
Total of funds	<u>1,114,591</u>	<u>488,304</u>	<u>(675,994)</u>	<u>926,901</u>

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Medical centre	1,696	-	(408)	(277)	1,011
Maidstone Horticultural Society	-	3,651	(1,594)	-	2,057
Eurythmy fund	-	-	-	674	674
Other designated funds	1,175	-	-	(890)	285
	<u>2,871</u>	<u>3,651</u>	<u>(2,002)</u>	<u>(493)</u>	<u>4,027</u>
General funds					
General income fund	328,958	433,037	(382,102)	(40,059)	339,834
Tangible fixed assets	804,923	7,710	(44,403)	-	768,230
	<u>1,133,881</u>	<u>440,747</u>	<u>(426,505)</u>	<u>(40,059)</u>	<u>1,108,064</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>1,136,752</u>	<u>444,398</u>	<u>(428,507)</u>	<u>(40,552)</u>	<u>1,112,091</u>
Restricted funds					
Grants and donations	-	215	(215)	-	-
DWELL	-	59,733	(99,285)	39,552	-
The Shaw Trust	-	30,080	(30,080)	-	-
KCC Strategic Fund	-	9,417	(9,417)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	9,948	(9,948)	-	-
Edward Gostling	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Colyer Fergusson	1,500	10,000	(10,000)	-	1,500
Cobtree Charity Trust	-	10,175	(10,175)	-	-
Biographical Gardening	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>154,568</u>	<u>(194,120)</u>	<u>40,552</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Total of funds	<u>1,138,252</u>	<u>598,966</u>	<u>(622,627)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,114,591</u>

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	765,598	-	765,598
Current assets	263,342	1,192	264,534
Creditors due within one year	(55,263)	-	(55,263)
Creditors due in more than one year	(47,968)	-	(47,968)
Total	925,709	1,192	926,901

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	768,230	-	768,230
Current assets	471,630	2,500	474,130
Creditors due within one year	(56,646)	-	(56,646)
Creditors due in more than one year	(71,123)	-	(71,123)
Total	1,112,091	2,500	1,114,591

17. Pension commitments

The charitable company contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charitable company to the fund and amounted to £7,482 (2022 - £6,907). At the balance sheet date contributions of £1,249 (2022 - £1,482) were payable to the fund and are included in creditors.

The Blackthorn Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

18. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2023 the charitable company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Not later than 1 year	4,368	<i>4,060</i>
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	2,652	<i>6,343</i>
	<u>7,020</u>	<u><i>10,403</i></u>

19. Related party transactions

During the year the charitable company received two donations from related parties which together amounted to £1,045. In accordance with the Charity SORP, since neither donation had any conditions attached there is no requirement to disclose the individual amounts or the names of the related parties involved.